



Winter, 2011 Volume 6, No 1

St. Michaels Museum News

The 2011 Season

May-July Exhibit

**“St. Michaels Fire Department
110 Years of Service”**

**March 13 – History of SMFD
by Robert Murray at the
Annual Meeting**

**July 23 – Forum on “Tales of
the St Michaels Volunteer Fire
Department”**

*****June 11-12*****

**7th Maryland Regiment
Encampment**

*****July 4th*****

**Annual Town
Celebration**

August-October Exhibit

**“Three St. Michaels
Artists of the Past”**

**September 13 – Opening
Reception and Gallery Talk**

**October 30 – 2011 Closing
Social and Gallery Talk**

*****December 10-11*****

**Exhibit on the History of
Christmas in St. Michaels**



**7th Maryland Regiment Volunteer Infantry
Marching in St. Michaels**

The 2011 Season at a glance

The 2011 season has seen several new initiatives modeled on trying to make the Museum more relevant and involved with the community. In addition to the continually expanding “small town 4th of July celebration”, this year we sponsored the 7th Maryland Regiment Volunteer Infantry Encampment. This community wide project featured military drills, living history encampments and music. It had delights for young and old and was very well received. In another attempt to highlight the unique historical nature of our town we started this year to offer two different docent led historical walking tours of in the Historic District every Saturday at 10:30 AM. With adequate publicity, the turnout for these tours (10-15 on good weather days) was quite good. We hope to continue next year and maybe expand our repertoire with some new stops and sites. Again we presented two major exhibits on local culture. The first a history of the St Michael’s Fire Department and the second on the work of three St. Michaels artists of the early 20th Century. We are also in the process of painting and restoring the exteriors of our three buildings and hope to present a “new look” to the property with a Handicap Entrance at the Teetotem Building and additional patios and walkways (see attachment). We hope that these additions will add visual stimulation to attract additional visitors and locals to our exhibits and events.

A Note from the President

As another season comes to a close for the St. Michaels Museum we look back with great satisfaction on the success of programs presented. This year's exhibitions on the Fire Department's history and artists working in the area were well received. The encampment of the 7th Maryland Regiment Volunteer Infantry on St. Mary's Square was the first of many presentations of living history the museum hopes to sponsor. The 4th of July Parade never ceases to amaze me, how each year is better than the last. Our final exhibit will be held during Christmas in St. Michaels – come learn about the history of this wonderful charitable event and the women and men who founded this organization.

Spring of 2012 will be the advent of the museum and town's commemoration of the men and women who defended St. Michaels and Bay Hundred area from the British during the War of 1812. There will be programs and events posted on our website so check it for times and activities you won't want to miss! Events will continue up to (and beyond) Saturday, August 10th, 2013 – 200 years to the day of the British assault!

I wish to thank the board members, docents and volunteers for their dedication and participation in perpetuating the museum's mission to educate the community and visitors about the rich and wonderful history of St. Michaels. And equally as important, many, many thanks to members and sponsors who make this all possible – your dues and donations are greatly appreciated and well used.

A final note: Two of our most valued volunteers, George and Betty Seymour, step down from their positions at this season's end. Among his many accomplishments, George, the tireless champion of Frederick Douglass, convinced the state of Maryland to dedicate Route 33/St. Michaels Road to Douglass and created a walking tour highlighting sites that influenced the most notable native of the Eastern Shore during his development from a slave to freeman. Betty, co-curator with Kate Fones, retires from her position but will thankfully remain on our board. Throughout the years Betty has continually created exhibitions and programs rich in local history. George and Betty have been most gracious in sharing their knowledge and time and we, the board, members of the museum and town, have benefited greatly from their generosity.

Do plan to join us at the annual meeting in March when we will share our upcoming plans for 2012.

Marie

Docent Doings

Support from our volunteers made it possible!

The success of our 2011 season is due in large part to the hard work of our two dedicated docent coordinators, Lynn Freeburger and Anne Keiser, coupled with the creativeness of our curators and, very importantly, the efforts of our docents in covering the four weekly shifts. The docents provide a knowledgeable and friendly face to our visitors.

A special Docent Thank You Party on November 18 featured Klaus Liebig, a descendent of Terrence Burrows (1896-1968) one of the artists who was recently displayed at the museum. Burrows sponsored Klaus' family enabling them to emigrate from Memel, Germany and to live in America. Liebig has fond memories of Burrows the sea captain and artist who lived in St. Michaels and who kept a pet parrot. He told many tales not only of Burrows but also growing up in St Michaels. With good food and drink everyone celebrated the finish of another exceptional season for our museum.



Is Betty short or Klaus tall??

Docent Led Walking Tours

This year we restarted our Saturday morning docent led walking tours, alternating between "Young Frederick Douglass, a slave, in St Michaels" and "The Historic St Michaels Waterfront". Many out of town visitors made this a highlight of their visit and locals brought their guests to learn a bit more about the history and culture of our village. Generally the tours were well received due in large part to the expertise and enthusiasm of our tour guides: George Seymour, Frank Downing, Tony Vaughn, Kate Fones and Jeff Fones. Due to pending retirements and possible new tours we will need a few more volunteers to lead a tour once a month and help design possible new tours. These tours provide visitors with a glimpse at the roots of the town and take home a broader knowledge of why it is such a desirable place.

**St. Michaels
Museum
At St. Mary's Square**

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**[www.stmichaels
museum.org](http://www.stmichaelsmuseum.org)**

**stmichaelsmuseum
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**PO Box 714,
St Michaels 21663
410 745 9561**

St. Michael's Fire Department: 110 Years of Service

We opened the season with a St. Michaels Fire Department Exhibit. Robert Murray, Treas. of the fire department, opened their archives and his personal collection to us to exhibit anything we wanted to use. Use it we did as we borrowed Capt. Louis Murray's chief's helmet, badges, uniform, a band uniform and scanned and exhibited about 40 photographs from their collection. At our opening the firemen brought their first fire engine, *The Maggie* bought about 1929, for all to see up close and let Betty blow the siren.

We held an evening of remembrance during which retired fireman, Joseph Kilmon, Pam O'Brian, Ginny Adams and current fireman, Douglas Haddaway related some of the memorable moments they have had as firemen and volunteers. We were proud to give honor to these volunteer men and women who have protected our town since the 1920's.



Three St. Michaels Artists of the Past

In August, the museum opened its second exhibit, "Three St. Michaels Artists of the Past", featuring Clark Summers Marshall (1861-1944), Boaz Aquila Blades (1865-1942) and Captain Terrence M. Burrows (1896-1968). It ran until the end of the season, October 31, 2011.

The goal of the show was to highlight early St. Michaels' artists. We discovered that two of the artists, Blades and Burrows, were born and raised in St. Michaels. The third, Marshall, had close ties to the town even though he was not born and raised here. We also discovered as early as the 1880's, the town valued art and displayed it in the town's store windows, for example local drug stores, barber shops or banks. These paintings were discussed in the local papers, the St. Michaels Comet and the Easton Gazette. We were also fortunate to discover local families who own several paintings by these artists.

Clark Marshall had the longest most impressive career. St. Michaels' old-timers remember him with his easel and little canvas bottomed stool painting scenes about Kirby's Shipyard (now Higgins) and of the schooners and pungies at anchor in St. Michaels harbor. Boaz Aquila Blades was born directly across the street from the Teetotum at 112 East Chestnut Street. He was a self-taught painter and concentrated on nautical scenes around St. Michaels Harbor and later on the lower Chesapeake. Terrance M. Burrows was a professional sailor and became a captain in 1933. He sailed on ships in Europe, the West Indies and captained steamers for the port of Baltimore. After World War II Burrows painted in oil and pastels and was largely self-taught.

St Michaels Museum at St Mary's Square

PO Box 714

St Michaels, MD 21663

www.stmichaelsmuseum.org

Year End Giving

We are headed into a major renovation of the Museum and would appreciate any year-end gifts that you can manage. We have sufficient funding to begin the porch and handicap ramp but will need additional funds to complete the approach walkway from Chestnut, the surrounding patio, and walkways to the Sewell and Chaney Houses. We plan to have the ramp and new entrance finished for our May 2012 opening and would like to complete as much additional as possible.

Please remember us in your end of year tax deductible contributions. We are tax deductible non-profit 501c3 corporation operated exclusively by volunteers.

**Mail contributions to:
St Michaels Museum
PO Box 714
St Michaels MD 21663**

Consider Volunteering in 2012

As we enter 2012 we face the inevitable retirement of some docents and tour leaders at a time when we hope to increase our programs and start new outreaches to the community. Please consider helping us on these interesting projects: Be a docent taking one 3-hour shift a month greeting interesting visitors. Be a walking tour leader for one Saturday Morning a month and learn more about our town. Help plan and stage new events in a variety of areas. Help the curators stage exhibits and bring our records up to date. Think about it and for further information contact any board member.

EMAIL News

We are regularly distributing news and notices of activities by email but our address list is not complete. If you haven't been getting these and would like to send an email to stmichaelsmuseum@atlanticbb.net.