

OHMAR *Newsletter*

A Publication of Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region, affiliated with the Oral History Association
Volume XV, Number 1 Winter 1992

OHMAR MEETS ON THE WESTERN SHORE: ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

Saturday, April 11, 1992

This year OHMAR's spring meeting will be held at St. Mary's College of Maryland, along the banks of the St. Mary's River in Historic St. Mary's City. Founded in 1840 as Maryland's "living monument" to its colonial legacy, this honors college is a state-sponsored, publicly supported four-year institution. OHMAR is the first group to be able to hold its conference in the newly renovated library and media center.

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But while the 275-acre setting is a stunning conference site, don't expect to wander the streets of St. Mary's City. They do not exist. The third oldest continuous English settlement in the United States, St. Mary's City presently exists as a relatively undisturbed archaeological site whose pre-colonial Indian settlements and colonial overlay make it an ideal "laboratory" for studying the past. The surrounding lands are still cultivated for tobacco, and watermen continue to harvest crabs, oysters, and fish. Some twenty miles north, the visitor can catch the Amish market in Mechanicsville each Wednesday and Saturday and stock up on farm-fresh produce.

Program chairperson, Andrea Hammer, Professor of English and Director of St. Mary's County Documentation Project, promises an exciting and informative program. Located approximately an hour and forty-five minutes by car from the Washington

Metropolitan area, members may wish to spend the weekend visiting nearby historic exhibits.

SPRING PROGRAM INFORMATION FOLLOWS

1:30 Concurrent Afternoon Sessions

Session A: Conducting an Oral History Interview

Panel Organizers: Mary Kay Quinlan, University of MD

Anne Ritchie, National Gallery of Art

The presenters will consider various interviewing techniques and demonstrate several mock interviews. They also will discuss interview research, preparation, and the use of audio equipment. Participants will view An Oral Historian's Work, a video by Sandy Ives, to review and summarize the day's workshop sessions.

Session B: Expanding Oral History Through Computer Technology

Panel organizers: Staff, St. Mary's College Computer Center

Using state of the art NeXT computers, programers demonstrate how the next generation of computers "enable text and photographs to mingle with sound and moving images" and assess the implications for oral history.

Session C: Videotaping Oral History

Workshop presenter: Brien Williams

Demonstrates advantages and pitfalls of videotaping oral history.

3:30 Tour of St. Mary's City

4:00 Reception

6:00 Dinner at Evans' Crab House, St. George's Island

On the water in the heart of "waterman country," Evans' is a colorful crab house in the best Southern Maryland tradition.

All-you-can-eat dinners, served at long tables covered with newspaper, will cost \$22.50 per person. Feast on crabs, oysters, lobster, shrimp, hush puppies and other delectables, or place orders for fresh fish. Non-fish items available. (Dinner not included in registration fee)

TRAVEL DIRECTIONS

From Washington, D.C.

Follow the beltway going south on 95, the Maryland side. Take exit directing you to Route 5, Old Branch Avenue, Waldorf direction. The exit is near (but not to be confused with) Andrews AFB.

Follow Rt. 5 (301) to Waldorf.

In Waldorf, continue on Rt. 5 by making a left-hand turn at traffic light. (Toward Historic Southern Maryland, Patuxent Naval Air Station, and Lexington Park.)

Continue on Rt. 5 as breaks off the main route and cuts to the right shortly after you pass through Newmarket.

Follow Rt. 5 south the rest of the way to St. Mary's College and Historic St. Mary's City. OHMAR signs to the Library.

From Baltimore

Follow 95 south to the Washington Beltway, then follow above instructions.

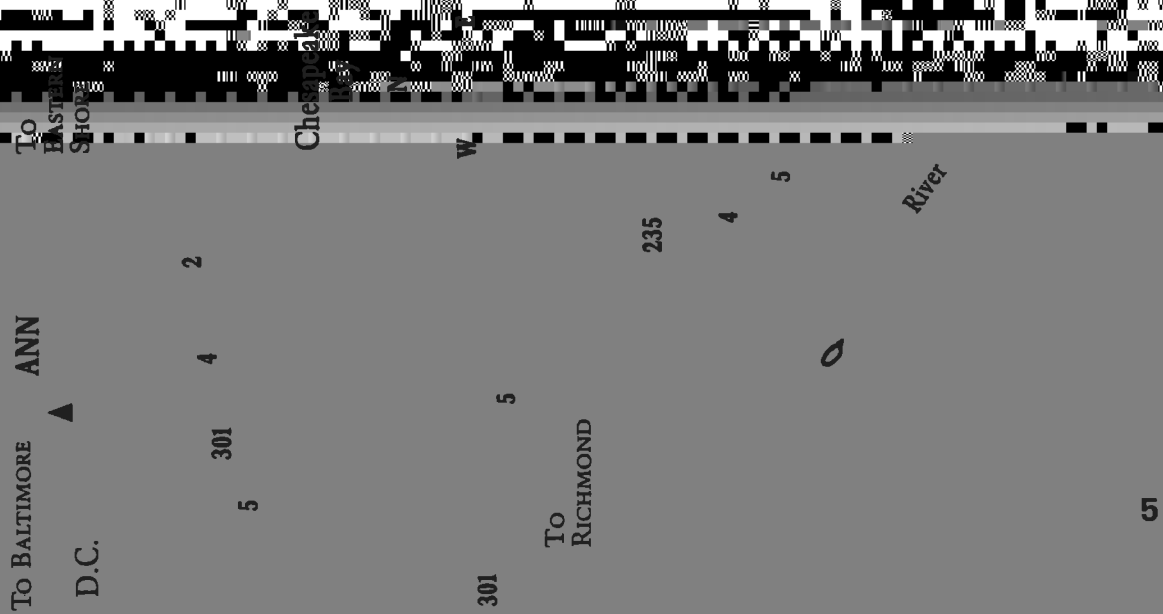
From Virginia

Take 301 north toward the Potomac River Bridge.

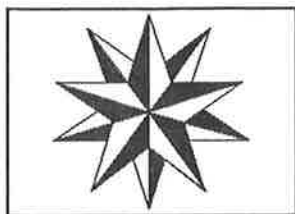
Go to the Potomac Park, go on the bridge, and resume briefly on Rt. 5 going south

of three miles to Allen's Branch and take the 235 turnoff.

Take 235 to Leonardtown, where you pick up Rt. 5 south to St. Mary's.



**OHMAR
OFFICERS, 1991-
1992**



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Williams,

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Alice Hoffman, (215) 526-7868

Bob Terry, (717) 846-7788

BOARD TIDBITS

At recent Winter meetings,
your Board decided to:

1: eliminate bulk mail--future
OHMAR mailings will use first-class
postage;

2: support an annual
scholarship for an OHMAR member to
attend workshops or other educational
activities; and,

3: voted to oppose the by-laws
proposal that OHMAR officers also be
members of the OHA.

Questions: contact an officer or
attend the business meeting this
Spring!

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
Anne Ritchie

Proposed DELETION, Spring, 1992,
Business Meeting.

Article IV, Officers & Government

Section 1. The officers of OHMAR
shall be President, VP, Secy, and
Treasurer. Each shall be a member in
good standing of the Oral History
Association. All of the officers...

Last year a special OHMAR committee
reviewed the ByLaws and proposed
several revisions. At the New York
Spring meeting, the members rejected
a proposal to delete the requirement
of OHA membership for OHMAR
officers. The Board has reconsidered
this proposal and once again urges the
members to vote to delete this
requirement from the ByLaws.

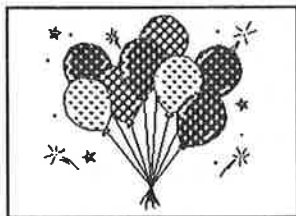
Rationale:

The provision was included in the
original 1976 OHMAR Constituion and
was designed to foster close ties
between OHMAR and the national

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY:

"Empowerment: Perspectives on African American History in Pennsylvania" is the theme of the 15th annual Conference on Black History in Pennsylvania, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The conference will be held at Lincoln University, the oldest historically black college in the nation, on May 8-9, 1992. The program will include a keynote address by civil rights activist Julian Bond and a number of presentations examining the diverse ways in which African Americans have asserted control over their own lives. For further information, contact Robert Weible, Chief, Division of History, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108;(717) 787-3034.



**CONGRATS TO
DON RITCHIE**

**The Organization
of American**

Historians has presented its Richard Leopold Prize to Don Ritchie (past OHMAR President and Pogue Award recipient) for his book Press Gallery: Congress and the Washington Correspondents (Harvard University Press, 1991).

CALL FOR ARTICLES

Pennsylvania History will publish a special theme issue on "Oral History in Pennsylvania" in 1993. Linda Shopes, historian at the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission will serve as guest editor. Proposals are currently being sought for articles and shorter pieces, including substantive articles that draw upon interview materials in imaginative ways, theoretical pieces that reflect on the nature of oral evidence, extensive excerpts from extant interviews, discussions of current oral history projects and the public presentations--exhibits, films, books--resulting from them, and other work as appropriate. Potential contributors are advised to consult the essays on oral history appearing annually in the Journal of American History since 1987.

Please direct all correspondence to:
Linda Shopes
Division of History
PA Hist. & Museum Comm.
Box 1026
Harrisburg, PA 17108
(717) 772-3257

**PROJECT REPORT: ORAL
LITERATURE/HISTORY OF WORLD
WAR II VETERANS**

Donald B. Veix

I am an Associate Professor of Education at Rider College. I have recently completed a sabbatical leave to record the war experiences of World War II veterans. I began this project in 1976 in order to preserve the veterans' personal view of what happened to them and to their buddies.

My main purpose is preservation. Veterans have told me that editors of popular history, fiction, and films have distorted incidents that the veterans took part in. "Distortion" is a mild translation. The veterans fear that these inaccuracies will begin to be accepted as truth. These inaccuracies do not honor the memories of the men who were left behind on beaches, burning aircraft, or sinking ships.

How will tapes and photographs be used? I have originated and taught several courses on WW II. The recordings have also been the basis for three poems that I have written. Some tapes have been placed in our college library where professors and students may listen to them.

I am also interested in the writing of the veterans: letters, diaries, POW logs, and material they wrote after the war.

If you would like to help by recording your story, and/or if you know another veteran who likes to talk, contact me at:

**Donald B. Veix
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FINAL WORD: EDITOR'S MESSAGE

John S. Schuchman

This is my first issue of the Newsletter. Let me know what you like or do not like, by letter or in person at the Spring meeting in April.

My tenure as editor is two years. At the end of that time, I would like to accomplish two goals.

First, I would like for our newsletter to take on a more regional flavor. I am looking for reports on oral history activities (projects and individual research) from each of our states (Delaware, DC, MD, NJ, NY, PA, VA, and W.VA). The preceding report from Don Veix of NJ is an example of what I wish to encourage.

Second, I would like to identify individuals who would like to edit this newsletter in the future. If you would be willing to serve as an assistant editor for your area or state, please contact me.

For your information, Professor Andrea Hammer is the newsletter book review editor. If you have suggestions for book reviews, please write or call:

**OHMAR Newsletter Editor
Box 2351
Gallaudet University**