

From: [marlena.jareaux@hocoltr.org](mailto:marlena.jareaux@hocoltr.org)  
Subject: Fwd: Howard County's history and racial reckoning  
Date: Nov 7, 2021 at 9:11:03 AM  
To: [marlena@hocoltr.org](mailto:marlena@hocoltr.org)

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "HoCo Lynching Truth & Reconciliation, Inc." <[admin@hocoltr.org](mailto:admin@hocoltr.org)>  
**Date:** November 5, 2021 at 5:05:14 PM EDT  
**To:** [marlena.jareaux@hocoltr.org](mailto:marlena.jareaux@hocoltr.org)  
**Subject:** Howard County's history and racial reckoning

## **Do YOU know local Howard County Black History?**

*Friday, November 5, 2021*

*Some of you are subscribers to our newsletter due to your interest in the lynching truth & reconciliation work that Equal Justice Initiative and the Maryland Commission is doing around the topic of lynching. Some of you are subscribers because of your interest in matters related to the field of history and/or heritage. This communication asks you to ask yourself what you know about LOCAL Black History that would have been precursors to the lynching events (both the lynch mob threats and the extrajudicial execution of*

*lynchings)? It's hopefully clear to everyone by now that our nonprofit doesn't consider the county's lynching activity to be limited to ONE man's. During the interest meeting held for the community in December 2019, it was communicated quite clearly that Howard County's history was likely unique, and would be addressed as such. An organization with the words "Truth" and "Reconciliation" in its name compels groundwork to exist that enables the community consuming public-facing content to have the proper context first. Local history relative to the culture that the lynching victims likely encountered and understood to exist in the county is critical to have. Howard County is unfortunately NOT a place where you can visit an Antebellum plantation in order to experience and learn about that crucial time period for Black Howard Countians (enslaved and free) that shaped the perceptions and experiences for our lynching victims. The surrounding counties do have places, and their counties have embraced those places as critical cultural resources for their community residents (and visitors) to learn from.*

*We first examined Reverend Hezekiah Brown, who came to the county and stayed for many years to teach students and politically organize with adults in an early civil rights time period that our organization has been researching and compiling. We had an event to recognize and celebrate him, and had a museum-quality piece made for the county that tells much of his story which room will hopefully be made for by some institution one day so that others can also know his story. We then compiled the story of Joseph Shipley, Jr., who had been threatened with lynching for having allegedly burned the barn of Senator Gorman. The story of his enslavement, enlistment in the Civil War, and his family that rallied around him to get him help (the concept of "mental health" back then doesn't remotely resemble what we know it to be today), is also on our site. We then started educating the community regarding Nicholas Snowden's story, by having an introductory event on the anniversary date in September of his lynching outside the historic jail where he was held while waiting for the trial he never did get to have, due to being taken from the jail by a mob and lynched nearby. We had a United States Colored Troops re-enactor there to represent Nicholas, while a discussion was had about some of the local historical events known to the 1885 community. And we have more programming coming about Nicholas, Jacob Henson, Jr., and others.*

*Does that matter to you?*

*In our last email communication, we gave you the news that we are a Changemaker grant finalist. Many of you know about our Ellicott City Black History Roundtable initiative, and the research part of the Log Cabin segment is currently assembling our final report for that. You also know that we launched the 1st of our planned data compilations regarding pre Civil War-1930 Ellicott City on our subdomain, [ECBlackHistoryRoundtable.HoCoLTR.org](http://ECBlackHistoryRoundtable.HoCoLTR.org)*

*That brings me back to the question I started with. If you didn't know the history we have been putting out, do you think it would impact your understanding of lynching incidents? Has our work regarding the history we've assembled and put out been of value to you?*

*If the answer is YES, please consider helping us. How can you help? A grant award would greatly help us in the execution of the mapping project we'd like to do for the county that would help to visually depict what life was like in Ellicott City, the county seat, for African Americans who were trying to provide for their families among immigrants and others who were trying to do the same. Educators and students would be able to use this information in order to pull out stories that would convey some of the struggles and successes of people from history who may not like you, but have descendants that are your co-workers, neighbors and fellow citizens. The competition will be online, this Tuesday night, and the audience (YOU) will be able to vote to choose who will get a \$10,000 grant. Our nonprofit's presentation is #9 of 10, and will be around 7pm (though, I definitely encourage you to watch ALL of the Changemaker finalists if you can because we have competition, for sure!) The link to register is below and you would be voting Tuesday night ONLINE. I have not seen our final video submission yet, so I'm excited to also see what got put together. If you'd like to watch the submission video that led to us being a finalist, you can see that here:*

<https://youtu.be/EYHTwx5nP7Y>

*Hopefully, our work is impacting you, meaningfully. Can you let us know that it does, and you'd like us to continue by voting for us on Tuesday night? The link to register, is below. There is no fee to register. Please feel free to share the link with others, or forward this newsletter. Thank you!*

**Marlena**

**Howard County Lynching Truth & Reconciliation, Inc.**

Event details...

Can't attend? You can donate...

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