

THE *Research* LIBRARY

The Historical Society's research library regularly welcomes researchers from across the United States and all over the world. The collection is comprised of over 60,000 items including archival documents, photos, maps, genealogies and oral histories. Much of the catalog is searchable through the Society's website:



The Bordley History Center will allow the library collection to expand and make it fully handicapped-accessible to all researchers, volunteers and staff. The relocation will also significantly enhance the Society's ability to engage the community in history-keeping and documentation and offer an attractive repository for the donation of local history materials,

**THE BORDLEY HISTORY CENTER
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF KENT COUNTY**

Please help us create the history center that Kent County deserves.

WHEN YOU THINK OF

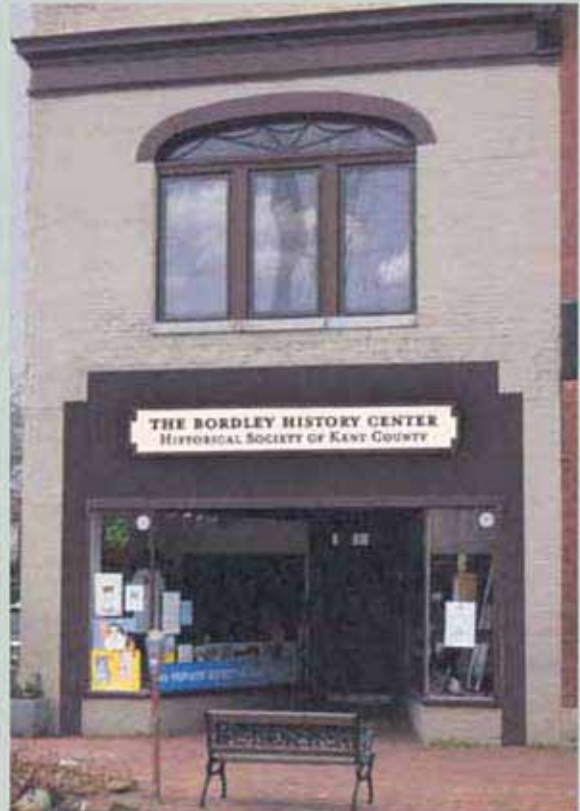
Kent County

YOU THINK OF HISTORY



Founded in 1936, the Historical Society of Kent County connects visitors, residents, students and researchers to Kent County history through exhibits, the research library, programs, tours and the website. The Society offers these educational resources while promoting visitation to the county's beautifully preserved sites.

In 2010, hampered by a lack of space for its expanding programs and accessibility for its library, the Board began seeking funds for a new facility. The search was soon rewarded by the Schottland Family. Formerly of Chestertown, Stanley Schottland and his sons Charles, Peter and Steve, donated the "Bordley Building" in the heart of Chestertown at 301 High Street to establish the Bordley History Center in honor of Stanley's wife and the sons' mother, the late Ellen Bordley Schottland.



The Bordley History Center will offer exhibits, a research library, children's activities and community meeting space.

The building has already become a center of community activity. Projects such as the *Mapping of African American History in Chestertown*, the War of 1812 Eastern Shore Militia re-creation and *Voices of Kent* Oral Histories have engaged diverse groups and are already helping create a unique space in the community.

The Society's increased visibility has brought about inclusion in Tea Party and Sultana Projects will include *Ghost Walks of Historic Chestertown* as a part of Downrigging Weekend.

But major repairs and renovations are needed to make the building fully accessible, energy efficient and code compliant.

To accomplish this, the Society needs your help. Once this work is completed, the Society's new headquarters will be an inviting and appropriate portal to the unique, colorful and ongoing history of Kent County.



Please help us create the history center that Kent County deserves.



THE BORDLEY *Family*

From 1649 to the present, this family has produced a long line of ministers, lawyers and doctors. Here are just a few.

- **Thomas Bordley** came to Kent County from England in 1649. By 1712 he held the office of attorney general. Thomas married twice. His son Stephen (1709-1764) became an excellent lawyer and one of the richest men in the colony.
- **John Beale Bordley** (1727 - 1804), Stephen's half-brother, became nationally famous. He lived with his uncle in Chestertown and was schooled by Charles Peale, father of Charles Wilson Peale. After studying law with his half-brother he went on to become a judge. A major land-owner, he developed an interest in agriculture, wrote extensively and advised both Washington and Jefferson on agrarian matters.
- **The Rev. Stephen Bordley** (1674-1709) Sent from England to become rector of St. Paul's, Kent Co. in 1700.
- **John Beale Bordley** (1800-1882) Famous Maryland portrait painter.
- **Stephen Bordley "Jr."** (1704-1752) Practiced law in Kent Co., elected to the lower house, Md legislature. Owned over 1,300 acres in Kent County.
- **Judge James Bordley** (1736-1793) Son of Stephen Bordley "Jr". Served in lower house of Md legislature, vestry of St. Paul's, Register of St Paul's, captain of a militia company.
- **Dr. James Bordley** (1808-1872) Graduated from Washington College and went on to become one of the best physicians of his time. Began a long line of physicians which continued into the 21st century.
- **Ellen Bordley**, who married Stanley Schottland, appears to be last Bordley born in Kent County.

There will be several naming opportunities for major donors to the Bordley History Center project. Please contact the Society if you are interested and we would be pleased to discuss these with you in detail.

Although its facilities and programs are open to the public, the Society enjoys a membership of over 400 individuals and families, and benefits from a volunteer force of over 100.

The Society is solely supported by its membership, private gifts and grants. Donations are tax deductible and are greatly appreciated.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY
of
KENT COUNTY

The Key to Kent County History 

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THE *Learning* CENTER

The first floor of the Bordley History Center will offer a multi-purpose exhibit and program area, or Learning Center. Already this open space in the heart of Chestertown's historic district has become a focus of community energy – people gathering together – to talk about and learn about history.

Exhibits that would not have been possible for the Society previously have attracted the larger community, and the Learning Center will at long last provide the space for expansion of the Society's children's program and activities.

