









Yesterday.

Today, Tomorrow

are you OK?

yes, thank you

yes, thank you

2-1

Samantha Chan

Leonardtown 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Poetry/Writing Contest

It's small  
Factory-free  
A nice town  
What town?  
Leonardtown  
A small town with nice people  
Just enough space  
Most supportive teachers  
And principals  
Nice classmates  
and friends  
at the school  
Events and sights  
Like Earth Day  
plus Christmas  
A unique town  
Nobody has such nice people  
at one town:  
Leonardtown  
My home

- By Allison Guy  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Travis Mattingly  
May 1, 2008  
Student Creative Writing Contest  
Grade 11

The only constant in history is change. But history shapes the future, no matter the circumstance; the past will always sculpt the future. History seems to repeat itself, a pattern, one might say it is coincidence. But, there is no coincidence, there is only the illusion of it. It is no coincidence that I am a Mattingly, that my family, has been in the county for at least 300 years and that I am still here today. Fate is what history determines, not just our own individual fates, but the fates of everyone. You, me, my friend, your brother, my sister are all alike in this circumstance, we are all connected and all share fates that are interdependent upon one another. In this moment our fates have intertwined, not just those here but those before us. We all are connected, all bound by this one fate, we all have endured this same history and we carry the reminders with us today.

Moakley Mattingly has come to represent to me everything that St. Mary's County was and often I feel as though that part has been lost. I've never seen films at the New Theater, I've never seen anyone walking into Duke's on Sunday mornings, and I've never seen a boat launch or the slag barge at Leonardtown Wharf. But at the same time, I can see the old Movie Board over Corno Grande, I can see a faded sign over Café Des Artistes, and now Leonardtown Wharf has been revamped and renovated to where those memories can be resurrected, where they can live. We only need know the history of where we come from to be connected to it. More so it is our duty to learn it so as to grow, not to be limited by our past, but to use it as a foundation. In that way we become better people, a better county and a better nation. I implore you not to forget where you come because then meaning can be given to those who were before us. Simply by remembering this Tricentennial of Leonardtown, we are all cognizant of this one past, and in this moment despite the vast differences of every individual, we are unified. This connection, this communion of souls, is our history. My history is seeing Moakley Street and Singletree and knowing where these names came from, who the people are behind the names. So even though I might never see or speak to you again, we have both come to share this history, more than dates and places, but people. So this Tricentennial of Leonardtown isn't homage to the Square or even the Wharf, but rather the memories of those who have lived and died here. This place is a testament to Moakley Mattingly, to every person you remember, and all those who will remember us and this day. We are not confined to this moment, or any other finite moment, because we have the future. The future is what we make it, and above all, when we make it, I ask you to remember our history and remember Leonardtown.