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Galesville Heritage Society

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www.galesvilleheritagesociety.org

This publication has been financed in part by grants from the Four Rivers Heritage Area, Anne Arundel County, and with State Funds from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, an instrumentality of the State of Maryland. However, the content and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.



GALESVILLE HERITAGE Society & Museum



On the Shores of the West River

Galesville Heritage Society's Mission



The mission of the Galesville Heritage Society is to promote an understanding of and an appreciation for the history of Galesville. The Society's historical resources, educational outreach efforts and the Galesville Heritage Museum serve as a catalyst to collect,

preserve, research and celebrate the area's history.

In pursuit of its mission, the Galesville Heritage Society sponsors an annual 4th of July Parade, a Veteran's Day Observance, quarterly dinners with speakers, winter lecture series, and a quarterly newsletter. The Society also hosts other special events throughout the year.



Explore the native and wetlands gardens on the grounds of the Galesville Heritage Museum.

Galesville Heritage Museum

The building that houses the Museum was the home of Thomas Weedon and his wife, Carrie Sanks Weedon. Built in the 1880's, the house was purchased by the Weedons in 1901. Miss Carrie taught Galesville children for more than thirty years; Thomas Weedon was dock master for the Tolchester Steamship Company.

The Galesville Heritage Society, incorporated in 1991, purchased the Weedon property and adjacent lot as its new museum and headquarters in 2001. The purchase was made possible by grants from the State of Maryland and Anne Arundel County.

Open Sunday 1 - 4 p.m.

April (last Sunday) through

November (first Sunday)

or by Appointment

988 Main Street, Galesville, Md 20765

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The Museum Collection

Precolonial

Before the arrival of European settlers, Native Americans hunted along and fished in the West River. Evidence of their presence here is seen in pottery, stone tools, and arrowheads found in Galesville and the West River.



Colonial Period

In the 17th Century, Quakers came seeking religious toleration. The first Annual Meeting in Maryland was held in Galesville at the site of the Quaker Burial Grounds. As planters, they grew wealthy growing tobacco through the efforts of their African slaves. Many of the fine homes built



by them are still seen in the West River area.

The Steward Shipyard on the West River built many of the

boats that plied the Chesapeake. In 1781, during the Revolutionary War, the British destroyed the Shipyard.

Taking advantage of its protected waters, ships arrived to unload and load cargo, and the area became known as "West River Landing". When the Landing was designated a "port of entry" in 1684, its importance as a commercial center increased. In time, storehouses would be built and merchants and sailors would make their homes here.

Growth to the Present

With the coming of steamships in the 19th century, Galesville's local businesses grew and thrived. Canning houses processed oysters and tomatoes. These goods, together with tobacco and peaches, were loaded on ships bound for Baltimore.



Necessities from the city arrived and general merchandise stores lined Main Street. Annapolis and Baltimore became more accessible to residents, and visitors from the cities came to stay at local boarding houses. Three times a week, the steamboat Emma Giles



brought Galesville's residents to the waterfront to greet its arrival.

Making a living from the water has always been central to Galesville. First there were merchant sailors



trading on the Bay; then watermen, harvesting oysters, fish, and crab, brought their bounty to be processed here. But as the catch began to decline, recreational boating was emerging, encouraging the growth of boat building and repair, marinas and restaurants to meet the needs of boaters.



A Village

As Galesville grew, a true village emerged.



Churches and schools were established and a community developed. In 1929, the Galesville Volunteer Fire Department was the first south of Annapolis and served all of South County. Celebrations such as the

Tercentenary, the annual 4th of July and Veterans' Day celebrations, dances in the Memorial Hall, and church picnics brought the villagers together.



Other sites in Galesville

The Quaker Burial Ground, site of the first Friends' Meeting, is at the entrance to Galesville. Several historical African American sites



important to the citizens of Galesville are also located as one enters Galesville: the Hot Sox Field, home of the Galesville Hot Sox, a semi-pro African American baseball team, and the house built by Henry Wilson, a former slave. On West Benning Road is the restored Rosenwald School where many of Galesville's African American children were educated. At Hartge Yacht Harbor is the Hartge Maritime Museum displaying items associated with the family and their



sailing business. Restaurants, antique stores, a gallery, and historic sites add to the visitor's experience.

Membership

Membership is open to all who are interested in our history and our future. Family memberships are \$30 and individual memberships \$20. Checks may be sent to GHS, P.O. Box 373, Galesville, Maryland, 20765. Please include name, address, email address and telephone number.