



CHEVY CHASE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

1981-2016 Celebrating 35 Years

FALL 2016

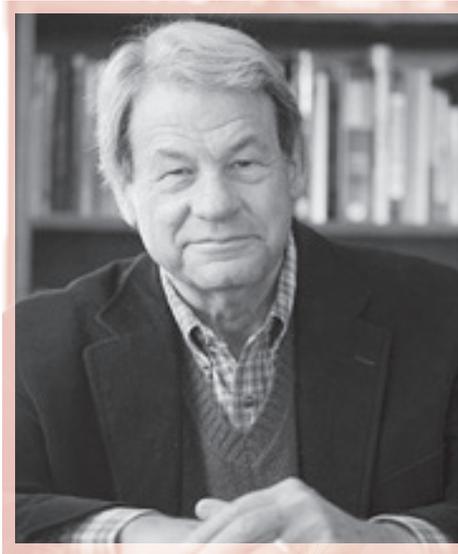
A Tale of Two Suburbs: Bethesda and Chevy Chase

Veteran journalist, educator, and author Steve Roberts will share new insights on local history at the CCHS 2016 fall lecture, "A Tale of Two Suburbs: Bethesda and Chevy Chase." Roberts will discuss his new book, *Bethesda and Chevy Chase*, one of the Images of America series published by Arcadia Publishing. The book uses historic photos, many obtained from the CCHS Archive and Research Center, to recount how the farmland to the northwest of the nation's new capital in Washington, D.C. evolved into today's modern suburbs of Bethesda and Chevy Chase. Roberts will highlight how the neighboring towns developed differently and demonstrate how each community has a vibrant heritage and distinct identity of its own.

Roberts' illustrated lecture will be held on Sunday, December 4, 2016, at 4:00 p.m. at the Jane E. Lawton Community Center, 4301 Willow Lane, in the Town of Chevy Chase. The program is free and open to the public.

As a journalist for almost 50 years, Roberts has covered some of the major events of our time, from the antiwar movement of the 1960s and 70s to President Reagan's historic trip to Moscow in 1988, and 12 presidential election campaigns. During his 25 years with the New York Times, he served as Bureau Chief in Los Angeles and Athens, and as a Congressional and White House correspondent. He spent seven years as a senior writer on national politics and foreign policy at *U.S. News*.

Roberts is well known locally and nationally as a political analyst on the ABC Radio. He is a regular substitute host on *The Diane Rehm Show* on NPR.



**Local Historian and Author
Steve Roberts**

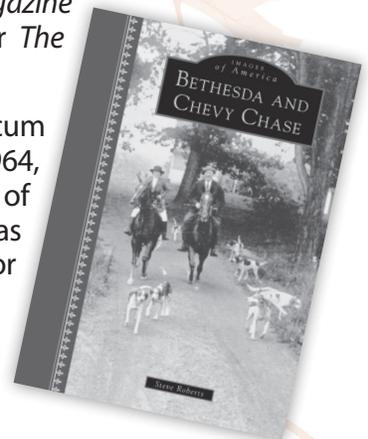
As a teacher, Roberts lectures widely on American politics and the role of the news media. Since 1997, he has been the Shapiro Professor of Media and Public Affairs at The George Washington University, where he has taught journalism and political communication courses for the last 25 years.

Roberts and his wife, television journalist Cokie Roberts, write an award-winning nationally-syndicated newspaper column. In 2000, the pair published *From This Day Forward*, an account of their marriage as well as other marriages in American history. The book spent seven weeks on the New York Times

best-seller list. In 2005, Roberts published a childhood memoir, *My Fathers' Houses*, and in 2009, he published *From Every End of This Earth*, the story of 13 immigrant families in America. He also writes a bi-monthly column, "Hometown," for *Bethesda Magazine* and reviews sports books for *The Washington Post*.

Roberts graduated magna cum laude from Harvard in 1964, having served as editor of *The Harvard Crimson*. He has received a host of awards for both journalism and teaching.

A reception will follow the lecture, and light refreshments will be served. Copies of Roberts' book will be available for sale and signing by the author. Questions concerning the program may be directed to CCHS at 301-656-6141 or chevychasehistory@msn.com.



Celebrating One of America's First Streetcar Suburbs



CHEVY CHASE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Open 10 am to noon, 1 to 3 pm on Tuesday
and by appointment

The Chevy Chase Historical Society collects, records, interprets and shares materials relating to the history of Chevy Chase, Maryland, one of America's first streetcar suburbs. The organization provides resources for historical research and sponsors a variety of programs and activities to foster the knowledge and appreciation of the community's history.

Recent Acquisitions

"Recent Acquisitions" is a regular feature in the Newsletter, describing documents and other items acquired for the Society's Archive and Research Center



Engraved copper plates with images of Chevy Chase Seminary

Two copper plates, with engraved images of Chevy Chase Seminary, Washington, DC. Gift of Peter R. Penczer. Beginning in 1894, the Chevy Chase Land Company embarked on a 100-year legacy of supporting the development and improvement of public schools in both DC and Maryland. Although a few small private schools have existed primarily in the Village, most

of Chevy Chase's public educational institutions developed in Section Four: The Bradley Lane Public School, Rosemary Chevy Chase Elementary, Leland Street Junior High, and Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. Why? Because here the Land Company had larger lots of land that they could donate. In addition, Section Four once boasted a private college for women, the Chevy Chase College and Seminary, now the National 4-H Conference Center.

B-CC High School Pine Tree yearbooks, 1985, 1986, and 1987. Donated by Chris Anglim, Archivist at the University of the District of Columbia.



B-CC 1985 Pine Tree



4417 Walsh Street

The House on Walsh Street, by Gail Allison Ashford. Ashford's 1993 memoir, *"The House on Walsh Street,"* describes the house at 4417 Walsh Street that her father, Horatio Claggett Allison, built with the help of his brother in the 1920s from a kit from the Lewis Company. Mrs. Ashford recalls nearby neighbors and a dog named Pete who had some adventures with Mrs.

Ashford's older brother, David. There are also references to Mr. Young's Corner Store, also known as the Leland Market, the Anna Mae Kraft Studio of Dance on Wisconsin Avenue, and the Hiser Theater. Gift of Gail Allison Ashford.

A Fond Farewell to Gail Sansbury and Welcome to Mary Ferranti



Retiring CCHS Director Gail Sansbury and CCHS Board President Angela Lancaster

This summer, Director Gail Sansbury announced her retirement after almost five years of dedicated service as Director of the Archive and Research Center. The Board presented her with a parting gift in recognition of her tenure, her participation in the professional development of CCHS and preservation of the rich history of Chevy Chase.

Among her many achievements, Gail managed the redesign of the Society's website and its transition to a new content management system. She guided CCHS through the Museum Assessment Program, created innovative online exhibits, enhanced the yearly Gala House History, prepared grant requests, served on a variety of committees and recruited and managed interns — all while serving as the public face of CCHS with professionalism and grace. The Board greatly appreciates Gail's contributions to CCHS and will always remember her with affection and deep gratitude.

With Gail's departure, CCHS welcomes its new Archive and Research Center Director, Mary Ferranti, whose experience and knowledge continues the high professional standards set by previous directors. She majored in History at Ithaca College and holds a Master's Degree in Library Science from Columbia University.

Mary brings rich experience from the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, where she spent six years as an archivist assisting with the House Collection. Her previous positions include Archivist for Architectural Records at Columbia University's Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Bibliographic and Research Assistant at



Mary Ferranti, CCHS Archive & Research Director

Harvard University's School of Public Health and working at Columbia University's Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

At the CCHS Center, Mary will continue the process of archiving the collections of Chevy Chase's historical documents and making them readily available to the public for research and study. As Mary so eloquently expressed, "This is a unique opportunity to work with an extraordinary local history collection and it's a privilege to be working with residents, students and scholars in both preserving and making available the historic material in our collections."

In her spare time, Mary enjoys playing jazz piano and doing volunteer work in the arts and with children. She also enjoys spending time with her husband and two children.

Welcome Graduate Student Intern Colleen Neuharth

Please welcome Colleen Neuharth, the new graduate intern who began working at the Archive and Research Center in October. Colleen has a BA in History, magna cum laude, from St. Mary's College of Maryland and is currently enrolled in the Museum Studies Master of Arts program at The Johns Hopkins University.



Colleen Neuharth

Colleen brings her experience as a museum guide at the Annapolis Maritime Museum where she helped visitors explore the museum and provided them with pertinent information about the exhibits.

At the Center, Colleen will be working with researchers that come to the Center during public hours on Tuesdays. In addition, she will be conducting research and assisting the Board in the creation of exhibits for the 100 year celebration of Chevy Chase Elementary School. The Center, CCHS and its patrons benefit greatly from the graduate interns who assist with the guardianship of our local history. Visitors to the Center are welcome to stop by and say hello to Colleen and browse the collections.

TW Perry: A Chevy Cha



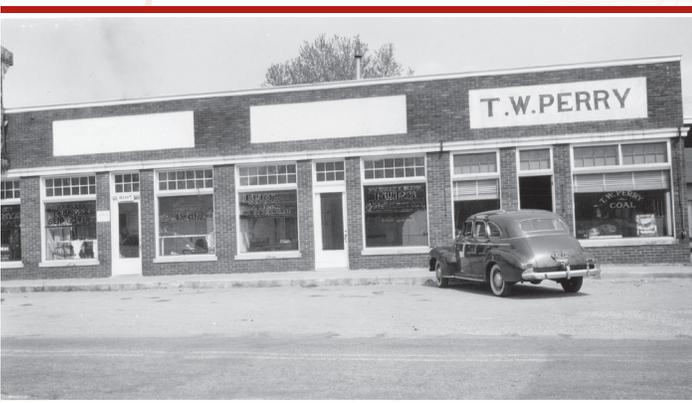
TW Perry trucks loaded and ready to go

Last spring, Chevy Chase lost one of its long time local neighbors on Connecticut Avenue — TW Perry.

The familiar hardware and building supply store at Chevy Chase Lake has moved to the Silver Spring Industrial Park on Brookville Road. Chevy Chase do-it-yourselfers will need to drive a little further down the road to buy that new tool or handful of nails.

How it all began is a wonderful story told to CCHS in 1989 by Thomas W. Perry, Jr., son of the founder. Perry participated in the Society's Oral History Project and was interviewed by Mary Anne Twohey and Marjorie Zapruder. His interview is on file in the Society's archives.

The birth of the business 105 years ago was the result of a suggestion made to T.W. Perry, Sr. by Senator Francis J. Newlands. According to Perry, Jr., his father was working on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at what is now the Capital Crescent Trail at Chevy Chase Lake, "tallying off all the cars as they come by and Senator Newlands took a liking to my daddy." That affinity prompted the Senator to tell Perry, Sr. to "get in business for yourself" and he sold Perry 50 feet of frontage on Connecticut Avenue to get started.



TW Perry storefront, circa 1940

A perceptive young man, Perry realized that homeowners in the new suburb of Chevy Chase burned coal in their furnaces and kept chickens in their back yards. To supply these needs, Perry bought a coal business in Kensington and built a tipple along the railroad tracks that ran through the Chevy Chase Lake area. (A tipple is the device that aids in the unloading of coal from the railroad cars). The business venture was funded by "robbing his mother's piggy bank with her blessing". Perry delivered the coal to residences in the area and later expanded the business on Connecticut Avenue to cover two acres with his own railroad spur at the side of the store.

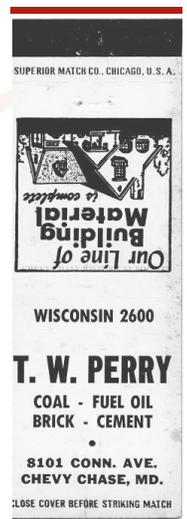


Thomas Waters Perry, Sr. and Mary Alice Perry outside the store

Perry opened his feed store in 1910 in the heart of downtown Bethesda in an old house on Wisconsin Avenue. Wholesalers in DC wouldn't deliver so far out of town so Perry did a brisk business selling feed, grain, nails, harness and rope. As noted by local historian and resident William Offutt, "Perry had customers right down through the war with small backyard flocks in both Bethesda and Chevy Chase. He [Perry] was probably the last local merchant to sell chicken feed."

In his oral history, Perry, Jr. remembers his father's thriving business:

"...[He] bought a feed mill and on his own, ground all the feed for the Soldiers' Home and all the big feed farms in the whole area he supplied. Big feed business —chicken farms, dairy farmers, hog farmers, pigeons. We served every single house in Takoma Park chicken feed and racing pigeon feed until they outlawed it, whenever that was, in the fifties in Takoma Park. Everybody had a backyard flock. We had them up on our street, on Shepherd Street and raised chickens there. And then the government steps in and said you can't do that anymore."



Matchbook Cover, T. W. Perry

Chevy Chase Elementary Gears Up for Centennial Celebration

Chevy Chase Elementary, also known to alumni of a certain age as Rosemary School, is getting ready for its 100 year birthday party in June, 2017.



Hermine and Bernard Winkler, circa 1907-1908, at their home, which later became the site of the current Chevy Chase Elementary School.

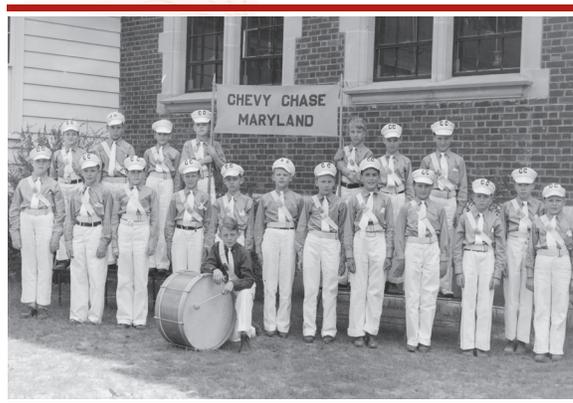
The first school in Chevy Chase opened in 1898 when the Chevy Chase Land Company donated the land on what is now 3905 Bradley Lane and built a 2 room school house at a cost of \$2,200. The school closed in 1903 due to low enrollment. Residents of Maryland preferred to send their children to E. V. White School, just two blocks south of Chevy Chase Circle in DC. At that time, schools in the District were rated among the best in the country and considered far superior to those in Montgomery County.

It all began to change in 1911 when students outside the District were charged to attend DC schools. Just a year later, primary school students outside the city limits were prohibited outright from attending DC schools. In the fall of 1912, the house at 6812 Delaware Street was rented for classrooms that served 108 students under the tutelage of two teachers and a principal.

The following year, four portable frame classrooms were set up on Rosemary Street with four "qualified and competent" teachers engaged to serve all grades, including the first two years of high school. The school grew, teachers and assistants



Maypole ceremony, Spring 1939



School boys in safety patrol sashes stand outside CCES in the 1930s

were added and in 1917, the goal of a permanent school building was realized with a two-story red brick building on Valley Place between Meadow and Rosemary Streets.

In the mid-1920s, enrollment increased rapidly and by 1930, a twelve classroom brick building was constructed on Rosemary Street at a cost of \$94,000. The southern portion of this structure remains as part of the current east wing. At its new address, the school became informally known as "Rosemary School". In 1936, another nine-room addition (the current west wing) was added and the 1917 structure on Valley Place was demolished. The structure known as the Long Hall connected the two brick buildings.

The campus has changed and expanded over the years but the happy place that has seen countless dodgeball games, May pole celebrations, safety patrol squads, spring fairs and graduations will be celebrated by its alumni this coming summer.



West Wing of Chevy Chase Elementary School, circa 1936

The planning committee welcomes volunteers and is looking for alumni of CCES to share their memories. The goal is to reach out to as many former students as possible so that the school's history can be shared with the community. Please contact Eileen Kirklen to be interviewed by a current student, donate copies of photos or lend artifacts (Eileen.kirklen@mcpsmd.org) or contact Holly Kammerer if you can help organize the event on June 10, 2017 (hollykammerer@yahoo.com).

Bienvenue Cognac, Le Bar at La Ferme



Congratulations to Alain Roussel, a loyal supporter of CCHS and owner of La Ferme, a favorite restaurant here in Chevy Chase, on the opening of the very elegant Cognac, Le Bar at La Ferme in October. It's tucked in a cozy corner just off the patio at the back

of the restaurant and is a new treasure in the community.

The lucky residents of Chevy Chase who have enjoyed the hospitality and French cuisine of Alain Roussel's La Ferme Restaurant for years now have a lovely place to meet friends and enjoy cocktails, wine and delicious small plates.

There is a selection of signature cocktails featuring cognac and sporting old fashioned names like "Sidecar", "Sazerac", and "French 75". A variety of wines, spirits, beers and other libations are also available and served from 4:30 until closing, with special Happy Hour prices offered from 4:30-6:30 Monday through Friday. Le Bar offers a menu of delicious hors d'oeuvres to tempt the appetite -- La Tartine Classique, Pop Corn la Ferme and Le Cornet de Frites Maison, to name a few.

Stop by and say hello to Alain Roussel, Proprietor, Guillaume de Decker, General Manager, Mark Butcher and Juan Chavez, bartenders, and the rest of the wonderful La Ferme staff.



Mark Butcher, Pino Luisa and Guillaume de Decker welcome guests to Cognac Le Bar at La Ferme

2017 Membership Reminder:

If you have not renewed your membership, please do so today. We very much want and need your support. It's because of you that we are able to maintain the Archive and Research Center and are able to collect and preserve historical documents, photographs, and maps, and to take oral histories and house histories. We share the story of our local history through twice-yearly, public lectures on topics of historical interest, and through online exhibits at our website, www.chevychasehistory.org. You also help us publish these newsletters. Can we count on you to help and continue your support?



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2017 Annual Membership Dues (make check payable to CCHS):

Friend \$40 Patron \$125 Benefactor \$250

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Contact me about volunteering at the Archive and Research Center or helping with a program

Mail this to:

CCHS, PO Box 15145, Chevy Chase, MD 20825

Appeal for Planned Giving

The choices we make today affect the generations of tomorrow. You can make a lasting difference in your community by including CCHS in your estate planning. Your bequest of cash, securities, or other type of planned gift will help further CCHS' mission and may generate savings on your current and/or estate taxes. Please think about the legacy you wish to leave, and consider a planned gift to CCHS.

CCHS Thanks the Business Sponsors of Its 2016 Spring Gala

Pinnacle Sponsors: Chevy Chase Land Company;
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1981-2016 Celebrating 35 Years

Remember When?



***Chevy Chase Cafe, circa 1980s,
6700 Wisconsin Ave, NW corner of
Wisconsin Ave. and Bradley Blvd.
(now CVS and Staples).***



***Chevy Chase Motor Hotel, circa
1980s, 6800 Wisconsin Ave., near
NW corner of Wisconsin Ave. and
Bradley Blvd. (now CVS and Staples).***



***St. John's Episcopal Church, circa
1910s, 6701 Wisconsin Ave., NW corner
of Wisconsin Ave. and Bradley Ln.***