



*Mission: The mission of the City of Bowie Museums is to preserve, collect, interpret and celebrate for the public's appreciation the history, architecture, city plans, and people of Bowie, Maryland, through education and exhibition, archaeology and advocacy of this diverse heritage.*



**Windows on History**

Over the winter months, we've gotten a facelift, an upgrade and some energy conservation in the Mansion Parlor.

Our brand new (and very handsome!) draperies have been installed., replicating the draperies used in the room when it was used as City Council Chambers between 1964-78.

Not only are our new drapes handsome, they are energy efficient; we're able to close them to hold warmth inside the room.

**Everything But the Kitchen Sink!**

In the early 1920's, William Woodward re-fitted one side of the Belair Stable as living quarters for a live-in Stablemaster. James and Gertrude Brady, along with their two small children, became the first family to occupy those living quarters. The apartment, given its place and time, was a rather comfortable place to live. Today, we are privileged to have a considerable bit of the Brady furnishings, through the generosity of Thelma Brady Gasch, their daughter..

One of the objects owned by Mrs. Brady was a Hoosier Kitchen. It might be justly stated that a Hoosier Kitchen was probably on the "wish list" of MANY early 20th century housewives.

Homes of the period were generally not equipped with built in cabinets, making the lack of storage space an issue. In 1899, the Hoosier Manufacturing Co. was incorporated...and promptly set about adapting the traditional baker's cabinet with "modern" amenities...cutting boards, lard containers, flour bins, sugar bins, knife/utensil holders and countertop work space. The well organized cabinet answered a cook's need for a compact space providing storage space and work space. Today, Hoosier Kitchens are in great demand in the antique market. We're proud to have Mrs. Brady's!

**Celebrating Bowie Heritage - May 17, 2015**

Yes, it's that time again! Bowie Heritage Day - a LONG tradition in a city filled with history! This year's celebration will be a busy one! Belair Stable will host again host Durham Station Bluegrass Band, Bowie's own Big Purple Barn (with rescue horses and Ruby, the locally famous chicken!), hands on activities and a Pint Sized Preakness Race for youngsters. And no pint sized visitor will want to miss the free pony rides!

Belair Mansion will feature The Capitol Reeds performing at 12:30 and the Blue Sky Puppet Theater offering a fun show—"The Three Not So Little Pigs" at 2:30. Tour the Mansion and enjoy our new window hangings!

Visit the Bowie Railroad Museum to chat with the NTrack Model Club from Baltimore. They'll be putting together a model layout, as will the Lego Lady—with her special Bowie Railroad Lego Line!

Heritage Day began in 1969—the intention was to showcase Bowie's long romance with Thoroughbred racing. It's now grown to cover four City Museums which interpret Bowie's entire history—from the 18th through the 21st centuries.

Heritage Day is Sunday, May 17, from Noon-4:00 p.m. All events are free...come have some history fun! Information: 301-809-3089 or [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org)



*Belair Stable—1923 Stablemaster's Apartment features Mrs. Gertrude Brady's Hoosier Kitchen to the right of the wood stove.*

## Celebrating Omaha's Anniversary

In 1935, the Belair Stud captured the Triple Crown for a second time with a win by Omaha, a handsome 16.3 hands chestnut colt with a white blaze foaled in 1932 at Claiborne Farm in Kentucky. Duplicating a win accomplished five years earlier (1930) by his sire, Gallant Fox, "The Belair Bullet" became the only son of a Triple Crown winner to take the Triple Crown. That feat has never since been duplicated. After Omaha's Triple Crown triumph, Mr. Woodward shipped him to England, intent upon racing him there. Unfortunately, an injury there ended his racing career.

Omaha carried the Belair Silks until his retirement in 1937. Sent to Claiborne for stud duty, his success was limited. He eventually ended up on a farm in Nebraska near Ak-Sar-Ben racetrack, where he was occasionally shown in the Winner's Circle. He died in 1959, at the age of 27, and was laid to rest at the track. In 1965, he was inducted into the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in Saratoga, Springs, NY.

This year Omaha received another accolade in celebration of the 80th anniversary of his Triple Crown win. He was inducted, in April, into the Omaha, Nebraska Sports Hall of Fame. The award was accepted by Budge Porter (pictured below), son of the late Morton Porter, Omaha's longtime groom.



## We're On The Airways!

On Friday, May 15, at 9:00 p.m., Maryland Public Television will air "Racing The Times," a documentary about Maryland's rich Thoroughbred history. Of course, Belair is part of that history—from 1750 until 1955. And, of course, no documentary about the subject would be complete without us! So...get a good snack, kick back in your easy chair, turn on MPT and enjoy a beautiful production. You'll even get to see the return of Selima, our acclaimed 18th century mare, to Belair!

## Bowie Centennial Celebration Coming in 2016

Get ready for the party...the Centennial Birthday Party, that is! Beginning in April of 2016, a year's worth of festivities and special commemorations will highlight the 100th Birthday of the City of Bowie.

Huntington City, known today as "Old Bowie," is the City's birthplace, incorporated in 1874. After a number of municipal name changes and reorganizations, the Town of Bowie was incorporated on April 18, 1916.

Look for lots of celebratory activities, and some good times. Plans are already underway for an April 2016 kick-off.

## Levitt History

This Fall, Dr. James Jacobs of the National Park Service will publish his Levitt history book. As many will recall, Dr. Jacobs, as a student at George Washington University, was among the class which conducted the Levitt/Bowie survey. Both his graduate and post-graduate studies have concentrated on Levitt history. We're looking forward to the publication of the book and will guarantee that copies will be available for purchase in the Mansion Shop.

And, just a reminder...the City Museums actively collect and archive Levitt memorabilia, documents, etc. Please call us if you're cleaning house or downsizing and you have any Levitt ephemera you'd like to donate to the Museums. We are always happy to add to our collection.



## Guests in Town?

Looking for a way to entertain your visitors? Check the back page of this newsletter for a schedule of open hours at all our sites. We've got programs for kids and grown ups alike. Have a home town day off and visit a City Museum!

## Genealogy and Museums Co-Sponsor Program

Join us on May 16 for "The Handwriting's On the Wall" as Rebecca Koford and Dr. Jean Russo explore the "arts and mysteries" of "heritage handwriting," often a real stumbling block in both genealogical and historical research.

The program will begin at 10, with a break for a bring-your-own lunch (drinks provided) and end around 1. There is no admission fee, but reservations are requested. Call the Museum office at 301-809-3089 or email: [museumevents@cityofbowie.org](mailto:museumevents@cityofbowie.org)



## We Had a Happy Maryland Day in March!

The City of Bowie Museums were very excited to participate in the Bowie Branch Library's first (hopefully annual) celebration of Maryland Day for local children. Joined by other members of the Prince George's County History Consortium, the day exceeded all expectations.

Our exhibit featured all our sites, and hands on activities related to them. Included were games, butter churning (and tasting!) and colonial handwriting. We talked about colonial houses and people, horses, trains, architecture and a host of topics. Other sites presented concepts relevant to their museums—we even had Patriot and Loyalist representation from the 1st Maryland Regiment and the Maryland Loyalist Brigade to discuss both sides of the Revolutionary War and 18th century military life.

Over 400 attendees completed "Passports to Maryland History" forms and were awarded Maryland Junior Historian Certificates. We were overwhelmed at the incredible response and were very excited to be partnering with the Library for the program. We're looking forward to next year! Thanks to PGCML/Bowie Branch for inviting us.

## It Does Take A Village....

Museums Staff has grown to 3 full time staff, and seven part time folks. We all work hard to make our museums a place where visitors will learn and enjoy. We hear frequently how nice this or that is, or how beautiful an object is, how much a program was enjoyed, or how cool our stories are. It's always gratifying to hear those words.

But, there are behind the scenes folks who work hard, just as well. We have a Parks and Grounds crew that keeps all our sites green and beautiful, with lovely flowers and well trimmed trees and shrubs. We have a Maintenance Crew that keeps the inside of our buildings—floors, rest rooms, carpets, etc.—looking sharp.



We could have the greatest collection of objects in the world, but they wouldn't be much in a setting that was dirty, overgrown and unkempt.

With Spring springing upon us, it seems appropriate to stop for just a minute to say thanks to these two groups from the Community Services Department for their part in making our museums look great.

## Colonial Tavern Night

Our 18th (and 19th and 20th...) century ancestors often enjoyed, as we do today, a cold libation and a nice snack at a local tavern. Colonial cities were full of them—they were the "Motel 6" of the 18th century—providing food, drink and lodging for man and beast. Join us on Saturday, June 27, at 7:00 pm, as the Belair Mansion becomes "The Sign of the Horse and Saddle," for our first Tavern Night.

Tavern music will be provided by "Bedlam," period appropriate refreshments will be served—and you might just have a chance to engage in a game of Draughts, Goose or Shut the Box. A fun evening guaranteed!

Reservations and advance payment are required; tickets are \$25 per person. MC/Visa/Discover accepted. Please call the Museum Office to reserve your opportunity for a fun evening!



# CITY OF BOWIE MUSEUMS

**City of Bowie Museums**  
**12207 Tulip Grove Drive**  
**Bowie, Maryland 20715**  
**301-809-3089 fax 301-809-2308**

[www.cityofbowie.org/museum](http://www.cityofbowie.org/museum)

TTY/TDD 301-262-5013 or MD Relay System 800-735-2258

This material is available in alternate formats. Call 301-809-3089

 The City of Bowie welcomes the participation in City sponsored activities and programs of individuals with disabilities. Please contact the City at least two weeks in advance of the date on which the activity will either begin or be held to request an accommodation.

### Bowie City Council

**G. Frederick Robinson**, Mayor  
**Isaac C. Truth**, Mayor Pro Tem  
**Dennis Brady**, Councilmember  
**Henri Gardner**, Councilmember  
**James L. Marcos**, Councilmember  
**Diane Polangin**, Councilmember  
**Dufour Woolfley**, Councilmember

### Staff

**Pamela L. Williams**, Manager—Historic Properties/Museums  
**Samantha H. Dorsey**, Museums Curator  
**Ruth A. Murphy**, Welcome Center /RR Facilities Manager  
Museum Offices are staffed Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
To reach staff, call 301-809-3089 /museums@cityofbowie.org

## Spring 2015 *Musings*



# CALENDAR



**Belair Mansion**  
Saturday, May 16 10:00 am  
“Handwriting on the Wall”  
Co-sponsored by PGC Genealogical Society—learn to decipher “antique” handwriting  
Free; Reservations requested



**Belair Mansion**  
**Belair Stable**  
**Bowie Railroad Museum**  
Sunday, May 17 Noon-4:00 pm  
**BOWIE HERITAGE DAY!**  
All activities FREE!



**Bowie Railroad Museum**  
Tuesday, May 19 10:30 a.m.-Noon  
Kids Kaboose  
Railroad Fun for ages 1-11—games, stories and trainspotting  
Free; No Reservations required



**Belair Mansion**  
Monday, June 1 2:00-4:00 pm  
Collector’s Corner  
Quilt Care and Conservation Reprise!  
Reservations requested  
301-809-3097



**Bowie Railroad Museum**  
Tuesday, June 16 10:30 am—Noon  
Railroad Fun for ages 1-11-games, Stories and trainspotting  
Free; No Reservations required



**Belair Mansion**  
Monday, June 22 10:30 am—Noon  
Toddler Time Travelers  
Story, craft and a snack for ages 3-5  
Free; no reservations required



**Belair Mansion**  
Saturday, June 27 7:00-9:00 pm  
Tavern Night at the “Sign of the Horse and Saddle” 18th century music, fun and food!  
\$25 per person; Reservations required by June 23



**Belair Mansion**  
Monday, June 29 10:30 am-Noon  
Time Travellers  
Living on a Colonial Plantation—Work and Play  
Free; No reservations required

### Hours: All Free Admission

**Belair Mansion, 301-809-3089**  
12207 Tulip Grove Drive  
Tuesday - Sunday, Noon to 4 p.m.



**Belair Stable, 301-809-3089**  
2835 Belair Drive  
Tuesday - Sunday, Noon to 4 p.m.



**Bowie Welcome Ctr., 301-575-2488**  
8606 Chestnut Avenue  
Tuesday - Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



**Bowie RR Station, 301-809-3089**  
8614 Chestnut Avenue  
Tuesday - Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



**Nat'l. Capital Radio & TV Museum**  
[www.ncrtv.org](http://www.ncrtv.org) 301-390-1020  
2608 Mitchellville Road  
Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday & Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.



**Prince George’s Co. Genealogical Society Library, 301-262-2063**  
[www.pgcs.org](http://www.pgcs.org)



12219 Tulip Grove Drive  
Please call 301-262-2063 for open hours and/or appointments for research.

Be sure to check the City Website for additional programs! [www.cityofbowie.org](http://www.cityofbowie.org)