



Sharpsburg Town Crier

Ernie Wetterer

Edition, 2025



Volume 33

January 2025

Number 1

Ernie Wetterer: “The Nicest Man I Know...”

That was a quote from his daughter describing how people described him.

As all of you Town Crier readers know, we devote every year’s Edition to someone who by character, involvement, and participation contributes to the spirit of this small place. This year, we celebrate the life of Ernie Wetterer and honor him in Volume 33 (2025) of the Sharpsburg Town Crier. He embodies the essence of our motto, “Just what a small town should be.” (Jan Wetterer, Ernie’s wife, was Editor of the Crier for many years. The 29th Volume of the Crier was devoted to her memory. This closes a circle in some small way.)



But let’s take it from the beginning, first the facts.

Ernie (Ernest Walter Wetterer) was born in June 1929, the eve of the Stockmarket Crash. The following decade of the Great Depression had a profound influence on his life and all who endured it. **(Continued on Page 2)**

‘Everything that has a beginning has an ending’

But wait.....

‘Everything that has a beginning has an ending. Make your peace with that and all will be well,’ said Jack Kornfield.

My end of writing guest columns for the local USA newspaper has come to a close, but oh! that journey of a ‘Dargan Boy’; I’ve come into so many homes with a story to share on Sundays for the past 20 years. It was a pleasure to get to know many of my readers personally and even those I don’t know ~ I love you still!

I have grown older and wiser’ thanks to people like you....

It has been a ‘magical’ ride for me, some poor kid from Dargan, rich in new friends, found along this grand path of life.

Those folk represent some very fine readers of my stories. I truly hope I have touched a few people in some positive way, **(Continued Page 3; Column 2)**

His mother Alice Albanese was an Italian immigrant; his father, Walter Wetterer, a grandson of a German immigrant. They lived in New York City's Manhattan. Theirs is a classic American narrative. His father Walter began having severe health issues and his mother had to provide support for the family. Starting at age seven, Ernie was sent to a series of boarding schools, first in Manhattan then up the Hudson River at Nyack, NY. He was in Nyack until age 12 and while there, his father died. Ernie returned home to live with the family, this time in Queens, NY. He started a series of work experiences including dry cleaning delivery. At 15 he was offered a part-time job in the print shop of an Elder at his church. He worked there through college. He received a Bachelor of Religious Education from Shelton College, a Christian liberal arts institution. It was through the young people's group at their church that he met his future wife, Jan. It was a love match and they were married in August of 1951.



Ernie took a job to learn drafting offered by his brother's father-in-law, who owned a manufacturing company. Ernie accepted, but it was the Korean War era and he was soon drafted into the military. He became a Marine and his job was as instructor for the Marine Air Detachment at the Naval Air Station in Memphis, TN, specifically in-



structing on equipment used in fighter bombers, notably the Douglas Skyraider, one of the nation's important attack aircraft in the Korean Conflict and after. It was while stationed there that his children Lynn and Daniel were born.

After his military time was up, the family returned to Queens. He got a job with AT&T as a Technical Operator setting up overseas calls with a side gig in the print shop where he had worked before. In 1958, Ernie got a job with the FAA as a radar technician in Charleston WV and the family relocated there. Son Thomas was born there a year later. In 1961 Ernie was transferred by the FAA to their Suitland, Maryland radar site. They bought a house in Landover, Maryland, and continued to raise their 3 children. In 1970 they moved to Adelphi, MD and by 1976 Ernie had earned a Bachelor of Science degree. In 1987 they relocated to Sharpsburg, MD to be near family in their retirement years. For a "city boy" the move to quiet Sharpsburg was concerning. But, in the words of his granddaughter, "Sharpsburg soon stole his heart."

This is his narrative in short, woefully brief as a life's story, but so it goes for all of us.

It's the rest of the narrative that makes him part of "Just what a small town should be." His son Tom called him a "Renaissance Man", always re-making himself. His daughter Lynn observed that he was an honest man who always wanted to do the right thing and to quietly absorb everything that came his way. What lovely ways to be remembered.

Let's look more closely at some of the things he did while here in Sharpsburg.

Remarkably, at 65 he learned to



play trumpet and was a member of the local “New Horizons Band” for 25 years. It was about this time he joined a senior men’s bowling league and was its last surviving member.

In his time here, he sat on the Board of the Sharpsburg Historical Society, was active in the Boonsboro Historical Society, and the Washington County Historical Advisory Committee. He volunteered at the Antietam National Battlefield, Hagerstown Junior College (Information Technology), and at Hagerstown Library. Ernie was a member of the American Legion, participated in Come All Who are Thirsty, a local veterans’ group. He used his musical talents as a congregant and choir member at the Burnside First Church of God.

Ernie Wetterer left us a brilliant model of how to live life in a small place giving himself to those around him while constantly recreating himself. In his time, he helped make Sharpsburg “Just what a small town should be.”



- Editor

(Editor’s note. This article does small justice to Ernie’s story as was related by his family. I pray that it is reliably relayed to you without serious error. Many thanks to his daughter Lynn Wetterer DiCarlo for the charming interview she provided in Ernie’s home on Main Street. Thanks also to his granddaughter Laura DiCarlo Oates who provided Ernie’s Eulogy, which she penned, and photos for this piece as resource. Again, this article, constrained in scope for these pages as it is, offers but a pale shadow of the man’s life. So the stories of all our lives go.



‘Everything that has a beginning has an ending’

Continued from Page 1...

... and ‘*gifted an ounce or two of hope*’ when they were having a bad day. Life is so full of emotions and trials.

My gift of storytelling and writings was born in my heart and flows generously from a Dargan pen.

‘You give but little when you give of your possessions.

It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

There are those who give with joy, and that joy is their reward.’

Kahlil Gibran ~ The Prophet

My cup of blessings overflows...*I am rich in ‘joy’ beyond measure.*

I was humbled too by those many words of support received since my column’s departure; but am content in knowing *I have touched so many lives in a positive way, and that my friend, is an appropriate ‘eulogy’ for my USA Today farewell.*

But wait!

‘Sometimes when there is an ending to a chapter of a book, there is a turning of the page to see how the story ends’.

So, I have embraced that advice of Yogi Berra, the famous Yankee catcher:

Yogi suggested that *‘when you come to a fork in the road, take it’*, so that’s what I’m doing....

And someone once wrote that *‘every end-*

ing has a new beginning'.

I talked with Sharpsburg Mayor Russ Weaver, who asked if I might be interested in sharing a monthly column with their town's publication the 'Town Crier'.

Since I have been traveling life's path, I have been guided by 'Fate's' compass, and thus I will follow where it leads, and have agreed to submit a monthly column beginning in February for the *Town Crier*.

And readers of the *Hagerstown Thymes* are welcomed to them as well.

It seems those USA today folk are forgetting many of the little people in the countryside.

Mark Twain, kept things simple and interesting with a bit of folksy stories and homespun wisdom woven into his literary cloak. I will attempt to do the same for the 'Town Crier' and all interested folk.

And like the *Phoenix* of Greek mythology, a mystical bird who at the end of its life 'spontaneously bursts into flames' only to be reborn from the ashes as a young phoenix ready to begin a new life cycle all over again, I am renewed and refreshed.

Come fly with me....

- Pete Waters



From the Mayor and Council

Installation of New Council Members

Our readers are reminded that the Installation of three new Council Members, Heather Waters and Randy Short, is at the Council meeting on February 3 at 6PM.

About the Town

Friends of the Washington County Rural Heritage Museum

The *Town Crier* takes this opportunity to introduce its readers to the nearby Washington County Rural Heritage Museum. Rather than tell the story here, please see their newsletter on Pages 10 to 15.

For information: info.ruralheritemuseum@gmail.com

Brethren Church News

At Sharpsburg Church of the Brethren we start each Sunday morning service by repeating our belief that God is good all the time and all the time God is good. We don't always understand His ways but we rely and believe in His goodness.

Our first Sunday of the year was canceled due to a furnace issue, so we held our anointing and prayer service on January 12th. We like to start the year off seeking God's blessings for us as individuals and for the body of Christ. We recognize that while we are on this earth we are to bring glory and honor to our Lord and Savior and we rededicate ourselves to do so.

Due to the snow and weather our monthly luncheon was canceled. During the winter months we have a policy that if school is canceled or delayed the luncheon is canceled. Our



next one will be February 12th with a Valentine's Day theme.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Joan Darlene Albritton, she was one of the pillars of the church and will be deeply missed. She took care of arranging the flowers on the altar, the wreaths on the door, the flowers outside the church, and all the seasonal decorations. She was organizer of our Christmas bazaar, was a great help for our Memorial Day parade. Darlene's compassion for all helped shape our outreach and will be missed. Many who have attended the church longer than this pastor will remember her in many other roles and I am told she played a mean "grinch". Our thoughts and prayers go out to her friends and family at this time.

- Pastor Brad Graybill, Brethren Church Sharpsburg

Antietam Institute News

Spring Symposium, April 12, 2025

"Defending it to the Last Extremity:" Harpers Ferry and the Road to Antietam
Join us on April 12, 2025 for the Antietam Institute's fourth annual Symposium, which will focus on Harpers Ferry during the Maryland Campaign of 1862.

As you would expect, the Institute has gathered a distinguished group of speakers to share their expertise with those in attendance. The program will cover effects of the preceding Second Manassas Campaign, the Federal commanders at Harpers Ferry, the role of artillery there, and General "Stonewall" Jackson's leadership during the siege and reduction of the place.

The Symposium will be held in the Storer Ballroom in the Student Center on the campus of Shepherd University. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Antietam Institute membership is required to attend this event. The event fee for the

Symposium on Saturday is \$130.

Registration is now open and will close on March 11, 2025 or earlier if sold out before that date.

For more information, go to: <https://antietaminstitute.org/2025-spring-symposium>

COMMANDERS OF ANTIETAM IS HERE!

Mark your calendars! On Thursday, February 20th at 6:00pm the Sharpsburg Library and the Antietam Institute will co-host the "Meet the Authors of the Commanders of Antietam" event.

The event will be held in McKinley Hall at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Sharpsburg. Come on out to meet the editors, Kevin Pawlak and Brad Gottfried as well as a number of the contributors of the book. The authors will briefly discuss the book, their favorite commander they wrote about, and be on hand afterwards to sign your copy. Books will also be available for purchase.

The "Commanders of Antietam" takes a unique approach by providing a biography of every (191) brigade, division, and corps/wing commanders in the infantry, cavalry, and artillery in the Union Army of the Potomac and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. Each section is divided into three parts: Before the Maryland Campaign, The Maryland Campaign, and After the Maryland Campaign. The 44 expert authors drew heavily on first-person accounts and primary sources to weave a compelling story about each commander at Antietam.

Kevin Pawlak and Brad Gottfried are the editors of this volume. It is the third in a series of books focused on different aspects of the campaign, including "Brigades of Antietam" (edited by Bradley Gottfried) and "Artillery of Antietam" (by James A. Rosebrock), both published by the Antietam Institute.

president@antietaminstitute.org

Artifact of the Month: An Old “Corner Stone”?

This month, the Crier offers another enigmatic find, “hiding in plain sight”. We return to the north-west corner of the neglected, abandoned, and forsaken Lutheran Church on the corner of Church and Main Streets.



It’s a stone out of place among the blue-gray limestone foundation stones. It bears the inscription “F.F. 1756”. We know the original Lutheran Church was rendered unusable through artillery fire and ill use by troops during the Civil War. We know it was resurrected in the decades after the conflict in its current location.

It would be easy to think that the stone was the corner stone of the original church. The problem is that the establishment of the original Lutheran Church is recorded as 1768, not 1756 as is incised in this stone.

As is often the case, we are left with a puzzle. Where did the stone come from? Why was it set into the foundation? What happened in 1756? Who or What is “F.F.”?

- Editor

Sharpsburg Farmer’s Market

Applications are open for the 2025 Farmers Market! They’re excited to be starting our third season!

The Dates: April 6, April 27, May 4, May 18, June 1, June 22, July 6, July 20, August 3, Au-

gust 17, September 7, September 21, October 5, October 19

Behind Battlevue Market

Contact: SharpsburgFM@gmail.com

Community Calendar (January/April)

January All Month: **Spice of the Month, Sumac Berries**

Pick up your sample and information
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

February 3 at 6PM: **Town Council Meeting**

Sharpsburg Town Hall
106 E Main St, Sharpsburg, MD
21782
301-432-4428

February All Month: **Spice of the Month, Galangal**

Pick up your sample and information
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

February 5 at 1PM: **Adult Book Share**

Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

February 8: 9AM to 1:30PM: **Train Show**

Washington County Ag. Center
7303 Sharpsburg Pike
dickautz@comcast.net

Week of February 11: **Puzzle Swap**
(anytime the Library’s open)

Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

*Just what a
small town
should be*

February 12 at 5PM: **Movie Night "Lincoln"**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

February 12 at 1:30PM: **"Corduroy"**
by Don Freeman
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

February 13 at 3:30PM: **Valentine's Party**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

February 20 at 6PM: **Meet the Authors of 'The Commanders of Antietam'**
at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 West Main Street
Sponsored by
Sharpsburg Library, 301-432-8825
and
Antietam Institute, president@antietaminstitute.org

March All Month: **Spice of the Month, Sassafras**
Pick up your sample and information
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

March 5 at 1PM: **Adult Book Share**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

March 6 at 3:30PM: **American Women in History Story Times**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

March 12 at 1:30PM: **"How to Train Your Dragon"** by Cressida Cowell
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

March 13 at 3:30PM: **American Women in History Story Times**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

March 15 from 10AM to 2PM: **Fourth Annual Metal Detecting Exhibit**
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
Sponsored by the Sharpsburgh Museum of History
(301) 800-6877 /
Ed.Beeler@sharpsburghmuseumofhistory.com

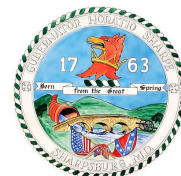
Week of March 18: **Leprechaun Hunt** (anytime the Library's open, ages 6-12)
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

March 20 at 3:30PM: **American Women in History Story Times**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

March 26 at 6PM: **Attracting Hummingbirds**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

March 27 at 3:30: **Community Story Time, Wildflowers!**
Meet behind Ferry Hill, 16500
Sharpsburg Pike
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

April 2 at 6PM : **Discussion about the Spice of the Month**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825



April 12: **Antietam Institute Symposium:**

"Defending It to the Last Extremity:"
Harpers Ferry and the Road to Antietam

Student Center, Shepherd University.
<https://antietaminstitute.org/2025-spring-symposium/>
Membership and fee required
Antietam Institute
president@antietaminstitute.org

Recurring Events

Sharpsburg Farmer's Market:

April 6, April 27, May 4, May 18,
June 1, June 22, July 6, July 20, August 3,
August 17, September 7, September 21,
October 5, October 19

Behind Battleview Market
SharpsburgFM@gmail.com

Second Wednesdays from 12Noon to 1:30PM: **Lunch and Fellowship at the Brethren Church**

123 E Main St.
301-432-4944 / sharpsburgcob@outlook.com

First Wednesdays of the month at 1PM **Adults: Book Share**

Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

Thursdays at 3:30PM: **Storytime**

(Ages 3 and Up)
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

Second Thursdays every month, **Lion's Club** 7PM, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 W. Main St, Sharpsburg, MD 21782

sharpsburglions@gmail.com

First Saturdays at 10AM: **Lego Club**

Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

Area Churches

Christ Reformed Church

117 West Main Street
Sharpsburg
301-432-6182
Sundays: 9AM

United Christian Fellowship

18823 Shepherdstown Pike, Keedysville, MD 21756
301-432-0110
Sundays: 8:45AM Fellowship, 9AM Sunday School, 10AM Worship & Children's Church

Sharpsburg Church of the Brethren

123 E Main St, Sharpsburg
Sundays at 10AM, Sunday School at 10:30AM
301-432-4944

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

209 West Main Street
Sharpsburg
301-432-7098
Sundays: 10AM, Sunday School (Second and Fourth Sundays starting September 25)

Burnside First Church of God

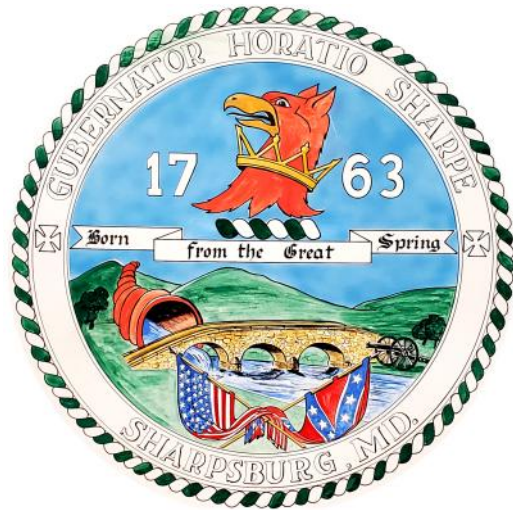
3904 Mills Rd, Sharpsburg
Sunday Worship - 9:00am, Sunday School - 10:15am

Sharpsburg Bible Church

5134 General Stuart Court, Sharpsburg
301-432-5309
Sunday School 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM, Sunday Morning Worship & Children's Church 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Mayor & Councilpersons

Russ Weaver – Mayor
Jacob Martz – Vice Mayor
Randy Short – Council (elect)
Heather Waters – Council (elect)
Ed Beeler-Council
Robbie Waters – Council
Joe Kudla – Council
(Debbie Smith – Town Clerk)
106 East Main Street
PO Box 368
Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782
Phone: 301-432-4428
Fax: 301-432-8990
<https://sharpsburgmd.com/>
townofsharpsburg@comcast.net
[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/TheTownOfSharpsburg)
TheTownOfSharpsburg
Zoning Administrator-Tim Lung
Sharpsburg.md.zoning@gmail.com



1/29/25 Ver1.0

ATTACHMENT:

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

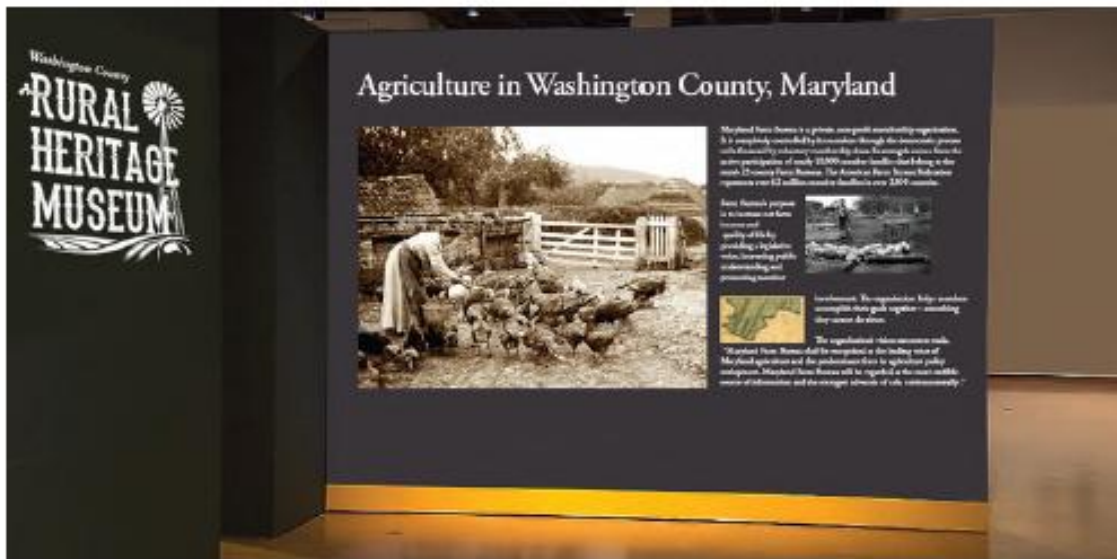
Deborah began volunteering this spring and has expanded our 18th century living history interpretations of spinning, butter churning and hearth cooking during school field trips and events. She lives in Shepherdstown WVA.



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



New Village Interpretive Signage

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.


- 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.

10K Challenge Grant Campaign

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.

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://gofundme.com/e4333316> or by making your check payable to: Friends of the WCHM (Challenge Grant Campaign).

	<p>240-420-1714 TO LEAVE A MESSAGE OR EMAIL: INFO.RURAL.HERITAGEMUSEUM@GMAIL.COM</p>
<p>www.ruralheritagemuseum.org</p>	<p>7313 Sharpsburg Pike Boonsboro MD 21713</p>



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.



240-420-1714 TO LEAVE A MESSAGE

OR EMAIL:

INFO.RURAL
HERITAGEMUSEUM@GMAIL.COM

www.ruralheritagemuseum.org

7313 Sharpsburg Pike Boonsboro MD 21713



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 Paffenberger
President



240-420-1714 TO LEAVE A MESSAGE

OR EMAIL:

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