



Newsletter - May 2024

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The Elkridge Heritage Society

5825 Main Street
Elkridge, MD 21075

info@elkridgeheritage.org

Letter From the President

When I was asked to create a “Letter from the President” for our new Newsletter, I was not sure what to write about initially. Then I had a ton I wanted to say, but at the same time didn’t want this to drag out into a thesis. So where to start and how to be concise?

Let’s start with EHS’ mission statement: Our current mission is to repair / care for the Elkridge Heritage’s Society’s home, the Brumbaugh House, raise money to continue operations, build membership and share Elkridge Heritage / History through events and build a future museum for public viewing.

This one statement says a lot of what we have been doing the past 6 months and talks to our future. The first part of this talks about the “repair / care for the...Brumbaugh House.” Most of our board’s efforts have been spent on just this part of our mission statement over the past 6 months. Right

out of the gates EHS knew we had some issues needing to be addressed with the house, mainly a roof leak over doctor Brumbaugh's office, and water coming through our foundation into the basement. Unfortunately, when we came in, our bank account only had enough money in it to continue to pay our monthly bills (like all houses we have water/sewage, electricity, taxes, insurance, etc we have to pay). In knowing this we thought we would be able to have some time to create a product (i.e. have events, get history out on social media, etc.) which we hoped would bring in donations to help us take on these problems.

Fast forward a couple weeks from the election of the new board and we come into a broken water pipe which dumped water all over the floors on both levels, and destroyed ceilings and walls and some floors. We had this water quickly cleaned up, but still sustained damage and decided to call our insurance company for help. This turned into a nightmare. Insurance not only denied the claim, but also quickly dropped us as fast as they could, noting the roof and foundation issues.

All of a sudden we were a broke organization with no insurance, and problems with our home headquarters where we have all of our historic artifacts and documents along with the house being a living testament to Dr. Brumbaugh's legacy. This is when everyone saw the calls for donations, and us putting on our fundraising event at Daniels. I'm not going to lie, at this point, I was not sure if we were going to be able to pull EHS through this hole we were suddenly in.

The good news, as put forth in this newsletter, is that grants from Howard County really saved us and the Brumbaugh House.

The next part of the mission statement talks about "raising money for continued operations." How is this different from the grants / county funding? Typically grants are for "capital projects". Basically for renovations and such, but typically can not be used for our monthly bills, so we are still relying on the community for donations to help us pay for taxes, water, electricity, and small costs like pens /

paper, etc. Our normal operating expenses are not typically covered by grants and these are costs where the individual donations / memberships are critical to us.

"Build membership and share Elkridge Heritage / History through events" is the next portion of the mission statement and while it is really two separate items we feel these go hand in hand. As I mentioned earlier, this is part of "our product". It's what you as a member / donor get out of EHS. You get cool events that talk about the history of Elkridge, and we in return hopefully get you as member / donor. With all of the trials and tribulations we have gone through over the the past 6 months, we have been trying to also create some cool events, but being an all volunteer organization, the time we have to take care of getting quotes to fix the house, applying for grants, attending local events, trying to stay active on social media, and digitizing some of our documents have been our priorities. We could really use some volunteer help to plan and bring our events to fruition. Trust me when I say there are endless ideas for events and we really want to get these moving. If you would like to help us, please email us and we will be in contact.

The last part of our mission statement speaks to "building a future museum for public viewing." Our end goal is to preserve Dr. Brumbaugh's office and waiting room, while turning the rest of the house into a display of Elkridge history. To do this we have one very large hurdle, which is the house has no central air / air conditioning. This is a major issue with trying to preserve historical items, and will be a large expense. Luckily, the County was listening to us again, and recently announced we would be receiving an additional \$100,000.00 in funding. This funding will allow us to add central air to the brumbaugh house and fix all of the damage caused by the roof / water leaks. Unfortunately we still do need to address our basement water issue first, but we are hoping this funding gets us to a point where the house is repaired, and in the next year we are talking about the start of the museum.

So as a conclusion to my thesis, EHS was on the brink of being no more, but in the past 6 months with the help of the County we have been able to truly turn things around and look forward to the future of sharing our Elkridge History with everyone.

Craig Pool
EHS President

The New EHS Board

On October 28, 2023, EHS hosted a meet-and-greet potluck for people interested in the society and especially those interested in serving on the board. Luckily we got exactly one candidate per position!

President: Craig Pool – Craig is an engineer responsible for major building projects in the area, including Guinness. As you may well imagine, his skills will be excellent for leadership in maintaining the Brumbaugh House, and his standing as a lifelong Elkridge Resident provides much needed insight and connections.

Vice President: Nikki Marlatt-Young – Nikki has already helped us with things like the renovation of the carriage house, digitization of some of our photographs, and social media outreach to name a few. She comes to us with lifelong residence between Elkridge, Jessup and Arbutus, and very valuable experience with home inspections and community service. She is an energetic and valuable leader for EHS.

Treasurer: Bill Evans – Bill and his wife used to own Signarama, renovated/created our current Brumbaugh and Carriage House signs, and will be invaluable in helping to stage the Brumbaugh house with interpretive signage. Furthermore Bill has experience as treasurer for a nonprofit, and serving on the board of the Maryland Military Historical Society.

Secretary: Jake Burdett – Jake is a young law student who has lived all his life in Elkridge (except when at Salisbury University for college). He is

active in the community, and is brimming with great ideas on how to drum up new members.

Curator: Mary Bahr – Curator, Archivist, Researcher: Mary Bahr has been a long-standing creative and detailed activist for the EHS. She grew up in Elkridge and has professional experiences in historical research, archiving history, creating displays, and writing & illustrating about Elkridge for the EHS website. With an MFA degree from MICA, she's been the Director of the American Museum of Ceramic Art, as an assistant to the Curator and staff photographer at the Johns Hopkins University Art History Dept. for 17 years, as well as working for the Maryland Historical Soc'y twice, among other organizations and businesses.

Webmaster: Tina Barton – Tina was a mathematician and software developer until her retirement from the government in 2015. She supports two nonprofit websites, this one, and the one for the West Virginia Maple Syrup Producers Association. She is not from Elkridge originally, but moved here in 1987 upon her marriage. She found out that she was related (in an unknown way) to the Murray family, historically of Rockburn, so she joined the Elkridge Heritage Society in 2012. Since then, she took on website creation and maintenance, and the corresponding secretary role.

Our Progress

We installed the new board in November and they hit the ground running. Unfortunately, the first thing they had to do was mitigate water damage from faulty plumbing in the Brumbaugh House. Water leaked in several rooms upstairs, through the floor into the first floor display room and kitchen.

We quickly hired a company to dry out the house to prevent mold buildup, and contacted insurance and plumbers. There was also water in the basement but that is a recurring problem when it rains. The insurance company told us we had to fix two roof areas and solve the wet basement problem in order

to continue our coverage. Before we could complete those tasks, they denied our claim and canceled our insurance. We are working with a public adjuster to see if we were treated fairly.



Meanwhile, we contacted a company to assess the water problem in the basement. We had to get some brush cleared and have a French Drain installed due to the way the lawn slopes into the back of the house. (See the photo, left.)

To make things worse, we found out that a county owned culvert had been crushed and was sending water down the lawn to the basement. We contacted the county. The county came out and bypassed the culvert by building up the curb on Elkridge Heights so that rain water runs down to the Main Street sewers. We were pleased with the quick reaction.

We also had the little roof over Dr. Brumbaugh's office replaced. This part of the roof, and the porch roof, were not replaced when the exterior of the house was renovated in 2012. We still need to have the porch roof replaced.

How did we pay for the house drying, French drain, brush removal, and Dr. Office roof? We received a \$20,000 grant from the county! That was a huge relief. But with all the renovations needed, this money will not last long. Read on for more information.

A House-Saving 20K

Back in July, 2023, Tina Barton, EHS webmaster, was asked to speak at the new Elkridge Community Alliance. (Contact

elkridgecommunityalliance@gmail.com for more information about that organization or find their Facebook Page.)

Paul Thompson from the County Executive's Office was at the meeting, and enough of an impression about the plight of EHS was made on him that he remembered to reach out to Tina in the Fall of 2023 and offer a \$20,000 grant. Tina had to draft an email about what the money would be used for, and also get the organization back in good standing with the Maryland State Department. (Because of the pandemic, and lack of activity by the Society, no one remembered to file the necessary paperwork.) Tina had to learn fast about what was needed because the treasurer had stepped down after 10 years of faithful service. But the new board agreed to have the paperwork expedited and on Dec 12, 2023, Dr. Calvin Ball, Paul Thompson and more of his team came and presented us with the check. The money was in the bank in early January.

By then, the new board was in place and the money was desperately needed for the above-mentioned projects. Just in time!

Grant Update

Despite having very generous society members, trying to support the maintenance of a historic house, and make it a real museum, takes a lot more capital than we can raise from membership dues and other donations.

To that end, our new treasurer Bill Evans had begun applying for any grants we think we qualify for, with help from Tina Barton. We applied for a PayGo grant from Howard County for 100k, and another 100k grant from Maryland Historical Trust.

But much to our joy and surprise, Howard County came to our aid once again and presented us with the much-needed \$100,000 check at a press conference at the Elkridge Library on April 18, 2024! We will reassess the MHT grant request now because we did not expect to get both!



With this grant, we can move forward on our renovations ASAP. We need to fix the Doctor's office ceiling, float flooring over some areas with old linoleum, deep clean everything, paint, cap off

the upstairs plumbing so it can't leak again, do some work in the kitchen to improve it for our needs, and have some professional looking displays created to start realizing our dream of a museum. A huge expense is an HVAC system. While we have a working furnace, we do not have air conditioning. If we are going to have a museum, air conditioning is a must.

We also applied for a 10k grant from Preservation Maryland, which will mostly go toward the Carriage House. It will replace the roof, with proper gutters for stormwater management,



and repair some mold damage inside. Hopefully we can afford a mini split for climate control. We have also included the Brumbaugh House porch roof in that request.



We'll see what happens, but right now we are ready to go with the first phase of our plan!

Fundraiser at Daniels



Thank you to everyone who participated in our event on January 18, 2024 at Daniels Restaurant & Open Air Bars! Thank you to Daniels, Rathskeller, The Elkridge Furnace

Inn and Garden House, Cindy's Softserve, and The Quicks (The Loft Wine and Spirits above Wegmans) for their generous donations to make our raffle and silent auction so much fun! The winner of the 50/50 money was Ron Pool, and he generously donated the money back to us - his part would have been \$185 - nice! So our raffle took in twice that, our silent auctions took in another \$210, and our donations were over \$500. We also sold quite a few books, and a few bandanna maps and the Art Map Tote. Peace of Mind Property Management was very generous, as were their employees who came out to support us and their coworker, Nikki. It was a fun night!

Website Update

Check out www.elkridgeheritage.org. We have started an Elkridge Knowledge Base where we are collecting some of our historical tidbits in our collection. We also now have a store where you can purchase our wares (shipping charges to be determined but if we arrange to deliver in person in Elkridge, there is no delivery charge). You can also make donations from the website using PayPal.

From the Curator



This is a short introduction to help guide you to Elkridge and surrounding town history.

Wearing my opera spectacles, I'm ready for all kinds of drama. I can "dish" on the historical soaps of the past so you "re-stage" in your imagination how events might have been.

So, if you've been around this town at least as long as I've been gathering history, perhaps I have files on you or your family at the Elkridge Heritage Society. That's what I do: intake, curate, archive, catalog, research, and display paper files & historical objects. Maybe I can meet with you to research your history in our files. Or, if necessary, I can refer you to where you might research your own info. I'm here to share and help.

In the future, this will be a column where I will write more historical tid-bits ranging from Elkridge subjects such as regional military, businesses, education, religion, entertainments, people & houses, past blogs, humorous cartoons, and more. Meanwhile, please don't forget to read in this newsletter about the international one-of-a-kind "Fair of the Iron Horse."

Perhaps one of your relatives attended. Maybe you have photos of it to share. I'd love to chat with you about it.

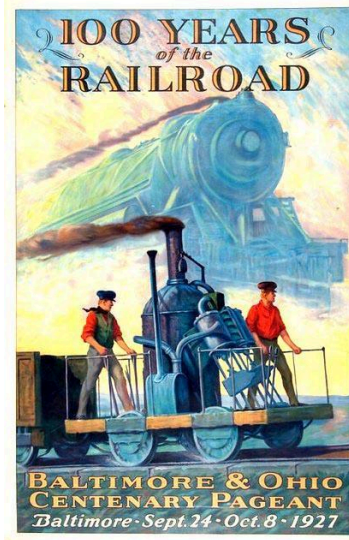


To chat, ask a question or make an appointment, you can email me directly at

mary.bahr@peoplepc.com and type "EHS" in the subject line.

History will be watching for you...

Fair of the Iron Horse



The 1927 Fair of the Iron Horse celebrated the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad's one hundredth year anniversary, showing engine developments and train expansions West. Trains on display were not only national but international. For instance, other companies from

England and Canada brought their engines by ship. And like required car brands and boats today, each engine in the Fair had a name.



The Fair was located on rural land owned by the B & O in Halethorpe, Maryland (Baltimore County), between the villages of Elkridge and Lansdowne. Part of the current acreage today is occupied by FedEx. More than one thousand acres of land was used for the train displays and exhibition halls, as well as Native American performances and demonstrations.

The highlight of the Fair was the "Pageant of Transportation" which, among train evolution,

displayed a replica of the horse-drawn coach - the "Tom Thumb" - designed by Peter Cooper.



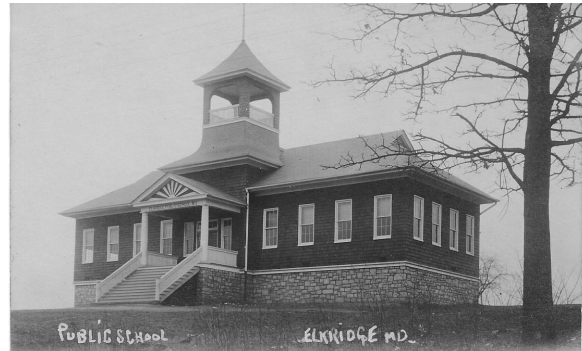
An important historical event, more than one million visitors witnessed the Fair. One of the visitors was Jack Wade and these are an edited part of his recollections about it:

"Oh, that was wonderful, oh man. ...the first thing they had was the parking lot on the west side of the railroad...and then they had the tunnel, and you came through the tunnel, and then on the northwest side of the track, they had the grandstand and all the old time houses...and then there was the parade ground. The Indians had their camp. Sitting Bull was there. And the Indians were the first ones to lead the parade. Then it was the covered wagons, the stage coaches, and then the old-time trains. [The Fair] went on for close to six months.

"It was held in Halethorpe [where] there used to be a farm run by Parkers. The farm was called the Parkers Farm [and] Edith Parker was a well-bred lady. They had little cabins all down along there for people that worked the farm. It used to be a big operation, because they had all kinds of fruit trees and vegetables. [But] the Fair took the whole farm – took everything. [The] Parker family had a nice house, like an old colonial house, but they tore all that down... before they made the Fair, they took over that land. And then, after the Fair, the buildings began to decay...the buildings stood there for a good while...then they tore them all down [but] they left the tracks... and...the B&O

made three baseball diamonds...wasn't that something?"

Then and Now



The picture above shows Elkridge Public School No. 1, which was on Old Washington Road in Elkridge, circa 1910. We also have a picture of it from 1923 where the sign on the porch reads "Elkridge High School". So sometime around 1923, this school building served as the high school too, though the elementary school students continued to attend. When the new brick Elkridge High School was built across the street, the old school building became known as Elkridge Elementary School, according to Connie Bauman in a 2013 Baltimore Sun article. When Howard High School was built, the elementary students moved into the brick school building.

Now the school pictured above is an apartment building, shown below. The brick school is no longer used by the county, as they have the new elementary and middle schools on Montgomery Road, along with various other elementary schools such as Rockburn Elementary and Oxford Square. Our area has grown incredibly!



Thomas Viaduct Plaque Dedication

On April 13th, 2024, the American Society of Civil Engineers completed the installation of a plaque recognizing the Thomas Viaduct train bridge as a Civil Engineering Landmark. A very engaging presentation was given by a panel of speakers from ASCE, Patapsco Park, MARC Trains and CSX. Delegates Christopher Bouchat and Eric Ebersole attended the presentation. Howard County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball arrived after the presentation to see the plaque. Friends of the Patapsco and The Patapsco Heritage Greenway were also represented. The Elkridge Heritage Society documented the event in photos and videos. You can view the full presentation here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@ElkridgeHeritageSociety>

See our website for more information. This event is also described in a Blog post as well as a Knowledge Base article. Take a look! It was a very educational and interesting event!



What You Can Do

The EHS board has been meeting regularly and we will be having more events for our membership soon. First we want to address the question of “How can I help EHS”? This is a question we have been

getting and honestly didn’t have an answer right away. We do now!

We are looking for some volunteers who can help us in planning some upcoming events, aid in growing our membership, and someone who can help find and write grant requests. Our charter has numerous committees listed, and we want to combine two of them for now (as we are a small organization) into an Event/Membership committee where our Vice President will be chairing this committee. We are also looking for a Grant Writer who we envision as the person seeking and applying for grants with input from our Treasurer. If you are interested in helping with regards to these opportunities, please email us at board@elkridgeheritage.org.

Furthermore, your membership dues and donations are still of utmost importance! The grants do not cover day to day operating expenses. Once we get a new HVAC system and start having open house times at the Brumbaugh House we will need increased donations to pay the elevated electric bill in addition to recurring bills for insurance, lawn care, water and property taxes.

We either need to hire someone, or get volunteers, to scan in all our paper documentation so we can store it in the cloud, both for preservation and ease of access from our website. For example, Tina Barton scanned in just one issue of the Viaduct Newsletter. See the Elkridge Heritage Knowledge Base on our website and look for the Viaduct Newspaper category. The scan is far from perfect, and took her over 45 minutes. If you look at the one issue, it shows how valuable this newspaper is for recording our heritage. It talks about getting the library, the start of the Rockburn Land Trust, and the vision the county had for the area. The vision was spot on in some cases and far off on others but it is an interesting read. We have the entire collection of Viaduct Newspapers. We wish it were still being published.

Anyway, these are just a few ideas of how you can help.

The Elkridge Heritage Society, Inc.

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: _____

Membership Information

Membership is \$25 a year for an individual, and \$35 for the whole family. Just go to the donate tab on our website (www.elkridgeheritage.org) and make at least a \$25 donation using PayPal, and you will automatically become a member.

To join without using PayPal, you may print this page, fill out the form, and send it to us with your check, to Elkridge Heritage Society, 5825 Main Street, Elkridge MD, 21075.

We thank our corporate sponsor, the Elkridge business, Allied Quick Print, for printing copies of this newsletter at a discount off of their already good price!