



THE LEGACY

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Summer 2019, Volume 56, Number 3

WWII BATAAN DEATH MARCH

BY XINA KOJZAR AND ELLEN KERN

We have many wonderful stories in our archives, but we often have fascinating stories that come from our volunteers. Ms. Ellen Kern is one of our weekly HCHS volunteers who enjoys her position at our Archives Welcome Desk. Ellen's father survived the Bataan Death March in World War II (WWII) and miraculously lived a successful and rewarding life as a soldier and author.

General Harold K. Johnson went to West Point in 1929 at the age of 17. He was born and raised in Grafton, North Dakota and finished his army career as a 4-Star General. After graduating from West Point as a second lieutenant, Harold Johnson was stationed and served at several bases across the United States.

In 1940, Captain Harold Johnson and his family were ordered to Bataan, a province in the Philippines. Ellen was born in the Philippines during his assignment there and four months later, in April of 1941, her mother, brother and baby Ellen were evacuated back to the United States. This was a providential event because on December 7, 1941 the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service executed a surprise military strike upon the United States at the naval base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

At that time, his outfit was one of the first American-led regiments to engage the Japanese in WWII and for a few precious days turned them back. Johnson performed his operations duties with such distinction that he was promoted to Major, then to Lieutenant Colonel and given command of a battalion. Nine days after Johnson took over,



GENERAL HAROLD K. JOHNSON

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THE MUSEUM OF HOWARD COUNTY HISTORY

8328 Court Ave., Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

(Formerly First Presbyterian Church)

(410) 480-3250

Hours: Friday, Saturday and Sunday:

1:00 – 5:00 P.M.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TOM BOWER



Hello members. Hope you are enjoying the summer season. Just wanted to bring you up to date on a few things. Phase 1 rehabilitation of the Weir building was completed on July 5. The Weir Building will be the future location of the Howard County Children's Historical Educational Center. Given the availability of funds from grants, the Weir Building project has been broken down into a number of Phases. Phase 1 focused on infrastructure code compliance and replacement of the Heating and Air Conditioning (AC) system. We replaced the old oil furnace with gas, and replaced individual AC window units with central AC. We also corrected a number of structural issues and started replacing the electrical system to be in code compliance. When we receive our 2019 County Grant, which should be in July, we will start Phase 2 of the project. Work included in this phase will be completing: remaining electrical upgrades for all three (3) levels; remaining structure issues for the building; fire/security wiring, and purchases and install any required equipment; lower level bathroom; interior finishes in the lower level; suspended ceiling in four (4) rooms; and rehabilitating all windows in the 1st floor. Also, we will be renovating the back first floor porch (south porch) which will include refurbishing the cast iron railing and front door; replacing the porch flooring, ceiling, and lighting; replacing the wood slats covering the crawl space under the porch; and cleaning and repairing the stone masonry. In addition to all this building rehabilitation, we will be installing a new archive storage system in the 1st floor climate-controlled storage vault.

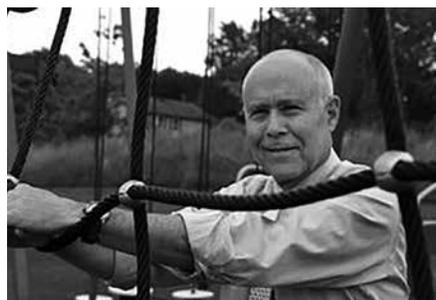
On May 3, the Society held its annual spring fundraiser. The theme this year was "Classic Hollywood", and it was held at the Elkridge Furnace Inn. The event was well attended and all had a great time. A lot of the people attending this year's event are already looking forward to our 2020 Gala. Stay tuned for the venue and date.

Our monthly Lunch Date with History Series (1st Friday of every month) continues to be a big hit and is always well attended. Also, we will be having a booth displaying items from our gift shop at the Howard County Fair. The Society's theme for this year's event is Howard County Fire Departments. Come by and see us. The fair will be open from 3-10 August. Hope to see you there.

Please check our website at hchs.org to see all that is happening with the Society. As always, thank you for your continued support. ❖

THANK YOU FROM HCHS

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff at the Howard County Historical Society, we would like to thank John Byrd for his leadership as Director of Howard County Recreation and Parks for the past 25 years. We have had the opportunity to work with the Heritage division of Recreation and Parks over John's tenure which has helped to preserve many historic structures and provide educational programming at those sites, including the Ellicott City Colored School and the B&O Railroad Station. John Byrd has left a legacy for all Howard Countians to enjoy our history, parks, and open spaces for generations to come. Thank you, John. ❖



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SEND US YOUR ARTICLES

Anyone interested in contributing articles or photographs or anything of interest to the Society, please call the Library at 410-480-3250 or email Janet Kusterer at janetkusterer21042@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

SHAWN GLADDEN



The dog days of summer are upon us and things are hopping, as usual, at the Howard County Historical Society. We are in the midst of designing and installing exhibits at the museum. By the printing of this issue of the *Legacy*, we should have the following new exhibits added to the Museum of Howard County History: **Howard County's Confederate Memorial, Ellicott City: Maryland's Wedding Destination, the History of the Historical Society and the 1st Presbyterian Church Building.** In addition to these exciting new additions to the museum, we are also curating, with help from Brad Tanner and the West Friendship Fire Department, an exhibit for the Howard County Fair, **"Firefighting in Howard**

County". The Howard County Fair runs from August 3rd - 10th, our booth in the Exhibition Hall, the same location as the past few years. We will have a wonderful exhibit, great gift items and our usual cadre of friendly volunteers, staff and Board members. We do have some slots available for volunteers if any members are interested in working the booth. Make sure to stop by and see us at the Howard County Fair!

The Society has been very active this year, partnering with community organizations and our partner historical organizations, celebrating and commemorating our county's rich history. We participated in the Howard County Center of African American Culture's Annual Juneteenth Celebration at Oakland Manor and a joint event at Miller Library with Columbia Archives on June 19th called Let's Talk: The International Day of Drumming and

Healing. These events were a great way to interact with the public and exhibit items from our collection pertaining to Howard County's African American Heritage. We look forward to partnering with these organizations again next year.

Finally, we were recently asked to be a stage for the upcoming Main Street Music Festival on Saturday September 21st. We are working out the final schedule. We will welcome back to the museum on Friday night, September 20, Howard County native Jimmi Sexton and his trio for another **"History of Blues"** musical experience. On Saturday we will feature bands from 1:00 to 6:30 at the museum as a part of the day's musical festivities. Mark your calendars and join us for a wonderful day in Old Ellicott City.

Once again, I thank all of our members, sponsors and supporters throughout the year. We cannot do what we do without this support. ❖

EDITOR'S NOTE

JANET KUSTERER

Summer is flying by and the Howard County Fair will soon be upon us. The Society always puts on a very interesting exhibit and this year is no exception. So, while you are checking out the livestock, admiring the canned preserves, enjoying the thrill rides and snacking on the latest deep-fried indulgence, look for us at our usual location in the exhibition hall.

Earlier this summer we said a fond farewell to two tireless volunteers whose work with a variety of organizations in the historic district of Ellicott City has made it a better place to live, work in and visit. Shelley and Jeff Wygant have been a part of the town for over two decades, and in June left their historic home on College Avenue to return to their roots near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Shelley is a past president of the Historical Society and oversaw the archives move to the Miller Branch Library. She also served on the board of Historic Ellicott City, Inc. and was active in "Let's Work to Save Historic Ellicott City." As a volunteer, Jeff spearheaded the design and development of the new HCHS website, and also did design work for Historic Ellicott City, Inc. We wish them every happiness in their new adventures. ❖



Continued from Page 1

Bataan's ill-prepared, ill-equipped defenders surrendered to an overwhelmingly superior Japanese force.

He and other survivors joined the brutal and arduous 65 mile Bataan March. During the march, prisoners received little food or water, were subjected to severe physical abuse and torture and were forced to sit in sweltering direct sunlight without head coverings. Anyone asking for water was shot dead. Trucks drove over those who fell or succumbed to fatigue and "clean-up crews" put to death those too weak to continue. Some marchers were randomly stabbed by bayonets or beaten.

Hobbling along, gnawing sugar cane to ease hunger. Johnson lived through an ordeal in which 8,150 other American soldiers died. At a prisoner-of-war (POW) compound, his fellow prisoners elected him as a Commissioned Officer trusting him with their money to buy scarce food. They needed an honest man and he was their choice. Johnson kept the camp fed for 2 1/2 years. When his captors insisted that prisoners bow before the camp commander, Johnson refused. "Americans do not bow," he said again and again. "They salute." He kept on saluting.

In 1944, Johnson was one of 1,619 U.S. prisoners who were herded aboard a Japan-bound freighter. Packed shoulder-to-shoulder below decks in 120 degree heat, they were given neither food nor water and drank one another's urine to survive.

While the ship was in the Philippines, U.S. aircraft bombed the ship, killing about 300 of the American prisoners. Survivors who swam ashore were hauled by boxcars to Lingayen Gulf and loaded aboard another freighter. The freighter was forced to dock at Formosa with engine trouble.

Six days later, U.S. planes bombed the island killing outright 100 more Americans. In the next 3 days, hundreds of wounded men died from lack of medical attention. When survivors, including Johnson, arrived at a prison camp at Fukuoka, there was no medical reason Johnson should have been alive. He weighed 90 lbs. and was wasting away with dysentery. During a lottery to see which prisoners would receive one of the limited feeding kits, Johnson drew a winning number.

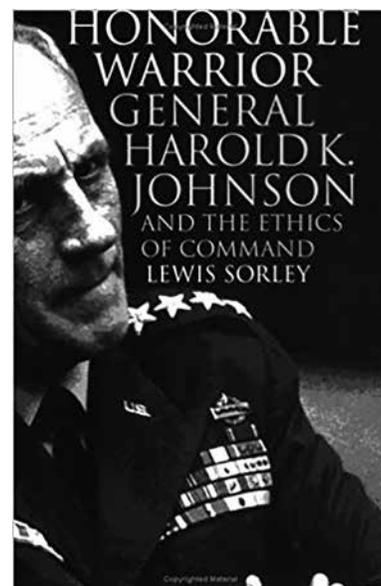
In 1945, the group was moved to Japanese-occupied Korea. On September 6, 1945, six days after Japan's surrender, their camp opened the gates to freedom. Johnson had been a prisoner for 3 years and 5 months. Of the 1,619 Americans who had left the Philippines together, barely a handful survived. Johnson, a deeply religious man, emerged with a heightened faith in God. He was quoted as saying, "As a soldier, he learned the value of controlled impatience."

Following his incredible POW survival, General Harold Johnson continued his professional army career. He was decorated 4 times in Korea, promoted to full Colonel in 1950, to Brigadier General in 1956, served as Chief of Staff to NATO's Central Army Group in West Germany. In 1963, he was



ABOVE: HCHS VOLUNTEER ELLEN KERNS AND HER FAMILY HOLDING HER FATHER'S CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL.

RIGHT: COVER OF LEWIS SORLEY'S BOOK ON GEN. HAROLD K. JOHNSON



ordered to the Pentagon to become Deputy Chief of Staff of Military Operations and in 1964 he was chosen as Army Chief of Staff by Defense Secretary McNamara and was awarded his 4th star.

In December 2016, a Congressional Gold Medal was approved specifically to honor and commemorate the Filipino, American and Filipino-American Veterans of WWII. The Congressional Gold Medal is an award bestowed by Congress and is one of the highest civilian awards in the United States. For the past two years ceremonies have been held across the United States to present the award to surviving veterans and/or their families. Ellen Kern and a few members of General Harold K. Johnson's family attended the ceremony held on March 16, 2019 in Los Cruces, New Mexico and received the Congressional Gold Medal. A Bataan Death March Marathon was held at White Sands, New Mexico and several participants carried weighted backpacks to replicate the original soldier's harsh struggles.

We sincerely congratulate all the WWII veterans who have waited 75 years to be honored through this program. Our deepest heartfelt appreciation goes out to all current military personnel, veterans and their families. ✦

STORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES

A CIVIL WAR SOLDIER'S LETTER TO HOME

BY PAULETTE LUTZ

We have many original hand-written letters in our Howard County Historical Society (HCHS) Archives. Many are poignant and wonderful descriptors of life in a particular era. This is the case in a letter written by Robert Goodloe "Harper" Carroll, great-grandson of Charles Carroll of Carrollton and brother to John Lee Carroll, Governor of Maryland.

R. G. Harper Carroll lived at "Homewood" (1839 to 1915) which was built on the land of Doughoregan Manor located at Homewood Road and Route 108. Harper attended St. Mary's College in Ilchester, Md. with his younger brother Albert.

Harper and his wife Eleanor "Ella" Thompson Carroll lived at Homewood. The family home passed on to R. G. Harper Carroll II and remained in the Carroll family until the 1960s. Homewood, sitting on 14-acres has six bedrooms, six fireplaces, library, wine cellar, grand foyer and kitchen.

Away from home as a 22-year-old young man, Harper was recorded in the Confederate muster rolls as 5'7", fair complexion, blue eyes and dark hair. He enlisted at Leesburg, Virginia in Company K of the 1st Virginia Cavalry, Confederate Army along with his brother Albert, who later died in battle.

Harper met Ella S. Thompson quite conveniently. Ella was the sister of Governor John Lee Carroll's second wife Mary Carter Thompson. Ella was born and raised in Staunton. Harper (24) and Ella (23) were married on June 18, 1863 in Staunton, Virginia where Ella lived.

Six months later, on October 5, 1863, Harper Carroll was serving in Culpeper, Virginia as an Aide to General Ewell. Starting on September 12, 1863, the Army of the Potomac's 10,000-man Union Cavalry under General Alfred Pleasanton

October 5, [18]63

My dearest girl,

Last night I received your letter in answer to a very cross note I wrote a few days before. Let me assure you Little Puss it was not in the temper that you supposed. I was fearful of its giving you too much pain. Poor Little Puss, the very idea of what that letter has caused you has given me the well-deserved punishment. To crown it all, this evening I was told by a person, a trunk was down at my tent. Someone attached here found it at Gordonsville and brought it on. I know not what to thank you most for. The guilt will be particularly agreeable as tonight is very cold. I have reserved the peaches for private hungry hours. The potatoes will be very nice as we are in want of vegetables or just out of them. The preserves put me in mind of my little darling running about the house with dress tucked up and sweet and dirty fingers. I cannot express myself to you as the idea of your doing this for pleasure, gives me more innate pleasure than the trunk itself.

I have received your note this evening by mail. I am much obliged to the donors. Thank them for me. Earl's peaches shall be delivered.

The enemy have made some very odd movements looking rather like an attack. Do not start below until this has blown over. Today everything was packed up ready for move. Our position is magnificent. Yesterday I went on Clarks Mountain – a position completely overlooking Culpeper, Madison and Rappahannock Counties. The camps of the enemy seemed to be stretched over 30 miles square. 'Tis very seldom in one's life a person can have an opportunity of such an extraordinary sight. Can you imagine two armies 150,000 men lying at your feet, their pickets within three hundred yards but perfectly quiet? 'Tis beyond all conception.

Write me on receipt of this and tell me you have forgotten my note. Do not start down the valley without some fit companion, and wait till this is over as I might be wounded. I shall return the trunk, as I am not allowed no room in wagons.

*Your devoted husband,
Harper*

crossed the Rappahannock River to attack Major General J. E. B. Stuart's headquarters at Culpeper Court House.

Above is a transcription (as it is written) of an original letter in the HCHS Archives that Harper wrote to Ella describing the lack of food and supplies and the anxiety of the warfront. And even in war, marriage squabbles existed.

Harper survived the battle and skirmishes with countless numbers killed and wounded. During this battle, General George Armstrong Custer seized more than 100 prisoners as well as three artillery pieces. The Union victory opened up

the Culpeper region to Federal control. On May 4, 1864, Harper Carroll was promoted to Full 1st Lieutenant. As a Commissioned Officer, he mustered out of the Army on November, 21, 1864.

Harper returned to Homewood with his beloved Ella after the War. However, Ella died in 1872 at the age of 32 – the cause unknown. He eventually married Miss Mary D. Lee of Frederick County, Maryland. He outlived both of his wives. R. G. Harper Carroll died on January 20, 1915 of pneumonia at 79 years old at Homewood. He is buried in the New Cathedral Cemetery in Baltimore City. ❖

Upcoming Events



THE HISTORY OF BLUES PART 2 WITH THE JIMMI SEXTON TRIO

Friday, September 20th

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

ELLICOTT CITY MAIN STREET MUSIC FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 21st

Museum stage performances: 1:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Featuring Southpaw, Durham Station Bluegrass, Starvation Army Band, and Georgie Jessup

43RD ANNUAL HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR

SPONSORED BY THE BOB LUCIDO TEAM OF
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Sunday, December 8th

Southern Howard County: Laurel, Montpelier Mansion

LUNCH DATES WITH HISTORY 2019 LECTURE SERIES AT THE HCHS MUSEUM

The Museum of Howard County History (8328 Court Ave, Ellicott City) is proud to host a series of lectures for 2019. Bring your own lunch. Drinks and treats will be provided. Tickets are Free for HCHS Members and only \$5 for non-members.

Doors open at 11:30am. Each lecture runs noon-1:00pm followed by an optional tour of the museum 1:00-1:30pm. For more information, call 410-480-3250 or email info@hchsmd.org.

- August 2nd - Colonial Clothing - Nastassia Parker
- September 6th - A Brief History of Schools in Howard County - Laura O'Donnell
- October 4th - Haunted Ellicott City - Shelley Wygant
- November 1st - Billy Barton, Race Horse at Belmont - Fred Dorsey, Preservation Howard County
- December 6th - Civilian and Military Life in the Civil War - Eddie Roberts

MILLER BRANCH LIBRARY HISTORY SERIES

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All lectures are free. Reservations must be made through the Howard County Library System NOT the Historical Society. Call 410-313-1950 or visit <http://hclibrary.org/classes-events/> to register.

- Monday October 21 - In God's Presence: Chaplains, Missionaries, and Religious Space during the American Civil War - Howard Community College Professor Ben Miller
- Monday September 16 - The History of Howard County's NAACP - Willie Flowers

VISIT THE MUSEUM OF HOWARD COUNTY HISTORY

Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

The Museum of Howard County History is located at 8328 Court Avenue off Main Street in Ellicott City. Parking is available in the Circuit Court House Parking lot or in public parking lot E behind Ellicott Mills Brewing Company where you can climb the staircase to the museum. Please call 410-480-3250 if you wish an appointment.

HOWARD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY HELP DESK

Third Saturday of Every Month, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

THE GENEALOGICAL HELP DESK IS HELD AT
THE MILLER BRANCH LIBRARY HISTORICAL CENTER
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The Howard County Genealogical Society hosts a free help desk on the third Saturday of every month at our Archive and Research Library located on the second floor of the Miller Branch Library. This help desk is open to genealogical research in all areas of the United States, Europe and other countries. Anyone interested in genealogical research is invited to stop by and have experienced genealogists help you to "break down the brick wall" or get started on your family history. For more information call 410-480-3250.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ANY OF OUR EVENTS
PLEASE CALL 410-480-3250
OR VISIT WWW.HCHSMD.ORG/EVENTS

WEDDINGS IN ELLICOTT CITY

BY KAITLYN MCKAY

In 1927, Reverend Edward N. Parrish of the Emory Methodist Church lived across the street from one of his predecessors, Reverend James Anderson who had recently retired. Outside both of their homes was a sign that said “the occupant is a clergyman.”

By the early 20th century, Ellicott City had gained a reputation as the place young Baltimore couples traveled to if they wanted a quick marriage. During this period, it was Maryland law that a couple must be married by a clergyman, as civil marriages wouldn't be legal until the 1960s. Because of this, many pastors with in Ellicott City would marry couples as a second job. Couples would often knock on the door of the pastor's house, ask to be married and the wedding would either take place at the church or in the pastor's living room.

Reverend Parrish accused his neighbor of soliciting couples outside the courthouse, saying that Reverend Anderson had been “performing marriages in an undignified manner in a manner not suited to the marriage vows.” Parrish also believed that because Anderson was a retired minister without a church, he should not perform any marriages. Even the board of the Emory Methodist Episcopal Church publicly denounced Mr. Anderson, saying that he “violated the ethics of the ministry by soliciting marriages in Ellicott City.”

A court battle soon erupted between the two warring ministers, with Anderson suing Parrish for \$10,000 in damages and accusing him of slander. Anderson denied soliciting marriages to couples outside the courthouse, but he did admit to questioning couples leaving the building “if they had been directed to any special minister to the performance of the marriage ceremony.” The case was ultimately thrown out after several witnesses admitted that the retired pastor did ask “if they were looking for a minister.” ❖

This story was reported from a series of *Baltimore Sun* articles published in 1927.

Be on the lookout for the Museum of Howard County History's upcoming wedding exhibit, where you'll learn even more fascinating stories behind the couples that got married in Ellicott City.

PASTOR DENIES SEEKING MATRIMONIAL 'BUSINESS'

Former Ellicott City Minister
Sues Fellow Clergyman
for \$10,000.

MAKES SLANDER CHARGE

Frederick, Md., Nov. 7.—On the witness stand in the Circuit Court here today the Rev. James H. Anderson, a retired minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, denied that he had ever approached couples to solicit “marriage business” at the Ellicott City courthouse. He admitted, however, that he had questioned young men and women leaving the building to ascertain if they had been directed to any special minister for the performance of the marriage ceremony.

The minister was testifying in his suit for \$10,000 against the Rev. Edward M. Parrish, pastor of the Emory Methodist Episcopal Church, of Ellicott City, for alleged publication of slanderous statements. The trial began before Judges Glenn H. Worthington and Robert B. Peter and a jury here today.

The suit is based on a resolution passed by the official board of Emory Methodist Episcopal Church.

In the resolution, the Rev. Mr. Anderson is alleged to have “openly and flagrantly violated the ethics of the ministry by soliciting marriages in Ellicott City.”

Ten or fifteen witnesses may be heard in the hearing which is expected to last throughout tomorrow.

The resolution says:

“We note with deep regret that the Rev. Mr. Anderson, a retired minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, has openly and flagrantly violated the ethics of the ministry by approaching couples coming to the Ellicott City courthouse to obtain marriage licenses and soliciting their patronage. This practice is contrary to the spirit of the ministry, and serves to debase the high calling which is the inspiration actuating the servants of the church of Christ.

“But more particularly is the influence of such procedure detrimental to the solemnity and sacredness of the marriage vow.

“Further, we are convinced that the local church is injured by reason of this practice.

“We believe much harm has come from the doubtful influence of the Rev. Mr. Anderson's practices and the Protestant churches of Ellicott City are embarrassed by his marriage business.”

MUSEUM ARTIFACT SPOTLIGHT:

FELS LANE DOLLHOUSE

BY MARY SANPHILIPPO



The Fels Lane dollhouse currently on display in the Museum is an almost perfect miniaturization of 3628 Fels Lane, mirroring the exact layout and similar coloration of the original house. The eight rooms are fully furnished and have working electricity and can be viewed by museum visitors.

It was donated to the Historical Society in June of 2011 by Mrs. Betty Martin Cugle, who grew up in the house and subsequently commissioned the construction of a model. She began this task in 1985, and completed it on November 17, 1986.

Along with her donation of the doll house, Mrs. Cugle also provided a detailed account of her process of assembling the dollhouse, recounting several false starts before finding the right builder to materialize her vision. She ultimately employed a woodwork hobbyist named Melvin McKenzie, who completely finished the construction and electric wiring of the house. The completed doll house was then wallpapered and decorated by Mrs. Cugle, and furnished with appropriately-sized furniture.

Mrs. Cugle provided information regarding both the dollhouse and its life-size counterpart with her donation. This information included the assembly account, as well as hand-drawn plans of the dollhouse, receipts of transactions with Mr. McKenzie, an inventory of every accessory purchased and several pages of photographs that depicted every step of the dollhouse assembly. ❖



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