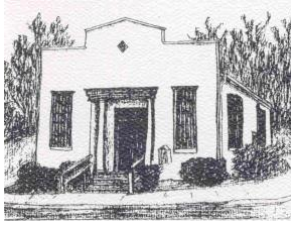
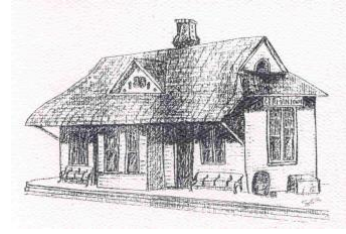


THE GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



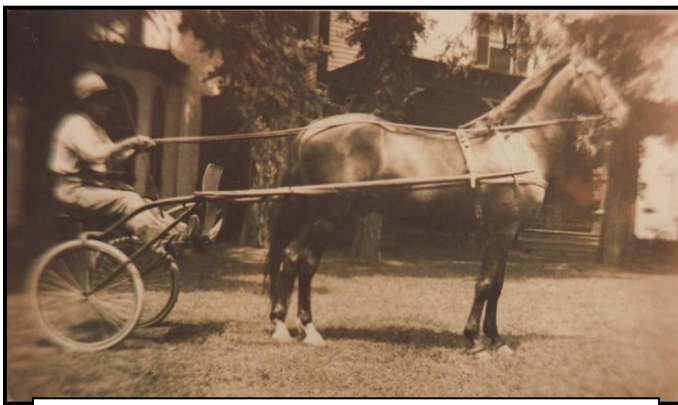
NEWSLETTER



Volume XXV Number 3

Summer 2016

Germantown Was Home to the “Secretariat” of Harness Racing at the Turn of the 20th Century



Kinster with his driver in front of Pleasant Fields
courtesy of Montgomery County Historical Society

It was not that long ago that every big county fair featured an oval track and races of home-grown trotters and pacers. Betting was, of course, a big part of this, as were large purses for the winners. Dating from the “horse and buggy days” when young men would race their buggies down the country roads in youthful competition, farmers would breed their horses for speed. The betting and large cash rewards turned some amateur dabbling to more serious enterprises.

The Standardbred became an official breed in 1879. The horses would pull a lightweight seat on wheels carrying a driver, and could only trot, or pace, breaking into a gallop would disqualify a horse from a race. Since the horse was in a harness rather than carrying a rider in a saddle, it was called Harness Racing.

Charles Waters was hopeful that the handsome bay colt he purchased for \$24 in 1895 would bring him some luck. He had been operating a fairly profitable stud farm for several years, but he needed standout stallion to really turn the farm into a market leader.

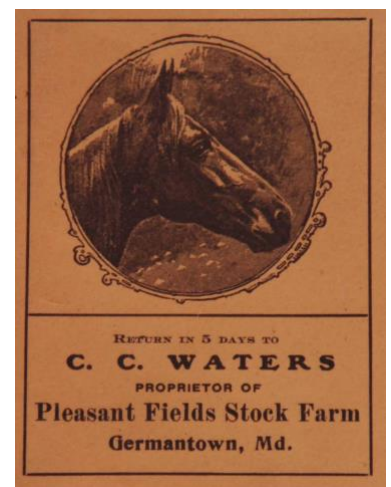
His farm, Pleasant Fields, had been handed down from his great uncle, Basil Waters. The house is still standing on Manor Drive on the east side of Germantown. Kinster turned out to be a very good purchase. In his first season in 1897 he was in the money in every race he was in, but not in the winner’s circle.

In September of 1868 at the Rockville County Fair His regular driver was not available and so the reins were taken up by Thomas Cannon of Reidsville, North Carolina, who drove the colt to a record 2:27 for the mile. After that, Mr. Cannon drove him to wins at the state Fair in Timonium, and the Gentleman’s Driving Park in Baltimore, improving his time at each.

Kinster’s sensational triumph came on October 6, 1898 when he set a record of 2:16 ½ for the mile at the track at Prospect Park in Baltimore, dazzling the light harness world. This record he then repeated two weeks later at Hanover, Pennsylvania, thus insuring his future as a high priced stud. His final record before retiring was 2:14 ¾.

Acclaimed by the press as “King of the East Coast,” Kinster would indeed bring fortune to Charles Waters’ stud farm as people brought their mares to be impregnated by the famous stallion. Bred to one of Waters’ own mares, he produced a filly named Kinstress who would top his own record by a half second.

Waters sold Kinstress for \$3,500



Advertisement for the services of Kinster

phone. A committee is being formed.

NEWS & NOTES

Scholarships

The Germantown Historical Society presented two \$500 scholarships to graduating High School Seniors with an interest in history as chosen by their Social Studies teachers. The award at Seneca Valley High School, presented on May 25 by Susan Soderberg, went to Oscar Quintanilla. Oscar has a weighted grade point average of 3.64. He is a member of the Key Club, Truth Club, plays varsity soccer and has won an IB diploma. He is a musician and artist and has an eye for beauty and a thirst for Knowledge.

The award at Northwest High School, presented May 19 by Karen Mason, went to Emily Gerard. Emily has earned straight A's in both her Junior and senior years and is part of the Ulysses Senior Program. She has a weighted grade point average of 4.45. She is very popular among her classmates. She will be attending the University of Maryland, College Park, to study Biology and History.

Capital Campaign Update

Letters will be going out in early September to local Banks and businesses to solicit funding for the repairs to our building. Funding is ongoing and contributions may be made on-line (select the "Donate Now" button on the front of our webpage) or by check sent in the mail.

The repairs will be done in two stages with the outside work, creating a barrier and rebuilding the landscaping to divert water run-off from the parking lot away from the building, to be accomplished first.

The Zachariah Waters Burial Ground

The much beleaguered Burial Ground of the Zachariah Waters family is once again being threatened. Vandalized and then protected under the ownership of the Manekin Corporation; having an iron fence erected around it by the next owners, Lerch, Early and Brewer; cleared of brush and planted with flowers by an Eagle Scout project (2007); it is now being threatened with destruction by the present owner who wants to develop the property.

The Burial Ground is located next to the new Dorsey Mill Rd. at the end of Kinster Dr. Construction of the new road will include a retaining wall for the cemetery. The Burial ground holds the graves of 5 or 6 members of the Zachariah Waters family, one of the founding families of Germantown, dating 1824-1864. Waters Landing Elementary School is named in honor of this family.

If you are interested in being involved in helping to save this burial ground please contact us by email or

The GHS is now a Member of *Amazon Smile*

Amazon Smile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers.

When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization from almost one million eligible organizations. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. Be sure to select the Germantown Historical Society in Germantown, Maryland, not the one in Pennsylvania. If you want to connect directly to support our organization click on this link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1672367>

We are a *Pokémon Go* Location

If you see people walking around the Germantown Historical Society Bank Building concentrating on their cell phones, its just Pokémon Go players. According to Wikipedia, this is a free-to-play, location-based augmented reality game developed by Niantic for iOS and Android devices. It was initially released in selected countries in July 2016. In the game, players use a mobile device's GPS capability to locate, capture, battle, and train virtual creatures, called Pokémon, who appear on the screen as if they were in the same real-world location as the player.

The historic Barber Shop across Blunt Avenue from us is also a location, as is the historic Pumphrey-Mateny House across the railroad tracks. There is a gym next to the train station and another one next to the 'flea Market area. A gym is a virtual place where your character can have contests with other people's characters.

WOW! Tell your teen and young adult friends about this.

Germantown Community Flea Market 1st Saturdays, 8am-1pm

The Flea Markets continue at the MARC commuter parking lot, Rt. 118 and Bowman Mill Drive. They will continue, weather permitting, the first Saturday of the month through November. Both adult and teen volunteers are needed. SSL hours apply. If you would like to help out with this fundraiser and fun event call 301-972-2707.

LOCAL HISTORY CALENDAR

Ongoing:

“Attic Treasures” at the Damascus Heritage Museum, located behind the Damascus Library, open Wed. & Sat. 12-4pm. 301-253-6150.

Aug. 14-22 **Montgomery County Agricultural Fair.** The largest fair in Maryland. Farm animals, crafts, food, rides, entertainment. Fri. 3-m-12M, Sat.-Sat. 10am-12M. www.mcagfair.com

Aug. 25 **100th Anniversary of the National Park Service.** Visit Monocacy National Battlefield to celebrate the centennial of the National Park Service. The first 100 visitors receive a cupcake, and can put their name in for a one-of-a-kind centennial gift package! Special ranger programs will focus on the history of the park service. 9am-5pm.

Sept. 7 **Gaithersburg Labor Day Parade.** 1-3pm. Old fashioned parade. www.gaithersburgmd.gov

Sept. 9-11 **Damascus Community Fair**, Fri. 9am-9:30pm, Sat. 8am-9pm, Sun. 9am-6pm. Celebrating agriculture in the northern Montgomery County for 71 years. Located 1021 Lewis Dr.. Free. www.damascusfair.org

Sept. 16-24 **Frederick County Fair.** Frederick Fairgrounds, 797 East Patrick St., Fri. 2-10pm, Sat.-Sat. 9am-10pm. Agricultural exhibits, entertainment, carnival. www.thegreatfrederickfair.com.

Sept. 17 **Poolesville Day Festival**, 10am-4pm. Whelan Park, Poolesville. Parade, music, food, crafts, games, electric vehicle car show.

Oct. 1-23rd Annual Brunswick Railroad Days ! Potomac St., Brunswick, MD, 10am-5pm. Entertainment, food, crafts, train rides, model train exhibit, kid’s activities.

Oct. 15 **New Exhibit opening at the Beall-Dawson House in Rockville: “Cocktails, Lipstick and Jazz”** Life in Montgomery County in the 1920s. We.-Sun. 12-4pm.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (1 year)

Mail to: The Germantown Historical Society, P.O. Box 475, Germantown, MD 20875

<input type="checkbox"/> Single: \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior or student: \$10
<input type="checkbox"/> Family: \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate: \$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting: \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit organization: \$30
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional tax-deductible contribution	

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone(s) _____ Date _____

e-mail _____