

The Elkridge Heritage Society, Inc.



The Elkridge Heritage Society's headquarters is located at the Brumbaugh House (circa 1870) at 5825 Main Street in Elkridge. The Brumbaugh House is the former home and office of Dr. Bruce Brumbaugh, a beloved doctor who practiced in Elkridge for over 60 years. The Elkridge Heritage Society maintains a medical vignette of Dr. Brumbaugh's office as it used to be. As the owner of the Brumbaugh House itself, The Elkridge Heritage Society is responsible for all maintenance of the house and grounds. A recent major project entailed the renovation of the outside of the house, which preserved its beautiful Victorian style and also accomplished much needed repairs.

Furthermore, as the caretaker of the historical archives of Elkridge, the Society preserves the varied experiences that reflect our heritage; and in so doing, records the diversity and change that this region has experienced. Step inside the house and be transported to days gone by, where there are many books, articles and memorabilia representing the industry of Elkridge, the churches, shops, taverns, sports teams, and the private homes of prominent citizens.

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**5825 Main Street, Elkridge, MD.
21075**

**General Meetings are held on
the second Tuesday of January,
March, May, July, September
and November, or as otherwise
announced.**

**Email:
info@elkridgeheritage.org**

**Website:
www.elkridgeheritage.org**

- **See our Calendar of Events**
- **Read blog posts by our curator.**
- **Donate to EHS using PayPal**

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Membership Form

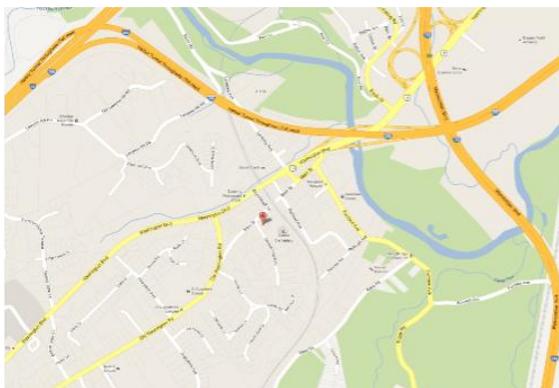
The Elkridge Heritage Society's Mission is to foster and promote an interest in the history of the Elkridge area and the Patapsco River Valley. Our headquarters, the Brumbaugh House, is to be maintained by the Society as a resource for the community in order to promote the preservation of the house and annex; to realize and preserve Dr. Brumbaugh's legacy; and to collect, preserve and display historical papers and artifacts. The Heritage Society can only progress to the extend of its members' support. Show your support by joining. Complete this form and mail with your check to The Elkridge Heritage Society, Inc, 5825 Main Street, Elkridge, MD 21075, or go to our website at www.elkridgeheritage.org and pay on line using PayPal.

Individual membership dues are \$25.00; Family membership dues are \$35.00

Name/s: _____ Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____ Amount Paid: _____

The Elkridge Heritage Society



Map of Elkridge and The Brumbaugh House

EHS History

Impetus emerged for the formation of the Society at the time of the Bicentennial. At that time, a committee gathered enough interest and information to publish a small booklet entitled “Elk Ridge: A Bicentennial Journey” in June 1976.

Various organizations put on programs, and the Elkridge Elementary School followed up by publishing “The Elkridge Scribe.” The Society drew up by-laws, elected officers and held meetings. At first the Society had no regular meeting place, but in 1982, it rented the first floor of a renovated building on Main Street at Levering Avenue. The Society obtained display cases which provided a home for materials collected about Elkridge.

In April 1986, with the help of interested citizens and the support of the Elkridge Rotary Club, the Society was able to contract to buy the Brumbaugh House.

Elk Ridge

According to local historian, Joetta Koppenhoefer Cramm, Elkridge has the claim of being the oldest settlement in Howard County. Just the fact that it has survived 300 years is unique in itself as so many of the earliest villages have since disappeared.

Elkridge Landing developed as a location for planters to bring their hogsheads of tobacco to load aboard large ships for export to England. It was a natural location because it was the point to which the tidewater of the Chesapeake Bay was navigable. The town naturally grew in size with taverns, inns, churches and craftsmen. After a while, the soils became depleted from raising tobacco and many farmers moved away. However by 1750 the iron industry had started at the Landing with the Elk Ridge Furnace and Dorsey Forge. The Ellicotts purchased these properties and developed technology to keep the industry a vital economic engine. A further boost to keep Elkridge alive was the B&O Railroad.

When the flood of 1868 swept through the Landing, any vestiges of the original settlement disappeared, yet, it did survive.

The Washington Turnpike passed through the village, and shops, stores and businesses resided there. Later Elkridge no longer figured as a center of industry as residents often traveled to Baltimore or Washington for employment. Elkridge then became a contemporary

suburban community with the first planned housing development in Howard County, Harwood Park.

Elkridge, once a part of Anne Arundel County, is now the heart of the first election district in Howard County. Elkridge has a unique bridge, The Thomas Viaduct, considered the largest masonry bridge in the nation in 1835. It remains the largest bridge of its kind in the world do to its eight elliptical arches built on a curve. During the Civil War, the Viaduct was essential for supply trains to reach Washington D.C. To prevent sabotage, the bridge was heavily guarded by Union troops stationed along its length.

Many generations of families have made Elkridge their home. The Bruces, Dorseys, McCubbins and Dobbins are just a few of the families who lived here and whose homes are still standing today.

The river, the railroad, the boulevard and the interstate have reinvented Elkridge, but it is the residents that have defined it through their good works and daily living. Please join us in capturing a past rich in history so that our families, our county, and our state may know the significance of Elkridge and Elkridge Landing.

Join us today for the small fee of \$25.00 for a single and \$35 for a family membership.