



*Historic*  
**SOTTERLEY**  
CIRCA 1703

Fall 2022 Sotterley Family Newsletter

## The Long View

Unlike some years, it seems that Fall weather has arrived right on time for its official start, and it is a pleasure to be here at Sotterley to enjoy all that it has to offer both inside and outside. Mother Nature has certainly reminded us of its power several times this year, however, such as when the Summer brought storms and lightning strikes that caused significant damage to the systems in the Pump House and the Manor House. Repairs are ongoing, but even this challenge will not prevent us from welcoming visitors to enjoy the site at this amazing time of year. The summer also brought us some positive developments as we have celebrated new connections at our Day of Unity and Healing, hosted a wonderful group from St. Mary's County's sister city from Estonia, and of course welcomed our students back for enriching field trips around the site. And our Growing for Good program, in partnership with Farmer's Feeding Southern Maryland, has donated record amounts of produce to those in need in our Southern Maryland community.

We can soon look forward to revisiting some of our Fall favorites and putting new twists on others such our new ghostly event, Nightmare on Sotterley Lane, more great offerings for our speaker series – Sotterley Presents: People and Perspectives (and the final event will welcome in-person attendance!) and NovemBEER, because who doesn't love craft beer on a fall day? All these events and experiences that we offer our community throughout the year at this National Historic Landmark are made possible because of you, and we are so fortunate to have your generous support. I hope to see you at Sotterley, and I thank you so very much for all you do.

Jan Briscoe  
President, Board of Trustees



## Sotterley welcomes Estonia Delegation

In August, St. Mary's County welcomed a delegation from Pärnu, Estonia to our County. Pärnu is a "sister county" to St. Mary's County and the group included a visit to Sotterley during their stay. The delegation, a group of elected officials and government workers, were eager to learn about our county, its history and sample its foods, in addition to investigating opportunities for cooperation. Staff members Kim Husick and Katherine Humphries along with Board members and Sotterley Descendants Jan Briscoe and Gwen Bankins made sure that the delegation felt welcome and had a great tour. We thank the St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development for including Historic Sotterley in the delegation's tour of our beautiful County!



# Celebrating History and Culture

## Day of Unity and Healing Brings Together our Community

On August 20th, Historic Sotterley hosted a **Day of Unity and Healing**, a celebration and remembrance of African American Spirit and Culture. Gwen Banks, event chair and Historic Sotterley descendant, said “We each must do what we can to preserve our combined history as we explore, discover and share the lives of those who came before us with accuracy and transparency”. It was a day to explore heritage and personal experiences beginning with Native American blessings, an African American Ancestral Libation Ceremony, and multi-faith prayers for unity. Speakers addressed the African American spirit, what it means to be a descendant at an historic site, and a call to action for education and history. It was a day of prayer, music, and conversation, a day to remember our ancestors and our history as we look toward a better future.



At the event, a film was premiered that showcases Sotterley Descendants and Historic Sotterley's Common Ground Initiative, and much of the documentary was filmed at our April Common Ground Symposium. It highlights the evolution of Sotterley's mission, how Descendants have played a great part in that evolution and continue to do so, and how they have helped frame the direction of Sotterley's Common Ground Initiative. The film can now be viewed on Sotterley's website under Common Ground as well as on Historic Sotterley's YouTube page. Our FY2022 Common Ground programming and this film were made possible by support from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority, Maryland Humanities, Phocus Video, and Merideth Taylor.

# Amazing Things Happening at Sotterley



## Grants make Great Projects Possible!

We treasure our many historic structures, and in particular Historic Sotterley uses its structures located within the historic core to connect visitors to the past and tell the story of those who lived and labored here. Constant exposure to weather and to the elements are an ongoing threat to all buildings, however, particularly to historic structures, and keeping historic buildings in good repair due to the nature of their construction and the cost is an ongoing challenge.

Several agricultural buildings including our Barn were part of our farm, and they are now in need of new roofs as well as restoring rotting boarding on external walls to keep them preserved. Historic Sotterley was honored to have recently been awarded a grant by the Maryland Heritage Area Authority to address these critical preservation efforts, and the project is expected to take place in 2023. Our thanks to not only MHAA, but to our own local heritage area, Destination Southern Maryland, for their support and belief in our work!

## Historic Sotterley Takes the Lead for St. Mary's County History Day

Preparations are underway for the 2023 St. Mary's County division of the **National History Day** Contest to be held March 4th, 2023, at the Leonardtown Library. The Education Department of Historic Sotterley, in partnership with the Leonardtown branch of St. Mary's County Library, is the organizer of this local event which encourages students grades 4-12 to conduct research and present their findings as a paper, an exhibit, a performance, a documentary or as a website. The topic for 2023 is "Frontiers In History: People, Places, Ideas". Please encourage any budding historians you may know to consider entering. More information is available at [www.nhd.org](http://www.nhd.org). History Day is also in need of judges – if you are interested please contact Katherine Humphries at [edteam@sotterley.org](mailto:edteam@sotterley.org).

## Never too Early to Plan for Holiday Fun!

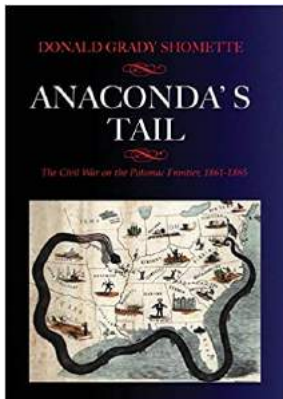
Is it too early to be thinking about the Christmas Holidays? Not for the Sotterley Garden Guild! On Saturday, December 3rd, the Garden Guild will be hosting a series of **Wreath Making Workshops**. Greens, decorations and tools will be provided, along with expertise from Garden Guild members. This is a fun way to kick off your holiday season. Spaces are limited so make your reservation early online at [www.sotterley.org](http://www.sotterley.org).



## People and Perspectives Goes Hybrid!

We have been trying our hardest to bring live speaker events back to Sotterley, but don't want to leave our friends living farther away behind. We are excited to announce that our final **People and Perspectives** event of the year, featuring Don Shomette, will be hybrid, accommodating all of our audience! You can visit our website to learn how to register for virtual or in-person attendance now.

In our final presentation of 2022, Mr. Shomette will be presenting a fascinating lecture on his newest award-winning book, *Anadona's Tail: The Civil War on the Potomac Frontier 1861-1865*. The book details the guerilla war, spies and smugglers, invasions, slavery and emancipation, and more that swept across Southern Maryland and have remained untold until now.



# Forging Partnerships to Strengthen Growing for Good

2022 has been an incredible year for the growth of the Growing for Good Program. We have partnered with other non-profits like Farmers Feeding Southern Maryland to increase our crop donations, and strengthened our relationship with the local food pantries and soup kitchen in Southern Maryland to target their needs and get food to them more efficiently. As a result, this has been our most productive year ever, with 85,000 pounds of produce donated locally to date between Sotterley and our partners. And we're not done yet!

Though we tried to schedule volunteer events during the summer growing season, rain did not cooperate with us. However, as the weather cools down our Farm Manager, Joe Goldsmith, is getting our fields ready for winter crops. If you're interested in helping Growing for Good during the cooler months, please contact Kim Husick at 301-373-2280 or [officemanager@sotterley.org](mailto:officemanager@sotterley.org). We'll get you added to our contact list to let you know when we need help!

Together we can make a difference!



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