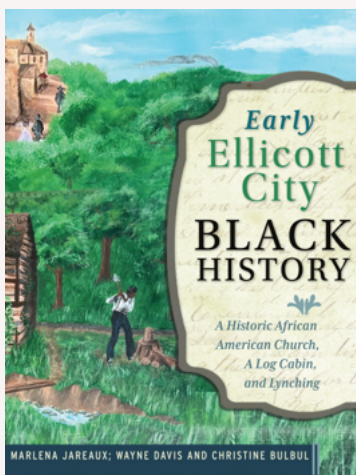


From: HoCo Lynching Truth & Reconciliation, Inc. admin@hocoltr.org
Subject: Howard Co Black History Scores Several WINS!!
Date: Nov 13, 2022 at 4:42:29 PM
To: [REDACTED]



Sunday, November 13, 2022

Howard County Black History Wins, So We ALL do...

IN THIS PACKED ISSUE:

1. ***We were awarded a state grant***
2. ***Our book fundraiser went LIVE***
3. ***We were awarded another state grant***
4. ***We will be doing archaeology for Black Ellicott City***
5. ***We have very cool history programming planned***

This summer and fall, some amazing things happened with our nonprofit. We applied for and were awarded a Maryland Heritage Authority grant to continue research that our upcoming 200+ page book uncovered regarding a pre Civil War Black community in the county seat: Ellicott City. Some of you were in attendance at Busboys and Poets with 170+ others this past Black History Month when we revealed some of the highlights that our 9 month research initiative uncovered regarding the accurate origins and ownership/age of the log cabin on Main Street that greets residents and visitors to Historic Ellicott City. At that event, we introduced the community to Levi Gillis, a Mulatto male who purchased land in 1851 from a Baltimore County Black man named Thomas and his wife. It was Levi who likely built the cabin (his home)

for his wife and children, and was affiliated with a Black church nearby that built their church near his family's home. How the research team of 3 (started with 5) deciphered the history mysteries of the age and ownership of the Thomas Isaac Log Cabin is included in the book.

The book is packed with primary source documents that were used to solve the mysteries. Loads of information about some of the Black and Mulatto men, women, and children (free and enslaved) who made up the Ellicott's Mills landscape before and after the Civil War is also included. In 1986, Howard County got a critically necessary book about its Black history called "History of Blacks in Howard County, Maryland". Twenty years later the county received "Seeking Freedom: A History of the Underground Railroad in Howard County, Maryland". And twenty years later, our book expands the historical narrative using primary source documents in order to reclaim essential history about a house/cabin beloved by all since the time it was first named and dedicated to the county more than 40 years ago.

Event participants remarked that the material should be in all of the libraries and our county schools, and we agree! Our fundraiser is designed to enable people to get a copy of the book while also assisting us with getting copies into the high schools and libraries. Information about the fundraiser that just began can be found using the link below. The July MHA grant will enable us to use our research findings (present and future) to create StoryMaps that will enable residents and visitors to see and visualize the history in Ellicott City and the county. We will also be creating scavenger hunts using the Black history we're continuing to uncover.

WE ARE DOING ARCHAEOLOGY IN ELLICOTT CITY!!

That's because of the competitive MHT grant that our nonprofit was awarded earlier this month!! (Woot, woot!!) When the cabin got relocated more than 40 years ago, measurements got taken for it but no archaeology was done on the site. Now that we know what we do about the neighborhood, we wanted to get the archaeology finally done. A critical piece of the proposal made to the state was our insistence that we would capture the process as it is unfolding via photos and videos,

and then pushing out that content to students, residents and visitors. The data we capture will be used for a project our nonprofit plans to do to expose people to this history in a unique and immersive way. It had been known for some time by our nonprofit that the cabin that was actually Levi's house was an essential part of the story of lynching in Ellicott City.

Ground penetrating radar will get done to help guide the archaeology team on where to do Phase 1 archaeology. The archaeology will be conducted by a great team I assembled. It will be headed by Dr. Alexandra Jones, Director and Founder of Archaeology In the Community, Inc., who specializes in archaeology of African American sites. Critical day-to-day work and investigation will be done by Kelly Palich, from Upper Patuxent Archaeology Group. There's additional interest from a few other archaeologists who learned about this project through the grapevine. The historical research conducted combined with new information uncovered will be used in order to inform the best areas of investigation. We are doing everything in our power to respect the neighborhood, and to capture the information so that people can essentially view it offsite and at their leisure. YES, this is exciting research and history, but I'm asking everyone to be respectful of property ownership, etc. and NOT show up to the owner's private property. Thank you.

As for other programming, there are several things on the horizon that I'm working to set dates to give talks about. Highlights are:

- ***Name Them: Stories of free Black and Mulattos of Howard County created from primary source documents***
- ***The Ellicotts, Tobacco and Slavery: What the primary source documents show from a Black perspective***

- **Examining Charles Carroll of Carrollton, last living signer of the Declaration of Independence: Abolitionist?**
- **Tracing Howard County Black and Mulatto residents pre Civil War to 1870: Preliminary findings**
- **White runaways of the area from the 1700s**
- **The story of Sam: freed from enslavement, purchases land/home, and tries to provide for family**
- **Finding Nicholas: A Howard County History Detective Cold Case (4 part series to compassionately discuss elements of the investigation into Nicholas Snowden, the county's first documented lynching victim)**
- **Compilation of racial covenants/deed restrictions throughout the county: What they show**

As you can see, I've been very busy researching and planning for programming. I'm adding some photos below from the time capsule ceremony that was done with our book and other valued objects which were recently buried in it. I added some photos of people who had been waiting patiently and appreciated seeing the advance copy of the book before it got treated by the state preservation officer prior to being buried for 50 years.

There's a reason our website tagline has contained from our inception the phrase: "Truth FIRST, Then Reconciliation." There's much to be told to the community about local Black history of the time when lynching culture existed. If you see value in what you've read in this newsletter, please consider supporting our nonprofit via the biggest fundraiser we've endeavored to do since our existence. We also welcome anyone wanting to fundraise for us. Simply click the link from the fundraiser site if your answer is Yes, "I Want to Fundraise For This". You can also help us by clicking one of the buttons on the fundraiser site to email, tweet or post on Facebook about this effort.

I close with the story I conveyed at the 170+ participant event last February...

One of the founders for our nonprofit (before it was a nonprofit) conveyed to us how she found a history book at Wilde Lake High (my old high school) with writing inside the cover that contained something like: "I don't see myself or any of my history in this book." (paraphrasing) Students I work with in the county have told me the same, as have adults that I've helped sort out historical facts that have been muted about their ancestors who lived here. I hope you'll help me and help our nonprofit continue to change that. The historical narratives we tell are only as good as the research/documentation that anchors them.

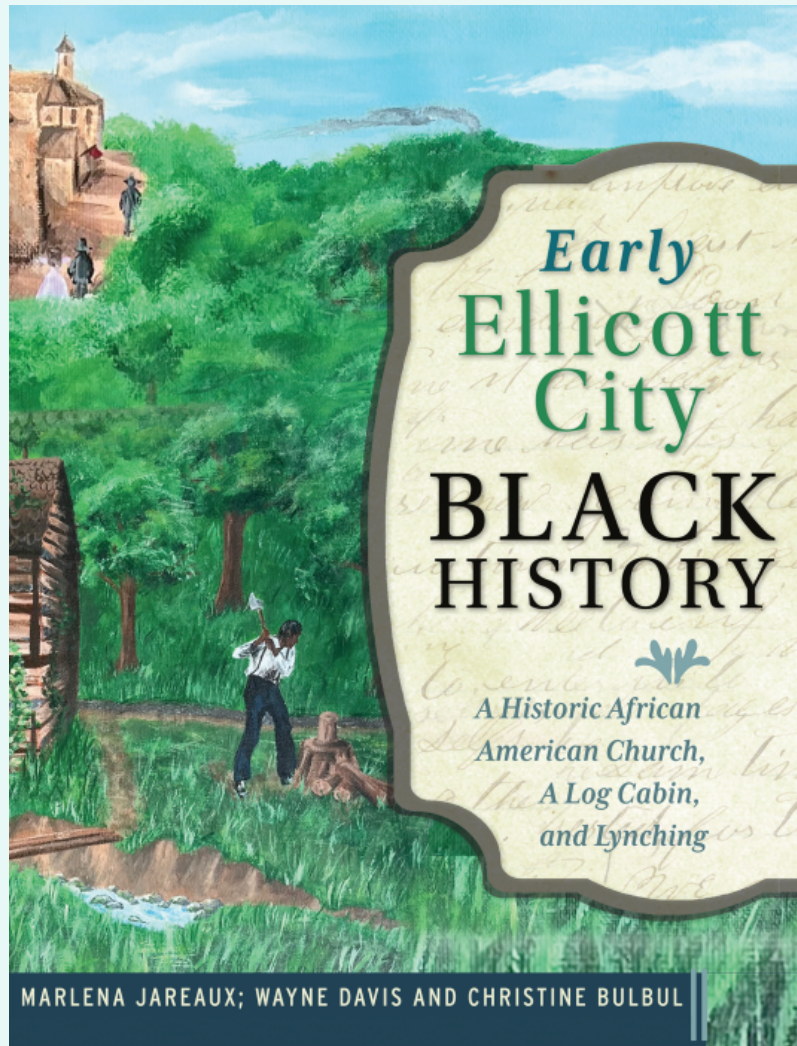
Marlena

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

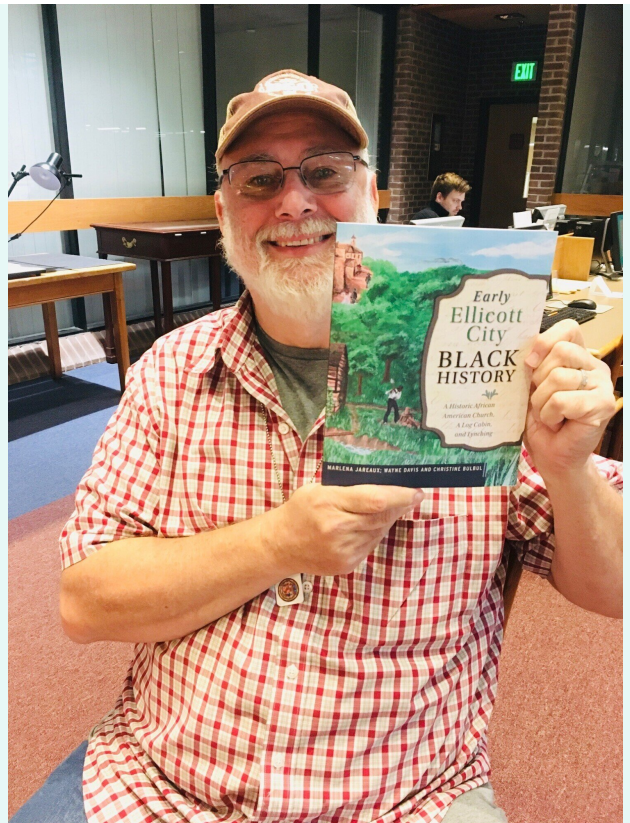
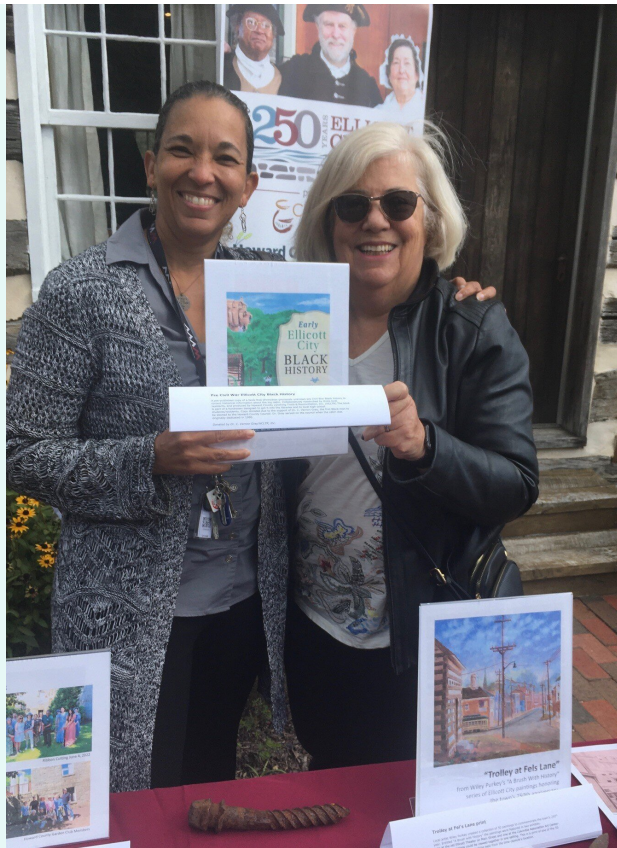
p.s. If you'd like for me to personally let you know about one of the planned programs above, shoot me an email and I will put you on my list and do just that! Marlena@hocoltr.org

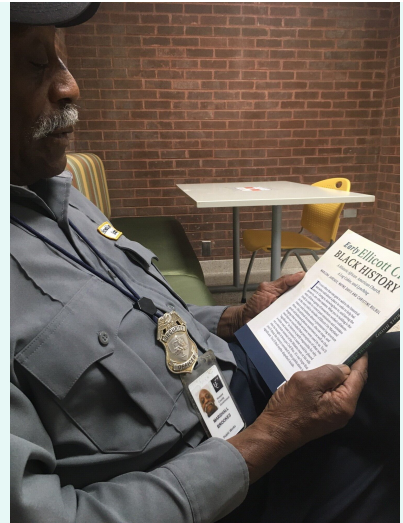
****A special thanks to Raul Delerme, Director of Howard County Recreation and Parks, D1 Councilwoman Liz Walsh, and a member of County Executive Calvin Ball's executive staff who wishes to remain in the background. Their letters of support and belief in the necessity of this work was instrumental (I'm certain) to the award being made by***

the state... as was the willingness of the team that was assembled to help do their parts that enabled HCLTR to create a grant package that would be too fantastic to not fund! On behalf of our nonprofit, I hope the community agrees...



to our book FUNDRAISER...





You received this email because you subscribed to our list. You can [unsubscribe](#) at any time.

P.O. Box 174
Simpsonville
Maryland
21150
United States of America

Powered by  EmailOctopus