



SYKESVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT NEWS

Winter, 2002

Christmas House Tour to Visit Town and Country

Twelve historic homes and landmarks will open their doors for the biennial holiday tour on Sunday, December 8th. Four houses in Sykesville and three in Marriottsville will be decorated for the holidays as will the Inn at Norwood, the Town House, the Gate House Museum, the Interlocking Tower and the Sykesville Schoolhouse Museum. The tour will run from 1-6:00 pm.

Tickets are \$15 and are available in advance and on the day of the tour at the Town



7319 Springfield Avenue.



The Inn at Norwood.

House and the Gate House Museum. Proceeds will go towards projects of the Historic District Commission.

The Sykesville & Patapsco Railway model trains display will be open from 1-5:00 pm that day as well. The exhibit is located on Oklahoma Road next to the Interlocking Tower in a 1910 Pullman Car.



Town House.



7307 Spout Hill Road.

Mushrooms in the Bathroom



Salopha today.

One of the featured stops on the December 8th House Tour is Salopha on River Road. Owners Ray and Pat Greenwald recall getting off to a shaky start three days after they moved in 11

years ago when the downstairs bathroom ceiling caved in. A few days later they noticed that an upstairs bathroom toilet wasn't flushing. What they didn't know was that the previous owners, in an attempt to spruce up before selling, had not quite installed a

new toilet. Consequently, every subsequent flush was landing on the first floor ceiling. "By the time we discovered it, we had mushrooms growing in between the floors," Pat said.

After restoring

the chimneys, replacing the roof and installing a modern kitchen, the Greenwalds are still renovating Salopha. The next project is to replicate the missing porch on the 1889 addition.

Built in the 1720s, the house was added onto in the 1760s and again in 1889. While researching old deeds the Greenwalds found that the Dorsey family owned the house from the 1740s to the 1820s, when it passed through marriage to the Warfield family who owned it for 120 years.

Originally called Salopia after Salop County in England, the spelling was changed in deeds in the 1820s. A chance conversation in England led the Greenwalds to the explanation of the name change. Be sure to ask about it.



Original portion of the house as it appeared c. 1920.



The 1889 addition shown in a c. 1920 photo.

Rude Jumpers on the Road

On January 1, 1881, the Westminster Democratic Advocate reported, "Sykesville during the holidays has been the scene of much business and pleasure. The day before Christmas was the busiest day of the year. Probably never before in the history of our little town have so many people been seen here. All kinds of sleighs were on the road, from the fancy cutter to the rude jumper. 'Little brown jugs' and big demi-johns could be found stored away under the seats of nearly all of them. The stores did a tremendous business, for in Sykesville the wants of all can be readily supplied."



At The Museum

It's time for the MM&J Electric Railway to run again. The 1926 Lionel standard gauge passenger train, as well as a Marx 1935 freight train display opens to the public on December 8th, following a private reception for shareholders on the 7th. The trains will remain on display through the month of January.

Set aside Sunday, December 29th for the annual museum open house. "It's a time to see old friends and make new ones," explained archivist Jim Purman.



Ann and Chuck Sulewski at the USO dance.



Hans Vreeland, Keely Saslow and Kimberly McLeod with Jim Purman.

"There will be plenty of food and drink – and trains!"

Fans of the Gate House Museum come in all ages. The photo archeology project attracted two eleven-year-olds, Keely Saslow and Kimberly McLeod. Now regular volunteers, the girls are transferring the details of the archeology research to file cards and organizing the World War II Civil Defense collection.

The museum also benefits from the efforts of another young volunteer, Hans Vreeland, who opens the museum on Sundays. His responsibilities include putting out the sign and flag, sweeping

inside and out and straightening up the Children's Attic from the last visitors.

Interest in World War II led curator Kari Greenwalt to stage a USO dance on October 12th as a museum fundraiser. Partygoers dined at Beck's catering facility and danced to the big band sound of the Hunt Valley Jazz band.

New volunteer Kristin Chapman is entering the archival records into the museum's software program.



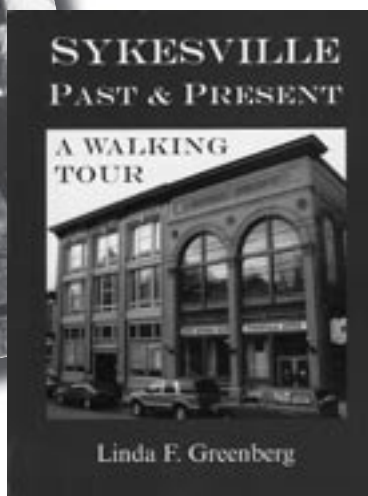
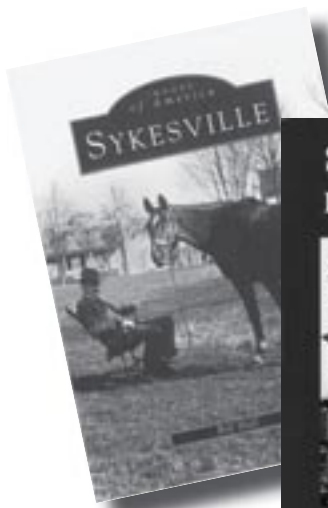
George and Jeanette Vasbinder, who met at a USO dance in 1943, enjoying the band.

In honor of museum volunteer and former Historic District Commissioner Dorothy Schafer, the museum dedicated a new rose garden to thank her for her years of service.

Give the Gift of History

Looking for a Christmas gift or house-warming present that's all about Sykesville?

Consider Bill Hall's *Sykesville* or Linda F. Greenberg's *Sykesville: Past & Present*. Both books are filled with photos and fascinating stories about life in town and are available at the Gate House Museum, Town House and several Main Street shops.



Jim Purman, Thelma Wimmer, Mayor Jonathan Herman, Mark Rychwalski and Kari Greenwalt award plaque to Dorothy Schafer in the garden.

Tin Horns from the Big City

Wondering what to do for your next holiday party? This is how the Schultz family entertained neighbors and friends from Baltimore in 1896. “Miss Ella Schultz gave a most enjoyable house party at her beautiful home

in Sykesville. The guests arrived on the evening train, Dec. 30 bearing bunches of holly & mistletoe and armed with tin horns, with which they made ‘the welkin ring’ (a celebratory loud noise). Even the ‘sticking’ powers of Sykesville



The Schultz house before it was demolished.

mud failed to lessen the spirits of the crowd. After a bountiful supper...music, instrumental & vocal, games & recitations, filled the evening until midnight, when a beautifully served collation of fruits, cakes, ices, nuts & confectionery was served. A grand promenade through the spacious parlors terminated the evening’s festivities.” Thelma Wimmer transcribed this account from the January 7, 1897 edition of the Westminster Democratic Advocate.

The Schultz house stood at 7424 Springfield Avenue until it was demolished in 1986.

Raymond Receives Town Grant

After repairing and repainting original wood windows at her home on Springfield Avenue this summer, Diane Raymond received a \$750 grant from the town.

Financial Incentives

The Town of Sykesville grants a 10% property tax credit for qualified rehabilitation expenditures for certain historic buildings, and a 5% property tax credit for qualified expenditures for architecturally compatible new construction, located in the historic district. In addition, grants of up to \$750 for owner-occupied residential property are available to assist residents in meeting the guidelines.

The State of Maryland offers a 25% tax credit on Maryland income taxes for qualified expenditures for the rehabilitation of a certified historic structure. The federal government offers a 20% tax credit on federal income taxes for qualified expenditures for the rehabilitation of income-producing certified historic structures.

For additional information, contact the Sykesville Historic District Commission or the Maryland Historical Trust at 410-514-7626 or www.marylandhistoricaltrust.net.

A Reminder from the Guidelines

“Before a property owner begins work, the Historic District Commission must approve any exterior alterations, new construction or changes to important landscape features.... The Historic District Commission meets the fourth Tuesday of each month to review applications for permit approval. The Town Zoning Administrator’s Office must receive all application materials by 4:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month in which the applicant wishes to have a review.”



HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

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