

Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County Newsletter Spring/Summer 2011



Heritage Days 2011

The last weekend of June is right around the corner, and that means it's time for Heritage Montgomery's 14th Annual Heritage Days Weekend! On Saturday, June 25 and Sunday, June 26, 36 sites will be open FREE to the public from noon to 4pm offering a variety of activities that will be fun for the whole family.

Highlights of this year's celebration include:

- Hyattstown Mill Arts Project, Saturday & Sunday – This wooden grist mill, built in 1918, will feature an exhibit of beautiful objects all made from wood, plus wood-turning and saw-milling demonstrations. Sculpture garden, nature trails of Little Bennett Regional Park, plus a "Song Circle" of old favorites and new tunes at 7:30pm on Saturday!
- Olney Theatre Center, Saturday A day of family fun at this cultural campus dating back to 1939. Performances, games for children of all ages, cotton



Hyattstown Mill

candy! The Eric Byrd Trio caps off the day with a jazz concert at 4pm.

• Sandy Spring, Saturday –At the Sandy Spring Museum on Saturday at 1:30pm, participate in the debate – *Maryland 1861: Union or Confederate? You Decide* – for adults & children over age 12; younger children can enjoy a scavenger hunt exploring the museum. Interact with Civil War-era personas at the Sandy Spring Slave Museum.

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- Clarksburg Day, Saturday Activities for the whole family including tours in the historic district, a pet show, moonbounce & clowns, and free trolley transportation. Sponsored by the Clarksburg Historical Society.
- Musical performances by the Washington Revels at the Sandy Spring Slave Museum, Oakley Cabin, St. Paul Church, Poolesville Band Shell, Glen Echo Park, and Seneca and Monocacy Aqueducts. Check the HM website, heritagemontgomery.org, for days and times.



Model Train at Historic Silver Spring B&O Railroad Station



Brookeville One-Room Schoolhouse



Seneca Aqueduct



Do & Go!

Festivals, camps, classes, museums, historical sites and performances – it's all on Do & Go! A service of the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, Do & Go is an online calendar for cultural events in the county. Visit creativemoco.com and click on the Do & Go box to plan your next outing in Montgomery County!



As our county, and our nation, begins its commemoration of the Civil War Sesquicentennial, Heritage Montgomery has created a host of informative and entertaining products on the role Montgomery County played in the conflict.

Life in a War Zone: Montgomery County during the Civil War

In conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, Heritage Montgomery has produced a spectacular 60-minute documentary film: *Life in a War Zone: Montgomery County during the Civil War*.



Shot in high definition, the video beautifully tells the story of Montgomery County in the 1860s and the effect the Civil War had on the daily life of its citizens. Montgomery County was strategically located next to the District of Columbia and in the path of major troop movement to and from the Confederate state of Virginia and the battles of Antietam (in Sharpsburg, Maryland) and Gettysburg (Pennsylvania). Thousands of Union soldiers camped in Rockville and Poolesville for extended periods of time. The war had a significant impact on the county and its residents for the duration of the conflict and beyond. The film uses historic and contemporary images, beautiful photography, first-person accounts, and a stirring soundtrack to tell the story of the war years in Montgomery County.

Life in a War Zone was written, produced, and directed by Barbara Grunbaum of G2 Media and the Washington Revels produced the musical soundtrack. The video can be viewed directly from the Heritage Montgomery website where DVD copies of the film are also available for sale on the Gift Shop page. You will also be able to see *Life in a War Zone* when it airs on Maryland Public Television (MPT) on July 3 at 7pm!



A Guide to the Civil War in Montgomery County

Heritage Montgomery has published a 32-page booklet, "Life in a War Zone: A Guide to the Civil War in Montgomery County, Maryland," guiding visitors to heritage sites in the county with stories of Civil War significance. From Poolesville to Rockville to Sandy Spring, learn more about how county residents' lives were affected by constant troop movement through the area as well as federal occupation





during the Civil War years. Imagine gas-fired balloons floating near Edwards Ferry, scouting confederate activity across the Potomac; visit the majestic Monocacy Aqueduct along the vital supply route of the C&O Canal; or hike the Underground Railroad Experience Trail at Woodlawn Manor in Sandy Spring. The brochure is available to read and download directly from the Heritage Montgomery website, or contact the office for a free, printed copy.

World Premiere

On Wednesday, March 16, Heritage Montgomery held the "world premiere" of the documentary film, *Life in a War Zone: Montgomery County during the Civil War* at the Universities at Shady Grove in Rockville. The evening's program began and concluded with the Washington Revels performing moving musical selections from the video and soundtrack CD, "Hard Times Come Again No More."

Response to the announcement of the screening was overwhelming. RSVPs quickly reached the auditorium's 300-person capacity. Over 100 people were added to the top of the list for the next screening, which was held on April 20. At both events guests roundly praised the video's fascinating content and high-quality production.

L to R: Greg Lewis, Host; Francine Wyron, Editor/Graphic Designer; Charlie Pilzer, Sound Editor; Peggy Erickson, HM; Joseph Thompson, Director of Photography; Barbara Grunbaum, Producer/Director; Ronald Gregory, Title Designer



Montgomery County In The 1860S

Heritage Montgomery worked closely with our partners at Text Design, Inc. to create this striking 18" x 24" map of Montgomery County. Based on a property map of the county from the 1860s, it shows the old voting districts, the routes Union & Confederate troops took



through the area as well as their encampments, plus contemporary Civil War Trail markers. The map, along with the *Life in a War Zone* DVD and music of the Civil War CD, "Hard Times Come Again No More," are all available on the Gift Shop page under the About Us tab on the HM website.

Battle of Ball's Bluff Commemoration

This October will mark the 150th anniversary of the Civil War Battle of Ball's Bluff. On October 21, 1861, Union troops crossed the Potomac River south of White's Ferry via Harrison's Island on a foray into Loudon County, Virginia. Due in part to poor reconnaissance, the logistical challenge of moving troops across the river with an inadequate number of boats, and meeting the enemy stationed on the bluffs along the river banks, Union troops suffered a demoralizing defeat. Brigade commander Colonel Edward D. Baker, a Senator from Oregon, was critically wounded in the battle and transported to Poolesville. Baker remains the only sitting U.S. Senator to die in battle.

Heritage Montgomery is working with the National Park Service/C&O Canal and the Town of Poolesville to plan special events commemorating this significant battle. Keep an eye on the HM website, heritagemontgomery.org for details to come!

Civil War "App"

After researching and producing both the *Life in a War Zone* video and the "Guide to the Civil War in Montgomery County" brochure, Heritage Montgomery wants to make much of this information directly available to visitors as they travel around the county. HM plans to develop a free smartphone (iPhone, Android) application (app) that will highlight the county's Civil War sites and stories. This location-based tour-guide app will use Google map technology to determine where a visitor is, provide detailed information about what they are looking at, and offer navigational instructions to nearby Points of Interest (POI) including amenities such as restaurants and shopping.

Visitors hiking the C&O Canal tow path or driving the family home from a soccer game can use the smartphone app to find nearby historic and cultural sites to stop and visit – or even generate their own Civil War tour through the county. Using this "green" guide, visitors will be able to travel at their own pace with a personalized tour guide right on their smartphone.

Letter from the *Director*

Montgomery County has a unique place in the history of the Civil War. Just before the war, the county had a population of only 18,000 residents, one quarter or about 4,500 of whom were African Americans. Of that number, approximately one third were free. The rest were enslaved, working as farmhands, household servants or craftsmen.

We were a border state with residents split between the Union and the Confederacy. Montgomery County was occupied by Federal troops and placed under martial law – search warrants were not required, citizens could be jailed and their property could be seized, all without a trial. The almost constant presence of troops in the county meant that residents lived with the war on a daily basis.

Because the struggle for democracy never ends, many of the issues that divided the nation then are still with us today. Please take the time to visit the HM website and view our video, *Life in a War Zone*, and find out more about our county's rich history.

Degqy Erickson

Battle of Ball's Bluff. Credit: Emory University



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Thank You!

Thank you to all the contributors to Heritage Montgomery's FY 11 Fundraising Campaign for making it our most successful ever. In addition to raising more money than ever in support of our efforts promoting our county's rich heritage, we were especially pleased to also see a notable increase in the number of donations that we received. Thank you all for your generous support!

Fran Abrams Art of Fire Laura Anderson Wright Linda Baim Donna Barron Bassett's Restaurant Linda Buel Wade & Angela Butler Joan Clowes-Butvinik Nancy & Raymond Dacek Bobby Donovan Ralph Duffie Carol English David Flanagan Mark Friis, Rodgers Consulting Germantown Historical Society Leslie Gilbert Roger Glendenning Chris Goodwin Mary Kay Harper Don Housley John Hutchinson Rob Jacobs, Acacia FSB Anne Hale Johnson Stephen and Ann Jones Fund John Keller George Kephart

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where you least expect it!

Heritage Montgomery Sta

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This project has been financed in part with State Funds from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.



The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) Grant Program is a source of funding for projects in certified heritage areas designed to assist and encourage tourism, economic development, and preservation. A strong slate of applicants for FY 2012 grants were reviewed and approved for referral to the State by the Heritage Montgomery Board of Directors. In addition to its annual Management Grant, Heritage Montgomery submitted a Project Grant supporting Heritage Days & Civil War programs and a Non-Capital Grant to develop a smartphone "app" on Civil War sites in Montgomery County. We anticipate notification on the grant awards in June.

Management Grant

 Heritage Montgomery – \$100,000 for operating funds

Capital Grant

• M-NCPPC, Montgomery Department of Parks – \$50,000 for the restoration of the Poole Store

Project Grants

- Heritage Montgomery \$10,000 for Heritage Days & Civil War programs
- Heritage Montgomery \$5,000 to develop a Civil War Smartphone "App"
- M-NCPPC, Montgomery County Department of Parks – \$20,000 for an archeological study at Oakley Cabin
- Town of Poolesville \$10,000 for a signage program
- Washington Revels \$35,973 for Civil War programs
- Glen Echo Park \$5,746 for visitor signage



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Remember the 14th Annual Heritage Days Weekend! Saturday, June 25th and Sunday, June 26th!

Heritage Spotlight

Barbara Grunbaum

Meet Barbara Grunbaum, writer, producer and director *extraordinaire* of Heritage Montgomery's new video, *Life in a War Zone: Montgomery County during the Civil War.* Barbara has been involved with local programming in the county since 1985, first with Montgomery Community Television,



then with Montgomery County Government and is a producer for G2 Media in Rockville. Heritage Montgomery first teamed up with Barbara in 2007 on the award-winning podcast driving tour of the Agricultural Reserve: *Montgomery Rural Heritage Byway Tour*. Her talents and experience are perfectly matched to our heritage projects. Since 2000 she has written and directed 70 episodes of "Paths to the Present" for County Cable Montgomery, focusing on unique stories of local history. Congratulations, and thank you, Barbara on producing a beautiful, educational, and entertaining film on this fascinating period in Montgomery County's rich heritage.

Heritage Montgomery



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Vice-President – Bobby Donovan Hyattstown Mill Arts Project

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Laura Anderson Wright, Sandy Spring Slave Museum