

# FIRE MUSEUM WATCHDESK

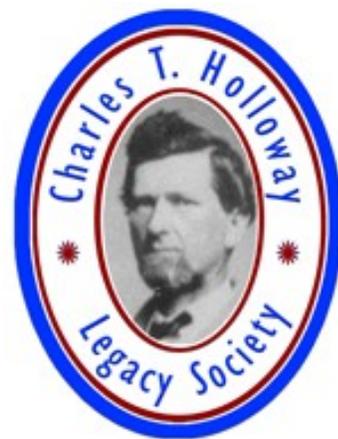
*Autumn 2012*



Collecting · Preserving · Educating · Interpreting

## **THE ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN IS LAUNCHED!**

From the initial party in April of 2011 until today, \$524,175 has been either donated or pledged. Our goal is 3M. What a great start! Thank you to those who have made a contribution to the future of the Fire Museum. More donors are needed to make our goal. If you would like a copy of a typical Codicil that you can discuss with your lawyer, wish to write a check, or prefer to transfer stock, call Steve Heaver for assistance. The Board of Directors will use annual dividends from the endowment to support salaries and utilities.



## **WHO WAS CHARLES T. HOLLOWAY?**



Chief Engineer Holloway (1827-1898) is “without doubt the greatest single figure on the Baltimore scene in the 19th century.” (quoted from *Baltimore Builders of Fire Apparatus, 1823-1964*) Holloway spent a life-time in education and fire safety. We can do no better for a leading figure. The Museum has a collection of artifacts including this fine, hand-painted extinguisher (on the left) and the chemical engine “Dexter Bullard”. Recently donated is the tower key box for E6 made by Robert Holloway, father of Charles.

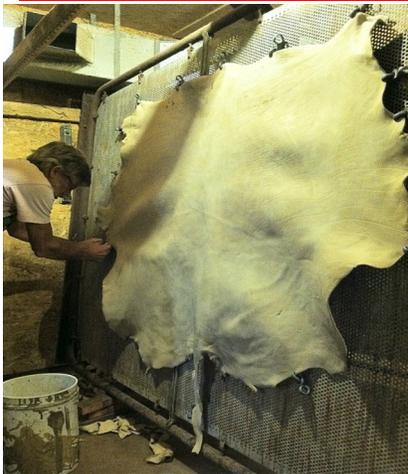


## The F.M.M. is Pounding out Leather Hose: an Experiment Becomes a History Lesson!

For the first time in 175 years, someone is making riveted leather hose. Starting with the tools, then moving to the technique, we have tried to reconstruct the making of a hose. A drawing was prepared from an original brass coupling and a replica made by Pratt Wagon Works. Leather was ordered from Pergamena. One cow hide, cut into 9" strips will make 25' of hose! Rivets & tools had to be procured. Jim Adams made the hammer & directed the actual technique of setting the rivets, using a tool made by Rut Colt (see below) based on an 1808 patent drawing. Bill McCartin made up a tool box. Then it was time to see how these elements come together and how efficiently we could work.



The hose that was made would have been used with the 1806 Pat Lyon hand pumper above.



## Join Us!

A member of the Fire Museum receives:

- Unlimited admission for one full year (including annual members-only pizza party and Christmas train garden)
- 10% discount on all museum shop purchases
- \$20 discount on all birthday parties

**FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$55**

(includes 2 parents or 2 grandparents and children/grandchildren under age 18)

**JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP: \$15**

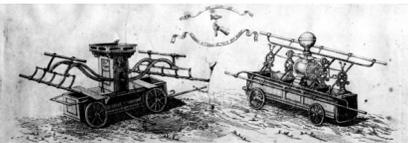
**SENIOR/FIREFIGHTER MEMBERSHIP: \$30**

**ENGINEER MEMBERSHIP: \$75**

**LIEUTENANT MEMBERSHIP: \$125**

*Your membership dues will help strengthen our educational programs and activities.*

**JOIN TODAY! You'll be glad you did!**



**P. LYON,**  
ENGINEER, PHILADELPHIA;  
*Patent improved Hydraulic Fire-Engine and Pump-maker,*  
FOR  
The Use of Brewers, Distillers, supplying Houses,  
and Pumping Ships.  
ALSO  
**FLOATING ENGINES,**  
For the Protection of WHARVES, SHIPPING, &c.—ENGINES for ARMED  
VESSELS, which occupy less Room than those on the common Construction.  
*New improved Rotary Pumps,*  
Which raise Water to any given Height, with a constant and uniform Stream,  
without Cylinder, Piston, or Air Vessel.  
**SMOKE JACKS and SYMPATHETIC HINGES,**  
*On the most improved Principle.*  
Printing, Seal, and other Presses, on various  
Constructions.  
*Iron Doors, Chests, Book-cases, and for the Purpose of*  
*Fire-proofs, with the most perfect Locks & Securities.*  
CRANE NECKS, & BRASSES screwed for old Engines,  
*for repair to any use.*  
**GARDEN ENGINES,**  
*On the Patent Principle; the best and most efficient ever known.*  
N.B. The above Articles finished in the first Style  
of Elegance.  
Orders from any Part of the Continent executed with Promptness, for ready Money only.  
JOHN TROTTON, PRINTER.

## Remembering the War of 1812 and the enormous role of the Fire-Fighter Citizen.

### Exhibit Opens Saturday, May 4, 2013

A special part of our 1814 exhibit will focus on the rich and colorful history of Baltimore's very first fire company, **THE ANCIENT & HONORABLE MECHANICAL FIRE CO. OF BALTIMORE**, founded in 1763. Come learn about their reason for forming up because it wasn't just about fire fighting. 2013 is their 250th anniversary!

The events of August and September 1814, as the British invasion force marauded up and down the Chesapeake Bay, left several places in flames. One was Havre de Grace (pictured R) and another was Washington, D.C. Fire apparatus and government buildings in D.C. were destroyed. Baltimore fire fighters who were able-bodied, joined militia regiments but everybody had been helping to build defense bulwarks in North Point and as far north as Patterson Park.



What did the volunteers wear? While the military had uniforms (some are shown above) the fire fighters did not. There is an engraved certificate from Charlestown, S.C., pre-1817 (see right), showing a tar-coated hat such as what the marines were wearing, so we've connected some dots. These hats were designed to shed water and were popular with sailors. Jackets, shirts and trousers would have been selected by the men depending upon what most of them already owned that matched. This was the parade attire. It would be another ten years before the fire departments of the day developed a complete parade uniform and an additional thirty years before fire ground apparel began to look familiar to the modern person.

If you would like to be invited to the Opening Reception, please notify the office. We'd love to share cocktails with you. Set aside:

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2013

\*\*\* OPENING RECEPTION \*\*\*



Above: Maryland Historical Society (Hambleton Print Collection)  
Below: Smithsonian Institution (INA Collection)



## Birthday Parties

We have the very best birthday parties here at the Fire Museum with:

- A party room (with 4 tables covered with red vinyl) exclusively for your party
- A play room (Discovery Room) — put on fire gear and climb on a real fire engine
- Fire engine rides in the parking lot\*
- Tours of the museum\*
- Visiting fireman in full gear gives safety talk\*

\*Added Fee

While mom is setting up the party, the kids can play in the Discovery Room putting on fire gear, climbing on a real fire engine and playing with dozens of toys.

We carry birthday party supplies and special birthday gifts in our Gift Shop. Call us early at 410-321-7500 X103 to schedule a party — or check our website at [www.firemuseummd.org](http://www.firemuseummd.org).

## STILL COMING IN 2012 – PLEASE JOIN US!



### LANTERN NIGHT – Sat. October 27, 6-8 p.m.

*Come see the collections in a new light!*

Candle and kerosene lanterns will be lit; spot lights will be hidden here and there; twenty-some interpreters will be dressed in period attire, chatting about their favorite times.

This event has become one of our most popular, and it is the only evening show, so please join us. Wear your Halloween costume and get in half-price, if you aren't already a member. Bring your camera for some 'Kodak' moments.

Sponsored by Columbia Bank and the Baltimore County Commission on the Arts & Sciences.



### SANTA ARRIVES & NEW CHRISTMAS GARDEN OPENS – Sat. Nov. 24, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

This November 24th is a special moment for us because every four to five years we completely re-do the garden: 2012 is the big year! Connie and Chuck Atkinson have been working since last year to bring a new flavor to our garden and we know that you will be very pleased with what you find next month. It's pure magic. And while you're enjoying the trains and street car, look for some Baltimore and Maryland landmarks, the Zoo, Gwynn Oak Amusement Park and a multiple-alarm fire. There is also a Fire Museum of Maryland and a Baltimore F. D. Museum.

Many Baltimore fire houses sported Christmas Gardens after WWI as the firemen made the houses and other pieces in the course of their year. Elaborate backdrops masked out the fire house walls. This Baltimore tradition actually dates back to the German immigrants who brought a bit of their homeland with them across the ocean. (The photo-R shows last year's garden.) Many of the shops and stores have been sponsored by local businesses. If you would like to help next year, please contact Steve. We're also looking for simplified models of historic buildings or notable places.

#### SANTA COMES AGAIN WITH MUSIC, MERRIMENT AND JOY

Santa also arrives at 11am for visits with the kids in the Chief's sleigh. Free photos will be taken and a print is made while you wait. Our Santa is unique as he wears a custom suit made by Valerie Mathers and patterned after Victorian book illustrations. Mr. Claus will be 'on duty' from 11 until 2, so please bring your younger friends for a visit.



# A PHOTOGRAPHIC REVIEW OF 2012

## GREAT FIRE COACH TOUR, 6 February

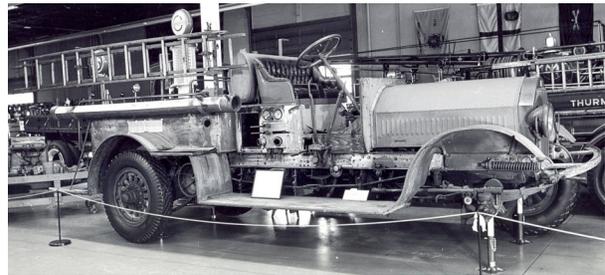
The year started off with the hugely popular Fire Tour with Wayne Schaumburg and a coach trip downtown into the Burnt District (no photo, sorry) followed by warm refreshments back at the Museum.

## ANNUAL CLEANING DAY, 12 March

What a great team of folks showed up to help. 40 plus friends do glass case cleaning, brass polishing, furniture oiling and sundry projects every year. The upper right photo was taken about 1973 by our then staff Photographer, Charlie Echols, as the volunteer restoration team began its work on the 1920 Seagrave Model F. Used by Ridgway, Pa. it was never modified by them so it is entirely original in format. Over the years, the wooden wheels and 2 of the 4 ladders were refurbished. The photo to the right shows Pat McCabe and Rut Colt working on the last two ladders which were started at the 2011 Work Day. \$26,000 still needs to be raised to pay for the gold leafing in 2014.

Another project was to spackle and paint the Special Exhibits Room. A week of prep. was done on the walls and clearing exhibits. The two-tone blue paint job looked super by 4 p.m. Two gifts are making air conditioning and heat possible right now (Oct.). Chason Engineering is spearheading that project. We still need \$22,000 to put in a ceiling, floor, rest room and lighting. Next year this will become the birthday room as well as space for changing exhibits, small meetings, &c.

Thank you to everyone who came out this year and helped!



## MEMBERS' PIZZA NIGHT, 18 May

Another big hit is when our Members come together for a private party. Pizza, juice, soda and cookies ( we must have cookies) are served; rides are given on the 1927 Seagrave or 1949 Mack. New exhibits are enjoyed.

If you are not a member and would like to support the FMM and have your name on the mailing list for events, contact the office or click on "Membership" on the Web site. Admission is free all year for members, a discount is offered at the Store, and for parties and rentals.



## 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL STEAM SHOW, 5 May

Opening Day has not always been our Steam Show. In fact, sometimes, opening day was on a Sunday. And we called it "Steam Sunday". When the first Steam Show took place in 1977, Bob Dreyer was the chair and he wanted to encourage youngsters who were building engine models to bring them for a test with live steam. Today that is still true, although Bob is now an exhibitor.

Shown on the right is the Museum's 1899 American 3rd Size Metropolitan, with a model in the foreground. Below is the 1853 John Smith Class A engine as it joined Class C engines for a special hand tub muster. A 65' water tower and kids' contests are common components of this glorious show. Our educational mission includes working a significant portion of the collection.



Walt Rice (driving) brings a team or two of Percherons and gives rides on the 1898 American combination wagon. One year we tried laying hose with horses: gave us more respect for what fire fighters do today. Below, Steve Heaver and John LaCosta confer on the water level in the boiler.



## 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY TOWSON PARADE

The 4th of July Parade sees a big turn-out of FMM equipment. The 1898 Hale tower (L) with its 1961 rear fenders and modern tiller is our 'flagship'. The 1927 Maxim (R)(on loan by David and Nancy Brown) Engine No.1 makes its debut appearance in Maryland. This rig was perfectly restored by the Browns; the decorating was added by Peter Acorn.

The images below show our 1949 Mack sedan from Ridgeley, W.Va., and some staff: Jason Illari, Tom Colleran and Tom Heaver standing alongside of the 1898 Hale water tower, ex-Baltimore City. The first practical water tower was built in Baltimore by Logan & Greenleaf but was quickly superseded by the design of Chief George Hale of Kansas City.

Photographers contributing to this Newsletter are: David Ruby, Tommy Herman, Lee Smith, Tom Heaver & Steve Heaver.



**Birthday Rides Year Round!**

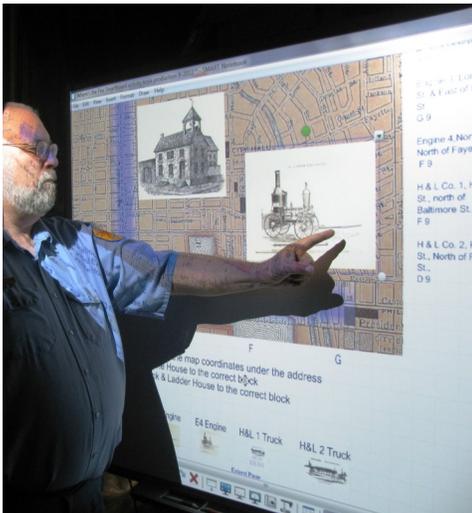
We can supply a fire engine for your next party or event. Rides on site are \$175 and offsite within 10 miles are \$200. Warm weather rides in an open cab; cold weather in the sedan. Contact Marilyn Smoot, ext.103, for details. In case of inclement weather, we will return your deposit.

## SUMMER ACTIVITIES & EDUCATION

Summertime is our busiest season for out-of-State visitors. It's also the time for weekday hours and 11 a.m. activities. Right, Staff Member Tom Colleran, B.Co.F.D. (ret.), is engaging youngsters in the new Rescue game. Below left is Educator and Ass't Director Rob Williams testing our new "Democracy and Leadership" tour on the SmartBoard provided by the Maryland Humanities Council.

Below right is Tour Guide Dave Whitson, Capt., B.C.F.D., (ret.), and Alarm Operator Bill McCartin at the watch desk. Close by is the audio self-guided tour starting point. Sounds of the vehicles, sirens, bells and whistles, plus the story of the Great 1904 Fire can be heard at the visitor's leisure.

We welcome two new tour guides, Colleen McCormick and Timothee Maubrey. You may have seen them in action!



### New Fire Rescue Game a Success, Teachers Volunteer Advice on Tour Programs

**The Fire Rescue Game** brought in new families and members this summer. Children dressed in fire gear and Breathing Apparatus Packs, donated in part by REI Inc., and crawled through the "burning building" searching for a sibling or parent. This children's activity, offered on Fridays, at 11 am all summer, taught children fire safety, and how not to panic or hide.

**The New Educators' Committee Meeting** brought in six area teachers to advise the Education Department on state curriculum changes, and how we can better support teachers and students with their lesson plans. The committee meets three times a school year. Teachers who volunteered came from the public schools, special needs programs and private schools. Teachers interested in volunteering can call Rob Williams at 410-321-7500 x102.

**The Smartboard Program, entitled "Democracy & Leadership", has now been completed, and shows how the Clay Street Fire of 1873 spread and the decisions that were made by city leaders to bring it under control.** Children role-play as actual firemen who fought in the worst fire in the City's history before 1904. They locate their fire houses on a projected 1873 streetscape, count the bells and determine who is first due to the fire. School groups, and eventually adult tour groups, will explore Baltimore politics and history, and learn map reading skills, using this interactive teaching technology.

## CRUISIN' FOR OUR HEROES MOTOR MUSTER & SHOW, 8 September



"Cruisin' for Our Heroes" is the muster and show for more modern equipment so anything with an engine is invited to this one! This is the day that we salute all of the uniformed services who keep us safe throughout the year. The Snorkel Squirt (upper L) is controlled from inside the cab. Jim Melia (upper R) is giving rides with his 1964 American-LaFrance engine. Antique cars, motor cycles, Dalmatians, rescue trucks, ambulances, food and educational displays can be enjoyed. Custom fire models are inside. Below is a fully restored 1929 White and a first-time visitor to this show, and a 1922 Ahrens-Fox.



Remember the center-fold of last year's Newsletter? It showed a panorama of Ahrens-Foxes during Ahrens-Fox Day at the Museum. **If you would like to purchase a 13x38" panoramic print of this stunning display taken from the roof of Heaver Plaza, we still have a few copies left for sale at \$50 plus postage.**



Chairman Bob Brown is in front of the antique cars. On the right is Sheriff Jay Fisher presenting a trophy to Tommy Herman. The Baltimore County Sheriff's Department sponsors this event with assistance from the Baltimore County Arts & Sciences Commission, which supports the FMM throughout the year.



(cont.)



Baltimore County F.D. sent Truck 1 from Towson to be on display. They responded from here to a fire.

To the left is a shot of the Museum's very own Fire Alarm Office, often interpreted by Staff Members Curt Elie, Bill McCartin and Doug Scarborough. In this fully-functioning central office, the technique of transmitting the fire alarm over the centuries is explained and demonstrated. The equipment shown was in service from about 1880 to 1970 in the United States.



From the ringing of church bells to the tripping of personal radios, citizens had to alert each other to the outbreak of a fire. The FMM has an especially fine display of telegraph devices made by Gamewell Co., the leader in the field since 1857. In 2014 we hope to double the size of the Alarm Office and bring it up to the computer age. Would you be interested in sponsoring a hands-on exhibit inside that office?

## INTRODUCING JASON ILLARI AS GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR



Jason D. Illari has a college background of history, arts and museum studies, completing his Masters of Arts in 2006. Some of his recent work has taken him to Blount Mansion (Knoxville, TX), City of Bowie Museums and Queen Anne's Co. Hist. Soc. He is on the Board of the Small Museums Assn. and serves as an American Alliance of Museums Peer-Reviewer.

We welcome Jason to the staff where he is the Grants Administrator and spends most of his time plumbing the depths and climbing the heights (pumping and laddering?) of fund raising. He works closely with Steve on finding money to augment our generated income (admissions, parties, rentals, filming and research, &c.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN COLLECTIONS?

By Steve Heaver



**The most exciting project:** erecting the 1871 cast-iron facade of E-8 is now complete. Plasterer Allan Taylor did his magic in August, completing the final moulding that was missing in the cast-iron arches (near L). Decorative metal fabricator Greg Sliviak built a stand for the Loper tower bell ringer last year. Layout of the kitchen and horse stalls remains. The B&W photo (far L) shows the neighboring buildings surrounding E-8, circa 1920. This house was the first to be built by the new, paid FD and the first to have a hose 'drying house' for the new, cotton-jacketed rubber hose. Most of the men were on call, and ran to the fire from their homes.



**The 1899 American steamer wheels** are almost ready for decorating and \$5,500 has already been donated for them. (A big article will cover this next year.) Canvas covers were made (\$450) that are put over the rear wheels while the engine is steaming to protect them from scorching. Some engineers used steel plates but they only protected the bottom foot. More painting and varnishing is planned for this winter. Right photo: Staff Members, Melissa Heaver (L) and Marilyn Smoot (R) hold up a new wheel cover.



Possibly the rarest of rare, I believe this unit is the first transmitter used by Baltimore FD starting in 1859. It is on loan by Baltimore City FD Museum. Hilgartner Stone Co. is making a replica front, as the original is in pieces and cannot be repaired.



**The 1947 Mack Flood Light Wagon** needs a mechanic to help us through a rebuilding of the gen-set Continental engine. Any interest? When done, we'll hire out to light up evening parties or be on call for emergencies! The road engine and brakes have already been done, so this rig already appears in parades.

If the mechanical work that needs to be done is contracted out to a shop, it will cost about \$24,000 to complete the work. If we do it in-house, we need to air condition the Shop. The Museum already owns a 220v. air conditioner which can easily be installed in the Shop. For about \$500 we could make that happen.

## Recent Gifts



We were honored to receive a large collection from both Milton Hasselhoff (Capt., E-7, ret.) and John O'Malley. These and many smaller gifts, as well as loans, keep the staff hopping to record and display or store. Melissa Heaver is our registrar and archivist. A team of volunteers and interns helps out weekly by cataloguing, scanning, organizing photos and archives, as well as performing mechanical repairs, for which we are deeply grateful.

The photo above left, is of a hand-crafted model of E-34 by Lt. Oscar Slitzer and donated by his granddaughter. Above right, is of a typical BCFD spiral staircase. One was donated by Living Classrooms and we will use four treads from it for a bunkroom in the Discovery Room; the remaining 15 treads with 9" risers are for sale: \$5,000.



This 1971 photo of the 1850 John Rodgers built for E-4 Deptford Co. shows (L-R) Keith Whitehurst, Steve Heaver, Jr., Pat Noonan and Steve Heaver, Sr. S.H.Jr. is now the director & curator; Pat is retired as a Board member and still contributes from his farm in Iowa. Keith and Steve, Sr. are deceased.

This Philadelphia style gallery engine (i.e., non suction) has had its four Sheppard oil paintings consolidated, cleaned and coated. Mike Gilbert has started to gild portions of the carved wooden foliage and cornice. We plan to replicate a portion of the original color and striping in the next couple of years, so please look for the progress when you are visiting.

We wish to acknowledge and earnestly thank Gamewell and Alarm Tech for the installation of a first-class fire alarm system. We also thank J.P.I. for the installation of our new burglary system and J.A.C. for a new telephone system on favorable terms.



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### MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of the Fire Museum of Maryland is to collect, preserve, display, and interpret historically significant apparatus and related artifacts, memorabilia, and records of the fire service in the United States; and to educate the public about the history, people, equipment and techniques of the fire service and about fire prevention and safety.*

This newsletter is provided under favorable terms by Hillendale Press, Towson.