**Catonsville Genealogy Society**

**Meeting Minutes – November 2, 2011**

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

**Carolyn Bracken** welcomed everyone to the meeting and distributed a new Membership List.

**Catonsville Historical Society Board Meeting – October 11, 2011**

Miles attended the Board Meeting of the CHS. Sharon Stanton is the new President.

There was a discussion of the Christmas Open House to be held 12/3 & 12/4. Different groups decorate each room of the Pullen House. There is also a White Elephant Sale. We are going to have some basket raffles which will help us fund future speakers. Susan Rura has volunteered to set up the basket raffles.

**Family History Workshop in Essex – 10/15/2011:**

Several members of our club attended the annual event. Everyone found it to be very informative.

**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.

Miles & Harry did some work on this query and found that Dr. Arthur Smith is actually buried in Virginia. He had 2 wives and 7 children.

**Treasury**: Eleanor reported a balance in the treasury of $796.06.

**Refreshments:** Refreshments for tonights’ meeting were supplied by Eleanor Horvitz and Harry Robertson.

**Miscellaneous:**

John Flinton reported that he had attended a Computer Interest Group meeting at the Baltimore County Genealogy Society. He was interesting in learning more about the latest version of Family Tree Maker. After attending the meeting, John has decided not to upgrade just yet to the new version of Family Tree Maker.

Susan Rura suggested that at the Christmas Open House that we set up a display for our genealogy group and try to attract members.

**Future 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 – Planning Meeting

**Next Meeting:**

There is no meeting in December & January. Our next meeting will be February 1st.

**Tonight’s Speaker**

**Sue Mortenson – “Using Wills”**

Sue Mortensen spoke to our group about Wills.

Wills legally transfer property, i.e. land or slaves. There is a small difference between a Will and a Deed. It can be changed and/or revolked.

“Will can identify parents, spouses, children, siblings, grandparents, uncles and/or in-laws. Wills can give us insight into the family, economic and social life or the testator and his family.”

“The following persons will often be found in probate records: testator, witnesses, securities, executors, heirs, and/or guardians. Probating a will creates records. The following documents will often be found in a probate file: the original Will affidavits of witnesses, petition for an executor or administrator, an inventory of the estate, list of heirs, estate accounts, correspondence related to the administration of the will, bills submitted for payment by the estate and a closing statement by the court.”

If there are young children involved, the paperwork can go on for years, until the children reach maturity. The cost of raising the children and providing for the widow until she dies or remarries will be included in the estate papers.

**Probate** is “the act of proving that an instrument purporting to be a will was signed and otherwise executed in accordance with legal requirements, and of determining its’ validity. Also, the combined result of all the procedural acts necessary to establish the validity of a will.”

Will book indexes include a summary of the Will. The original Will is in a “Packet.”

**Submitted by: Linda Simone York**

**December 1, 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

**Email/Mail Updates:**

If your email or mailing address change, please notify Carolyn Bracken.