



Request for Proposal

“Unfinished Revolution”

An updated historical narrative project for the 250th anniversary of Montgomery County, Maryland (2026)

Objective:

Montgomery History is seeking authors with demonstrated experience in historical research and publication to produce articles/essays on specific topics related to the history of Montgomery County for its 250th anniversary.

Background:

Montgomery History—the county’s historical society—has been serving residents and the region through its research library, adult programs, educational activities, publications, exhibits, and conferences since the organization was founded in 1944. Its mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and share the histories of all county residents and communities.

Project Overview:

This request is in support of a county-funded project to create a new historical publication in advance of its 250th anniversary in 2026 that updates, and in some cases revises, the current history of the county, namely [A Grateful Remembrance](#) published by Richard K. McMaster and Ray Eldon Hiebert in 1976 for the Bicentennial. The project, as described to the county and approved for funding, is summarized here:

The Unfinished Revolution Project will entail commissioning research to write, publish, curate, and promote a new history of Montgomery County featuring the people and events that have been completely ignored or inadequately addressed in previous histories (i.e., A Grateful Remembrance, which the County commissioned for the Bicentennial in the 1970s and is still the most comprehensive history of the county). By adopting the theme of an “Unfinished Revolution,” we can highlight the still unmet promise of 1776 by including such topics as Indigenous peoples before and after European contact, racial terror lynchings and Jim Crow era discrimination, immigration, civic and religious institutions, women in business and politics, the fight for LGBTQ+ rights, and much more. This work will result in new online exhibits, publications, symposia, and curriculum modules that will tell the story of how democracy has been defined and put into practice in this county.

(See also AASLH’s guiding document for the Semiquincentennial [Making History at 250](#))

Scope of Work:

Successful candidates with demonstrated experience in historical research and publication will produce articles/essays on specific topics related to the history of Montgomery County that either address subjects that took place from the 1960s forward or fill in gaps by addressing subjects that were underrepresented or completely omitted from the existing historical narrative as described above. In most cases, topics will be suggested and directed by an Editorial Committee, but proposals for topics not on the working list will also be considered.

Articles should be based on original historical research, fully cited and including primary sources, that interprets and analyzes the local significance of a topic as well as placing it in a wider (national or state) historical context. Minimum length is suggested at 10,000 words. After initial review by the editor,

manuscripts will be reviewed by the committee for additional feedback. The Editorial Committee reserves the right to edit or reject all articles at any time.

The articles written by each author will first be individually published in an online format (downloadable PDFs) as they are completed. The final product for the “Unfinished Revolution” project will consist of a compilation of all the articles, published as a physical book and available online, as an anthology edition with an introduction and contextualization provided.

Cost of publishing this material, including both physical and digital publication, will be underwritten by Montgomery History, which will retain full rights and ownership of the publication. All authors will be fully credited in all iterations of publication and any future use of their content by MH, which will have the right to publish, reprint, or digitally distribute the work – in full or as excerpts – to promote Montgomery County’s history.

Compensation

There is modest compensation available to approved authors, on an individual contract basis. Final compensation will be negotiated with each author.

Selection Criteria

The ideal candidate will have:

- Demonstrated experience in historical research and publication
- Superb writing skills
- A baseline knowledge of Montgomery County history and expertise in some aspect of the chosen topic
- Willingness to receive feedback and direction from the Editorial Committee on both style and content
- The ability to produce a working draft within three months of engagement
- The ability to provide regular updates on progress and respond to communication in a timely manner

Submission Procedure

- Interested candidates will submit a single-page prospectus, a resume, and writing samples.
- Submissions will be accepted on a rolling basis through May 31, 2025. Candidates can expect a response to their proposals within 30 days of receipt.
- The deadline for completed articles will be mutually determined by Montgomery History and individual authors, though a near-final product six months from the time of engagement is the ideal.

Additional Information

Inquiries about any aspect of the project should be submitted to UR@MontgomeryHistory.org No phone calls please.

November 1, 2024