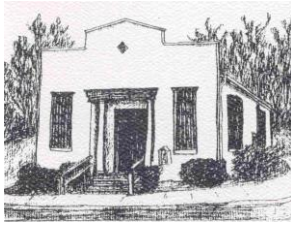


THE GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER



Volume XXVIII Number 4

Fall 2019

Grit and Gusto: Farmerettes and Suffragettes on the Homefront in WWI



This FREE presentation by Historian Judith Welles highlights how women in Maryland rallied to new involvement and activism during 1917-1918, becoming "Farmerettes." Their efforts in providing food for the army and starving people in Europe gave credibility to the suffragette movement which then led to the vote for women after the War.

**Saturday, October 12
4-5pm**

**Germantown Library, Room A
19840 Century Blvd., Germantown, MD**

Co-sponsored by the Germantown Library. To request sign language interpretation or other deaf/hard of hearing services for library sponsored programs, email MCPL.DeafAccess@montgomerycountymd.gov, preferably with three business days notice



Capital Campaign

Our dream of creating a museum of Banking History in our Historic 1922 Bank building is getting closer to reality. The Germantown Historical Society has been awarded a challenge grant for \$50,000 from the Maryland Heritage Area Authorities, but we must raise a matching amount in cash or pledges for 2020 before October 25, 2019 to receive the grant.

This grant is for the first phase of our endeavor – water run-off from the County commuter parking lot has to be diverted away from our building where it has been seeping in and causing a lot of damage since the parking lot was built in 1988. Repairs will be made to the exterior wall of the building and the handicap walkway will be replaced.

The second phase will be to repair and paint the interior, and the final phase will be to create the museum. Our future museum was mentioned in the County's Marc Rail Communities Plan for the future of the area around the Germantown train station.

The museum will be a wonderful teaching tool to demonstrate how a bank works, how money is invested, the evolution of interest for loans, and how the banking institutions of the early 20th century were different from those of today. This little community bank, the smallest type of bank building with its own walk-in vault, never closed during the lean years of the Great Depression.

For more information and a copy of our strategic plan with photos of a similar museum in Virginia go to our website: www.germantownMDhistory.org or call 301-972-2707 to be mailed a packet. You may donate at the "Donate" button on the website, by going to [Paypal.me/Germantownhistory](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https://www.germantownhistory.org), or by sending a check to The Germantown Historical Society, PO Box 475, Germantown, MD 20875. We are a 501c3 non-profit organization. Donations of \$500 and more will be recognized by a permanent plaque on the wall.

What was there before the Town Center?

Did you ever wonder when standing at the Library or the Blackrock Center for the Arts in the Germantown Town Center what was there before? Who lived here 50 or 100 years or more ago? What did they do? How did they make a living? What was their community like? Were they like you and me, or different in very important ways?

The first people who roamed this few acres of the earth we call Germantown were, of course, the people native to the land. But after the European invaders cleared out the natives they established Georgetown on a former Piscataway Village in 1751 at the place marking the furthest a ship could navigate up the Potomac River. In 1745 the town of Frederick had been founded along the road leading west from the port of Baltimore. A road was built to connect Georgetown with Frederick (Rt. 355), alternately called Frederick Road or Georgetown Road depending on which way you were heading. Another road led from Georgetown northwest and, being much closer to the Potomac, was called River Road. Towns sprang up along these two roads, but the area in between was only later made into farms as east-west connecting roads were built. Neelsville-Darnestown Road (Rt. 118 or Germantown Road) wasn't built until the mid 1840s.

The first European settlers named their property rather than number it as we do today. The Town Center is comprised of land named "Bachelor's Choice," "New Found Land," and "Well Paid For." Until the mid-1800s this land was either native forest or part of larger tracts belonging to the Waters family and planted with wheat, corn and flax. After Germantown Road was completed the land along this route began to be divided into smaller farms. But, according to the 1865 Martinet and Bond map and the 1879 Hopkins map, the land mid-way between Frederick Road and Clopper Road continued to remain unoccupied even though the absentee owners had named the parcels of land. This was probably because the swampy nature of this land during wet weather due to the numerous springs on the property made it difficult to farm.



Hickerson Farm

By the late 1800s and early 1900s there were two farms on this land, that of Mr. Appleby and that of Mr. Hickerson. Henry C. Hickerson had come to Germantown from Virginia as a school teacher in 1857. His original house, torn down in 2008, was near Germantown Elementary School. He soon purchased 185 acres where the Town Center is today and farmed the land with the help of his children, who later inherited the farm and continued the farming legacy. They grew corn, wheat and had an apple orchard.

William Appleby and his son, James, were the town carpenters and undertakers. In those days carpenters often also took on the duties of undertaker since they were the ones who built the coffins. The Applebys had shops opposite the Germantown train station, about a mile west of their farm, and probably walked to work along Germantown Road. They attended the Trinity Methodist Church near their shops. The Appleby farmhouse was where EuroMotors is today and his land extended behind -- where the Germantown Library and urban park are now.

One hundred years ago was a quieter and less hectic time in this rural farming community, where moms stayed home to raise the kids, and everyone had a vegetable garden and chickens, even in town; when making a living was more important than making a fortune, and family and community were more important than world affairs -- until the coming of the "Great War" and the one after.

LOCAL HISTORY CALENDAR

Ongoing Exhibit, Opening October 2 -- "Back to the 50's" at the **Damascus Heritage Museum**, located behind the Damascus Library. Open Wed. & Sat. 12-4pm. 301-253-6150.

Ongoing Online Exhibit -- "75 Objects -- 75 Stories" in honor of the 75th anniversary of the Montgomery County Historical Society at: www.montgomeryhistory.org. 14 of the objects will be on display at the Rockville Library until the end of September.

October 5, Saturday, 11am-4pm -- Harvest Festival at the Agricultural History Farm Park, 18400 Muncaster Road, Derwood. \$15 per car. <https://www.montgomeryparks.org/events/2018-harvest-festival/>

Oct. 5 & 6 -- "Harvest History Tour" 10am-5pm. A wide array of farms in the Agricultural Reserve open free to the public including farm markets, wineries and vineyards, a brewery, CSA, animal sanctuary, living history. Download a map and see details at www.heritagemontgomery.org.

Oct. 26, 2-10pm -- Haunted Halloween Farm, scavenger hunt, games, and screening of the film "The Blair Witch Project." 16820 Black Rock Rd., Germantown. 12noon-4pm. www.buttonfarm.org

Nov. 1, 2 & 3 Celebration of the Emancipation of Slaves in Maryland on Nov. 1, 1864. Woodlawn Manor Underground Railroad Museum, 16501 Norwood Rd., Sandy Spring.
<https://www.montgomeryparks.org/events/montgomery-parks-maryland-emancipation-day-celebrations-2/>

Nov. 2 -- Celebration of Maryland Emancipation at the Button Farm. 12noon-4pm 16820 Black Rock Rd., Germantown.
www.buttonfarm.org

Dec. 7 & 8 - Candlelight House Tours of Frederick, Sat. 5-9p, Sun. noon-4pm. \$25 advance, \$30 tour day, \$40 House and Garden. Self guided tour of historic houses decorated for the holidays 301-600-2489. www.visit Frederick.org/event.

Dec. 13 -- Kris Kringle Procession, Frederick. 6:30-8pm, Market Street. 301-600-2489. Celebrate Old World Holiday magic with this walking procession featuring German/English characters of yesteryear. The procession concludes at the Baker Park Band Shell for a closing ceremony and lighting of the City Christmas tree.

Dec. 14 -- Museums by Candlelight in Frederick, self-guided tour. <https://www.visitfrederick.org/events/annual-events/museums-by-candlelight/>

Dec. 26 -- Candlelight Tour of Historic Houses of Worship, 4-9pm, Free. 19 Church St., Frederick. 12 Houses of Worship open for self-guided tour. www.visit Frederick.org/event.

Germantown Oktoberfest Parade and Festivities Saturday, Oct. 5 10am-3pm

The parade will begin at 10am and go along Century Blvd in front of the Black Rock Center to the movie theaters. Festivities with music food and beverages will take place in front of the Center. The Germantown Historical Society will be represented by Eleanor Roosevelt in a 1931 Ford Roadster.

TWO MORE! Germantown Community Flea Markets

Saturday Oct. 5 & Nov. 2, 8am-1pm

Both adult and teen volunteers are needed. SSL hours apply. If you would like to help out with this fundraiser and fun event call 301-972-2707. If you can't help, come and shop and enjoy.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (1 year)

Mail to: The Germantown Historical Society, P.O. Box 475, Germantown, MD 20875

Single: \$20 Senior: \$10
 Family: \$25 Corporate: \$100
 Supporting: \$100 Non-profit organization: \$30

 Additional tax-deductible contribution

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone(s) _____ Date _____

e-mail _____

We're on the Web!
www.germantonMDhistory.org

The Germantown Historical Society
P.O. Box 475
Germantown, MD 20875