



***Sunday, January 29, 2023***

***Black History Month Happenings***

***IN THIS ISSUE:***

- 1. Presentation on February 9th***
- 2. Our book fundraiser continues***
- 3. Grants Update***

***"Before Levi's House: A Historian's Look At The Lives Of Free Blacks in 1850 Howard County MD"***

***For our first event of many in the year that commemorates the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation taking effect, an exciting presentation is being given about local Black history. The area that would eventually become Howard County was comprised of both free and enslaved Black and Mulatto people in the decades leading up to the Civil War. In this presentation, historian Marlena Jareaux will share some of her research that seeks to uplift the scholarship and collective understanding of free Black and Mulatto people who were living among white and enslaved people in the area. There are likely descendants of these free people still residing in the area. The event time is 12:30pm-2pm on Thursday, February 9th. Several stories will be told about many of the actual people who lived here before Levi Gillis bought land in 1851 and built this log home in Ellicott's Mills for his wife and children. More information about Levi will also be disclosed. See bottom of this newsletter for the registration link.***

***\*image courtesy of the NPS***



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**Our Book Fundraiser continues...**

***In 2022, the community was first introduced to Levi, a Mulatto male who purchased land from a Baltimore County Black man named Thomas and his wife in order to build a log home for his family. How the research team of three citizens deciphered the history mysteries of the accurate age (it wasn't "circa 1780") and ownership of the cabin that Thomas Isaac purchased from Levi is detailed in the book our nonprofit is publishing. The book is packed with primary source documents in which a tremendous amount of time went into their acquisition, assembly and then securing the required print permissions. 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 still, this 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. We will be ordering the first print run of the book in February. If you see value in the work that our nonprofit does, please consider supporting us via the biggest fundraiser we've endeavored to do since our existence. That link can be found at the end of this newsletter. We also welcome anyone wanting to fundraise for us. Simply***

**click the link on 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 fundraiser to others.**

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### **Grant Updates**

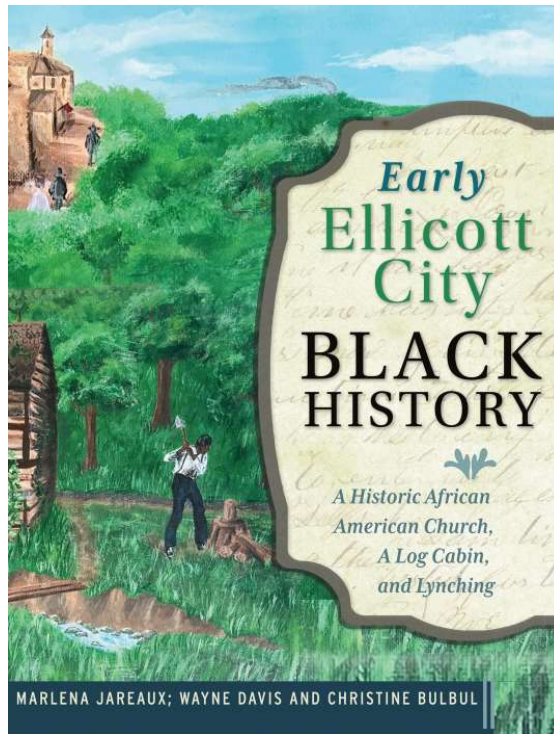
***It was previously reported last year that our nonprofit received notice of being awarded two state grants. While activities related to the July grant are well underway, the November grant associated with archaeology on the site where Levi's cabin used to sit may not happen. I have recently become aware that the activities and viability of one of our project's three vendors will very likely force us to withdraw our state grant application in order to not violate state grant laws/rules. While I was initially crushed to learn that the archaeology had been jeopardized by the vendor's actions, it was always only a small part of a larger project of our nonprofit's involving the showcasing of the overlooked early 1800 to 1870 Black Ellicott City presence. From the disclosures from the chief state archaeologist in a 2021 written communication, it was always understood that "The best way to date a building like this your cabin is through archaeology, but since the cabin was disassembled and moved, we have lost that data set. The other best method, as you know, is your archival research." The book we are publishing is that archival research. In addition, we already have the data that we needed from the site to be able to do the next steps in our plan, combined with recent findings that are the result of the research supported by the first grant. Since the homeowner always expressed grave concerns about her potential personal liability due to the many dangerous and unsafe aspects of her property, the decision we will likely make would serve everyone best in the end. Our focus has evolved to an even earlier time period in history than Levi's, which is even more exciting for our nonprofit!***

**Research rocks!**

**Marlena**

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

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**to our book FUNDRAISER...**

**To Feb 9 Event Registration**

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

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