

SOTTERLEY TIMES

Preserve our historic structures and natural environment and use the powerful stories of our land, lives, and labor to bring American history to life while serving as a cultural resource.

NEWSLETTER OF HISTORIC SOTTERLEY, INC.

FALL 2018

MARK YOUR CALENDARS, 6



Visitor Center Improvements Continue!

If you have visited Sotterley recently, then you may have noticed the “Pardon Our Construction” signs at the Visitors Center. The building, known as The Knott House, houses admissions, the Museum Store and administrative offices. The years and our Southern Maryland climate, particularly humidity and storms, contributed to its deterioration. Thanks to the generosity of grants from the France-Merrick Foundation, Preservation Maryland, Mike Granger of St. Marys Roofing, and Julie King and Ray Cannetti, improvements to the structure include dormer repair, new roofing, replacement of an aging ramp

and porch flooring, creation of a more welcoming entrance (nearing completion), termite treatment, addition of insulation and paint! Visit us soon to enjoy your new and improved Visitor Center!

Historic Preservation Service Award

In May, Sotterley was recognized by the St. Mary’s County Historic Preservation Committee with a Service Award for its new exhibit “*Saving History – The Urgency Of Preservation*”. The exhibit, which opened in April 2018, tells the story of Resurrection Manor. As visitors are exposed to this story of neglect, it provides the opportunity to engage, educate, and inspire an attitude that preservation matters.



Red Room Restoration—The Process Begins

The Maryland Historical Trust recently awarded Sotterley a small grant to survey Madame Bowles Chamber, also known as “The Red Room”, one of the two original 1703 rooms, in the Manor House. A team led by John O’Rourke will investigate the wainscoting, prepare a condition assessment and make recommendations for conservation of the room overall. Part of the investigation will include paint analysis. Although this was done about 20 years ago, technology is now more sophisticated and provides more detailed and in-depth data for analysis regarding the paint chronology.



Continuing to Fulfill Sotterley’s Mission of Serving as an Educational Resource

In late July, Sotterley hosted Camp Inspire for a day of canoeing on our beautiful site. Camp Inspire is a four-week, day program through the St. Mary’s County Dept. of Parks and Recreation, designed for children between the ages 4 to 20 diagnosed with Autism. This specialized camp offers a unique program of recreational activities with academic and social integration, and intends to maximize a child’s potential and develop his/her strengths and hidden abilities. Their day on Sotterley’s waterways was the grand finale of this year’s program.



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NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION CLASSIFIED BY
THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE UNDER
SECTION 501(C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL
REVENUE CODE. A COPY OF
THE CURRENT FINANCIAL STATEMENT IS
AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT THE OFFICE.**

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Change is scary for most people. Change brings with it uncertainty and unfamiliarity. But change can also be good – in our case it means we're growing and improving.

We are changing our Visitor's Center. This is the building where most guests start. But our current entrance – around the back – was hard to find and seemed unwelcoming. Thanks to our crack maintenance staff, led by Joe Goldsmith, and a new friend of Sotterley, Jim Ritter, a retired architect, we are transforming the entrance. A new door will face the parking lot and welcome new visitors – complete with a porch, landscaping and new pathways.

We have changed our Warehouse. It now includes our latest exhibit, "Saving History – the Urgency of Preservation" which features artifacts from Resurrection Manor, an historic site now lost to neglect. This exhibit recently won a Preservation award from the St Mary's County Historic Preservation Committee. Be sure to take a look next visit.

We will be changing one of the most popular rooms in the mansion. The Maryland Historic Trust has given us a grant to undertake a study and survey of the Red Room. Our plan is to repair and renovate this room. We have received a very generous restoration grant from long-time Sotterley friends, and the work starts this fall. Visitors will be able to follow along with the progress as local expert John O'Rourke does the renovation.

We are changing our winter event line-up (see the article inside). One of the changes will be to our Member's Night event – formerly held in the barn. For this year's event, currently planned for Dec 6th, supporters will be invited into the under-renovation "Red Room" to see and hear for themselves what is required to change an historic space. And we are changing the location for WineFest. Based on last year's spectacular success, we are again holding WineFest in the Historic core – but with more sampling stations!

As you can see, sometimes change is good! Come out to see these changes for yourself and explore how Fall is the best time to visit Sotterley.

Warmest Regards,
Bert Johnston
President, Board of Trustees

EDUCATION WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

Common Ground, Connected Heritage

On Thursday, November 1, 2018, Historic Sotterley will host a continuation of programming funded by Maryland Humanities with Historic Sotterley's *Common Ground, Connected Heritage: Safeguarding the Material Culture of Sotterley's People*. Joseph McGill of the Slave Dwelling Project, Inc. will be the presenter at Sotterley's Speaker Series, 7 p.m. in the barn, speaking to *Slave Dwellings and Changing the Narrative*. There will be earlier tours available of the Manor House and Slave Cabin at 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. After the speaker series, you can stay for a fireside discussion with Joe and guests until approx 10 p.m. There will be a sleepover in the Slave Cabin and Manor House open to a limited number of guests. The Slave Dwelling Project's mission is to identify and assist property owners, government agencies and organizations to preserve extant slave dwellings. All sessions are free, but you must make a reservation for the lecture by phone to Sotterley's office in advance as space is limited.

Why are people sleeping in the Manor House? On this visit from Joe McGill, we will



be spending the night in the cabin and the Manor House. Enslaved people at Sotterley lived, slept and worked in the Manor House too. People like



Doll, Moll, and Prince among others, were enslaved by James Bowles of Sotterley and were listed as being at the Manor House in 1727 on Bowles' inventory. Other enslaved over the centuries also lived, slept and worked in the house serving the master and his family.

Sotterley's story is one narrative of enslaved and free, servant and master on this plantation called Sotterley. Going on a tour of the house, one has to be reminded of their presence and how enslaved people's labor supported the master's prosperity, not just for the hard work that they did, but their very lives were counted as the master's wealth and social status. To tell a complete narrative, both structures must be preserved.

Youth Mapping Project

Historic Sotterley was honored to be included in the St. Mary's County Youth Mapping project. Community Youth Mapping (CYM) is the mapping of resources, priority issues, partners and opportunities in the community. Into the second year of this project, a pilot program was created and tested to connect youth to volunteer opportunities in the community and St. Mary's County, to give authentic work experiences and credentials for resume building, and to create opportunities for future paid positions. *Amber Young*, a graduate of Great Mills High School, and *La'Liyah Swales*, a Great Mills' Junior this coming year, joined the Sotterley team working with Ginger-Newman Askew at the museum store and the Education Team helping with Exploration Fridays this summer.

Summer Interns at Sotterley

Sotterley welcomed *Jessie Vislay*, an entering senior at St. Mary's College of Maryland for a summer credit internship. Jessie majors in literature and her project is creating living history scripts about Sotterley's people. Heavily researched, these vignettes and scripts will be ready for future programming. Jessie also studied and trained to be a docent and has been kept busy in that capacity. *Jacky Cruz-Castillo* is a volunteer summer intern, currently a student at the University of Maryland. She has been working on collections research and has translated Sotterley's house tour into Spanish. She hopes to work full-time at a museum someday. We are grateful for their lasting contributions to Sotterley!

The **Rotary Club of Leonardtown** recently awarded Sotterley a grant of \$500 for its environmental education program. Funding from this grant allows Sotterley to educate future generations as to the importance of the health of our environment. Awards such as this help Sotterley to maintain the quality of education our students deserve, and helps pass on our Tidewater heritage and history to future generations. Thank you!

A Look Back at Summer Fun for the Whole Family

Butterfly Week, Junior Docent Academy, Exploration Fridays, Family Farm Day...
it was a full summer here at Sotterley!



A GRANT FROM LOWE'S TO SUPPORT A NEW ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

The Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation has awarded a \$20,000 grant to Sotterley for refurbishing a modular classroom to serve as an environmental education center. Sotterley will use the grant to purchase materials to renovate the classroom which is in need of a new floor covering, kitchen and bathroom fixtures and painting to make it safe and clean. In addition, a handicap ramp and deck would be built to access the classroom. Lowe's has a 50-year legacy of supporting the communities it serves through programs that focus on K-12 public education and community improvement projects. Since 2007, Lowe's and the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation together have contributed nearly \$250 million to these efforts.

THE WOMEN WHO OWNED SOTTERLEY

The women of Sotterley were never bystanders, but were full participants in our American story.

As far back as 1727, a 24-year-old widow, Rebecca Addison Bowles, owned 2,000 acres on this site and over 40 enslaved people. After Rebecca re-married, her late husband's aunts, Mary Underdown and Margaret Primrose, took Rebecca's new husband to court in order to protect the inheritances of Rebecca's daughters, Eleanor, Mary, and Jane Bowles. The court ruled in favor of the aunts, and the three daughters became property owners. The sisters were able to bring large dowries into marriage, thanks to Aunt Mary and Aunt Margaret!

The theme of women as owners continued at Sotterley into the early 19th century. Fourteen-year-old Emeline Dallam Wellmore came to Sotterley with her mother, Margaret, and her step-father, Thomas Barber. He left 1,000 acres jointly to Emeline and her step-sister, Lydia, in 1826. Their husbands would acquire the land through marriage.

Elizabeth Briscoe Cashner, granddaughter of Emeline, inherited Sotterley from her father in 1904. In 1910, shortly before her death at age 34, Elizabeth sold the property to Herbert and Louisa Satterlee. Louisa Pierpont Morgan, oldest daughter of J. P. Morgan, had married Herbert Satterlee in 1900. Their great wealth allowed the couple to own many homes, to include Sotterley.

Finally, in 1949, Mabel Satterlee Ingalls became Sotterley's last private owner, buying Sotterley from the estate of her late father, Herbert. Many Sotterley friends still remember Mabel. An accomplished woman, Mrs. Ingalls was a lifelong scientist with degrees from Barnard, Radcliffe, and Columbia University. Mabel Ingalls wanted to share and preserve the property and history of Sotterley. When she died in 1993, at the age of 92, Sotterley's management was turned over entirely to the non-profit foundation she had created for that purpose 30 years before.



NEW TO SOTTERLEY'S COLLECTION.....

This silver tea and coffee set was recently given to Sotterley by Henry Briscoe Thomas, grandson of Dr. Henry Briscoe Thomas of Baltimore and Deep Falls Farm, Chaptico, Maryland. The set is coin silver. The mark on the set indicates that it was made by James Black of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania between 1795 and 1822. The engraving "MW" is believed to signify Margaret Dallam Wellmore (1775-1823). She was the daughter of John Dallam, and the widow of Peter Wellmore of Baltimore. Margaret became the third wife of Thomas Barber of Sotterley in 1819; with her was her daughter, Emeline Dallam Wellmore. In 1826, Emeline was married to Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe. Emeline and her stepsister, Lydia Barber, inherited Sotterley's 1,000 acres later that same year. Come see this exquisite tea service for yourself, currently on display in the Red Room.



SOTTERLEY'S LEGACY – A SHARED LEGACY

Operating without an endowment or any dedicated source of support requires imagination, diligence, and enterprise. As Historic Sotterley looks to the future, we hope you will consider how your individual legacy can contribute to Sotterley's financial strength while preserving this special place for future generations.

We invite you to join us for an opportunity to learn more:



"Sotterley's Legacy – A Shared Legacy"

A presentation on Practical Giving

Thursday, November 8, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

The Warehouse

Light refreshments will be served.

Kim Rosenfield of the Rosenfield Group at Morgan Stanley will present on how to align your estate plans with your passion for preserving and protecting our beloved Sotterley.

Please R.S.V.P. to Jane Bachman, 301-373-2280 or development@sotterley.org

As you consider your estate plans, remember your love of Sotterley can help preserve this historic site and the stories of the ordinary people who left their extraordinary mark on our country.

PAYING IT FORWARD AS WE GROW FOR GOOD!



We all know that Sotterley is a beautiful place as well as a National Historic Landmark, but its importance lives in the fact that it serves as an exceptional educational and cultural resource for our local, regional and National community. But five years ago we expanded how we can serve: our farm and Growing for Good..

In our Growing for Good program, we have donated produce to our local food banks to serve those in need. In the first four years we donated 30,000 lbs. of produce, and in 2018 we expect to add another 20,000 lbs!

As this newsletter goes to print, our community had been stepping forward to help us harvest our bumper crop of potatoes. The first bushels have already been delivered to local food banks. Paying it Forward together we are making our community a better and healthier place—our thanks to all who have helped make this possible!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER

FALL HOMESCHOOL DAY

September 12, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Become a Tidewater Naturalist! Stations include a lesson on native plants and animals, a visit to the Slave Cabin garden to meet “the Three Sisters”, painting with nature, a tour through Sotterley’s garden to examine and learn about important pollinators that fly or crawl, an informational workshop about St. Mary’s County History Day, and a kid-friendly house tour (additional tour fee applies). Check in at Visitor Center; activities (except for house tour) included with regular site admission. Members FREE!

SPEAKER SERIES #5: The Taking of K-129

September 19, 7:00 pm

Speaker Series #5! Author Josh Dean discusses the 1968 operation to recover and salvage a missing Soviet ballistic missile submarine and the CIA’s incredible cover story to disguise it. RSVP 301-373-2280.

MUSEUM DAY LIVE!

September 22, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Every September, Sotterley participates in *Museum Day Live!* sponsored by the Smithsonian. On Saturday, September 22, Sotterley will celebrate Museum Day Live, by offering free tours to all that register at SmithsonianMag.com/MuseumDay! Of course, Sotterley members always get in free. Join us for a special tour at our regularly scheduled tour times – 10:30, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00, and 3:00. Please check in at the Visitor Center upon arrival, and remember that tour sizes are limited.

FALL BIRD WALK

September 23, 8:00 am

“Birding the Fields & Trails of Sotterley”

Join us for our fall birding excursion. RSVP to David at 240-278-4473 or moulton.davidh@gmail.com

16TH ANNUAL RIVERSIDE WINEFEST

October 6 & 7

This is our 2nd year up in the Historic core, and when you speak, we listen! Festival goers will enjoy **more winery space** with just as much wine, food, music and artisans as previous years, plus popular local draft beers for purchase. Advance discounted tickets on sale now at sotterley.org. Members call 301-373-2280 for member discount pricing.

SPEAKER SERIES #6:

Inside Job: Sacred and Stolen

October 10, 7:00 pm

Speaker Series #6! Museum Director Dr. Gary Vikan draws from two chapters of his recent memoir, exploring the comedy and tragedy of two major museum thefts that he had the privilege (or curse!) of witnessing first-hand. RSVP 301-373-2280.

GHOSTS OF SOTTERLEY

October 19, 20, 25, 26, 27

Terror on the Home Front! It won’t be long before ghosts descend on Sotterley! One of the best Halloween events in Southern Maryland, this is put on entirely by our amazing volunteers. Tickets required online at sotterley.org. Members call 301-373-2280 for discounted tickets for the 10/25 shows.

SPEAKER SERIES #7:

Sleeping in Slave Dwellings

November 1, 7:00 pm

Joe McGill joins us as part of our Common Ground, Connected Heritage program made possible through a grant from Maryland Humanities. Joe draws attention to those slave dwelling structures that would have been forgotten to ensure that the places where enslaved families built and passed on their culture will be here for future generations.

Advance reservations required, 301-373-2280.



No, it's not a mirage—Eileen is back!

After a few years away, Eileen Miller has returned to Sotterley, bringing her extraordinary marketing talents and positive team spirit. In Eileen's words, "Many people have asked why I chose to return to Sotterley - again. The honest answer: some places and people have a way of getting under your skin, and for me, Sotterley is such a place and her people are those people. In my time away, I spent a great deal of time getting involved in different types of ministry work – local opportunities and others as far reaching as Haiti. I love people and their stories and it is with open arms and deep gratitude that I return to Sotterley and her people." Welcome back, Eileen!

Did you know.....with the return of Eileen, our Sotterley blog is back in town! Check out sotterleyplantation.blogspot.com as another way to stay up-to-date on what's happening around the site.

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!

What? Changes to Sotterley's Holiday Events? With the plethora of events in December all over the county, changes are afoot with Sotterley's holiday events, as well. As we mentioned earlier in this newsletter, the Manor House is about to undergo an in-depth survey of The Red Room in preparation for an eventual restoration. This will necessitate emptying the room of all furniture and artwork. With that in mind, we think this is a wonderful opportunity to let our members, supporters, and friends have an insider's, behind-the-scenes experience.

So, here's the plan: this year's Members' Night will take place OPEN HOUSE-style, completely and fully in the Manor House. Invitations will be forthcoming, but you will be asked to sign up for a 90-minute time slot to see and hear about the room survey, raise a glass to its success and enjoy light, holiday refreshments. And, since this year is an abbreviated version of members' night of the past, there is **no charge** for the evening. We are, however, looking for an event sponsor to cover the cost of food and beverage. If you would like to sponsor Members' Night (all or partial), please call Jane Bachman (301-373-2280), to discuss details.



Save the Date!

**An Exclusive Evening of Festive Merriment
for Sotterley Members & Volunteers!**

*As a special thank you for your incredible support,
we invite you to join us in
raising your glass & making merry,
noshing on delectable light fare,
and learning new things with Sotterley friends!*

Thursday, December 6th, 2018 in the 1703 Manor House

Please call 301-373-2280 to reserve your time with us:

3:30 ~ 5:00 p.m. | 5:30 ~ 7:00 p.m. | 7:30 ~ 9:00 p.m.

BUT WHAT ABOUT MY KISSING BALL?

What happens if I want to buy holiday greenery and arrangements from the Garden Guild?

Our fabulous garden volunteers have you covered with a NEW, hands-on event: During the month of December, they will offer several workshops to help you create gorgeous decorations – wreaths, swags, tabletop arrangements, and okra angels! Not crafty? No worries: Pre-made items will be available for purchase on-site during each workshop.

Stay-tuned for more details, but mark your calendar for the following events:

**Wreath & Swag Making
Workshop #1**
Saturday, December 1

**Tabletop Arrangements & Okra
Angels Making Workshop**
Wednesday, December 5

**Wreath & Swag Making
Workshop #2**
Saturday, December 8

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EQUIPMENT**

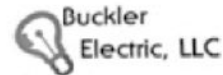


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The Ganlee Fund



RIVERSIDE winefest AT SOTTERLEY

October 6 & 7, 2018

Join us for the 16th Annual Riverside WineFest at Sotterley on October 6 & 7 beginning at noon both days! Enjoy wine, beer, food, live music, demos, local artisans, free tours of the 1703 Manor House & more! **GREAT NEWS:** More winery tents with better access to your favorites! No Parking Fee!

\$20 for existing Sotterley Members, please call the office at 301-373-2280 to pay and reserve your tickets for pick up at Will Call. Become a member NOW!

Order Early & Save!

\$25.00 Advance Online Purchase Price for Tasting Ticket; \$20 for Designated Drivers; \$10 for ages 6 - 20; Free for children 5 & under. (\$30.00 AT THE GATE for a Tasting Ticket on the days of the event.)

Ghosts of Sotterley 2018

TERROR on the Home Front

October 19, 20, 25, 26 & 27, 2018

Visit Sotterley if you dare, as casualties of wars past, too young to die and too far from home. They won't stay buried! Join us as a recruit and travel through the trails and woods at Historic Sotterley after dark. Let's see if you can pass muster! Bwahahahahaha!

EXCLUSIVE for SOTTERLEY MEMBERS!

Pay only \$10.00 per person on Thursday, October 25th! Advance reservation required - call 301-373-2280!

No tickets will be sold at the door. NO WALK-INS.
ALL SALES ARE FINAL - RESERVATIONS CANNOT BE CHANGED
ONCE PURCHASED - NO REFUNDS. Regular online admission price is \$15.00 per person. (Children under 2 are free.)
Group rates available for an entire block of time.