



We walk in the Footsteps of Generations Past

Aberdeen History: Looking Back to Yesteryears' School

Graduations

As current high school seniors prepare to don their caps and gowns, let us take a moment to reflect on the cherished traditions and significant milestones that have shaped this momentous occasion throughout the years at Aberdeen High School.

Graduation at Aberdeen High school had humble beginnings. The first class to graduate from Aberdeen High School had but one graduate: J. Wilmer Cronin.

J. Wilmer Cronin, cir. 1912-1913. After graduating from Aberdeen High School, J. Wilmer Cronin went on to become a lawyer, served as town commissioner of Aberdeen, and became a member of the Maryland House of Delegates and Maryland Senate. He was also the owner and publisher of The Harford Democrat newspaper for over 60 years.



Aberdeen High School in 1908. In its earliest days, the school building on Broadway (which later became Rt. 40) did not have an auditorium and was unsuitable for hosting such events. As a result, the school turned to local churches to hold the ceremony, such as the historic Grace M.E. Church, South, which still stands on the corner of W. Bel Air Avenue and Law Street.

Class of 1940



Class of 1925



This year is the 50th year since Aberdeen's Class of 1973 graduated from the "old" building on Paradise Road. This class, as did so many other classes before and after them, began their elementary school years in the former Aberdeen High School on Rt. 40.



(Below are the names as we recall them. Please inform us of any needed additions or corrections. Thank you.)

Back Row: Michael Singer, Van Silver, _____, Marty Brown, Kean Boyer, _____, _____, Mrs. Wilson.

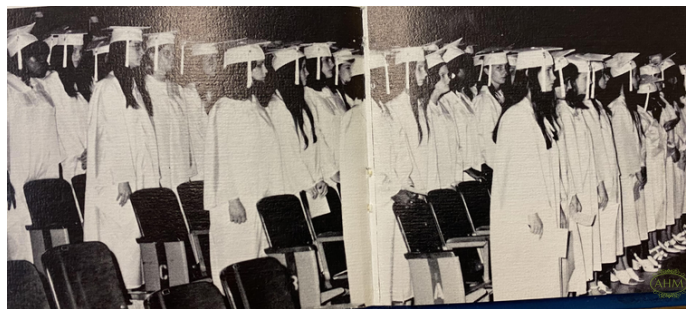
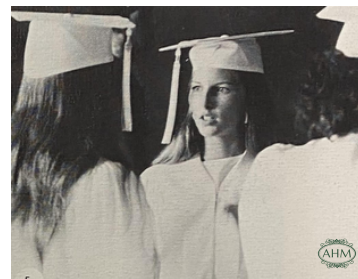
2nd Row: Gary Wright, Linda Weaver, Michele Petrogallo, Andrea Kasper, Darlene _____, Mary _____, Rosalie Warfield, Gaynell Collier, _____, Dough Iverson

3rd Row: Etta Lafon, Kitty Kragle, Connie Wingo, Bonnie McGrady, Angela Kennedy, Ruth Lichi, Peggy Schantz

Front Row: _____, Mike Buonaugurio, Kenny Campbell, Bobbie Dare, Paul Knight

Pictured are some members of the Class of 1973 when they were still in Mrs. Wilson's 3rd-grade class. Class photos were taken in the school Library in the basement of the building; note the bookshelves in the background. Those are the same bookshelves that flank the perimeter of the Museum! Even our display shelves have local history attached to them!

Class of 1973 gearing up for graduation!





Interior of a classroom at the High School in 1921. In those days, high school was composed of 7th through 11th grade. Students graduated after 11 years in school, as there was no 12th grade until 1950.

In 1921, the graduating class of Aberdeen High School comprised a modest six students, a testament to the school's early beginnings. A century later, the class of 2021 graduated with 165 students. This exponential growth not only showcases the increasing educational opportunities in the region but also signifies the remarkable progress and expansion of the Aberdeen community as a whole.

Come visit us!

Remembering School Days

Did you attend or teach at Aberdeen High School? Stop by the Museum and reminisce as you peruse old high school yearbooks from our Library shelves. Bring a friend and relive the pep rallies, football games, band, school play, prom, and graduation. Find your old school friends, laugh at the clothing and hairstyles, and talk about your favorite classes and the teachers you loved.



Can you help us?

Missing Yearbooks

The Aberdeen Historical Museum has a collection of **most** of Aberdeen High School's yearbooks from 1938 – 2010, which the public is welcome to browse through. They have been donated by friends like you. However, we are missing a couple of yearbooks needed to complete our collection. If you have an Aberdeen High School yearbook you wish to donate in the following years, we would be most appreciative.

We need years: *1951, 1979, 1985, and 2011 - present*

So you asked...

Q If the first class to graduate from Aberdeen High School was in 1912, why were there no yearbooks until 1938?

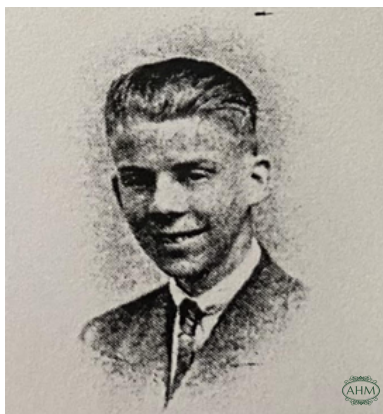
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A lthough we cannot tell you why there was never a year book for the High School before 1938, we can tell you why they began that year.

In 1938, William R. (Bill) Cronin graduated from Aberdeen High School. Bill was the son of J. Wilmer Cronin, the first graduate of AHS and the owner of the Harford Press in Aberdeen. (The Harford Press printed the Harford Democrat newspaper, APG News, and other popular publications of the day.)

Bill grew up helping his father in the newspaper office, setting type, taking photos, and writing articles, among other publication duties. Therefore, he was a natural to coordinate the effort to put together a yearbook in his Senior Year of high school. And they have continued on, ever since, thanks to his initial efforts!

Do you have a question about the history of the Greater Aberdeen Area? We may answer it in an upcoming newsletter. Email questions to info@aberdeenmuseum and put "So You Asked" in the subject line.



WILLIAM ROYALL CRONIN
Academic

"Bill"

Senior photo from the 1938 Aberdeen High School yearbook.



MICROWAVE PEANUT BUTTER FUDGE

Ingredients

- 2/3 c. of butter
- 2/3 c. chunky style peanut butter
- 6 c. powdered sugar
- 1/3 c. milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla



Instructions

1. In a large bowl, place butter and peanut butter
2. Microwave on HIGH until butter melts (1:30 - 2 mins); stir until blended
3. Add remaining ingredients, stir until lumps of sugar disappear
4. Microwave on HIGH until soft but not bubbly (1:30 - 2 mins); stir
5. Pour into a buttered 9-inch square baking sheet
6. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour
7. Yields 36 candies, store refrigerated

Recipe from Ellie Gillis - Aberdeen Cookbook

You can find this recipe and many other delicious ones in the Aberdeen Museum Library. Stop in and browse through one of our many cookbooks!



JOIN US!

Do you want to be in on what happens behind the scenes at the Museum? Come join us as a volunteer! Click [here](#) to learn more.



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Regular Hours:

Tuesday, 10 AM - 1 PM

Thursday, 10 AM - 1 PM

Saturday, 11 AM - 2 PM

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