

81st Annual Meeting Huge Success



Barbara Murphy and Barry McKown

October 13 proved to be a perfect fall day in Warwick, Maryland where 68 members and guests of the Society of Mareen Duvall Descendants met for our 81st Annual Meeting. Out-going President Barbara Murphy welcomed everyone to the meeting in the beautiful Old Bohemia Church.

In her President's report, Barbara first called everyone's attention to the Society's Membership Recruitment Brochure. Updated by Council Member Joe Ruth, this is the brochure's first revision since 1987. All members were encouraged to pass along the copy they received to a known direct descendant of Mareen Duvall The Emigrant who may be interested in joining the Society.

Barbara then updated attendees regarding three bronze historic markers that will be placed on the land named Middle Plantation, formerly owned by Mareen Duvall The Emigrant. She explained that the first marker, to honor Mareen Duvall, will be erected at the entrance to the subdivision. This marker will cost about \$800, and will be paid for by the developer. The second marker will recognize the dedicated

efforts of William P. Doepkens and his family who worked long and hard to find, catalogue and preserve many relics found on the property. The final marker will identify Mareen Duvall's Family Burial Ground. Both markers should cost the Society approximately \$400 each.

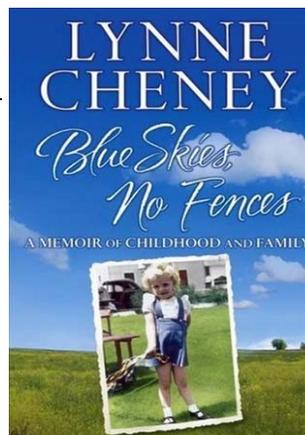
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LYNNE CHENEY DONATES BOOK TO THE SOCIETY

After discovering that Vice President Dick Cheney is a direct descendant of Mareen Duvall the Emigrant, Lynne Cheney kindly donated a copy of her latest book to the Society. In Blue Skies, No Fences: A Memoir of Childhood and Family, Mrs. Cheney re-creates the years after World War II in a small town on the high plains of the West. Portraying an era that started with the Ink Spots on the Zenith Radio in her family's living room and ending with Elvis on the jukebox at the local canteen, she tells of coming of age in a time when the country seemed in control of its destiny and individual Americans were in charge of theirs.



ney, and remembers her hometown as a place where the future seemed as bright as the blue sky and life's possibilities as boundless as the prairie. It was also a place where a pioneer heritage prevailed, and Mrs. Cheney traces the paths of ancestors who journeyed westward, strengthened against adversity by a bedrock belief that they would find a better life. An uplifting exploration of a special time and place in American history, Blue Skies, No Fences is also a heartfelt tribute to those optimistic souls who, in Lynne Cheney's words, "pinned their hopes on America and kept heading west."

She describes Casper, Wyoming, where she met a young man named Dick Che-

The Society sincerely thanks Mrs. Cheney for her thoughtful and generous donation.

81st Annual Meeting , *cont.*

(Continued from page 1)

The President then announced that she had received an e-mail from a Special Assistant to Lynne Cheney, wife of Vice President Dick Cheney. After discovering during her research that the Vice President is a direct descendant of Mareen Duvall the Emigrant, Mrs. Cheney decided to donate a signed copy of her new book, [Blue Skies, No Fences: A Memoir of Childhood and Family](#) to the Society (see article on page 1).

After approving the minutes of the 2006 Annual Meeting as given by Joe Ruth, Treasurer Clifford Hearn reported that the Society had a balance of \$10,291.76 in a checking account, a \$5,000 Certificate of Deposit, \$5,006.72 in a Money Market Account, and \$14,634.41 in an Invest Sav-

ings Account. The report did not reflect income or expenditures relevant to this Annual Meeting.

Registrar Barry McKown reported that we gained 13 new members since the previous October meeting. Applications were then accepted for three new Regular Memberships and one Associate Membership.

Priscilla Duvall, Membership Secretary, reported that the Society had a total of 383 members. This includes three Sustaining Members, 13 Associate Members, and 367 Regular Members. Ten members were dropped in May for non-payment of dues.

Barbara Murphy reported that after the Society's Historian's resignation last February, she added 235 items to the Society's files. Thanks to

President Emeritus Lanny Ridout, 126 missing Council and/or Annual Meeting Minutes, dating back to the 1950's, were added to the file.

Bourne Garner, First Vice President, gave the report of the Nominating Committee. All nominees were elected by acclamation.

Following the raffle for the portraits of Supreme Court Justice Gabriel Duvall, Bourne Garner recommended a Royal Caribbean five-night cruise from Baltimore to Bermuda for our 2009 Annual Meeting. The rates, including taxes and port charges, would start at about \$759. This includes all meals and entertainment. Barbara then suggested that perhaps the business meeting could be held in Balti-



Barry McKown presents a membership certificate to new Regular Member Garner W. "Bill" Duvall, Jr.

more and those wanting to go on the cruise could catch the ship leaving that day. Members not desiring to go on the cruise could then tour Baltimore.

After thanking Cliff Hearn for his superb efforts in arranging the rest of the day (luncheon at the Brick Hotel in Odessa, DE, followed by a tour of the town's historic houses), Barbara declared the 81st Annual Meeting Adjourned.

WANTED:

Historian for the Society of Mareen Duvall Descendants.

Duties include keeping a full record of the Society's activities and preserving historical and other articles pertaining to the Society and its members. The Historian serves as curator of the Society's collections, archives and memorabilia, holds an Office of the Council and makes a report at each meeting. Local member preferred.

Contact:

Barry McKown,
SMDD President,
410-798-4531

or

bmckownxyz@aacpl.net.



Twenty-five members and their guests enjoyed an opportunity to socialize over dinner Friday evening in Middletown and 19 members and their guests stayed for dinner on Saturday evening in Chesapeake City, MD. From left to right, first row: Joe and Susan Ruth, Meneta Bost, Kristofer Ruth, Shirley and Murray Baldwin. Middle row: Claire Mower, Lois Simpson, Clara and Kenneth Shaver, Alice Ruth, and Mildred Anderson. Top row: Hall and Mary Worthington, William and Frances Park, Anne and Barry McKown, Ambrose and Barbara Murphy, Maileen and Harold Smith, Bonnie and Clifford Hearn and Marvin Anderson.

OBAMA ROOTS TRACED TO MARYLAND AND DUVALLS

(Editor's Note: The following, written by *The Bowie Blade-News* staff writer Jane McHugh, is an excerpt of an article printed in the January 17, 2008 edition of the paper and does not imply a political endorsement. Nor does the article about Lynne Cheney's book on page 1 of this newsletter. It is, however, interesting to note that both Vice President Dick Cheney and Senator Barack Obama are direct descendents of Mareen Duvall The Emigrant, thus making them cousins. At a recent rally in Wilmington, Delaware, the Senator said, "Something is for sure. George Bush will not be on the ballot in November and neither will my cousin, Dick Cheney.").



U.S. Senator Barack Obama can stake a claim to Bowie and Glenn Dale, MD. In the early 1700's, one of his grandfathers owned a 300-acre tobacco plantation here.

The grandfather, nine generations removed from the Democratic presidential candidate, was on Obama's mother's side of the family. Obama's mother was white and American, and his father was black and a Kenyan. Both are deceased.

The grandfather's name was Jacob Duvall. He was born in 1715 in Queen Anne Parish, a large tract of land encompassing present-day Bowie and Glenn Dale. Within Queen Anne Parish was Duvall's 300-acre plantation, called Pleasant Grove, which he inherited from his father, Mareen The Younger (see Newman pp 211 & 213). In 1743, Duvall sold it for 9,000 pounds of tobacco and relocated to St. Mary's County, Maryland. He died in 1796, nine years after the newly formed United States had adopted the Constitution.

Down the years, Obama's line of Duvall ancestors moved out of Maryland and into Nelson and Bullitt counties in Kentucky, site of today's tourist attraction "My Old Kentucky Home." The adult Obama wound up in Illinois, the state he represents in the U.S. Senate and Abraham Lincoln's home state. In fact, Obama declared his candidacy for the presidency in front of the Old State Capi-

itol building in Springfield, IL. It was there in 1858 that Lincoln gave his immortal "House Divided" speech in which he said the country cannot continue half-slave and half-free. Working with researchers from local and state governments, the *Blade-News* found the approximate location of Jacob Duvall's Pleasant Grove. The long-gone plantation, where slaves toiled year-round to grow and harvest tobacco, is at or near the NASA Goddard Geophysical and Astronomical Observatory (formerly called the Goddard Optical Research Facility) on Springfield Road in Glenn Dale.

Jacob Duvall was the grandson of Mareen Duvall the Emigrant, who arrived in Anne Arundel County from England around 1650 as an indentured servant and climbed up America's primitive but wide-open socioeconomic ladder to become owner of Middle Plantation in Davidsonville, Maryland. When he died in 1694, he had 18 slaves. He was the progenitor of the Duvalls, one of Maryland's oldest families. United States Supreme Court Justice Gabriel Duvall built Marietta Mansion in Glenn Dale circa 1813, and two more modern-day Duvall descendants went on to world fame and glory: the Hollywood actor Robert Duvall, who tells people his hometown is Annapolis, Maryland, and Wallis Warfield Simpson, the late Duchess of Windsor (editor's note: other notable Duvall descendants include President Harry S. Truman and Vice President Dick Cheney).

Last year, *The Baltimore Sun* ran a story on Obama's Duvall ancestry emphasizing the fact that they were white and some owned slaves. "The records could add a new dimension to questions by some who have asked whether Obama—who was raised in East Asia and Hawaii and educated at Columbia and Harvard—is attuned to the struggles of American blacks descended from West African slaves," the story said. It further noted that Obama made no mention of his slave-owning ancestors in his 1995 memoir, [Dreams From My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance](#).

Obama, however, knows he has white ancestors who owned slaves. An Obama genealogy posted on the Internet by William Addams Reitwiesner, who works at the Library of Congress, noted that in a speech in March in Alabama Obama acknowledged his mother's slave-owning ancestors, saying, "That's no surprise. That's part of our tortured, tangled history." In agreement is Ira Berlin, a history professor at the University of Maryland and one of the state's foremost experts on slavery. "We're a jumbled up people. It's not unusual for black people to trace their ancestors and find white slave-owners," he said.

The Blade-News learned about Jacob Duvall and discovered the approximate location of Pleasant Grove by comparing modern maps with 19th century maps, and consulting with these experts, who have access to old documents: Prince George's County historian Susan Pearl; Barrett McKown of Edgewater, a direct Duvall descendant, genealogist and both President and Registrar of the Society of Mareen Duvall Descendants; Chris Haley, Director of the Study of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland with the Maryland State Archives, and a nephew of [Roots](#) author Alex Haley; and Carol Shomette, Mapping and Graphics Supervisor with The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

The Society of Mareen Duvall Descendants

Society Officers 2007-2009

PresidentBarrett L. McKown
 1st Vice PresidentBourne A. Garner
 2nd Vice PresidentJohn W. Duvall
 Recording SecretaryJosef K. Ruth
 Membership SecretaryPriscilla W. Duvall
 RegistrarBarrett L. McKown
 TreasurerClifford B. Hearn, Jr.
 Chaplain.....A. Weems McFadden
 Historian.....Vacant
 President Emeritus.....David D. Duvall
 President Emeritus.....Orlando Ridout IV
 President Emeritus.....Weems W. Duvall, Jr.
 President Emeritus.....Barbara Murphy

Society Council Members

2006-2008 Term
 Elizabeth D. Everett
 Lois G. Simpson
 Claire S. Mower
 2007-2009 Term
 Donald D. Duvall
 Peter B. Duvall
 Edna Duvall Powell

Society Contacts

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 Design and Graphics—Jed Duvall of JEDCOGraphics (www.jedcographics.com)
 Society Photographer—Peter B. Duvall

UPCOMING EVENTS

2008 Council Meetings

April 26, 2008
 Edgewater Library,
 Annapolis, MD

Saturday, July 26, 2008
 Marietta, Glenn Dale, MD

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR:

October 18, 2008
 82nd Annual Meeting
 Gettysburg, PA

Get Your Duvall News by E-mail

Register to receive an E-mail
 version of this newsletter
 in color.

Simply send your name and
 E-mail address to
 Brenda Duvall
 at
 bduvall50@aol.com

IN MEMORIAM Bernard Dent Downing

We are deeply sorry to notify our members of the death of SMDD member Bernard Dent Downing, aged 69. Dent was elected to the Council in 1986, and ably served as the Society's Recording Secretary for the past seven years, until his untimely death on September 7, 2007. All who knew Dent appreciated his selfless willingness to serve and help others, his keen intelligence, his quick wit and sense of humor, and his thoughtfulness and generosity to those he knew and loved. Many SMDD members attended Dent's funeral during which incoming SMDD President Barry McKown spoke of Dent's tremendous dedication and willingness to serve the Society.

Dent was raised in Nottingham, Maryland, in Prince George's County. He was a life-long and dedicated member of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in Croom where he served as acolyte, lay reader, vestry member and numerous other volunteer positions. Most recently, Dent dedicated much of his time and energy toward the Prince George's County Planning and Rural Tier Development.

He enjoyed a 40-year career as an engineer in the aerospace industry. He was an avid golfer, enjoyed world travel, loved boating on his beloved Patuxent River, was a sharp photographer and had a deep interest and knowledge of the history of aviation. He was a 1954 graduate of Frederick Sasser High School in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, a graduate of Georgia Tech University, and a member of the Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity.

Dent was the son of the late Robert Ryon Downing, Sr. and the late Ruth Duvall Downing. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Gregory Mitchell Downing and brothers, Robert Ryon Downing, Jr. and Gordon Duvall Downing.

Our sympathy and hearts go out to Evelyn Mitchell Downing, Dent's wife, and his children, Michael Ryon Downing, Jane Duvall Downing, and Bernard Dent Downing, Jr.

Raffle Winners Take Home Portraits of Gabriel Duvall

Carl E. Simmons (#950-L) of Staunton, VA was the big winner of the raffle for the largest framed portrait of Supreme Court Justice Gabriel Duvall. Other winners of the three smaller framed portraits also raffled were Dr. A. Weems McFadden (#596-L) of Annapolis, MD, Col. William H. Park II (#957-L) of Bowie, MD, and John Emack Duvall (#160-L) of Miami, FL. The latter winner's portrait of Justice Duvall was accepted by his daughter, Maileen Smith. It is interesting to note that soon thereafter, Charlotte (Mrs. John E.) Duvall generously honored the Florida Society of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America (NSCDA) with their recently-won portrait of Gabriel Duvall. The portrait will ultimately hang in Dumbarton House in Georgetown (Washington, D.C.), a Federal period historic house museum dating from 1798. The following is an excerpt from a recent NSCDA newsletter.

"Many of our members know Mrs. Duvall as a model Dame. In addition to serving multiple years as lineage assistant, she has functioned as Town Committee Chairman, and was elected to the Roll of Honor. She is also the only member of our state (Florida) society to boast a female ancestor, Sarah Woodson of Virginia.



Council Member Donald Duvall presents grand-prize winner Carl Simmons with the largest portrait of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Gabriel Duvall.

Gabriel Duvall, a close friend of Thomas Jefferson, served as Comptroller of the Treasury at the same time Joseph Nourse served as Register of the Treasury. Mr. Duvall sold Dumbarton House to Joseph Nourse, owner of the house during the period we have spotlighted as its primary interpretation period. Subsequently, Judge Duvall became one of the first Justices of the Supreme Court, serving with John Marshall.

We are especially grateful to Mrs. Duvall because Dumbarton House did not have a likeness of Gabriel Duvall. Through her thoughtfulness and generosity she has provided illumination for a significant moment in the foundation of our National Headquarters."

The raffle proved a great success for the Society. In total, 135 raffle tickets were purchased, including 10 bought at the Annual Meeting. As a result, the Society netted \$675, which will be used to off-set the expenses incurred for the cemetery marker the Society plans to erect on Middle Plantation. Our special thanks go to Peter Duvall, Society Photographer, for framing the four portraits.

New Members

We welcome the following new members into the Society:

- James Reid Hancock,
Louisville, KY.....#1024
- Garner W. "Bill" Duvall, Jr.,
Rockville, MD.....#1025
- Pamela D. Hauck,
North Potomac, MD.....#1026
- Shirley F. Baldwin,
Brooklyn, NY.....#A-46
- Stuart D. Ritter,
Spanish Fort, AL.....#1027
- Willis C. Braswell, Jr.,
Arlington, VA.....#1028
- Carty S. Lawson,
Leesburg, VA.....#1029



**Left to right:
The four portrait winners
Dr. A Weems McFadden;
Carl Simmons;
Maileen Smith accepting
for her father,
John Emack Duvall;
and
Col. William H. Park II.**

Society Plans Egypt Trip

Bourne Garner, the Society's First Vice President and unofficial travel coordinator, is planning a November 2008 trip to Egypt for Society Members and friends. Bourne is working with the well-respected Trafalgar Tour Company. Below are just a few of the highlights of the trip which begins November 10 and ends November 22 and includes a seven-night river cruise. For those of you interested in this outstanding family excursion, a reservation form can be found on page 7 of this newsletter. For further questions, feel free to contact Bourne directly at 301-627-2160 or bournegarner@aol.com. Undoubtedly, this will prove to be one of the most unique and exciting trips for the Duvall family.



Wonders of Ancient Egypt Tour Includes:

- Extensive Sightseeing to include: Pyramid excursion to Memphis to see the limestone Colossus of Ramses II and the Great Alabaster Sphinx; the great pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx; night-time sound and light show on the Pyramids; flight to Luxor to visit the West Bank and the Valley of the Kings as well as the breathtaking Dier-e-Bahri, Queen Hatshepsut's impressive temple and the gigantic statues of Memnon Colossi; the Dendera Temple with its sunken relief of Cleopatra with Caesarion, her son by Julius Caesar; sail via the Esna Lock to Edfu; a fun-filled Egyptian Dinner Party; a horse drawn carriage ride to visit Egypt's best preserved cult temple; explore the High Dam and Granite Quarries and see the massive unfinished obelisk in Aswan; a motorboat trip to the island of Philae to visit the Temple of Isis; a felucca ride across the Nile to visit the botanical Gardens on Kitchener's Island; an optional excursion by air (\$224 per person) for the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the mighty Sun Temple of Abu Simbel flanked by four giant stone statues of Ramses II; the roofless Temple of Kom Ombu; a visit to the gigantic temple complex of Karnak; an exploration of the mighty temple of Amun with its mass of obelisks, colossi and courts; a day of sight-seeing in Cairo including the Citadel, the Sultan Hasan Mosquid Mohammed Ali's Alabaster Mosque with its highly decorated and ornate interiors; and, finally, the Egyptian Museum, home of King Tutankhamen's priceless treasures.
- 7 nights aboard a luxury five-star Nile cruise ship
- Exciting on-board entertainment and insightful lectures
- 4 buffet breakfasts in Cairo and all meals during the seven-night river cruise
- Local guide services while touring
- Chauffeur driven on Trafalgar's air conditioned buses
- All internal flights from Cairo to Luxor and return
- All airport transfers
- Hotel accommodations in Cairo in twin-bedded rooms with private facilities

Price of the basic tour without air fare to and from Cairo: \$1,850 (subject to confirmation in July). Single supplement \$410. Round trip air fare from Washington Dulles just over \$1,300, including tax. Flights from other areas of the country can be arranged. Trip insurance is highly recommended and available at \$109 per person. A valid passport is required; visas will be available upon arrival in Cairo.

EGYPT TRIP RESERVATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ E-Mail _____

A \$200 deposit must accompany this form by check no later than May 1, 2008. Final payment must be made by August 31, 2008 by check or credit card. Deposit refundable until July 12, 2008.

Make check payable to: Bourne Garner

Return Reservation Form and Deposit To:

Bourne Garner
11409 Croom Road
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Now is the time to pay your Annual Membership Dues. Be sure to maintain your membership in The Society of Maren Duvall Descendants by completing this form and returning your dues payment today.

Name _____ Member # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-Mail Address _____ Phone Number _____

_____ Regular Member \$15

_____ Associate (Spouse of Member) \$15

_____ Sustaining Member (Pending Approval) \$15

_____ Life Membership (Payable in one lump sum) \$200

Make check payable to: Society of Maren Duvall Descendants

Mail to: Ms. Priscilla W. Duvall, 3642 Cemetery Lane,
Westminster, MD 21158-2003

The Society of Maren Duvall Descendants



c/o Barrett L. McKown, President/Registrar
3580 South River Terrace
Edgewater, MD 21037

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

