



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.

Time Marches On

It seems, at least to some of us today, that the 60's were yesterday. Flower power, hippies, protests, assassinations, inventions, music and other exciting cultural changes swirled around so many of us "back in the day." Belair at Bowie was born early in that massively culture-changing era.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, DC, and Dr. Martin Luther King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech—an iconic moment in the struggle for civil rights.

Belair at Bowie, and other Levitt developments, figured in that struggle. For years, Levitt Corporation had refused to sell homes to African Americans. As many of our "original settlers" will recall, the Congress of Racial Equality held demonstrations at the Model Houses on Sussex Lane. Belair at Bowie made the national news.

In 1968, the Civil Rights/Fair Housing Act passed the US Congress. The law made it illegal to refuse to sell or rent to any person because of race, color, religion or national origin. By then, Levitt was moving on from Belair and his sales policies here and in other places were no longer legal. But, the irony was this: the Levitt Corporation's discriminatory policies were truly moot from almost the beginning. Levitt had no control over the resale of homes by original purchasers. In spite of the fact that Belair may have begun in the shadow of discriminatory practices, today's City of Bowie celebrates its diversity every day.



First Maryland Regiment (in blue) confronts the Maryland Loyalist Brigade (red) at Belair on Aug. 24, 2013 (Thanks to Karen House for being battle photographer!)

And...Time Marches Past ...Belair!

In the warm late summer of 1781, General Comte de Rochambeau's troops arrived in Yorktown, Va., to aid General George Washington and the patriot forces in bringing about the end of the American War for Independence—aka, The American Revolution.

While some of those troops were arriving in Yorktown, their potential "dinners" were marching past Belair Mansion. Rochambeau's baggage train, complete with nearly 3,000 horses and oxen, marched down what is likely Md. 450 today. While those at Belair must have thought that to be a pretty amazing sight, at least one of the troops herding the animals thought Belair was notable. He wrote in his diary about passing a fine house —Belair Mansion.

On August 24, Belair Mansion hosted members of the First Maryland Regiment, the Maryland Militia, the Maryland Loyalists and the Queens Own Loyal Virginians (take note: both sides represented!!!) in a commemoration of this event. Eighteenth century vendors sold goods, kids played games, ladies sewed, and the afternoon battle seemed to be a draw! A fun day of history for our visitors, staff, and reenactors.



EZ Pass Needed in Old Bowie?

A fun story from Old Bowie...recently related by Ed Maenner, Past President of the Huntington Heritage Society. Perhaps Huntington/Bowie should have been the birthplace of the EZ Pass?

The Maenner family owned, and still owns, a parcel of land in the 8000 block of Laurel/Bowie Road. Long ago, Bernard Maenner (Ed's father) paid \$1 a year to be able to access the road across a small strip of land (between 15 and 50 feet wide) owned by the Jesuit Province of Maryland, under the administration of Brother Carley at Chapel Point in Charles Co. The annual fee was to insure that the Jesuits owned the land, not the Maenners.

Apparently the Jesuits either found the property valuable, or simply didn't want to give it up. Mr. Maenner, tired of the annual fee, offered \$50 for the land, for the convenience of not paying every year. Brother Carley's response was "Beeerinnarrd...we don't HAVE to sell." Apparently the offer was too low!!!

One might assume today, that with the widening of the road, the Jesuits got more than \$50 from the state for their small parcel of land. And the Maenners have free access now!

New Acquisitions

News from Curator Samantha Dorsey on our latest "installation:"

Eight Boydell Shakespeare Gallery prints now hang in the Mansion Dining Room. On loan from the George Washington National Masonic Memorial, each depicts a scene from Shakespeare's works. Rendered by England's finest late 18th century artists, they immediately appeared in fashionable English and American parlors and dining rooms. It is likely the same type print hung in Ogle Hall in Annapolis. Several dozen "Shakespeare prints" in "black frames" are listed in Henrietta Hill Ogle's 1815 probate inventory. American newspapers of the time discussed their high moral value and pleasing aesthetic qualities.

No doubt the prints provided a ready conversation topic should a guest be particularly boring. Come see what discussion they spark for you! Longtime dining room resident Col. Benjamin Tasker now graces a wall in the second floor Yellow Room.



Fall Festival in Old Bowie

Old Bowie will celebrate the change of seasons on September 28 with the Annual Fall Festival.

Antiques, music, street vendors and good festival food will be on the program for the day. The Ntrack Modelers from Baltimore will set up their model trains in the caboose, and Sheila, the Lego Lady, will bring her Bowie Lego layout for all to enjoy. Drop by the Welcome Center and chat with members of the Huntington Heritage Society about Huntington's past — buy a railroad Christmas ornament for the holiday season.

History Day at the Mansion in November

Mark your calendars...it's almost time for our annual History Lecture Lunch Day on Monday, November 4. Topic for this year is one no doubt beloved by all:

*Sugar, Spice, Isinglass & And
Takes: Great and Small*

Sugar: From Harvested Cane to the Table

Best be He that Invented Pudding

A History of Spice

Takes Great and Small

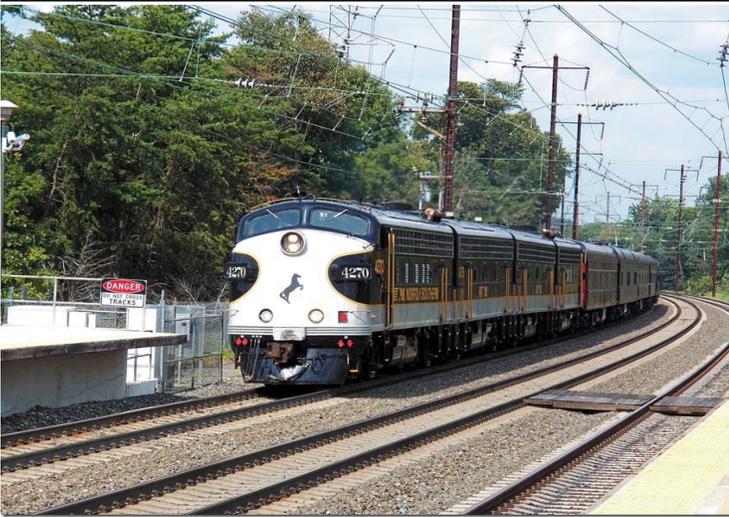
Register now! 301-809-3089

Oh, Say Can You See?

We're getting ready to commemorate the War of 1812 in Bowie. We're NOT behind schedule—the local area was not impacted by the war until 1814. Activities are being planned throughout the County, and at City Museum sites. Watch for them.

Francis Scott Key's famous words, penned during the defense of Fort McHenry in 1814, still resound today. Consider, through the next year, flying the 1814 flag. To paraphrase Key, "long may it wave" over Bowie homes. 1814 flags are available at the Mansion Shop, Tuesday through Sunday, Noon-4. Cost is \$20, no tax..





Norfolk Southern Office Train passing Bowie Station. Photo courtesy Wayne Gordon, via Vince Cipriani.

Norfolk Southern “Office Train” On the Tracks at Bowie

On August 21, railfans and railroad station visitors got a special treat when the Executive Train of Norfolk Southern Railroad passed Bowie on its way south. NSRR purchased four General Motors (recycled!) over the past five years, rebuilt them and put them into Company service. The train is used to pull “specials” for company officers, their Board of Directors, stockholders and for community charity events. Beautifully restored, the Office Train offered some real “eye candy” on tracks more accustomed to rather ordinary looking AMTRAK cars and MARC commuter cars.

What Is Old Is New Again

Projects continue at the Belair Mansion. It’s a very busy place this Fall, underscoring the City’s continued commitment to its history and historic sites.

Craftsmen from American Architectural Restoration continue work on the windows, with storm window installation beginning in mid-September. Final touches and balancing are in progress on the new HVAC system. Work has begun, by Ft. Myer Construction on a new driveway, brick and curbing repairs. Exterior painting will take place this Fall; interior painting will happen in January. And, in a short time, fabrication of draperies for the sunroom and parlor will begin. Not only will the new drapes enhance our interpretation of these spaces, but they will also offer an energy efficiency component to our first floor spaces. Other first floor rooms will follow. Sunroom draperies will closely replicate those hung by Elsie Woodward in the 30’s and 40’s.

Mrs. Rumney’s Housewifery School—Practical 18th Century Lessons for Young Ladies

Pictured below are the graduates of August’s “Mrs. Rumney’s Housewifery School.” The day-long program was held twice this summer at the Mansion, and proved very popular.. Both July and August programs were sold out.

“Young ladies—and such young gentleman inclined to attend” received instruction in the female arts of laundry (by hand), butter churning, sewing, dance, deportment, fan decoration, proper dress and a host of other skills. As part of the program, students make their own lunch. Martha Stewart—or Mrs. Rumney, Col. Tasker’s housekeeper—would both be justly proud of the magnificence of the salamagundy (18th century chef’s salad) created by these young ladies! Syllabub—a whipped mix of cream, lemons, sugar and apple juice (wine for adults!) was served for dessert.

It’s a toss as to who enjoys the day more—the students or museum staff! Watch for Housewifery School later in the year.



Musings from the City of Bowie Museums

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



email: museumevents@cityofbowie.org
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
Diane Polangin, Mayor Pro Tem
Dennis Brady, Councilmember
Henri Gardner, Councilmember
James L. Marcos, Councilmember
Isaac Truth, Councilmember
Todd M. Turner, Councilmember

Staff

Pamela L. Williams, Manager—Historic Properties
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, please call 301-809-3089

Fall 2013

Musings



Belair Mansion
Second Tuesday Lecture
Tuesday, Oct. 8 7:30 p.m.
“Jerusalem Mill—A Village on the Gunpowder “
301-809-3089 Free No Reservations



Bowie Railroad Museum
Kids Kaboose
Tuesday, Oct. 15 10:30 am-Noon
10:30-Noon
Railroad Fun for ages 1-10
301-575-2488 Free No Reservations



Belair Mansion
Second Tuesday Lecture
Tuesday, Nov. 12 7:30 p.m.
“The United States Marine Corps: Past and Present”
301-809-3089 Free No Reservations



Belair Mansion
Annual History Lecture Day
Monday, Nov. 4 9:00 am
“Sugar, Spice, Isinglass and Cakes: Great and Small!”
All day symposium and lunch
\$75. (\$70 for FOBE)
301-809-3089 Reservations Reqd.



Bowie Railroad Museum
kids Kaboose
Tuesday, Nov. 19
10:30-Noon
Railroad Fun for ages 1-10
301-575-2488 Free No Reservations



Belair Mansion
Taste of the Past
Saturday, Nov. 23 Noon-4:00pm
Sample desserts from the past.
301-809-3089 Free No Reservations



Belair Mansion
Deck the Halls!
Monday, Nov. 25 9:30 am
Help hang the holly and the ivy for the holidays! Lunch provided.
Please RSVP! 301-809-3089



Bowie Railroad Museum
Trainspotting Day at the RR
Sunday Dec. 1 9:00am-4pm
Enjoy unusual rolling stock on AMTRAK's busiest day of the year.



Candlelight & Tree Lighting
Visit the Mansion on **Dec. 1** for the Holiday Candlelight tour from **3-6**, and then help the City Council and Mayor light the City Holiday tree in front of Belair Mansion—a Bowie Tradition!



CITY OF BOWIE
MUSEUMS

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 Center, 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. Cap. Radio & TV Museum
www.ncrtv.org 301-390-1020
2608 Mitchellville Rd. Fri., 10am-5pm;
Sat./Sun 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.



Prince George's Co. Genealogical Society Library, 301-262-2063
www.rootsweb.com/~mdpgcgs



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