



JAMESTOWNE SOCIETY FIRST MARYLAND COMPANY

SUMMER 2020
NEWSLETTER

GOVERNOR'S CORNER

It's been quite a year, hasn't it? One we'll remember for a long time. The pain, worry, disruption, sickness and deaths have indelibly marked us and our children and their children.

I hope each of you is and will remain safe and well. Beth and I are fine, as are all of our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Sadly, though, we have been touched by COVID-19. An aunt of mine (sister-in-law of my mom) died from it in a nursing home in Richmond. She was a fine lady, and our last living link to the WWII generation. We miss her.

Have you wondered what our Jamestowne ancestors would have thought of the current pandemic? Given the life-or-death matters those adventurers (men and later women) who came to Virginia faced in their strange new environment, how much time do you think they would have spent worrying about this invisible and potentially deadly enemy? In an age lacking quick communications and modern medicine they faced many horrors, including The Starving Time, Indian uprisings, malaria, scurvy, Dysentery and typhus.

The same is true of ancestors who qualify us for Jamestowne Society membership but didn't come to Virginia. Those who stayed in England and invested in the Company weren't strangers to the horrors of widespread illness either. Dysentery, typhus, tuberculosis—all were frequent visitors to England's cities.

(Remember: Pocahontas is believed to have died from either tuberculosis or pneumonia in England while on her way home.) These people knew fear of widespread disease. In 1665-1666 The Great Plague of London brought the Black Death to London and nearby environs. About 15% of London's residents were among roughly 100,000 people killed by that plague. The Great Fire of London, which burned down a large portion of the city during four days in September 1666, helped end the Great Plague of London. That may be one of the more pointed examples of a "cure" possibly being worse than the problem.

My point is this: our ancestors faced and survived horrible times. They survived in an era that lacked the medical knowledge, scientific knowhow, life-saving infrastructure, and instant communications we have today. Knowing this should buoy our spirits and help assure us that with commonsense, thoughtful behavior and a spirit of cooperativeness, we will get through this pandemic. We must believe a vaccination will be developed and effective treatments found, ultimately reducing to an "acceptable" level the risk of having COVID-19. Getting to that stage is important to our Company. We have proposed revisions to our bylaws needing a vote and company officer elections coming up in November. You'll find some discussion of both in other articles in this newsletter. And we need to meet to further the objectives of our Society.

I don't know what our "new normal" will be following this disruptive time. I do know that I miss seeing all of you. A return to meeting together--to share a meal--to hold conversations--is high on my "wish list." So, too, is a return to traveling without fear of this virus. As much as I love my house, lawn, and flower beds, I look forward to going other places again. Until we reach that stage, please be safe and be healthy!

Harry

Treasurer's Report
Checking Account Balance
\$989.26

The First Maryland Company
Membership Dues are \$20.00
(October-October)

BYLAWS UPDATE

Submitted by Anne Henninger, Councilor

To many people, the term "bylaws" evokes a less than enthusiastic response, often followed by eye-rolling and a yawn. I find them fascinating in that they are, as Robert's Rules of Order tells us, the constitution of an organization. Consequently, when Harry asked me to review the First Maryland Company's bylaws to ensure their conformity with those of the Jamestowne Society I was happy to oblige.

I performed a cursory review of the bylaws last fall, but did little of substance with them until after the November meeting of the Society in Richmond where, after an animated debate, changes to the National Bylaws were approved. At that point I began looking seriously at the First Maryland Company's bylaws and, in consultation with the Council, propose the following revisions. These revisions fall into the following categories:

COSMETIC -These changes essentially reflect corrections to grammar and punctuation. They also include relocating paragraphs that were placed in inappropriate sections, removing redundant terminology, and also "fixing" several instances where sections were incorrectly numbered.

ORGANIZATIONAL – These changes include

- Adding the position of Chaplain and delineating the duties of that position
- Removing a section dealing with the Qualification of Officers. The Council felt this was restrictive and limited the Nominating Committee's ability to solicit viable candidates for positions on the Council.
- Allowing for a viva voice vote when there is only one candidate for each available position.
- Changing the requirement for three meetings per year to at least two
- Allowing for a plurality of Council members of eight when voting on an amendment to the bylaws.

CHANGES MANDATED TO BE IN CONFORMITY WITH THE JAMESTOWNE SOCIETY'S BYLAWS

These include

- Eliminating the use of electronic ballots
- Article V- adding the sentence, "Any amendment adopted by the Jamestowne Society affecting the working of this Company shall become a law of the Company without notice of the amendment.

I sincerely hope that it will not be long before we are able to meet and vote on these changes.

COMPANY OFFICER ELECTIONS COMING SOONER THAN YOU THINK

Your Company's current officers' term of office comes to an end in November. A slate of officers for the term November 2020 to November 2022 needs to be drawn and proposed to all members at least 30 days before a November meeting, at which an election will be held. Of course, right now we don't know when we can have a November meeting or where we will hold it. However, that should not keep us from developing a slate of officers and moving forward.

We're going to need at least one candidate for each of the following offices:

- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Secretary (of State)
- Treasurer
- Chaplain
- Historian (a position we have never filled)
- Registrar (another position we have never filled)
- Councilor (may elect as many as three; we have one now)

According to both our present and proposed bylaws, all current officers are eligible for nomination and reelection. Our current and proposed bylaws differ with respect to the qualifications required of nominees for governor and lieutenant governor.

If any among you are interested in holding any of these offices for two years beginning in November 2020, we invite you to let any current officer know. Please don't be shy!

We're going to need a nominating committee. Our bylaws say, in pertinent part

The Nominating Committee shall consist of at least two members appointed by the Governor.

- It will provide to the Governor a proposed slate of nominees at least 60 days before any scheduled business meeting at which an election is required.

Folks, your governor needs some help here! Are there any among you who would like to serve on the nominating committee? If so, please, please call Harry and tell him as soon as you read this. You can reach him at 301-948-8038 (home) or 301-928-7686 (cell). Both lines have voicemail, so "got no answer" isn't going to work as an excuse.

If there are no volunteers, Harry will be calling some of us to ask us to take on this important role. Consider this: we've been under lockdown for what seems like years. That lockdown has severely limited our human contact. Serving on this committee will provide an opportunity for some human contact with people outside your household. Doesn't that appeal right now? While volunteers are always desired, people who say "yes" when asked to help are also loved.

Company leadership is necessary to First Maryland Company's effectiveness. Perhaps even to its survival. The election is important and having good nominees is an essential step in those elections, It all starts with the nominating committee.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Submitted by Frances Harwood, Crofton, Md

During the pandemic, I researched my family, getting a lot of sources from the internet on my beloved father and other relatives. I prepared my garden & now enjoy a fabulous blooming backyard, since I had free time to work in the soil. I enhanced my spirit with more in-depth Bible study. Since I was unable to go to restaurants (a weekly habit), I saved lots of money by preparing simple, similar meals at home. The quarantine time was a positive time for me.

Submitted by Barbara Greeley, Gettysburg, PA

The past 3 months have been busy on lineage society work and Zoom meetings, so I can't say that I have been bored. I even took a genealogy class! I have had the opportunity to do genealogy research for myself and my daughter and am working on supplemental applications for several organizations. I even found 2 more Jamestowne ancestors so I will be busy preparing the supplemental applications. Both were members of the VA House of Burgesses, which is exciting. They were Richard Bennett and St. Leger Codd. Do I have any cousins in MD? It's been interesting to read about them and their lives. Fortunately for us our computers are working!

Submitted by Rebecca Myers, Shippensburg, PA

Before the Coronavirus hit the ground running in the USA, we were able to take a long planned trip to Yellowstone in mid February. It was an incredible adventure and provided so

much inspiration for my art work; breathtaking scenery and wildlife!

The quarantine cleared the calendar and I was able to spend more time painting, and as the weather improved I focused on gardening as well. Transplanting perennials to places where I would have planted annuals and growing tomato plants occupied my time. We became more aware of the wildlife around us including a battle with raccoons, who decided they liked to spend time in our yard. Foxes also joined our neighborhood for a brief time.



Yellowstone National Park February 2020

Submitted by Harry Redd, Rockville, Md

What we've done: Spent a lot of time on e-mail and writing notes and letters, plus become charter members of the PPWMM Club (plant, prune, weed, mulch, mow). We've been in our house almost 48 years, and can't remember when our yard last looked this good. But not sure the destination validates the journey, considering what we haven't done. And finally, canceled and rescheduled for next year two overseas trips that were scheduled between May and September.

What we haven't done: pretty much the same things everyone else hasn't done—go out with friends and relatives, go to a restaurant or barber, drive somewhere hours away for the weekend. Or even to a gas station. My Explorer has been gassed only twice in 60 days, and currently is almost full. Beth's Acura has been gassed once, and is still about half full!

Submitted by Gloria Day, Timonium, Md

The last few months have been difficult ones for sure. Being of a more "mature" age, my husband and I have been trying to follow all of the recommendations for remaining safe. My husband has read a lot of books, and we both have enjoyed walking together in our neighborhood for exercise since the gyms are closed for now. We are mostly trying to concentrate on all of the positive things going on right now rather than the negative and the sad events occurring. We have also gotten some household projects underway.

Being the family historian, I have explored more and discovered new branches in my tree which is always very exciting for me. As State Registrar for one of my lineage groups, I've assisted a few ladies in getting their applications approved for membership. That has been particularly gratifying since all of my groups are currently unable to meet and so, in a way, this "keeps me in touch."

Most of all, we miss having close contact with family members, particularly our adult children and our three granddaughters. We are so fortunate though with our present-day technology in that we are able to stay in touch with texting, FaceTime, zoom calls, and the old familiar, old-fashioned and just plain regular phone call. We are thankful for that ability.

Other generations have certainly faced very difficult times. I've learned that the best thing to do is try to keep things in perspective, though it's a challenge for sure.

Submitted by Sonja Holleman, Annapolis, Md

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I've taken a three month leave of absence from my job as a flight attendant! My last flight was on April 13 with one passenger ... really sad. I'm not scheduled to go back to work until August 1. So, what have I been doing? My sister and I been taking care of my parents lives in Indiana from a distance on a daily basis. After finishing my parents and my taxes, I began to clean and organize my house and also work in the yard - all monumental tasks! I am a board member for a local art group in Annapolis and have been involved with "the new normal" and what that might look like in the future. I've kept up with family and friends on the phone and zoom, and have stayed very busy! Hope you are all well - I'm looking forward to hearing about pirates in the future!!!

In the Time of COVID-19

Submitted by George J. Hill, Baltimore, Md

We are inside our apartment most of the day, but we can go outside at anytime to enjoy the sun, the clouds, the rain, and whatever Nature provides. It's weird. Our life has a routine and rhythm that is more fixed than it was before the crisis, and there is something wonderful about that. And yet it is very unsettling, too. Because every day would be the same as the day before and the day after, if we didn't plan to make every day different in some way.

The usual pattern: Wake up at 6:00 and listen to WYPR for 5 minutes and WBJC for 10 minutes. Make the bed, walk the dog, and deliver the newspapers to five other apartments in our building. You get the picture. Very compulsive. I take my temperature and record my weight. I read a passage in Forward Day by Day, and re-read the prayer "to live another day." Our meals are almost always the same. Healthy, carefully measured and

small. We are vegetarians, so that's easy. We work in the kitchen together. The variations are minor but they make the meals interesting: For six days, it's the same breakfast: dry cereal with fruit, orange juice, and coffee. On Friday morning, we each add half of an English muffin with honey. On Saturday, we add a poached egg on toast. But on Sunday, a great change: I cook my "signature pancakes," as I have for more than fifty years. Soup for lunch. Tea together at 4:00 in our sun room, looking south over Baltimore. Gin and tonics and dinner at 6:00. I am responsible for the main course, and my wife makes her "signature salad." I often do a stir-fry of mushrooms and onions, with spices - we called that "goop" (for goulash) when I was a boy. Then it's TV, usually PBS or TCM. We love old movies. Sometimes Netflix, but not the weird things that are all the rage with millennials. And then to bed at 10:00.



We take a morning walk for an hour with our dog. He's a King Charles Cavalier spaniel named "Ripken." Our walk is slow and steady, rain or shine, on sidewalks to the north of us. We then spend the rest of the day at our computers. I try to spend about two hours working on my next book, and about two hours on correspondence. And an hour or two of reading. My next book will be called Healthquest: A New Paradigm for Human

History. Every day, I edit what I wrote the previous day, and then I compose about one new page. During the COVID-19 crisis, I have been re-reading *The Odyssey*, *The Aeneid*, and *The Golden Bough*. My wife spends about the same amount of time working on her new book, and she also does our finances. The usual evenings of concerts, lectures, theatre, movies, and restaurant meals are just memories now. And travel to New York and Washington for meetings and museums are no longer possible. At our age, we know that COVID-19 will be a risk for us for a very long time. My wife says that we won't go out very much until a vaccine is available. She may be right about that. We do a lot of Zooming, with one or two meetings almost every day. That's one of the wonderful things that this crisis has brought to us. Our family Zoom call every week on Sunday afternoon brings as many as 14 people together, in seven gallery views. And we are getting better at it, too. We have gotten to know our children, my niece and nephew, my sister-in-law, our grandchildren, and our great-grandchildren better than we ever did before.



Sunrise over Baltimore Harbor

Stay healthy Everyone!

Governor Harry C. Redd III
Lieutenant Governor Kendra Greenwaters
Treasurer Jerry Zillion

Secretary Rebecca Myers
Councilor Anne Henninger
Chaplain Barbara Greeley