



Historic Glyndon *Baltimore County's First Historic District*



Community Newsletter

Historic Glyndon, Inc., November 2020 • <http://historicglyndon.org>

President's Letter

We hope this finds you and your family well. The pandemic is still with us, and it looks like it could be a difficult winter. Meanwhile, our country is in the midst of a very difficult time politically, and socially. Here in Glyndon, we are not immune to any of these things. Despite our different experiences and outlooks, we all feel a bit of gloom.

I find it helpful to look at the old houses in Glyndon and remember that they have stood through good times and bad. My house is one of the "newer" historic homes in Glyndon, built in 1918. It has stood through wars, the Depression, social/political upheaval, and plenty of bad weather. It reminds me we can get through this.

Glyndon has found creative ways to boost spirits and connect. Neighbors are out walking, enjoying the weather, and greeting each other. Backyard fire pits warm socially-distanced friends. The Glyndon Community Association (GCA) has rolled out a number of creative ways for us to connect outdoors. And the Glyndon Swim Club staff worked hard all summer to keep the pool open, providing a fun, safe outlet for kids and adults.

Here at HGI, while we will not be hosting our annual Holiday Open House, we are very excited about what we have planned in its place:

"Illuminating the Holidays in Glyndon." This outdoor event is scheduled for Saturday, December 19, 2020, from 6 pm to 8 pm. It's a free, self-guided event, where friends and neighbors will walk around Glyndon, take in the beautiful lights and decorations, and have a chance to wish each other "Happy Holidays." Please follow any COVID-19 guidelines in effect.

Glyndon's 150th Anniversary

As we look forward to 2021 (yes, please!), we continue to work on Glyndon's 150th anniversary celebration to be held September 10, 11, and 12, 2021! The weekend of festivities will include a Torch Relay around Glyndon, a parade, a walking tour, picnic dinners, and a dance at the historic Emory Grove Hotel. The 150th committee held a kick-off several weeks ago, with a "parade" through the streets of Glyndon, complete with banners, tee-shirts, giveaways, and music. See the article on page 3 or visit glyndonmd150th.com for more information on Glyndon's 150th Celebration.

Saying Goodbye to Glyndon Friends



We were saddened by the loss of our friend and Glyndon neighbor, CJ Gulley, who passed away on September 19, 2020. CJ was a dedicated member of the HGI board, serving as secretary for a number of years.

She and her husband, Alan, opened their warm and beautiful home to the community for HGI's 2015 Annual Holiday Open House. CJ was a valued member of the community, a friend and good neighbor to all. We were lucky to know her and our hearts go out to her family.

We also said goodbye recently to lifelong Glyndon resident, George Wroe. Please see the tribute to George on page 4. Future newsletters will include tributes to two other long time Glyndon residents we have lost in the past year, Marlene Trainer and Dottie Hammond.

Wishing you and your family peace, love, health, and happiness in 2021.

Sue Benson
HGI President

A Little Free Library Comes to Glyndon!

When longtime Glyndon resident Dee Ruppenthal passed away last year, her family thought about a lasting memorial to Dee that could be placed in her beloved Glyndon. In thinking about Dee's interests, and the things she held dear, they decided on the installation of a Little Free Library to be placed on the Glyndon Post Office property.

The first Little Free Library was created in 2009, and to date there are now over 100,000 book-sharing boxes throughout all 50 states and 108 countries! Through this project, 36 million books will be shared just this year.

An avid reader, Dee was a 40 plus year member of the Glyndon/ Reisterstown Book Club, she participated in a "Read Aloud" group with her church, and she supported literacy advocacy groups. She was a weekly patron of the Reisterstown library, and loved to share books and book ideas with her friends, family, and neighbors. Her favorites genres were history, biographies, autobiographies, poetry, the Classics, and non-fiction. (just about everything!). Dee read aloud to her children, Hans and Katie when they were little, and to her grandchildren as well, instilling a love of books in her entire family.



When the Ruppenthal family decided on the Little Free Library Memorial to Dee, they set about locating a builder. While there are many plans online for Little Free Libraries, and some are of Victorian style homes, the Ruppenthal family could not find one that really looked like their family home. So they found a builder in Spokane, Washington who made custom designs. They sent photos of their house to the builder, then picked paint colors, type of shutters, and other details. The resulting structure is a beautiful replica of 322 Central Avenue!

At the May dedication, Dee's daughter, Katie Hiestand said "Anyone that knew Mom, knew how much she loved reading. She once told me that when she was little she wanted to grow up to 'have a big, old house with a garden, a piano, and lots of books'. Well she certainly accomplished that goal! So what better way to honor her, than to combine three of her loves: her big old house, her community, and her love of books".

The Little Free Library is a wonderful "living" memorial to our very special friend, neighbor and active Glyndon resident "Dee."

Nan Kaestner



Celebrate Glyndon's 150th Anniversary!



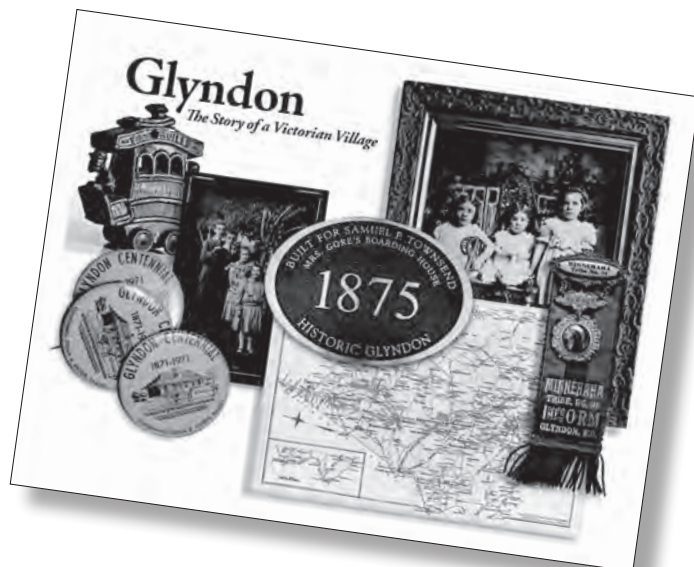
The celebration has begun! On a warm, sunny Saturday evening in September, we had our 150th Anniversary kick-off event. This kick-off was to recognize that we are only a year away from our village's Sesquicentennial and our weekend-long celebration. Thanks

to all who joined us from their front yards to celebrate and receive special goodies. From beach balls to bubble makers for the kids and spice packets and magnets for the adults, everyone received something special to remind them of next year's event.

A special thanks to Rich Wuerthele at Crayola Crayons for the donation of Silly Putty giveaways; Cindy Sullivan at McCormick & Company for delicious spice packets; and Marianne Trainer at Ink Splash Apparel & Graphics for the fabulous banners.

The 150th Anniversary Celebration: On September 10, 11, and 12, 2021, a weekend of events will commence to celebrate our village with our friends and family. Be sure to mark your calendars now and send hold-the-date notices to friends and family who live out of town.

The event calendar continues to evolve, and planning groups are working to create fun events for all. Here are highlights of the weekend:



Friday, September 10, 2021

We will begin the weekend with a Torch Relay around Glyndon. Kids of all ages will kick off the festivities by carrying the torch through our village. We will also enjoy an evening of festivities and picnics in the park.

Saturday, September 11, 2021

Saturday morning will start early with a 5K/Fun Run which will pass by historic sites of Glyndon and Reisterstown. The day will be full of events to include historic walking tours, tennis tournaments, kids' activities, and more. Saturday will end with a dance at Emory Grove – much like the 125th anniversary Queen Victoria Ball at Glyndon Station. This will be an evening to remember!

Sunday, September 12, 2021

A parade celebrating the village of Glyndon and the surrounding neighborhoods will be held in the afternoon. All are invited to participate in the parade with banners, floats, and all things fun. If you prefer, enjoy the parade as a spectator as it marches through town. The weekend of celebration will end with a family picnic and live music.

Preliminary planning for this exciting event has begun with a team from Glyndon Community Association (GCA) and Historic Glyndon, Incorporated (HGI). Do you want to help with one of the weekend's events? We would love to have you! Please email Diane Flayhart or Patty Szparaga at GlyndonMD150th@gmail.com and we will share more details.

Stay updated by visiting our website: glyndonmd150th.com. We will keep the page updated with details of events as they progress.

Diane Flayhart

Got an Old Glyndon Photo?

Over the next year, we will be updating the Glyndon History Book. If you have any old photos, letters or objects pertaining to Glyndon, please email pamelajaneb24@gmail.com. We expect to pre-sell copies next fall, with printing and delivery in early 2022 so we can include the 150th celebration.



George Wroe, a longtime resident of Glyndon, woke up in heaven on June 29, 2020. There are multitudes of stories about this unique man, which compose fond memories for so many people in the Reisterstown and Glyndon communities. Thus, this summary cannot do justice to our “fun character” who voluntarily gave time and effort

for many projects at Glyndon United Methodist Church, the Kiwanis Club, and our Glyndon organizations. One of his lasting projects was restoring the lights on our historic bridge at the Butler Road entrance to Glyndon. Yes, this is an illuminating legacy!

Our longest living resident of Glyndon, Eleanor Healy Taylor, shares one of her youthful memories of George:

“Oh, I remember the scaffolding at George’s grandmother’s home on 224 Central Avenue - a Wroe family long-time summer home - which offered enticing adventure for six-year-old ‘little Georgie’ Wroe. Watching from an adjacent porch swing, my six-year-old eyes rolled in amazement. No monkey could have done better than George. He hung by his feet, crawled in, out and around just about every piece of scaffolding (of course no adult in sight!). Such was the start of hair-raising adventures that added off-beat fun to George’s growing up days.” Eleanor also mentioned that George’s parents, P.C. and Helen (aka Kelly) moved from Scranton to Glyndon in 1936. The Wroes, Sr., were winter residents of John Street, Bolton Hill, Baltimore.

George was 18 years younger than his eldest brother, Phillip Chancellor Wroe. Fellow siblings Stewart and Ned were squeezed in between, so family gatherings were cameos which surrounded the clay tennis court their father built, after acquiring the big house and lot which T. Rowe Price and his sister sold upon the death of their father, the town’s physician. As recently as 25 years ago, many residents of Glyndon gathered around the court every Sunday afternoon to play or watch tennis matches. In the winter, the court became an ice skating rink for all Glyndon residents.

George married Virginia’s Jean Ragan, a new teacher at Franklin High School. They filled the family home with four lively, lovely children: Lee, Don, Jay, and Anne. They all “knew no strangers” and contributed unceasingly, to the village of Glyndon. George led the pack with his jokes and antics. Oh, as a youngster, when his mother was president of the Glyndon Woman’s Club, holding a big meeting in their building on a hot summer day with no air conditioning, he encouraged the family dog to enter through the open door — activate your own imagination!

Of course, George didn’t keep the “mischievous gene” all to himself. Reflecting on this, his son Lee recently said, “What I remember is hiding my mischief from dad by wiring a hidden button behind the downstairs shutter that buzzed in my bedroom speaker when my friends were ready to play capture the flag (and then I would quietly climb out the window and down the porch column to escape). Dad was a character alright and some of it rubbed off. We all miss him.”

The enduring picture many of us have of George is him leading the July Fourth parade, with his stars and stripes outfit and decorated tractor and wagon, blaring patriotic music. A fireworks display often followed later, welcoming everyone. By the way, George was also a good-singing tenor.

The tributes could fill a book. However, we simply offer thanks to George and Jean and their family for their many contributions to the lives and memories of so many Glyndonites.

Vernene Lenz

The Houses of Glyndon: 122 Central Avenue



Built about 1885, this house was one of the six that Dr. Charles A. Leas commissioned as tenant houses. His purpose was twofold: to provide an investment for himself through the rent that he would receive and also to help encourage growth of the young village. The design of this particular structure mimics that of two others of Dr. Leas's tenant houses, 4711 Butler Road and 119 Central Avenue. All three exhibit similar architecture, most notably the pointed arched windows of the Gothic Revival style.

As instructed by his will, upon Dr. Leas's death, the six investment properties were bequeathed to his three daughters, each receiving two houses. Mary Eliza Smith, Dr. Leas's second daughter, inherited this property, along with the adjacent one at 14 Glyndon Drive.

Mary's husband, Thomas Washington Smith, was founder, editor, and publisher of the *Baltimore Herald*. The couple lived most of the year on North Fulton Street in Baltimore and spent the summer months in their Glyndon home at 220 Central Avenue, which they had built about 1891.

Mary and Thomas Smith had only one child—Rosamond Erin. As told by Myrtle S. Eckhardt in *The Times* (Randallstown, Maryland, article circa 1975), "Rosamond came by her name in a most unusual way. Dr. Leas was a former American consul to Norway, Sweden, Madeira, British Honduras, and Russia. Returning from one of these positions, accompanied by his daughter, Mary, the boat was shipwrecked. The rescue vessels were The Rosamond and The Erin. Mary soon married, and when their first and only child was born, she was named Rosamond Erin in gratitude for her safe survival of the shipwreck. Rosamond hated the name Erin and seldom used it."

Rosamond inherited both of the houses left to her mother by her grandfather Leas. As an adult, she lived for a while at 14 Glyndon Avenue and had lodgers. Eventually, she moved to the house at 122 Central Avenue and it was there that she spent the remaining years of her life.

Rosamond was an artist and a graduate of the Maryland Institute (College of Art). She also attended the Art Students League in New York City. In her later life she taught art at the Hannah More School in nearby Reisterstown.

Besides her art and her teaching, Rosamond was very active throughout her life. She held suffrage meetings at her home in Glyndon and served as an officer of the Just Government League of Baltimore County. At one time she was considered to run on the Republican ticket for the Maryland Legislature. Rosamond belonged to Bridge Club and the Ladies' Guild of All Saints' Episcopal Church, and she was an active member of the Woman's Club of Glyndon.

Additionally, Rosamond was tremendously devoted to her beloved village of Glyndon, founded by her grandfather. One of her favorite declarations was, "I'm a woman of the soil and I love Glyndon, every inch of it." One of her obituaries in the *Baltimore Sun* stated, "Possessed of a strong will and a militant spirit, Miss Smith, although of a retiring nature, didn't hesitate to lead her forces into battle, usually against the county commissioners, when the welfare, as she envisioned it, of her town was at stake. With her hat firmly placed on her head, her umbrella tightly furled, Miss Smith, accompanied by her forces, would descend upon the commissioners at Towson to protest zoning changes or the advent of such things as an independent sewage system for the town." The other *Sun* obituary said, "Townsperson considered the firm-minded retired teacher its first lady."

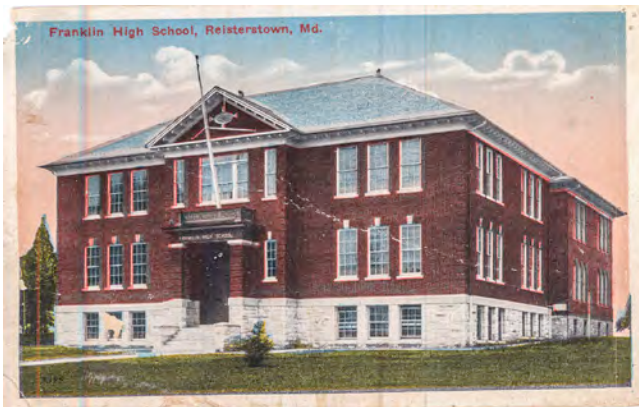
Rosamond died in 1956. According to Mickie Wilson, who bought 14 Glyndon Avenue with her husband Don in 1946, Rosamond willed her entire estate to a wildlife refuge in upstate New York. Her home at 122 Central was sold in 1957 to Robert and Mary Kistler. The property stayed in the Kistler family for the next 63 years until it was recently purchased by next-door neighbors Joanna and Kevin Clements, who have undertaken the monumental task of renovating the house.

Ann B. O'Neill

The 1918 Influenza Pandemic

A month or so before any of us heard about a strange new virus that was soon to dominate our lives, I was putting the finishing touches on a history that I was compiling for Franklin High School's bicentennial celebration. I was curious about the effect, or the lack thereof, the 1918 influenza pandemic may have had on the school, not realizing what was in our very near future.

Back in 1981, after Glyndon children finished the grammar grades at the two-room Glyndon School (now the Woman's Club of Glyndon clubhouse), they attended high school at Franklin in Reisterstown. The schoolhouse was the fairly new 1914 addition to the 1905 building that stood where the present-day Franklin Middle School Annex stands. The structure was razed in 1965.



While this particular flu first appeared in the spring of 1918, it was relatively mild and greatly subsided during the summer months. However, it struck with a vengeance in the fall (something we are now starting to see around the country). Unfortunately, Baltimore City's Health Commissioner initially played down the outbreak, but eventually had to reverse his stance as the killing flu spiked. By late September 1918, there was already a considerable disruption in the students' schooling, with large numbers of students and teachers absent.

According to the *Baltimore Sun*, in October, the deadliest month of the pandemic, Baltimore County schools were closed on October 9th by order of the superintendent, Albert S. Cook. This decree came all way from the Surgeon General in Washington, D.C.

Records show that schools stayed closed for about three weeks and that even when they reopened, more than half of the students were absent.

Ann B. O'Neill

The Baltimore County Historical Trust

The Baltimore County Historical Trust (BCHT), a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving Baltimore County's unique heritage of buildings, sites, towns, and neighborhoods since 1979, works with individuals, communities, and governments to identify significant properties worthy of preservation. .

Across the country, historic preservation has become a powerful tool to spur economic development. Rehabilitating historic houses and commercial buildings can serve as a catalyst to community revitalization. BCHT works to advocate preservation as a positive development tool by advising local governmental agencies on individual preservation projects and the county's master plan. The organization also plans intervention and rescue strategies when historic buildings are threatened by encouraging appropriate new development that is both compatible with and sensitive to surrounding neighborhoods and the existing scale and materials of historic areas.

Through its annual grant program, BCHT awards funds to organizations and individuals for research, preservation, and planning and restoration projects. BCHT helped fund the design of ADA (Americans with Disability Act) compliant steps for the two-room Glyndon School, built in 1887, that is now the home of the Woman's Club of Glyndon.

BCHT consults with property owners and community groups that wish to take advantage of state and federal historic preservation tax credits to rehabilitate certified historic structures and advises them on ways to restore and renovate their historic properties. BCHT can assist with preparing and submitting nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and the Baltimore County Landmarks List and regularly conducts public workshops and events on preservation related issues.

Information about BCHT grants and events can be found at www.bcht.org.

Responsibilities of Home Ownership in an Historic District

In 1981, Glyndon became the first designated historic district in Baltimore County. While earlier listed on the National Register of Historic Places and on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, it is the local designation that provides the most protection for our community.

Across the country, landmarks designation has proven to be an effective way to preserve our nation's heritage and to enhance the value of property and neighborhoods. In many communities it has helped to instill a sense of pride and has brought about stability. Historic designation aids in the control of deterioration and contributes to community and property protection. There are financial advantages as well, such as income tax incentives for restoration. Experience has shown that property values go up in historic districts.

In Baltimore County, a 15-member Landmarks Preservation Commission is in charge of overseeing the Historic Preservation Legislation of 1976. The Commission has a legal obligation to review and approve plans for any renovation, reconstruction, alteration, demolition, or other structural change to property within the district, including excavation, fences, and out buildings. This review process assists an owner in making any necessary changes that will enhance rather than detract from an historic property's value or appearance. In general, a rule of thumb is that any modifications to the property that are visible from the public way are subject to review.

The red tape involved is minimal; it is just one more step in the process of obtaining a permit for the project. All property owners in a designated historic district must apply for a building permit for any excavation, for demolition, or for the construction or erection of any building, fence, or other new construction of any kind. When contemplating such changes, property owners may want to check with Historic Glyndon, Inc.'s Architectural Design Advisory Committee (e-mail hgiglyndonmd@yahoo.com) for some advice before presenting the final plans to the Landmarks Preservation Commission at the Baltimore County Office of Planning. If the project is consistent with the guidelines (the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties are the guidelines used), approval by Landmarks is quick. For cases involving major work, such as an addition, or for minor work that isn't in clear con-

formance with guidelines, plans must go to the full Commission, which meets monthly (2nd Thursday of each month except for August and December). Because the Commission includes design and construction professionals who are knowledgeable and experienced preservationists, their expertise can often save a homeowner time and money.

The above guidelines and procedures also apply to non-contributing structures within the historic district, such as my 1947 stone Dutch Colonial on Butler Road. While my house is in the middle of the Baltimore County Landmarks district, it is too new a structure to qualify for historic status, yet exterior changes still must be approved.

Some additional responsibilities for the owner of a landmark property include ensuring that a structure is not demolished through neglect. Also, if the owner of a landmark wishes to sell his or her property, the owner must notify a potential buyer of the property's historic status in writing prior to the sale.

Here is some information for contacting Baltimore County's Landmarks Preservation Commission, and for further exploration:

- Contact people: Caitlin Merritt and Taylor Bensley, 410-887-3495, histpres@baltimorecountymd.gov
- Website: https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/planning/historic_preservation/landmarks_preservation_commission/index.html
- Historic Preservation Design Guidelines: https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/planning/historic_preservation/design_guidelines
- County tax credit: https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/planning/historic_preservation/taxcreditfaq.html
- State tax credit: https://mht.maryland.gov/taxcredits_homeowner.shtml

Ann B. O'Neill
Historic Glyndon, Inc.
Revised May 26, 2020

Mission Statement

The mission of HGI is to preserve and protect Glyndon's cultural, social, economic, and architectural history, as well as to conduct educational and beautification projects which enrich Glyndon's historical heritage

HGI Board 2020

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ILLUMINATING THE HOLIDAYS IN GLYNDON



Take part in the festivities and show your holiday spirit by making Glyndon shine!

Showcase your windows and porches with lights and decor as friends and neighbors walk through Glyndon to celebrate the holidays.

Saturday, December 19th from 6-8 PM

Wave to your neighbors, then take in the beautiful sight of Glyndon shining bright for the holidays!

Please note: There are no tickets, and no particular "route" for this free, self-guided, outdoor event. Enjoy "Illuminated Glyndon" during this event and throughout the holiday season.

Please follow any COVID-19 guidelines in effect.

GCA Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony: Sunday, December 6

Meet at the tree on Glen Morris Drive, between the GVFD and Glyndon Square Shopping Center on Sunday December 6, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. for the tree lighting and arrival Santa. Bring flashlights, two non-perishable food items for the needy, gloves to wear, and a happy heart!

Please observe all COVID-19 precautions.

The Woman's Club of Glyndon announces all events will be on hold until the spring.

Christmas Tree Sale

The Glyndon Volunteer Fire Department will be selling Christmas trees again this year, starting the day after Thanksgiving. However, due to a tree shortage, they were only able to get half of the usual number of trees. So get your tree early!

And Santa will travel through the community on a fire truck! See the GVFD Facebook page for details.

Thanks to Our Local Businesses!

It's been a tough year for businesses in Glyndon and everywhere, so HGI is extra thankful to our local businesses and organizations who are members! To those who do not appear here: if you paid your dues and we missed listing you, please let us know; if you usually pay your dues and you missed this year, no worries! Due to COVID-19, we paused our fundraising efforts and will catch you next year! Thank you!

Black-Eyed Susan
Coffee Candy Cream & More
Eminence Dance, Inc.
Gettier-Montanye, Inc.
Glyndon Lord Baltimore
Cleaners
Karlsen Food Systems
Misguided Angel Design
Santoni's Marketplace &
Catering
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The Wine Post
Woman's Club of Glyndon, Inc.