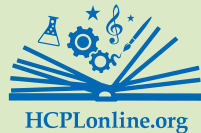


*Recalling the past,
to inform the present,
and guide the future*

Oral history records the living memories and feelings of all kinds of people, many otherwise hidden from history, and creates a more vivid picture of our past.

"...My elementary years were spent at a one-room school on High Point Road... from elementary school on, I always wanted to be a teacher..."

Mary B. Berry
Celebrated 50 years
of Teaching in
Harford County
in 1995



Harford County
Public Library

HCPLonline.org

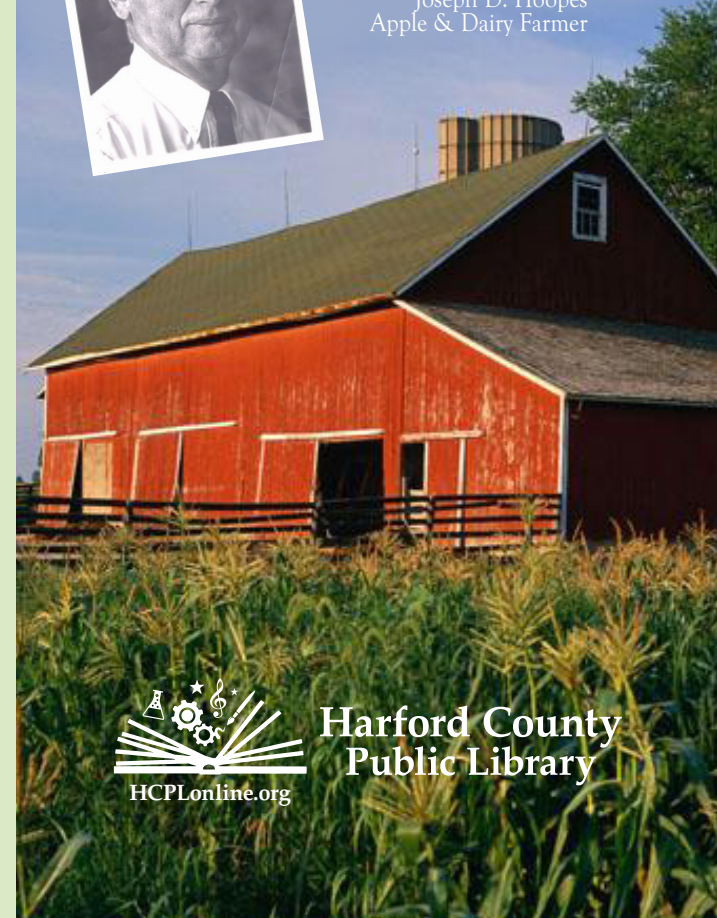
Living Treasures

Oral History Project



*"...boys & grown men
drove a herd of cattle from
Conowingo- across the
Susquehanna Bridge to
Waverly & Woodside..."*

Joseph D. Hoopes
Apple & Dairy Farmer



Harford County
Public Library

HCPLonline.org

Living Treasures...

Harford County's Oral History Project

What is Oral History?

Oral history is the recording of people's experiences and memories. It is the living history of someone's unique life experiences and a vital tool for our understanding of the recent past. Through conversations based on well-planned questions, it is possible to elicit information that would not ordinarily become part of written records. This documentation enables people who have been hidden from history to be heard, and to record the personal experiences of their lives, trades, skills, and communities.



"...then my children started to school. I realized that there should be more (music) in school...."

Lillian Sonberg
Promoting Cultural Events
since 1958

How Can Oral History be Used?

- To give a new dimension to Harford County's heritage by recognizing and preserving the contributions of our citizens
- In schools to explore our community
- As important new sources for all those interested in history

Do You Know Someone With a Story to Share?

Nominate that person as a Harford Living Treasure to become a part of Harford County's oral history.

Who Can be a Living Treasure?

Any Harford County resident who is at least 70 years old and has lived in the county for at least 40 years can be nominated as a Harford Living Treasure. Nominations are reviewed by the Harford County Cultural Arts Board for authenticity before being sent to the Harford County Council for confirmation. The County Council confirms the nomination and presents the "Living Treasure" with a proclamation. Trained library staff interview confirmed Living Treasures about their life experiences, including their trades, skills, community social events, and childhood memories. Recordings, transcripts and other memorabilia become part of the library's oral history collection.

How to Access the Oral History Collection

The collection of recordings and transcripts of the Living Treasure interviews are located at the Bel Air Library and accessible through the library's online catalog. Search by the Living Treasure's name, subject, or keyword, for example: "farming Harford County." These materials can be reserved online and delivered to any HCPL Library for convenient check out. Visit the library's website, www.HCPLonline.org, and click on "Find Books, Movies, Music," "Special Collections," "Harford Living Treasures" to:

- Download the Nomination Form
- Browse oral histories in the HCPL Catalog
- Browse digitized interviews published on Digital Maryland



"...I helped my father drive a milk wagon to Havre de Grace.. before I went to school in the morning...I wouldn't have been 7 years old..."

R. Madison Mitchell
Funeral Director & Decoy Carver

