

USED TO BE...

CLEAR SPRING DISTRICT HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

We Decided To Plant A Few Old Roses...

By Mary (Peachie) Haines

“Breathtaking” was the word a visitor used to describe the huge 1902 rambler ‘American Pillar’ at the 2015 “Plumb Grove in Bloom” event in Clear Spring. If you have never been to Clear Spring, then I must share with you that our town founded in 1821, is only about three blocks long and sits at the foot of Fairview Mountain. The population is about 360, and pretty much everybody in town knows everybody else and if they don’t, they knew their mother or grandfather. Most people even know the names of the town dogs. But now a lot of residents find themselves struggling to learn new names like ‘Eugene de Beauharnais’ and ‘Souvenir de la Malmaison’, just two of the heritage roses now growing at Plumb Grove.



The American Pillar at Plumb Grove was started from a cutting given by a local family dating the rose back four generations.

Plumb Grove Mansion is on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of three properties owned by the Clear Spring District Historical Association (CSDHA). It was built in 1831 by Jonathan Nesbitt, Jr., a Maryland Delegate in Annapolis. By 1980, the Greek Revival brick structure was vacant and had fallen into disrepair. In 1981 the house and one acre of land were deeded to the CSDHA by the Washington County Board of Education. After decades of hard work and dedication, volunteers and donors have created a beautiful house museum with period furnishings.

I became involved with the project in 1994. My neighbor Toni Hose and I were asked by CSDHA President David Wiles to plant 15 roses like the 60 or so hybrid teas in my backyard. In 1999, volunteer

Pat Violet agreed to maintain a section of the Memory Fence surrounding the house. Over the next few years, she helped out with the vegetable, herb and flower gardens. In 2002 Mary Ogle joined our group. Mary and Pat were interested in heirloom plants and began researching vintage gardens with the goal of making the outside of Plumb Grove as historically correct as the inside.

We decided to plant a few old roses. I had been growing modern roses for over forty years but knew nothing about old roses. I spent the winter of 2004/2005 reading about antique roses and at age 76 found myself taking on a new and exciting hobby.

Thomas Christopher’s “*In Search of Lost Roses*” was on my reading list. From

this book I learned about the waning popularity of old roses after the introduction of hybrid teas in the 19th -century and of the efforts of heritage rose fanciers in the mid-to-late 20th-century to find, study and preserve them. The book profiles “rose rustlers” who search graveyards, old gardens and rural roads looking for old roses. Author, lecturer and old rose identification expert Reverend Douglas Seidel, a Baptist minister living near Macungie, Pennsylvania was featured in Christopher’s book.

Since I’d once lived in Macungie and Reverend Seidel’s phone number was listed, I got the nerve to call him on a very snowy Sunday afternoon. We talked for over two hours. I was amazed at his vast knowledge of old roses (he gave me a date and a complete history of any rose I mentioned) and the passion he had for their preservation. I was surprised that he would spend so much time with a novice and delighted by an invitation to visit his garden in the spring. This was the beginning of Reverend Seidel’s involvement in helping to curate the rose collection at Plumb Grove.

In January 2005 I placed an order for five bushes: ‘Jaune Desprez’, the first yellow climber; ‘Rosa Mundi,’ an ancient gallica with crimson and white stripes; ‘Four Seasons,’ perhaps Virgil’s “twice blooming rose of Paestum;” ‘Old Blush,’ an old pink china; and ‘Stanwell Perpetual,’ a floriferous (full of blooms), pale pink Scotch hybrid. The order arrived April 20th, the same day I learned my grandson Michael Morgan had died from a fall while visiting Arizona. Sadly Pat,



Shown are just four of the 128 beautiful heritage roses blooming at Plumb Grove.

Join us in celebrating

Plumb Grove in Bloom

Plus

A Fabulous

Quilt Display,

And

Food and Music.

1 P.M. to 5 P.M.

Sunday,

June 5th



OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

David Wiles 301-842-2342

VICE-PRESIDENT

Raymond Divelbiss... 301-842-3091

SECRETARY

Eric Trail 301-842-3091

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Juanita Grimm..... 301-842-2252

Membership: Ten dollars per person per year. Donations towards our monthly expenses and special projects are very welcome. We are a 501-3c tax deductible organization.

We are devoted to historic preservation of local landmarks and to the preservation of community, and family history.

Thank you for your support!

***Clear Spring District
Historical Association***

PO Box 211

Clear Spring, Maryland 21722

Historic Properties Owned By
CSDHA:

Plumb Grove Museum

12654 Broad Fording Road

Ring 301-842-3314

Browns' Meeting House

11 South Mill Street

Ring 301-857-8181

Post Office Museum

106 Cumberland Street

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert Bowman

Danny Clopper

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Bob Stine

Sue Stine

Dotty Young

Ralph Young

E-MAIL:

dwileshistory@verizon.net

Plumb Grove Open

First Sunday, June-Oct, 1-5 PM

Brown's Meeting House Open

Third Sunday 1-5 P.M. all year





Harison's Yellow Rose is the first rose to bloom every spring at Plumb Grove. This rose was very popular in America during the 1830's and 1840's and was also known as the Pioneer Rose. As families began to move west, they would stick a cutting of this rose in a tea cup with some soil, or place a cutting in a potato to take along to their new home. Sadly, for many of the pioneers, a family member would die before reaching their destination. A grave would be dug along the trail and the yellow rose would be planted on the grave. Thus, the pioneers without intending to do so, left a trail of yellow roses across the United States. (The Oregon Trail is the most documented road for Harison's Yellow Rose.)

Mary and I planted the roses in Michael's memory the following Saturday, a cold, drizzly day.

In June I visited Reverend Seidel's garden and was ecstatic to see and smell, for the first time, many of the roses I'd been reading about all winter. My daughter, who accompanied me recalls that I was like a kid in a candy store. Reverend Seidel gave me two more plants for Plumb Grove: a musk rose, *R. moschata plena* (ancient rose made famous by Shakespeare) and Champneys Pink Cluster (1811), the first noisette and the first American hybrid rose.

A mystery rose with very fragrant, burgundy flowers was already growing at Plumb Grove. The blooms have a bright green bud in their center where a pistil should sit. Without hesitation Reverend Seidel identified it as the 'Steeple Rose,' a rare, pre 1799 hybrid china. Considered malformed by some it was nevertheless very popular in Maryland in the 1800's. I later learned that it had been planted at Plumb Grove by local resident Carol Belz and came from the property of her grandparents, Bertha and Franz Heinermanxxn of Clear Spring.

Pat and Mary returned from an August trip to Monticello

with the 2004 "*Twinleaf Journal*," a publication of the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants. In this issue was a list of ten roses purchased in 1791 by Jefferson from the William Prince Nursery in New York. They brought back vintage seeds and new vegetable and rose garden ideas. Now we all knew that the hybrid teas had to go and I had a vision of old roses filling every empty space in the yard at Plumb Grove.

The following spring, volunteers dug out and took home the modern 'Mr. Lincoln's', 'Double Delights' and such and replaced them with a border of fifteen old roses. There were three each of five varieties planted in Jefferson's "color drift" design. Included were the rose-purple 'Duchesse de Rohan' (1847); the bright red 'Duchess of Portland' (pre-1800); the deep pink 'Four Seasons' (ancient); the dark red 'Rose de Rescht' (ancient); and the medium pink 'Marquise Boccella' (1840).

Through donations, purchases and propagation, Plumb Grove's collection has grown to 128 old roses. It spans rose history from the ancient 'Apothecary's Rose' (over 4000 years old), to the first hybrid tea 'La France' (1867) and beyond. Nine of the ten roses on Jefferson's 1791 William Prince Nursery order now grow at Plumb Grove. Moss rose ('Moss Provence'), Rosa mundi ('Rosa Mundi'), Monthly rose ('Four Seasons'), Large Provence rose ('Centifolia'), Musk rose (*R. moschata plena*), Primrose (*R. spinosissima*), White rose ('Alba Semi-Plena') Thornless rose (*R. pendulina*), and



Heritage roses and flowers can be found everywhere at Plumb Grove.



A few years ago when the Smithsonian was filming at Plumb Grove, President Lincoln took a rest on a trellis bench made by the Monday volunteers.

Cinnamon rose (*R. cinnamomea*). We are still trying to obtain the tenth, Yellow Rose, (*R. lutea*). We have eight species roses and 13 historic “firsts.” The Wars of the Roses is still being fought in our garden as the red rose of Lancaster (‘Apothecary’s Rose’) and the white rose of York (‘Alba Semi-Plena’) face each other in the back yard.

In the mid 1700’s, four important ancestral roses came from China to Europe. These “stud” roses brought with them the color yellow, remontancy (rebloom) and, unfortunately, blackspot. Three of the studs, “Slater’s Crimson China’, ‘Hume’s Blush’, and ‘Old Blush’ are in the garden. (The fourth, ‘Park’s Yellow Tea-scented China’, is believed to be lost.) Chinas,



Heritage roses surround the summer kitchen at Plumb Grove. They also surround all the other buildings and the fences. Beauty everywhere.

polyanthas, hybrid perpetuals and early hybrid teas, mixed with perennials, grow around the outbuilding and give us continuous bloom. Climbers, ramblers, noisettes and bourbons rest on the perimeter fence and weave up our five trellises. On one side of the house polyanthas back our garden of rare antique miniatures (circa 1830): ‘Rosa Rouletii,’ ‘Pompon de Paris,’ ‘Ruth Gray’s Mini,’ ‘Mableton Rouletii’, ‘Highway 290’ and ‘Oakington Ruby’. The minis were dwarf china roses that were very popular in the early 1800’s, fell out of favor quickly, and came back into vogue in the 1950’s.

We have a wonderful group of volunteers, the Monday Morning Gang, who keep the property beautifully maintained. Pat Violet and Mary Ogle plant and tend the vegetable, flower and herb gardens. Carolyn Barkdoll, Kathryn Sincell-Corwell, Toni Hose, Diana Crosby, and Debbie Haines, weed, feed, prune, dead-head and tie the roses. Gail DiMarino sprays and Bob DiMarino does all the dirty work: heavy pruning, edging, weeding, hauling away garden debris and digging rose holes. (He claims no planting hole is ever wide or deep enough to suit me.) The maintenance crew, Jim Seibert, Sam Gossard, Stan Suffecool, Harold Kline and Paul Bowers do a super job with mowing, trimming and repairs. Special thanks to mulch expert Sam and to Stan, who built our trellises and benches. We also acknowledge countless other volunteers for their hard work in the past.

President David Wiles (also unpaid) who has devoted 32 years

to the restoration of Plumb Grove, has a very special job in the rose garden. On the first cold day in December he covers the most delicate roses with the evergreens still decorated, from our “Plumb Grove by Candlelight” event, giving the garden a festive winter look.

We owe Reverend Seidel so much for great advice, visits, lectures, guided tours, the donation of more than twenty roses and always enthusiastic praise for our gardens. He introduced us to a circle of old rose buffs and professionals, encouraged us to attend rose symposiums at Wyck House in Philadelphia and arranged for private visits to Monticello’s Tufton Farms. Reverend Douglas Seidel died October 3, 2015; he was 66 years old. He touched so many lives through his ministry and lifelong dedication to the preservation of old roses. We, at Plumb Grove are so fortunate to have had him as a friend and mentor. Two of his favorite roses have been planted at Plumb Grove in his memory, Radiance (1908) and Mrs. Dudley Cross (1907).

I still join the Monday Morning Gang. I supervise, do a little weeding, a little pruning, take a walk to check things out and then, completely exhausted, collapse in a rocking chair on the porch. A nice thing about being 87 is having the luxury to sit back and enjoy the roses.



Miniature roses were very popular in the 1800’s. Plumb Grove has a nice selection of the little roses.

Gardening in the Days of Old Continues at Plumb Grove...

The 2016 heritage vegetable garden under the direction of Pat Violet and Mary Ogle, will be growing food in every square inch of the patch located in front of Plumb Grove. There will be rhubarb, asparagus, Egyptian onions, elephant garlic, horseradish, Peruvian purple, red, white and yellow potatoes, assorted lettuces enjoyed by President Jefferson, spinach, Swiss chard, beets, parsnips, kale, corn, moon and stars watermelons, lemon cucumbers, Boothby's Blond Cucumbers, and leeks.

Also in the garden will be assorted summer squash and winter squash (butternut and tromboncino), kohlrabi, green beans, yard long beans, pocket melons, cantaloupes, okra, assorted peppers,

and peas.

Five types of tomatoes will also be in the garden: Red Brandywine, German Striped, Green Zebra, and Black Cherry.

The Plumb Grove garden is a great place to learn about food. Taste what our ancestors ate. Be a part of the past. Visit.



Left: The amazing Plumb Grove vegetable garden. Over 50 varieties of food....



Lavender grows in the Plumb Grove herb garden. Queen Elizabeth I (1533-1603) used to drink Lavender tea to ease her headaches. Hang dried Lavender in a house and the moths will disappear. The herb garden is full of spices, medicines, and perfumes, used by our Clear Spring ancestors.



Tansy grows in the kitchen garden at Plumb Grove. During the 19th-century this plant was associated with death. Known as an insect repellent, Tansy was packed into coffins to keep bugs from the corpse. Tansy wreaths were also placed on deceased people upon their death to distract bugs. The plant is also good for flavoring pudding and omelets.



Plumb Grove is abundant with beauty all summer long. Please visit and also support your hometown museum. We have a great crop of lawn volunteers and gardening volunteers. Come and enjoy.... Bring some friends and spend the afternoon.

PLUMB GROVE IS OPEN THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

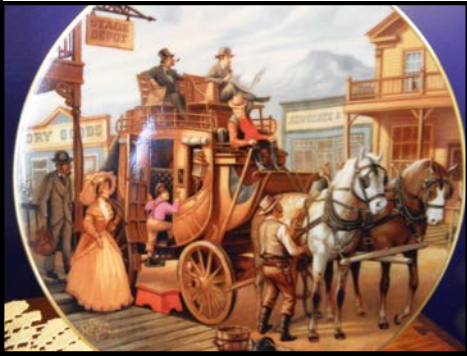
JUNE TO OCTOBER, 1 P.M. TO 5 P.M.

Sunday, June 5th

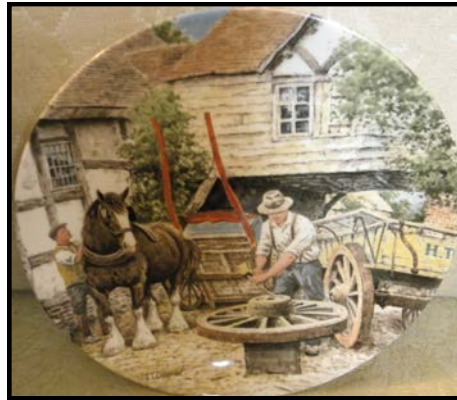
China Plates Everywhere!

Last Day of National Road Exhibit

Plumb Grove is not large enough to exhibit nearly 100 paintings by artists showing pioneer life and the early days of transportation. However, Plumb Grove is large enough to display nearly 100 plates of artwork showing pioneer life and early transportation. Yes, our exhibit uses plates to tell the history of the National Road and Clear Spring. Plates of the early occupations, famous people who passed through town, the fancy cars....



A plate showing how a town like Clear Spring would have appeared during the 1820's.



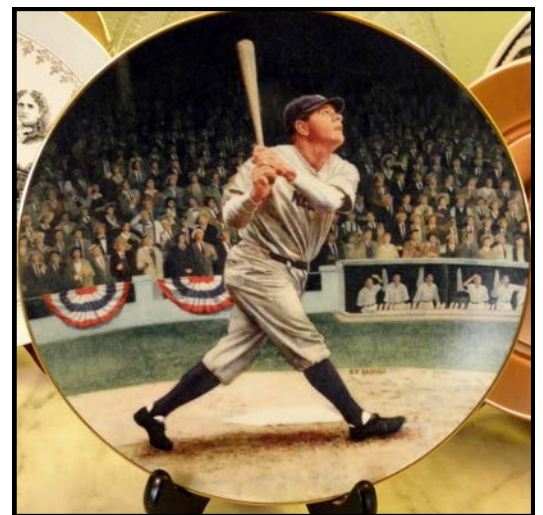
See plates of the early occupations of Clear Spring... wheelwrights, blacksmiths, coopers, masons....



Discover the many famous people who traveled through Clear Spring: Above: Chief Black Hawk and Davey Crockett. There were also many U.S. Presidents in Clear Spring.



Discover the Civil War Generals who traveled through Clear Spring.



Babe Ruth passed through Clear Spring.



See the plate exhibit of a few of the fancy automobiles that once traveled the road through Clear Spring. Discover who had the first car in town.

**The china plate exhibit is fun and educational.
Bring your family, friends, and neighbors.**

June 5th
1 P.M. to 5 P.M.

— No Bulls Allowed —

Plumb Grove Covered In Quilts

Sunday, June 5th

1 P.M. to 5 P.M.



One Stitch At A Time Creates Beautiful Artwork

(Photos are from 2015 exhibit. The 2016 exhibit will be just as grand.)

Quilts will be displayed throughout Plumb Grove.

Dixieland Jazz Music by Speaks DJ

National Road Plate Exhibit

Heritage Rose and Flower Gardens

No Better Place To Be Than Plumb Grove On June 5th.....



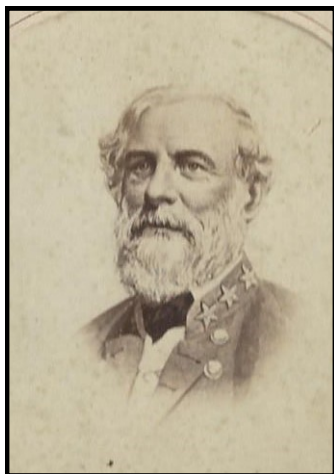
Photo Album Purchase Causes Double Excitement

The CSDHA recently purchased an 1863 photo album being sold at an estate sale in Pennsylvania. The album belonged to the late John Henry Munday, Jr. of Hagerstown. He passed away in 2015 at the age of 63. He was an excellent scholar of local history and had family roots connected to Blair's Valley. The pictures in the album can be traced back to the long ago Bartles family of Blair's Valley. As with most old pictures, there were few names. But the few labeled included Blair, Bartles, Sword, and Perrott. It was exciting finding the photos.

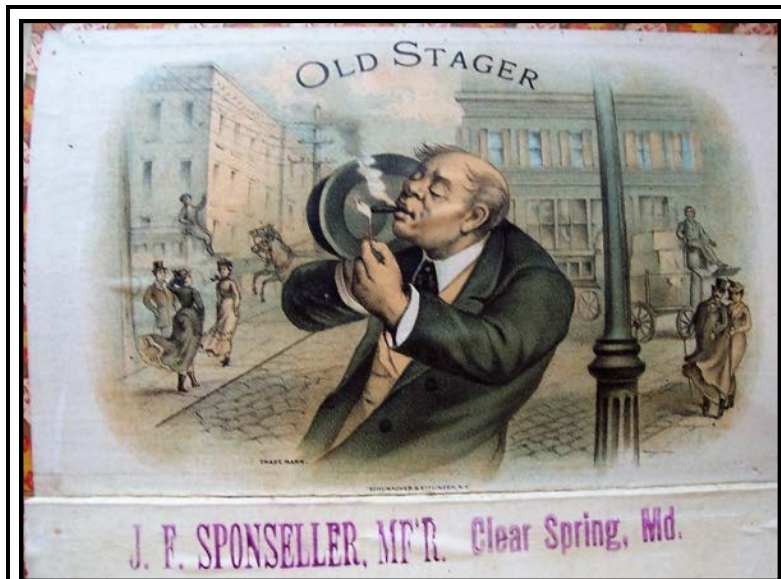
But as one turns the pages in the album, a few other interesting images appear. Famous men like General Robert E. Lee and others from the Civil War. How unique to find such pictures in the album.



These are some of the images in the photo album. From L-R: Grandma Sword, John Sword, William Sword, and Mammie Sword. There is also a tin type of Grandma Blair. It is possible that no other Sword family members have these photos. We need Sword family researchers to help with dates and other information about these photos. We also purchased the Bartles Family book and the late Mr. Munday has several pages of history about his family connection to Blair's Valley in the book.



Discovering the photos of General Robert E. Lee and other Civil War soldiers in the album made the purchase more exciting. It is wonderful when such items are preserved by the CSDHA for future generations to enjoy.



This cigar box once belonging to J. F. Sponseller, a Clear Spring manufacturer of Habana cigars during the late 19th-century, was recently sold at an auction. The CSDHA was outbid by a person who collects rare cigar boxes. We are grateful for the monetary support we receive from members allowing us to purchase the many items relating to our community. We strive to use donations wisely and sometimes we just have to pass up an item.

French & Indian War Maps

Our thanks to Paul Helm for donating a detailed map made by him showing Fort Frederick and surrounding forts and blockades in the area during the 18th-century.

The CSDHA purchased two beautifully framed maps from the John Munday estate showing the tri-state area forts during the 1700's.

The maps are displayed at Brown's Meeting House.

Rare Early American Travel Brochure Donated

Hotel Potomac

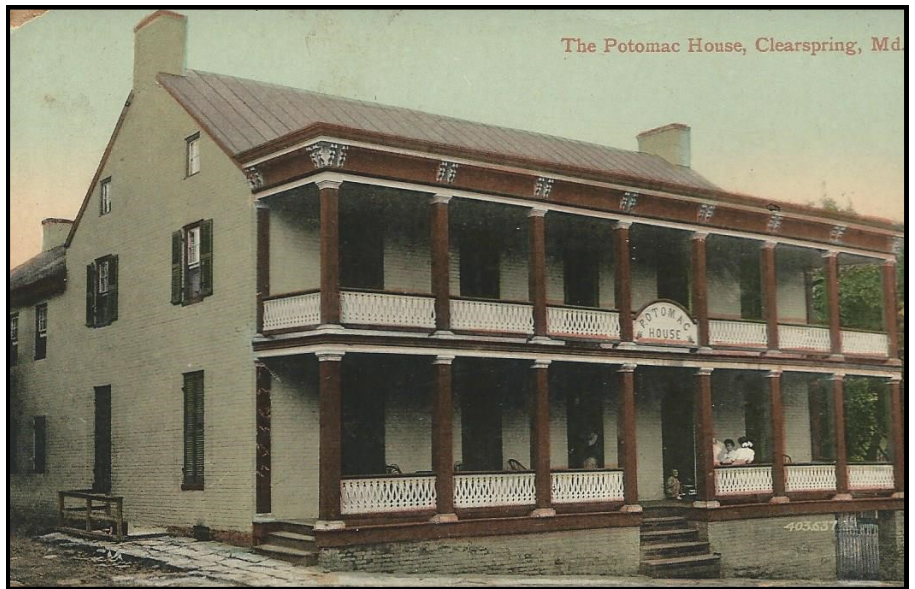
Mary Ruth Seibert Reis donated a rare travel brochure promoting the Hotel Potomac in Clear Spring. This pamphlet produced in the 1920's for automobile tourists is among the earliest in the nation. It list B. Marie Warner as the manageress for the hotel, and states that the establishment is on the National Highway.

Page two tells readers who did not stay at the Hotel Potomac: George Washington, Stonewall Jackson, and President Calvin Coolidge. It states that the hotel has been in business for over 100 years.

The third page promotes their famous chicken and waffle dinners. And, they are served in real Southern style. There are rooms and a bath in the building. Interesting, too, is that the AAA was already helping travelers way back then.

The back page is a mileage chart listing how far destinations are from Clear Spring. Interesting that Sharpsburg and Gettysburg are listed, acknowledging that Civil War tourism existed then. Also listed was Pen Mar, a famous resort, was just 32 miles away.

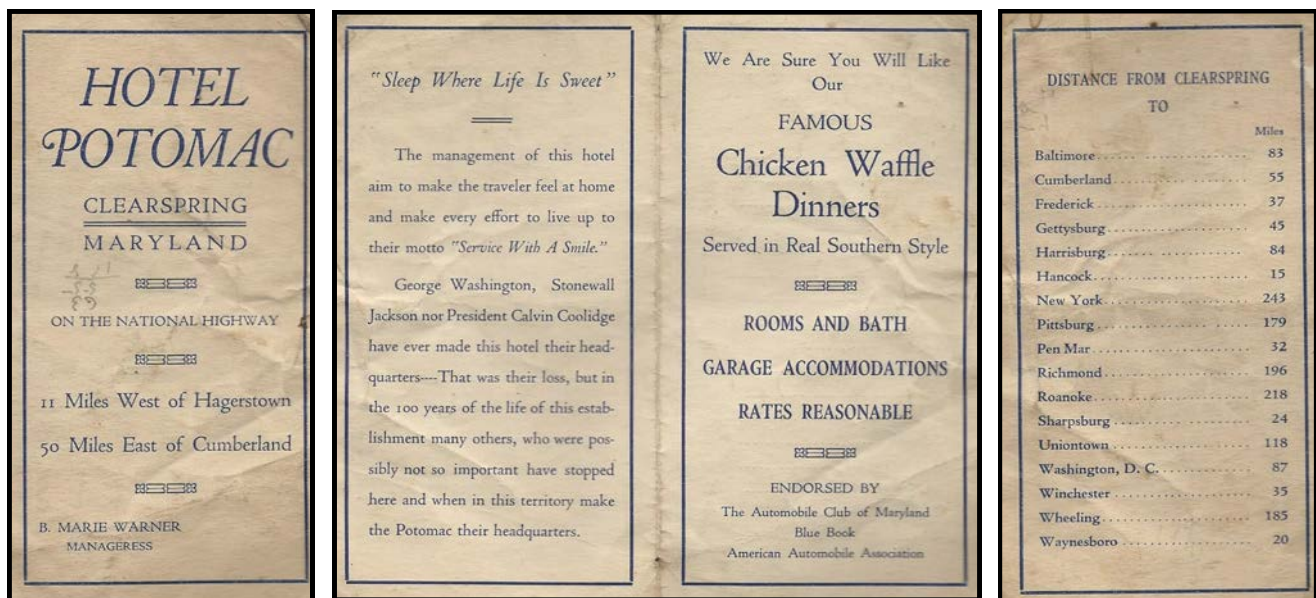
Modern hotels in downtown Hagerstown and Cumberland were getting all of the business and places like the old Hotel Potomac closed in the early 1930's. After closing, the building became the



The hotel was located at the intersection of Cumberland Street and North Martin Street in Clear Spring. It operated under many names with the last being Hotel Potomac.

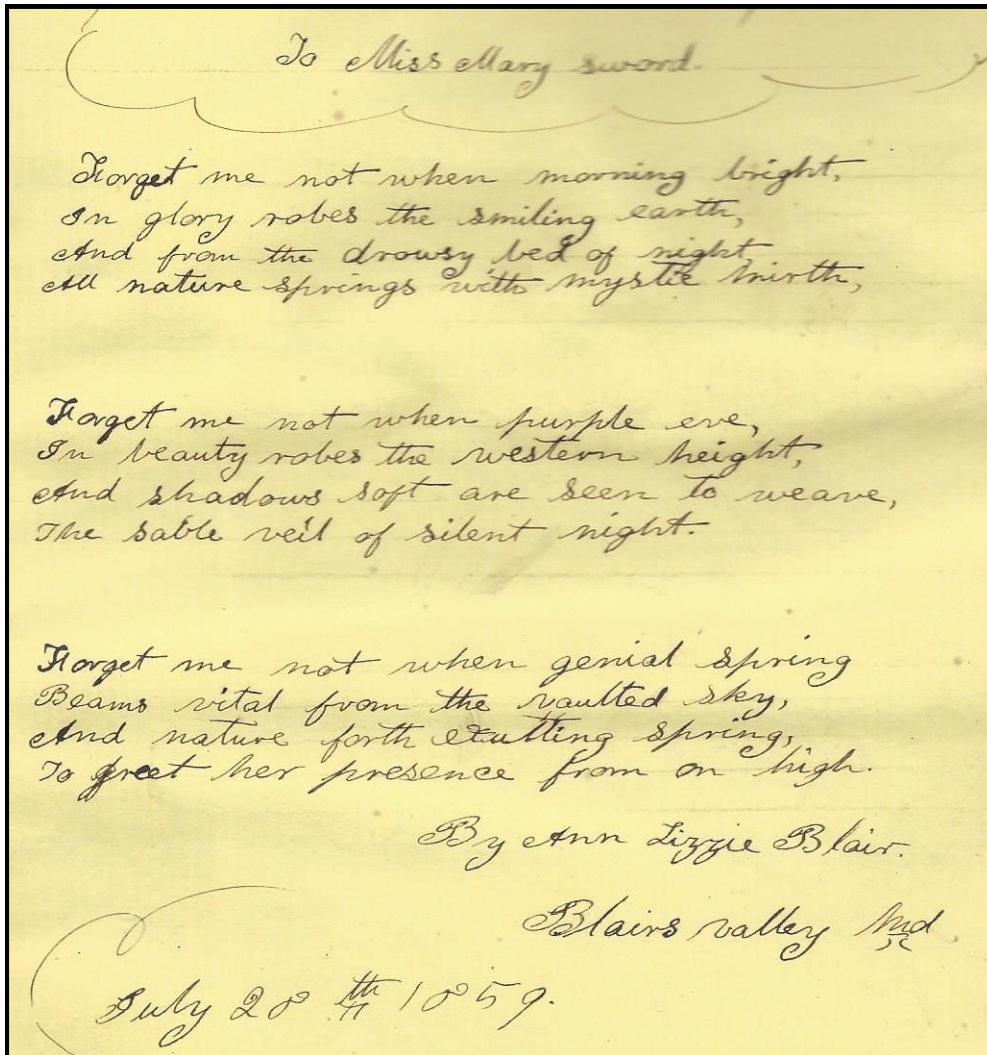
home and office of Dr. David Brewer.

The hotel Potomac brochure was found among the papers belonging to the late Emily Troupe, a departed resident of Clear Spring, and a great CSDHA supporter. The leaflet is a grand item for the National Road Room located at Brown's Meeting House.



The front page, center section, and back page of the Hotel Potomac brochure.

Blair's Valley Book Now Resides In Museum



A poetry and autograph book belonging to Mary Sword of Blair's Valley was purchased by the CSDHA at the estate sale of the late John H. Munday.

The book dates back to 1859 and has writings by many of the residents living in the community.

Another great item now being preserved at Brown's Meeting House.

Community Mourns Passing of Luanne Ernst

Luanne Knepper Ernst passed away April 28, 2016 at her Clear Spring home. She was born in 1944 in Bluefield, West Virginia. Her parents were Earl "Skip" Knepper and Sarah Frances "Petie" Pryor Knepper, two highly known storekeepers in Clear Spring.

Mrs. Ernst grew up working in the family business catering to the tourist trade. She graduated from Clear Spring High School in 1962 and then attended the University of Maryland.

Until her illness struck her almost eight years ago, Mrs. Ernst was busy helping various groups in the community. The CSDHA always depended on her baking talents to assist with our fund-raisers.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Charles M. Ernst, daughter, Tara Ernst; two sons, Andrew Ernst and David Ernst; sister, Lana Graham; brother, Gary Knepper; and two grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her brother-in-law, Wesley Graham.

We express our sorrow to all of her family members and friends. Fond memories of Luanne Ernst will be forever.

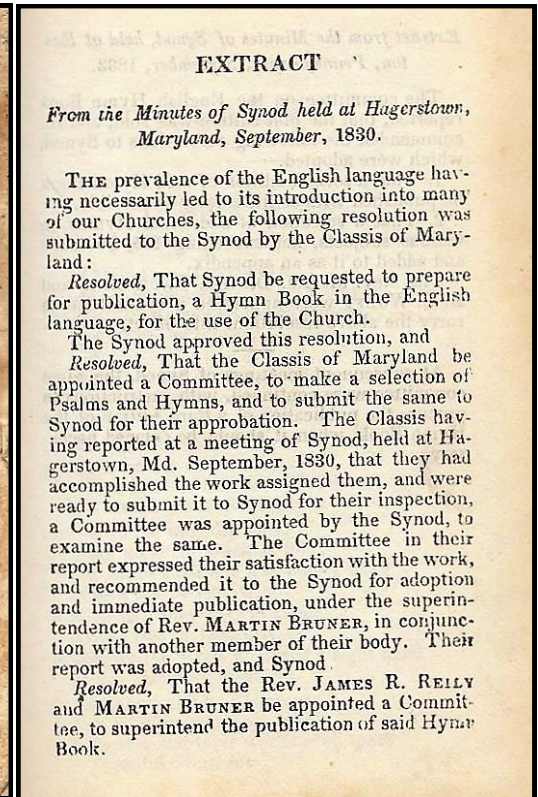
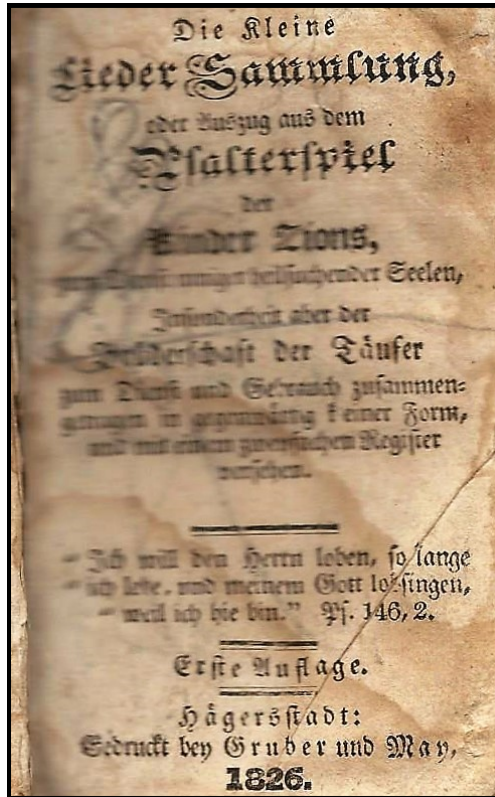


Luanne Knepper Ernst

Language Debate Within Clear Spring Churches

During the late 1820's, Saint John's German Reformed Church in Clear Spring and Saint Paul's German Reformed Church located east of Clear Spring, as well as Salem German Reformed Church near Cearfoss, were all dealing with the problem of new and younger members wanting the church service to be spoken in English, not German. The Reformed church had spoken in German for centuries, and switching to English created serious debates among the religious members of our community.

The English speaking members were winning the battle because in 1830 a meeting was held in Hagerstown among the German Reformed churches and the minutes of that meeting state, "The prevalence of the English language having necessarily led to its introduction into many of our churches, the following resolution was submitted: The Synod be requested to prepare for publication, a Hymn Book in the English language, for use in the church."



Above left shows a page from the 1826 psalm book printed in Hagerstown in the German language. The right side shows a copy of the minutes from the 1830 German Reformed Church meeting requesting books be printed in English.

The Brown's Meeting House library now has a copy of that first hymnal and psalm book published in English. And to go with the book, the library also has an 1826 psalm book printed in German by the Gruber Printing Company of Hagerstown.

Boyd Stagecoach Trunk Journey Ends At Brown's Meeting House

A 19th-century stagecoach trunk with the name "D. L. Boyd, Clear Spring, Maryland," printed on one side, has been purchased by the CSDHA for display in the National Road Room at Brown's Meeting House. Inside, the trunk still has the lids to all of the various compartments. Our thanks to Ralph young for discovering the trunk and transporting it back to Clear Spring.



Can you imagine carrying this onto an airplane today? It takes two people to move it!



Good-by Funeral Dress



Over ninety years ago, Fred and Mary McKinsey Charles had a baby named Helen. They lived at Charles Mill, south of Four Locks. The baby became very ill and the doctor told Mr. and Mrs. Charles to start making funeral plans. So they bought a funeral dress for their dying baby.

Well, 90 years later, the baby, Helen Charles Ludwig, decided she won't be needing her baby funeral dress, so she donated it to the CSDHA. What a great item to have in a museum.

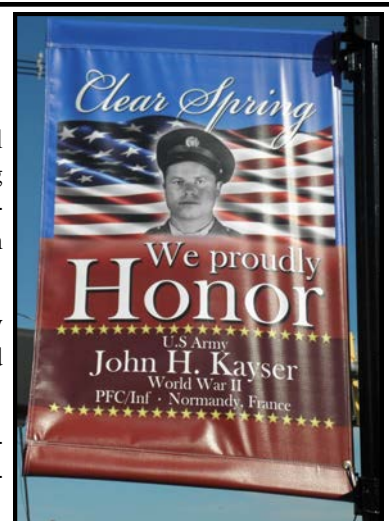
Clear Spring to Display

Banners Honoring Veterans

Starting in late May, ten banners will be displayed in Clear Spring honoring veterans of the Clear Spring community. This banner shows WWII Veteran John Kayser.

(The CSDHA fondly recalls the many times the late Mr. Kayser volunteered at Plumb Grove doing repairs.)

Banners to honor a veteran can be purchased at the Joseph C. Herbert American Legion in Clear Spring.



Plumb Grove: Red, White and Blue

Sunday, July 3, 2016 1 P.M. to 5 P.M.

Plumb Grove will be fully decorated inside to celebrate Independence Day. Includes many educational exhibits. Great to refresh your memory on the early history of our great nation. A perfect afternoon to share with family and friends.

Beginning at 6 P.M., the Independence Jam Committee (under the direction of the Town of Clear Spring) will continue the day long celebration with food, music and fireworks in front of Clear Spring High School.

Below are some views of the exhibit at Plumb Grove. There is nothing else like it in the four-state area.

