

THE ALLEN HISTORIAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ALLEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 31, Allen, MD 21810

Web Address: allenhistoricalsociety.org

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George Shivers, Editor

Late Summer and Fall Schedule

Passerdyke Cottage Museum (second floor) will be open each Sunday from 2:00 to 4:00pm during the rest of July and in August and September. At other times it is open by appointment. Call George Shivers at 410-749-9064 or 410-778-3696.

The Allen Historical Society will meet on Sunday, July 29 at 3:00pm at the home of George Shivers, 3438 Noble Farm Road.

The Polk-Dorman family and the Lewis H. Martin family will hold a reunion August 3-5. The reunion schedule includes a visit to our Passerdyke Cottage Museum on Saturday, Aug. 4 between 2:00 and 4:00pm.

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Allen Volunteer Fire Company will hold a Yard Sale on Saturday, September 15 at the Fire Hall on the corner of Post Office Road and S. Upper Ferry Road.

The Allen Historical Society is sponsoring a Cemetery in the fall. It will take place at the Asbury United Methodist Church cemetery. Society members will portray various village personalities as you visit their grave sites. Following the walk there will be refreshments served in the Great Room of the church. Date and time to be reported at a later date.

The annual Homecoming service at Asbury United Methodist Church will take place at 11:00am on Sunday, October 28. Luncheon will be served at the Allen Community Hall immediately following the service.

The Annual Pit Beef Dinner sponsored by the Allen Lions Club will be held on Sunday, November 11 beginning at noon at the Allen Community Hall, Collins Wharf Road.

Report on Raffle

This spring the Society sponsored a raffle of a new Ford pickup. The terms of the raffle were that if we did not sell at least 1000 tickets, the prize would be one-half the proceeds of the raffle, rather than the truck. Ticket sales proved to be disappointing, and in the end it proved to be a 50/50 raffle. The winning ticket was chosen during the July 4th celebration sponsored by the Allen Lions Club. The winner is a resident of Ocean Pines. We would like to express our appreciation to all those who purchased tickets.

Report on Second Allen Historical Bus Tour

The Society sponsored its second bus tour of the village and environs on Saturday, May 12 from 10:00am until 3:pm. The tour included both Asbury Methodist Church, where a bag lunch

was served, and Friendship United Methodist Church. An exhibit on the Buffalo Soldiers was at the Friendship location. The tour visited the home and vineyard of Tom Shelton on Wicomico Creek, the George Phillips Store and home in the village, and Dashiell's Lott, an 18th century Georgian manor house on Wicomico Creek, as well as other sites. We hope to repeat the event in the future for those who were unable to make it.

Report on Lin Davis's Cemetery Census

Society member Lin Davis has completed an updated census of the Allen Cemetery at Asbury Church. The cemetery is one of the oldest in Wicomico County in continuous use since the early 19th century. Jacob Malone, Jr. completed the first census and that was updated by Rosalie Fields in April of 1998. Lin Davis reports that there are 1202 graves in the cemetery. He has recorded names, as well as birth and death years.

The Melody Manor Story

(Editor's Note: Melody Manor is an impressive home on the banks of the upper Wicomico Creek. It was designed and built in the early 20th century by renowned architect Stanford White. On March 27 and April 3, 1989 the *Daily Times* published articles by Mrs. Edna Davy Muir as told to Brice Stump about the Manor. The two articles are reproduced in this edition of the *Historian* with permission of Mrs. Muir and the newspaper.)

Melody Manor Is 'Castle on the Rhine'

I know it has been a long time coming, but we had to do some research for the topic of this week's column on Melody Manor, which is just a little more than a mile from my farm.

Probably most people reading this article have never seen Melody Manor, but I'm sure a great number of my readers have heard about it. Even though it is so close to my home, I have only been in the house once, and have visited there only a handful of times in my entire life.

It is a home wrapped in historical romance and perhaps even intrigue, and it certainly is the most unusual home in Somerset County.

As a small child, I recall going up to the house only once with Dr. Edward Tull. I barely remember that visit except for the unusual turret at one corner of the house which has all the character of a castle fortress.

I came across a photograph of Melody Manor which accompanies this column. The photo was in some of Dr. Tull's photo albums, so it may have been taken by him. I do know he was great friends of the owners during that time, John and Mary Value, and he frequently visited there. They bought the manor in 1916, and Dr. Tull saw much of them before his death in 1927.

I personally do not know much about the history and happenings at Melody Manor, except for the persistent rumors that it was a speakeasy during Prohibition.

But I have a copy of a school project paper written by Donna Darling in 1979. She is the daughter of Nernice and the late Tom Darling, friends of mine for years. Donna has done an exceptional job researching the history of Melody Manor, and certainly knows more about it than most of us living close to the estate.

According to Donna, the house was built soon after Mary van Hoose bought the 300 acre farm in 1903. She and her German husband, Ellison van Hoose, retained New York architect Stanford White to design their home.

It is quite the house: 24 rooms and the center room has a ceiling height of 25 feet and there are 76 windows in the house.

Van Hoose was a tenor opera singer at the Metropolitan Theater in New York, according to Donna's report, and it is said he would visit the tower's highest room to practice his operatic arias.

Mr. van Hoose selected the name Melody Manor for the estate, because of his love of music, but his wife said she would always think of the house as her "Castle on the Rhine."

In 1908 the van Hooses sold Melody Manor, but not before the singer had turned the house into a school for training opera singers.

Another outstanding feature of the house is the grand stairway. The stairway splits and runs around the entire second floor in one complete rectangular gallery, and lyres were carved on doorway moldings.

In her report Donna wrote, "The students had much practice ascending the main

stairway, singing on the gallery and then descending the stairs with grace. The stairway greatly resembled the stairs at the Metropolitan Theater."

Rhoda and Kenneth Walbank purchased the two-year old house and farm in 1908. In 1915 Kenneth Walbank died, but left only a third of the farm to his wife, which did not include the house but some barns and the use of the wharf. The rest of the estate was left to the Chicago Charity Hospital, according to Donna's research.

In 1916 the hospital appointed a local attorney to sell the land, and sold John and Mary Value their part of the manor.

By 1929, the manor was sold by them to Robert Hupke, who owned a horse farm in Montana. It was during the time they owned the manor that ruors abounded that the place was a speakeasy. I never went there, but my farm foreman, Joseph Pope, would go down there and buy whiskey during Prohibition.

It was also this time that the manor got such a secretive personality. The best way to explain what happened, is to quote directly from Donna's report:

"The Hupkes had many private parties, which were so successful, that they decided to open their home regularly as a restaurant and nightclub. This place of entertainment was never open during the day and only on certain nights. When open, top line waiters in black attire would serve seafood along with other specialties to customers sitting at tables in the main hall and music room.

"These waiters worked in a circuit with the band, which traveled up and down the eastern seaboard, playing mostly

waltz music which was the popular type of music for that period. Melody Manor was a popular place for both young and old.

"The band was situated in the main hall with a lounge area provided on the porch. On special occasions a well known band would play, making that evening's attire more formal.

"Melody Manor was well patronized, but only the elite were admitted. Customers consisted of doctors, lawyers, political figures, and even a few of the Shore's baseball players.

"Because of the exclusiveness of the club, many patrons brought their mistresses to accompany them. When attending the private parties held at the mansion, one could not come alone and had to be known by the management..

"Rumor has it that liquor was served at this establishment, but some say that patrons brought their own. Because of the private nature of the nightclub, chances of being raided were slim during the Prohibition..

"When one of the Hupke daughters contracted diphtheria, the family moved to Salisbury and left Clarence Butler, a retired hotel owner from Crisfield, in charge... the nightclub business ended."

They sold the manor in 1935 to William Adams, a New York broker originally from Crisfield.

Donna said Adams painted all the woodwork and got rid of all the antiques. But he did dig a 60-foot site for a swimming pool, using two mules and a scoop.

Like previous owners, Adams entertained frequently at the house with large parties.

In 1958 they sold the house to Hugh and Anny Godsey, who was well known in the Salisbury area as the owner of Anny Godsey's Dress Shoppe. They added 300 more acres to the estate.

In 1975 they sold it to two brothers, Ephriam and Courtland Adkins. Courtland died in 1979, and his son Jeff farms the estate.

So that is the story on Melody Manor.

Over the years I have heard the place called a castle, a "baronial manor," a fort and a mansion. It is one of a kind, and there is nothing like it anywhere in Somerset County!

More Tales Come to Light on Melody Manor

I had no idea that last week's column on Melody Manor would have all of Somerset County abuzz!

So many people have expressed so much interest in the house that I have been asked, almost begged, to write some more about it, so here is a bit more information on this interesting county landmark.

Right off the bat, let me say again that most of the information in last week's column came from a school research paper by Donna Darling, and I will again share some more information from that report written in 1979.

Several people have asked if Stanford White really was the architect of Melody Manor. Apparently, during his time, he

was very well known, very respected, and probably very expensive.

I can only go by Donna's report, which said he was the architect, but others say they believe he was indeed the one who designed the mansion.

There is a rather "juicy" bit of information on Stanford White's untimely death, details of which appeared in a *Daily Times* story published years ago. Here is what Donna wrote:

"Mr. Van Hoose, (builder of the mansion soon after 1903) asked for the help of Stanford White in the design of a dwelling on their newly acquired property. Mr. White, an excellent architect from New York, was noted for his unique use of round rooms and fine stairways. Unfortunately, Mr. White was killed in 1906 before adding any necessary finishing touches.

"The assassin, Harry K. Thaw, hoped to avenge his wife's honor by jealously murdering Stanford White. Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, a chorus girl, regained her honor in Thaw's eyes, but lost both her lover and husband, for Thaw was committed to an asylum shortly after the killing."

So Melody Manor was probably White's last project.

I believe I mentioned too that some people denied that Melody Manor was a speakeasy. Well, for those of us living around here at that time, we know Polks road was certainly getting more than its share of traffic during weekend nights.

I have a dear friend in Princess Anne who shared a little story about her and

her sister 'partying' at Melody Manor during Prohibition, so here's the story.

"My sister and I wanted to sample the nightlife on the other side of the fence and discovered Melody Manor, a speakeasy, and we thought we were so clever for finding such a cozy, great place to party, and my mother was very much against drinking, so we thought we had pulled one over on her.

"One afternoon my older brother was telling our mother that my sister and I were going to a speakeasy, and of course we both denied it, saying the food was delicious and alcohol wasn't even served there, and this was of course during Prohibition.

"Not too long after that a friend of the family's was coming down from New York to visit us. While Nell was here, it was decided that my sister and I would go along with Nell and our mother on a shopping trip to Salisbury.

"On the way home from shopping my mother suggested we have dinner at Melody Manor. I guess the waiter recognized my sister and I, and of course he knew it was alright to serve us drinks. When he asked me what I would have, I quickly ordered Coca Cola, my sister paused and said she would have the same, and Nell said she would like a root beer. When he asked my mother, the world's greatest tee totaler said she would have whiskey and water. We were shocked.

"My mother offered the drink to the three of us, and of course we all refused, and she mixed one drop of the drink with a glass of water and drank it for her rheumatism, she said.

"Well, she knew we both had told the biggest lie, and when she confronted us with it, we both acted shocked that liquor was served, but she told us to come clean, so we did. I don't remember going to Melody Manor after that incident.

"You know Somerset County didn't have everything that New York City had, but with Melody Manor not too far away, we weren't doing too badly. Melody Manor was the last word in elegance. It was the place to go when the Hupkes had it. Part of the excitement about going to a speakeasy was the possibility of getting arrested. We had to be careful, but the police were in on it too, getting paid off. No one I knew was arrested, but everyone knew what was going on. On weekends Melody Manor was one hot place."

I guess there isn't much doubt that Melody Manor was a speakeasy, though some family members of previous owners deny it. I have since learned that Melody Manor was sold almost two years ago to Dr. Herbert Edwards of Jamaica.

I never was one much for parties and social drinking, so I wasn't a patron of the speakeasy, restaurant or nightclub at Melody Manor, but as you can see, for quite a while it was the *in* place to be.

I have been asked to do a few more columns about the life of my late sister Ruth, and in a few weeks I'll be sharing some more stories about her. One thing is certain. Ruth was very much a socialite and believe me, the life at Melody Manor was right up her alley.

To my knowledge Ruth never visited Melody Manor, but she would have so

much enjoyed the atmosphere. By the way, I understand that when architect White was killed, it was world news, according to one friend of mine. Because he designed Melody Manor, I am sure his death was discussed in Somerset County high society, but that was before my time.

Next week I will meet with T. Francis Brittingham of Salisbury, here on the farm. We have a fascinating tale to share with you in next week's column. I wrote several months ago that Mr. Brittingham was present the day Dr. Edward Tull was buried in 1927. A funeral may not be that unusual, except Dr. Tull was a legend in his own time, and for decades people have been curious about the secrets surrounding him.

Thanks too for all the compliments and help I have had on Melody Manor.

Who Was Stanford White? **by** **George Shivers**

Although Stanford White is only tangential to the history of the Allen area, since he designed Melody Manor and Mrs. Muir alludes to his murder in her articles, I thought it would be interesting to look a bit more deeply into his life. In doing so, I found that he was both famous and notorious during his lifetime! The information I have gathered here comes from two internet sources. The first deals with the life of the famous architect. It is found at <http://dede.essortment.com/stanfordwhitebrbyy.htm>. The second is an lengthy article by Melissa Ann Madden which discusses the details of his murder. It is found at:

http://www.crimelibrary.com/notorious_murders/classics/white/1.html.

Stanford White was born on November 9, 1853 to a life of wealth and privilege. His father was Richard Grant White, a Shakespearean scholar. Madden notes that White was "a leading architect, designer and arbiter of taste" and that he had founded elite clubs, made large contributions to charities, and promoted some of the finest institutions in New York City. He designed Fifth Ave. mansions for the Astors, the Vanderbilts and other wealthy families, as well as fine homes all along the Eastern Seaboard, including Melody Manor. Probably his most famous work was Madison Square Garden, where ironically he would meet his end.

There was, however, another side to Stanford White. He was a notorious ladies' man and designed and kept a loft at Madison Square garden which he used not only as a studio, but also as a place to entertain young women and to hold extravagant parties. In the loft he had installed a red velvet swing on which many young show girls played. In 1955 film director Richard Fleischer made a film based on White's relationship with the beautiful young model and showgirl Evelyn Nesbit Thaw. The film was titled *The Girl on the Red Velvet Swing* and starred Ray Milland as White, Joan Collins as Evelyn Nesbit, and Farley Granger as the murderer, Harry Thaw. The murder took place on June 25, 1906, when White was 53 years old. Evelyn Nesbit had been his lover since arrived in New York at the age of 16. She had worked as an artist's model and as a showgirl on Broadway. It was in the latter role that White met her. Nesbit had been born in Pittsburgh to well-off parents, but her lawyer father died when

she was 8, leaving her and her mother impoverished. She grew into a beautiful and ambitious young woman. White saw her perform in the Broadway production of *Floradora* in 1901 and was captivated by her. He was married and had a family, so later Nesbit married Harry Thaw. He came from a wealthy Pittsburgh family, but had suffered from violent tantrums ever since his childhood. He physically abused his young wife and became violently jealous of her relationship with White.

On the night of June 25, 1906, White was viewing a musical review on the roof of Madison Square Garden. Thaw, wearing a black overcoat despite the summer heat, approached his table and shot him three times directly in the face. The murderer then casually rejoined a group of his friends at the elevator. According to Madden, Evelyn Nesbit cried out "Good God, Harry, what have you done?" to which her husband is said to have replied, "All right, dearie. I have probably saved your life."

Six months after the murder, Thaw was tried. He pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity. The first jury could not reach a verdict, but the second declared him not guilty by reason of insanity and he was sent to an asylum in Matteawan. Later he escaped to Canada, but was captured, returned to the U.S. and jailed. Nevertheless, courts eventually found him sane and set him free. He immediately filed for divorce from Evelyn Nesbit! He died in 1947 at the age of 76.

Nesbit had a child during her husband's confinement and eventually returned to act on Broadway and in Vaudeville. In later years she suffered from alcoholism

and drug addiction. She died in 1965 at the age of 81.

As you might imagine the murder of Stanford White was widely publicized in the media. The name of the beautiful and tragic Evelyn Nesbit Thaw was everywhere. One result of that fact was the popularity of the name "Evelyn" for girl babies in the early decades of the 20th century. My mother-in-law, Evelyn Sherbondy, was, in fact, named after Evelyn Nesbit in 1916, a full ten years after the murder of Stanford White!

Remembering Some Allenites Who Came Before Us

(From the Editor: I am including in this issue several obituaries of memorable persons from our community now deceased. Some are within living memory, others from the more distant past.)

Simeon Malone - January, 1885

Death of a Prominent Citizen

Mr. Simeon Malone, aged 66 years, died at his late residence at Upper Trappe on the 18th inst. of typhoid-pneumonia. Mr. Malone had led the quiet life of a farmer, assisted by his brother and three nephews. He had always lived on the old homestead (Note: currently the residence of Mrs. Lula Lee Fields.) where his father lived and died. He never sought public office, though he was competent to fill almost any office in the gift of people. On one occasion he was urged, against his will, to be a candidate on the county commissioners' ticket. He was elected, although his party was in a minority in the county, and served the people with great acceptability for one term, and was often

urged to again be a candidate for various places, but always declined. In politics he was an original Henry Clay Whig, always admiring that great statesman with an affection akin to love. At the demise of the Whig Party he voted with the American Party until the war came on, when he was a staunch Union man; but when his party became extremely radical he refused to endorse all of their extreme measures, and for several years refused to vote at all. Nor did he vote until the Democrats were enfranchised, since which time he has voted mainly with the Republicans, except one or two elections . . . He never married, but was a faithful brother and uncle, devoting a great deal of favor and affection upon all his nephews and nieces. He was a kind neighbor and true friend. It did not matter what a man's politics or religion might be, if he was a man, he was a welcome guest at his table and fireside, and it is highly probable that Simeon Malone has entertained more people within the last 30 years than any man in Wicomico County. He was not a member of any church, but his . . . character are enough to put the blush of abnegation upon the countenance of many a professed follower of the Blessed Saviour. Whatever may be said of Simeon Malone, there is no man who will ever have the face to stand up in Wicomico County and say that he was aught but an honest and upright man.

Death of Mrs. Clara Huffington- Allen Lady Passes Away (1891)

*"Nothing can we call our own, but
Death; and that small model of the
barren earth, which serves as paste and
cover to our bones." Shakespeare*

Thursday evening last as the sun was slowly sinking behind the Western

horizon, and darkness was drawing down her sable robes, Mrs. Clara Huffington slowly ebbed away, and her spirit borne on angels' wings was carried up, up beyond this 'vale of tears' to rest forever on the bosom of her God. Her's had been a checkered life, full of usefulness and goodness, and she needs no greater monument to perpetuate her memory than her exemplary life. Being naturally bright and witty, she won for herself many kind and loving friends in her youthful days, whose friendship did not wane as the years grew old. Mrs. Huffington was born in Fruitland, this county, 51 years ago; she was educated at the Baltimore Female Academy, and left school full of honors.

In 1862 during the hottest of the war, Mrs. Huffington, then Miss Gunby, made up a parcel of clothing and other articles and hearing that her two brothers, John and Frank Gunby, were prisoners at Fort Delaware, determined to carry the parcel to them. On arriving at Fort Delaware, she at once engaged the attention of the Comm. Gen. Scheff, whose wife was a Maryland lady, and was taken in and entertained comfortably. Finding her brothers were not there, she, through the influence of Mrs. Scheff, distributed the articles to some of the Confederate prisoners. She returned to Salisbury and was soon after arrested as a sympathizer of the South, taken to Baltimore and detained two weeks, then sent to Fortress Monroe, where she was placed in company with Mrs. Coker, a lady prisoner from South Carolina. Together with Mrs. Coker she was exchanged for a northern prisoner and sent to Richmond, where she was introduced into the best society, through the influence of Cols. Taylor and Calvert, who took a great interest in her from the fact that she was a descendant

of Gen. Gunby, who covered the retreat of Washington on Long Island. She was a close friend to the family of President Davis and did some valuable work for the Confederacy.

She returned home and in 1865 began again the study of art in Baltimore City, under Prof. Kett. Her artistic career was a very successful one.

Mrs. Huffington leaves a husband and two children. She was a sister of Messrs. L. W. Gunby, Edward Gunby and S..S. Gunby of this city..

Her funeral services were held at Broad St. Presbyterian Church, Saturday morning, Rev. Mr. Reigart officiating.

**G. M. Phillips, Merchant of Allen,
Dies (April 14, 1933)**

**Heart Attack Fatal to Prominent 69
Year Old Leading Citizen Saturday
Night**

**WAS FOR DECADES IN STORE
BUSINESS**

**Deceased, Highly Regarded, Was Very Active
in Church Work Until Declining Health
Prevented - Funeral Services Held Tuesday
Afternoon.**

The village of Allen was shocked late Saturday night at news of the death of George M. Phillips, veteran merchant of that town and one of its best known and most highly respected citizens, who succumbed suddenly of a heart attack at his home.

Mr. Phillips, who for several decades had conducted a general merchandise store at Allen, had been in poor health recently, having suffered from heart

trouble, but the end came almost without warning.

For years Mr. Phillips served as a member of the Board of Stewards of the Allen M.E. Church, South, and as Treasurer of the Church, and gave liberally not only of his time but means as well. Declining health caused him to give up his church posts a short while back.

The deceased was a good citizen generally and his death removes one whose place will be hard to fill. He was well known to many Salisburians with whom he did business or who dealt with him.

Funeral services for Mr. Phillips, who was 69 years of age, were held from the Allen Church at 3 P.M. on Tuesday with interment in the Allen Cemetery.

A widow, Mrs. Emma Huffington Phillips, two daughters, Miss Pauline Phillips, a senior at Western Maryland College, and Mrs. Wilson Shivers of Allen; and two sisters: Mrs. Mary Hester Green and Mrs. William Darby, both of Mardela, survive.

Dick Porter, Big League Star, Dies in Hospital

Richard T. (Dick) Porter, who made it from nearby Allen to major league baseball, died Tuesday night in the Veterans Hospital, Philadelphia, after a long illness. He was about 72.

Porter, who lived with his wife Mildred at 320 Glen Ave., stepped from the campus of St. John's College, Annapolis,

to a spot in the lineup of the Baltimore Orioles in 1921.

He was a member of the famous International League teams of Jack Dunn who won seven consecutive pennants. Porter, an outfielder, proved to be one of the fine hitters of baseball, compiling a lifetime major league average of .322.

He went up to the majors in 1929 when Cleveland bought his contract for \$40,000 - a lot of money in those days. He finished his playing career with the Boston Red Sox in 1935.

He turned to managing in the late 1930s, piloting the Syracuse Chiefs. When World War II broke out, he enlisted in the Coast Guard. Later, he managed minor league teams in the old New York-Pennsylvania League, the Southern Assn. and the Eastern League.

Porter was a colorful baseball figure and a contemporary of the famed Babe Ruth.

Rev. Edgar Nathaniel Dennis (March 1, 1997)

Edgar Nathaniel, one of eight children born to the late Reverend Robert Wayne Dennis and Winifred Polk Dennis, was born in Allen, Maryland on April 19, 1916. He departed this life on Saturday, March 1, 1997 at the Salisbury Center, Genesis Eldercare, in Salisbury, Maryland.

He received his formal education in the public schools of Wicomico County, graduating from the former Salisbury Colored High School. He continued his education at the former Maryland State College, now the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore in Princess Anne, MD and at Wesley Theological

Seminary, Washington, D.C, where he received a degree in Theology.

He was ordained as a minister and became a member of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference of the United Methodist Church in 1956. He served for thirty-seven years, pastoring the Manokin/Westover Charge, Mt. Vernon/Venton Charge and retiring in 1993 from the Crisfield/Kingston Charge.

He was a former member of LeMech Lodge #30, F& AM, Prince Hall Affiliation and several other ministerial alliances and organizations.

He was a member of Friendship United Methodist Church in Allen, Maryland, as a young adult, where he was a member of the United Methodist Men and where he received the call to ministry. Upon his retirement, he returned to Friendship where he attended until failing health.

He was united in holy matrimony to Sarah Dorman on September 14, 1939. They shared a marriage of love, devotion and affection for fifty-seven years.

"Nat", as he was affectinately called, was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend. He was easy-going and adaptable to any situation. He was a patient sufferer, waiting so graciously for the day he preached about, to hear the Master say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over a few things, now I will make you ruler over many things. Enter the Master's joy."

He leaves to cherish fond memories with his wife, Sarah Dennis, Allen, Maryland, one daughter and son-in-law, Connie and

LTC Aaron Andrews, Woodbridge,VA; a granddaughter, Raven Andrews, Baltimore, MD; a grandson, Aaron Andrews II, Woodbridge, VA; four brothers: Carroll Dennis, Philadelphia, PA, Rev. Roland Dennis, Cambridge, MD, Alfred Dennis and Elmer Voyd Dennis, both of Allen, MD; three sisters, Winifred Logan, Philadelphia, PA, Annie Jones and Lorraine Dorman, both of Allen, MD; six sisters-in-law, one brother-in-law; two aunts, Iva Downie, Salisbury and Theresa Deshields, Philadelphia, PA; one uncle, Everett Polk, Jacksonville, FL, several nieces, nephews and a host of other relatives, extended family and friends.

**George Hayward Dennis
(1890-1990)**

George Hayward Dennis was born January 14, 1890 in Eden, MD and departed this life Sunday, November 11, 1990 at his home, 317 Delaware Ave., in Salisbury, MD, at the age of 100. He was the son of the late William and Elizabeth "Lizzy" Peters Dennis. His father lived to be 100 and 3 days. His mother Elizabeth was 99 and 6 months when she departed this life.

He joined Friendship United Methodist Church in Eden, MD and established membership at an early age. He met a young woman from Fruitland, and at the age of 22, he was joined in holy matrimony to the former Allene Virginia Shockly of Fruitland. From this union 6 children were born. Allene departed this life in 1956, and so did a daughter, Allene Hannah.

In 1956 he married the former Sedonia Catherine Corbin. No children were born to this union, but she was a good mother to her stepchildren, and her

nieces and nephews. She departed this life in 1975.

George was a retired bricklayer. He plastered most of the homes that John Hitch built in the 1930s.

When asked what his secret for such a long life, he would just point up and say, "The man upstairs has blessed me and kept me." The family sadly mourn their loss and will forever cherish his memory - thanking the Almighty for the many years spent together.

Surviving are five children: William George Dennis of Salisbury, Thomas A. Dennis of Douglasville, Allen Rd., Howard Dennis and Georgeia Mea Gillette of Philadelphia, and Hilda Johnson of Salisbury; 12 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great grandchildren. Also surviving is one brother, Herman Dennis of Salisbury, who was a 3 year All-American Full Back at Virginia State College during the 1930s, and retired a Wicomico County Agricultural Teacher. He leaves fond memories with several nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

**Lester Lee Dorman
(1906-1982)**

Some may ask why, but God has His reason and does not have to explain why. He called Lester Lee Dorman to his eternal home on Sunday, February 28, 1982 at about 7:00pm in the Peninsula General Hospital Medical Center in Salisbury.

Lester was born on February 19, 1906 in Allen, Md to the late Warren and Nora Tull Dorman.

He spent his early childhood in this area and received his formal education in the public schools of Wicomico County. At an early age, he became a member of the Friendship United Methodist Church in Allen, Md.

As an adventurous young man, Lester moved to New York City, where he was employed as a truck driver for over twenty-five years until his retirement. Upon his retirement, he was employed as a taxi-cab driver.

While in New York, he was joined in Holy Welock to Annie Walden Caviness of Rockingham, North Carolina.

In 1972, Lester wanted a quieter life and he returned to Eden, Md to be closer to his family. He also returned to his home church of Friendship United Methodist Church in Allen, Md and remained a faithful member until his passing.

He was loved and cherished by all who knew him, and his memories will be cherished in their hearts forever.

He will be sorrowfully missed by his wife Annie; two sisters, Mrs. Pauline Carter and Mrs. Sarah Dennis, both of Allen, Md; two brothers, Ralph Dorman of New York City and Lawrence Dorman of Allen, Md.; three sisters-in-law, several nieces, nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

Historical Society Library

Below is a list of the books and other materials contained in our small library in Passerdyke Cottage. We have a collection of volumes focusing not only on our local history and genealogy, but also on general Maryland and particularly Eastern Shore history,

culture, lore. These books are available to be signed out by members of the Society and the community in general. If you see titles you would like to read, please drop by the Cottage on a Sunday afternoon and check them out! We also have files containing information about and photographs of buildings and people associated with our history.

Materials in the Passerdyke Cottage Library

A. Allen History and Genealogy

1. *Autobiography of William Francis Allen*
2. Black, James K., *Segments of the Black Family Genealogy*
3. Collection of Obituaries of Allen Residents, (2 volumes)
4. *Cookbook of Mary Ann Hillman Shivers, 1826-1894*
5. Cooper, Florence Byrd A., ed., *Allen, MD, 1702-1970*
6. *Allen, MD, 1702-1981*
7. Dize, Janet Brewington, *Pryor, Washburn and Related Families*
8. *Green Hill Church, 1733*
9. Homecoming Service: 100th Anniversary of Siloam United Methodist Church, 1874-1974
10. Lentz, Loula Allen, *Our Heritage: A Genealogical History of the Allen Family of Maryland* (2 copies)
11. *Genealogy of the Heuermann, Norwood and Lentz Families*
12. *Letters Home: The Wartime Correspondence of 1st Lt. Robert Roscoe, Malone, USMC*
13. McGrath, Minnie Murrell, *A Condensed Record of the Descendants of John and Lucretia Murrell*
14. Notes from Stepney Parish Records on Allen Families, compiled by George Shivers
15. Nutter, Velmar Polk and Conrad Wilfred Williams, *History of the Polk Family of Allen, MD*
16. Pollitt, Richard Malone, *The Pollitt Family*

17. Shivers, George, *The Ancestors and Descendants of Jehu and Mary Ann Hillman Shivers*
18. *The Ancestors and Descendants of Jonathan Huffington, Jr. and Henrietta Adams Huffington*
19. *Changing Times: Chronicle of Allen, MD, an Eastern Shore Village*
20. Shivers, George, ed., *Ten Years of the Allen Historian, 1995-2005*
21. Transcript of Taped Oral History Interview with Douglas Nichols, 2000
22. *The Village of Allen (Upper Trappe) Across the Decades, Census Data 1800-1920, Compiled by George Shivers*
23. Waller, Alexander Ray, *Beyond the Dim Horizon* (poetry)

B. Architectural History of Eastern Shore Counties

1. Bourne, Michael Owen, *Historic Houses of Kent County, An Architectural History, 1642-1860*
2. Touart, Paul Baker, *Along the Seaboard Side, The Architectural History of Worcester County, Maryland*
3. *Somerset County Architectural History*
4. Weeks, Christopher, ed., *Between the Nanticoke and the Choptank, An Architectural History of Dorchester County, Maryland*

C. General Eastern Shore History, Culture, and Genealogy

1. Allen, Gloria Seaman & Nancy Gibson Turkhorn, *A Maryland Album: Quiltmaking Traditions, 1634-1934*
2. Ball, Donald L., *Eastern Shore of Maryland Literature*
3. Batchelder, Pauline Manning, ed., *A Somerset Sampler, Families of Old Somerset County, MD 1700-1776*
4. Beauchamp, Alice Mae et al., *Of Ancient and Apostolic Lineage: Somerset Parish 1692-1992*
5. Bodine, A. Aubrey, *The Face of Maryland* (photographs)

6. Bradley, Sylvia Stant, *Mardela Springs, A History*
7. Brown, Alexander Crosby, *The Old Bay Line, 1840-1940*
8. Byron, Gilbert, *The Lord's Oysters*
9. Callum, Agnes Cane, *Colored Volunteers of Maryland Civil War, 7th regiment U.S. Colored Troops, 1863-1866*
10. Carey, George, *A Faraway Time and Place: Lore of the Eastern Shore*
11. Carr, Lois Green, *Adaptation and Settlement in the Colonial Chesapeake*
12. Carr, Lois Green et al., *Colonial Chesapeake Society*
13. *Robert Cole's World: Agriculture and Society in Early Maryland*
14. *Chestertown Tea Party Festival*
15. Clinton, Catherine, *Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom*
16. Conley, Ethel G., *A Short History of Fruitland, Maryland*
17. Cooper, Richard W., *Portrait of Salisbury, MD through the 1900s, The Places, the Faces, and the Times*
18. Corddry, George H., *Wicomico County History*
19. *Discovering the Eastern Shore, Shorelines*, Vol. 10, no. 4, Sept. 2003
20. Dize, Frances W., *Smith Island, Chesapeake Bay*
21. Douglass, Frederick, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*
22. Duke, Maurice, ed., *Chesapeake Bay Voices, Narratives from Four Centuries*
23. *The Eastern Shore of Maryland in Song and Story*
24. Everett, Lloyd T., *For Maryland's Honor: A Story of the War for Southern Independence*
25. Fisher, Arthur King, *Eastern Shore Wordbook*
26. Fooks, Herbert C., *Fooks Family*
27. Footner, Hulbert, *Rivers of the Eastern Shore*
28. Gibbons, Boyd, *Wye Island*
29. Giles, Ted, *Patty Cannon: Woman of Mystery*
30. Goldsborough, W.W., *The Maryland Line in the Confederate Army, 1861-1895*
31. Hall, Marion, *The History of Oriole and its Satellites*
32. *Historic Scenes of Somerset County*
33. Harriott, Thomas, *A Briefe and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia*
34. Horton, Tom, *Bay Country*
35. *An Island Out of Time, A Memoir of Smith Island in the Chesapeake*
36. *Turning the Tide: Saving the Chesapeake Bay*
37. Houlihan, Daniel J., *Teakle: the Mansion and the Man*
38. *Illustrated Souvenir of the Maryland Line Confederate Soldiers' Home*
39. *Images of Sharptown*
40. *In Her Own Words: A Southern Partisoan on Maryland's Eastern Shore, Journal of Clara Gunby, 1853-1865*
41. Jacobs, John E., Jr., *Salisbury and Wicomico County, A Pictorial History*
42. Jander, Anne Hughes, *Crab's Hole, A Family story of Tangier Island*
43. Jones, Edward F., *Essays on Delmarva's Wartime Experience, 1861-1945*, vol. 1
44. Klein, Mary O., *These Roots Were Free...San Domingo, A Community of Free Blacks*
45. *Lionism on the Eastern Shore* (2 copies)
46. *Little Journeys Thru the Eastern Shore of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia*, July 1929
47. Long, Myra Thomas, *The Deal Island Story*
48. Lowe, Esther Winder Polk, *Memories, 1824-1918*
49. *Maryland Magazine*, 350th Anniversary Issue, 1634-1984
50. Messenger, R. W., *Patty Cannon Administers Justice* (2 copies)
51. *Lower Eastern Shore Patriot: Bicentennial Edition*
52. Moore, Joseph E., *Murder on Maryland's Eastern Shore: Race, Politics and the Case of Orphan Jones*
53. Morriss, Philip, *The Wading Place: A Study of Original Property Owners in Princess Anne, MD 1733-177*
54. Nock, Mary L., *It Was a Joy and a Pleasure* (Autobiography of Eastern Shore Senator Nock)
55. *Old Spring Hill*

56. Page, I. Marshall, *Old Buckingham by the Sea on the Eastern Shore of MD*
57. Parks, Rick, *Tangier Island: A Moving Account of Tangier's History, Culture and Present Day Life*
58. Parks, Sidney M., *Historical Data of Tangier Island*
59. *The Past: A Bridge to the Future, The Salisbury Sesqui- Bicentennial, 1732-1982*
60. Peffer, Randall S., *Watermen*
61. *People of the Tidewater: Eastern Shore Indians. Shorelines*, Vol. 10, no. 3, March 2003
62. *Perennial Politics of the Eastern Shore, Shorelines*, Vol. 11, no. 3, March, 2004
63. Petry, Ann, *Harriet Tubman, Conductor on the Underground Railroad*
64. *Potpourri From Our Files: Family records of the Lower Eastern Shore, Volumes 1, 2 & 3*
65. Programs for the Annual Nanticoke Powwow, 1996, 1997 & 2003
66. *Recollections: Wicomico's One Room Schools* (4 copies)
67. Reddish, Jennifer Gray, *Nanticoke Identity: Survival via Cultural Chiasm*
68. Richardson, Hester Dorsey, *Side-Lights on Maryland History with Sketches of Early Maryland Families*
69. Robertson, John William, M.D., *Land of the Evergreen*
70. Roth, Hal, *Conversations in a Country Store: Reminiscing on Maryland's Eastern Shore*
71. *The Monster's Handsome Face, Patty Cannon in Fiction and Fact*
72. Rountree, Helen C. and Thomas E. Davidson, *Eastern Shore Indians of Maryland and Virginia*
73. *Salisbury Magazine*, vol. 1, No. 1, April 1976
74. vol. 1, No. 4, July 1976
75. *Somerset County, Maryland 1800 Census*
76. *Somerset County and Worcester County Tax Lists, 1783*
77. Svenson, Peter, *Green Shingles at the Edge of Chesapeake Bay*
78. Torrence, Clayton, *Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland*
79. Truitt, Charles J., *Breadbasket of the Revolution: Delmarva's Eight Turbulent War Years*
80. *Historic Salisbury*
81. *Historic Salisbury Updated, 1662-1981*
82. Van Riper, Frank, *Faces of the Eastern Shore*
83. Wallace, Adam, *The Parson of the Islands*
84. Warner, William W., *Beautiful Swimmers: Watermen, Crabs and the Chesapeake Bay* (2 copies)
85. Wennersten, John R., *Maryland's Eastern Shore, A Journey in Time and Place*
86. *What's Past is Prologue: The Wicomico County Centennial, 1867-1967*
87. White, Andrew, S.J., *Voyage to Maryland*
88. Whitney, Alethea H., *A History of Manokin Presbyterian Church, Princess Anne, Maryland 1672-1976*
89. Williams, William H., *The Garden of American Methodism: The Delmarva Peninsula, 1769-1820*
90. Wilson, Woodrow T., *Crisfield, Maryland 1672-1976*
91. *History of Crisfield*
92. *Thirty Four Families of Old Somerset County, MD*
93. Wood, Mary, *My Darling Alice, Based on Letters and Legends of an Eastern Shore Farm, 1837-1935*
94. *Worcester County, Maryland, The Land of Opportunity*
95. *Worcester County, 250th Anniversary Guide*
96. *Woven of Many Strands: Delmarva's African-American Heritage, Shorelines*, Vol. 9, no. 9, Sept. 2002
97. *Woven of Many Strands: The Heritage of Delmarva Diversity, Shorelines*, Vol. 11, no. 9, Sept. 2004
- D. General Genealogy and Historiography
1. Eff, Elaine, *You Should Have Been Here Yesterday: a Guide to Cultural Documentation in Maryland*
2. *Maryland Manual of Oral History*

3. Westin, Jeanne Eddy, *Finding Your Roots*

E. Fiction

1. Gear, Kathleen O'Neal and W. Michael, *People of the Mist*
2. Harr, Dorothy Nebel, *Eastern Shore by Coach-and-Four and Other Stories*
3. Junkin, Tim, *Watermen* (novel)
4. Karlin, Wayne, *The Wished-For Country* (a novel of Colonial Maryland)
5. Michener, James A., *Chesapeake*
6. Michener, James A. and John Moll, *The Watermen*
7. Robson, Lucia St. Clair, *Mary's Land* (novel)
8. Townsend, Alfred, *The Entailed Hat*, (2 copies)
9. Tracy, Don, *Chesapeake Cavalier*, 1949 (novel)
10. *Crimson Is the Eastern Shore*, 1953 (novel)

F. Video, DVD and Audio Material

1. Allen Lions Club Fourth of July Parade, 2002 (VHS)
2. Scorchy's Corner - Wandering Our Delmarvelous Land (VHS)
3. The Whites (Genealogy of the White and Fields families) (DVD)
4. Col. Wm. Frank Malone's Homecoming Address at Asbury United Methodist Church (CD)
5. Oral History Interview with Mr. Douglas Nichols (audio tape)
6. Oral History Interview with Mrs. Zella Polk Holden (audio tape)
7. Oral History Interview with Mrs. Lillian Phippin Malone (audio tape)
8. Oral History Interview with Mrs. Mary Griffith Payne (audio tape)
9. Davis, Kenneth C., "Don't Know Much About the Civil War" (4 audio tapes)