

THE ALLEN HISTORIAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ALLEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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George Shivers, Editor

Community Calendar

Saturday, Feb. 11, 7:00-11:00am - Breakfast served at the Allen Volunteer Fire Department, Upper Ferry Rd. & Post Office Rd. \$6.00

Sunday, March 11, 3:00pm. Board Meeting of the Allen Historical Society. Great Room, Asbury United Methodist Church, Allen. **ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!**

Sunday, March 25, 3:00pm "Spoons & Tunes" Concert, sponsored by the Allen Historical Society. Asbury United Methodist Church, Collins Wharf Rd. Homemade soups and breads will be served at a reception following the concert. Performers will be Caitlin Howard, a resident of Allen and junior music major at Salisbury University, John Cook, organist and the choir of Asbury United Methodist Church, the youth choir of Friendship United Methodist Church, & Dr. Laurence Hull Stookey, pastor of Asbury, on the marimba! We recommend that tickets be purchased or reserved in advance, as seating is limited. \$15 for adults, \$8 for children ages 6-12, children under 6 free.

Saturday, March 31, 9:00am - 1:00pm. Asbury United Methodist Church Spring Bazaar. Asbury-Allen Community Hall, Collins Wharf Rd.

Sunday, May 20 - Annual Meeting of the Allen Historical Society. Time and place to be announced.

Nabb Research Center Events:

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 3:00-4:30pm in the Nabb Center Gallery. Delmarva History Series: Frederick Douglass. Discussion

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 7:00pm Guerrieri Center, Wicomico Rm. Frederick Douglass Living History Performance by Master Motivational Story Speaker Bill Grimmette.

Thursday, March 29, 7:00pm, Nabb Center Gallery, Lecture, "The Eastern Shore & Its Role in the War of 1812, Ross Kimmel.

March 6 - June 30, Online Exhibit, "The Store of '62," Photos of the damage wreaked by the deadly storm that hit the mid-Atlantic coast from March 6-8, 1962.

Thursday, April 12, 7:00pm Nabb Center Gallery, "The Tide Rises," a lecture by Beth Ragan on Sea Level Change Through Time on the Eastern Shore.

Other Salisbury University Events:

Saturday, April 28, 6:00pm, Holloway Great Hall. Junior Soprano Recital by Caitlin Howard.

In Memoriam: Rosalie Fields **Feb. 6, 1938 - Dec. 20, 2011**

The Historical Society and the entire community mourn the death of our long-time member and friend, Rosalie Fields. Rosalie passed away on Tuesday, December 20, 2011 at Coastal Hospice in Salisbury. Her body was laid to rest in the cemetery of Siloam Church, of which she had been a devoted member for most of her life until its closing in 1992, when she transferred her membership to Asbury in Allen.

Rosalie worked as secretary with the Wicomico County Cooperative Extension Service from 1956 until 1986. Upon retiring from that position, she drove a school bus for the Wicomico County Board of Education for the next 14 years.

Rosalie will be especially remembered for her devoted service to church and community, whether it was singing in the church choir or welcoming guests and collecting money at bazaars and dinners. As a member of the Historical Society, she was present and busy for all our fundraising events, but more importantly she dedicated herself to collecting historical data relating to the Siloam and Allen communities, as well as to her own family genealogy. The volumes of newspaper articles and photographs that she so carefully gathered and filed in loose-leaf notebooks will provide a treasure trove of information to future generations.

Tributes from her nieces at the funeral revealed Rosalie as a loving aunt who set an example for younger family members with her support, her sense of humor and her willingness to spend quality time with them. We also learned that she was an avid player of rook as well as other games!

We of the Allen Historical Society extend our heartfelt sympathy to the members of Rosalie's extended family, which includes the community she loved and served.

In Memoriam: Henry (Hank)
Barth
1930-2011

Our Society lost another member to death in 2011. Henry (Hank) Barth died on December 25 at his home near Allen. He was born on October 8, 1930 in Austria to the late Frederick and Elsa Barth.

Hank was a member of the Allen Lions Club as well as of the Historical Society. With his artistic talent Hank contributed to

the design of one of our Society's July 4th floats. He also suggested that we consider holding an event on the model of the Antiques Road Show as a fundraiser in the future, something which we plan to bring to fruition in the near future.

We extend our condolences to Hank's widow, Jan, and their son John and his wife Alice.

A celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

Allen Resident, Mrs. Zella Polk
Holden Celebrates her 100th
Birthday

On Saturday, December 3, our community celebrated the 100th birthday of Zella Polk Holden with a luncheon at the Allen Educational Center on Upper Ferry Road. Born in Allen on December 3, 1911, Mrs. Holden moved to New York City as a young woman where she worked for many years as a seamstress in the fur industry. Upon retiring in the 1970s she returned to Allen and to the new house she had had constructed for her retirement, just across the road from the house where she had grown up.

Present for the celebration to offer tributes were members of the extended Polk family. County Executive Rick Pollitt read a tribute from the County, and the offices of both President Obama and Governor O'Malley sent greetings. Althea Chandler, a Historical Society Board member as well as Mrs. Holden's cousin, offered a slide presentation with photographs celebrating Mrs. Holden's life.

She remains active, living at her home of more than 30 years and can often be seen working in her yard!

We of the Allen Historical Society offer our congratulations to Mrs. Holden and wish her many happy returns!

More About Tubman Lowes

Editor's Note: *In the last edition of this publication, I wrote about Tubman Lowes, who seemed to have disappeared and then later reappeared, judging from the documents. Subsequently Rebecca Miller called and clarified what I had presented as a mystery. It seems that there were two men named Tubman Lowes. I asked her to send me the full story, which she kindly consented to do. She also gave me permission to print her article in this edition. That article follows.*

Tubman Lowes
by
Rebecca Miller

Capt. Henry Lowes (c1700-1761) was a ship's captain in his younger days and then was a merchant, his firm known as Henry Lowes and Company, importer of luxury items such as buckles, sleeve buttons, violins, striped linen, oznabridge, checked linen, sheer silk, fine linen and other goods.¹ He was captain of the brigantine *Leah* in 1730² and the *Snow of Accomac*³ in

¹ Henry Lowe, legal proceeding, Somerset County, Maryland Judicial Records 1749-1751, p. 71, Clerk of the Court, Princess Anne, Maryland (microfilm, Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture, Salisbury University, Salisbury, Maryland).

² Somerset County, Maryland Land Records, Liber SH, folio 298, Clerk of the Court, Princess Anne, Maryland. On 12 February 1730/1 Henry Lowes had recorded in the land records of Somerset County that "The Brigantine Leah lying in Wicomico River takes tobacco on board for Glasgow in North Britain at £8 sterling per ton and liberty is given to all freighters to consign to whom they please".

³ Somerset County Land Records., Liber EI, folio 243. On 24 March 1737/8, The Snow of Accomack, Henry Lowes, master, was bound for London and had taken on freight on 7 and 8 April at Mrs. Eliza Waters' in Annessex. A snow was a type of brig (often referred to as

1738, the former bound for Glasgow, Scotland and the latter for London. The same year he was captain of the *Snow of Accomac* Henry purchased the tract *Cox's Performance* on the north side of Broad Creek (issuing out of the Nanticoke River), where he already lived.⁴ By 1750 Henry Lowes had moved to the Allen area, residing on his large plantation consisting of the tracts *Dispence*, *Father's Care*, *Hereafter* and *Rober[t]son's Lott*, purchased from the heirs of Levin Gale⁵, as he was appointed overseer of roads instead of William Cottman. He was ordered to "further extend the road from Charles Leatherbury's til it intersects the county road by Alexander Adams old field that leads to Princess Anne Town" [Allen & Polk's Road] and that Charles Leatherbury, Isaac Noble, Levin Gillis "and their hands be added to Henry Lowes overseer of the roads."⁶ At the time Henry wrote his will in June 1761, he devised his dwelling plantation to son Tubman Lowes "although be now missing."

Capt. Henry Lowes had two sons, Tubman, born c1735 and Henry, born c1732. Henry became the principal in Henry Lowes and Company and also owned a 184 ton snow and a sloop called *Esther*.⁷ The *Esther* may have been named either for Henry's mother, Esther Waters or his wife, Esther Dashiell. Henry Lowes, Jr. died intestate before 11 May 1792, when Tubman Lowes, with John Evans of Nicholas and William Elget Hitch his sureties, posted an administrator's bond on the estate of Henry Lowes, deceased.⁸

"snow-brigs"), the largest of all old two-masted vessels, primarily used as merchant ships.

⁴ Somerset County Land Records, Liber EI, folio 291.

⁵ Somerset County Land Records, Liber A, folio 147.

⁶ Henry Lowe, overseer of roads appointment, Somerset County, Maryland Judicial Records 1749-1751, p. 47.

⁷ Somerset County Land Records, liber E, folio 157, liber G, folio 263.

⁸ Henry Lowes, Administrative Bond, Somerset County Maryland Bond Book, Liber EB20, folio 161, Register of Wills, Somerset County Courthouse, Princess Anne, Maryland.

Tubman, son of Capt. Henry Lowes, was evidently a mariner and businessman, as well. On New Year's Eve 1758 Tubman Lowes, merchant, about to go to sea, wrote his lengthy will, indicating that his friend Edward Waters should be paid £36 sterling per annum to oversee his business commencing the first day of January 1759 and £50 currency for setting and adjusting his books, stating " Whereas there are sundry papers relating to my own private matters I desire he may burn without letting them be exposed to the world." He named sundry friends and relatives, including cousins, his mother and father, Henry and Esther Lowes, his brother Henry Lowes, leaving all of them sums of money and most of them a suit of mourning clothes with crepe & gloves, being the best of "my estate" and also a Neat gold mourning ring with a stone in it with his name and age. His will was probated on 28 April 1761⁹ and we may only presume he did not return from his voyage as his executors (father, brother and Edward Waters) evidently had him declared dead because in his father's will written less than two months later, Tubman was stated as missing and his return prayed for.

Henry Lowes, Jr., son of Capt. Henry Lowes, had a son named Tubman, who was born on 27 September 1764, as recorded in Stepney Parish Records. He married Elizabeth Birkhead Bond on 9 April 1789, also recorded in the Stepney Parish Records. He is the Tubman Lowes in Wicomico Hundred on the 1798 Federal Direct Tax, shown as living on Wicomico Creek near the mouth, adjoining Capt. Thomas Waters, Thomas Holbrook, Joseph Cottman and William Polk, Sr., with a two story dwelling house of brick 52 feet by 32 feet with 14 windows, outbuildings consisting of a kitchen 22 feet by 16 feet, a milk house, a smokehouse and a brick pantry. The house

⁹ Henry Lowes, Will, Somerset County, MD Will Book, Liber EB4, folio 87, Register of Wills, Somerset County Courthouse, Princess Anne, Maryland; Henry Lowes, Will, Maryland Prerogative Court Wills Liber 31, folio 384.

was described as the "wall bursted in sundry places so as to render it irreparable" and it was out of repair on the inside, yet Tubman is shown as both owner and occupant. Also on the plantation were two Negro quarters, a lumber house, corn house, shop, cow house and granary, all in poor condition.¹⁰ The tract names were not given but the property was that which Capt. Henry Lowes had devised to his son Tubman in 1761 and if he didn't return, then to Henry, Jr. Since Henry, Jr. died intestate and only had one son, Tubman, the property fell to him.

Tubman Lowe's adjoining neighbors in 1798 were Capt. Thomas Waters (1770-1827), master of Henry Lowe, Jr.'s sloop *Esther*, whose gravestone is still extant on his 538 acre plantation, *Last Purchase*, a half mile upriver from the Whitehaven Ferry, on Whitehaven Ferry-Polk's Road, Thomas Holbrook (c1750-1820) who lived at Harrington on Polk's Road, on his 703 acre plantation called *Bengal*, Joseph Cottman (c1745-1799) who resided on *Taunton Deane* and William Polk, Sr. (c1740-1810), a planter, lawyer, then judge, who lived at "White Hall"; in 1797, member of the Maryland House of Delegates and from 1802 until his death, Chief Justice of the Maryland Court of Appeals.

Two Early Upper Trappe Preachers at Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church

Editor's Note: *During the summer I spent an afternoon doing research at Barrett's Chapel in Delaware, the library of which contains many documents related to the history of the Methodist Church. In the Annual Minutes of the Philadelphia Conference I found the following tributes to Rev. Levi Storks, who served Asbury M.E. Church in its founding year, 1829 and to*

¹⁰ Tom Reedy, ed., *The 1798 Federal Direct Tax of Somerset County, Maryland* (Westminster, MD: Willow Bend Books, 1999), 187, 203.

Rev. James Hargis, who served the church in Upper Trappe in 1861-1862.

Rev. Levi Storks

The Rev. Levi Storks was born in Milford, Del, Dec. 11, 1796. When quite young, his father moved to Salisbury, Md., where he was brought up. He afterwards went to reside in Baltimore, and was there convinced of sin. To use his own words, he was "through the abundant mercy of God, converted Feb. 28th, 1819; sanctified July 23d, 1821, commenced preaching, April, 1824;" and was received on trial in the Philadelphia Conference the same year, and went to Milford circuit. He subsequently filled the following appointments: in 1825-26 he was in Dorchester circuit; 1827-28, Cambridge; 1829, Annessex; 1830-31, at St. George's, Philadelphia; and 1832-33, on Talbot circuit. On Feb. 4th, 1834, he was married to Miss Ann G. Nicholson, a most amiable and pious lady, who lived but a few years after their marriage. He was sent to Port Deposit circuit in 1834, where he remained but six months, when bro. J. Rusling's health failing, he was removed to Wilmington, Del. to assist him.

In 1835 he traveled Queen Anne's circuit; and on its being divided, he was returned to Centreville, a part of his former charge. In 1837-38 he was appointed to Denton circuit; in 1839 to Dover; 1840-41 to Kent; in 1842 at Sanctuary, Philadelphia; 1843, to Cohpeksink; in 1844-45, to Easton, MD; 1846, to Elkton; and 1847, to Chester, Pa., where on the 12th October, he was married to Miss Eliza McKeever, who survives him.

In 1848-49, he was stationed at Mariner's Bethel, Phila. For want of health he became supernumerary in 1850; but in 1851 resumed his labors, and was appointed to Cecil circuit. Thence he was sent in 1852 to North East circuit, to which he was returned in 1853; and here, after an illness of five days,

"His body with his charge laid down.

and ceased at once to work and live."

On the first of October 1853, he calmly resigned his spirit to his God, and sweetly fell asleep on the bosom of Jesus, in the fifty-seventh year of his age, and thirtieth of his ministry. He was buried at North East, Md.

Rev. James Hargis

It is impossible in the short space allowed us, to do justice to his remarkable ministry of twenty-six years; each of which being marked by the results which ever attend the faithful preaching of the Gospel.

Brother Hargis was not noted for more than ordinary intellectual force, and was deprived by circumstances of early educational advantages, yet the whole course of his ministry proved the Gospel as preached by him to be "the power of God unto the salvation of hundreds who even now rise up and call him blessed." His life was consistent and pure. His piety was uncompromising, even his enemies respecting him for the tenacity with which he adhered to the doctrines of his faith and denominational peculiarities. He spent his whole ministerial life on the Snow Hill District. He was born near Lewes, Del, Feb. 2d, 1803, of Presbyterian parentage, but was induced to seek "forgiveness of sin" under the powerful preaching of the Rev. Henry White, at a Camp Meeting at Cool Spring, Sussex County, Del., and there obtained "the *knowledge* of salvation by the remission of sins."

He served the Church of Ebenezer, near Lewes, subsequently received authority to exhort, was licensed as a Local Preacher, in the spring of 1836 was admitted on trial, and traveled that year the Dorchester Circuit with Daniel Lambdin. During the year 1837 he served the Snow Hill Circuit; 1838, Accomac; 1839-40, Indiantown Mission; 1841, Salisbury; 1842, Laurel; 1843-44, Princess Anne; 1845-46, Accomac; 1847-48, Annessex; 1849-50, Seaford; 1851,

Church Creek; 1853-54, Dorchester; 1855-56, Laurel; 1857, Lewes; 1858-59, Quantico; 1860, Worcester; 1861-1862, Princess Anne (note: Upper Trappe was on the Princess Anne Circuit at that time.) where he laid down his body and his charge on the 19th of February, 1863, in the 60th year of his age. "His last end was peace," praising God "for supporting grace;" in calm confidence "he laid his head on the Redeemer's breast and breathed his life out sweetly there."

His character and faithfulness in his high and holy office may be summed up in the language of inspiration, "He was a good man and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith, and much people was added unto the Lord."

The Allen School Confronts Problems in the 1890s

From the Editor: The following article appeared in the Salisbury Advertiser on September 7, 1892. The author does not give his name, but in the second letter, published on July 15, 1893 in the Advertiser, he reveals that he is a physician, so we can identify him as Dr. J.I.T. Long, the only doctor in Allen at that time. Perhaps Dr. Long's message would not be wasted in our current situation. Your editor heard on the news recently of a school district in Pennsylvania which may have to shut down because of cuts in funds from the State government!

Mr. Editor - If you will be kind enough to grant us sufficient space, we will once more call the attention of the School Board to the important fact that the school house at Allen is no longer large enough to accommodate the children of the neighborhood, nor has it been for several years. And furthermore, no one teacher, no matter what his or her qualifications and capacity for work may be, can do justice to the number of children that attend the school. We need here enlarged

educational facilities. In a few words, we need a graded school and two teachers. Under present circumstances, the time of the teacher is consumed with the more advanced classes, and as an inevitable consequence the lower grades lack attention and make very slow progress. Governor Brown refused to immortalize himself by adding his signature to the free book bill, but we sincerely hope that the proper authorities will no longer ignore this honest and justifiable appeal for greater educational facilities.

It is much more economical to build school houses than penitentiaries, and a state that is able to appropriate large sums of money for many less important purposes, including a ridiculous and absurd eel bill, should be able and willing to provide for the education of her children.

FAIR PLAY

From the Editor: The problems faced by the school in Allen were far more extensive than the need for an additional teacher. So the following year, on July 15, 1893, the following article was published in the Advertiser! The reader will notice that the author reiterates words from his earlier message, perhaps to underscore that the School Board had failed to get the message!

If you will grant us sufficient space, we will once more most respectfully call the attention of the school board to the antiquated, weather-beaten, and dilapidated condition of the school house here at Allen. This old coop called school house, in which our neighbor, Capt. Thos. Goslee, would not roost his chickens, has long been a standing reproach to the village, and it is time that something was done. It is too small, lacks proper ventilation, deficient in seating capacity, and is altogether unfit for the purpose, to say nothing about the general bad condition. The village has long since outgrown it in every sense, and the need of a larger school house must have been

apparent to the most casual observer. We need a graded school and enlarged, educational facilities. No teacher, no matter what his or her system or qualifications, can possibly do justice to the number of children that attend this school.

Large school houses, and a plenty of them, or capacious and imposing penitentiaries, which shall it be? Which is the more credit to a state? We have visited this old rookery here called school house, a patron, citizen, and physician, and we are prepared to sustain our charges.

In a little while we shall hear that it is too late to begin work, hence the importance of attending to the matter now. What are you going to do, parents and patrons? Remain indifferent and inactive now, and later on blow off your superfluous energy at a sorely tried, overtaxed teacher? We pity the teacher.

In conclusion, we want to say to the parents that the water that stands in a crowded and poorly ventilated school house in an open bucket in a few minutes becomes contaminated, and the longer it stands, the worse it gets. Teach your children this, and if your teacher is indifferent and ignores the matter, teach him or her too. Teach your children that it is better to refrain from drinking, though thirsty, than to pour such water into their stomachs.

The teacher whose rigid discipline renders it necessary for a child to drink such water, is much more deserving of censure than one who is a little indulgent in the matter of book lessons.

The habit of passing the water cup from lip to lip, as is done in the public schools, is another very objectionable practice, and the means of spreading much misery and wretchedness. This is a matter of grave importance and should receive some attention. The physical welfare of the child should receive attention, as well as the mental.

Godliness, as we understand the relation of man to the universal, stands first in importance. In the Latin phrase *mens sana in corpore sano* you will find that which stands pre-eminently second in importance, if I may thus express it. The wealth of the nation consists in the health of the nation, and those in authority who are stingy in the matter of school appropriations are penny wise and pound foolish.

The children of today will be the men and women of tomorrow, and just such men and women as we make them. Their character and usefulness depend upon their training now. Then let us provide for their education. We are not all able to send our children away to the great institutions of learning, but we would like to have them secure at least a practical education. As to free scholar-ships, we have observed that the children, as a rule, whose parents are able to have them educated, secure them.

Allen, Md.

Patron

A further note regarding the history of Allen's school. Oral tradition tells us that a one-room school house stood on the church lot in the 19th century and Mr. Levin "Squire" Price taught there for decades. Oral tradition also tells us that the building was moved to the site of the present Allen Community Hall later in the century. I wonder if that building is the one that Dr. Long laments in the following articles? The current Community Hall is a remodeling of a two-room school house, built by Mr. Jack Huffington. I had thought that it was built in 1885. The information provided here, however, suggests that it must have been built somewhat later and, who knows? Perhaps in response to Dr. Long's complaints! If any of our readers has knowledge of the exact date when the two-room school house was built, your editor would welcome it!

Some Allen Humor from the Early 20th Century

From the Editor: It is likely that Dr. Long continued to write the Allen News column in the Advertiser until he moved from the village to Fruitland in about 1910. Below are a few excerpts from the columns which show his rather unique sense of humor!

September 1, 1900

The Democratic Club of Allen is in first class working order now and expects to do some first class work between now and the 6th day of November. Democrats are falling over each other in order to have their names enrolled as members of this, the first Democratic Club ever organized in Trappe district. They all seem very anxious to do something for the Democratic party this fall, and intend that Trappe district shall take her old place this year as the banner district of the county. Here is the official family of the Club: President, Roscoe Jones; First Vice-President, O.P. Jones; Second Vice-President, P.A. Malone; Secretary, Raymond Allen; Treasurer, J. Walter Huffington; Sergeant at Arms, Wm. S. Williams; The Club meets every Thursday evening at 7:00 o'clock.

The Republicans here are vigorously whistling in regard to this district, but it is known that they are doing it largely for the reason that actuated the traditional boy as he wandered through the grave yard after dark. Whistle on, boys, it will help to stave off that lonely feeling.

December 23, 1900

Died on Monday morning at seven o'clock twin porkers belonging to Mr. Samuel Williams, age seventeen months, weighing eighty and sixty-one pounds respectively. Mr. Williams takes their death philosophically, but he says their weight nearly kills him. The Advertiser reporter called to see Mr. Williams one day this week to learn if possible the nationality of

said porkers but the latter gentleman could not account for them or their forefathers. He was asked if they were a cross-breed. "No," said he. "Their mother was a quiet and most affectionate creature." I know one thing about them, continued Mr. Williams. They were registered stock, whatever that was, but before I'll put another such breed of hog in the pen, I'll go out some night next fall and catch a few possums and fatten them for next year's killing. And the name of this stock of porkers shall be called I.R.B., which, being interpreted, is Improved Razor Back.

January 5, 1901

Miss Annie Malone and Mr. Thomas Preston Morris were married Wednesday evening at the home of the bride's brother, Mr. George T. Malone at 7:30 o'clock. Rev. J. E. Brooks officiated. There were no attendants. The cornet band being a defunct institution, the happy couple were serenaded by the Allen orchestra, which, by the way, is the finest of its kind in the state. The orchestra is composed of the following instruments (We don't know the names of all the members.): tin pans, cow bells, old circular saws, lard tins, and genuine Stradivarius "hose fiddle." Who can beat it? After playing several waltzes, the orchestra switched off on national airs . . . Nothing like it has ever been heard in Allen before. Now is it even probable that such sweet music will be heard in these parts again unless we have another marriage. P.S. Mr. and Mrs. Morris will live in Somerset County. We extend to them our hearty congratulations.

January 19, 1901

The good people of Allen and vicinity very unceremoniously entered the parsonage last Tuesday evening and pounded the Rev. J. E. Brooks savagely with the necessaries of life. Bro. Brooks did not at first understand the meaning of this visit, but he soon found out. He saw at a glance that it would have been useless for him to have "shown fight" to the

delegation, as every man, woman and child was "armed to the teeth" with the latest improved "table fire-arms." The reverend gentleman will not be compelled to bathe with God's liniment, as he is not the least bit sore from the "hard pounds" that he received. He knows pretty well who the invaders were, but has decided not to give them any trouble over this most fortunate affair. The Advertiser correspondent has authority to issue the following statement for Mr. Brooks, "If I should ever again in a like manner be attacked by an armed body of men, women and children, I shall at once proceed to drop the matter immediately after the attack is made, as in this case, and thank them too."

Editor's Note: Just to be sure there's no misunderstanding and that younger readers don't think that Allen was a violent village at the beginning of the last century, I'd best clarify the subject of the above article. According to my mother (Lillian Phillips Shivers, born in 1908), it was the custom among the Methodists of Allen during her childhood to welcome new pastors with a "pounding." This had nothing to do with the delivering of blows, but rather with the delivery of foodstuffs to stock the pantry of the newly arrived family. Theoretically at least, the parishioners brought a pound of this and a pound of that, hence the name of the event!

March 1, 1902

Our Somerset friend, Mr. Van Gunby, made a savage attack on the Maryland judiciary last Saturday night at George Phillips' store. It was in every way equal to the attack made on the Supreme Court a few years ago by a certain presidential candidate, save the sweet flowers of rhetoric and little etceteras of the latter gentleman. Mr. Gunby has never been drawn on a Somerset jury so he gave notice on Friday night at the Ananias Club, which meets nightly at Mr. Phillips' store, that he would be prepared to make a speech on that subject the following Saturday night. Mr. Gunby had a house

well filled with people and tobacco smoke. He spoke as follows: Gentlemen, there is something quare about this here jury drawin bizness. I have bin livin' in Somersit County ever sens I was married an' I'll be doggoned ef I hain't got to be drawn on a jury for the first time yet. I'm a Democrat an' allus have been. Them's my sentences first, last an' all he time, world without end. I have knowed peopul to be drawn on the jury that couldn't even recollect as far back as the diskivery of Ameriky. Now hain't that a gang of men tew becom a jury? I hav been informed that the judge who draws the jury has to be blindfolded by the clerk ov the court first an' then he proceeds tew pick out the names just as they cum. Dew you believe it, gentlemen? I'll be doggoned ef I do. Ef this should be the case, then I'll be doggoned ef the names hain't been fixed beforehand to suit the drawer when he draws. You let a Democrat dew a little extra work for his party, and ef he don't go to Annapolis or some other seaport fer it then rate strate he is whopped on the jury. I am not so partic'lar about the job no way as I cain't set still long enuff. I am etarnally wantin' water an' ef I git drawed sumbody will hav tew draw a bucket ov water purty often. I will close, gentlemen, by sayin' thet the reason that I never cum in when the drawin' is made is because I don't stand in with a sartin click up. May my hair be as gray as a grizzly bear an' my lights an' liver turn upside down when I dew stand in with sitch." The speaker sat down amid wild cheering. When quiet was restored, a part of the crowd turned to dominoes and those who were so unfortunate as to be left out of the game went off to a corner by themselves and began lying.

A Gentle Reminder to all our members to renew their membership for 2012! We thank you for your continuing support!

