Old Home Prize Essay collection
3.5 linear feet; 7 half-manuscript boxes

Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture, Salisbury University, Salisbury, Maryland

Finding aid written by Donna Messick, December 2008 with edits and additions completed by Regina Miller, January 2015.

Accession Number: 2008.133

Creator: Students from Somerset and Wicomico County High Schools

Acquisition: The Old Home Prize Essay Contest collection was donated to the Nabb Research Center by Thomas Hughes, December 2008. Additional items were donated by the Wicomico County Library, February 2009.

Language: Material entirely in English.

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Related Materials: Collected Research papers, 1982.001
Ed Jones Student Papers collection, 1996.018
Freedom Ainsworth papers, 1999.008
**Administrative History:** The Old Home Prize Essay contest was established in 1909, offered to senior high school students taking advanced English classes in Somerset and Wicomico Counties. Essays focused on the Eastern Shore and its history. For example, at Crisfield High School the contest was called the Hogdson Old Home Prize Essay. The valedictorian of the senior class is chosen to write the essay and read it at graduation. At Washington High School it is known as the Duer McMaster Old Home Prize Essay. It is open to all senior English students on a volunteer basis. Members of the community are chosen to read the essays and choose the winner from the submissions.

**Scope and Content Note:** The Old Home Prize Essay collection documents the contest submissions from both Somerset and Wicomico Counties, dating from 1932-1996, with a bulk of the material dating from 1970-1987. The essays cover a wide range of topics all of which focus on the Delmarva area. These topics include towns, houses and buildings, famous settlers, the Chesapeake Bay, and the Eastern Shore’s involvement in the Civil War.

**Arrangement Statement:** The Old Home Prize Essay collection has been arranged into two series, SOMERSET COUNTY and WICOMICO COUNTY. Somerset County documents the contest essay submissions from Somerset County high schools. The Wicomico County series includes the contest essay submissions from high schools in Wicomico County.

Both series are further subdivided into nine subseries, *Churches and Religion*, *Education*, *History*, *Towns and Communities*, *Maritime*, *Business and Occupations*, *People*, *Houses and Buildings*, and *Lifestyle*. The Churches and Religion subseries documents the essays which focus on local churches or religious organizations. These submissions include essays on synagogues, Asbury United Methodist Church and Quakerism. The Education subseries documents essays focusing on topics relating to education, specific schools, the development of education and integration on the eastern shore. The History subseries documents essay submissions focused on the history of the eastern shore. These topics range from early colonial settlement, to local military history and slavery. The Towns and Communities subseries documents submissions which look at local communities including Princess Anne, Assateague, and Smith Island. The Maritime subseries documents essays focusing mainly on the Chesapeake Bay, though other submissions center on water transportation. The Business and Occupations subseries documents essays which focus on local businesses and industries including fishing and banking. The People subseries documents submissions whose focus is with well-known Eastern Shoremen and women including Patty Cannon, Fredrick Douglass and Joshua Thomas. The Houses and Buildings subseries documents those essays which concentrate on local landmarks such as Teackle Mansion and Beckford. The Lifestyle subseries documents essays covering a variety of topics including folklore, ghosts, and decoy carvings.

Folders are listed by their location in each box; any given subject may be dispersed throughout the entirety of the collection.
Subject Terms:

General Terms

American Indians
Architecture--Maryland
Assateague Island (Md. And Va.)
Beckford
Chesapeake Bay (Md. And Va.)
Churches--Maryland
Civil War
Manokin
Nanticoke
Oxford
Princess Anne (Md.)
Sharptown, Md.
Slavery
Smith Island (Md. And Va.)
Somerset County (Md.)
Teackle Mansion
Wicomico County (Md.)

Corporate Names

Green Hill Church
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Washington High School

Personal Names

Cannon, Patty
Chase, Samuel
Douglass, Frederick
Teackle
Thomas, Joshua
Ward, Lemuel
Ward, Steven
Series I: Somerset County

Subseries A: Churches and Religion

Box 1
1. The Anglican Church, Wayne Tull, 1958
2. The Annemessex Quakers, Phyllis, undated
3. Antioch United Methodist Church: Past and Present, Dawn Northam, 1977
4. Asbury Church, Dorthea Pittinger, 1952
5. Beside the Still Waters, undated
6. The Brethren Heritage of the Greenhill Church, 1976 April 26
8. Early Justice in Accomac, Dorothy Siddons, 1938
9. Greenhill church of the Brethren, 1977 April 25
10. History of the Manokin Presbyterian Church, undated
11. The History of the Rehoboth Baptist Church, Cindy Rogers, undated
12. The History of St. Andrews, 1975 May 2
13. Manokin Presbyterian Church-Princess Anne, 1975
14. A Maritime Saga – the Migration of the Methodist, Janet Hall, undated
15. The Methodist Religion, 1977 April 25
16. Old Churches and Homes in Somerset County, undated
17. Old Green Hill Church, Alice Miller, 1958
18. On a Little Green Hill, Ellen Custin, undated
19. The Pentecostal Movement and Somerset County, 1982 April 26
20. Presbyterianism and the Manokin Presbyterian Church, 1982 April 26
21. Quakerism in “Old Somerset”, 1983 April 25
22. The Rectory, 1983 April 25
23. Religion to the Front in Old Somerset, Edith Harts, 1932
24. They Brought God with Them, 1957

Subseries B: Education
25. Builder and Guardian of civilization, Susan Barnes, 1957 April 1
26. The Development of Education in Delaware, Nancy Hastings, 1939
27. Fairmount Academy, undated
28. The History of Somerset Junior and Senior High, Donzell Gaines, 1970 May 15
29. The Long History of the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, 1972
30. Memories of the Homemaker’s Club in Somerset County: Past and Present, undated
31. Migrant Education in Somerset County, 1981 April 27
32. The Perryhawkin School, Kathi Ann Smullen, 1977 April 25
33. Seats of Learning in Somerset County, 1933
34. University of Maryland, Eastern Shore: Portrait of a University, 1974 April 25
35. Washington Academy, 1976 April 26
36. Washington Academy and Washington High, undated

**Subseries C: History**

37. Early Exploration and Settlement of the Lower Chesapeake Bay, 1975
38. Father Bretheran Relates, Ronnie Grangier, undated
39. First Naval Battle in United States History, Greg Muir, 1977 April 25
40. An Historical Background of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Kenneth B. Bellinger, 1947
41. Little-Known Facts about Del-Mar-Va, Emily Tharsky, 1940
42. Maryland’s Past in the Civil War, 1974 April 25
43. The Natural History of Somerset County and How it Affects Us, Andy Nunez, undated
44. Past Attempts at Eastern Shore Secession, Peggy Johnson, undated
45. Somerset County in the Beginning, Sharon Holden, 1976 May

**Box 2**

**Subseries D: Towns and Communities**

1. Allen: Past and Present, Carol Davis, 1980 April 28
2. Assateague, Yesterday’s Nature and Tomorrow’s Dreams, Valerie Street, 1972
3. Bicentennial Aspects of Somerset County, Roslyn Tilghman, 1976 April 26
4. Birthday Celebration of Princess Anne Towne, Pat Johnson, undated
5. Champ, Maryland, Sam Bozman, 1977
6. The Colonial Charm of Princess Anne, Sheila Collier, 1977 April 25
7. Communities Along the Manokin River Past and Present, Debbie Bloodsworth, 1972
8. Fortune Brings in… The Whitehaven Ferry Story, 1980 April 28
9. Geanguakin: the Rise and Fall of the Roaming Mire, Jill Hall, 1984 April 24
10. Historical Background, undated
11. Kings Creek: Past and Present, 1980 April 28
12. The Lost Town, undated
13. The Lost Village of Somerset, 1959
17. Old Princess Anne Days: A Town Looks Back into the Past, 1974 April 25
18. A Profile of Princess Anne and Somerset County Maryland, 1972
19. Smith Island, an Island Heritage, Karen Ramsey, undated
21. Smith’s Great Little Island, 1978 April 24
23. Tangier Island, Howard Davenport, 1969 May 19
24. The West of West Post Office, 1976 April 26
Subseries E: Maritime
25. Are the Skipjacks Dead or Just Silent, Wally Webster, 1972
26. The Chesapeake Bay: A Great Estuary, 1980 April 28
27. Chesapeake Bay Transportation: Past, Present and Future, Mary Virginia Banes, undated
28. The Chesapeake Bay and its Winning Production, 1977 April 25
29. Chesapeake: Diamond of the Eastern Shore, 1957
30. The Eastern Shore and Some of its Rivers 1945-1946, Robert Wink, undated
31. The Good Old Steamboatin’ Days, undated
32. The Pocomoke River: Facts and Figures, Allen Parks, 1977 April 22
33. The Saga of the Bugeye, Patricia Noble, 1955
34. The Skipjacks of the Chesapeake Bay, Patricia Parkinson, 1984 April 24
35. Tidewaters, Betty Jean Richard, 1945
36. Transportation on the Wicomico River, Joseph Thomas, 1937
37. The Way to an Eastern Shoreman’s Heart, Natalie Fox, 1943 May 1
38. Somerset County Marshland, undated

Subseries F: Business and Occupations
39. Bank of Somerset, Teresa Bozman, 1984 April 24
40. Beyond those walls of Gray, 1966
41. Camp Somerset, Linda Boston, undated
42. Commercial Fishing on the Chesapeake Bay, undated
43. Crisfield and its Industry, 1977 April 25
44. Eastern and Western Shore Agricultural Changes During the Five Year Period, 1940-1945, Richard Dunn, undated
45. Eastern Shore State Hospital, Donna Ballard, 1972
46. The Economy of Somerset County, 1977 April 25
47. Give Me Central, 1983 April 25
48. The Historical Development of Hospitals in Somerset County, 1978 April 24

Box 3
1. The History of Bountiful Ridge Nurseries, 1974 April 25
2. History of the Railroad, 1976 April 26
3. The History of the Washington Hotel, 1977 April 25
4. How A Waterman Earns His Living, 1978 April 24
5. The Industries of the Del-Mar-Va Peninsula, Emily Horner, 1932
6. Just A Symbol, undated
7. Libraries- An Eastern Shore Tradition, Julia Lee Powell, 1938
8. The Maryland State Police, Jimmy Muir, 1976 April 26
9. McCready Memorial Hospital: The Old and the New, 1977 April 25
10. Mental Health on the Eastern Shore, 1957 April 1
11. The Oyster Industry on the Chesapeake Bay of Maryland, undated
12. Peninsula Bank: The Oldest Bank in Somerset County, 1980 April 28
13. Somerset County, Danny McCallum, 1976 May 4
14. The Ways of the Somerset County Watermen, Joseph Chisholm, 1984 April 24
15. Westover Mill, 1977 April 25
16. Whatsoever Somerset’s 12% Soweth, undated
17. When the Fullest Moon Shall Rise, Laurie Bloodsworth, 1971 May 17

**Subseries G: People**
18. Caesar Rodney, Elinor Frances Pusey, 1939
20. The Chase Controversy-A New Destiny, Gary Chamberlin, 1980 April 28
21. Confederates of Somerset County, Debbie, undated
22. Demosthenes of Maryland, Janet Beauchamp, undated
23. The Dennises of Delmarva, Anne Bloodsworth, 1958
24. Frederick Douglass, Patricia Rhodes, undated
25. Frederick Douglass, 1981 May 27
26. Frederick Douglass: From Slavery to Prominence, 1972
27. Frederick Douglass, the “Black American Spokesman”, Alan Stewart, 1977 April 25
28. Handy Family of Somerset County, undated
29. Harriet Tubman: The Moses of Her People, 1983 April 25
30. Henry Boston, Melody Smith, 1972
32. John Gunby, undated
33. John Smith Looks at the Eastern Shore, 1972
34. Joshua Thomas, 1977 April 25
35. Joshua Thomas, undated
36. Ladies in the Forefront, Becky Miller, 1970 May 15
37. The legend of Joshua Thomas, 1976 April 26
38. Levin L. Waters, undated
39. The Life of Major-General Arnold Elzey, 1976 April 26
40. The Life of Patty Cannon, Lisa Street, undated
41. A Look at the Ledger, undated
42. The Long Walk to Freedom, Bernadette Fisher, 1977 April 25
43. Luther Martin, Charlene Harmon, 1979 April 23
44. The Lynching of ’33, Samuel R. Chaffey, undated
45. Maryland’s Most Distinguished Lady, 1981 April 27
46. A Melancholy Tone, Joyce Johnson, 1977 April 25
47. The Mind and Heart of Frederick Douglass, Otis Johnson, undated
48. The Notorious Patty Cannon, Debbie Gale, 1972
49. Outstanding Citizens of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Betty Anne Bailey, 1945
50. Patti Cannon, 1981 April 27
51. A Pioneer of Tangier, undated
52. The Pocomoke Indians, 1975

Box 4

1. The Poets of the Eastern Shore, Vicki Street, undated
2. Princess Anne Hosts the Wildest Lynching Party in the History of Maryland, 1976 April 26
3. Reminiscences of an Old Waterman, Marie Widdowson, undated
4. Reminiscences of the Island Parson, Ralph Miles, 1934
5. The Saga of Thornton, 1983 April 25
6. Samuel Chase, James Tilghman, undated
7. Samuel Chase, Daniel Lawson, 1972
10. Samuel Chase: Signer of the Declaration of Independence, undated
11. Samuel Chase: The Patriot, 1933
12. Samuel Chase: The Revolutionary Spark of Maryland, John S., 1966
13. Somerset’s Female General, Renee O’Rourke, 1984 April 21

Subseries H: Houses and Buildings

16. The Almondington Farm, 1978
17. Discovering Arcadia, 1987 April 27
18. Beckford, undated
20. Beverly of Worcester, undated
22. Caldicott – The People and the Place, Heidi Kurtz, 1984 April 24
23. Cellar House, undated
24. Cellar House Farm on the Pocomoke, Linda Creasy, 1965
25. Courts and Courthouses of Somerset County, 1976 April 26
26. A Day in Old Somerset, 1957
27. A Dream of Waterloo, Barbara Murray, undated
29. The Elmwood Farm, 1975
30. Famous Old Homes of Maryland’s Eastern Shore, Janet Mulder, undated
31. The Highlights of Oxford, undated
32. History of Beverly: Plantation and House, 1980 April 28
33. The History of Clifton Manor, 1976 April 26
34. In the Kitchen, Daniel J. Houlihan, 1976 April 26
35. Ivy Hall: Home of Historic Splendor, Craig, undated
36. Liberty Hall, John, 1966
37. Lord Teackle’s Castle, Francine Fulton, 1966
38. Make Peace, undated
39. Melody Manor: The Only Castle on the Wicomico, undated
40. Nutter’s Purchase, Grace Alder, undated
41. Princess Anne - A Historical Experience, Cheryll Collier, 1977 April 25
42. The Princess Anne Courthouse, 1976 April 26
43. The Schoolridge Farm: Upper Fairmount, Maryland, Gail Ford, 1971 May 17
44. Seventeenth Century Architecture of the Eastern Shore, April Eberly, undated
45. Somerset County Courthouses, Gary Adams, 1977 April 25
46. Sudler’s Conclusion, 1976 April 26
47. Teackle Mansion, Alan Dykes, 1974 April 25
48. The Teackle Mansion, 1976 April 26
49. The Teackle Mansion, Sharon Doyle, 1972
50. Three Original Proprietary Land Grants, Ellen Long, undated
51. Waterloo, Beverly, undated
52. Waterloo, 1976 April 26

Box 5

Subseries I: Lifestyle
1. Crisfield Hard Crab Derby: A Dream Come True, 1978 April 24
2. The Eastern Shore of Tomorrow, Laura Catherine Jones, 1945
3. Evils of the Eastern Shore, Mary K. Vessey, undated
4. Famous Dishes of the Eastern Shore, Anne Whaley, 1942
5. The First Naval Engagement in American Waters, 1974 April 25
6. Folklore, 1977 April 25
7. Folklore and Stories told by Crisfielders, 1977 April 25
8. The Folklore of Weather, Stanley Zaczkiewicz, undated
10. From Here to There, Janet Emma Catlin, 1977 April 25
11. In Days of Old, Gretta Caton, 1943 May 7
12. A Look at Old Princess Anne Days, Sheri Olsen, 1983 April 25
16. Spooks and Specters of Historic Somerset, 1982 April 26
17. The Sun: An Alternative, Linda Wiles, 1981 April 13
18. Superstitions of Somerset County, Michele Snead, 1984
19. Use of Leisure Time, Frances Fleming, 1938
20. The Vanished Shoreman, undated
21. Washington High Basketball: The Highlight Years, Bruce Bozman, 1977 April 25
22. Worthy use of Leisure Time, Dorothy Siddons, 1938

Series II: Wicomico County

Subseries A: Business and Occupations
23. A Neglected Landmark, Lauren L. Dianich, 1984 March 26
25. The History of Delmarva Power and Light Company, Jeffrey L. Mills, 1971 May
26. Assateague Island National Seashore, M. Jennings Curry, 1981 April 4
27. Life-Saving Stations of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Delaware and Virginia, Bryan Fykes, undated
29. Waterfowling Techniques of the Market Gunner, Christopher Hall, 1989 April 3
30. An Industry not to be Forgotten, Dawn Grimes, 1989 March 22
32. The Evolution of Pine Bluff, Stacy L. Shedaker, 1995 March
33. Go Getters: A Model Community Rehabilitation Center, Nicole Marcson, 1992 April 5
34. Sharptown: Boats, Baskets and Bridges, J. Gregory Herling, 1992 March 16

Subseries B: Churches and Religion
35. Early Churches of the Eastern Shore, Tammy Knowles, 1983 April 11
36. Green Hill Church: A Relic of the Past, Deborah S. Arbaugh, 1977 April 7
37. St. Luke’s Church: Church Hill Maryland, Mary Ruhl, undated
38. The Chipman Church Restoration, Angela D. Long, undated
39. Francis Makemie and the Presbyterian Church on the Eastern Shore, Sean C. O’Rourke, 1996 April 22
40. The Synagogues of the Eastern Shore, Allan Rubin, 1986 March 14

Subseries C: Education
41. Bringing the Shore Together: The Integration of Schools, Megan Roe, 1991 February 19

Box 6

Subseries D: People
1. Portrait of a Rebel, Paula Miller, undated
2. Littleton Dennis Teackle: His Life and His Mansion, Susan E. Pinto, 1983 March 14
4. Elihu Emory Jackson, Chris Kantzes, 1981 March 30
6. Crisfield’s Two Genuine Counterfeeters, Alana S. Culver, 1979 January 18
7. Joshua Thomas, Cheryl Thomas, undated
8. A Success within a Failure, Heather Walton, 1994 March 18
10. The Queen of Crime of the Eastern Shore, Laura Vodak, 1987 March 20

Subseries E: Houses and Buildings
12. A History of the Teackle Mansion, Sally Dreyer, 1967 March 31
13. Fairview and its Ghosts, Amelie Chai, 1989 March 14
15. New Nithsdale: Then and Now, Kathy Shenasky, 1988 March 28

Subseries F: Maritime
16. Oyster Wars on the Chesapeake Bay, Vicky Jones, 1982 March 28
17. Steamboats on the Wicomico, Martha Senkeil, 1982 March 22
18. Chesapeake Bay Bugeye, Kenny Culver, undated
20. Pollution and the Chesapeake Bay, Sarah Davis, 1994 April 13
21. Needed Bay Restoration, Stephen Charrier, 1992

Subseries G: Towns and Communities
22. The Disappearance of Holland’s Island, Linda Diane Moskov, 1983 March 14
23. Whitehaven: A Circle Completed, Cara Griffin, 1979 April 1
24. The Forgotten “Showplace of the Chesapeake”, Sheri Lee Reeder, 1980 March 17
25. By the Shores of the Beautiful Nanticoke: Sharptown, Hope Knowles, 1978 April 1
26. Life in the community of San Domingo: Past and Present, Peggy Denice Quinton, 1976 April 1
27. From Bereton to Allen, Melissa Pollitt, 1974 May 15
29. Deal Island: Past and Present, Mary Ellen Cooper, 1972 April 17
30. Smith Island, Linda Wooten, undated
31. Smith Island: From Past to Present the People and the Place, Samuel Beardsley, 1969 February 28
32. The Rise and Decline of Oxford Maryland, Gail Gunby, 1964 March 16
33. Resorts, Railroads and Healing Water: The Springs at Mardela Springs, Maryland, Charles Sutton, 1995 February
34. Crisfield and the Seafood Industry, Tom Messick, 1991 February 18
35. The Downtown Plaza: To be or not to be?, Melinda Anne Mantello, undated
36. The Port of Salisbury, Heather L. Kimmel, 1988 March 25
37. The History of Mardela Springs, Maryland, Karen Bailey, 1988 March 17
38. The Assateague Island Controversy, 1968 April 1
39. Smith Island: Progress in Harmony with Tradition, Todd Hall, 1992

Box 7

**Subseries H: History**
2. Exile of the Acadians to Maryland, Linda Miller, 1984 March 26
3. The Struggles Encountered While Trying to Obtain Kent Island, Rick Schilling, 1984 April 6
5. Nanticokes of the eastern Shore, Alison Kooba, undated
6. The Naylor Mill Paleochannel, Alan Brent Truitt, undated
7. The Struggle to form Wicomico County, Paul M. Adkins, 1981 April 2
8. The First Naval Battle in the United States, Joan Freeny, undated
9. The Annamessex Indians, Kennedy Smith, 1975 May 19
10. A Brief Study on the Action of the Eastern Shore Regarding Slavery during the nineteenth century with special attention given to two major opposing factions, Dru Wells, 1971 April 1
11. History of Somerset County, Maryland 1861-1865: Divided Loyalties, Brian Payne, 1994 April
12. Nanticoke Indians, Tom Miller, undated
13. The Old Way to Ocean City, Jim Hudson, 1990
15. The Battle of Caulk’s Field, Jill Truitt, 1987 March 17
16. Somerset Courthouses before 1742, Barbara Hearne, 1961 June
17. Princess Anne Ties a Noose, David Pusey, 1961

**Subseries I: Lifestyles**
18. The Beloved Traditions of Eastern Shoremen, Pam Miller, 1981 April 1
19. The Legends of Green Brier Swamp, Mary Hart, 1984 March 16
20. Decoy Carving on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, Catherine Marie Booth, 1985 April 1
   March 20
26. The History of the Mysterious Ghost Light Road, Sarah Johnson, 1985 April 1
27. Ghost Towns of the Eastern Shore, Nancy Fykes and Sharon Hall, 1968