



Newsletter - December 2024

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Dr. Benjamin Bruce Brumbaugh, perhaps carrying some of the medicines shown in the “Hazmat Or Artifacts” article below.

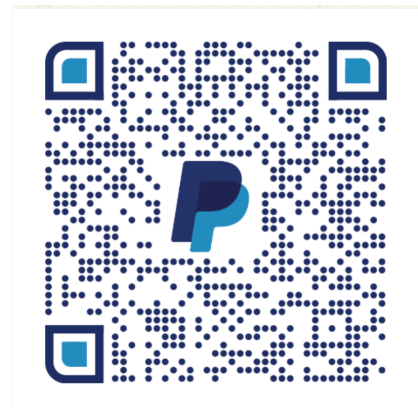


The Elkridge Heritage Society

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Donation QR Code:



Letter From the President

WOW! What a crazy year it has been! In the last newsletter you read about all of the problems we were facing right out of the gate and how we were planning to address all of them, and our plans for the future. It almost felt like an insurmountable mountain was in front of us, but with persistence, help from the county, donors, and the great board

we currently have, we are making a lot of progress! In this newsletter you are going to read about so much we have been able to complete over the past year and what we have in the works along with some more modern history provided by our curator.

A lot of our progress you will read about in this newsletter is just our first step in our progress of reenergizing the ElkrIDGE Heritage Society. Over the years the Brumbaugh House and Carriage House on the property have fallen to neglect, and were not proper buildings for the history we have been preserving. Our first steps we have taken are those that provide the backbone to us being able to share our history. You will read about renovations which will allow us to move to our next step of deep cleaning and renovating the first floor of house. This will allow us to place awesome new displays of history which our volunteers have been working on in anticipation of these renovations being completed, as soon as we receive our next round of funding from the Howard County grant we received last year. We have also made some progress on other grants which are helping us to continue to digitize items as we move forward.

Most of our efforts / attention over the past year have been dedicated to the Brumbaugh house itself, but we are hoping to plan more events in the upcoming year as renovations wrap up on the house. Expect to see information shortly on our Historic Winter Mixer fundraiser, and with the anticipated renovation wrapping up in late spring on the Brumbaugh House there will be a Grand Reopening celebration. We will have more information about this event as work completes on the house.

It has taken a year, but it feels as though the efforts, donations, and hardwork of the board is now starting to pay off and we all are very excited about what we see coming in the near future, a renovated Brumbaugh house with ElkrIDGE history displays throughout for all to enjoy.

Craig Pool
EHS President

Progress and Grant Update

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

As we stated in our last newsletter, the county gave us a \$100,000 grant for capital projects, educational projects, and everything else we need to keep up with the Brumbaugh House. We received \$50,000 in August and will receive the other \$50,000 in February. To that end, we broke up the projects, most pressing first. Though they are things you mostly cannot see, we are very pleased with our progress. The basement is a lot cleaner with old utility equipment removed, we have a shiny new, larger, breaker box with new electric connections, and the biggest project: we now have central air conditioning! This you can see because there are two lovely condensers in the back of the house!

We had a scare because our insurance company claimed we had aluminum wiring and threatened to cancel our policy. We shut down the electric service to the house except for the sump pump and furnace until we were assured that the wiring was not aluminum. The new breaker box was then wired up and we are back in the light!

We had another small plumbing leak in the basement so we had a plumber in to make sure we only have water going to the powder room. He installed a new valve for us.

We have a new roof on the Carriage House. The old roof was leaking in one corner, and we felt that mitigating that leak was more important than replacing the porch roof of the Brumbaugh House, which is not pretty, but also not causing structural issues. It turned out that the Carriage House roof had some rotten boards under the shingles so it is a good thing we completed that project!

We installed a mini-split in the carriage house so we can hold comfortable meetings in it. We still need to mitigate the mold in the corner caused by the roof

problems. We have enough money to get the Brumbaugh House roof done, so that work will start soon. Next year we will start interior work. We also need to paint the exterior.

We intended to waterproof the basement this year, but an interior French drain proved to be unfeasible so we are going to have to see about more extensive external drainage, which will be more costly. The improvements made so far with brush removal, an exterior French drain, and a fix the county made to prevent water flowing into the back yard have minimized our water problems. We are still concerned, however, and will be revisiting this.

Another issue is the sagging of the floor in the waiting room due to old beams in the basement. The beams are strong. It's just a very old house! Jacking up the house has to be done very slowly and carefully, so we have to decide what is the safest, smartest way to proceed.

We applied for a mini-grant from Patapsco Heritage Greenway for non-capital projects and we got it! We have to match the grant with "in kind" volunteer work and other funds (the county grant funds are acceptable for this). Our vision is to create professional displays that walk visitors through our Doctor's waiting room and office, and our map room. This includes reframing Dr. Brumbaugh's diplomas in an archival safe manner, performing historical research and graphic art to portray that research (we have volunteer artists and researchers), fabricating the displays, and purchasing attractive display systems.

In having a professional museum atmosphere, we believe we can attract more people and raise more donations to support the Brumbaugh House. And you will be proud of the support you have provided with improvements you can truly see and enjoy.

Then and Now: Fundraiser at Rathskeller

In July, Mary Bahr gave a very interesting talk on the history of the building site where the Rathskeller is now. It was held at the Rathskeller.



Frank Petrlik, a shoemaker and grocer, bought the house in 1907. He rented the upstairs and kept his business downstairs.

To the consternation of his neighbors, Petrlik agreed to the re-establishment of his house on a new foundation by having it moved eastward by the Highway Department, to connect a new block of Railroad Avenue to join Rte 1. In a similar footprint to the original house design, the designer of the Rathskeller kept much history of the site.

The small rear house in the back was rumored to be a jailhouse, but according to Petrlik oral history, it was never used as that. It was a small tenant house for Mike Norris, the town policeman. Any transgressors breaking laws were taken to the jail and court in Ellicott City.

We appreciate those who came out and enjoyed dinner at Rathskeller to support us. We made about \$300 on the event between the donation from Rathskeller based on sales, and other donations. Thank you.

Our "Now" photo is taken from the opposite angle, but it shows that the new street-facing side is similar to how it used to be.



As a wee kid, I absorbed all the sights and smells of a big hall with a stage. Yes, buildings have their odors. Then there was the interaction with other kids, who brought their own set of distinctions. Besides me, in alphabetical order, they were Mary M. Anderson, Sandra Emge, Linda Fazenbaker, Michael Gill, Timothy Giles, Robbin Hosmer, Ruth Landean, Kenneth Ledbetter, Wesley McDonald, Margaret E. Pfeiffer, Mary J. White and Diane Zepp. There were two teachers in charge -- a Ms. Golda Byrd, and Mrs. Richard Gill. I know we had games and some learning, but what engages my memory is us having to bring a small mat from home and taking a nap on it on the cold Hall floor whether we were sleepy or not. And of course, we all looked forward to getting chocolate milk or orange juice with graham crackers.

From the Curator



School days By Mary Bahr

Kindergarten >

The subject of Elkridge education is so broad that this history article focuses on the history of my kindergarten and elementary school in the 1950's. Anyone who went to school has their own memories to remember, hopefully with delight. My memories include photos, so some of you might see yourselves or your siblings. Kindergarten in 1951 is a good place to start the thinking process, and mine was at the Grace Parish House

Our graduation was simple. According to the Ellicott City Times, on May 29, 1952, in a fake garden set-up on stage, each of us girls were "flowers" and the boys were "insect visitors." We all got a "certificate" and a group photo.



1952 Kindergarten Class from Grace Parish School



Grace Parish House - Elkridge MD - 1950

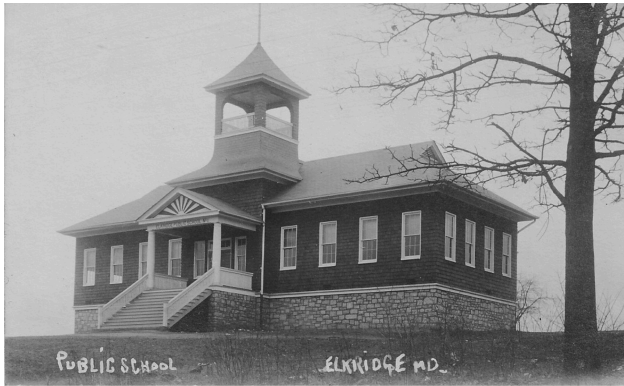


Mary Bahr's Kindergarten Certificate

In 1953-4, the kindergarten group expanded considerably, and my mother (among others) joined the Board.

Elementary School >

Circa 1945 the old Elkridge High School included elementary grades, which building is now apartments.



Public School #1 Became Elkridge High School in the 1920s.

By 3rd grade in 1948 and in a class taught by Mrs. Borcharding, my brother Len and his classmates were transferred to the brick building across the street.



1948 3rd Grade Class - Elkridge Elementary - including Mary's brother Len

By 1949, there were 17 schools but still no separate high schools since each one still included elementary grades.

In 1951, my brother was in Mrs. Schaefer's 6th grade class. By 8th grade in 1953, he and some were identified as Jay Adcock, Dave Anderson, Mary Atwell, Major Lillard, and Linda Litchfield. Can anyone identify the others?



1953 8th Grade Class - Elkridge Elementary Including Mary's brother Len

By the mid 1950's, I entered the 1st grade in the brick Elkridge Elementary, which, in my time, went as high as the 6th grade. My teachers, through the years, were Ms. Pack, Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Samuelson, Mrs. Murray, Ms. Hollowood, and Mrs. Schaefer. My mom saved my lesson papers, report cards, memory books, valentines and school photos.



Elkridge Elementary

Observant of the environment, the Elementary brick building seemed huge inside. The walls echoed. The floors mopped. The hallways had rows of lockers, big windows and the auditorium had a stage. Mr. Clopper was the principal. As I recall, I never saw the inside of his office, so I was a reasonably good kid.

Indoors, all events were held in the auditorium. Not only did I dislike the sport of dodgeball, I never understood its point of violence: either you caught the ball to aim it at others, dodged the ball to not get hit, or got hit and got hurt. Then there was the first and last time I got stage fright when at the microphone. I forgot my lines to describe to the PTA a mural I painted. On a more upbeat note, the dances were fun except once when I got chicken pox, enabling me to miss hanging out with a boy who had a questionable reputation. So the pox actually did me a favor. On the playground as some kids are, one day the good times turned bad and ugly when news spread that Mouseketeer Annette Funicello and Mickey Mouse leader Jimmie Dodd were killed in a bus crash. I was relieved from tears when it was proved a nasty rumor.

Of the many memories of my classmates - two instances stand out. One is that in 6th grade, Kenny Johnson and Tony Seitz played their guitars for "show & tell." The second instance was when one day, from the same class, the teacher announced that on the previous night, classmate Billy Stevens had died of a contagious disease. He is shown a year before he died in the photo of Ms. Hollowood's 5th grade class. However, I thought I'd catch his contagion because my desk seat was next to his that 6th year, so, I tried learning my lessons while covering my nose and holding my breath as much as possible. The teacher, also Mrs. Schaefer, never explained.



Ms. Hollowood's 5th Grade Class Showing Billy Stevens

Elementary was not easy for a kid with such influences. But hey, in the next Spring newsletter I can shout out "May Day!" "May Day!" = the revolutionary diversion of May 1st by the school board and teachers, by teaching us kids to dance around a maypole.

Hazmat Or Artifacts?

If you visited Dr. Brumbaugh's office, you may remember his medicine cabinet. The contents have become a bit corroded in the last 45 years or so since his retirement, but we still have it all!



It has long been a concern of ours that some of the medications here are hazardous. Therefore, we contacted our friendly Elkridge Volunteer Fire Department and they put us in touch with the Howard County Hazmat Team from one of the Columbia firehouses. They agreed to dispose of the chemicals deemed hazardous and return the empty bottles. We photo-documented the process, and the county executive's office also sent out their new photographer, Eric Thompson to record the activities. The firehouse has been incredibly helpful to us, but is also a training exercise for the department personnel!



The following photo shows some of the things the Hazmat personnel are testing for.



The liquid medicines were of special interest because it was possible that the expired contents could cause hazardous vapors if opened. Every bottle of liquid was numbered and careful records were kept describing any agents found in them. Most are innocuous but some were interesting. The Fire Department took some of the bottles, disposed of the chemicals, and returned the bottles as promised. Only two bottles of potentially hazardous solid medicines were taken. Most of the medicines were deemed nonhazardous and we can keep them intact for a more authentic museum display.



Teamwork at its finest!

Viaduct Newspaper Update

The Viaduct Newspapers have been on our shelves and in our boxes for almost 20 years. We have many duplicates but we have one almost-complete set. We did not have the first three issues, but the Howard County Historical Society reported that they have them! We are also missing Issue 6 for Volumes 2 and 4. We do not know if there was a sixth issue in those years. There were usually six issues per year. One year, the production was on hold because of a change in publishing, so that may account for one missing issue.

We met with Mark Stout of the Howard County Historical Society and he told us about Digital Maryland, a project run out of the Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore. They have a goal of digitizing as many historical records for Maryland as possible for preservation. The Viaducts are not considered historical records yet, because they were published from 1987 to 2005. However, to us, they are very important. They contain a lot of articles about events that advocated for Elkridge during those years of extreme growth in the area. They also contained a lot of articles about history and reminiscences which are important to us.

We reached out to Digital Maryland and they agreed to digitize the newspapers for us, and perform Optical Character Recognition for easier searching. However, we have to host the results ourselves. We are okay with that! Meanwhile, Howard County Historical Society provided those first three issues to Digital Maryland as well. The scans are done and they are amazing! We have to index them so our customers can find what they are looking for. Meanwhile we are sharing tidbits on social media. We will let you know when we have them available from our website.

Website Update

Check out www.elkridgeheritage.org. We continue to grow the 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.

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. Now that we have an HVAC system 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/watershed taxes.

We also need volunteers to scan in all our paper documentation, or decide what to turn over to Digital Maryland. We have some precious records that we don’t want to remove from the house by Digital Maryland, but are small enough to scan in a regular scanner. This way, we can store what we

have in the cloud, both for preservation and ease of access from our website.

These are just a few ideas of how you can help.

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/donate/) and make at least a \$25 donation using PayPal, and you will automatically become a member. Alternatively, you may use the QR Code at the top of the newsletter.

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

We are incredibly grateful to our patrons, especially the Ed Hamel Foundation, and Bob Carter, who have been extra generous to our organization.

We also 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!

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: _____