

2018 History Conference Session Descriptions

MORNING GENERAL SESSION:

***The Envisioning of Metro: An Enduring Design with Transformational Impacts* by Charlie Scott, Washington Metropolitan Area and Transit Authority (WMATA)**

In 1968, the Board of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority approved an Adopted Regional System for a Metrorail system in the National Capital Area. Fifty years later, that adopted plan influences land use decisions and the mobility of millions of residents and visitors. Politics, aesthetics, geology, topography and prior transportation decisions all influenced the design and location of the Metro stations and lines. This presentation will explore Metro's history with a special emphasis on the Red Line in Montgomery County.

MORNING CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

***Thurgood Marshall's Early Civil Rights Victory in Montgomery County* by Ralph Buglass**

Civil rights icon Thurgood Marshall delivered an early blow to school segregation right here in Montgomery County—gaining equal pay for the county's African American teachers in 1937. This little-known legal case is often seen as the first step in Marshall's successful drive to have separate schools for white and black children declared unconstitutional, as the Supreme Court did 17 years later in a landmark decision. This illustrated talk details this remarkable local story and its national significance. Spoiler alert: the victory came at a tremendous cost to the teacher bringing the case.

***The "Spanish Flu" Pandemic: Influenza in Montgomery County* by Alan Hawk, National Museum of Health and Medicine**

This presentation will explore how the "Spanish Flu" spread through Montgomery County, Maryland, and its effect on its population. Even a century after the pandemic, Montgomery County continues to have a role in characterizing and understanding 1918 Influenza Virus. In 1918, Montgomery County, Maryland was a rural county with a growing suburb served by the Metropolitan Line of the B&O Railroad and an expanding trolley car network. When the Spanish Flu arrived in the county it was mobilizing for World War I. On September 28, a 9-year old boy died of Lobular Pneumonia and Influenza in Forest Glen, Maryland. During the next five months, over 200 Montgomery County residents would die of influenza and/or pneumonia. However, Montgomery County's role with the Spanish Flu did not end in 1919. In 1996, Jeffrey Taubenberger and Ann Reid of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology used pathological specimens to isolate and sequence a portion of the genetic structure of the influenza virus. Nearly a century after the pandemic, federal civilian and military public health agencies monitor any incidences of emerging novel influenza strains that may arise worldwide to ensure the best available and proper countermeasures are in place before a pandemic occurs.

***BOOM: How Montgomery County Developed in the 1950s* by Bob Bachman**

A summary of the rapid development of lower Montgomery County in the 1950s as a suburb of Washington, DC. The focus is on demographics, housing & subdivisions, shopping centers, schools, parks & recreation & libraries.

A World Away: Postwar Migration to Montgomery County, 1945-1965

by Maria Sprehn-Malagón, Ph.D; Nance Mousa, Lexie Werner, and Dan Yang, Montgomery College

This panel presentation will address patterns of migration in 1950s Montgomery County. In this postwar decade most of the foreign born living in the county came from England, Canada, Germany, and the USSR though others came from as far away as China. Using census data, historical newspapers, government documents, and life history interviews the panel will highlight hidden stories of migration including those of stateless refugees, Chinese entrepreneurs, and Yiddish speakers.

AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

The Geography of Resistance

by Cheryl LaRoche, PhD

This enlightening study employs the tools of archaeology to uncover a new historical perspective on the Underground Railroad. Unlike previous histories of the Underground Railroad, which have focused on frightened fugitive slaves and their benevolent abolitionist accomplices, Cheryl LaRoche focuses instead on free African American communities, the crucial help they provided to individuals fleeing slavery, and the terrain where those flights to freedom occurred.

Treason! How Local Leaders Helped Launch the Revolution on June 11, 1774

by Susan Cooke Soderberg

This presentation will describe the Repudiation Act of November 23, 1765 and the Hungerford Resolves of June 11, 1774; what led the citizens of what is now Montgomery County into an armed revolt against Great Britain; who the leaders were; how they fought in the Revolution; and how they contributed to the newly forming independent government of the state of Maryland.

History Tools: Oral History 101

by Steve Warrick, Montgomery County Public Libraries

What is oral history? What does it contribute? How do you create an oral history project? Do I need to know anything about technology? What to do with all of the interviews? Participants will have a better idea of how they might be able to utilize oral history, how oral histories strengthen community through the listening and sharing of memories, will gain a basic sense of steps needed to implement a project that promotes communication and interaction and how to preserve these narratives for future generations.

Muslim Experiences in Montgomery County: A Panel Discussion

moderated by Jim Johnson

With religious intolerance on the rise across the country, it is incumbent upon historians to document and record those experiences. And all too often, non-Christian religions like Islam are given short shrift in American history, though locally both Jim Johnston's *From Slave Ship to Harvard* and Stephen Stec's new article "Riley v. Worthington" in the *Montgomery County Story* highlight the overlooked presence of Muslims in our early history. In keeping with the adage that "today is tomorrow's history," Jim Johnston will lead a panel of individuals from Pakistan, the United States, Palestine, and Algeria in a conversation to discuss what it is like to be Muslim in Montgomery County today. Join this panel in leaving a record for future historians. A blog to engage in further dialogue about the panel can be found at: <https://muslimexperiencesinmoco.blogspot.com/>.

AFTERNOON GENERAL SESSION:

Forensic Files of the Chesapeake

by Doug Owsley, Smithsonian Institution

Techniques from forensic analysis of the human skeleton are applied to the study of 17th-century remains from Jamestown and Historic St. Mary's City. This talk will demonstrate how specialized scientific testing (DNA, stable isotopes, and heavy metals), along with advanced imagery methods (high-resolution micro-computed tomography, 3D virtual modeling, and 3D data capture), can increase our knowledge of the lives and death of the early American colonists. Case highlights include "Jane," the victim of survival cannibalism during the "Starving Time," and the four high-status men buried in the 1608 church within James Fort.