


MEMORANDUM

April 26, 2022

TO: Planning, Housing & Economic Development [PHED] Committee
Education & Culture [E&C] Committee

FROM: Carolyn Chen, Legislative Analyst 

SUBJECT: **FY23 Recommended Operating Budget Worksession:
Non-Departmental Account [NDA]: Historical Activities**

PURPOSE: Review and make recommendations for Council consideration – vote expected.

Expected Participants:

- Matt Logan, Executive Director, Montgomery History
- Camille Brewer, Board Director, Montgomery History
- Corey Orlosky, Acting Manager, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) – proxy for Anita Aryeetey, Fiscal and Policy Analyst, OMB

SYNOPSIS: FY23 Recommended Operating Budget: [NDA – Historical Activities \(p. 72-18\)](#)

About [Montgomery History](#). Founded in 1944, Montgomery History curates a 9,500-piece collection of historic artifacts, operates the [Jane C. Sween Research Library](#) and Special Collections, the [County’s local government archives](#), the [Mary Kay Harper Center for Suburban Studies](#), host an [annual History Conference](#). Prior to FY14, Montgomery History was funded with the [Historic Preservation Commission to M-NCPPC](#) through the Historical Activities NDA. In FY14, County operating funds were shifted to the Historic Preservation Office in M-NCPPC.

Summary analysis of FY23 changes. Montgomery History is historically underfunded by the County’s operating budget. With [flat funding approved for FY22](#) on PHED Committee consent due to the pandemic, Montgomery History continued to expand their virtual programming and offerings to address the racial and social landscape of the County in real-time. The County Executive’s FY23 recommended budget of a 6% inflationary increase (+\$9,000) is insufficient to retain and recruit personnel, maintain the current condition of the historical archives, and does not provide the core government service of preservation of County records.

Council staff recommends approval of the FY23 Recommended Operating Budget – NDA: Historical Activities as submitted by the County Executive (+\$9,000) to include a base budget addition of \$332,007.

This packet contains:

© Page #

NDA: Historical Activities FY23 Rec Operating Budget Summary & Notes	3
FY23 Recommended Operating Budget: NDA – Historical Activities	©1
Montgomery History FY23 Budget Request – April 2022.....	©2-5
Montgomery History FY22 Accomplishments Summary	©6-23

Council Staff Recommended Operating Budget Scenarios
NDA: Historical Activities

Montgomery History	FY23 Estimate	Market Adjustment	FTEs
Personnel Expenses	\$383,500	\$460,700	5.5
County Personnel Support (41%)	\$159,000	\$191,007	
ADD: Digital Archivist		\$70,000	1
ADD: Archivist - County Records		\$80,000	1
		\$341,007	7.5

Budget Notes:

- Montgomery History current personnel costs are estimated to be 20% below competitive market compensation¹. Adjusting for market compensation and assuming the same cost-sharing as the FY23 recommended budget, \$191,007 is needed annually to provide the same level of service.
- As seen through the best practice of the City of Takoma Park where [city records are available online](#) since the town’s incorporation in 1890, Montgomery History needs a full-time digital archivist to expand the current digital collection to meet 21st century technological needs.
- Noted in [FY22 Council budget session](#) on April 22, 2021, there is a gap in service capacity to maintain and expand the County’s historical archives. To effectively coordinate with the Department of General Services (DGS) County Records Center, a full-time archivist is needed to review expired records prior to shredding and to preserve records of historical or evidential value created by government agencies and their associated boards/committees and commissions, civic organizations, and personal papers of influential community leaders.

¹ U.S. Bureau of Statistics. [Occupational Employment and Wages, May 2021: Archivists](#).

years as an active employee is necessary to be eligible for the lifetime plan. The County will pay 50 percent of the premium for retirees with five years of participation as an active employee. The County contribution to the payment of the premium increases by two percent for each additional year of participation up to the 70 percent maximum.

On March 5, 2002, the County Council approved a one-time opportunity for retirees still under the 20/80 arrangement with an expiration date to elect the lifetime cost sharing arrangement. The new percentage paid by the County for those electing this arrangement ranges from 50 percent to 68 percent, depending upon years of active eligibility under the plan and years since retirement. The cost sharing election process has been completed. The budget does not include employer contributions from participating outside agencies.

FY23 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY22 Approved	50,618,652	0.00
Decrease Cost: Utilization of OPEB Trust Funds	(20,000,000)	0.00
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs.	(1,690,215)	0.00
FY23 Recommended	28,928,437	0.00

Guaranteed Income

The Guaranteed Income Non-Departmental Account will fund a three-year pilot of the Guaranteed Income program, whose purpose is to provide direct, recurring cash payments to targeted groups of people without strings attached. The goals of the program are to alleviate poverty, provide a form of financial stability, and give people the ability to make their own choices to improve their economic position. Guaranteed Income is seen as one strategy to address income and wealth inequality.

FY23 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY22 Approved	0	0.00
Add: Year Two Guaranteed Income Pilot Expenses	2,563,502	1.00
FY23 Recommended	2,563,502	1.00

Historical Activities

This NDA provides funding for the Historical Society to support the Society's Education Program staff, educational and outreach programs for County residents, and to maintain the Historical Society's research library and museums.

FY23 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY22 Approved	150,000	0.00
Increase Cost: Six Percent Inflationary Increase to Non-Profit Service Provider Contracts	9,000	0.00
FY23 Recommended	159,000	0.00

Homeowners' Association Road Maintenance Reimburse

This NDA provides a partial reimbursement to homeowners' associations (HOAs) for their maintenance of certain privately-owned roadways. The payment is currently restricted to through roadways, accessible to the public, which are one-quarter mile or longer and which provide vehicular access to more than four dwelling units. In FY97, an Executive Regulation was enacted allowing homeowners' associations to request that their roadways be deemed "private maintenance roads." This



FY23 Operating Budget Request

Summary

Montgomery History is on the verge of taking a significant step forward in its ability to serve the residents of the county with the opening of its new **Montgomery County History Center** in early 2023. This facility in Rockville will enable the organization to meet the tremendous demand for its resources, programs, and services—which has grown exponentially in the past several years—and provide a base from which to create and nurture collaborations and partnerships. The increase in County funding to \$300,000 will provide for the staff, equipment, and technology necessary to meet our goal of making local history inclusive, accessible, relevant, and engaging.

Justification for the Increase: *Inclusion and Access*

Montgomery History is at the forefront of the national movement to reimagine how historical inquiry can be harnessed to serve the needs of the entire community. We amplify the voices of our fellow Montgomery Countians who have traditionally been excluded from historical narratives. At the same time, we are removing physical, economic, and technological barriers to access to ensure everyone has an opportunity to tell their own stories.

We have found that our emphasis on inclusion and access has dramatically increased the demand for our services. In fact, in spite of the obvious challenges imposed by the pandemic, the past two years have been the most productive period in our 78-year history. It has also highlighted the imperative for us to meet professional standards for the care of our collections and library. The Montgomery History Board of Directors responded to this challenge by approving the expenditure of endowment funds and the strategic use of our real estate assets to secure a new home for the organization. We are thrilled to have an offer pending on a 9,000 square foot building on East Gude Drive in Rockville to serve as the very first Montgomery County History Center.



The History Center, which we hope to occupy in early 2023, will house the Sween Research Library, provide storage for our 10,000-piece artifact collection, include a state-of-the-art

conservation lab, accommodate public programs, and provide space for our administrative offices. The benefits of the new space will be immediate and enormous. For instance, instead of simply warehousing our artifacts, we will *activate* them. The public will be able to see first-hand how our documents, photographs, and artifacts are cared for and the infrastructure required to do so, making our operation accessible and transparent. In virtually every instance where “open access” has been adopted, it has stimulated public interest, driven new lines of research, and led to exciting new collaborations.

The new education space will allow us to expand our popular slate of workshops, lectures, demonstrations, and other educational programs. Our plans also include a small, flexible studio to produce digital content—critically important to growing our audience, especially younger people—such as live and recorded presentations, podcasts, and oral histories. Based upon our success over the past few years, we know that utilization of new technologies will allow us to reach, at a far lower cost, larger, more diverse audiences (in terms of age, race, geography, physical abilities, etc.) who may otherwise face barriers to access.

Our investment in facilities and technology is critical because it will enable us to advance even further the County’s “Racial Equity and Social Justice” priority, which is shared as a core value of Montgomery History. We have worked—and will continue to work—tirelessly to share new voices and create more complete historical narratives. We believe we have a responsibility to counter traditional histories which privileged whites and served, at times, to buttress a social order that devalued Blacks, women, immigrants, LGBTQ+, and other groups who were relegated to supporting roles in the historical record.

Use of Funds

In FY23, we are seeking \$141,000 in addition to the \$159,000 included in the County Executive’s budget. The funding is comprised of two tranches.

Request #1 \$105,000

This funding will be used to support essential staff positions including the Librarian and Curator/Collections Manager as well as provide for the purchase of audio-visual studio equipment and other necessary supplies.

Request #2 \$36,000

This funding will be used to hire a part-time Digital Archivist who will manage Montgomery County's archive of historical government records and lead the continuing development of our digital access initiative.

Looking ahead to FY23, Montgomery History remains committed to its mission to collect, preserve, interpret, and share the histories of *all* Montgomery County residents. With our focus on inclusion and access, and with the opening of the Montgomery County History Center, we are optimistic that greater understanding of our shared past will make the county safer and more welcoming for everyone.

For more information, please contact Matt Logan, Executive Director, at 301-512-7027 or MLogan@MontgomeryHistory.org.



April 5, 2022

Council President Gabe Albornoz
Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue, 6th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council President Albornoz,

Last fall, Montgomery History submitted a request for increased County funding for FY23. Only a small portion was included in the County Executive's budget and on behalf of the Montgomery History Board of Directors I'm writing to ask that you include the full increase in the Council's final budget. We are also seeking a Cost Sharing Capital Grant from the County to help match the \$700,000 bond bill we have received for our new Montgomery County History Center.

Montgomery History has been serving the county since 1944 with our programs, educational activities, research library, exhibits, and artifact collections. The funding we have received from the County over the years has been invaluable and we are deeply appreciative. It has enabled us to evolve as the needs of the people of Montgomery County have changed over time, putting us in the forefront of the national movement to reimagine how historical inquiry can be harnessed to serve the needs of the entire community. Our tools are innovative and consequential because we amplify the voices of those who have traditionally been excluded from the historical record. We are also a leader in the use of technology to break down barriers, whether they be physical or economic, to increase and customize access to our services, programs, and resources.

The success of these efforts has given us great confidence and optimism, and helped us to see that our own facilities were limiting our ability to be even more inclusive and accessible. In response, the Montgomery History Board of Directors has moved decisively to purchase a building, which we are calling the Montgomery County History Center, to serve as a home for all our functions and a center for inquiry and collaboration. Our plan is to take occupancy as early as next January.

While we are investing heavily in our own future and are pursuing funding from a variety of other sources, we look to the County to augment the essential operating support that we need to maintain and build upon the momentum we've generated over the past five years. The increase is critical as it will allow us to keep our core functions staffed with full-time employees and hire a half-time digital archivist to manage the County's archive of historical government records. This new position also will lead the continuing development of the Sween Library's digital repository, ensuring the preservation and accessibility of those resources.

To make the History Center a reality, we need to secure additional funding beyond what we will glean from the sale of our two residential properties and the bond bill. I hope the Council will include the entire \$385,000 we requested as a Cost Sharing Capital Grant. Our intention is to leverage the County's

support to build our capacity to not only deliver programs and services that the community needs and expects, but to expand our partnerships with Montgomery County Public Schools, the Remembrance and Reconciliation Commission, and Montgomery College—to name just a few—to better serve the diverse population who resides in the county.

An appreciation of history’s relevance has never been higher, whether it is rooted in discussions about our nation’s racial reckoning, debate about the teaching of Critical Race Theory, or planning for the 250th anniversary of the County’s founding in 2026. The people of Montgomery County—civically-engaged, critical thinkers—expect and deserve a robust and intellectually stimulating humanities community of which Montgomery History is an anchor.

Thank you for your consideration, time, and continued support.

Sincerely,



Shaunta Vaughn
President, Board of Directors



October 29, 2021

Ms. Pofen Salem
Chief, Division of Finance and Administration
Department of Housing and Community Affairs
1401 Rockville Pike, 4th Floor
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Ms. Salem,

Montgomery History respectfully requests \$300,000 for support of historical services in FY23. This request represents an increase of \$150,000 which is needed, in part, to expand on our leading-edge work documenting the history of disenfranchised communities such as immigrants and, especially, African American, which aligns with the County Executive’s priority of “Racial Equity and Social Justice.” It also will enable Montgomery History to more fully realize its potential as a pillar of the humanities community as we adopt a new vision and make long overdue facility improvements.

Justification for Increase

Montgomery History is in the forefront of the national movement to remake what it means to be a historical society in the 21st century. We have abandoned the old model which included static “don’t touch” exhibits, stories with little current relevance, interpretation handed down by “experts,” benign neglect of artifacts, limited access to library collections and museum objects, and programming focused narrowly on the interests of our own membership.

While this process of reinvention has been happening steadily for the past 6-7 years, the pandemic forced us to quickly adopt new ways to deliver our programs and provide services. Doing so has given us greater clarity about how best to serve the community in the future. We have learned:

- online programming is incredibly popular, generating far greater attendance than we predicted, especially compared to in-person events;
- our audiences are enthusiastically engaging with us online (e.g., social media, online exhibits, event registrations, stewardship events, e-commerce, and remote research);
- the demand to digitize our holdings is far greater than we anticipated; and
- there is considerable potential for expanding our reach and influence through new technologies and partnerships.

Taken together, these lessons have helped drive forward the process that was already underway to embrace a new vision driven by three imperatives:

1. Equal commitment to conservation, accessibility, inclusivity, and engagement
2. Greater reliance on technology to achieve organizational goals
3. Library and artifact collections serve as the backbone of the organization

The most significant financial implication of this approach is leading to the relocation of our Sween Research Library and Special Collections along with our 10,000-piece artifact collection to a new facility. Not only will a new space meet professional library and museum standards for storage (control of temperature, humidity, mold, and pests, etc.) including an isolation room, conservation lab, and an area for processing new acquisitions, it will include flex areas for a portable video/audio recording studio, computer stations for researchers, hands-on workshops, educational programs, symposia, small exhibits, and other public activities.

Our goal is to move by summer 2022. We anticipate acquiring the new space, either fee simple or leased, utilizing our own assets and additional funds from a combination of private and public sources. In addition, we must invest in a variety of areas—personnel, equipment, IT maintenance/support, training—In order to operationalize these spaces, which are also reflected below in the budget for this request.

The benefits of the new space and realigning our resources to serve this new operating model will be immediate and enormous. For instance, instead of simply warehousing our artifacts, our goal will be to activate them. Within the museum and library communities, “open access” is a proven practice, adopted initially by larger institutions in which the public is allowed to view and interact with the objects on a personal level. They are able to see how the documents, photographs, and artifacts are cared for and the infrastructure required to do so, making our operation accessible and transparent. In virtually every instance where it has been adopted, open access has stimulated public interest, driven new lines of research, motivated donors, and increased revenue.

Most significantly, we will create a small, flexible studio to produce digital content—which is critically important to growing our audience, especially younger people—such as recorded presentations, podcasts, and oral histories. Utilization of new technologies allows us to reach, at a far lower cost, larger, more diverse audiences (in terms of age, race, geography, physical abilities, etc.) who may otherwise face barriers to access. Our plans in FY23 and beyond are dependent upon having such a home for creating professional quality digital media. We have been successful with a makeshift studio this past year, but it has infringed on our other programs and has been extremely limiting in terms of final product. Nevertheless, the potential is great. New flex space will efficiently meet our needs by coupling our conservation obligations with the educational activities that put a public face on the organization and stimulate greater engagement in the broader community.

Our investment in facilities and technology is critical because it will enable us to even better advance the County’s “Racial Equity and Social Justice” priority, which is shared as a core value of Montgomery History. As the sections below indicate, we have worked—and will continue to work—tirelessly to share new voices and create more complete historical narratives. We believe we have a responsibility to counter traditional histories which privileged whites and served, at times, to buttress a social order that devalued Blacks, women, immigrants, and other groups who were relegated to supporting roles in the historical record.

+++++

FY21-22 Activities and Accomplishments

Since March 2020 we have operated virtually, with only a few exceptions. Tours of the Beall-Dawson House were halted completely, and the Jane C. Sween Research Library, the Montgomery County Archives, and the Stonestreet Museum of 19th Century Medicine were closed until this past summer. We have put in place public health protocols which has enabled us to open the library and archives on an appointment-only basis and Stonestreet on Saturday afternoons.

In spite of the obvious challenges, the past 18 months, and the last year in particular, have been the most productive in our 77-year history.

- Our work to document the tragic history of **racial terror lynchings** in Montgomery County culminated in a symposium we hosted in September. “Unwritten Law’: A Symposium on the Lynchings in Rockville” featured presentations by historians Ralph Buglass and Anthony Cohen, and by our Librarian/Archivist Sarah Hedlund. Hedlund’s work, in particular, has been instrumental in creating a definitive account of what transpired, and who was involved, in the three confirmed local lynchings. Her accounts were published in two special issues of our publication The Montgomery County Story, including one in August, and in an ever-expanding section of our website dedicated to African American history and resources. For instance, her work on the 1896 lynching of Mr. Sidney Randolph features 67 biographical sketches of all the individuals named in official records and newspaper accounts including Randolph and members of his family, the victims of the attack Randolph was accused of perpetrating, the jailer, local doctors, detectives, attorneys, members of the jury of inquest, and even individuals linked by circumstances to the lynching itself. Her work is considered groundbreaking as she has amassed an archive of documentation that perhaps surpasses what has been done anywhere else in the country.
- The September symposium was held as part of Remembrance Weekend activities in September in partnership with the County’s **Remembrance and Reconciliation Commission**, upon which I serve in an ex-officio capacity, and the Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project. That weekend we also participated in the Remembrance Pilgrimage Walk as a host site where we shared the history of the Beall family as enslavers and a 19th century medical perspective on death by strangulation, presented by a first-person interpreter of Dr. Edward Stonestreet. Montgomery History’s resources and expertise also have been instrumental in other activities of the commission including a temporary art installation called “Certain Parties or Parties Unknown” in which historical photos and artistic images are projected onto the courthouses and Council Office Building (site of the county’s jail in the 19th century) in downtown Rockville.
- We have hosted 75 editions of our weekly **History Conversations** program, educating and engaging over 12,000 households. We offer *Conversations* for free to ensure that opportunities to learn about local history are available to all residents. Interestingly, we have had viewers from 46 states and 6 countries, which speaks to the quality of the programming and the widespread appeal of thoughtful storytelling. We work hard to feature a wide range of topics to reflect the diversity of interests and experiences in the county. Recent programs have focused on the county’s LGBTQ+ history, the African American Sugarland community, Rosenwald schools, a local connection to the Lincoln assassination, and a 4-part series on the

Glen Echo carousel. We are also exploring ways to increase the accessibility of these programs, including adding closed captioning during live and recorded programs.

- We engaged almost 4,000 students in March in the annual **National History Day competition** which we host locally in partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). History Day is a transformative hands-on learning experience in which students use primary and secondary sources to research topics in history and build critical research, presentation, and thinking skills. Participants now come from every public middle school, not just humanities magnet schools or private schools, and mirror the diversity of our public school system. We recruited and trained 137 volunteer judges to evaluate 267 projects created by the 394 students who advanced from the school level to the county competition. Reflecting the overall excellence of our public schools, 13 of our students finished either first or second at the state level (out of a total of 34) and represented Maryland at the national competition.
- Our **partnership with MCPS** continues to flourish in other forms, too. We were recently approached by MCPS-TV to explore broadcasting past and future episodes of *History Conversations* across their three cable channels. We were extremely pleased to learn that our online exhibits are being used by MCPS to support the curriculum in their American history and government courses. For instance, our exhibit on public school desegregation, “The Decree Had Been Handed Down,” is now being recommended to history teachers as it illustrates how the landmark 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision was experienced locally. We also modified our “How Montgomery County Grew in the 1950s” exhibit to better highlight racist practices such as restrictive covenants, HOA membership restrictions, and zoning policies to align the content more closely to the 9th grade post-World War II history curriculum.
- Additionally, we are proud that our research was used to influence the decision to **rename a public school building**. Our work confirmed that E. Brooke Lee, the dominant figure in county politics in the early 20th century, was an unrepentant segregationist who utilized racially restrictive covenants in land development. The Board of Education voted to rename the school after Odessa Shannon, the first African American woman to serve as an elected official in the county. (Incidentally, Ms. Shannon’s daughter recently donated her mother’s papers to our Sween Library upon her mother’s death.) Just this month I have been asked to serve on the School Name Policy Review task force as the community continues to reckon with who is worthy of such an honor.
- This summer and fall, in preparation of **moving our collection to a permanent facility**, Elizabeth Lay, our contracted Collection Manager, developed and executed a plan to painstakingly inventory, update condition reports, repack, and barcode approximately 4,000 individual objects. She is now turning her attention to the remaining 6,000 objects. That work is expected to be completed by the late spring of 2022. At the same time, Liz and our Collections Committee have been strategically deaccessioning items that are not in good condition, are duplicates, or lack Montgomery County provenance. This pruning of the collection is necessary so that we may continue to expand our Rapid Response Collection Initiative, which seeks to add items of contemporary significance to our collection. Most recently we have added a string of banners created by a Korean immigrant, displayed throughout her Silver Spring neighborhood, of Black individuals who were killed by law enforcement officers. She later added victims of violence directed at Asian Americans to this powerful statement about community values.

- Last spring we launched a campaign, “New Life for Old News,” to raise money to **digitize a significant portion of the Gazette newspapers** that have been in our care since 2007. The community’s response exceeded our expectations as we received donations totaling more than \$120,000. Sarah Hedlund and two volunteers processed the mass of papers after we took them out of storage. They removed duplicates, made sure all the pages were unfolded and in proper condition, created a comprehensive inventory with accurate page counts, and moved them into acid-free archival storage boxes. The first batch of papers, totaling 66,000 pages, went to the digitization vendor on September 28 and should be available to the public this spring. They include:

- Gaithersburg Gazette/The Gazette 1961-1965, 1977-1986
- The Courier (Olney/Laytonsville) 1973-1983
- The Olney Courier-Gazette 1983-1986
- The Sentinel 1964-1969

We also are working with Isiah Leggett and Steve Farber, among others, to encourage the Washington Post to provide access to the Gazette’s digital archive for the years 1997 to 2015.

- We launched the **Montgomery County History Digital Repository** in September 2020, providing online access to rare and fragile historical documents from our special collections. Having already served almost 3,300 users, the repository represents a significant step toward meeting our accessibility goals, as visitors to the online research hub can view and download digital copies of 60+ years of [The Montgomery County Story](#) plus one-of-a-kind documents like ledger books, diaries, scrapbooks, maps, oral histories, and much more. This invaluable resource is preserving the county’s history in digital format as well as making research easy for students, teachers, county officials, and many others.
- There has been an **explosion of online interest in local history and our programming**. For all of FY21 we had 42,097 visitors to MontgomeryHistory.org, which was a 67% increase compared to FY20. So far in FY22, web visits are up another 71%! Our Instagram following has tripled, Facebook followers have grown 27%, and our weekly e-newsletter now reaches more than 7,500 thanks to partnerships with other organizations, word of mouth recommendations, and increased traffic to our website. Our Sween Library, closed for most of the past year, has continued to serve the community by fulfilling over 500 remote research requests.
- We are particularly pleased that our mainstay programs, which were designed as in-person gatherings, have thrived since going online. Our **Speakers Bureau** transitioned seamlessly to Zoom and provided 224 separate programs to an audience of 7,000. Our annual **Montgomery County History Conference** went to an entirely online format in 2021—doubling the number of keynotes and breakout sessions—and enjoyed its largest audience ever with nearly 400 households in attendance. These programs, which intentionally cover all aspects of county history, appeal to a broad cross-section of our population including seniors, students, lifelong learners, civic and neighborhood associations, researchers, and history buffs. The 2022 conference will feature talks on the Underground Railroad, the Malinda Jackson archeological site, a screening of “Finding Fellowship” about race relations in the Quince Orchard community, Rachel Carson and her legacy, and a Spanish-language session on the 75th anniversary of Montgomery College.

+++++

FY23 Priorities and Plans

Looking ahead to FY23, we remain committed to our mission to collect, preserve, interpret, and share the histories of all Montgomery County residents. Our focus will remain on using historical inquiry, education, and engagement to dismantle structural racism. As the only organization addressing the entire scope of county history, Montgomery History will utilize the County’s continued financial support to:

- Support the operation of a new facility to house the county’s historical library, store the county’s largest collection of artifacts, operate a small video and audio recording “studio,” and, when feasible, provide public programs.
- Conserve and make available to the public (online and by appointment) our historical resources through the Jane C. Sween Research Library and Special Collections;
- Hire a full-time curator and collection manager to actively conserve, research, and activate our 10,000-piece historical artifact collection;
- Continue to serve on the County’s Remembrance and Reconciliation Commission to apply rigorous historical inquiry to the process of healing from the deep wounds of structural racism;
- Create up to three multimedia online exhibits, including one focused on our extensive history of immigration and another documenting significant episodes in our long battle for Civil Rights, in a medium that maximizes access and conservation;
- Pursue research to better understand how the slave trade operated here in Montgomery County, including advertisements, sales or auctions, living conditions, breeding, etc.
- Expand our work with MCPS curriculum writers to support their work to include BIPOC history by providing local historical resources such as easily accessible online exhibits on pivotal event and individuals;
- Continue to support MCPS’s efforts to remove names from school buildings that do not reflect the values of the school system or the community and to select new names that can be celebrated a representative of Montgomery County;
- Record and produce oral histories of prominent leaders and the general public to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Beltway sniper attacks which traumatized our community;
- Deliver dozens of thought-provoking and engaging educational and lifelong learning programs to County residents through our award-winning Speakers Bureau;
- Expand and maintain the Montgomery County History Digital Repository to provide full access to the unique and valuable materials—records, oral histories, photographs, maps, papers, and documents—in our permanent collections, including the 1867 Commissioner of Slave Statistics report (which we meticulously transcribed);
- With MCPS, co-host History Day and provide up to 4,000 students with the tools of historical inquiry and expression to enable them to evaluate traditional narratives and to create new ones based upon their values;
- Offer free bi-monthly online *History Conversations* to the community on topics of relevance and interest to people of all ages and backgrounds;
- Host our premier multi-day event, the annual Montgomery County History Conference, an engaging and thought-provoking affair that is exploding in popularity;

- Organize one (and possibly a second) symposium on important themes in suburbanization such as the role of immigration in the shaping of our community or a retrospective examination of the Wedges and Corridors General Plan; and
- Hire a part-time digital archivist to manage the Montgomery County Archives for government records and to build out our digital program, ensuring the accessibility of digital resources at both the Archives and the Sween Library. Their initial focus will be making available collections that support current research interest in development, housing, and civil rights throughout Montgomery County's history.

+++++

Montgomery History would suggest allocating the requested appropriation of \$300,000 for the following:

Executive Director	55,000
Librarian	55,000
Curator and Collections Manager	55,000
Program Director	30,000
Development and Comm. Manager	30,000
Printing/Supplies/Rent/Utilities/IT	40,000
Digital Archivist	<u>35,000</u>
TOTAL	\$300,000

1. Executive Director (\$55,000). These funds will partially support the Executive Director who oversees and coordinates all aspects of Montgomery History's operation, from the tactical to the strategic. This includes fundraising, facility management, partnership development, staff recruitment and training, Board development, and communications. The Executive Director is also responsible for providing strategic oversight of programs and publications to ensure that Montgomery History is inclusive and accessible to everyone who calls Montgomery County home.
2. Librarian (\$55,000). These funds will partially support the salary of a Staff Librarian at the Jane C. Sween Research Library and Special Collections, the county's most comprehensive source for local history and genealogy resources. The Sween Library houses the papers, maps, photographs, documents, and records that span the county's history from the 18th century onward. It is heavily used, both in-person and via email requests, by researchers, genealogists, journalists, policymakers, and countless others. The Librarian is an information management professional, trained in digital media and familiar with our vast holdings, and serves patrons in-person and virtually with their research needs. The Librarian is also instrumental in the continued buildout of the digital repository and has responsibility for managing a small team of volunteers. Additionally, this position is actively involved in the development of research reports, historical narratives, and online exhibits which make the Library's collections accessible 24/7 to students, researchers, or anyone with an internet connection.

3. Curator and Collections Manager (\$55,000). These funds will partially support the salary of a full-time Curator and Collections Manager. This position has been contracted at 20-hours per week for the past three years due to budgetary constraints. It is imperative that this position is returned to full-time status in order to oversee the relocation of the artifact collections, conserve objects in need of care, manage the deaccession process, and secure targeted additions through our Rapid Response Collection Initiative.
4. Program Director (\$30,000). These funds will partially support this position which oversees our extensive slate of educational and outreach programs. These include all of our virtual offerings such as *History Conversations* and the redesigned History Conference and History Day. Most significantly, the Program Director provides technical expertise to record, produce, and distribute our growing body of digital content. This position is also responsible for expanding our popular Speakers Bureau and recruiting and training volunteers. In FY21 we had the assistance of 244 volunteers and interns who donated 2,942 hours which was valued at \$83,993.
5. Development and Communications Manager (\$30,000). These funds will partially support the Development and Communications Manager who guides Montgomery History's efforts to obtain private financial resources to augment and leverage County funding. These activities include securing event sponsorships from the local business community, foundation and organization grants, membership development, and special campaigns for targeted objectives (Annual Fund and Spring Appeal). This position is also responsible for producing the organization's external communications, including a bi-weekly e-newsletter, a quarterly print newsletter, social media posts, event flyers and publicity, and website updates.
6. Printing/Supplies/Rent/Utilities/IT (\$40,000). These funds ensure that Montgomery History will have the resources to more effectively reach county residents and its constituents via printed materials such as the quarterly *History Matters* newsletter and its web platform. It will guarantee that the organization has the basic tools of the museum and archival trades including storage materials, acid-free paper, shelving, cleaning equipment, and other necessary supplies. It also will help to defray the significant expenses incurred for the storage of over 20 years of back issues of the Gazette newspaper. In addition, we anticipate utilizing these funds for expenses related to operating a new facility and producing digital content.
7. Digital Archivist (\$35,000). These funds will enable us to hire a half-time contractor to manage Montgomery County's archive of historical government records and also lead the continuing development of our digital program, ensuring the accessibility of our digital resources. It is expected that the Archives also will continue to provide remote research services as well as in-person research by appointment. The Digital Archivist will employ professional standards to establish and implement policies and procedures for the management of born-digital and digitized materials at both the Montgomery County Archives and the Jane Sween Research Library and Special Collections. We plan to prioritize digitization and increased access to collections that support current research interest in development, housing, and civil rights throughout Montgomery County's history, including the records of the Human Relations Commission (precursor to the Human Rights Commission), the papers of NAACP president Edith Throckmorton, and two collections related to Suburban Maryland Fair Housing, among others.

+++++

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this request. Montgomery History is hard at work every day to engage, inspire, and connect with all the people of this county. We are making great strides toward becoming one of the nation's most progressive and innovative historical societies thanks in large part to the County's prior support. We look forward to building on this momentum to better serve Montgomery County and its residents for years and generations to come.

Please contact me if you have any questions or thoughts regarding this very important request. Thank you, again, for your support.

Sincerely yours,

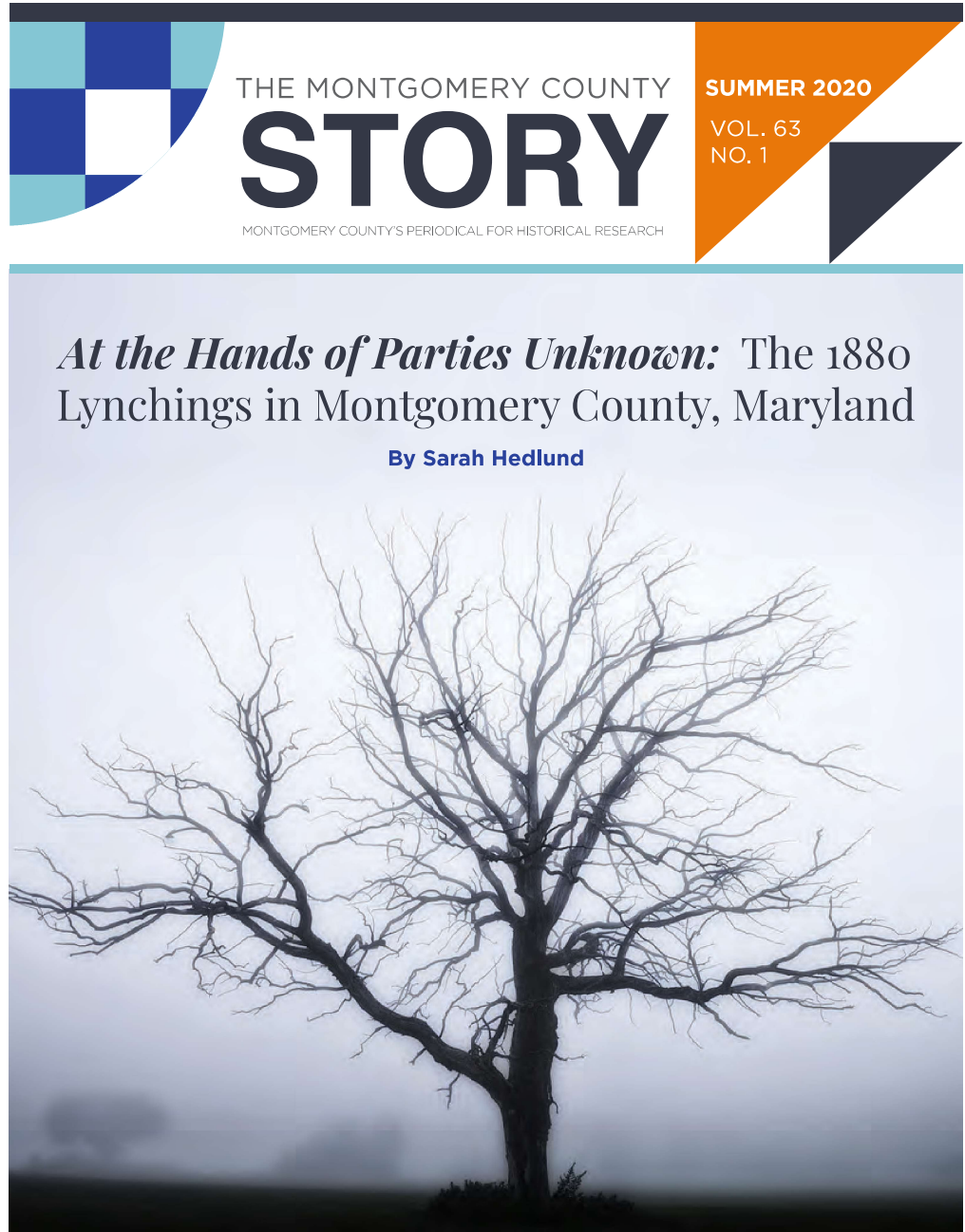


Matthew Logan
Executive Director

Attachments:

- [The Montgomery County Story](#), Summer 2020 (cover only)
- [The Montgomery County Story](#), Summer/Fall 2021 (cover only)
- History Matters* newsletter, Fall 2020
- History Matters* newsletter, Spring/Summer 2021
- Lynching Symposium flyer
- History Happenings* e-newsletter, September 27, 2021
- History Happenings* e-newsletter, October 25, 2021

- cc: Marc Elrich, County Executive
Tom Hucker, President, Montgomery County Council
Gabe Albornoz, Vice President, Montgomery County Council
Andrew Friedson, Montgomery County Council
Evan Glass, Montgomery County Council
Will Jawando, Montgomery County Council
Sidney Katz, Montgomery County Council
Nancy Navarro, Montgomery County Council
Craig Rice, Montgomery County Council
Hans Riemer, Montgomery County Council



"The Unwritten Law of Maryland": The 1896 Lynching of Sidney Randolph

By Sarah Hedlund



The Future of History

Online Transition Makes Programming Easily Accessible

If you have visited MontgomeryHistory.org during the past eight months, you are already aware of the new resources and programming that is now available online. This quick pivot was possible thanks to the technical talents of our staff and the work we have put in over the past several years to digitize our resources to make them more easily accessible to anyone with an internet connection. This shift has proven to be popular as well. In fact, in the two months following the closure of our campus in March, the total number of users on our website and the number of page views more than doubled. Over 1,000 people have added their names to receive our "History Happenings" e-newsletter, and the number of attendees at our weekly online *History Conversations* has also nearly tripled since its debut in April.

History Conversations

With 35 programs offered to date, our weekly *History Conversations* series attracts new audiences each week. Viewers have come not just from Montgomery County but also the entire metro area, the state of Maryland, over a dozen states including New York, California, South Carolina, and even internationally. The stories of Montgomery County's past clearly resonate on the regional and national level, thanks in large part

to the talented people who are sharing their stories with us.

- Hank Thomas, the grandson of baseball legend Walter Johnson, and Bruce Adams, the founder of Bethesda Big Train, reminiscing about WJ's extraordinary career;
- Lily Qi, Maryland State Delegate and political pioneer, discussing her experiences as an immigrant from China;
- Montgomery History Curator Elizabeth Lay, offering an enchanting tour of our dollhouse collection;
- Natalie Williams providing an exclusive look at the wonderful Sandy Spring Slave Museum

... and, of course, so many others!



Delegate Lily Qi

Each program is posted to our website the Monday following its live presentation, so if you are not able to watch on the day of, you still have a chance to view it at your convenience.

"During this strange time, when my husband and I are almost totally at home, with no end in sight, we are thoroughly enjoying the various [History Conversations] and webinars... I hope this general idea will not end once the rest of the county opens up."

-Longtime Montgomery History supporter

Continued on page 3...

Board & Staff

Board

Officers

Dan Dwyer
President
Rockville, MD

Shaunta Vaughn
Vice President
Gaithersburg, MD

Ian Shuman
Secretary
Takoma Park, MD

Barbara Murphy Kromer
Treasurer
Rockville, MD

Directors

Bob Bachman
Gaithersburg, MD

Fred Evans
Rockville, MD

Larry Giammo
Rockville, MD

***Doug Hill (ex officio)**
Gaithersburg, MD

Kim Jones
Silver Spring, MD

Margit Nahra
Chevy Chase, MD

Steve Roberts
Bethesda, MD

Staff

Matthew Logan
Executive Director

Matthew Gagle
Director of Programs

Sarah Hedlund
Librarian & Archivist

Elizabeth Lay
Curator & Collections Manager

Kurt Logsdon
Weekend Coordinator

Sarah Marsteller
Director of Development & Communications

Stacie Vodra
Office Manager

What's in a Name?

Providing Historical Context to E. Brooke Lee

Last fall, following demands from then-county Council President Nancy Navarro that the E. Brooke Lee Middle School change its name, Montgomery County Public Schools called on Montgomery History to assist with the research of the names of all the schools in the system to identify the ones that may be problematic. This process uncovered four schools, out of the 21 named after people, that require closer scrutiny.

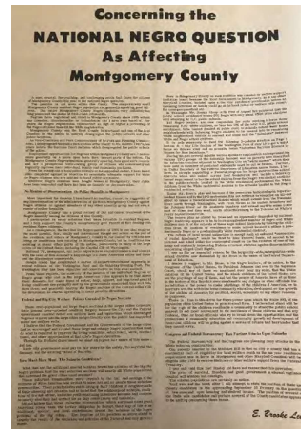
As an independent organization, Montgomery History strives to provide a deeper understanding of the events and people who shaped our county's past. By arming elected officials and county leaders with knowledge of local history, we hope to enable them to make informed decisions on issues that will affect the community for generations to come.

Our research confirmed that E. Brooke Lee, the dominant figure in county politics in the early 20th century, was an unrepentant segregationist who utilized racially restrictive covenants in land development. Those who are in favor of changing the school's name argue that it should reflect the values of the entire community and contribute to a safe and welcoming learning environment.

"It is a supreme irony that these children of color attend a school that is named after the late Mr. E. Brooke Lee, a man with a deeply disturbing racist history."

-Nancy Navarro, former County Council President, in a written statement addressed to Dr. Jack Smith, the Superintendent of MCPS, on February 5, 2019

Do you want to be a part of the discussion? Email your name suggestion to Info@MontgomeryHistory.org with a brief description as to why you would like to see that person honored through a school name.



A 1966 editorial in the Bethesda Tribune penned by E. Brooke Lee.

Since last fall, this hot button topic has become increasingly contentious in the wake of national calls to remove memorials and change the names of public facilities named after people with Confederate or racist associations. This summer, Montgomery History sent out a series of requests in our e-newsletter to solicit recommendations from the community, on suggestions for new names for schools in the county, to pass along to MCPS and the Board of Education.

Dozens of impassioned residents submitted suggestions running the gamut from such well-known figures as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Zora Neale Hurston to local individuals like Nina Clarke, Anna Marie Weems, and William Gibbs. Others who wrote in simply noted their opposition to "erasing history" by changing the names of any facility. Others objected to renaming schools after public figures and suggested buildings should be named for their neighborhoods or natural surroundings. It is anticipated that the Board of Education will select a final name at their meeting on November 10.

Continued from page 1...

Digital Repository

In late September we launched the Montgomery County History Digital Repository, marking an important milestone toward our accessibility goals and removing barriers that exist with onsite-only access. Now, no matter one's location, they can access this powerful research platform anywhere, at any time. To begin, the repository contained digital scans of all 229 back issues of the *Montgomery County Story* and a ledger containing meeting minutes dating from 1904-1914 of the Ancient United Order Brothers and Sisters of Moses. As we add more one-of-a-kind documents, your key word searches will expand to include maps, ledgers, diaries, oral histories, and more from the special collections that detail our shared history.



Minutes from a 1914 ledger of the Ancient United Order Brothers and Sisters of Moses.

Speakers Bureau Online

It is our pleasure to continue to bring history to you through our Speakers Bureau on Zoom. Whether you would like to book a presentation for a senior center, civic group, neighborhood association, or social club, you can watch it safely and securely through our webinar platform without coming to an in-person event. If you would like to learn more about the

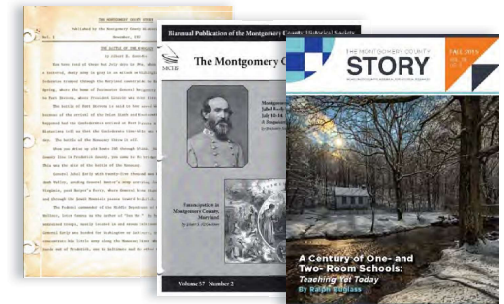
Speakers Bureau or are interested in scheduling a talk, please contact Director of Programs Matt Gagle at MGagle@MontgomeryHistory.org.

For a full list of available programs, click on the "Speakers Bureau" dropdown item under the "LEARN" menu heading on MontgomeryHistory.org.

Do you want to learn how to use the digital repository but aren't sure where to start?

Visit MontgomeryHistory.org and under the "RESEARCH" tab on the homepage, click on "Search our Collections."

There you'll find a video with Archivist Sarah Hedlund that gives step-by-step instructions on how to access the site, conduct a search, and find exact results. If you have additional questions about remote research, contact Sarah Hedlund at Archive@MontgomeryHistory.org.



The evolution of The Montgomery County Story over the years.



If you would like to receive our popular e-newsletter, make sure to sign up by visiting MontgomeryHistory.org. Click on "Join Our Email List" at the top of the page to receive updates on all of our engaging programs.

Learning from Our Past Remembering Local Lynching Victims

George Peck, John Diggs-Dorsey, Sidney Randolph. The names of these men are not widely known but their stories are an important part of our local history, as they were the victims of lynchings that occurred in Montgomery County in the late 19th century. In the last year, Montgomery History has researched, documented, and shared the stories of these men with the community. Lead researcher and Archivist Sarah Hedlund has scoured 19th century newspaper articles; census, marriage, and cemetery records; maps; photographs; books on local history; and more, in order to tell the most complete version of the events and people involved in these hideous acts of terror.

Published Account

In our summer 2020 issue of the *Montgomery County Story*, “At the Hands of Parties Unknown: The 1880 Lynchings in Montgomery County,” we explored the first two lynchings that occurred, those of George Peck and John Diggs-Dorsey. Both were single young men working on rural farms in the county; both had been accused of assaulting white women.



The Montgomery County Jail in Rockville, ca. 1935. John Diggs-Dorsey and Sidney Randolph were both dragged from this building to their deaths.

And both were lynched by angry mobs before they could be given a fair trial. On the Montgomery History website you will find complete narratives of the stories of Peck, Diggs-Dorsey, and Randolph, accompanied by maps and links to newspaper articles, which are



This location across the road from Poolesville Presbyterian Church is believed to be where George Peck was lynched in 1880. Photo ca. 1895-1915.

the only sources currently available from which to compile these accounts. Representing over a year’s worth of meticulous research, these reports detail a sinister aspect of our past that, until now, has gone largely unexplored and undiscussed.

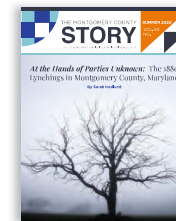


This Baltimore Sun headline from January 13, 1880, reporting on the lynching of George Peck.

Story Article Recognized for Excellence



We are very pleased to share that the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC) has awarded Sarah Hedlund the **2020 Arline Custer Memorial Award** article prize for the recent *Story* article on the 1880 lynchings. The award recognizes books and articles written by individuals in the mid-Atlantic region that use archival sources to present research timely and informative for not just the archivist community, but the general public. Committee members wrote that “the article expertly used photographs, maps, and other primary sources to immerse the reader in two local incidents and contextualize them in a broader historical narrative of racial violence in the late 19th century.” **Congratulations, Sarah!**



Streaming Program

In concert with the release of the *Story*, Montgomery History co-hosted a two-part event on July 21 and 22 with the Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project, Peerless Rockville, and the County’s Remembrance and Reconciliation Commission.

Over 400 people came together virtually on Zoom to discuss the Diggs-Dorsey lynching in 1880 and Randolph

in 1896, both of which occurred in Rockville after the victims were kidnapped from the county jail (which was on the site of the current County Council Office Building). Sarah Hedlund presented the histories of

both lynchings and provided context for the time period in which the murders occurred.

According to the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), a national organization that is working to document and memorialize lynching victims

and intimidate Black communities and residents. When you read the narratives of these men, you will discover that Montgomery County was not immune to these sentiments.

Sharing the stories of George Peck, John Diggs-Dorsey, and Sidney Randolph is an essential part of preserving this history. We urge you to join us by visiting our website, disseminating these accounts, and having honest discussions with your friends, family, and neighbors about the history of racial violence and white supremacy in Montgomery County.



To download a copy of the *Story* or read these accounts, visit [MontgomeryHistory.org](https://www.MontgomeryHistory.org) and hover over the “LEARN” heading, then click on “African American History” in the dropdown menu.

Comings & Goings

Montgomery History would like to thank **Karla Silvestre** for her service on the Board of Directors. She completed her three-year term and is now focusing all of her time serving on the Board of Education. In her concurrent role as Director of Community Engagement at Montgomery College, Karla was instrumental in strengthening our partnership with MC. Thank you, Karla, for your invaluable insight!

In addition, **Doug Hill** has replaced **Sue Reeb** as President of the Montgomery County Genealogical Society and assumed the Society’s ex-officio seat on the Board. Thank you, Sue, for your service.

You Make It All Possible!

Thank you to the following donors for their generosity and support of Montgomery History. Your loyalty during these uncertain times means so much to us. The following list includes supporters whose donations were received between March 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020.

We greatly appreciate each gift and have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this listing. Please notify Sarah Marsteller, Director of Development and Communications, of any inaccuracies or omissions by contacting her at 301-340-2825 or SMarsteller@MontgomeryHistory.org. **THANK YOU!**

Donations & Dues between March 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020

Bruce Adams
Linda Adler and Steven Fischer
Dr. and Mrs. Christopher M. Agnew
Marcia Akresh
Jane H Alpersen
Maureen Altobello
Amazon Smile Foundation
Rhona Arbit
Arts and Humanities Council of
Montgomery County*
Cassandra Ashman
Robert M. Bachman*
Mary Ann Banta
Sunny and Richard Banvard*
Pauline Barnes
John Barry
Diane Baxter
Sharon Beall
Bernardine Beall
Van Beall
Robert J. Beardall
James Beasley
Terry Beaty and Anne Mehringer*
Mary Berman
Luis Blandon
Susan Bollendorf
Robert J. Boswell
Diane Q. Branthover
Doris Bready
Diane D. Broadhurst
Mary Ann Brodeur
Allen C. Browne
Marney S. Bruce
Michael and Judith Bucci
Ellen Buckingham
Lynne Bulhack
Jane and Jim Burgess
Charles and Gretchen Burton
Beverley Canaday
John Carson
John A. Carter
Nina Chace
Chevy Chase Historical Society
Chevy Chase Land Company*
Christ Church Episcopal
Judy and Chris Christensen
Joanna B. Church
Bob Clark

Nina H. Clarke
Sandra M. Clunies
June L. Cole
Mary Jane and Ronald Collins
Emily and Gary Correll*
Janet Wert Crampton
Richard Cranford
Victor Crawford Jr.
Barbara Cronin
John Crook
Daniel M. Dickson
Katie Dishman
Jeanette Dixon
Judy Docca
Daniel R. Dwyer*
Janet Edson
Patricia F. Elton
Robert Engelman
Brooke England*
Fred Evans
Jane Evans
Pamela Ficca
Jean S. Findlay
First Baptist of Rockville
Stephen H. Fisher
Stan Fisher
Sharon Fitzpatrick
John Foellmer
Carole Fontenrose
Barbara Franco
Clare Garrett*
Jeanne Gartner*
Drs. Carol and Thomas Garvey
Marybeth Gill
Myrtle Ann Goetz
Karen Gordon
Greg Gragg
Patricia L. Gursky
Margaret Hanlon
Donald and Elizabeth Harrison
Mary Hartz
Ben Hawley
Laura Hawley Jarvis
Charles D. Hendricks
Heritage Montgomery*
Clarence and Mary Hickey*
Beth Hickey
Bill Hickman

Charles E. Higdon
John Higgins
David Hill
Robert and Judith Hines
Mr. and Mrs. William Holdsworth
Jeanette M. Honsa
Martha E. Hooper
Jonathan Huang
Hilbert and Joan Hubble
Paula Hubble
Suzanne C. Hudson
Nancy Lee Hutchin
Iona Wellness and Arts Center
Aimee Jarboe
Ruth E. Joel
Johns Hopkins Health Systems
Graham Johnson
James Johnston
Robert A. Jones
Kim Jones
Scott Jung
Lou Kallas
Sidney Katz
Wendy Kaufman
Keese School of Continuing Education
L.C. Keifer
Susan and William Kirby
Martha Ann Kirk
Alice Klavans
Cathy D. Knepper
Spencer D. Knott
Karen Kosian
Claudia Kousoulas
Barbara Murphy Kromer*
Terry Lachin*
Joan H. LaCoss
Alice Lancaster
Ken Lavish
Patricia Lawrence
Carty S. Lawson
Margaret Leaman
Bob and Jane Levey
John P. Lipscomb
Live and Learn Bethesda
Deborah Logsdon
Maria Longo Swiek
John Lowe
Alfred N. Luce, Jr.

Patrice Lucid
Mary Lou Luff
Marie Lurquin
Linda B. Lyons
M&T Bank*
Katherine P. Mack
Bano Makhdoom
Julianne Mangin
Marty and Jane Mangold
Paula Marcus
John W. Marshall
Maryland Historical Trust*
The Hon. J. F. McAuliffe
Robin McEntire
John and Barbara McGraw*
Shawn N. McKay
Janet W. McKee
David McKeown
Jim McMahan
Caryl J. McNeilly and Robert Williamson
Medstar Health*
Helen M. Montanaro
Montgomery College*
Montgomery County Swim League
Montgomery Preservation
June Moore
Eileen Morehouse
June L. Morey
Jim Mossburg
Andrew Mowery
Edward G. Murphy
Mirit Naaman
Margit Nahra*
Gladys Nelson
Jane North
Ann Odette
Karen O'Donnell
Arlene O'Donnell
William M. and Eda Offutt
Fred and Barbara Ordway
Ethan Ortman
Mary D. Ossi
James Owens
Martine Palmer
Norma Parker
Jane Parr

Jean Pascoe
Ellen Kettler Pasettiner
Cheryl Peirce
Terry Pinkston
Patricia Polach
Potomac Area Neighbors Club
Potomac Community Village
Potomac Hundred Chapter, DAR
Ken and Sherry Prather
Vincent Price
Dorothy Pugh
Robert A. Pumphrey Funeral Homes
Hannelore Quigley*
Marc Rappaport
Dana Rice
Trish Rohan
Janet Swartz Ryan, in honor of "Walter
Johnson, Greatest Pitcher of All
Time"
Frank Sanford
Janet Saros
Paul Schwartz
Paula Segal
Ethel M. Sellman
Patricia Shama
Marc Sheinberg
Lois Shiner
Steven C. Shriver
Karla Silvestre
Charles Snyder
Susan C. Soderberg
Marjorie A. Solan
Carolyn Sowinski
Maria Sprehn
St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church,
OWLS
Nicholas Steele
Katharine Stewart*
Paul A. Sullivan
Morgan Sullivan
Jeff Sypeck
Alan Tabachnick
Brenda Tabor
Mike Taimi
Diane Tamayo
Laura and Edward Tennant

Ruth Thomas
John and Cheryl Thompson
Richard E. Tustian
Melissa Urofsky
Rita Vandivort
Michael H. Varhola
Shaunta Vaughn
Tom Vickers
William W. Vodra
Stacie M. Vodra
Karen Walker
Glenn R. Wallace
Churchill and Evelyn Ward
Sharon F. Washburn F.A.I.A.
Washington Metropolitan OASIS
Harold S. Watkins
Ralph Watkins
Allison Weiss
William Penn Chapter, DAR
Judith Welles*
Wilshire Estates
Western Howard County Senior
Center Council
Eileen White
L. Paige Whitley
Robert Wicks
Susan A. Wilbur
Carter Willson
Lisa Wilson
Eddythe Wingate
Wisconsin Historical Society
Anne B. Wolf
Gregory Wood
Bruce Woodhams
Wendy Woodland
Carrie Worn
Tanner Wray and Karl Debus-Lopez
Helena Wright
Richard N. Wright, III
William Zellmer
Linda and Manuel Zenick
Joan Zenzen and Stuart Weinstein

**Denotes membership in the
Lilly Stone Circle.*

Donate Today to the Annual Fund!

In 2020, you showed that **local history matters to you**. Your financial contributions this year have enabled us to continue providing the community with stories of local history that have inspired, encouraged, and enlightened each week. When you donate to the 2020 Annual Fund, you are committing to making local history relevant, accessible, inclusive, and engaging and shaping a better future. **Please help us reach our goal of \$25,000 and contribute today!**

★★

Giving is easy online when you visit MontgomeryHistory.org and click on "Donate Now" at the top of the page. Montgomery History is a registered 501c3 nonprofit, so your donation is fully tax-deductible. Plus, due to recent changes in tax law, if you do not itemize your deductions and give up to \$300 to charity in a year, you can now add up to \$300 to the standard deduction. **Please give today!**



Montgomery History • 111 W. Montgomery Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850 • 301-340-2825 • Info@MontgomeryHistory.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Gaithersburg, MD
Permit No. 24



2021 History Conference Goes Virtual

Featuring New and Exciting Opportunities for Attendees to Take Part



The 15th annual Montgomery County History Conference was a new experience for the attendees, as it was held entirely online, allowing it to expand from a one-day gathering to a weeklong series of programs and activities.

This year's event offered more chances than ever for participants to learn about and engage with local history. From Saturday, January 23 through Saturday, January 30, the conference hosted four keynote sessions and twelve breakout presentations, twice the number typically offered.

Attendees were treated to a broad range of topics, presented by an exceptional collection of local and national historians. The keynote speakers informed, entertained, and inspired:

- Dr. Stephen Potter examined the First Americans in the region and their complex relationships amongst one another and with invading Europeans in the 17th century;
- Boston-based historian Kevin Levin presented a thought-provoking history of Confederate monuments and context on the national movement to remove them from public spaces;
- Shirl Spicer with Montgomery Parks provided a sneak peek of the new Josiah Henson Museum & Park, which opened in April, which tells the story of the Reverend Henson and his escape from slavery; and
- Ethnomusicologist, banjoist, and fiddler Jake Blount performed the songs of Kensington-based Black fiddler Will Adams while discussing the role of Black musicians in traditional "old-time" music.



The Honorable Connie Morella gives opening remarks to kick off the event.

Breakout session topics included something for all interests, including fashion, natural history, historic preservation, genealogy, and so much more. For the second year in a row we offered a panel session entirely in Spanish (with English interpretation), this time focusing on entrepreneurs within the county's Hispanic business community and the challenges they have faced while growing their companies.

The Montgomery County History Conference provides a platform for residents to discuss issues, rooted in history, that affect our community today. That is why the involvement of elected officials and community leaders is especially important as it fosters greater understanding and opportunities for open dialogue. This year we were thrilled to have the Honorable Connie Morella, former US Representative, and the Honorable Isiah Leggett, former County Executive, provide opening remarks. During her comments, Rep. Morella spoke on the importance of history and civics education in schools and beyond: "I am optimistic about our people, I am optimistic about our country, and I know that we are, with great effort, becoming a just and inclusive society. So, what do we take from history? I'll give you three words: we listen, we learn, and we lead."

Continued on page 3...



From left to right: Conference keynote presenters Dr. Stephen Potter, Kevin Levin, Shirl Spicer, Jake Blount

We are proud to work with the 2021 event sponsors whose continued support of local history betters our community and makes this conference possible.



SAVE THE DATE!

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
**HISTORY
CONFERENCE
2021**
January 22-30, 2021

★ Mark your calendar for the 2021 Montgomery County History Conference. For the first time ever, it will be entirely online to allow as many people to attend as possible. Taking place over eight days, with four keynote addresses, 12 breakout sessions, and a trivia contest, there will be myriad opportunities to take part. Tiered tickets will go on sale in December, so be sure to subscribe to our e-newsletter to get access to early bird prices.

★ Please contact Director of Development and Communications Sarah Marsteller at SMarsteller@MontgomeryHistory.org to learn more about event-wide sponsorships and specific session sponsorships.

Thank you to our loyal sponsors!



Sponsors indicated are as of October 31, 2020.

Board & Staff

Board

Officers

Dan Dwyer
President
Rockville, MD

Shaunta Vaughn
Vice President
Gaithersburg, MD

Ian Shuman
Secretary
Tahoma Park, MD

Barbara Murphy Kromer
Treasurer
Rockville, MD

Directors

Bob Bachman
Gaithersburg, MD

Camille Brewer
Silver Spring, MD

Teng Chamchumrus
Rockville, MD

Katie Dishman
Bethesda, MD

Fred Evans
Rockville, MD

Larry Giammo
Rockville, MD

***Doug Hill (ex officio)**
Gaithersburg, MD

Kim Jones
Silver Spring, MD

Margit Nagra
Chevy Chase, MD

Steve Roberts
Bethesda, MD

Staff

Matthew Logan
Executive Director

Matthew Gagle
Director of Programs

Sarah Hedlund
Librarian & Archivist

Elizabeth Lay
Collections Manager

Kurt Logsdon
Weekend Coordinator

Sarah Marsteller
Director of Development & Communications

Katharine Stewart
Development Consultant

Stacie Vodra
Office Manager

Remembering Those Who Made History

In Memoriam: Nina Honemond Clarke and Mary Kay Harper

This spring our community lost two significant people: Nina Honemond Clarke and Mary Kay Harper. We are pleased to have transcripts of their oral histories, recorded in 2003 and 2009 respectively, available through the Montgomery County History Digital Repository at MCHDR.MontgomeryHistory.org. These documents provide a glimpse into the important role these two women had in shaping both county history and our organization.

Nina Honemond Clarke

Educator, Administrator, Advocate

Mrs. Clarke, a Montgomery County native, was born in 1917 in the Poolesville area. She passed away in March at the age of 103 after a long life of serving the community. She was educated within a segregated school system, graduating as valedictorian of her class from Rockville Colored High School in 1934. She earned her teaching certificate from Bowie State Teacher's College, her bachelor's from Hampton Institute, and later went on to earn her master's degree in education from Boston University, with a specialization in reading and language arts.

During a 36-year tenure in MCPS she taught at the segregated Quince Orchard School and at the Sandy Spring consolidated elementary school, amongst others, and kept life-long contact with many of her students. She also served on the professional committee appointed by the School Board to plan the integration process in 1954-1955. She later became one of the first Black principals in the desegregated system, first serving as assistant principal at Brookhaven Elementary School in 1967 and then as principal at Aspen Hill Elementary School from 1968 until her retirement in 1973.

After retiring, Nina Clarke dedicated her life to serving the community. She and Lillian B. Brown documented the long history of unequal Black schools while underscoring the remarkable resilience and dedication of its Black teachers. The colleagues co-authored *A History of the Black Public Schools in Montgomery County, Maryland (1978)*. Through speaking engagements, she continued educating both children and adults about her experience within the segregated school system.

She also volunteered for Montgomery History (then the Montgomery County Historical Society) beginning in 1991, guest curating an exhibit on African American heritage in the county. After the exhibit closed she continued her association with the organization as a docent and member of the Speakers Bureau. In addition to her oral history transcripts you



Nina Clarke with Executive Director Matt Logan ca. 2018.

can read more about her accomplishments in our online exhibit detailing public school desegregation in the 1950s, as told through the words of six women who were there.



Visit MontgomeryHistory.org for more information.

Continued on page 4...

Local Students Excel During Virtual History Day Competition

Over 3,000 students from 42 schools from every corner of the county participated in this year's Montgomery County History Day competition. The over 400 winners at the school level advanced to the countywide competition which was held virtually this year and again organized by Montgomery County Public Schools and Montgomery History.

The students' projects addressed this year's theme, "Communication in History: The Key to Understanding," by developing either group or individual projects such as research papers, websites, performances, exhibits, or documentaries.

Continued from page 1...

Other community leaders took part introducing sessions, including County Council President Tom Hucker, Councilmember Gabriel Albornoz, Councilmember Craig Rice, Councilmember Andrew Friedson, Councilmember Sidney Katz, Councilmember Hans Riemer, and State Delegate Lily Qi, and we thank them for their time and commitment.



County Councilmember Craig Rice introducing Kevin Levin.

Congratulations to all the students, teachers, and parents who participated! 30 projects moved on to the state competition, held online May 1-2. 12 local students will now compete at the nationwide event in June! To view the county awards ceremony, which took place Saturday, March 20, visit MontgomeryHistory.org and click on "History Day 2021" in the Events menu dropdown.

A special thank you also goes to Montgomery County Public Schools, especially Pat Carballo and Maria Tarasuk, for their dedication to the success of this important learning opportunity.

Montgomery History would like to thank the members of the History Conference Planning Committee as well as the speakers and session introducers, whose professionalism and expertise continue to raise the quality of the event each year. We also thank the attendees who supported us as we experimented with this new format, providing feedback and continuous inspiration for new sessions. We look forward to seeing you next year!

New partnerships blossomed with the introduction of a **Trivia Night**, emceed'd by Alex Tsironis from the MoCo Show, a popular blog and social media presence focused on local news. The Trivia Night kicked off the week-long conference on the preceding Friday evening, January 22, and attendees competed for prizes from 7 Locks Brewing, Dawson's Market, and Mayorga Organics.



Thank you to the 2021 Montgomery County History Day sponsors for your support!



EMILY & GARY CORRELL

If you missed the History Conference, or want to rewatch sessions you enjoyed, the recordings are available to Premier-level ticketholders. If you purchased a Basic or Full Access ticket and would like to upgrade or did not attend and would like to pay to have access to the recordings, please contact us at HistoryConference@MontgomeryHistory.org.

"I'm really impressed with the depth, breadth, and diversity of the program, because it truly reflects the community and the issues that are relevant to our times."
- Former County Executive Isiah Leggett

"It was one of the best conferences I've ever attended—exceeded my expectations. Excellent speakers on meaningful, important topics I care about. My first experience with Montgomery History, but definitely not my last!"
- New member

"Interesting, professional, seamless. So well done."
- Board member

"The 2021 History Conference was wonderful—planning, offerings, technology, speakers, variety, spread, execution. Congratulations to everyone involved!"
- Longtime supporter

"First time I have attended. Lifelong Montgomery County resident. Wanted to learn more about history of diverse groups in the county. Conference provided much more."
- First-time attendee

On the Confederate monuments keynote session with Kevin Levin:

"This program shook me to my core, regarding racism, systemic racism, and white supremacy. This last year with BLM, all the focus on white supremacy, the tearing down of Civil War statues, and the insurgency at the Capital has opened my eyes like never before. This type of program is so eye opening and is a must for all of us!"

- Longtime supporter

Year-Long Partnership Celebrates County Icon



100th Anniversary of the Dentzel Carousel at Glen Echo Park

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Glen Echo's iconic Dentzel Carousel. Montgomery History is teaming up with the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture to celebrate the milestone with a four-part lecture series.

Recordings of the lectures will be posted on our website under the "Events" menu. If you missed the first lecture, you can watch it there now. Also featured on the site is a behind-the-scenes tour and quick history of the carousel with NPS Ranger Kevin Patti. Check it out!

The first lecture, held February 24, explored the 1960 summer Civil Rights protests, headed by students from Howard University and joined by nearby residents, which eventually led to the desegregation of the park a year later. The second on April 14 delved into the differing styles of two Glen Echo carousels: Coney Island versus Philadelphia.

Don't miss the next half of the series! You'll be able to learn about the park's organ and its significance and carousel painting and restoration techniques.

Join us for the remainder of the series:

Lecture #3: Glen Echo's Wurlitzer Band Organ - A 50-Year Perspective
With Durward Center
July 14, 2021 | 7:30pm

Lecture #4: Painting Style of the Dentzel Carousel Company and Restoration Techniques
With Rosa Patton
August 11, 2021 | 7:30pm

For more information and to register visit:
<https://MontgomeryHistory.org/carousel-lecture-series/>

Continued from page 2...

Mary Kay Harper

Executive Director, Montgomery County Historical Society, 1990-2008

Mary Kay Harper, our beloved and respected Executive Director from 1990-2008, passed away peacefully this March after a brief illness. Mary Kay's vision, willingness to innovate, and development of an open and welcoming culture characterized her nearly twenty-year tenure as director.

Born in Washington, DC and raised in College Park, Mary Kay moved to Montgomery County in 1962 with her husband, Ed. At the time she was employed at the Department of Agriculture, utilizing her degree in chemistry.

Though Mary Kay's background was in science, she began volunteering for MCHS in the 1980s, first with the gardening club, then later as a docent and gift shop manager. By 1990, she was asked to assume the role of director.

Under Mary Kay's leadership, staff and volunteers vastly expanded a number of programs, which are still part of the organization today. Some notable accomplishments include:

- Remodeling and renovating the library, which she named in honor of Jane Sweet, our first librarian, to modernize and improve functionality;

- Creating the Montgomery County History Conference in 2007;
- Introducing the National History Day competition to Montgomery County;
- Establishing the award-winning Speakers Bureau;
- Purchasing the building at 113 W. Montgomery Ave.;
- Assuming management of the Montgomery County Archives; and
- Hosting numerous volunteer appreciation events, bus and walking tours, and special themed events which grew the community of local history-lovers.

Following her retirement in 2008, former President Terry Beaty helped to create an endowment to support the Mary Kay Harper Center for Suburban Studies, a new research and educational program dedicated to studying the more recent history of suburbanization in the Washington metropolitan area.

Without Mary Kay's deft leadership, this organization would be unrecognizable today.

Read more about the digitization campaign in Mary Kay's honor [on page 5!](#)



Mary Kay hands-on during research library renovations in 1993.



Mary Kay with staff at the 2000 Montgomery County History Day. From left to right: Emily Correll, Karen Lottes, Joanna Church, Mary Kay Harper.

"This place would not exist today without Mary Kay's vision. She was always ahead of her time. I remember how enthusiastic she was about our efforts to make local history even more accessible and inclusive. It's this generosity of spirit that will forever be her legacy."

• Executive Director, Matthew Logan

Updated Sidney Randolph Narrative Sheds New Light

Intensive Research Identifies Key Individuals Surrounding 19th Century Lynching

A new narrative released by Montgomery History in February that details the lynching of Sidney Randolph in 1896 and subsequent community reaction advances the knowledge of a poorly understood chapter in our collective history. The narrative, written by Archivist Sarah Hedlund, is the most detailed report written on the events surrounding the lynching to date and includes entirely new information on activism within the Black community in 1896 as well as critical details of the lynching investigation by law enforcement. In addition, the new page includes biographies of over 60 individuals whose names were mentioned in relation to the lynching of Sidney Randolph—residents, attorneys, alleged witnesses, physicians, criminal investigators, and others.

Randolph was accused of a deadly home invasion and attack on a local Gaithersburg

family. Though no proof was ever obtained that Randolph was the perpetrator, he lacked a clear motive, and DC law enforcement did not believe he had any connection to the crime, he was killed by a violent mob while in jail awaiting a potential indictment.

Because of the high-profile nature of the attack on the Buxton family and the subsequent murder of Randolph, the lynching was widely reported on in local (and even regional and national) newspapers. The newspaper reports were a valuable primary source in obtaining the names of the 60+ individuals whose biographies are now available online. Scouring through newspaper articles as well as census records, marriage records, obituaries, biographical publications, and more, Archivist/Librarian Sarah Hedlund has put together an extremely comprehensive picture of the tragic lynching that occurred and some of the key figures involved.

Visit MontgomeryHistory.org and find the "Learn" heading. In the "Learn" dropdown menu, click on "African American History," then click on "Lynchings," to read the relevant Randolph biographies or to explore other information about Montgomery County's three known lynchings.



LEFT: Sidney Randolph as depicted by the Evening Star in 1896. RIGHT: Richard Lemuel Buxton, head of the Buxton family. Buxton identified Randolph as the attacker of his family.

New Life for Old News

A Campaign in Honor of Mary Kay Harper

The New Life for Old News campaign, launched April 29, honors former Executive Director Mary Kay Harper. With this effort Montgomery History is digitizing two of the most important sources of local news that tell the story of this county's history in the pivotal decades of the 20th century: The Montgomery County Gazette and the Montgomery County Sentinel. Your donations will enable digital accessibility of a quickly deteriorating resource and make it available in a 21st-century format to researchers, students, elected officials, and more. Find out more by visiting MontgomeryHistory.org and clicking on the "New Life for Old News" tab under the GET INVOLVED subheading. **It's not too late to make a gift!**

A special thank you to the family of Mary Kay Harper, who are providing a \$20,000 matching gift for the campaign.

Thank you to the following people, whose donations to the campaign were received between April 29, 2021 and June 10, 2021:

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| Kim Abod, in honor of the Norris Family
Fran Abrams
Bruce Adams
Erica Adams
Alison Adler, in honor of Ruth G. Adler
Robert Ahlberg
Rhoda Alderman
Amy Greene Allen, in memory of Alexander and Jayne Greene
Maureen Altobello
Anonymous
Nancy & Dan Balz
Rita Bauman
Terry Beaty
David & Alison Bennett
Nancy Biell
Merrile Blocker
Miriam Bolotin
Robert Booher
Heather Bouslog
Diane Q. Branthover
Ralph and Karen Buglass
Joanna B. Church
Margaret & Lou Church | Clare Cocciole
Sandra Cohen
James Collins
Emily & Gary Correll
Janet Wert Crampton
Barbara Cronin
James Crutchfield
Rowland Dennie
Jack Devine
Katie Dishman
Daniel R. Dwyer
Louisa Eeclbarger
Susan Eskite
Max Etin
Robert Etin
Stephen Farber
Jeannette Feldner
Carole Fontanrose
Stephen R. Fox
Michael Fry
Claudia Golenda
Victoria Grunewald
Ellie Hagner
Family of Mary Kay Harper
Charles Harris
James Hathaway
Christine Hellauer | Beth Hickey
Clarence Hickey
Bill Hickman
Paula Hubble
Kathleen Hurley, in honor of William Hurley Jr.
Robert & Paula Jensen
Kim Jones
Frank Joseph
Stephanie Kahal
Linda Keenan
David Kent
Francesca Kim
Knight A. Kiplinger
Susan Kirby
Barbara Murphy Kromer
Teresa Lachin
Angela Lancaster
Barry Landells
Martha Lanigan
Mary Lanigan
Patricia Lawrence
Charlotte Layton
Ann Lichter
Patricia Gail Littlefield
Matthew Logan
Maria Longo Swiek | Karen & John Lottes
Linda B. Lyons
William Malone
Julianne Mangin
Michael Marmer
Betty Kay McClellan
Michael B. McGovern
John & Barbara McGraw
Eileen McGuckian & Philip Cantelon
John Menke
Mr. & Mrs. Forrest L. Minor
Jean Montgomery
Fran Murphy
Margit Nahra
Jane North
Michael Papp
Martine Palminter
Jone Parr
Eileen Kettler Paseltiner, in honor of Mr. & Mrs. James Forest Walker
Dale Pastor
Cheryl Peice
Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Plumb
Dieter Poetszschke
Gail Rebhan | Allison Rivetti
Steve Roberts
Bruce & Bonnie Rosenthal
Janet Swartz Ryan, in memory of teachers at Wyngate ES, North Bethesda Jr High & W. Johnson HS
Pator Sallingar
Andrew Sekelsky
Patricia Shama
Charles Short
Ian Shuman
Gail Smith
Carolyn Sowinski
Mrs. Lawrence C. Sweet
Mary C. Turner
Shaunta Vaughn
Stacie M. Vodra
Karen Weiss
Mr. & Mrs. Paul S. Weller
L. Paige Whitely
David Wieceking
Gwen Wright
Christina Zynjuk |
|---|---|--|---|--|



You Make It All Possible!

Thank you to the following donors for their support of Montgomery History. Your generosity enables us to make history more accessible than ever when it is needed most. The following list includes supporters whose donations were received between October 1, 2020 and May 14, 2021. Donations to the *New Life for Old News* digitization campaign are noted on page 5.

We greatly appreciate each gift and have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this listing. Please notify Sarah Marsteller, Director of Development and Communications, of any inaccuracies or omissions by contacting her at 301-340-2825 or SMarsteller@MontgomeryHistory.org. **THANK YOU!**

Donations & Dues between October 1, 2020 and May 14, 2021

7 Locks Brewing
Kathryn Abell
Bruce Adams
Patricia Adams
Rhoda Alderman *
Allen County Public Library
William G. Allman
Maureen Altobello *
Michael Alving
Anonymous
Amazon Smile Foundation
Anne Ambler
Rhona Arbit
Luana Arce
Artists Circle Fine Art
Arts & Humanities Council
of Montgomery County *
Archaeological Society of Maryland,
Mid-Potomac Chapter
Art Deco Society of Washington
JoAnn Aulick
Robert M. Bachman *
Rebecca Ballo
Nancy & Dan Balz *
Sunny & Richard Banvard *
Pauline Barnes
Deborah S. Barton
Devin L. Battley
Allen E. Beach
Cecily Beall
Amanda Becker
Barbara Berg
Mary Berman
Frederic Berner, Jr.
Bethesda Community Baseball Club
Bethesda Metro Area Village
Virginia Bickford
Louise Bradford
Robert Brewer
Brown Advisory *
Allen C. Browne
Nancy Brun
Frank Bruno
Ellen Buckingham
Ralph & Karen Buglass *
Lynne Bulhack
Jane & Jim Burgess
Carolyn Camacho
Dorothy Canter
John A. Carter
Elliot C. Chabot
Nina Chace
Chai Time
Teng Chamchumrus
Chevy Chase United
Methodist Church Seniors
Sandra M. Clunies
City of Rockville Senior Center
Mrs. Nina Honemond Clarke

Lenore Clarke
Bonny M. Cochran
June L. Cole
Combined Federal Campaign
William Conway, Jr. *
Emily & Gary Correll *
David Cosson
Peter & Jennie Cottrell
Barbara Cronin
Dr. James D'Albora
Damascus Y-Women
Dawson's Market
Robert H. Davis, Jr.
Barbara Delaney
Anne DeNovo
George Dick
Tatyana Dimitrova-Russler
Katie Dishman
Jeanette Dixon
Judy Docca
Patricia Douglas
Daniel R. Dwyer *
Tony Dwyer & Virginia Downes
Daniel Eberly
Fred Evans
Jane Evans
Amy Federman
Pamela Ficca
Stan Fisher
Paul A. Fiumara
Clark Forrest
Mark Fortune
Stephen R. Fox
John French
Cynthia L. Gaffney
Matthew Gagle
Sally Gagne
Gaithersburg Area Newcomers Club
Regina Galleher
Clare Garrett *
Suzanne Gartner
Drs. Carol & Thomas Garvey
Gelman, Rosenberg & Freedman
CPAs and Advisors
Georgetown Preparatory School
Tammy Gephardt
Germantown Historical Society
Larry Giammo & Rebecca Parlakian
Neal Gillen
Jonathan C. Glass
Glen Echo Park Partnership for
Arts & Culture
Lou Gloyd
Claudia Golenda
Karen Gordon
Carolyn Goshen
Linda Gowen
Frederick & Patricia Graboske *
Susan Gray

Marian Green
Betty Holman Greene
Mr. & Mrs. William H. Greer, Jr.
Grosvenor Park Condominium
Linda Guest
Patricia L. Gursky
Ellie Hagner
Charlie Hanson
Mrs. Mary Kay Harper *
Alice F. Harris
Bridget Hartman
Mary Hartz
Barbara Hays
Christine Hellauer *
Kitty Hempstone
Heritage Montgomery *
Elizabeth Clark Hessell
Beth Hickey
Clarence & Mary Hickey *
Douglas & Sharon Hill
Historic Medley District
Roland & Cynthia Hoover
Elaine Hornauer
Linda Horton
Don G. Housley, Jr. *
William C. Howell
Mr. & Mrs. Hilbert R. Hubble
Ingleside at King Farm Assisted Living
Iona Wellness & Arts Center
Ellen Jablon
Shirley Jackson
Derek Jackson
Janet Montgomery Chapter of the DAR
Barbara Jeffe
Robert & Paula Jenson *
Johns Hopkins Health Systems
Robin Johnson
James Johnston
Claudine Jones
Kim Jones *
Scott Jung
John & Joan Kelly *
Lori Kelman
Linda & Michael Kennedy
Kensington Historical Society
Kensington Park
Senior Living Community
Melissa McGee Keshishian
Jerry Kickenson
Mollie King
Patricia King
Kiplinger Foundation *
Susan & William Kirby
Alice Klavans
Spencer D. Knott
Melvyn Kornspan
Dorothy Krass
Karl Krchma
Barbara Murphy Kromer *

Teresa Lachin *
Christopher Lancette
Mary Lanigan
Ken Lavish
Patricia Lawrence
Carty S. Lawson
Charlotte Layton
Robert Leaf
Margaret Leaman
Islah & Catherine Leggett
Louis Leibowitz
Bob & Jane Levey
Jonathan & Judith Levin
Don Libes
Jim Lieberman
Lilly Stone Lievsay *
John P. Lipscomb
Patricia Gail Littlefield
Live & Learn Bethesda
Matthew Logan *
Karen Logsdon
Margaret Lohr
Maria Longo Swiek
Karen & John Lottes
Richard Lowe
Mary Lou Luff
Linda B. Lyons *
M&T Bank *
Katherine P. Mack
Mrs. John H. MacNeill
J. Willard & Alice S.
Marriott Foundation *
Sarah Marsteller
William Marsteller
Douglas & Sharon Hill
Joyce McCowin
Claire McDonald
Eileen McGuckian & Philip Cantelon *
McKeldin Library,
University of Maryland Libraries
Jim McMahan
Caryl J. McNeilly & Robert Williamson
Eugene L. Meyer
Lorraine & Forrest Minor
Zafar Mirza
Marilyn B. Mix
Jean Montgomery
Montgomery County Swim League
Montgomery Parks Foundation
Montgomery Preservation
Eileen Morehouse
Louis Morris
Julianne Mueller
Allison Mulholland
Mirrit Lerner Naaman
Margit Nahra *
Nation's Capitol Model T Club
National United Methodist Church
Bob Nelson
Julia Nguyen
Doris Nickoles

Jane North
North Chevy Chase Connections
Mary Nurik
Carolyn B. O'Connor
Arlene O'Donnell
Karen O'Donnell
Charles W. Oland
Dave Oland
Ethan Ortman
Martine Palmiter
Lt. Col. James Owens
Norma Parker
George Parson
Laurence Patlen
Peerless Rockville
Cheryl Peirce
Lauran & Jeffrey Penn
George Tyler Peter
Nancy Pickard
Terry Pinkston
James R. Platky
Mary Sue Pletcher
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Plumb
Mary Louise Pojeta
Pomfret Hagan Family Fund
Katherine L. Poore
Preservation Maryland
Vincent Price
Larissa and Mark Priest
Harold & Ellen Pskowski
Robert A. Pumphrey Funeral Homes
Questers International,
Curio Chapter
Dena Puskin
Dr. Robert Ramsey
Marc Rappaport
Sue E. Reeb
Margo Reid & Greg Simon
Carolyn Ressa
Laura & Jeff Riese
Steve Roberts *
Donald Robertson
Dr. Stephen Rockower
Dorothy Rogers
Bruce & Bonnie Rosenthal
Scott Rosenthal
Mr. & Mrs. Richard R. Rowe
Gwen Rowe
Peter Salingor
Anne Sanderoff-Walker
Mary Sanders
Allen Saperstein
Janet Saros
Catherine Savel
Susan Schreiber
Paul Schwartz
Parkside Village
Ethel M. Sellman
Dr. Thomas Shaffer
Patricia Shama
David Sherman

Richard M. Sherman
Lawrence Shulman
Ian Shuman *
Tracie A. Simmons
Jeffrey Z. Slavin *
Robyn Smith
C. Jean Sperling
Susan Spock
Jeanne L. Springmann
Carol Starr
Don Steinman & Ruth Greenspan
Katharine Stewart *
Marlin Strand
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence E. Stubbs
Dinah Sunday
Marcia Swanson
Mrs. Lawrence C. Sween *
Jeff Sypeck
Peter Szabo
Norma Taber
Duncan & Betsy Tebow
Ruth Thomas
Sue Tiffin
Deborah Toll
Sara R. Torrence
Barbara Boyle Torrey
Mary C. Turner
Richard E. Tustian
Audrey J. Tyler
UMBC at The Universities
at Shady Grove
Urbana Senior Center
Shaunta Vaughn *
Village of Takoma Park
Stacie M. Vodra
James Voorhees
Lynn Wagman
Betty Walker
Kristen Walker
Stewart Walker III
Maureen S. Ward
Sharon F. Washburn
Washington Metro Oasis
Victoria Wasmund
Lynn Weintraub
Mr. & Mrs. Paul S. Weller
Eugene Williams
Howard Williams
Kyle Williams
Michael Williams
Carter Willson
Wisconsin Historical Society
Lisa J. Wise
Eileen Witherspoon
Hon. & Mrs. Patrick Woodward
Tanner Wray & Karl Debus-Lopez
Helena Wright
Linda & Manuel Zenick
Joan Zenzen & Stuart Weinstein

*Indicates membership in the Lilly Stone Circle

Memorial and Tribute Gifts

These are gifts received between October 1, 2020 and May 14, 2021 that were made in honor or in memory of an individual. When donating, you can note if the gift is a tribute to someone and Montgomery History will recognize them in the next newsletter. **This is a wonderful way to honor a loved one's memory or recognize your favorite history enthusiast.**

Kim Abod *, in honor of Jane Sween

Tom Kettler, in memory of Mary Kay Harper

Janice Walden, in memory of Mary Kay Harper

Paul Holmes, in honor of Tony Cohen

David G. Ottalini, in honor of Guy Adams Ottalini



Montgomery History • 111 W. Montgomery Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850 • 301-340-2825 • Info@MontgomeryHistory.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Gaithersburg, MD
Permit No. 24



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON
Remembrance AND Reconciliation

MoCoLMP
Remembering is Resistance



“UNWRITTEN LAW” A Symposium on the Lynchings in Rockville

Saturday, September 25 | 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Hosted by **Montgomery History** partnering with the **Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project** and the **Montgomery County Remembrance and Reconciliation Commission** – the opening event of **Remembrance Weekend** recognizing two men who were the victims of racial terror lynchings in Montgomery County

PRESENTATION #1 **Retrospective on Race in Post-Civil War Montgomery County**

Local historian Ralph Buglass will set the stage by putting into context the county's racial climate at the time of the two lynchings. This talk will explore the social, political and economic dynamics that shaped the lives of Black Montgomery Countians in the decades after the Civil War. Drawing on primary historical sources – including local records of the Freedmen's Bureau immediately after the Civil War – and the research of authoritative national historians, it will discuss the prevalence of white supremacist attitudes and examine how law enforcement and courts operated at a time when county government was still small and limited.



Ralph Buglass is a frequent speaker for Montgomery History and co-author of *Images of America: Rockville*, a pictorial history spanning 250 years, published in 2020 in conjunction with Peerless Rockville, the city's nonprofit historic preservation organization. He has taught lifelong courses on a variety of local history topics at American University, Johns Hopkins University, Montgomery College and Frederick Community College. A county native, he has a B.A. in American history from Cornell University and M.A. in journalism from American University.

PRESENTATION #2 **Two Rockville Lynchings: the Truth Uncovered**

Archivist and researcher Sarah Hedlund narrates the history of the two lynchings that occurred in Rockville: John Diggs-Dorsey in 1880 and Sidney Randolph in 1896, based on a careful reading of hundreds of newspaper reports, genealogical research, detailed maps, photographs, and archival documents. Interspersed with a local history context, this talk outlines the most complete and up-to-date accounts of these tragic events that took place in Montgomery County's history near the end of the 19th century.



Sarah Hedlund, Librarian and Archivist for Montgomery History, holds an MLIS from the University of Maryland with a specialization in archives and digital curation. She presented her research on the three Montgomery County lynchings in 2020 at an event co-hosted by Montgomery History and the Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project in March as well as sharing her research methodology with the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission in June. She is the author of “At the Hands of Parties Unknown: the 1880 Lynchings in Montgomery County,” published in *The Montgomery County Story*, which won the Arline Custer Memorial Award presented by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference the same year. Previous to her current position, she has worked as a graduate assistant archivist for the University of Maryland's Special Collections and University Archives, and as an archival intern in the Archives Center of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

PRESENTATION #3 **Anatomy of a Lynching**

Historian Anthony Cohen explores all three known racist mob killings of Black men in 19th century Montgomery County and exposes the motives and methodologies used to commit these crimes against humanity. This presentation rates and measures the severity of the two lynchings in Rockville, as well as the first known lynching in Montgomery County, that of George Peck in Poolesville in 1880, placing them against the most notorious national cases of the Jim Crow era. Cohen reveals the common “playbook” used by seemingly disparate communities nationwide and shows how legal systems conspired to support and promote these formidable acts of racial terror injustice.



Anthony Cohen is an historian, author, and explorer of the American past. An early purveyor of experiential history, Cohen launched his career in 1996, walking two months from Maryland to Canada, along a route of the Underground Railroad, the secret route to freedom for American slaves. Cohen is the Founder and President of “The Menare Foundation, Inc.: Preserving the Legacy of the Underground Railroad” and operates the Bulton Farm Living History Center, a 40-acre farm depicting 1850s plantation life in Maryland. He has served as a consultant to the National Parks Conservation Association, Maryland Public Television, NASA, among others, and trained Oprah Winfrey for her role as Sethe in the 1998 motion picture *Beloved*. A founding member of the Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project, he also is the co-author of the forthcoming book *Great Escapes: Journeys on Maryland's Underground Railroad* to be released in Winter 2022.

STAY UP TO DATE!

To stay up to date on reopening announcements, make sure you are subscribed to our e-newsletter, which comes out every Monday morning.

Visit **MontgomeryHistory.org** and click on “Join Our Email List” at the very top of the page.

Email Info@MontgomeryHistory.org with questions.

History Conversations Your Link to Local History

Have you had a chance to tune in to our weekly **History Conversations**?

These free streaming programs, typically hosted on Tuesday afternoons, bring local history directly to you. Join us for a diverse array of topics! We offer something for just about every interest, from the Civil War to Civil Rights. Each session is recorded and posted to our website for a week and available as past livestreams through our Facebook page (@MoCoHistory), so if you miss it live you can always watch it at your convenience.



Civil War Trails

Visit **MontgomeryHistory.org** and click on “History Conversations” under the **Events** tab to find out more and view upcoming talks.

History Happenings

Montgomery History Weekly E-newsletter
September 27, 2021



HISTORY
HAPPENINGS
MONTGOMERY HISTORY'S E-NEWSLETTER

Preservation, Education, and Ghostly Tales
Register Today for September and October Talks

[View as Webpage](#)

September 28



"Rehab Reflections: The Journey of 417 N. Jonathan Street"
with Laura Houston
Tuesday, September 28 @ 2:00 p.m.

The journey of the cabin that now sits at 417 N. Jonathan Street in Hagerstown, Maryland began nearly 300 years ago. In its lifetime it has seen the birth and expansion of a nation, a people's fight for freedom and the end of slavery, two World Wars, trailblazing movements for equal rights, and the rapid growth of the region surrounding it, all the while serving as a home to families and individuals with their own unique lives and stories to tell (likely including that of the town's namesake, Jonathan Hager). Today, despite prior threat of disrepair and imminent demolition, with the help of [Preservation Maryland](#) and the generosity of numerous donors, the humble dwelling in the heart of the historic Jonathan Street community stands revived and resolute, ready to hold the stories of many more generations of homeowners.

[Click here to register!](#)

October 5

Montgomery County Schools' Coming of Age: Bethesda as the Textbook Example

with Ralph Buglass
Tuesday, October 5 @ 7:00 p.m.

This richly-illustrated talk, in partnership with [Bethesda Historical Society](#), will detail the ways that Bethesda schools set the pace for education in Montgomery County public schools beginning in the early 1900s.



[Click here to register!](#)

October 12



Fort Frederick: Three Centuries of History

with Ranger Robert Ambrose
Tuesday, October 12 @ 2:00 p.m.

[Fort Frederick](#) was built during the French and Indian War to protect Maryland from attack, but would play an active part of American history over the course of three centuries. The fort would see service in the 1750's, again during the American War of Independence and Civil War. It would be owned by a former enslaved man, and

redeveloped into a park by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression of the 1930's.

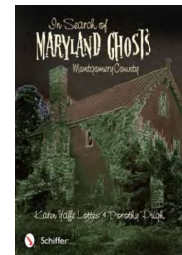
[Click here to register!](#)

October 19

"In Search of Ghosts: Montgomery County, Maryland"

with Karen Yaffe Lottes
Tuesday, October 19 @ 2:00 p.m.

This story-telling lecture explores haunted places of Montgomery County and its surrounding area through ghostly tales. Learn about the many ghosts, apparitions, and supernatural occurrences that can't be explained logically, including: The Headless Horseman that continues to terrorize visitors to the old railroad bridge; the poltergeist that haunts the Madison House; the Tommyknocker at the Maryland Mine; and the farmer who keeps searching for his buried treasure. Take this haunted journey back in time!



[Click here to register!](#)

If you have questions about accessing any of our programs, please contact Matt Gagale, Director of Programs, at MGagale@MontgomeryHistory.org.

Providing these programs for free is only possible with your support! Please show your appreciation by clicking the button below to make a donation.

Thank you!

Support Local History

Symposium Recording Now Available Online

"Unwritten Law": The Lynchings in Rockville

Our virtual event on Saturday, "Unwritten Law: A Symposium on the Lynchings in Rockville," featured presentations by three local historians exploring different aspects of a painful chapter in our county's history. This program was held as part of the Remembrance Weekend activities organized by the [Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project](#) and the [Remembrance and Reconciliation Commission](#).

A recording of the symposium is now available on our [website](#). Please share this link with others—these stories need to reach the widest audience possible.

A special thank you to Councilmembers Craig Rice, Will Jawando, and Hans Riemer for joining us and sharing their thoughts.

You can continue to learn more about all three of Montgomery County's recorded racial terror lynchings by exploring the research, conducted by Archivist/Librarian Sarah Hedlund, available on our [website](#).

You can also request to purchase physical copies of our two issues of the *Montgomery County Story* covering the county's lynchings by contacting Office Manager [Stacie Vodra](#).

Gazette Digitization Continues

Preserving Three Decades of County History

The *Gazette* papers are on the move to their digitization facility! Thanks to your generous donations, Montgomery History is now able to digitize the *Montgomery County Gazette* from 1961-65 and 1977-1988, the *County Courier* (an offshoot of the *Gazette*) from 1981-83, the *Courier Gazette* (the successor to the *Courier*) from 1983-1986, and the *Montgomery County Sentinel* from 1964-69.

Since the end of July when the papers were picked up from the warehouse in Sterling, Virginia where they were being temporarily stored, our Archivist/Librarian Sarah Hedlund has been working with volunteers to process the papers. This includes removing any duplicates, ensuring all pages are unfolded and in proper condition, creating a

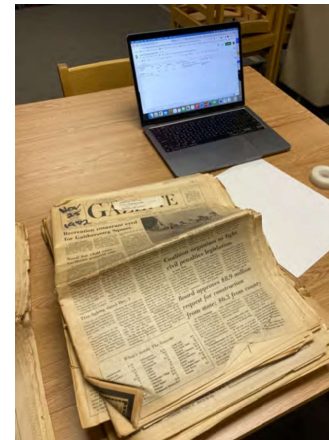
comprehensive inventory with accurate page counts, and moving them into acid-free archival storage boxes.

This week, the first batch will go to The Crowley Company, where it will be digitized over the next couple months. Stay tuned for an announcement as to when the papers will be available for research!

Pre-processing



Mid-processing



Post-processing



History Happenings

Montgomery History Weekly E-newsletter
October 25, 2021



This Week: Uncovering Sugarland's Past
Join Us for *History Conversations*

[View as Webpage](#)

October 26



"Uncovering Sugarland's Past: The Archaeology & Ethno-History of the Basil & Nancy Dorsey Site"
with Suzanne Johnson and Tara Tetrault
Tuesday, October 26 @ 2:00 p.m.

Archaeological testing of the Basil & Nancy Dorsey log house revealed a family who was strongly committed to building a life in Sugarland, Maryland. The Maryland Humanities Council grant helped fund archaeological survey and testing of the

Dorsey house and yard, as well as a report, two virtual exhibits and an archaeology teaching module. Join Suzanne Johnson and Tara Tetrault as they discuss some of the findings at this historic site.

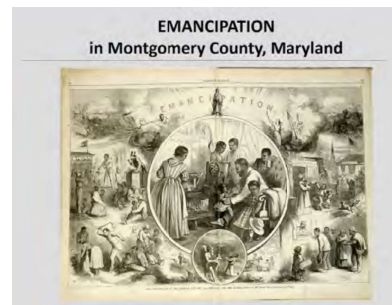
[Click here to register!](#)

Week of November 1

Join Us Online for **REWIND**

"Emancipation in Montgomery County, Maryland"

On November 1, 1864, Maryland became the first state below the Mason-Dixon Line to free slaves within its boundaries by popular vote. On the 156th anniversary of Emancipation in the Old Line State, two chroniclers of Montgomery County history will describe local experiences with slavery, war, emancipation, and its aftermath.



November 9



"The History of Airmail"
with College Park Aviation Museum Director Kevin Cabrera
Tuesday, November 9 @ 2:00 p.m.

Join us as College Park Aviation presents the History of Airmail. From experimenting military airmail flights to the first civilian airmail flight, the history of airmail will take you on a journey to share how air mail

began and transformed commercial transportation in 1918.

[Click here to register!](#)

If you have questions about accessing any of our programs, please contact Matt Gagle, Director of Programs, at MGagle@MontgomeryHistory.org.

Providing History Conversations for free is only possible with your support! Please show your appreciation by clicking the button below to make a donation.

Thank you!

[Support Local History](#)

Volunteers Needed!

Public Art Installation | November 5-6

Get involved with Montgomery County's Remembrance Month! The Arts and Humanities

Council of Montgomery County is looking for volunteers to help with Certain Party or Parties Unknown, a temporary multi-media public art exhibition furthering community dialogue about racial justice and bringing awareness to the three lynchings that took place in Montgomery County. Help guide the public through the eight social justice art installations projecting onto buildings in downtown Rockville on November 5th and 6th from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. For more info, send an email to publicart@creativemoco.com with the word VOLUNTEER in the subject line.

Lynching Symposium Video Now Available

Accounts Lay Groundwork for Reconciliation

Join Montgomery History as we explore the racial terror lynchings of Mr. John Diggs-Dorsey (d. 1880) and Mr. Sidney Randolph (d. 1896) in Rockville. You'll hear the definitive account of what transpired during those dark days; learn about the economic, social, and political context of Montgomery County during this period; and examine how elements of these murders were replicated in other parts of Maryland and the United States

Special thanks to the Montgomery County Remembrance and Reconciliation Commission and the Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project for their ongoing support.

Click this link to view the symposium and learn more about other Remembrance Weekend events: <https://montgomeryhistory.org/remembranceweekend/>

New Addition to Lewis Reed Exhibit

Exploring Community Life



Don't miss the newest—and final—addition to our popular online exhibit, "Montgomery County, 1910-1930: Through the Lens of Lewis Reed." [The final installment, called "Community,"](#) presents images of the businesses, industries, occupations, and services that provided income for Montgomery County's residents, and shaped our growing towns in the first few decades of the 20th century. [Explore the entire world of Lewis Reed's unique photography here!](#)

