



# The Linden Times

A bi-weekly newsletter for the members & friends of the Calvert County Historical Society – September 10, 2020

**Not all towns**, cities or municipalities are named after heroes, beloved people or doers of great deeds. Here is the background of our Prince Frederick and his rather challenging childhood and life.

**Frederick Lewis, Prince of Wales** was born in Hanover Germany, on February 1<sup>st</sup> in 1707. His parents, George, Prince of Wales (later King George II), and Caroline of Ansbach, left him, their first born, in the care of his grand uncle when he was only 7 years old to venture to Great Britain. Frederick did not see his parents again for 14 years.



*'Frederick, Prince of Wales', 1733  
by J. Richardson (1665-1745) British  
Black & White Chalk on blue paper*

In 1728, as a young man, Frederick arrived in England after his father's accession to the throne. You would imagine after so many years the family reunion would be a celebrated affair. To the contrary, the hatred between the prince and his parents was a national scandal. In the years away from Frederick, King George and Caroline had several children. They rejected Frederick both as their son and as a person, referring to him as a "foundling" and nicknaming him "Griff", short for the mythical beast known as a griffin (also spelled, gryphon). What the root of the antipathy really was, no one has ever been able to establish, but Frederick's father, the king, could seldom bring himself to speak to him and told people that the prince was a changeling and no true child of his.



*Frederick, Prince of Wales  
by Swedish painter Charles Boit, circa 1724*



*Griffin*

Frederick's mother once famously described him as *'the greatest ass and the greatest liar and the greatest canaille (common person) and the greatest beast in the whole world, adding' and I heartily wish he were out of it.'* On another occasion, catching sight of the prince from a window, she said, *'I wish the ground would open this moment and sink the monster to the lowest hole in hell.'* She and his father both preferred Frederick's younger brother, the 'Butcher' Duke of Cumberland.

While the "Butcher" of Cumberland sounds like a delightful gentleman, it's been written that Frederick was open-handed, with an easy manner. It was said he had a certain charm and a taste for [cont. on page 2](#)

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