

December 21, 2017

Dear Friends:

Thanks to your continuing support, the Historic Medley District continues to pursue our mission of preserving and maintaining iconic structures that contribute to the historic character of Poolesville and the Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve. Our three properties: The John Poole House, the Old Town Hall Bank Museum, and the Seneca Schoolhouse create a 'living history' story for our many visitors.

At the John Poole House, the oldest building in Poolesville, you can experience how a local merchant and his family lived in a very small log and frame cabin in 1793. The building served as a trading post for traveling merchants and families from the surrounding farms and plantations. At Poole's Store, you could buy eggs, coffee beans, fabric, and wool and pick up your mail. On the grounds of the house, there is a historic arboretum containing plants indigenous to the area before 1850. Household records of the period 1793-1820 document the many different herbs that the Poole's grew for culinary, medicinal, and household-use purposes.

You can't think of Poolesville without envisioning the white stucco building in the center of town. Built in 1907, it served the community as the Poolesville National Bank and later as Poolesville's town hall. Today, it is the gateway for Montgomery Tourism and a museum of the town's role during our country's Civil War.

At the Seneca Schoolhouse on River Road, students 'step back in time' to live a typical school day in 1880, where boys and girls learned reading, writing and arithmetic without the benefit of an iPhone or laptop. Thanks to our teacher Julie Shapiro, several hundred children from public and private schools and home-schoolers from Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania keep the calendar fully booked for field trips most of the school year.

Thanks to your financial support, this past year HMD undertook several much-needed repair projects. The masonry joints of the chimney at the JPH were repaired and the building's stone foundation was improved, all in a historically accurate fashion. New energy-efficient lighting was installed around the Bank Museum. These additions increased the safety around the building for our visitors and beautifully illuminated this iconic town structure. We were very fortunate this past year for the dedicated work of our three student interns: Clara Jackson, Bobby Hite, and Benjamin Patton at the JPH and the Bank Museum. They did an excellent job archiving historical records and documents accumulated over the course of HMD's lifetime.

Historic preservation does not just refer to the 'brick and mortar' aspect of historic buildings. It is also the capturing, preserving, and sharing of influential history for all to appreciate and remember. HMD passionately believes in our mission to keep alive the history of what came before us. We want to ensure that these 'moments in time' are cemented in history and shared with the community now and into the future.

Please join HMD in continuing to achieve our goals by considering a tax-deductible contribution. Help us continue to keep history alive for all in the community and our many visitors. Thank you for your commitment to the Historic Medley District.

Maureen F. O'Connell, President, Historic Medley District, Inc.