



Updates galore! And local STORIES...

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

I hope that the year has been kind to you and your family as we all are getting used to daylight savings and the new normal of life in the midst of COVID. 2022 has been busy for HCLTR! I'll get right to it, since there's a lot to convey.

First, our inaugural Roundtable session to investigate the accurate history of the "Thomas Isaac Log Cabin" concluded. Boy did we uncover more than a few surprises! The local and state forms were missing key information about the chain of title and projected construction date of the cabin, which is what led to the creation of the Roundtable research initiative. As was disclosed at the event we had last year at the Ellicott City Colored School, there was a known historical connection between St. Luke's A.M.E. Church and the father of the county's last known and documented lynching victim. A small team of researchers was selected and assembled in order to methodically examine and assemble documentation regarding ownership of the land where the cabin had once been located. We quickly determined that the information told and recycled in the county about the ownership was incorrect. With accurate information and further digging into historic tax records and maps made by others, we were able to ascertain that a historic African American community existed where the cabin was located...decades before what prior historians had noted! It also seems to have been the site of an additional lynching threat, previously unknown, that we've added to our list. This information

was used to introduce the community to the research findings via a community event...

Black History Month this year was insanely busy for HCLTR. We announced that we would be hosting an event on April 10th at the Columbia Busboys and Poets restaurant, and we "sold out" of the in-person seats within 3 days! It was a hybrid event of in-person and virtual participation choices, and our Zoom capacity and registration was nearly reached. Many thanks to our event sponsor, Patapsco Heritage Greenway. At the event, people came who weren't on either list, which was a testament to the interest created for the subject. Nearly everyone who commented on the Zoom chat remarked that they hope to see that our research findings gets into local schools and the libraries. We're working on getting the full findings report published, and it will eventually make its way to the state archives into their Special Collections. The discussions at the in-person event were nothing short of amazing, as people remarked about their surprise and their interest in receiving the rest of what's in our report! I don't think I left the building until after 9:30pm (event was 6-8pm.) A debt of gratitude goes to a team of great fellow researchers, Christine Bulbul and Wayne Davis, along with two others (Rita Hamlet and Kara Lampson) who couldn't stay with us for the full duration but whom both contributed. My fellow co-facilitator from our nonprofit, Lynn Mumma, was invaluable to us as we strived to plug away through the research and then to capture it all in a nice report that is a stunning document! "The theory can't drive the evidence" was a motto (a critical one to adhere to) that I insisted we incorporate into the entire process, with checks and balances to ensure it, and the result was a spectacular discovery that our nonprofit will be using to...

Pursue a state grant. I'm happy to announce that County Executive Calvin Ball has given us his written support as we made an application this month for a small state grant that would enable our nonprofit to continue with our research into the early Black history of Ellicott City which we will display online to the community and hopefully make into a scavenger hunt. Stay tuned.

Finally, I'm going to give you a snippet of the local history stories that got pushed out recently using our public Howard County Maryland Black History Facebook group. Some of you are already in our private Facebook group, but posts made to this page are of a different type. I think you can see them without a Facebook account, for those who don't usually indulge. You'll surely find something in the list below that you'll want to click on to read. A note about reading the posts...if you want to read what people have commented about, click on the words above where you comment (if you have an account) that probably say "Most Relevant" and click the little arrow beside and then select "all comments" to read them in the sequence they were given.

I'm supposed to do better about asking for donations since we are a nonprofit and need support. If you value the work that we're doing, please consider donating to us. All amounts are appreciated, and we appreciate the folks who have donated!

Link to securely donate is here:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Want to read some of the stories first, and then donate? Okay, they are listed below. I know how it goes when reading things that take you off the page to another place. You sometimes lose track of where you were before. I'm confident that you'll be surprised by at least one of these stories. We only do LOCAL Black history that uses research found from primary source documentation (most is at the state archives in Annapolis), which sets us apart from many similar organizations. Please keep that in mind when you're reading. Please share the stories (an hi newsletter) with your friends and family, and do consider donating to us (and helping to research, if that's your thing.) We have a new member of our Board of Directors, Pearl Atkinson-Stewart, who we are thrilled to have with us as we navigate through a exciting future! (I've claimed that it will be so)

Marlena

Howard County Lynching Truth & Reconciliation, Inc.

[click on the stories below to read them on Facebook]

-story about the 1910 case of an interracial marriage that led to the penitentiary for someone.

-Jan 12 story about Reverend Alfred Holmead would go on to become the first pastor of the church in Ellicott City now known as St. Peter's Episcopal Church, who was fined \$5 in 1844 "for Bring Negro into the State"

-Jan 31 post showing parts of Baltimore County resident Benjamin Banneker's journal and his handwritten entry: "Evil Communication Corrupts good manners, I hope to live to hear that Good Communication Corrects bad manners."

-Feb 1 story about Nicholas Worthington of John, and the sale of 3 African American children from his estate to Governor Ligon.

-Feb 11 post to debrief about our event the night before

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-Feb 20 story about Governor Ligon walking into a special meeting of the Howard County Commissioners with a request that they sell 2 men he had been enslaving (after he issued a pardon for them). The story traces Jerry and Andrew, and shows one of them serving in the USCT during the Civil War.

-Feb 25 the accurate story of the court case of Rebecca Garrett and her children, and their fate. (They were sold south by a notorious slave dealer, which had not been known before)

Feb 28 finale: a story that is reminiscent of an Innocence Project case. I had been waiting for the right opportunity to tell Bruce's story. Last day of Black History Month, is the story that had an original headline of "Youth, 22 Unkissed Freed." In the end, you'll read about 200 pounds of dynamite being used to blow up a Howard County whiskey still and 65,000 gallons of spirits and mash.

Most of these stories and others are being assembled into a book about the history of the time period we cover. I did write it was a busy month! We are just warming up, and definitely have more stories. Do you want more?

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