Preserving the Past and Educating for the Future:
A Commemoration for Black History Month

Montgomery County, Maryland
Feb. 27, 2018

George W. McDaniel
“Travel is the enemy of prejudice” and the path to understanding

History is travel through time and place.
Our Travel Across Space
First Stop: Nat’l Museum of African American History and Culture
Most Popular Museum in America
The Freedom House

DEFENDING FREEDOM, DEFINING FREEDOM:
THE ERA OF SEGREGATION 1876 – 1968

SLAVERY AND FREEDOM
1400 – 1877
Inside the Museum: Freedom House from Montgomery County Connects People from across World to African American History: Struggle for Freedom
Jonesville: above Poolesville, adjacent to Jerusalem. Founded by Jones family, soon after emancipation in 1870s. Like Sugarland, Jerusalem, it was a landowning community.
Perhaps the most highly visited African American home in the world?
Montgomery Co. Residents like Gwen Reese and Suzanne Johnson Contributed Photographs to Personalize the House
Chanell Kelton, Her Daughter Blessing, Paul Gardullo with Me at Opening of NMAAHC
In 1978-79 I researched the Area and documented the Jones-Hall-Sims House for Sugarloaf Reg. Trails and Maryland Historical Trust.

John Sims and me.
Jonesville Today:
History in Your Own Backyard
Jones-Sims House, Gwen Reese’s Sugarland, Jerusalem, Lincoln Park, and other communities in Montgomery County tell of that moment of transition from slavery to the promise of freedom and onwards.
Little to no African American Presence in Too Many History Books

Montgomery County

Michael Dwyer
Why Important to the Present and the Future?

- **Carter G. Woodson, founder of Black History Month:**
  - “If you don’t tell them, they won’t know.”

- **Martin Luther King, Jr.:**
  - “He who controls my mind controls my body. He who controls my history controls my mind.”
Resource for Today: My Research, Documentation, Writings of 1978-79 for Sugarloaf Regional Trails and MD Historical Trust

BLACK HISTORICAL RESOURCES
IN UPPER WESTERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

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George W. McDaniel
Sugarloaf Regional Trails
July 1979
Community Leaders Step Up and Support Preservation and Education via My Survey: Jerusalem, Howard Lyles; Ora McPherson Lyles
Churches, Cemeteries: Elijah’s Rest Methodist Church, Jerusalem, Jonesville: Home Church for Jones, Hall, Sims Families.

“What they’d been through as slaves drew them closer to God.”

Howard Lyles
Martinsburg: Evelyn Herbert and Lemuel Graham, 1979

Herbert and Graham are now deceased. How might their historical photographs and artifacts be recorded digitally for archival and educational purposes to remedy lack of historical African American presence, per Arcadia Press book seen earlier?
Lemuel Graham, 1979, Martinsburg house, an archives of history, now demolished.
John Peters, Graham’s grandfather, blacksmith and landowner, born during slavery. Where is photograph now?
My Historic Survey, 1978-79: MD Historical Trust, Sugarloaf Regional Trails

- Documented 189 historic places (houses, schools, churches, work places)
- Copied > 100 family photos
- 17 oral history interviews recorded
My Historic Survey, 1978-79:
MD Historical Trust, Sugarloaf Regional Trails

- Deposited with MHT, Montgomery Public Library
- All my slides have been misplaced
- Research may locate them
- I kept an extra set, c. 550 slides
- My slides of 1978-79 are what you are seeing
Martinsburg: Loving Charity Hall, Image of 1978, built 1914 by Scott Bell

- Community benefit society headquartered in Richmond with chapters in Maryland, even MS
- Insurance, burials, orphans, widows
- Center for dances, plays, meetings, etc.
- Product of segregation and of strategy of making a way out of no way
Loving Charity Hall, 2017: Documentation and Vision Led to Restoration for Its Future
Survey Methodology, 1978-79; Engage Students. Proximate Learning

Ethel Foreman, Clarksburg, and intern Karen Sewell, recording an oral history interview about historical Clarksburg.
John Henry Wims, born 1849, enslaved, purchased land 1885, became mail carrier in the county. Wims Rd. named after him and his family, from slavery to freedom.
Proximate Learning: All Within Eyesight

Clarksburg Negro School, c. 1932, grades 1-7.
Teacher, Inex Hallman from Big Woods

Segregation. Little support from county.
Education: How to find a way?

Original Methodist Church, 1880’s

Warner Wims, born 1845, brother of John Henry Wims
Free Blacks Tell More Complete Story of County

My Unpublished Manuscript:
Part I Is New, 150 Pages

REFLECTIONS OF BLACK HERITAGE:
AN ARCHITECTURAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY
OF BLACK COMMUNITIES IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

George W. McDaniel
Sugarloaf Regional Trails
September, 1979

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House Form
Comparison of Folk Houses of White and Black Families
Predominance of Log Houses
Methods of Log Construction
Notching and Pegging
Methods of Frame Construction
Heritage Cookbook: Innovative Gateway to History. Sarah Rogers.

My 1979 Manuscript Provides Introductions to Chapters along with My Copies of Historical Photos.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE COOKBOOK
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Historical Excerpts by Dr. George McDaniel
Larkin Rogers, Chef/Curator
Sarah L. Rogers
Remarkable Resources Here in County: Historians, Preservationists, Teachers, Neighbors

Sharyn Duffin, Lincoln Park
Partnerships in Preservation: Cemetery Inventory Project Revisited. Over 80 African American Burial Sites Located

Sugarland, Martinsburg are examples
Cemetery Documentation and Conservation: How to Connect to The Living? By Peopling the Place.

Gravestone, Alexander Hebron, 1872-1930
Photo, Patrick Hebron, uncle, born 1840s.
Montgomery County History: Both Local and National; Contributes to Understanding of our American Heritage
Preserving the Past and Educating for the Future.
Suggested Next Steps.

- Organize an archival initiative to preserve this history.
- Digitize all my slides since MD Historical Trust and Montgomery Co. Public Library have misplaced them. Video story behind them of the people and places.
- Connect Montgomery Co. and the Nat’l Museum of African American History and Culture
- Develop educational programs: K-12, undergrad and grad schools, using these resources
- Use history to promote cross-cultural understanding, tolerance, and respect
Let’s Commemorate, Preserve, and Connect. Time Is Now.