MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORY CONFERENCE 2021
January 22-30
ONLINE EVENT
On behalf of Montgomery History and our many partners and sponsors, welcome to the 2021 Montgomery County History Conference!

We are so pleased you are joining us for the 15th edition of the conference, the first to be held entirely online. While we will all miss the face-to-face aspect of previous events, the new format provides a number of significant benefits. Rather than squeezing a keynote address, two breakout sessions, and a closing talk or performance into a single day, we are now able to spread the conference out over eight days, providing you with more opportunities to learn than ever before. This year you can participate in three keynote sessions, choose from twelve breakouts, enjoy a very special musical performance, and test your knowledge on Trivia Night. For those of you who selected the premier ticket package, which provides yearlong access to recordings of the talks, you’ll be able to enjoy four times as many presentations—at your leisure—than ever before!

This conference would not be possible without the support, assistance, and commitment of so many people. The members of our Planning Committee, who work on the event’s program and logistics year-round, deserve special recognition. I also want to thank our generous sponsors because their financial support enables us to maintain the quality and diversity of voices that you’ve come to expect. The dignitaries who take time out of their busy schedules to introduce sessions help make this a true community event. Finally, I want to give a very special thank you to the speakers whose passion for local history and storytelling is evident in their talks.

My fervent hope is you will find the conference enriching and inspiring, leaving you better prepared to face the challenges of this coming year.

- Matthew Logan
  Executive Director, Montgomery History

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Friday, January 22  7:00-8:30 p.m. | Trivia Night

Emcee: Alex Tsironis, “The MoCo Show”
Sponsored by Preservation Maryland

Saturday, January 23

9:30-9:45 a.m. | Welcoming Remarks

10:00-11:30 a.m. | Morning Keynote
“First Americans and England’s Potomac Frontier, 1606-1676” Dr. Stephen Potter
Sponsored by GRF CPAs & Advisors

12:00-1:15 p.m. | Afternoon Session I
Option 1
“Emprendimiento hispano en el condado de Montgomery”
Carmen Larsen, panel moderator
**Session in Spanish with English interpretation available**
Sponsored by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Montgomery County

Saturday, January 30

9:30-9:45 a.m. | Opening Remarks

Wednesday, January 27  7:00-8:30 p.m. | Keynote

“Confederate Monuments and Race in America” Kevin Levin
Sponsored by Mayor Jeffrey Slavin

1:45-3:00 p.m. | Afternoon Session II
Option 1
“In Search of the Ballfields of Montgomery’s Black Communities” Bruce Adams
Sponsored by Bethesda Big Train Baseball

Option 2
“Displacement and Erasure: Gentrifying Travilah Road”
Teresa Lachin
Sponsored by Washington Metro Oasis

Option 3
“Endowment of Tears, Hope for Reconciliation”
Dr. Stephen Ochs
Sponsored by Georgetown Preparatory School

3:30-5:00 p.m. | Closing Performance

“Old-Time Music in Montgomery County: Will Adams and Beyond” Jake Blount
Sponsored by Artists Circle Fine Art
Proud to be a part of Montgomery County’s history for nearly 75 years

On September 16, 1946, Montgomery Junior College held its first classes in the evenings at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School with a student body of 186 students (151 men and 35 women). In 1950, the College took over the old Bliss Electrical School (shown here), establishing its first campus in Takoma Park. Nearly 75 years later, more than three quarters of a million students have taken at least one class at Montgomery College, which now boasts three campuses in Montgomery County.

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Montgomery College is an academic institution committed to equal opportunity.
**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Friday, January 22**

**Trivia Night**  7:00-8:30 p.m.

*Emcee: Alex Tsironis, “The MoCo Show”*

* Sponsored by Preservation Maryland*

Test your knowledge of Montgomery County and Maryland history and win fun prizes!

Emcee Alex Tsironis, a Montgomery County native and creator of the popular “The MoCo Show” brand, (which includes a podcast, blog, and various social media sites), brings daily updates on local news, eateries, weather, and more to nearly a million followers on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.

**Saturday, January 23**

**Welcoming Remarks**  9:30-9:45 a.m.

*The Honorable Connie Morella*

*Former Representative, US House of Representatives*

**Morning Keynote**  10:00-11:30 a.m.

*“First Americans and England’s Potomac Frontier, 1606-1676”*

Dr. Stephen Potter

*Sponsored by GRF CPAs & Advisors*

In 1607, most of the Algonquian-speaking peoples of the Potomac River Valley not only were involved in their own alliances and squabbles, they also were linked with other peoples through a complex web of trade, alliances, and conflict that stretched far beyond the banks of the Potomac. This tumultuous native political landscape affected the development of relations with the invading Europeans and the course of colonial and imperial powers in the region from the Great Lakes to the Virginia Capes. Dr. Potter will draw on a combination of ethnohistorical, historical, and archaeological data to offer new perspectives on the critical decades following the establishment of Jamestown, Virginia, and the founding of St. Mary’s City in Maryland.

Stephen R. Potter received his Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In July 2016, Stephen retired after 39 years of Federal Service, 36 of them as the Regional Archaeologist for the National Park Service, National Capital Region. Dr. Potter’s research interests include both the prehistoric and historic archaeology of the eastern United States, the southern Algonquian Indians, the 17th-century Chesapeake frontier, and the archaeology and history of the American Civil War.

**INTRODUCERS**

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Council President Tom Hucker
District 5 (Invited)

Ms. Sandra Heiler
Chairman, Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission

Mr. Don Housley
President, Archaeological Society of Maryland Mid-Potomac Chapter

Councilmember Andrew Friedson
District 1 (Invited)

Council President Tom Hucker
District 5 (Invited)

Ms. Sandra Heiler
Chairman, Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission

Mr. Don Housley
President, Archaeological Society of Maryland Mid-Potomac Chapter

Councilmember Sidney Katz
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The Honorable Isiah Leggett
Former Montgomery County Executive

The Honorable Connie Morella
Former Representative, United States House of Representatives

Councilmember Craig Rice
At-Large

Councilmember Hans Riemer
At-Large

Ms. Sarah Rogers
Executive Director, Heritage Montgomery

The Honorable Lily Qi
State Delegate, Maryland District 15
Option 1

“Emprendimiento hispano en el condado de Montgomery” / “Entrepreneurship in Hispanic Montgomery County” Moderated by Carmen Larsen, CEO of Aquas, Inc.

Panelists: Omar Lazo, Carlos Menjivar, Liliana Rojas, Betty Valdes, and Ken Weiss

Sponsored by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Montgomery County

**Session in Spanish with English interpretation available**

Hace 40 años, muy pocos residentes del condado sabían lo qué era una pupusa o reconocían la diversidad de culturas agrupadas bajo el término hispano/Latinx. En la actualidad, los residentes hispanos constituyen más del 20% de la población. A medida que la comunidad hispana creció, hubo una mayor demanda de negocios y servicios hispanos. Los panelistas reunidos aportarán su experiencia empresarial para discutir y contar historias sobre la historia única del emprendimiento hispano en el condado.

Forty years ago, few county residents knew what a pupusa was or recognized the diversity subsumed in the category Hispanic/Latinx. Hispanic residents today comprise more than 20% of the county’s population. As the county’s Hispanic community has grown, residents created a greater demand for Hispanic businesses and services. The assembled panelists will bring their business expertise to discuss and tell stories about the unique history of the county’s Hispanic entrepreneurs.

Carmen Larsen is the CEO of AQUAS Inc (www.aquasinc.com), a business owner and technology consultant in the County since 1979. She has created other enterprises, including Bioethx, Healthcare Compliance Technologies, and Trade Talk. She organized a Youth Mentorship program within the Hispanic Business Foundation, and is the President of the Hispanic Chamber.

Omar Lazo owns and operates a beauty salon, and is the general manager of Los Chorros, a Mexican/Salvadorean restaurant in Wheaton founded in 1989, that he co-owns with his parents. He is very active in the small business and Latino community, as a mentor and public sector advisor. He is on the Executive Board of the Wheaton Kensington Chamber of Commerce.

Carlos Menjivar established his business in April of 2000, to help small businesses with tax preparation and automating their accounting functions. As a part of that service, he set up computers, networks, and websites, and currently provides technical staffing to government organizations. He is on the Executive Board of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in the County.
Liliana Rojas is the President of IVRB Solutions, an electrical and telecommunications firm with significant federal government contracts. She began her entrepreneurial life in 2002, when she started and grew a successful residential housekeeping business Crystal Maids. Liliana was appointed by Governor Hogan as a Commissioner for Hispanic Affairs.

Betty Valdes is the founder and host of Spanish language program “Que Pasa,” a weekly show on cable TV that shares information on community resources and Hispanic community events and successes. She started her career as a bilingual librarian in Montgomery County, where she was able to offer assistance to the County with Latino community issues.

Ken Weiss is an international trade consultant with principal experience in Latin American markets. His longevity in this market and his Colombian wife of 53 years entitle him to be recognized as an adopted Latino. He works closely with the local Latino business community and is a founding member of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Montgomery County.

Option 2

“Periodical Cicadas in 2021: An Intersection of Natural History and Human History”
Clarence “Corky” Hickey

Sponsored by UMBC at the Universities at Shady Grove and Margo Reid & Greg Simon

Montgomery County has some lesser known, yet very numerous, native residents: the 17-year periodical cicadas that visited us with great gusto in 1987 and 2004. The reappearance of the periodicals every 17 years suggests a certain measure of stability in our local environment, a natural sign for us. As these cicadas offer a unique opportunity for observing and studying nature in our own backyards, this presentation will demonstrate the intersection of cicada natural history and human history as we look ahead to the spring of 2021, when we expect to welcome these native Montgomery Countians back to our neighborhoods.

Clarence Hickey is an interpretive docent with Montgomery History’s Stonestreet Museum of 19th Century Medicine in Rockville, MD, and a re-enactor with the Speakers Bureau. He portrays historic 19th century Rockville physician Dr. Edward E. Stonestreet, who was a Civil War Surgeon with the U. S. Army. Clarence’s living history portrayals, some in first person Chautauqua format, discuss the Doctor’s life and times, medical education, medical practice, and Civil War service; 19th-century medicine; and Civil War medicine and its effects on civilian medical practice. The portrayal draws from Clarence’s book Send for the Doctor: The Life and Times of Dr. Edward E. Stonestreet, published by Montgomery History in 2009.
**Option 3**

“A Bump in the Road: A History of Our Local Post Roads”  
Bob Hines

Sponsored by Peerless Rockville

This talk will cover the early evolution of the post roads and their impact on the development of the country. Historian Bob Hines will focus on our county’s post system, the early road known as the Brookeville Turnpike, and how post roads shaped the future of our country.

Bob Hines has taught history during the past 50 years for Montgomery County and now as an instructor in the Johns Hopkins Osher Programs. He has also taught archaeology for 35 years in the field at local sites and is the first winner of the Michael Dwyer award for historical preservation.

**Option 1**

“Rationing Fashion”  
Elizabeth Lay

Sponsored by the Art Deco Society of Washington

During World War II rationing was introduced in the U.S., Britain, and France, but the impact of the war was different in each region. Germany wanted to move its fashion capital to Vienna or Berlin, away from occupied Paris. London actively sustained bombing raids that required the longest and most restrictive rationing policy. Meanwhile, New York saw an opportunity to throw off the dominance of Paris fashion and bring American designers to the forefront. Ms. Lay will illustrate how each country’s fashion industry developed plans to survive the war and the extraordinary efforts made following the conflict to rebuild with limited materials.

Elizabeth Lay, Montgomery History’s Collections Manager, first began working for the organization as a guest curator for “A Walk Down the Aisle,” a wedding gown exhibition at the Kentlands Mansion in 2015. She received her MA in the History of Decorative Arts from the Smithsonian-GMU, with a concentration in American Textiles, and a minor in Twentieth-Century American Furniture. Lay has worked with the Victoria and Albert Museum for textile design, Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens, the U.S Department of State Diplomatic Reception Rooms, and the Fashion Museum in Bath, UK, and is an instructor at The Smithsonian Associates.
**Option 2**

“**The Cider Barrel**” Susan Soderberg and Laura Richman

_Sponsored by Montgomery Preservation, Inc._

Ever since its Prohibition-era construction in 1926 to sell sweet non-alcoholic cider, the Cider Barrel has been a familiar sight for people driving on Frederick Road. Even though apples and cider are no longer sold there, this historic example of roadside novelty architecture has come to be identified with Germantown. Historian Susan Soderberg will describe the history of this unique structure, and entrepreneur Laura Richman will present her plans for the future of this iconic landmark.

_Susan Cooke Soderberg is a public historian and freelance writer living in Germantown. She has a BA in Art History from the College of William and Mary and an MA in American Studies from George Washington University. She is retired as a historian with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and has written several books on state and local history, as well as numerous scholarly articles, and was a researcher and consultant for the Emmy Award winning documentary, “Life in a War Zone: Montgomery County in the Civil War,” produced by Heritage Montgomery. Currently, Susan is working on a detailed biography of Josiah Henson._

_Laura Richman has been a resident of Montgomery County for over 27 years. She recently renovated the Cider Barrel with the intention of reopening in 2020. Local farmers, cider makers, bakers, confectioners, and artists will be selling at the Cider Barrel once open._

**Option 3**

“**Gibson Grove: Gone but Not Forgotten**” Dr. Alexandra Jones

_Sponsored by Archaeological Society of Maryland Mid-Potomac Chapter_  

The historic African American community of Gibson was built on self-reliance, education, faith, and mutual support in a time when African Americans were discriminated against and prevented from attending schools, obtaining insurance, and being buried in the same cemeteries as their European American counterparts. This community has all but faded in the memories of many in Montgomery County, and today the few remaining historical sites are being threatened by the expansion of the Beltway. However, a new community of advocates has stepped in to save these sacred spots. This talk will explore the history of Gibson Grove and the actions being taken to save the two sites associated with this community.

_Alexandra Jones is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Archaeology in the Community. She is currently a Visiting Professor at Goucher College and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Baltimore. Dr. Jones serves on the District of Columbia’s Historic Preservation Review Board, Board of Directors for the Society of Black Archaeologists, and the Board of Directors of the St. Croix Archaeological Society._
The J. Willard & Alice S. Marriott Foundation is proud to call Montgomery County home and is dedicated to preserving and sharing our local history through our sponsorship of the Montgomery County History Conference.
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Wednesday, January 27

**Keynote** 7:00-8:30 p.m.

“Confederate Monuments and Race in America”  Kevin Levin  
*Sponsored by Mayor Jeffrey Slavin*

Americans are in the midst of a reckoning with the history and legacy of the Civil War and Reconstruction. Since June 1, 2020, approximately 85 Confederate monuments have been removed across the country with no end in sight. This captivating talk will focus on the history of Confederate monuments with an emphasis on why they were dedicated and why they remain controversial to this day.

Kevin Levin is a historian and educator based in Boston. He is the author of numerous books and articles on the Civil War and historical memory. His most recent book is Searching for Black Confederates: The Civil War’s Most Persistent Myth, which was published in 2019. Over the past few years, he has worked with teachers, students, and the general public to better understand the history and controversy surrounding Confederate monuments.

Saturday, January 30

**Welcoming Remarks** 9:30-9:45 a.m.

The Honorable Isiah Leggett, *Former Montgomery County Executive*
**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Morning Keynote** 10:00-11:30 a.m.

“Josiah Henson Museum and Park”  Shirl Spicer

*Sponsored by Montgomery Parks Foundation*

Scheduled to open in early 2021, the Josiah Henson Museum & Park will commemorate the life of Rev. Josiah Henson (1789 – 1883). Renowned as an Underground Railroad hero, abolitionist, and author, Henson was enslaved on the former Riley plantation in Montgomery County, now the site of the new Henson Museum. After his escape to Canada, Henson published his 1849 autobiography that became inspiration for Harriet Beecher Stowe’s landmark novel, Uncle Tom’s Cabin. Join Shirl Spicer, countywide museum manager with Montgomery Parks, on a visual exploration of the 12-year project to establish one of Maryland’s newest museums of African American history.

Shirl Spicer is the countywide museum manager for the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission, Department of Parks, Montgomery County. With over 25 years of experience working in museum education, she manages the interpretive programming staff for each of Montgomery Parks’ historic sites and museums; among those is the new Josiah Henson Museum & Park in North Bethesda.

**Afternoon Breakout Sessions I** 12:00-1:15 p.m.

**Option 1**

“Montgomery County in the 1970s: Trends, Changes, Struggles, and Celebrations”  Robert Bachman

*Sponsored by the Mary Kay Harper Center for Suburban Studies*

Montgomery County experienced major national trends of the 1970s such as the “baby bust,” increased diversity, growth limits, environmental protection, historic preservation, affordable housing, women’s expanding roles, citizen activism, and the celebration of the nation’s and county’s 250th birthday. This presentation will discuss how the county changed during this tumultuous decade.

Robert (Bob) Bachman received an MA in American Studies from George Washington University, with a thesis titled “Takoma Park: 1883-1942 - A Case Study of a Railroad Suburb.” His area of specialty is American suburbanization. He has served as Secretary, Vice President & President and is a current member of the Board of Directors of Montgomery History. Bob is also the Chair of the Mary Kay Harper Center for Suburban Studies Steering Committee.
Option 2

“I Have Started for Canaan: Telling the Sugarland Story” Gwendora Hebron Reese, Suzanne Johnson, and Jeff Sypeck
Sponsored by Historic Medley District, Inc.

At its height, the African American town of Sugarland in the northwest corner of Montgomery County was home to a church, a school, a store, a post office, and a practice hall for the town band. In this session, the team behind a new book that traces the history of the town from emancipation to the present will discuss the 150 years of documents, photos, artifacts, and interviews that provide a candid and enlightening look at rural African American life. The panel also will describe ongoing preservation efforts and speculate about some of the intriguing historical questions that remain to be explored.

Gwendora Hebron Reese is the president of the nonprofit Sugarland Ethno-History Project, and Suzanne Johnson is vice president; both are direct descendants of Sugarland founders. Jeff Sypeck is a writer and researcher in the Poolesville area.

Option 3

“A Tangled Web: Researching the Enslaved in Maryland” Robyn Smith
Sponsored by Kensington Historical Society

Slavery research is difficult under almost any circumstance. By 1860, Maryland had more than 80,000 free Blacks; it was the largest population of free Blacks of all the states. How and why did this happen? How did a slave society operate alongside such a large free Black population and how did that affect slaveholders? In this lecture, Ms. Smith offers an overview of the history of African Americans in Maryland. Through case studies she provides examples of the rich records available to those researching both the enslaved and Blacks freed before emancipation.

Robyn Smith has been researching her family and others for over 20 years. She specializes in Maryland, African American, Slavery and Court Records research and has lectured and taught both statewide and nationally, including at the International Black Genealogy Summit, the Maryland State Archives, and the Reginald Lewis Museum. She is the author of numerous published genealogy articles and for ten years has written a genealogy teaching blog called Reclaiming Kin (www.reclaimingkin.com). In 2015, Ms. Smith published the book version of her blog, The Best of Reclaiming Kin. In 2017, Robyn was awarded the Paul Edward Sluby Sr./Jean Sampson-Scott Meritorious Achievement Award for Distinguished Performance in Support of African American History and Genealogy.
“In Search of the Ballfields of Montgomery’s Black Communities”  
Bruce Adams

Sponsored by Bethesda Big Train Baseball

Rev. Tim Warner says that for many of Montgomery County’s Black communities, “History is buried with the people.” Along with churches and schools, baseball was the center of civic life for many of the county’s small towns for much of the first half of the 20th century. Nearly every Black area had a town team with the community’s name on the jersey such as Clarksburg, Emory Grove, Germantown, Poolesville, Rockville, Scotland, Stewartown, and Sandy Spring. On Saturdays and Sundays after church, hundreds would turn out to support their teams. On Memorial Day, a thousand fans would descend on Emory Grove for a picnic and ballgames at the county’s finest ballfield, Johnson Park. This talk will explore the story of these town teams and the meaning to their communities during the decades when Negro League baseball was thriving across the country from the 1920s through the early 1960s.

Bruce Adams founded the Bethesda Community Base Ball Club in 1998 to build Shirley Povich Field as the home ballpark for the Bethesda Big Train summer college baseball team. He was an inaugural member of the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League Hall of Fame (2019). Bruce is a former member and president of the Montgomery County Council (1986-1994) and former director of the County’s Office of Community Partnerships (2007-2018) under County Executive Ike Leggett. In 2020, he was inducted into the Montgomery County Human Rights Hall of Fame.

“Displacement and Erasure: Gentrifying Travilah Road”  
Teresa B. Lachin

Sponsored by Washington Metro Oasis

Situated in the crosshairs of institutional, commercial, and residential development, a two-mile stretch of Travilah Road sustained a radical transformation from a rural country lane to a grandiose suburban enclave. From the late 1980s through the early 2000s, the gentrification process displaced a long-established community of working-class residents and farm workers. This effectively erased many traces of its cultural and historical identity by re-branding Travilah Road and surrounding areas with new place names, large upscale housing, and new commercial, recreational, and civic enterprises serving an amenity-driven population. This presentation examines the effects of rural gentrification on the Travilah landscape and the transformative power of socio-economic and cultural change.

Historian Teresa B. Lachin earned Ph.D. and Master’s degrees from the University of Maryland and she has taught at several universities in the Washington, D.C. - Baltimore area. She is a former research fellow for the U.S. Capitol Historical Society and has published research on National Statuary Hall and women artists of the U.S. Capitol, among other publications. She and her husband Dr. John Lachin have lived in Montgomery County since 1973 and raised their family in the Gaithersburg/North Potomac area.
Option 3

“Endowment of Tears, Hope for Reconciliation”  Dr. Stephen Ochs

Sponsored by Georgetown Preparatory School

This talk will describe how Georgetown Prep, the nation’s oldest Jesuit Catholic high school for boys, has sought to confront and reconcile with its slaveholding history and the descendants of those enslaved by the Maryland Jesuits. Dr. Ochs will draw upon an exhibit produced by the school entitled “Endowment of Tears, Hope for Reconciliation,” which first opened in May 2018 and continues to be displayed each year at the school. The talk also will include other materials and programs developed by the school to challenge and encourage its students to relate Prep’s history to the current situation in our country as well as to reflect upon how they individually and collectively might best promote racial justice and reconciliation within our society.

Stephen J. Ochs received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Maryland and has taught AP United States history for 43 years at Georgetown Preparatory School in North Bethesda, Maryland, where he holds the Lawler Family Chair of History. He is the author of four books focused on the intersection of race and Roman Catholicism, the history of Georgetown Prep, and World War II. He is married, has one daughter, and lives in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Closing Performance  3:30-5:00 p.m.

“Old-Time Music in Montgomery County: Will Adams and Beyond”  Jake Blount

Sponsored by Artists Circle Fine Art

This performance and presentation will go in-depth in describing the fiddle and banjo traditions of the Montgomery County area throughout history, with special focus on the music of Will Adams, a Black fiddler from Kensington, Maryland. Topics will include the early folk music of the Chesapeake Bay region and the modern bluegrass and old-time scenes that developed in D.C., Baltimore, and the stretch in between.

Jake Blount is an award-winning banjoist, fiddler, singer and ethnomusicologist based in Providence, RI. Blount specializes in the music of Black communities in the southeastern United States, and in the regional style of the Finger Lakes. A versatile performer, Blount interpolates blues, bluegrass and spirituals into the old-time string band tradition he belongs to.
Explore Heritage Montgomery’s Programs and Services

Heritage Montgomery is dedicated to preserving and promoting local history, culture, and distinctive natural areas, fostering stewardship and pride in our community.

Visit HeritageMontgomery.org to learn about all of the ways Heritage Montgomery can help your organization:

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Representatives from the following organizations serve on the History Conference Planning Committee. Their efforts around the county provide historical interpretation, planning, preservation, education, and more which help to enrich the cultural heritage of our community.

Montgomery History ([MontgomeryHistory.org](http://MontgomeryHistory.org)) has been serving the local community through its exhibitions, programs, educational activities, library, and conferences since its founding in 1944. Its mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and share the histories of all of Montgomery County’s residents. Through weekly History Conversations, an award-winning Speakers Bureau, a vast collection of artifacts, photos, and papers, historical documents made accessible through a digital repository, and events such as the annual History Conference, the organization uses history to better understand and tackle 21st century issues. Visit [MontgomeryHistory.org](http://MontgomeryHistory.org) to learn more.

Historic Takoma ([HistoricTakoma.org](http://HistoricTakoma.org)) is a non-profit founded in 1979 to carry on the legacy of Takoma Park, MD and Takoma Park, DC. Its mission is to preserve Takoma Park’s architectural heritage, to share the rich history gathered in its archives and to record the stories of its citizenry.

Maryland-National Capitol Park and Planning Commission, Montgomery Parks ([MontgomeryParks.org](http://MontgomeryParks.org)) protects and interprets the parks’ valuable natural and cultural resources; balance demand for recreation with the need for conservation; offer various enjoyable recreational activities that encourage healthy lifestyles; and provide clean, safe, and accessible places. Montgomery Parks’ staff of historians and archaeologists are dedicated to preserving and interpreting historical resources for current and future generations. Among these resources are buildings, archaeological sites (like cemeteries and ruins), and other culturally significant objects.

Montgomery College’s ([MontgomeryCollege.edu](http://MontgomeryCollege.edu)) mission is to empower its students to change their lives, and to enrich the life of the community. Montgomery College is accountable for its results.

The Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission ([MontgomeryPlanning.org](http://MontgomeryPlanning.org)) is the county-wide body that recommends County Council designation of historic sites in the county. It is the official organization that evaluates proposals and issues Work Permits for exterior changes to designated historic resources in the county.

Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation, Ltd. ([PeerlessRockville.org](http://PeerlessRockville.org)) is an award-winning nonprofit, community-based organization founded in 1974 to preserve buildings, objects, and information important to Rockville’s heritage. Peerless Rockville advances its goals through education, example, advocacy, and community involvement.
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