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Subject: He escaped from the Howard County jail three times?
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Spring 2024 Updates

March 19, 2024

There are a few things of note that HCLTR, Inc. has done since our last newsletter. Some of it involves our recent book, and some involves the examination of the county's lynching history. If you came to read about the boy who escaped from the Ellicott City jail three times... he is at the end of this newsletter. :)

I reported last year that Howard County Rec and Parks created new panels inside of the log house that sits on Main Street in Ellicott City with content shared with them from the book published by our nonprofit. The book, written by me, Wayne Davis and Christine Bulbul was featured at our first book signing event held last November at Backwater Books in Ellicott City. They have two of the hardcover edition copies left, and about ten softcovers thanks to sales during Black History Month. They are our exclusive retailer in Old Ellicott City because we love small business!



FIRST WALK- ELLICOTT CITY BLACK HISTORY 1/1/24

While the log house is closed until sometime in April, it didn't stop some future plans for our nonprofit that involve the house. As a test run, a group of about seventeen people were invited to do a First Walk in downtown Ellicott City with the log house and its' original occupants being the focus. "What was life like for Levi and Eliza Jane Gillis?" is what participants were invited to imagine on a walking tour that also doubled to encourage people to get out and get moving! We traversed Main Street and some of the side streets as we walked from the log house down to the B&O Railroad station and back up again while hearing stories from yours truly. It was well-received by an appreciative crowd and much-appreciated for my test purposes.



WBALTV STORY ON OUR BOOK and OUR MARYLAND STATE ARCHIVES PRESENTATION

In early January, a taping session happened inside of the log house with the three co-authors of the book *Early Ellicott City Black History: A Historic African American Church, A Log Cabin and Lynching*. Kim Dacey and her wonderful videographer did a great job of interviewing us while we were inside of Levi and Eliza Jane Gillis' home. That resulted to a segment on WBALTV that aired on February 6th and a few times later. A link to that video is provided here:

to WBALTV video/story

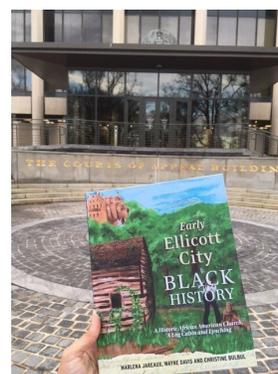
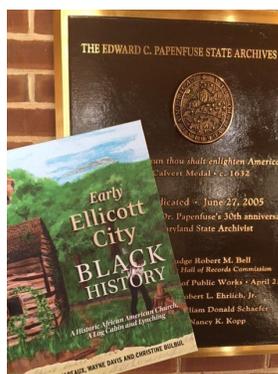
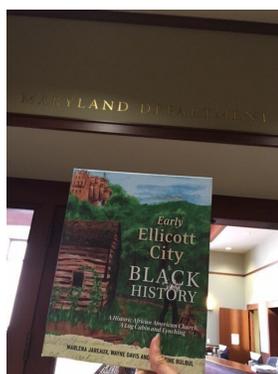
That aired right before our Maryland State Archives presentation on February 8th in conjunction with Enoch Pratt library. It was a HUGE honor to be asked to do that, and I'm not sure that there has been a Howard County lunch and learn history presentation with MSA before us! We take a tremendous amount of pride in knowing that our work has led to the discovery of what might possibly be THE oldest documented and surviving log structure built by an African American to live in within the state. Nine months of research by the researchers and another five months of editing and production work by the nonprofit is what did this for Howard County! That video is provided here:



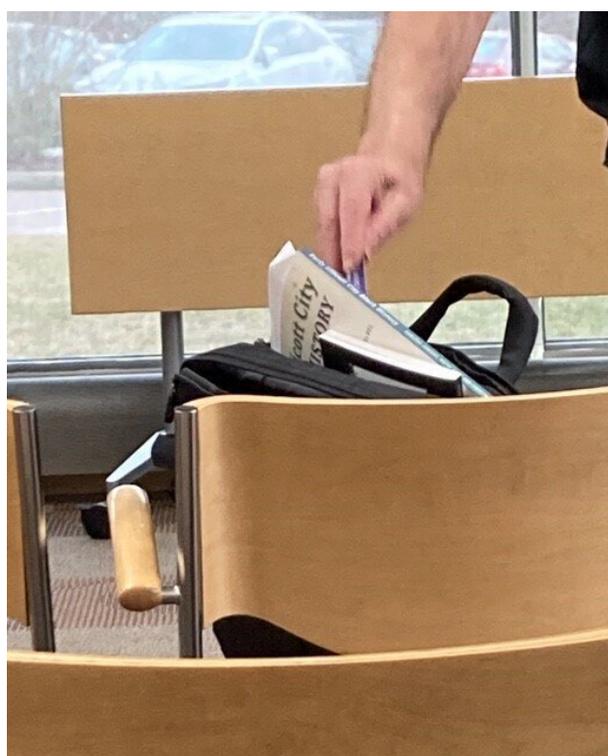
The poster features a background of interlocking puzzle pieces in black, white, yellow, and red. The text is centered and reads: "Lunch and Learn Reclaiming Black History: A Community Research Effort That Led to the Truth, a Book, and Hopefully Change". A play button icon is overlaid on the text. Below the title, it says "Thursday, February 8, 1:00 p.m. Virtual Event". At the bottom, it states "Presented in partnership with the Maryland State Archives and the Maryland Four Centuries Project." There is a circular logo in the top right corner for "Early Ellicott City BLACK HISTORY" and a decorative swirl in the bottom right corner.

BOOK DONATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION

Our nonprofit is eternally grateful for the early supporters of our work and the donors that followed! All copies have now been distributed to the people who donated to our book fundraiser. In addition, copies were hand delivered to a few history repositories such as Enoch Pratt Library African American room (they purchased additional copies for their collection!); Maryland State Archives, Maryland State Law Library (has a nice Howard County history section); Maryland Center For History and Culture. Donations to county schools will be next.



It has been nice hearing from community members that our book has been spotted at other organization's events! We certainly wanted people to learn from our work.



It's been also nice seeing our book get attention from places that are known for history.



Our book is also now available through Barnes and Noble, as well as our nonprofit's new website store. Those sale channels can be accessed here:

to Barnes and Noble

to HCLTR store

COUNTY LYNCHING HISTORY WORK and NEW TOOL

Last but not least, I invite you to experience the unveiling of our newest history tool: StoryMaps. There have been two of them in development for the past few months, and this one was newly released on a soft launch to the public on Sunday early evening. The announcement contained the news that the story of Amos Green is going to be used by our nonprofit in order to complete the remainder of our county lynching history. When you experience Amos' story, you'll understand why. He was also the only person documented (so far) to have escaped from the Ellicott's Mills jail three times! It's a good bet that Levi and Eliza Jane knew about Amos, and you'll see them in the StoryMap too.

More is coming in 2024.

StoryMap Amos Green

Yours in History,

Marlena Jareaux
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