



THE HERITAGE

It's summertime in 1873... Deer Park Hotel in Garrett County

Tucked in the far northwestern part of Maryland state lies Garrett County named for John Work Garrett, the President of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad from 1858 till his death in 1884. The B&O Railroad was completed through the County in 1851. Some 5,000 men worked on the section between Cumberland and Grafton. The county that bears his name was originally part of Allegany County. By 1871, an active campaign for the organization of a new county was underway. Among the reasons for the separation from Allegany were: distance from the County seat, desire for a larger representation in the General Assembly; the claim that of \$28,000 collected in taxes only \$18,400 were spent in the area. (p. 346)

So why Garrett? Found in the newspaper, *The Glades Star* archives, "the railroad company not only provided convenient transportation for the products of our farms, forests, and mines, but, thru Mr. Garrett's influence, it promoted the areas as a summer resort." In John Work Garrett's annual report for 1860, he wrote of "the salubrious climate and beautiful scenery,"

and of "the absence of adequate hotel accommodations." (p. 352). During the boom years, East Coast railroads were finding that a lucrative passenger business could be built up for transporting people



(Permission by the Garrett County Historical Society Museum)

from a city to railroad-owned hotels in the mountains. Thus, the B&O Railroad ventured into the "resort hotel" business in 1869 when it purchased several hundred acres. (Wikipedia) "The Civil War delayed Mr. Garrett's plans for building hotels, but in 1873, the Deer Park Hotel was built, and in 1876 another company summer hotel was opened in Oakland, the county seat." (p. 352). Deer Park's east and west wings were added in 1881-82 bringing the total number of rooms to 300. The Deer Park Hotel was one of five combination station-hotels built by the B&O during the

Calendar of Events



L'elisir d'amore (Gaetano Donizetti)

Thursday, September 26th
at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 29th
at 3:00 p.m.

This opera is the first of four operas in the 2013-14 season. Buy the Four-Opera Package and receive a 15% discount or buy a Three-Opera Package for a 10% discount. Single tickets are on sale, too. Order online (<http://www.baltimoreconcertopera.com>) and select your own seats or call Julia Cooke, Executive Director, at 443-445-0226. The operas are sell-outs. Order tickets soon.

Why not complement the Sunday concert with brunch at the Mansion. Call 410-539-6914 for details and reservations.

continued on page 3



THE
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11 West Mount Vernon Place
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"Heritage" is distributed to members and friends of The Garrett-Jacob Mansion Endowment on a quarterly basis.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund is to preserve and restore the Mansion as a National Historic Landmark and to share the history, architectural and civic legacy of the Mansion for the benefit and education of the public.

New GJMEF Trustee...
Ms. Lisa Keir

"Lisa has been a valuable member of the GJMEF Advisory Council since its founding in the summer of 2002. Her election to the Board reflects the many contributions she has made in helping the GJMEF carry out its mission to preserve the Mansion and to educate the public about its historical and architectural value. Lisa will bring to the Board her extensive background in the important cultural heritage of Mount Vernon Place and will help the Board to strengthen its community partnerships."

Kathleen Waters Sander, Ph.D.
GJMEF Trustee



Lisa Keir

Lisa Keir joins the Board of Trustees of the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund, bringing a deep interest in Mount Vernon's history and architecture and a broad knowledge of the community to the Board's efforts to restore the Mansion and make it available for public use. "I am delighted to be invited to join the Trustees because bringing Baltimoreans to visit the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion is a wonderful way for people to learn about Baltimore's extraordinary 19th century history and the people who helped to build it into a major city," she stated.

Lisa has been closely associated with the Mansion since 2000, when she became the Director of the Mount Vernon Cultural District, a private non-profit organization charged with making Mount Vernon an arts and culture destination. Through 2006, she worked with the staffs of the GJMEF and the Engineers Club, organizing lectures, tours, and receptions at the Mansion for the public, bringing hundreds of Baltimoreans into the Mansion for their first glimpse of its awe-inspiring interior. For several years, the GJMEF hosted an open house for all the cultural institutions during the October First Thursdays concerts. "For

many of the young concert-goers, this was their first venture inside the Mansion and they were awed by its magnificence and its impressive role in Baltimore's history," she noted.

Subsequently, she joined the GJMEF's Advisory Board at its inception, brainstorming ideas for continued public use of the building and developing methods of increasing its website presence.

Lisa is an avid amateur historian and has developed two tours of the Mount Vernon area—one featuring its architecture (including, of course, the Mansion) and another of its literary heritage—which she continues to offer to groups interested in learning more about Mount Vernon. "Lisa Keir is the former Executive Director of Development and Marketing for the Maryland Humanities Council. She is thoroughly invested in the Mount Vernon area," adds Judith Proffitt, GJMEF Trustee.

Deer Park

from page 1

(Permission by the Garrett County Historical Society Museum)



1870s including the Queen City Hotel in Cumberland, Maryland.(Wikipedia)

As the above June 21st, 1890 advertisement reads, Deer Park introduced “electric lights” throughout the house and grounds. The Deer Park Spring, which produced pure mountain water that was sold commercially, supplied the hotel, its swimming pool, and Turkish baths. Deer Park Spring water is still bottled commercially today. With the absence of air-conditioning and a golf course, it reads much like the amenities in many of today’s luxurious resort hotels.

Deer Park’s guests, specifically during John Work Garrett’s time, were luminous in our country’s history. After President

Grover Cleveland’s White House wedding to Frances Folsom, the couple honeymooned in June 1886. President Benjamin Harrison and his wife visited Deer Park for two weeks in 1887 and again in 1889 (p. 261). Ulysses S. Grant vacationed at Deer Park in 1883. Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman vacationed there in the late 1870s. While Archbishop James Gibbons of Baltimore was vacationing at Deer Park in the summer of 1886, he was notified by the Pope that he was elevated to the office of Cardinal. Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, spent a few weeks in 1883 at the Oakland Hotel while he directed the first telephone hookup in Garrett County between the Oakland and Deer Park Hotels (p.261).

Later on a few famous folks “camped” actually camped together at Swallow Falls near Deer Park. Along a walking trail is a marker stating so. Henry Ford, founder of Ford Motor Co., Thomas Edison, inventor of the electric light, Harvey Firestone, founder of Firestone Tire Co., and John Burroughs, famed naturalist/writer camped there in 1918 then the first three returned to camp in 1921.

Wealthy and historic Americans owned cottages at Deer Park and Garrett County itself. In a peculiar fate, John Work Garrett, who had a large summer home at Deer Park died there on September 26, 1884, 10 months after his beloved wife’s death. While in Paris in 1888, his son, Robert, who was recuperating from ailing health, received word that his brother, T. Harrison died in a yachting



Deer Park Dining Room. (Permission by the Garrett County Historical Society Museum)

collision. “Harry” went overboard. The sea gave up its dead a week later. Robert never regained his health and he also died at Deer Park on July 29, 1896 not a his Mount Vernon mansion in Baltimore. In brief, both father and son died at Deer Park.

Deer Park’s popularity declined after 1900 and the resort finally closed after the onset of the Depression in 1929. The grand hotel itself was razed in 1944 due to a fire; although a few of the opulent cottages remain as reminders of the park’s faded majesty. (Wikipedia)

A sincere thank you to the Curator and Assistant Curator of the Garrett County Historical Society Museum for their help in collecting the historical material for this article.

Sources:

The Glades Star, Volume 4, Number 34, Oakland, Maryland June 30, 1949.

Wikipedia, Feldstein, Albert L., Garrett County, Arcadia Publishing, ISBN-0738542660, 2006.

Remodeled Bride’s Restroom

The second floor Bride’s Restroom has a new look that includes a dressing room with a three-chair lighted make-up counter, a closet, a pull-down ironing board, and electrical outlets. The exquisite window remains.



Visit the Mansion...

Tours are available for groups by appointment or for walk-ins from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, contact patti@esb.org or call her at 410-539-6914.

The Mansion will be closed Monday July 1 through Friday July 12.



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THE GARRETT-JACOBS MANSION ENDOWMENT FUND
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Your support can help the trustees in their on-going effort to restore and preserve this landmark property, listed in the National Register as part of the Mount Vernon Place Historic District and documented in the Library of Congress as part of the Historic American Buildings Survey.

Benefits include a subscription to the Heritage Quarterly and advance notice of public events at the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion.

Complete this coupon and mail check to:
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