**Catonsville Genealogy Society**

**Meeting Minutes – October 5, 2011**

Miles Davis called the meeting to order at 7:30PM.

**Carolyn Bracken**welcomed everyone to the meeting including Regan Baxter, Mary Gosline, Willard Wolf and Jim Schaub.  She saw Betty Goosman at Charlestown recently.

**Treasury**:  Eleanor reported a balance in the treasury of $866.06.

**Dues**:  The Catonsville Historical Society has sent dues forms to members.  You should pay both the Historical Society and Genealogy Society dues directly to the Historical Society.  A reply envelope was also included.  If you have not received this, please contact Carolyn Bracken.

**Refreshments:**Refreshments for tonights’ meeting were supplied by John Flinton and Michelle Dunn.

**Upcoming Genealogical Events:**

October 15, 2011 – The Annual LDS Conference in Essex, MD.  This is Free but you should register ahead of time. [www.baltimorefamilyhistoryworkshop.org](http://www.baltimorefamilyhistoryworkshop.org/)

**Queries Received:**

We received an email from Dr. Linda Sunquist-Nassie about information on Dr. Arthur Richardson Smith, a surgeon, who was in charge of the Richmond Hospital during the Civil War.  He was born in Suffolk, Nansemond County, Virginia and died in 1866 in Catonsville, MD.  He may be buried in Catonsville.  This is a good research opportunity, if any of our members are interested, contact Miles.

Harry Robertson received a query about a man who lived in Baltimore and St. Mary’s county.  The sender wanted to know what would draw someone to Baltimore in the 1850’s.  If you have any ideas, talk to Harry.

**What Have Members Been Doing With Their Genealogy?**

Susan attended a seminar at the Virginia Archives in Richmond.  The speaker was Elizabeth Shown Mills.

John Flinton mentioned that he has upgraded to Family Tree Maker 2012 and wanted to know if anyone else was using it.  It was suggested that he contact the Baltimore County Genealogical Society, Computer Genealogy User’s Group which meets on the 4th Sunday of the month in Parkville since several people in that group use FTM software.  While writing up these Minutes, I went to their site and saw that they are having a Computer User’s Group Meeting on Sunday 10/23.  The subject is Family Tree Maker 2012.  Good timing John.

**Email & Address Updates:**

Please keep Carolyn Bracken notified if you change your mailing or email address.

**Historical Society Board Meeting:**

Miles will be attending the Catonsville Historical Society Board Meeting on Tuesday, Oct 11th.  Please notify him of any items that should be brought up at the meeting.

**Genealogy Gazette:**

Susan Rura distributed copies of her latest “Genealogy Gazette”.  We have a speaker set up for all months except May 2012.

Nov 2, 2011 – Sue Mortensen – “Using Wills In Genealogical Research”

Dec & Jan – No meetings

Feb 1, 2012 – “Show N Tell & Stumped Roots”

Mar 7, 2012 – “Lovely Lane Methodist Records”

Apr 4, 2012 – Phyllis Legare – “Beyond The Death Certificate”

May 2, 2012 – To be announced

June 6, 2012 – Board Meeting

**Fund-Raiser:**

Susan Rura had an idea to raffle off a basket full of goodies which would be done at the Christmas Open House.  She will be shopping for items to put in the basket.  We will have to have this idea approved by the Board.  Miles will take care of that.

**Next Meeting:**

November meeting – Nov 2nd – speaker will be Sue Mortenson - “Using Wills in Genealogical Research.”

**Tonight’s Speaker**

**Rebecca Whitman Koford – “Finding Female Ancestors”**

Tracing a female ancestor is not always easy, since most women took the surname of their husbands.

**Some Female Legal Terminology:**

**Consort** – a woman who died before her husband

**Relict** – a woman who survives her husband

**Et ux.** – literally “and wife” specifically indicates a wife in a legal document

**Coverture** – concept under which a woman’s separate legal rights ended with her marriage including property & citizenship

**Femme Covert** – up to the mid 1800’s, a married female was “covered” under her husband and could not own her own property.

**Dower** – Widow’s minimum right to 1/3 of her husband’s estate.

**Dowery** – Money and property brought with the bride at the time of her marriage.  Upon  marriage, all property automatically passed to the husband. Married women could not own property in their own name, while unmarried women or widows could.  This continued into the late 1800’s.

**Dower Rights** – due to the widow’s 1/3 dower rights, a man cannot sell property without his wife’s consent.

**Familial Relationships and Terms:**

Terms like sister, daughter, niece, step-daughter – get confirmation of relationships.  These terms were often used interchangeably.  For example, a brother-in-law would easily term his sister-in-law simply “sister.”

**Using Records:**

*Vital Records –*check and recheck

*Census Records* – some women (widows or unmarried) can be identified by name from 1790 to 1840.  From 1850 to 1870, women and girls were listed as part of the household, without a relationship.  After 1880, relationships to the head of the household identified women.  Often mothers-in-law or other relatives were listed as “boarders.”

*Family Bibles* – The keeper of the family bible was often a woman.  If no one in the family has it, check state and county archives, eBay, DeadFred.com and the DAR.

Letters & Diaries – many women kept diaries.

*Cemeteries & Funeral Homes* – check placement of tombstones, check the entire marker (front & back).  Check for funeral homes that  may have records of your ancestors.

*Published Family* *Histories* – follow descendant lines of your family to find living cousins.  Use Google, local genealogical societies, the DAR, Library of Congress and the FHC catalog.

Also check *Church Records, Deeds, Wills & Probate, Military Records, Newspapers*, and *Associations*.

**Submitted by:  Linda Simone York**

**October 11, 2011**

**Bad Weather - Reverse Phone Tree**

When it has been decided by Miles to cancel the meeting due to bad weather, Eileen will send out an email to that effect.  For those who don’t have email or who want to talk to a person, they can call the following people to find out if the meeting has been cancelled:

Carolyn Bracken - 410-747-1752

Susan Rura          - 410-465-4778

John Flinton        - 410-788-3229