

THE GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER



Volume XXX Number 3

Summer 2021

17 Years Ago in Germantown

The arrival in May of the Brood X 17-year cicadas gives us a chance to look back 17 years not only to compare this year's invasion with the last one, but also to see what was going on in Germantown at that time – what our community was like and how it has changed in 17 years.

First let's look at the bugs. In 2004 in mid-May the cicadas still were deep in their tunnels. AP Biology students at Seneca Valley High School assigned to dig into the ground to find some of the pesky insects came up empty handed. By May 19th they were showing up in Rockville and points south, but had not yet emerged here.

Entomology professor Mike Raupp estimated that the numbers would be spotty in Germantown because of recent development: the insects feed on tree roots during the 17 years they spend underground. Executive Director of the SoccerPlex, Trish Hefflefinger, did not expect much cicada action at the Plex because the earth had been disturbed by the laying of irrigation systems underground a few years ago. She said that the Plex might become a haven for escape from the noise.

On May 23 a Bethesda woman was so distracted by a cicada that flew in the open window of her car that she ran into a fire hydrant. Fortunately she was not hurt and water pressure was soon restored to the neighborhood.

In 2004 Douglas Duncan, Democrat, was County Executive and Robert L. Erlich, Jr., Republican, was the governor of Maryland. Michael Knapp was the County Council representative for District 2.

In Germantown in May and June 2004 public meetings were being held on the first major revision of the Germantown Master Plan.

A major sewer main was being laid along the south side of Father Hurley Blvd. from Wisteria Drive to Crystal Rock Drive – a project that would take six months.



A row of small stores, one of which served previously as the Germantown Library, was being demolished to make way for the DSW Shoe Warehouse, Bed, Bath and Beyond and Office Depot (now PetCo).

“Skyrocketing gas prices” reached \$2.03 per gallon.

Three new school principals were appointed: William Gregory for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. MS; Ann Marie Samm for Dr. Sally K. Ride Elem.; Pamela Kinsey-Parker for Fox Chapel Elem.

In politics, debates surrounded whether the property tax cap proposal by Robin Ficker should be put to referendum at the next election.

New red-light cameras were being placed at problem intersections around the County.

The public called for more transparency in police reporting after the death of a mentally ill man while being arrested, and the withholding of information on past rape cases.

The Germantown Alliance decides to erect “Germantown” signs at the major road entrances to Germantown and create a website to unite the 92 homeowners associations in Germantown.

Heritage Montgomery sponsored the seventh annual County Heritage Days featuring 32 sites.

SPOTLIGHT on a Germantown Historic Site



Waring-Crawford House

The Waring-Crawford House at 19212 Forest Brook Road (County/State historic designation number 19-11) is one of Germantown's two-century houses. The older part of the house is a two-story log structure seen to the left in the picture. The Maryland Historic Trust describes it as "a unique vernacular farmhouse." The entire house today is covered with pebble-dash stucco and all of the windows have shutters, unifying the whole.

Henry Waring purchased the land grant by the name of "Norway" in the early 1800s. He was a tobacco merchant in Georgetown descended from Sampson Waring who had immigrated to Maryland from England in the mid-1600s. When Henry died in 1835, the property was divided between his two sons John Phillip Waring and Henry Basil Waring (he also had nine daughters).

Henry married Rachel Clopper, the daughter of his neighbors Andrew and Anne Clopper. They had four daughters and one son, Henry, who joined the Confederate army in 1861 (spelling his name Warring) and served with the 1st Regiment Virginia Cavalry. Henry, the father, may have been a Confederate collaborator as known Confederate Captain Walter Bowie wrote in his diary of having "dined at Henry Waring's" on January 4, 1863. John Waring, the last of the Waring family to own the farm, claimed to have owned 22 slaves in the Montgomery County 1867-68 ex-slave census.

All of the Waring family are buried at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church cemetery. It is not known where the burial ground for the enslaved people is located.

John Phillip Waring, who inherited the portion of the property where the house now stands, married Evelyn Manning in 1843 and they had only one child, Sarah Ann Waring, who married George Wilfred Marshall and moved away. So when John died in 1874 the farm was sold out of the family.

The road going through the brother's property was named Waring Road, and was changed to Waring Station Road after the train came through in 1873 and a train stop was created to both pick up milk and to load water for the steam locomotive. There was a large water tank on the southeast side of the road and the northeast side of the tracks that held water pumped up from Seneca Creek.

When George Crawford purchased the farm in 1881 it had 214 acres of land, a bank barn, slave quarters and other outbuildings. The equity case of 1881 describes the property as having a frame two story dwelling with log outbuildings, so we know that he constructed the frame Victorian addition with the tower. He ran a wheat and dairy farm here until he died in 1925 and the farm passed to his sons, George, Jr. and Luther H. Crawford. George, Jr. lived on the farm and when he died in 1950 the farming operation was continued by his wife, Zula, and later passed to George Thomas Crawford who kept the farm in operation until the late 1980s when it was purchased by a developer.

Waring Station Road that originally ran in front of the house to Frederick Road (Rt. 355) was re-directed to Middlebrook Road, so the rear of the house now faces Forest Brook Road just off Waring Station Road.

Bank Museum Update



The Bank Museum Committee, in consultation with designer Elizabeth Lay, hired a design company to design this logo for the museum and has also chosen a mission statement:

The Germantown Bank Museum's mission is to collect, preserve, and interpret the history of banking to tell the story of a small community bank, highlighting the role of local banks in building communities and businesses. We provide high quality digital programming to educators on the evolution of money as a means of exchange, and the history of banking and banking concepts. Using the historic 1922 Germantown Bank Building with its unique steel box walk-in vault as a model, along with hands-on and on-line demonstrations, we share the story of how a bank worked in the past and how it works today, how it serves individuals and businesses, and how state and federal banking regulations keep your money safe.

The committee is now researching the three main themes of the museum – evolution of money, history of banking, history of the Germantown Community Bank.

Grants Report

In 2020 and 2021 the Germantown Historical Society has received one matching grant, 2 non-matching grants and 3 Covid related grants.

The Covid-related grants were \$600 from Heritage Montgomery for Covid signage and supplies and extra port-a-john for the Flea Markets; \$909 from Montgomery County for telework support; \$2,735 from the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County for paying our bills.

For the regular non-matching grants, one was a mini grant from Heritage Montgomery: \$1000 for the Bank archive project; and from Maryland Center for History and Culture we received \$14,000 for the Museum Design project.

The matching grant was from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority under the Maryland Historical Trust for \$25,000, of which \$700 is yet to be awarded, for the waterproofing of the Germantown Bank Building. Yet to be achieved in that project is the replacement of the handicap ramp to the side door and the paving of the grounds – so we must raise MORE MONEY!

Please help.

FLEA MARKETS ARE BACK!

Starting **May 1** and continuing on the first Saturdays of the month through November, the Germantown Community Flea Markets will take place in the MARC commuter parking lot
118 and Bowman Mill Rd., from 8am-1pm

Mask wearing and social distancing is recommended
(required for all un-vaccinated people)

To see all the rules for vendors go to our website:
germantownMDhistory.org

\$25 per vendor space

No entrance fee or parking fee for customers

LOCAL HISTORY CALENDAR

IN PERSON

Unfortunately, Most museums in the County are still closed and in-person events are just coming back – check our website for updates.

Sunday June 20, 2-4pm – Boyds Negro School Open House. 19510 White Ground Road. Here is your opportunity to see one of our nearby historic sites.

VIRTUAL

June 10, 7.pm – **History and Preservation of the C & O Canal** with Robin Zanotti of the National Park Service. Register at <http://www.peerlessrockville.org>

June 19, 2pm -- **“Potomac, a History of the River and the Land”** with Jim Johnston

The Potomac River, the dominant geological feature of Montgomery County, has also played a dominant role in American history. The program is free but you must register at <https://montgomeryhistory.org/2021-mchc/>.

The Maryland Historical Society, now renamed the **Maryland Center for History and Culture**, continues to present a series of fascinating and informative on-line lectures – for free! For a listing and to register (required) go to: <https://www.mdhistory.org/events/>

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (1 year)

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

Single: \$20

Senior: \$20

Family: \$25

Corporate: \$100

Supporting: \$100

Non-profit organization: \$30

Additional tax-deductible contribution

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone(s) _____ Date _____

e-mail _____

<http://www.germantownMDhistory.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/germantownmdhistory>

301-972-2707

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www.germantownmdhistory.org

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