

Montgomery County, 1944 by Joanna B. Church

In June of 1944 a group of Montgomery County residents, led by Mrs. Lilly C. Stone, held the first meeting of the Montgomery County Historical Society (MCHS). The Society met once a month in various schools, churches, clubs, and private homes, with guest speakers on local history. In 1951, MCHS was incorporated, with a charter that called for the organization "to promote demonstration for respect and honor to those who have contributed to the upbuilding and preservation of Montgomery County, its institutions and ideals." From the beginning the members had solicited donations of artifacts and papers, and by the 1950s storage space was becoming a problem (as it remains today). The Society soon realized they required a headquarters. A successful fundraising drive provided MCHS with the means to purchase, in 1954, Glenview Mansion in Rockville. Unfortunately, after several years it was clear that the mansion was too expensive to maintain; the house was sold to the City of Rockville in 1957. The Society was still without a headquarters.

In 1965, MCHS entered into an agreement with the City of Rockville to lease the Beall-Dawson House, a c. 1815 home, which the City purchased. With the house serving as museum, office, library and storage, the Society now had a permanent home. Since then, having long since outgrown the space, MCHS has expanded into the 1940s garage – now the Jane C. Sween Research Library – and into a neighboring house, purchased in the 1980s, which serves as the Ed Offutt Administration office. In 1972, we acquired the one-room doctor's office, which was moved to the Beall-Dawson grounds and is now the Stonestreet Museum of 19th Century Medicine. Most recently, MCHS entered into an agreement with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to lease the Waters House at Pleasant Fields, an historic building in Germantown, which gives the Society a presence in the fast-growing Upcounty area.

Although the Montgomery County Historical Society has come a long way from those first meetings in Lilly Stone's home, our basic goals remain the same: preservation of and education on our county's history. In honor of our 60th anniversary this year, we're taking a look back at the county our founding members knew. The following newspaper excerpts come from a survey of the first *Montgomery County Sentinel* edition of every month for the year 1944.

In 1944, the weekly *Montgomery County Sentinel* cost five cents a copy, or one dollar for a year's subscription. Regular features included the editor's column, "I might be wrong - *but*;" "Home and Club Activities;" a local political cartoon; "Town and Farm During Wartime" ("Prepared by the Office of War Information"); Hollywood and sports columns; a syndicated "Sunday School Lesson;" and local community news, including "News from Service Men and Women," the want ads, and "social items" from Rockville, Gaithersburg, Sandy Spring Neighborhood, Poolesville, Laytonsville, Boyds, Rockcrest, Germantown and Washington Grove.

Much of the news, naturally enough, focused on the War Effort. In addition, space was taken each week by submissions from the Office of War Information, the Office of Price Administration (OPA), the War Production Board (WPB), or the U.S. Treasury Department, alerting the *Sentinel's* readers to the latest ration change, Victory Garden schedule, or price-saving tip (the benefits of which, of course, were to be spent on a War Bond). Nonetheless, there was still room in each issue for articles on local election issues, such as the hotly debated Charter referendum (which was defeated in the November general election)¹, and the county was small enough that social announcements made the front page.

Smiths Celebrate 50th Anniversary *January 6*

Mr. and Mrs. Grant Smith celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a family dinner and reception at their home, Avery Road, Rockville on Monday, December 27.

Children present were Leroy, Raymond and Lillian B. Johnson, Rockville; Marie E. Hill, Washington D.C., and S/Sgt. Warner Smith on a furlough from Ft. Clark, Texas. Another son, Sgt. Albert C. Smith, is somewhere in the South Pacific. Also attending were three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren....

The Smiths were married December 27, 1893 in Washington, D.C.

Despite the war, the everyday business of life still went on. There were farms to work, a government to run, classes to teach, dinners to make, movies to watch. Still, World War II and its ramifications were a factor in nearly every aspect of American life, and nearly every article, ad or editorial in the *Sentinel* of 1944 reflects the changes and problems our county faced during the war, even if the conflict isn't explicitly mentioned.

RATIONING

It can be difficult, for those who didn't experience it firsthand, to comprehend the extent to which everyday life was governed by rationing during World War II. Both foodstuffs and raw materials were needed first for the war effort, and only second for civilians on the home front. Nothing could be taken for granted. Supplies changed from year to year; for example, 1944 saw an increase in the availability of coffee, chocolate and cocoa (*February 3*), but a shortage of butter (*October 5*). Tires, gasoline, and even automobiles themselves had to be conserved; on April 6th, the *Sentinel* reported that the War Production Board might allow the manufacture of a few new passenger automobiles by the end of the year. Recycling and reuse were the order of the day, and the more food you could produce yourself, the better. Ration books, which contained the stamps and coupons used to purchase groceries and the like, were as important as cash, and the want ads of each *Sentinel* issue included several pleas for the return of lost books.

RATION REMINDER*January 6*

GASOLINE - In 17 east coast states A8 coupons are good through February 8.

FUEL OIL - Period 2 coupons good through Feb. 7. Period 3 coupons valid after January 4. Good to March 13.

SUGAR - Stamp No. 29 in Book Four is good for 5 pounds through January 15, 1944.

SHOES - Stamp No. 18 in Book One good for 1 pair. Stamp No. 1 on the "airplane" sheet in Book Three good for 1 pair.

MEATS, FATS - Brown stamp R good through January 29. Brown stamp T good January 9.

PROCESSED FOODS - Green Stamps D, E, and F in Book Four good through January 29.

4	622432 CM	
	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION	
WAR RATION BOOK FOUR		
Issued to <u>Mary B. Brooke</u> <small>(Print first, middle, and last names)</small>		
Complete address <u>Derwood</u> <u>Md.</u>		
READ BEFORE SIGNING		
In accepting this book, I recognize that it remains the property of the United States Government. I will use it only in the manner and for the purposes authorized by the Office of Price Administration.		
Void if Altered <u>Mary B. Brooke</u> <small>(Signature)</small>		
<small>It is a criminal offense to violate rationing regulations.</small>		
<small>OPA Form B-148</small>		<small>16-2807-1</small>

"Montgomery Sidelights" by Elsie White Haines March 2

Bill Burrows, the "daddy" of the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department told us this one. Recently the three year old child of a newcomer to Rockville locked her out of her apartment over Chaps Cleaning establishment.

The child did not know how to open the door—the mother had no key, so with visions of her Sunday dinner, [ration] points and all going up in smoke, she ran to the Firehouse. No fireman was on duty but someone called Bill. He seized a ladder from an engine and hurried to the scene.

Just by chance along came Scoutmaster Moore and several of his scouts, who were pressed into service. A Rockcrest scout went up the ladder, through a window and opened the door just in time to save the dinner, which was on the stove, from complete ruin.

Victory Garden Time Table - July 15 *July 6*

Set out plants of late cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli and brussels sprouts. Keep up successive plantings of snap beans, beets and carrots.

If corn appears to be dwarfed, try a side dressing of nitrate of soda or sulphate of ammonia - 3 lbs. to 100 ft. of row. Not too close - 3" - 4" from stalk.

Keep corn silks well dusted with hydrated lime (arsenate of lead may be added to lime to discourage Jap [*sic*] beetle). As silks begin to wilt, apply a few drops of oil preparation at base of silk to kill corn ear-worm. Use mineral oil, "Cornoil," "Cornex" or "Corn Ear-worm Oil."

There are still a few more openings in the canning classes. Call SH 1554.

Some Foods Again Rationed *July 6*

The OPA has restored rationing to best cuts of lamb in order to get better distribution among consumers, and has restored point values to certain types of cheese and canned asparagus,

peas, and tomatoes, which were unrationed for two weeks because of large stocks on hand.

August 3 headline for recipes with butter substitutes:

If Your Butter Is Low, Bacon Fat Or Olive Oil Are Savory Vegetable Affinities, And Cream Sauce Can Be A Butter Stretcher

Town and Farm in Wartime *August 3*

Prepared by OFFICE of WAR INFORMATION

Gasoline for Those on Leave

Members of the armed services will get a gallon of gasoline for each day of their leave or furlough up to 30 gallons, according to a new Office of Price Administration policy. No ration will be granted for passes, for liberties or for leaves or furloughs of less than three days, at the suggestion of the Army and Navy. The member of the armed services should apply for gasoline rations to the War Price and Rationing Board having jurisdiction over the automobile he is to drive and he should present proper leave or furlough papers.

Butter Stocks Were Melting Away

The recent hike of four ration points a pound on creamery butter was made necessary, OPA says, because civilians were buying in excess of their allocations for civilian supplies and were thus threatening equitable distribution by reducing wholesalers' and retailers' stocks. Processed butter continues at four red points a pound and farm butter at eight red points, while creamery butter now requires 16 red points a pound.

Fill Car Pools or Else—

Full supplemental gasoline rations for more than 30 days are going to be denied to home-to-work automobile drivers who have not formed full-car pools, according to a new OPA policy. If drivers fill their pools within the 30 day period, local ration boards will grant them full-three-month rations. Boards will ask applicants to present signatures of their riders along with their applications.

Some New School Buses at Last

After almost total lack of new school buses for two years, WPB approved a 1944 production quota of 5,000, of which more than 2,400 already have been leased to schools where new buses were needed to prevent absences and replaced unsafe equipment, the Office of Defense Transportation reports.

From a Potomac Electric Power Company ad, September 7:

Don't waste electricity just because it isn't rationed.

BOND DRIVES

1944 saw the end of the Fifth War Bond Drive and the beginning of the Sixth. Repeated participation in each drive was very much expected; everything from household products to movie stars was used to promote bond and stamp purchases². The Federal government was not above a spot of emotional blackmail, as demonstrated by the following Army Signal Corps photo caption, submitted by the U.S. Treasury Department:

HIS NAME WAS..... *August 3*

An Army doctor with the Fifth Army in Italy looks at the dog tags of a dead American soldier so

that his beloved back home may know that he gave his life for his country. All your country is asking you to do is to give your dollars to back up the men who are fighting for you by buying War Bonds.

Ten Suggestions for Curbing Juvenile Delinquency Trouble *May 5*

Ten suggestions for the curbing of juvenile delinquency are outlined in a new educational film, "As the Twig is Bent," produced by one of the large life insurance companies. [One of the suggestions is,] Teach boys and girls the true value of thrift. Have them start their own savings accounts and buy their own war stamps and bonds.



"Bethesda's pulchritude was well represented at the Leland bond drive."
From the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School yearbook, 1944.

Montgomery County Exceeds Her Quota In Fifth War Loan Drive *July 6*

Richard P. Green, Chairman of Montgomery County's Fifth War Loan Drive, announced today that the County's quota of \$2,750,000.00 has been over 100% subscribed.... Mr. Green said that the drive will formally end Saturday, July 9, although the popular Series E, F and G Bonds and Tax Savings Notes will continue to be sold and all sales recorded during the month of July will count as part of the Fifth War Loan Drive.

The Lion's Club, with a quota of \$75,000.00, has made an outstanding record in the present drive, Mr. Green said, with sales of \$255,000.00 in the Silver Spring-Takoma Park area.

Mr. Green remarked that the business people and other large buyers of bonds have come forward very well in the present drive but that the number of small purchasers of bonds has not been up to expectation. He expressed hope, however, that all individuals who have not yet purchased at least a \$100 Bond would do so during the remainder of July.

County Reaches 71% of War Bond Quota - E Bonds Lag *December 7*

WOMEN'S ROLES

In addition to fulfilling more traditional home front duties, women were taking over jobs left empty by men gone to the service, and often joining the service themselves. Special branches of the military were created or expanded, like the Women's Army Corps (WAC),

Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) and the Navy's Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES)³. There was an active push to "mobilize" women for war work, particularly in manufacturing jobs, and women provided much-needed labor on farms and in local businesses⁴. As volunteers, women worked with the Red Cross, the USO, and countless other organizations. The following excerpts show some of the roles Montgomery County women were playing for the war effort.

Home and Club Activities *March 2*

[photo caption:] **Wac Shows Off Her Pin-up Boys**

Showing off her pin-up boys on the door of her locker, Private Blanche Wassum of the Women's Army Corps says she's just "mom" to them. When her two sons, David L. and John W. Wassum, joined the Army, "Mom" Wassum refused to be left behind. She works at the photograph laboratory of the Hondo Army Air Field, Texas.

More Workers Are Needed *April 6*

"Where are the mothers, wives and sweethearts of the servicemen that they cannot give two hours a week to surgical dressings," asked Mrs. Rose Dawson as she pointed to the large amount of work to get out this month and the very few workers who showed up at the Firehouse on Wednesday.

Home and Club Activities *June 1*

[photo caption:] **Double-Duty Outfit Is Chic for Farm and Saves War Bond Dollars**

More and more women and girls will help on the home front this summer by joining the crop corps. The problem of practical clothing for farm work is solved by these overalls of sturdy denim. They are smoothly cut, and can be worn either with or without a shirt. Do your share for victory by making them yourself and buying more War Bonds with your money saved. A suitable pattern may be obtained at your local store. *U. S. Treasury Department*

Ruth Bondy Now in Italy *June 1*

Ruth Bondy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Bondy, of Fairfax Lane, Edgemoore, was just another Red Cross Girl to some of the boys of the Fifth Army in Italy. She was one of the four that made doughnuts and handed them out and did anything she could to help the spirits of the boys. She worked all day and danced all night, but one day she ceased to be just another of the four saying goodbye to a truckload of boys bound for the front. A Chevy Chase boy happened to be a member of that truck and heard her mention that she was from Washington. That boy was Private Edward L. Bowie, Heavy Weapons Battalion, son of Mr. and Mrs. Pleasanton Bowie of Leland street. He smiled and said: "That's funny, I'm from Washington too." "Ted" found that she was a sister of Bob Bondy, star of his football team at St. Alban's School, from which they had both graduated last year. Ruth told all about Bob being in the South Pacific, and how worried her parents were because she was in such a dangerous zone, even though her father is The Mr. Bondy of the American Red Cross and is overseas himself.



Just talking to Ruth Bondy made Ted's spirits soar as he drove off into "No Man's Land"

and he wrote all about it to his parents recently.

Ted's mother is a Red Cross Gray Lady⁵ who puts in many hours at the Bethesda Naval Hospital.

Rockville WAC Outlines Routes for Pilots *July 6*

Pfc. Helen K. Clark, who presides over the Pilots' Map and Charting room at Bolling Field, is believed to be the only WAC in the Army Air Forces doing that type of work. Six days per week, she sits at a work table and outlines projected routes of flight for pilots. Her completed work is the pilot's bible, for it tells him all he needs to know about the terrain over which he will be flying.

Private Clark's training for this type of work began long before she ever thought of enlisting in the WAC. After graduation from high school in Rockville, she enrolled in the National Art School in Washington. On graduating from art school, she found immediate employment with the Army Map Service. There she made maps for the Army Engineering Corps.

As might be expected, the Army had little trouble finding a place for Private Clark when she enlisted in June of 1943. After training at Daytona Beach, Fla., she was assigned to Bolling Field where she has been since December of last year.

Private Clark is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Clark, of 409 Baltimore Road, Rockville, Md. She has a brother, John F. Clark in the Navy.

About "Upgrading" Women *October 5*

Now that the nation has witnessed at least one strike over the upgrading of workers it is interesting to observe that there is no great optimism among women over the prospects of upgrading for them after the war ends.

The women, it appears, are not politically organized and they rarely go on strike. Eventually, they may learn that in a nation, operated by political reactions to pressure groups, organization is necessary if they are to secure the mythical and highly touted "equality."

Much the same observation applies to farmers. Nobody is concerned with the upgrading of agricultural workers after the war. Again, we observe that the farmers are not organized to exert political pressure and they do not go on strikes.

WAR NEWS ON THE LOCAL LEVEL

The *Sentinel* reported on both general action in the war, and the movements of county residents within the action. A column was devoted to "News from Service Men and Women," but longer stories were often featured as well.

After the invasion at Normandy in June, hopes began to rise that the war in Europe might be almost over. According to the September 7th issue of the *Sentinel*, the Army predicted an end of the war against Germany by October 1st, 1944. The editor's column of the same issue featured a bold subheading, "Day of VICTORY is at Hand." It was noted that "Tentative plans have been made for a Union service of the Churches of Rockville, at which time a cessation of war in the European Theater of Operations shall be declared." The preparations for post-war county life were underway.

Rockville Man Wounded in Italy *February 3*

Mrs. Maybelle Lee of Rockville has received a telegram from the War Department, informing her that her son, Sergeant Robert E. Lee of 914 Grandin Avenue, Rockville, was wounded in action in Italy. This is the second time Sergt. Lee has been wounded. He holds the Purple Heart for being wounded in the face last October, when a bullet pierced his helmet.

According to a letter received from Sergt. Lee, about three hours before the telegram, his wounds are much more serious than the first, as he said he would be in the hospital a long time, but not to worry about him, that he was getting every attention, and the best of care. He said he was afraid the war would be over before he would be able to go to the front lines again. He is in an infantry division....

Rockville Board Sends 28 Into Service *March 2*

Nine white and four colored registrants of Local Board No. 1 of Rockville, reported Friday (25) for duty in the Navy. They were: John F. Butt, Lloyd W. Connely, Wordney V. Hottinger, Harry W. Mullican, Holmes I. Stoner, Thomas H. Weaver, and Edward C. Williams.

The colored men were: Oliver L. Tyler, a father, and Charles E. Frazier, Clarence A. Johnson and Arnold R. Tyler.

Fifteen reported for duty on Saturday. One, Lucian Brigham entered the Army and the remainder went into the Navy. They were: Charles Raymond Stang, Charles Thomas Hershey, Paul Beron Duvall, Fred Warren Suddeth, George Chester Pearce, Frank Landon Biesser, Thomas Woodrow Harrison, Joseph Thurston Burdette, John Clark Bell and Edward Boyer Duvall.

Colored were: Charles Henry Edmunds, Elgar Gant, George Robert Randolph and Moses Jenkins. Of those to leave Saturday all but Bell, Edward Boyer Duvall and Jenkins are fathers it was stated by officials of the board.

News of Service Men & Women [excerpts] *May 5*

William E. Gartner, Sr., U.S. M.C.R. writes his brother-in-law Theodore R. Crawford that he is traveling and seeing a lot of water and islands. He states, "I am permitted to tell you that I am in New Guinea. Have been to New Caledonia and New Hebrides. I am doing fine and enjoying this business as much as anyone does."

Pvt. Dyson A. Burns made quite a surprise visit to the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Merson Burns last Sunday for five hours.

Pvt. Walter H. Hershey of Temple, Texas is spending a week in Gaithersburg with relatives. It is always a pleasure to welcome our boys home.

Cissel Twins Meet at Guadalcanal *June 1*

After a separation of two years the Cissel twins, J. Randolph and Maurice T. Cissel, Jr. sons of Mr. and Mrs. T. Cissel, Forest Glen, recently met on Guadalcanal. They had planned the meeting so that they might spend their birthday together on May 8th, but according to their mother the meeting took place on May 12. Both boys had been in the Marine Corps Reserve for several years before they were called in November 1940.

Mr. and Mrs. Cissel had four sons in the service before their youngest son, Richard, who was wounded in the South Pacific was given a medical discharge. He had been in the Marine Corps only nine months.

Another son, Jack, will graduate in Veterinary Medicine at Walter Reed on Saturday and

expects to be stationed at Fort Myer.

The Cissel family are former residents of the Olney-Sandy Spring vicinity.

French Help Allies *July 6*

While the news available from the battle front in Normandy is confined to the bare outlines, with an occasional dispatch describing the exploit of a particular group, there are indications that the French people have rendered considerable assistance to the Anglo-American soldiers.

A special Allied communique recently reported that German armored divisions had been "seriously delayed" and that French resistance and sabotage in the rear of the German forces reached such proportions in many regions that the enemy has been forced to send "considerable forces" against the French who have risked their lives to aid the invasion.

News of Service Men & Women [excerpt] *September 7*

Pvt. Joanne Myers, first WAC recruit of Rockville will leave shortly for Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. to take her training. There is no doubt that Pvt. Myers will be able to cope with Army life, for while living in Quebec, Can., she was well known in skiing circles as an expert competitor.

EVERYDAY LIFE

Not everything reported in the Sentinel was directly related to the war. Entertainment news, sports and school updates, the weather, and other topics of general interest occupied their fair share of column inches, just as they do today.

2078 Marriages During the Year *January 6*

Records show that the marriage license bureau in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court issued 2078 licenses during the year [1943]. This was not a record for the office according to Mrs. Lucille Fennington.

Applicants were from all parts of the country with the majority from Maryland, Virginia and Washington city. The month of July was first with 212 licenses issued, November was second with 211 and June was third with 202.

The oldest applicant was an octogenarian from Takoma Park, who married a woman of 59 and started by automobile on a wedding trip to Texas to live. Gloria Caruso, daughter of the famed tenor was married here during the year.

A Jellied Salad That is the Kind the Men will Like *February 3*

Ever so many men, upon entering the dining room, and seeing a very fancy molded salad, can often be heard to remark "woman stuff!" Meaning, it is assumed, that they consider a molded salad always to be a sweet affair suitable only for bridge luncheons or "deer parties." My, but can't they be fooled?? There are unlimited jellied salads that really have a tangy flavor - and are just what men like....

Glen Echo Park Opens Saturday *April 6*

Glen Echo Park opens this Saturday at 1 p.m. Glen Echo has been selling fun and recreation for 33 years.

The ballroom is open from 9 p.m. until midnight, week nights only. Other amusements

are open same hours, every nite.

Freak Storm Visits County Late Tuesday *April 6*

A freak thunderstorm coupled with swirling snow so heavy that traffic was halted for a few minutes struck the county Tuesday afternoon. One radio commentator spoke of it as "like the old time pictures of the judgement day."

Temperatures dropped almost thirty degrees during the day. Several telephone lines were put out of commission by the electric storm.

Coxey's Army⁶ Camped Here 50 Years Ago *May 5*

Fifty years ago, on May 1, 1894, Coxey's army marched into Washington and then, to quote John Clagett Proctor "marched out again leaving in the city a disorganized, disgruntled and discouraged group—mostly hobos."

The story goes that the "army" had camped in Rockville on the way to the city, and admission was charged to the camp to help defray expenses. Mr. Thomas Griffith says he remembers going with other citizens of the town, to meet the army and seeing Coxey's daughter riding with the motley crew mounted on her white horse.

Albert Bouic, "just a little shaver then," and Barnard Welsh also have vivid recollections of the day—though their impression is that the army was fed and speeded through the town which at that time had no police protection. Mr. Bouic recalled that a number of the men were fed at the home of his father, William Viers Bouic, and that a colored man stayed on to work for years for them.

"Old John" as he is known, now an aged man, is still around Rockville. Mr. Bouic and others also recall seeing Carl Brown, Coxey's son-in-law, standing in a wagon, under an acetelene light, making a speech.



The Student Council of Richard Montgomery High School was renamed the Victory Council "for the duration." From the RMHS yearbook, 1944.

THE CHANGING COUNTY

During the Depression of the 1930s, Montgomery County experienced an influx of Federal workers and other new residents. Thus by 1941, an increasing percentage of the population was living in suburban neighborhoods down county⁷. The old rural mindset still

dominated many of the county's institutions (like the *Sentinel*), but by 1944 a kind of defensive nostalgia was creeping in. Indeed, this sense of imminent and irrevocable change was the driving force behind the founding of the Historical Society, by a group of established County families concerned that their agricultural heritage was fast disappearing.

Montgomery Sidelights

By Elsie White Haines

September 7

It does not seem possible that this column will begin its sixth year next week, does it? Only five years have passed but so many changes have taken place, we seem to have lost so much of the leisure so much of our gracious ways of living which had continued to make the rural section of this county so much a part of the old order of the South. All of us have the habit of saying, "when the war is over we shall do thus and so" - but we should not fool ourselves into thinking things will be the same - our young men will be back - most them we hope - but many years will pass before we recapture the old way of living - if ever....

In the obligatory "some things never change" category:

Blames "Boogie Woogie"

February 3

Boogie Woogie is the greatest single factor contributing to the delinquency and "war degeneracy" of American youth, asserts Arthur Rodzinski, director of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra.

Dr. Rodzinski, it may be argued, is somewhat prejudiced in the matter but his opinion should carry some weight on account of his success as a conductor. He admits that the further jive gets "out of the world" the better it will be.

It may be that the hep cats and the rug cutters are caused by jive but we suspect it is the other way around. The demand for this type of music may be the result rather than the cause.

After all, however, there is no reason to become excited. The same denunciation occurred when other forms of popular music appeared and yet the human race has not gone to the dogs.

In conclusion, it is worth noting that a July 6 want ad asked for a copy of T. H. S. Boyd's 1879 *History of Montgomery County*. Perhaps this was the first attempted acquisition for the Montgomery County Historical Society's library collection?

For more on Montgomery County in 1944 and World War II, please visit our exhibit at the Waters House, on display through October 2, 2004.

Joanna B. Church is a lifelong county resident, who attended Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring. She has a B.A. in Anthropology from Grinnell College and an M.A. in Museum Studies from the George Washington University. She is currently the Collections Manager at the Montgomery County Historical Society.

NOTES

¹ Richard K. MacMaster and Ray Eldon Hiebert, *A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland, 1776-1976*, 2nd edition, 1996. Pp. 320-1. 29,731 votes were cast in the November election; anti-charter defeated pro-charter by 1,635 votes. The Charter was eventually accepted by county voters in 1948.

² Richard R. Lingeman, *Don't You Know There's a War On? The American Home Front 1941-1945*, 1970. P. 296.

³ <http://www.womensmemorial.org/Highlights.html>

⁴ War Records Division of the Maryland Historical Society, *Maryland in World War II, Vol. II: Industry and Agriculture*, 1951. Page 542.

⁵ <http://www.redcross.org/museum/ww2a.html>. The "Gray Ladies" was the affectionate nickname of the Red Cross Hospital and Recreation Corps, started during World War I at the Walter Reed Army Hospital in DC. The Gray Ladies Corps "provided a variety of hostess and recreational services in over 1,000 military and veterans' hospitals throughout the United States. Services included writing letters, reading to patients, tutoring, running shopping errands, and serving in hospital recreation rooms and at information desks (49,882 volunteers in 1944-45)."

⁶ MacMaster and Hiebert, *A Grateful Remembrance*, Page 238. "General" Jacob Coxey led an "army" of unemployed men to Washington, in 1894, to petition Congress for jobs. The Army marched down what is now Route 355 from Frederick.

⁷ *Ibid.* Pp. 302-3.

The *Montgomery County Story* is sponsored by the Chevy Chase Land Company of Montgomery County, established in 1890.

Diane D. Broadhurst, Editor

The Montgomery County Historical Society
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