



# Heritage Society Museum Damascus

The Devoted Curator of Damascus History Winter 08 Vol. 2 No. 1

Top: Field by Damascus Fuel Company on Lewis Drive Winter 2008  
Bottom: Meadows Farms Nurseries on Route 27 South Winter 2008  
Photos by Cynthia Hunter-Shupe



P.O. Box 218  
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**Officers:** Randy Scritchfield, President  
Warren Fleming, Vice President  
Ephraim Salins, Treasurer  
Pat Williams, Recording Secretary

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



The Heritage Society members working on this project have been amazing. I cannot imagine groups of people working harder and in a more dedicated way for the last two years. We have accomplished much, detailed in other parts of this newsletter. This has been due to the efforts of those individuals you see mentioned as officers, committee chairs and/or other volunteers.

Among our recent accomplishments is concrete evidence of how far we have come. We have trailers at the library as well as on Oak Drive across from Baker Middle School. These are but two significant and important vivid examples of the work that we have accomplished in less than two years. We are grateful for the school board for providing these trailers.

We are also grateful for Tom and Ray's for exhibiting the historical pictures that we have framed with the help of Roby's Custom Framing. I encourage everyone to stop in Tom and Ray's to take a look at them.

I also want to publicly thank the following organizations, government officials, and individuals for their contributions to our efforts:

### Companies and other Organizations

- Dovetail Signs, Printing, and Woodworking
- G&G Landscaping
- Long Fence Company
- Roby's Custom Framing & Roby's Photo Shop
- Smislova, Kehnemui & Associates
- Tom and Ray's Restaurant
- Damascus Community Alliance

- Damascus Connection
- Damascus Public Library
- Damascus Recreation Center
- Damascus Rotary Club
- Damascus Senior Center
- Damascus Volunteer Fire Department
- Department of Public Works
- Montgomery County Board of Education

### Government

- Delegate Anne R. Kaiser
- Council Member Mike Knapp
- Senator Rona E. Kramer
- Delegate Karen S. Montgomery
- Delegate Herman L. Taylor, Jr.

### Other Individuals

- Charley Hawkins
- Donna Hill
- Jerry W. Hyatt
- Tim Hyatt
- Dominic Naples

We have reached an important turning point in our organization, please call me at 301 253-5030 or attend any of our open public meetings if you can provide fund raising expert contact/s.

Randy Scritchfield, President

**2008 Meeting Schedule**  
Meetings are open to the public  
7:00pm at the Damascus Library  
February 25<sup>th</sup>, March 17<sup>th</sup>

The Damascus Heritage Society, Inc. newsletter is © 2008, The Damascus Heritage Society, Inc. Editors: Regina Gardner-Johnson, Linda Olsen, and Pat Williams. Layout: Cynthia Hunter-Shupe. Design: Regina Gardner-Johnson. Submissions are open to the public with a deadline of March 14th, June 14th, and September 14th. Please send all submissions to shupecc@his.com or mail Attn: DHS Newsletter, Cynthia Hunter-Shupe, 10316 Lewis Drive, Damascus, MD 20872. Issues are available for free in public locations throughout Damascus, MD.

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## NOTABLE PERSON IN DAMASCUS HISTORY

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Joseph Woodfield, Owner  
Damascus Electric Company  
Edited by Cynthia Hunter-Shupe  
{Article suggestion by Thomas "Tuck"  
Woodfield}

Mr. Joseph Woodfield lived to the age of 58 and was President of the Damascus Light & Power Company, organized in 1924. He was also a railway postal clerk for 30 years, retiring in 1943. Mr. Woodfield was active in the community as a member of the Damascus Lions Club, the Volunteer Fire Department, and the board of the Damascus United Methodist Church. His wife was Clyta B. Woodfield and they had four children, Beatrice Browning, Dorothy Browning, Willard Woodfield, and Vincent Woodfield. His mother was Emma C. Woodfield. He had four brothers, J. Dorsey, Bradley M., William, & George W. Woodfield. The following is an exact copy of a public notice of the sale of the Damascus Light and Power Company to the Potomac Edison Company:

### **"\$15,000 FOR POWER COMPANY**

Under a deed of November 12, 1929 recorded Thursday in the Frederick Clerk of Courts office, the Damascus Light and Power Company conveys to the Potomac Edison Company its entire electrical system for \$15,000. Included in the transfer are all of the equipment and apparatus of the Damascus company, in the operation of its electrical distribution system in the sale of electricity in the communities heretofore served by the Damascus company in Frederick, Montgomery, and Howard counties. The transfer also includes the poles, wires, cross arms, insulators, transformers, meters, and other property and appliances used in the former company's communities. The deed is signed by William H. Burdette, President of the Damascus Company and J. Leslie Woodfield, Secretary."

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## MUSEUM UPDATE

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By Dan King

Efforts to establish a temporary, Damascus Heritage Museum on the grounds of the Damascus Library are making significant

progress with the very real possibility of opening in the spring. At the same time work progresses on the opening of a second museum site to be used for the storage of artifacts on Board of Education land across from Baker Middle School.

This past summer excess portable classrooms (consisting of two trailers each) were obtained by Warren Fleming of the Heritage Society for use as temporary museum sites and were moved to "staging areas" at the Damascus Library and across from Baker Middle School. More recently, Jim Starcher and Dan King have been working to get the necessary architectural and engineering work completed and to obtain building permits so foundations can be constructed for the trailers, handicapped ramps installed, and the trailers moved to their final locations. It is anticipated that the trailers will remain at those final locations for three to five years until a permanent museum site can be located and a building constructed.

The initial architectural work for the temporary museum facilities was donated by Christine Guglielmini, a local architect, and the structural engineering for the foundations and the certified drawings for obtaining building permits were donated by SK&A Consulting Structural Engineers of Rockville, Maryland. SK&A (Smislova, Kehnemui & Associates) has been particularly

generous in its support to the Heritage Society.

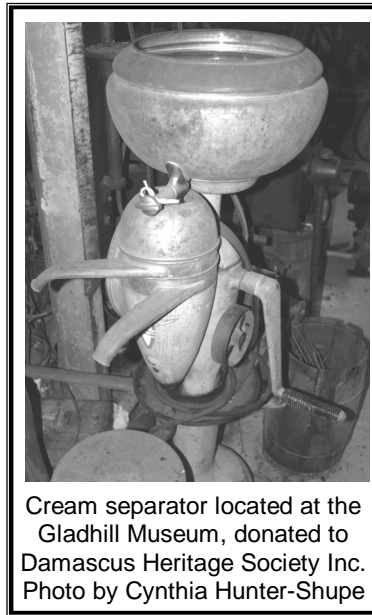
Once the trailers are on their permanent foundations, work can begin on the interior of the trailers which will display artifacts representing the full range of Damascus history from colonial days until the present.

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## HISTORIC PICTURES OF DAMASCUS A BIG HIT

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The Heritage Society recently placed a number of historical photos in Tom and Ray's restaurant. According to Rick Bellison, one of the owners of Tom and Ray's, the photos have been a big hit with patrons. Nan Norton and Daria King of the Society were instrumental in bringing this project to fruition. Gary Richard was generous in providing the photos from his extensive collection



Cream separator located at the Gladhill Museum, donated to Damascus Heritage Society Inc. Photo by Cynthia Hunter-Shupe

and Roby's Framing contributed their support for the layout, printing, and framing of the photos.

Plans are to change the photos from time-to-time for renewed interest. If you haven't seen them, stop by and take a look.

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## RESEARCH UPDATE

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By Cynthia Hunter-Shupe

In addition to the museum building itself, we are concurrently creating and acquiring content for the museum.

Our 2007 accomplishments include obtaining a number of physical artifacts for the museum thanks to Bernadine G Beall; scanning articles and photos of various people important to the development of Damascus; compiling various Damascus history resources; digitally converting audio tapes of interviews from the Damascus Bicentennial Commission; video taping interviews of older Damascus natives; and developing relationships with local schools and Scouting groups to engage children in local history. We encourage local organizations to preserve their own history and we are offering our support.

If you have any pictures, paper or digital, that you would like to share with Damascus Heritage Society, Inc. (DHS), if you have a project idea, or if you are interested in being involved in research please contact:

Cynthia Hunter-Shupe, Research Director  
Ph: 240-782-1237; Em: [shupec@his.com](mailto:shupec@his.com).



Zeigler gravestone circa 1891  
Friendship United Methodist Church  
Photo by Cynthia Hunter-Shupe

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## ESSAY & PHOTO COMPETITION

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We are in the planning stages of an annual Damascus history essay and photo contest. Please contact Cynthia Hunter-Shupe if you are:

- interested in submitting an essay with photo on any aspect of Damascus history;
- an experienced photographer interested in being a photo judge;
- experienced Damascus historian with grammar and editing experience;
- interested in being an essay judge; or
- interested in placing an ad or being a sponsor

Call 240-782-1237 or email [shupec@his.com](mailto:shupec@his.com)

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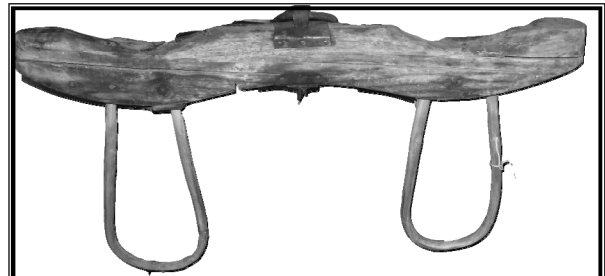
## DAMASCUS HERITAGE SOCIETY REPRESENTED AT COMMUNITY EVENTS

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By Linda Olsen

The Damascus Heritage Society was represented at two community events in 2007. Our "booth" first appeared at Damascus Days at Damascus Chevrolet in July. The booth was set up with some antique furniture from the collection of Ray and Linda Olsen and with some milk cans from the farms of Sharon and Wayne Warfield and Dorothy Warfield. The purpose was for the society to gain exposure in the community and to collect information and contacts to benefit our on-going project of establishing a museum in Damascus.

The second time the booth appeared was at the Damascus Community Fair in September. That event lasted three days and was great fun for the society members working in the booth. As with Damascus Days, our purpose at the fair was to inform the community of our mission and to gather information and contacts for our on-going museum project.



Oxen yoke located at the Gladhill Museum  
donated to the Damascus Heritage Society  
Inc. (What is wrong with this picture?)  
Photo by Cynthia Hunter-Shupe