

Annual Newsletter

FRIENDS OF THE
WASHINGTON COUNTY
RURAL HERITAGE MUSEUM
A 501(C)3 NON-PROFIT

10 December 2024



Updates from 2024 and Plans for 2025!

Welcome to our newsletter!

Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude to all of our donors and volunteers who have continued to support us.

We hope you enjoy reading about this year's highlights.

We launched a new Rural History Day speaker series which we plan to continue in 2025. Topics included: the History of Maryland Trolleys, Artisan Bread Baking and Butter Making on a Maryland Homestead, 18th Century Surgery and Medicine and Civil War Ghost Stories. Thank you to the Meritus Health Foundation, Peter Fahrney, Mark Brugh, Julie Jacobs, Deb Rochefort, Ruben Moss and Matthew Wedd for their contributions.

THANK YOU to the following organizations who approved \$17,633 in Grant Funding for the museum this year:

Sinnesen Foundation \$3,900, Moller Pipe Organ restoration; Sunrise Rotary Foundation \$700, for annual Quickbooks accounting software; Washington County Charitable Gaming Commission \$2,500, to develop a Visitor Experience Plan; Washington County Hotel/Rental Tax Fund \$5,000 to develop a Visitor Experience Plan; Washington County Hotel/Rental Tax Fund \$998, radio advertising for Spud Fest; Visit Hagerstown \$750, for event marketing expenses; Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, \$4,783 for Wayside Markers and Kiosk.

In this newsletter you can expect:

Grant Funding for the Museum

Volunteer Highlights

New! Plans for the Museum

New! Interpretive Signage

New! 10K Challenge Grant

New! Hands-on-History Program

And More...

Volunteer Highlights



Dr. Emilie Amt

Emilie Amt joined our Board of Directors midyear. Dr. Amt is an award-winning writer on the African American history of western Maryland. Since 2010, her historical research has focused on African Americans in western Maryland in the era of slavery. Her research focuses on Washington County, Maryland, where she lives.



Mark P. Brugh

Mark P. Brugh has studied the Battle of Antietam, and Civil War history in general for more than 40 years. For the past 16 years he's been busy leading tours of Sharpsburg through Sharpsburg Civil War Ghost Tours. He is a past president and board of directors building maintenance director for Friends of Tolson's Chapel.



Mark Steiner

Mark is co-owner of Steiner Murphy Pipe Organ Company. He is a new volunteer for our Hands-on-History field trip program and introduces children to our Moller Pipe Organ made in the early 1900's in Hagerstown.



Deborah Rochefort

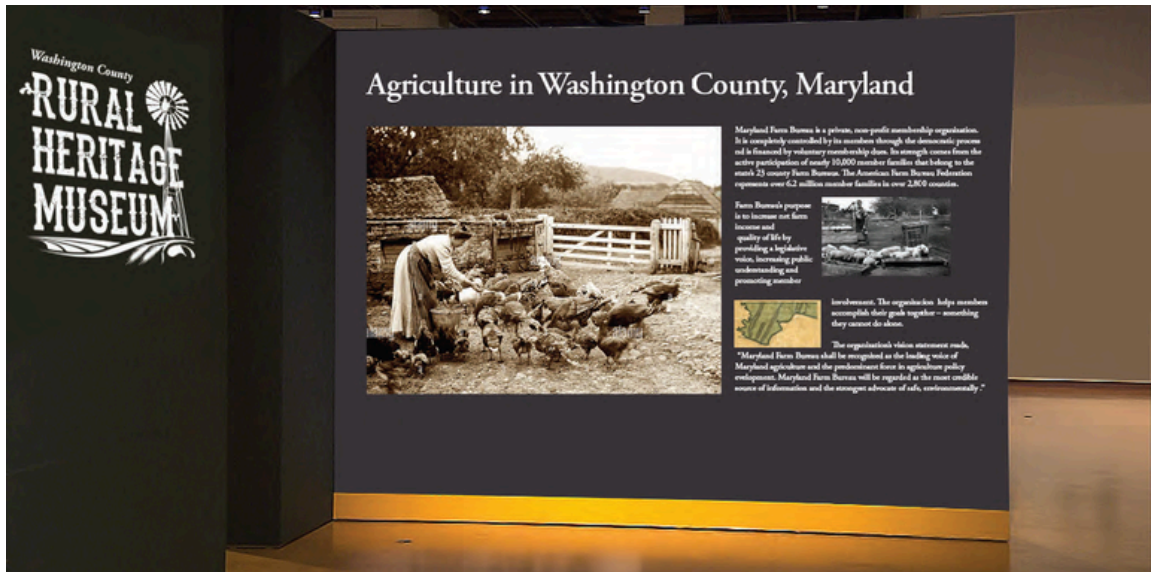
Deborah began volunteering this spring and has expanded our 18th century living history interpretations of spinning, butter churning and hearth cooking during school field trips and events. She lives in Shepherdstown WVA.



Julie Jacobs Farm

Julie is a new volunteer who does 18th/19th century bread baking demonstrations in our outdoor bake oven at the Homestead. Julie is a resident of Keedysville and also does living history reenacting during the time period of 1740-1840 with the Lancaster County Longrifles.

Mark also restored our Moller pipe organ this year. Funding was made possible from a grant the museum received from the Sinnesen Foundation.




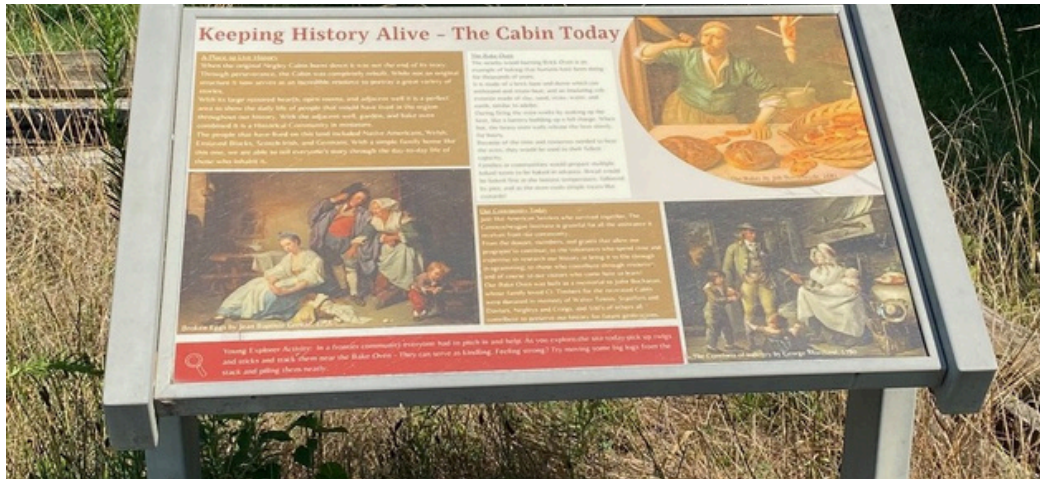
New Plans for the Museum: Telling Stories of Impact.

In August this year, after many meetings and discussions, a road map for the museum’s future was completed by the museum’s Board of Directors along with Grove Public Relations, LLC. This road map includes a Strategic plan which was completed in 2023 and the next step the Visitor Experience plan in August 2024. These documents can be found on our website at www.ruralheritagemuseum.org If you have questions about these plans, please email our Administrator, Liz Stefanik at info.ruralheritagemuseum@gmail.com

- Hagerstown-Washington-County CVB
- Antietam Battlefield Resource Education & Visitor Services
- Washington County Dept. of Public Works
- Washington County Historical Society
- Washington County Public Schools
- Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area
- Lee Downey (member)
- Roger Fairbourn (donor)
- Boonsborough Museum of History
- Museum Board of Directors

We want to express our appreciation to the following individuals and organizations for participating in our Visitor Experience Plan facilitation session:

 <p>FEDERAL TAX ID 52-2106604</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">240-420-1714 TO LEAVE A MESSAGE OR EMAIL: INFO.RURAL.HERITAGEMUSEUM@GMAIL.COM</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">www.ruralheritagemuseum.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7313 Sharpsburg Pike Boonsboro MD 21713</p>



New Village Interpretive Signage

10K Challenge Grant Campaign


We have chosen to proceed with our Visitor Experience Plan by installing first, much needed Wayside Interpretive Signage for the original structures in the open-air village and homestead, and a welcome center directional kiosk for visitors when they first enter the campus.

We are excited to announce the kickoff of our 10K Challenge Grant campaign. A loyal donor and supporter of the museum has pledged to match donations made to the Campaign, if we can raise \$10,000 from other donors first.

- Historical structures scheduled for interpretive signage in this phase are the Mt. Tabor Church, Spickler Country Store, Glass Family Log Cabin, the Dr. Peter Fahrney Office, Poffenberger Cabin and Andrew Grant Reeder Cabin.
- The Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area approved funding in the amount of \$4,783 and the Agricultural Education Center Board also approved this project.

The Challenge Grant will be used by the Museum to broaden the number of visitors to the museum and to improve the interpretation and management of our collections so more can be discovered during a museum visit. We only have until April 30, 2025 to raise funds from the community.

Please make your tax deductible contribution now, either on-line through GoFundMe link <https://gofund.me/e4333316> or by making your check payable to: Friends of the WCHM (Challenge Grant Campaign).

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78th AAA Revival Glidden Car
Tour

This year over 100 antique car enthusiasts paused for lunch during their tour and made a visit to our Transportation Museum. Each year the tour is held in a different part of the United States and this year it was Maryland and Central Pennsylvania. It was great to see history in motion!

Recap on Signature Events
Spring Open House

Making Moonshine was an integral part of Washington County history. This year we added a successful moonshine tasting fundraiser hosted by our new members Nate and Natalie Kraft of Pathfinder Farm Distillery in conjunction with displays of early stills, bottles and Herald Mail articles about infamous raids on moonshiners . A special thank you to Douglas C. May, Pathfinder Farm Distillery and Smitty's Snacks for sponsoring this event.

Recap on Signature Events
Spud Fest


A record breaking 122 children ages 2 through 11 registered for our potato picking contest which is a hands-on learning activity about how potatoes were harvested on the farmsteads in the early days of Washington County. Thank you to our sponsors, Douglas C. May, Middletown Valley Bank, Gaye McGovern Insurance and Fulton Bank.

Apple Fest

Another record broken! 478 guests attended this fall event. We want to thank Tim's Mobile Mining, Zees Bees Honey, Ivy Hill Orchards, Hicksville BBQ, 4H, Master Gardeners, Boonsboro Highschool Rho Kappa students, Antique Tractor Club and our long standing volunteers who helped make this event one of the best ever.

New Fundraiser for 2025

Thousands of Maryland State Employees and Retirees give millions to charities every year. 2025 will be our first year participating in the Maryland State Charities Campaign.

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Hands-on-History for Public Schools

Scheduling field trips for the 2025 Washington County Public Schools social studies classes is currently underway for kindergarten and elementary through middle school. Our new Hands-on History program is designed to meet the guidelines stated in the Requirements for Social Studies Instructional Programs for Grades Prekindergarten – 12. With the many historical collections on display in the museum we have the ability to provide a hands-on approach to history learning. One new activity that received very high reviews from teachers this spring was our new Scavenger Hunt in the Village that teaches children about the Bill of Rights.

2024 Fundraising Recap

In addition to membership dues, grants and museum admission fees, we rely heavily upon our small and dedicated group of volunteers to devote the many hours it takes to make Candy Eggs in the Spring, Apple Dumplings in the Fall, and cook the delicious food for our signature Spud Fest event to raise the funds needed to cover museum operating expenses which include rent, utilities, insurance, accounting fees and part-time staff.

Gross Sales for Spring Candy Eggs were \$1,056 and Apple Dumplings, \$4,512.

Jerry Poffenberger
President



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