

We Are Supporting Equity In Our Community

Though this difficult time Sotterley has kept two of its signature programs moving forward: our Common Ground Initiative and Growing for Good. In their own ways, these programs strive to improve lives and promote equity on many fronts.

Common Ground went virtual this year, and most importantly all programs remained free to the public. We began a weekly Facebook Live event, “The Big Picture,” with Jeanne Pirtle, Director of Educational Programming & Partnerships, and our Speaker Series continues with topics that help us reframe our thinking. In August we held virtual events on Transcending Barriers, and we hosted the second annual UNESCO Day of Remembrance (both live and virtual). In September, special guest Kenyatta Berry discusses our shared past through genealogy. We continued to expand our Descendant’s Project, partnered with group the Dismantling Racism in Southern Maryland for The Big Conversation, and became a Museums for All site. We continue to honestly examine our history and our world to encourage understanding and dialogue.

Since 2014, Growing for Good has donated over 60,000 lbs. of produce to local food pantries. In 2020 due to COVID, we were unable to use the incredible volunteers that have helped to plant and harvest our produce. With the generous support of Sunflower Property Maintenance, Bayside Auto Group, Buckler Electric, Winslow Pump & Well, and Wally’s Excavating, the program has continued during a time when it is needed most. We will donate another 6,000 lbs of produce this year, and we have begun to expand the project in two new ways. With the addition of 50 acres from our Wildlife Enhancement Program, we began to harvest hay to donate to several beef farmers. We co-opted with these farmers to donate beef to local food pantries this fall and winter, with a goal of expanding this program over the next 36 months so that 10,000 lbs. of beef can be donated each year. In addition, 5 1/2 acres of mixed grains were harvested this year and will be manufactured into bread at local FDA approved bakeries. It is estimated that 400 loaves of bread will be donated to food pantries from this new part of Growing for Good.

Despite the pandemic, through Common Ground and Growing for Good, Sotterley has continued its work to promote social, racial and food equity. Each of you who has supported us during this challenging time have made these efforts possible. Thank you, and know that with your support, our important work together continues!

“I grew up on a large farm in a wonderful old home. My home was torn down when the farm was sold . . . it broke my heart. So much history was lost that I can only show my grandchildren in pictures now. Sotterley is our way to the past that teaches us what is important for our future.”

Jan Barnes, Member Since 2004
Committee Member,
Campaign for Sotterley

“Sotterley is fearless in its effort to offer first-rate programs confronting head-on America’s original sin: slavery. Sotterley shows us how, by acknowledging this fundamental historical truth, we really can build a fairer, more just society.”

Julie King
Professor of Anthropology, St. Mary’s College
Former Member
Sotterley Board of Trustees

SOTTERLEY
Legacy Society
Tomorrow Depends on Today

For more than three centuries, Sotterley has watched over the Patuxent River as it winds to the Chesapeake Bay and beyond. Its flow cannot be stopped.

“My dad was in the Air Force and “home” for us was usually capped at three years. I’ve moved 17 times in my life. However, my mother was a Satterlee so I will always view Sotterley as my ancestral home. It is the anchor to my family history.”

Al Northrop
Sotterley Descendant

The Sotterley experience is a powerful one, we find significance in looking to the past. But, the message of Sotterley isn’t just “the past is relevant,” but “tomorrow depends on today.” Understanding this connection between the past and present is the key to the future. You can ensure that your legacy impacts the future. In the space of a visit to Sotterley, where time, space, ideas, and memory endure, you can unite your family legacy to Sotterley’s legacy.

“As a young man my mother talked about Sotterley and our ancestors, the Platers. As my family became involved with Sotterley, we were constantly amazed by the loving involvement of so many people who had no ancestral ties. We have been blessed by their contributions and to them go our sincere appreciation for building Sotterley into an historical treasure for future generations to enjoy.”

Frank S. Black, Jr.
Sotterley Descendant

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US
DEVELOPMENT@SOTTERLEY.ORG

Why Sotterley?

“You can’t know where you’re going, if you don’t know where you came from. My great, great grandmother Caroline Williams was enslaved on Sotterley Plantation. That specific information defines the strength that is the trait of the women who are her descendants, my family.”

Trudy Bradfield Taliaferro
Sotterley Descendant

Our Stories

Our Family

Our History & Our Future

“My ancestors have a story that needs to be shared. I was educated on the contributions of the enslaved that built our communities while enduring unthinkable situations. I call on their strength and courage every day. Sotterley literally allowed me to have a voice.”

Gwendoline Bankins
Board of Trustees Member
Sotterley Descendant

Grants Help To Move Us Forward!

Over the course of this challenging spring and summer, a number of organizations and businesses in our community have stepped forward with grants to support our mission and badly needed projects. We thank each and every one for believing in Sotterley and the work that we do!

Northrop Grumman

Two grants totaling \$7,350 for Ongoing Education/STEM and Common Ground Initiative during COVID-19

Maryland Heritage Area Authority

\$20,000 for Emergency COVID relief

Preservation Maryland

\$8,200 for replacement of the Spinning Cottage Roof

Maryland Department of Commerce

\$10,000 for Emergency COVID Relief

Maryland Heritage Area Authority

\$17,500 Noncapital Grant for Common Ground Initiative

Lowes

\$10,000 for capital costs supporting
Sotterley’s Educational Outreach



Fall Calendar *Live, Virtual & What You Missed*

MISSSED A VIRTUAL EVENT? THEY'RE STILL AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE WWW.SOTTERLEY.ORG/SOTTERLEY-VAULT

September

- 6th - Sotterley Hosts Airport Farmer's Market**
9:00 am – 1:00 pm, **SMC AIRPORT**
- 11th - Friendly Friday Market**
4:00 pm – 8:00 pm, **HISTORIC SOTTERLEY**
- 16th - Speaker Series:**
The Life and Legacy of Harriet Tubman
Angela Crenshaw
7:00 pm, **VIRTUAL***
- 18th - Enslaved Ancestral Research**
Kenyatta Berry
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm, **VIRTUAL***
- 19th - Leveraging DNA in Your Research**
Kenyatta Berry
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm, **VIRTUAL***
- 23rd - Speaker Series: The Busted Ecology Blues**
Fred Tutman
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, **VIRTUAL***
- 25th - Friendly Friday Market**
4:00 pm – 7:00 pm, **HISTORIC SOTTERLEY**

October

- 3rd and 4th - The Riverside Community Marketplace**
10:00am – 4:00 pm, **Historic Sotterley**
- 14th - Speaker Series: The Power of Us**
Christy Coleman
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, **VIRTUAL***
- 25th - Sotterley Hosts Airport Farmer's Market**
9:00 am – 1:00 pm, **SMC AIRPORT**
- 30th & 31st - Nightmare on Sotterley Lane***
Stay tuned!

TOURS THROUGH OCTOBER

FRIDAY • SATURDAY • SUNDAY

1:00, 2:00, 3:00 pm

SITE OPEN

MONDAY - SATURDAY

10:00-4:00

SUNDAY

12:00-4:00



WALK WHERE HISTORY HAPPENED ALL YEAR LONG

Become a member of Sotterley today (or renew) and enjoy the site year round!

SUPPORTING OUR FUTURE ALL YEAR LONG

We hope you will consider becoming a monthly donor. Your monthly support allows Sotterley to keep the site open to all. Please join us. See the enclosed envelope or go to WWW.SOTTERLEY.ORG/SUPPORT/

November

4th - Speaker Series: Lincoln's Generals' Wives

Candice Shy Hooper

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, **VIRTUAL***

* **Reservations are required**
Tickets are available online
www.sotterley.org/events

Historic SOTTERLEY

CIRCA 1703

3rd Quarter 2020 Magazine For Our Sotterley Family

Dear Sotterley Family,

Sotterley is here for you and because of you –our beloved Sotterley family. Throughout these extraordinary times, Sotterley has worked tirelessly to ensure our site remains a balm for our community in the midst of a storm. We kept our grounds open and accessible. We continue programming to remain a much needed cultural and educational resource. We ensure Common Ground conversations and initiatives continue to take place. We grow and donate Sotterley produce as a part of Growing for Good. And with virtual programs from Speaker Series to Family Friendly Fridays and FaceBook Live events, we have been able to reach out to even more of our friends and family, as well as those who normally might not have been able to attend in-person.

There remains much uncertainty ahead. Without our large events and the revenue that they usually provide, we know that we are looking at a large budget shortfall. We are not alone in this inability to raise funds through earned income. In fact, the American Alliance of Museums estimates that a staggering 1 in 3 museums will not survive the pandemic. Throughout the years, your dedicated and generous commitment to this site has shown us that you want for Sotterley to survive and thrive. We are here and making a difference in our community because you care and you believe. Please know that your support is needed now more than ever. Inside this newsletter you will find several ways you can make a difference in Sotterley's future. From increasing your membership level or becoming a monthly donor, to making a Campaign for Sotterley donation if you haven't done so already. And, as you consider why this place is so important, we hope that you will consider linking your legacy and your estate planning to Sotterley.

Sotterley at one time was seen only as a unique keeper of the past. Because of your support over the years, however, it has now also become a vibrant place that strives for real and positive change. You have made today possible. Together we can ensure Sotterley's tomorrow.

Nancy Easterling, Executive Director

Sotterley's narrative is not always easy to hear – the history "is complicated." But in laying out and studying this portion of history, we all can learn, better understand, and even change, so that things can improve in the future. I feel Sotterley is taking on many of these questions directly and working to create a space where insights and possible solutions to current problems can be placed within reach of any who want to make the effort to reach out and achieve consensus. There is goodness in any place that tries to achieve such lofty goals.

Jerome Spears, Sotterley Descendant

Historic Sotterley's 2020 Community Partners

