

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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New “Porch Program” Series to Begin at Newcomer House in April

Keedysville, MD – The Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area (HCWHA) will begin a new series of monthly public programs at the [Newcomer House](#), HCWHA’s Exhibit & Visitor Center at Antietam National Battlefield, in April. These programs will be free and family-friendly, taking place on the porch of the historic house if weather permits.

The first three programs of the 2016 season will cover diverse topics including music of the Civil War era, the role of women at Antietam, and fostering a love for history across generations. Programs taking place July-December are currently under development.

April 23: Songs and Stories of the Civil War (11:00 AM, 1:30 PM & 4:00 PM)

Through period songs, excerpts from actual letters, and anecdotes both humorous and poignant, Matthew Dodd takes listeners back in time to feel what it was like to be a soldier, civilian, loved-one-at-home or escaped slave in the Civil War era. Dodd will bypass the stories of the generals and the battle movements and concentrate on the feelings of individuals on the home front and seeking freedom. Dodd will play acoustic guitar, harmonica, banjo and mandolin in an informal, story circle setting.

May 7: Women of Antietam (11:30 AM and 1:30 PM)

Civil War medicine expert Betsy Estilow will discuss the role of nurses and other women at the September 1862 Battle of Antietam on the porch of the Newcomer House. Estilow is President of the Board of Directors of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine and has been a museum docent and respected lecturer since the Museum’s founding. She is one of the co-founders of the Conference on Women and the Civil War, former president of the Historical Society of Frederick County, and a retired Professor of Biology at Hood College.

June 18: Interesting your Children in History (3:00 PM)

Join Dennis and John Frye for an intergenerational discussion about the ongoing relevance of history. Local historian John Clinton Frye has worked as the curator of the Western Maryland Room at the Washington County Free Library for nearly 50 years. He will be joined by his son Dennis, the Chief Historian of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, the author of 77 articles and six books, and the founder of several historic preservation organizations.

The Newcomer House is located at 18422 Shepherdstown Pike in Keedysville, MD, approximately ½ mile east of Sharpsburg along Maryland Route 34 on the western edge of the Antietam Creek. On each of these days, the Newcomer House will be open from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For more information, contact Newcomer House Manager Rachel Nichols at rbknichols@gmail.com or (240) 308-1740.

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