



# *Elkridge Heritage Society Newsletter*

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## News About the Brumbaugh House

In September, thanks to a generous gift from Ed Hamil, we had the outside of our headquarters at 5825 Main Street renovated. The painters chose a lighter green paint in keeping with the style of Victorian age during which the house was built. Our curator requested a rust red door, which became one of the accent colors. During the renovations, it became clear where additions were made to the house by stripping off the old cedar shakes in the back. There we exposed the original clapboard. Unfortunately the clapboard did not extend all the way around the house, so we kept the cedar shakes on the rest.



Meanwhile, thanks to a 4-H project, the grounds are looking better than they have for many moons, and our curator, Mar y Bahr, has been working overtime to get the inside cleaned up, and our collection organized. Things are definitely looking up at the Brumbaugh House!

## Elkridge Heritage Society Rejuvenated

In the past year or two, the society has been reinvigorated with a combination of former members as well as new ones. We have been working hard to build our membership by increasing our web presence through the Elkridge Patch and our new website at [www.elkridgeheritage.org](http://www.elkridgeheritage.org). We have held several events which have been well-received. For example, we had Jack Merson and others talk about the history of sports in Elkridge, especially baseball and lacrosse. Our collection of sports memorabilia was displayed to advantage, and our meeting room was standing-room-only! Last June, our youngest member, Cynthia Garner single-handedly organized an “Elkridge Day” at the Brumbaugh House, with activities for children, to get them (and their parents) interested in Elkridge history. In July, we had a presentation and tour of the old Davis & Hemphill factory which is now the office space for Hamil Builders. Ed Hamil beautifully renovated the spaces himself, using many of the old structures and fixtures of the factory. This was also very well attended, as former factory members shared their memories of Davis & Hemphill. In September, we had a very informative talk on genealogy by Phil Lord and Karen Marks at the library. Activities like these draw in many people of diverse interests.

## November General Meeting Recap

The Elkridge Heritage Society was thrilled to have Daniel Toomey speak at the Brumbaugh House on November 13. The talk was very well attended by current society members, as well as new faces who we hope will soon be members.



Dan talked about how the railroad was extremely important to the Civil War effort, starting with John Brown's raid at Harpers Ferry, where the service was halted by a radical abolitionist's attempt to end slavery no matter who died in the process. He was not successful, due to the fast reaction from news traveling by telegraph to Baltimore and from there to the President of the United States. Within 48 hours, using the railroad, the insurgency was squashed. This was the first time that these kinds of technology were used in wartime, and it changed the strategy of war forever. The railroad clearly needed protection, and we learned about the Railroad Brigade which was deployed up and down the line to protect the tracks, including in the Elkridge area. The war soon moved far from the Elkridge/Relay area, but the brigade stayed on to make sure it stayed that way. It was crucial to protect Maryland

from the Confederacy, or else Washington DC could be separated from the Union.

Daniel Carroll Toomey is considered a leading authority on the Civil War in Maryland. A graduate of the University of Maryland, he is the author or co-author of ten books relating to that subject including **The Civil War in Maryland, Baltimore During the Civil War**, and **The Maryland Line Confederate Soldiers Home**. He has lectured for a number of colleges and institutions including Johns Hopkins University and the Smithsonian Institution.

Mr. Toomey has won numerous awards for his historical research and exhibits including the Gettysburg National Battlefield Award in 1985 and he was the recipient of the Peterkin Award given by the National Parks Service at Fort McHenry in 2001. His two fondest accomplishments are writing the inscription for the Maryland Monument at Gettysburg and playing on the first ever Howard County lacrosse team in 1964. He is currently the Guest Curator at the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum for their five year project entitled **The War Came by Train** commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War.