

# THE HERITAGE HERALD

Washington County Rural Heritage Museum  
7313 Sharpsburg Pike  
Boonsboro, MD 21713

Phone: 240-420-1714  
Fax: 240-420-1713

www.ruralheritagemuseum.org  
email: eknight@washco-md.net



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## Highlights from the Holiday Open House!

The first day of our Holiday Open House celebration was met with some ugly weather. Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, turned out to be snowy and cold. Despite the weather, we did have some visitors who brought their children to meet Santa, work on the many crafts that were available, and taste those many examples of cookies that were baked by the Special Events committee.

Another highlight was the bread tasting table. Bill Theriault and other classmates of previous bread baking classes met at the multi-purpose building



kitchen on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, to bake the breads for the bread tasting. The warm bread smells lured people into the conference room to taste samples of Five Cajun Bread, Rosemary Olive Oil Bread, and Raising Bread, just to name a few. The best item on the table happened to be Cranberry Muffins that were served warm with lots of butter (eat your heart out Thomas English Muffins). Donna Myers and Millie Hendrickson volunteered to help Mr. Bill serve the bread on Saturday, and

Mary Braid helped on Sunday. Sally Waltz had a hearth cooking demonstration in the Poffenberger Cabin on Sunday. December 6<sup>th</sup>, by the way, turned out to have better attendance. Through the two-day event, we had approximately 150 docents, members, volunteers and children attend.

One of the activities during the Open House was the new crafts that were available to the children. Jan and Patsy Ardinger prepared so many different crafts that the children could have spent all day at their table. Matter-a-fact, some kids did spend hours going from idea to idea. Everyone seemed to have fun- including Jan and Patsy.

We would also like to thank the Clear Spring High School FFA for decorating the museum with fresh floral arrangements and beautiful poinsettias.



## Washington County Rural Heritage Museum/Friends of the Rural Heritage Museum 2009 Annual Report

This year has seen a continued growth of our complex as the second museum building was completed and filled with larger equipment. Dedications took place at the Poffenberger and Reeder Cabins and also at Mt. Tabor Church. The Omar Long family donated additional money so the chimney and roof could be rebuilt in the Fahrney building. Additional information on the Village will be listed later.

The Rural Heritage Museum is expanding. The next major addition to our facility will be the Transportation Museum which will house various forms of transportation used in the rural community prior to 1940. A committee has been formed, but the building itself is still in the planning stages along with the organization of the interior. Various transportation organizations have been contacted to gain interest and support. Funding is being sought to complete this project.

**Finance:** Our Treasurer, Mara Lowry, continues to give detailed reports to the board on a monthly income and expense basis. The 2010 budget is being prepared and will be distributed in a timely manner.

**Accessions:** This committee, chaired by Bill Poffenberger, is busy looking at items being offered as either on loan or as a gift. Decisions about accepting these items are made after visual examination. One gift of local logs from two buildings that were dismantled will certainly be beneficial in erecting other structures in the Homestead or Village.

**Exhibits:** Dorry Norris, committee chairman, has moved to New York to be closer to her daughter. Her dedication to this committee is certainly missed and we are searching for people to continue this fine work. The Fahrney exhibit will continue on display for a few more months and hopefully a new display will be installed before the Spring 2010 opening.

**Four-Square Garden:** This committee consists of Master Gardeners and chaired by Karen Greeley. "Second Sunday in the Garden" is very popular and is held each month with appropriate programs concerning gardens.

**Membership:** Our membership picnic was held on a beautiful Sunday afternoon in September. The food was delicious and games were played where small gifts were exchanged during game time. Chairman, Camille Hendrickson, reported there are 288 members and encourages members to become active in all our activities.

**Newsletter:** Camille is also gathering articles for our Newsletter which is published quarterly. It is an important publication which keeps the membership informed about all our activities. Erin, office assistant, is also thanked for all her help in getting this published on a timely basis.

**Docents:** Sally Waltz has done a great service for our museum by staffing docents for each weekend and special tours held during the week. Recently, Jim Reeder has taken on this responsibility which allows Sally the time to help plan special programs in the garden and lectures of local interest. Thanks Jim.

**Special Events:** Since the museum opened in 2000, Velma Poffenberger has been chairman and has spent many hours planning and implementing our special events. We thank her for this and know she will continue to be active even though she has stepped down as chair. Patsy Ardinger has assumed the chair of this ever active committee. Some of the activities are- on a windy day this Spring, we had approximately 500 children seeking to find all the eggs that were hidden by the "Bunny." This event is co-sponsored by the Washington County Parks and Recreation Department. Our spud fest was enjoyed by 75 children ranging in age from toddler to 12 years. The home cooked potato chips were the best ever this year thanks to the two Howard's. Our holiday open house will be December 5 and 6 with a yearly visit from Santa. A hog butchering event, in cooperation with the WC Ag Marketing Dept will be held in November, along with hearth cooking classes.

**Fundraising:** Our Spring truck show raised \$3,400.00 this year. These funds are used to help with the improvements at our complex. Other events are continually being scheduled to further our Mission.

**Second Museum Building:** It was an exciting and beautiful day on July 14 when dedication of this building occurred. Senator Munson, Delegate Callas, the County Commissioners, and other County employees and supporters were present as Tom Riford from the CVB arranged for the ribbon cutting. This was a long awaited event that fulfills a plan in the making for many years.

**Village:** The "Senior Engineers" have been working 2 or 3 days a week this Spring and Summer so the Glass House could be finished before winter. Funding for this project came from the County Hotel/Motel Tax fund and we are grateful for these funds. The house is now 98% complete with finishing touches being done before cold weather comes. The Fahrney building has been moved to our complex, the chimney rebuilding using the original bricks, the roof covered with shake shingles, the floor installed and wood siding replaced where it was rotted out before the move. Thanks to the Long family for the additional funding. Also, thanks to the committee that chose us to be the recipient of funding from the Washington County House and Garden Tour. There is still work to be accomplished on this building before it can be reopened and all the artifacts installed.

Mt. Tabor Church is complete (using funding from the WC House and Garden Tour) with the original altar, pulpit, and attendance board in place. Two framed original ceiling tiles have been hung so that visitors can see how the ceiling was covered. These items along with a period organ were donated by Mr. and Mrs. David Resh. Pews from various churches in the county have been placed inside the sanctuary. The Church along with the Poffenberger and Reeder Cabins were dedicated on a beautiful sunny Sunday. An ice cream social was held after the dedications. The Bread Oven has been successfully built and bread has recently been baked. Thanks to Elaine and Denny Doherty and Bill Theriault for all their time and talents in completing this project. Also thanks to Jon and Camille Hendrickson. Additional classes are scheduled for this month. The Drying Shed is almost complete with only the stove needing to be placed inside the structure.

Miscellaneous: Once again there is a continual need for volunteers. Support from the community has been wonderful. One instance is the Maugansville Historical Society who donated the Wilhide House that was dismantled and given to the WCRHM. Logs and windows from this home have been used in reconstructing various buildings in our complex. We look forward to hearing from you as to how you can assist us with our various activities. All of the above could not be accomplished without the faithful volunteers giving of their time and talents in keeping our Museum an important tourism attraction. Thanks to each and everyone of you. What we have accomplished reminds me of a verse that was written by Brian Wren in 1973. I quote "When people share a task, and strength and skills unite, in projects new and old, to make or do with shared delight, our friend and partners will be better understood, that all should share, create and care and know life is good."

As the new president and vice president take office in January 2010, please give support to them as you have to me which will ensure the success of our mission.

Marjorie S. Peters- Ex-Officio

## **New Goals and Needs for the Museum**

A new year is starting at the Rural Heritage Museum. I am sure we will be seeing many challenges and rewards.

Some of our challenges which are my personal goals follow:

Organizing both buildings, update and add signage.

Museum # 1, add three additional rooms- a new clothing display, a dining room, and a storage area.

Building five additional sections of overhead storage for Museum #2

Establish a regular cleaning schedule for both buildings.

Recruit and train 10 additional docents.

Add Right of Refusal to the Deed of Gift sheet.

Organize the Library.

Complete Dr Fahrney's Office Building by our Christmas open house.

Continue searching all avenues to secure additional funding for the Transportation Building.

Furnish the Glass House.

Work with the Schwartz family to start construction on the Carpenters Shop.

I see our needs for the coming year to be:

Number one is Docents. As our museum grows we will need more people for week end coverage. It isn't really a difficult job. Your responsibilities are to be there on time to see that the doors are open and the open signs are put out. You need to welcome visitors and start the movie for them. The store needs to be opened and moneys collected for any sales. Also watch over the museums artifacts. Take down the signs and lockup when your shift is over. If you need training, we will provide it. If you can help please call Sally Waltz on 301-733-3450.

We also need people to work on the display & exhibits committee. That committee decides what and where we display our artifacts, the layout of our buildings, and the signage. They also set up the area in front of the country store with rotating displays.

Another area that we need help in is public relations, marketing and advertising. We need a person or persons that are good speakers that can talk to civic organizations. Also do advertising for our various events and help with general marketing of our museum.

If you can be of any assistance please feel free to call me at 301-991-5315.

Thank You,

Phil Muritz

President- Washington County Rural Heritage Museum Board

## **Butchering Demonstration**

The mission of the Rural Heritage Museum is to preserve the past, educate and stimulate public awareness of rural life in Washington County prior to 1940. On Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, it did just that. The museum and one of our local families demonstrated a hog butchering the way it was done on the family farm many years ago. About thirty people turned out to learn about the different cuts of meat and how virtually every part of the slaughtered hogs were used to provide food for the family. From bacon to paunhaus, ham to puddin, and chops to cracklins.

The Bill Poffenberger family of Sharpsburg, MD, had four generations of helpers and demonstrators participating in the event. Special thanks to the Poffenberger family and their continued support of the museum.