



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.

New in the Museums Collection

The City of Bowie Museums Collection has recently been the recipient of two wonderful donations....the Gabriel "Flick" Nalley Collection and a beautiful early 19th century armchair.

The Flick Nalley Collection

In January, a very important part of our history, Gabriel "Flick" Nalley passed away. Flick was born at Belair in 1917, and spent his entire life on the farm, working for the Woodwards as Assistant Farm Manager, and later for the Levitt Corporation as they developed Belair at Bowie.

In retirement, he lived in a house built on the farm that was moved by Levitt Corp., for him, to its present location. He had spurned an offer of a Levitt home—one reason being that he wanted a basement!

Thanks to the generosity of the Nalley family, we are now the holders of some important memorabilia, including a halter worn by Omaha, 1935 Triple Crown winner, documents and objects related to the farm, photographs, newspaper clippings, and a number of Winner's Circle photographs of some fine Woodward Thoroughbreds beyond our "usual cast of characters." Also among the objects is a basket of clay skeet disks remaining from the shooting range at the Mansion. They've prompted us to do a considerable bit of trap shooting research—with a goal of



possibly finding a 1930's-50's trap gun to include in the Mansion's interpretive collection.

Often modern artifacts related to Belair are harder to find than "old" ones. These things were obviously important to Flick Nalley—who was an important part of the history of Belair. They are important to our continuing effort to teach about all the people, over all the centuries, who called Belair home. A posthumous thanks to Flick for holding on to them, for treasuring them...and a very sincere thanks to the Nalley family for donating them to our collection.



Early 19th Chair Donation

Armchair, c. 1795-1800

Maker: Unknown Made: England Mahogany, pine
Gift of John and Jennie Leitch, 2013.004.001 a-b

With strong family and economic ties across the Atlantic, the Ogles bought household goods from both England and America. The generous donation of this British, c. 1795-1800 mahogany armchair speaks to the Ogles' trans-Atlantic taste.

Its delicate carving and sweeping arms are unlike most American examples. Yet, its square splat and reeded crest rail relates to a similar-looking set of city-owned, New York-style reproductions. Their regionally-preferred square seat backs were inspired by imported English furniture and design books. They are now displayed together, greatly enhancing the second floor sewing room installation at Belair Mansion

A Horse is a Horse, Unless, of Course... He's a Horse of a Different Color!

The Belair Stud enjoys continued acclaim for famous Thoroughbred racers...their bloodlines still dominate the sport of racing today. Every horse that took the field in the Kentucky Derby this year was (again!) a descendant of our Nashua. But, fabulous as they were, they are not our ONLY equine champions.

From around 1916, through the early 1950's, William Woodward also bred and raised champion Clydesdales. Woodward employed a "naming scheme" for the Clydesdales—the initial letter of the horse's name indicated the year the horse was foaled. Belair Clydesdales were well bred, and well respected. From the *Maryland Horse Magazine*, September 1950:

A Great Timonium Fair

The Clydesdale Senior and Grand Championships in the stallion division went to Virginia Exhibitor, Dr. John Aldred...Belair Farm's Churchill was Junior Champion and Chartley Farm's Belair Dorothy Dix was Senior and Grand Champion Mare." (Dorothy Dix had been bred and foaled at Belair.)

Recent research has revealed a couple of interesting things. For many years, there has been speculation that Anheuser-Busch's first Clydesdales came from Belair. After LONG consultation with the "history folks" at Anheuser-Busch, it has been determined that their first Clydesdales (after the repeal of Prohibition) were from Scotland and Canada.

The other legend is that Belair Clydesdales were sold to Ringling Brothers Circus. THIS one *is* true! Farm workers remember the treat of getting circus tickets and seeing twin foals born at Belair a few years earlier working in the circus.

On Heritage Day, to celebrate our Clydesdale history, we were visited by Chance E. Pants, from Gentle Giants Draft Horse Rescue in Mt. Airy. "Chance," was a huge hit—literally and figuratively! And, it was great to have a stall at the Stable filled with four-legged history.

Clydesdale shoes from the Flick Nalley Collection. These shoes had not yet been forged and worn. Shoes for a mature Clydesdale can measure 20" from end to end, and weigh 4-5 lbs., twice as long and heavy as shoes for a riding horse.; Thoroughbred Racing "plates" are even smaller and lighter.



Staff Changes

As many of you are aware, our long time "Stablemaster," Russ Davies retired in January. His departure is deeply felt by our entire staff...but he assures us he is still around for "horse house calls" when we need him. We offer our best wishes and thanks for all he's taught the non-horsey staff about horsey stuff over the years.

The new faces on our block include our three new Museum Aides—Diane Haeger, Rosita House, and Joe Malloy. We're pleased to have them aboard—they'll be working at the Stable and Mansion for open hours, so stop in, visit and say hello to our new folks.



Mr. Davidson, Belair Farm Manager, and an unnamed worker holding a newly won trophy, celebrate Belair Clydesdales' success in a show ca. 1940.

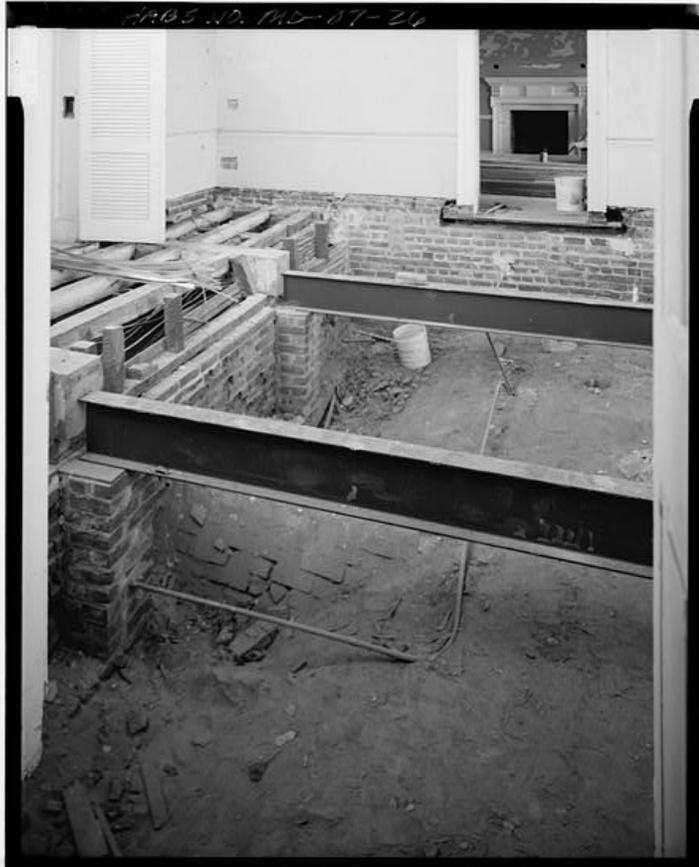
Summer Fun at Home

The City of Bowie Museums offer lots of opportunity for a "vacation at home" day. We have a full schedule of fun experiences for kids, too.

Visit the Mansion and Stable—travel through 250 years of history, all tied together by the bond of Thoroughbred racing and some awesome stories. The Bowie Railroad Museum and Old Town Bowie Welcome Center offer a look at Bowie's earliest days, forged by the Railroad. The Radio and Television Museum commemorates modern media history—enjoy a vintage TV show from your childhood. A stop at the Genealogy Library might just put you on the road to finding a famous—or infamous—ancestor!

Hours and locations for all museums are on the back of this newsletter. All offer free admission.

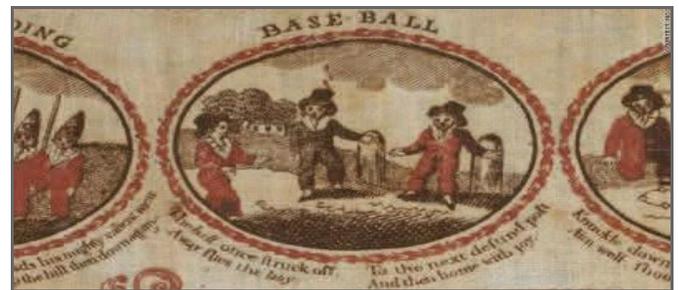
What Lies Beneath???



Long time Friends and City Staffers may recall the scene above. The photo was taken in 1990, by the Historic American Buildings Survey photographer Jack Boucher. It's a "birds-eye view" of the wine cellar from the Hall, directly above. The domed arch of the wine cellar ceiling is visible below the lower joist. Old houses always yield surprises—and create mysteries. Certainly those who made and laid the brick for Belair Mansion were slaves. Did they leave behind clues to their presence? Who designed the architectural plan for the building? Was there simply a skilled "undertaker," a building supervisor, who oversaw the construction? Vaults like the wine cellar in the Mansion have been designed and built for a millennia. But, it takes some architectural understanding and skill to make one happen. The answers rest with the Benjamin Taskers, Sr. & Jr., charged by Samuel Ogle with construction management, as to whose hands and minds were at work here. Perhaps someday a document will flutter to the top of an archival file and we'll find out. In the meantime, we continue to stand on a pretty solid foundation—almost 270 years old!

Home Town Home Plate!

Bowie has a long and colorful baseball history...and that history recently brought The Friends of Belair to home plate. On May 25, Baysox Stadium became the home of the "Belair Studs" for the evening. First pitch was thrown well and strongly by Ms. Fannie Basim—a 93 year resident of the City. The message board offered glimpses of Belair's horse history, kids enjoyed race oriented fun and games, and grown ups tried their brains at racing trivia. Team jerseys were auctioned at the end of the evening, with the proceeds donated to the Friends of Belair Estate. We sincerely thank the Baysox, especially Promotions Manager Chris Rogers, for their interest in our "cause," and a fun evening with the "home team." Rumor has it the Orioles are currently scouting Ms. Basim !!!



Shall We Take Tea?

Our official tea chairperson, Anne Clark, has announced her retirement from "pouring." We owe an enormous debt to Anne, Bob and the entire Clark family for their unflagging support of and help with teas for a LONG time. If you're interested in helping with teas, we will hold an organizational/informational meeting at the Mansion on June 21, at 2:00 p.m. Please call Pam Williams if you plan to attend: 301-809-3089 or pwilliams@cityofbowie.org (Tea will be served at the meeting!)



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 Trouth, Councilmember
Todd M. Turner, 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, please call 301-809-3089



CALENDAR

 **Bowie Railroad Museum**
Tues., June 18 10:30 a.m.-Noon
Kids Kaboose
Railroad Fun for ages 1-10
301-575-2488 Free No Reservations

 **Belair Mansion**
Thurs., June 20 10:30 a.m.-Noon
Time Travelers Ages 4-12
“Get In The Game” Colonial games
Free, No Reservations 301-809-3089

 **Belair Mansion**
Thurs., June 27 9:00am.-4:00 p.m.
Mrs. Rumney’s Housewifery
School for Young Ladies
18th century “domestic skills” for
young ladies ages 6-12 \$15 per child
includes lunch, reservations required.
301-809-3089

 **Belair Stable**
Mon., July 1 10:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Time Travelers
“Horsin’ Around at the Stable”
Ages 4-12 Free No Reservations
301-809-3089

 **Bowie Railroad Museum**
Tues., July 16 10:30 a.m.-Noon
Kids Kaboose
Railroad Fun for ages 1-10
301-575-2488 Free No Reservations

 **Belair Mansion**
Thurs., July 18
Time Travelers
“It’s Not All On The Wall”
A look at ALL types of he art in
and around the Mansion. Ages 4-12
Free No Reservations 301-809-3089

 **Bowie Railroad Museum**
Thurs., Aug.1 10:30 a.m.-Noon
Time Travelers
Railroad and Community History
Ages 4-12 Free No Reservations

 **Bowie Railroad Museum**
Tues., Aug.20 10:30 a.m.-Noon
Kids Kaboose
Railroad Fun for ages 1-10
301-575-2488 Free No Reservations

August 24—Belair Mansion Encampment Commemorating Rochambeau’s March Noon-4:00 p.m. FREE!
Reenactors, Vendors, Living History

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.radiohistory.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.rootsweb.com/~mdpgcgs
12219 Tulip Grove Drive
Please call 301-262-2063 for open hours and/
or appointments for research.