



P.O. Box 218
Damascus, Maryland 20872

Randy Scritchfield, President
Warren Fleming, Vice President
Dan King, Secretary
Ephraim Salins, Treasurer

Damascus Heritage Society Newsletter

THE DEVOTED CURATOR OF DAMASCUS HISTORY

FALL 2008

VOL. 2 No. 4

From the Editor

We have broken ground and the construction is underway. Can you believe it? We are so excited. We will be open for business as soon as the interior work is completed and electricity has been installed. What a long process so far, but the journey has just begun. As the doors open, our focus and efforts will branch out in many new and different directions. Until now, our concentration has been on the fundraising necessary to get the construction started and the building functioning. Although the fundraising will continue forever, and the upkeep of the building will be ongoing, we anticipate many additional opportunities in which to spread our time, talents, and energy. Now is the time for you to help us. We need volunteers to do tasks from gardening to computer programming. We need manual labor, organizational skills, and thinking and planning people. We need people with carpentry skills, people with influence in the community, and people with patience and understanding as sometimes the process gets bogged down. There is a job for everyone who is ready and willing to join together with a great group of people committed to opening this museum to preserve our Damascus heritage. Our meeting schedule and our contact information is provided at the end of this newsletter. Please join us in our journey; we look forward to meeting you.

Linda Olsen, Editor
reolmo@aol.com

The Groundbreaking for the Damascus Heritage Society Museum took place on Monday, August 25, at the site behind the Library/Senior Center at the corner of Main Street and Woodfield Road.



Left to right: Harvey Ziegler, Catherine Matthews, Mike Knapp, Jim Starcher, Charlie Crawford, Jeannette Mendonca, Dan King, Ken Lefebvre, and Randy Scritchfield

Society President, Randy Scritchfield provided opening remarks and introductions of guests from the Montgomery County Government and the Maryland State Government. Speaking first was Catherine Matthews, representing Ike Leggett, who presented the Heritage Society with a certificate for community service from Mr. Leggett. Jeannette Mendonca then greeted us from Senator Rona Kramer's office. County Councilman Mike Knapp followed with a few remarks about the first meeting he had with Randy and Dan King regarding the museum project. Dan King then provided the background information in the building/construction process and Randy provided the closing remarks. Then the digging began! It was a great sight to see it finally happen. At the conclusion of the festivities, a

Groundbreaking on August 25, 2008

small lemonade reception took place under the trees as we celebrated our first major accomplishment. It was a great day.



The lemonade reception after the Groundbreaking.

Museum Construction is
Finally Underway!
By Dan King

In fact, by the time you receive this newsletter, the temporary museum buildings will have been placed on the foundation piers and most of the exterior work will be complete. Only electrical service and interior work remain to be done before the museum can become operational. You got us this far and you can make it happen!

In March of this year a building permit was finally issued by the County for the construction of the temporary museum building located behind the Damascus Senior Center/Library. From March until August bids were solicited from local firms and the winning proposal was submitted by the LeNak Company, headed by Damascus resident Ken Lefebvre.



The cement truck arrived on the second day of construction.

The winning bid included monies for the construction of foundation piers for the building, a front sidewalk with handicapped access, a rear stairway, and the most difficult task of all—the moving of the two trailers weighting almost 20 tons each on to the foundation piers.



Finally the big day has come and the crane arrives at 6:30 AM to move the two halves of the museum on to the new foundation.



The back half is being lowered onto the foundation.



The giant crane is reaching over the trees.



The back half is in place. Now the crane is moving the front half. The men are guiding it as it swings freely in the air.

What comes next? Electrical service to the building has to be installed (as soon as we have raised the necessary funds) and the interior of the museum prepared to display artifacts. So far, about \$30,000 has been expended on getting us to this point (construction, permits, insurance, etc) and it is estimated that another \$20-\$30,000 will be required to set up electrical service and finish the interior. Electrical service alone is estimated to be over \$10,000 because underground power must come from a transformer located at the far end of the Library site. For this reason, we will also be examining alternative power sources including solar or a solar combination with another power source. We have gotten this far, we have a committed group of volunteers, we have generous patrons, and we will get there—as they used to say in Damascus, “God willing and the creeks don’t rise.”



The outside of the building is almost complete. Skirting will be installed under the building and cosmetic work such as painting, shutters, and landscaping will finish the exterior.

A special thanks for getting us this far goes to Azer Kehnemui, Principal of SK&A Consulting Engineers of Rockville, who provided engineering services at no cost; to Chuck Crawford, our own resident engineer who worked with the contractor; and Jim

Starcher who has learned more about the Department of Permitting Services than he ever wanted to know or needed to know.

With your help and continued generous contributions, we will have a museum in operation by this time next year.

**Memberships “In Memory of”
or “In Honor of”**
By Pat Williams

If you have looked at one of our membership applications recently, you probably noticed the phrase “In Memory/Honor of”. This special option provides an opportunity for you to remember and/or honor the people who have touched your life. To date we have had nine such requests and the numbers are growing. Any level of membership can be “In Memory/Honor of” and what better way to remember someone who loved/loves history, Damascus, or the agricultural industry. Those who have been remembered or honored so far are:

*From Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Hahn,
a donation in honor of
Barbara & John Grigg*

*From Curtis Dillon,
a donation in honor of
Harvey Zeigler*

*From T. Richard & Carole H. Baltzell,
a donation in memory of
Robert H. & Edna V. Moxley*

*From Fran Burlas,
a donation in memory of
Chester M. Leishear*

*From Travis L. & Natalia D. Ciriaco,
a donation in memory of
Clark & Grace King*

*From Dan and Daria King,
a donation in memory of
Clark Fout & Grace Souder King*

From Nan Norton,

*a donation in memory of her husband,
George Weber Norton*

*From Mark H. & Julie M. Sain,
a donation in memory of
Bernard "Buck" Gladhill*

*From Eleanor O. Stipe,
a donation in memory of
Harry V. Stipe*

A membership "In Memory/Honor of" not only pays tribute to an individual but also allows the Damascus Heritage Society to continue to grow and carry on its mission of preserving the rich heritage that is Damascus. Isn't there someone you would like to honor in this special way?

Charter Members to be Recognized in the Museum

With the opening of the museum coming closer every day, we are now starting to make plans for the plaque that we will have made to honor our Charter Members. A Charter Member is a person, family, or business who has made a donation to the Damascus Heritage Society, Inc. of \$1000 or more in any calendar year. Charter Memberships will be available until we open our doors for business. We thank these people for believing in us and for supporting us through these first years of uncertainty and growth.

We thank and appreciate every single person who has given us any amount of support during this formative time but we recognize in particular, these Charter individuals, families, and businesses that have gone out on a limb, so to speak, to give us financial support above and beyond. The list continues to grow every day.

The following are the Charter Members as of this writing:

1 Anonymous Charter Member
Bernardine Gladhill Beall
Harold T. and Carolyn W. Bennett
Helen W. Boyer
Fran Burlas
Alicia Buxton and George Boyer, MD
Allie May Buxton
John B.L. and Barbara Mullinix Grigg

**Wildlife Achievement Chapter of the Izaak
Walton League of America, Inc.**
Dan and Daria King
**Damascus Lions Club, President Eloise
Woodfield, 2008**

Nan Norton
Ray and Linda Olsen
Mark Sain
Randy and Kathy Scritchfield
H. Deets Warfield, Jr.
Robert L. Williams

If you wish to have a Charter Membership in the Damascus Heritage Society Museum, time is running out. We will close the Charter designation when we have the dedication ceremony for the grand opening. Other memberships will be available at that time, however, as our financial obligations will continue and support from the community will always be a necessity.

Although we thank everyone who supports us in any way, we say a special thanks to our Charter Members.

First Annual Heritage Day Celebration

A Damascus Heritage Day celebration is happening on October 19 from noon until 5:00 on the beautiful grounds of the Izaak Walton League. What started as an idea in the spring has quickly blossomed into an afternoon of family entertainment that will hopefully become an annual festival involving the entire community. This will be our first fund raising activity that speaks directly to our purpose – preserving Damascus heritage. The Izaak Walton League stepped in to offer the venue and to sponsor several events. With their collaboration and support, we have planned something for the entire family to enjoy. One of the highlights will be our speakers. Harvey Ziegler will be speaking on the African American history of Damascus and Bernardine Gladhill Beall will tell the listeners about the history of the Gladhill family. The IWL will provide a blacksmith in addition to cowboys, nature walks, information on bee keeping, and tours of their experimental chestnut grove. There will be antique tractors on display and the firemen will have a fire truck and an ambulance and will be available for questions. The IWL will also oversee a "turkey shoot" with strict rules and guidelines for

shooting at the target. The name "turkey shoot" comes from the prize for the winner – a frozen turkey, just in time for Thanksgiving. The Heritage Society will have a food booth with hot dogs, chips, and soft drinks available all day and also vendors and business will have booths to sell their wares or to pass out literature and information. Several community organizations will be represented. Some other surprises will also be on the agenda for the day so come on over to check it out. The admission is free and the Izaak Walton League has ample parking in a park-like setting.

The schedule of events for the day is as follows:

- 12:30 PM - Cowboy shoot demonstration
- 1:00 PM - Experimental chestnut trees tour
- 1:30 PM - Nature scavenger hunt for kids
- 2:00 PM - Harvey Ziegler speaking on African American History in Damascus
- 2:30 PM - Bernardine Gladhill Beall speaking on the Gladhill family history
- 3:00 PM - Experimental chestnut trees tour
- 3:30 PM - Cowboy shoot demonstration
- 4:00 PM - Nature scavenger hunt for kids
- All Day - Vendors and crafts
- All Day - Turkey Shoot
- All Day - Invasive plant workshop at the IWL booth
- All Day - Food available at the food building
- All Day - Antique tractor display
- All Day - Blacksmiths

Future Meetings

We meet on the third Monday of the month, unless it falls on a holiday, in which case it will then be moved to the fourth Monday. All meetings are held in the large conference room at the Damascus Public Library unless noted otherwise. For 2008 the remaining meetings are as follows:

- October 20, 2008
- November 17, 2008
- December 15, 2008

Mark your calendar now.

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE
DAMASCUS HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

All payments are tax deductible - we are a 501c3 non-profit charitable organization.

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Memberships:

[] Individual \$25

[] Family \$35

[] Business/Organization \$50

[] Friend \$100-\$249

[] Patron \$250-\$499

[] Benefactor \$500-\$999

[] Charter \$1,000+

[] Other _____

If desired, in Memory/Honor of:
(circle one)

Mail to:

Damascus Heritage Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 218
Damascus, MD 20872

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DAMASCUS HERITAGE DAY

OCTOBER 19, 2008, from 12:00 - 5:00 pm
On the grounds of the Izaak Walton League
26430 Mullinix Mill Rd., Damascus, MD 20872
Come join the fun! There will be:

A TURKEY SHOOT

WORKING BLACKSMITHS

COWBOYS

CONSERVATION AWARENESS TOURS - Beehives, Chestnut Trees, Nature Trails For The Kids

HISTORICAL SPEAKERS

ARTS & CRAFTS VENDORS

Live music, food and more!

FREE ADMISSION

***Sponsored by the Damascus Heritage Society and the Izaak Walton League
for the benefit of the Damascus Heritage Society Museum project.***

NEWSLETTER, FALL 2008

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