

Newcomer House Porch Programs: 2017 Season

The Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area will continue its series of Porch Programs at the Newcomer House, HCWHA's Exhibit & Visitor Center at Antietam National Battlefield. Check heartofthecivilwar.org for more info.



Saturday, April 1: [From John Brown to James Brown](#)

Author Ed Maliskas will discuss the Kennedy Farmhouse in Washington County, best known as the headquarters of John Brown's raid on the federal arsenal at nearby Harpers Ferry in 1859. A century after the raid, the farm was used by the Black Elks as a National Shrine during the height of the Civil Rights Movement. And from 1950 to 1965, the Elks rented their auditorium for dances that featured entertainers such as Aretha Franklin, James Brown, the Coasters, Otis Redding, and other Chitlin' Circuit artists.

Sunday, May 7: [Marbles & Other Children's Games](#)

Marbles weren't just for kids! Soldiers often passed their down time playing a variety of games—marbles among them. Learn about the 19th century versions of the game with Art Staus of the Frederick County Knucklers and play some more with Tad Miller's Early American Games. Participants can make their own marbles to take home.

Sunday, June 4: [Jumpstart Your Family History](#) with Chris Haugh

Documenting and telling your family story can be a daunting task; most

don't know where to begin. Spend some time with filmmaker Chris Haugh of History Shark Productions to begin to prepare a road map and learn some oral history tips and tricks. Haugh was the project director for the Emmy award-winning documentary, "Maryland's Heart of the Civil War."

Saturday, July 1: [Singer & Storyteller Matthew Dodd](#)

Through period songs, excerpts from 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 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.

Also happening: Antietam's [Salute to Independence Celebration](#) begins at 7 PM.

Saturday, August 5: [Tidball and the South Mountain Artillery](#)

Follow the story of John Tidball, Captain of Battery A, 2nd US Artillery, and his men as they pull artillery up the steep hill beside the Newcomer House. Living history volunteers will take to the field to demonstrate how cannons were loaded and fired.

September 16 or 17: [Battlefield & Contemporary First Aid](#)

Clarence Hickey will portray Dr. Edward Stonestreet, a Civil War surgeon who lived in Rockville, MD. See how wounded soldiers were treated for a variety of wounds, beginning with the basic care on the battlefield. A Red Cross basic first aid class for youngsters ages 9-12 will also be offered that day. Reservations will be required for the class. *Also happening: [Battle Anniversary Weekend](#)*

Saturday, October 7: [Advances in Veterinary Medicine from the Civil War](#)

Just as it led to advances in emergency medicine for humans, veterinary advances came from the Civil War. Learn from George Lewis, DVM, about the hundreds of thousands of horses and mules used by the armies during the Civil War, not to mention dogs and carrier pigeons. Who took care of them? *Also happening: [Living history weekend](#) at Antietam National Battlefield*

Saturday, November 4: [19th Century Photography](#)

John Milleker will demonstrate photography techniques of the Civil War era. A relatively new invention in the mid-19th century, photographers' images of the destruction wrought by battle brought civilians closer than ever to the realities of war.

Saturday, December 2: [Newcomer House Illumination](#)

Held in conjunction with the annual Antietam Memorial Illumination, the individualized luminaries created by the public will be displayed on the Newcomer House grounds beginning at 2:00 PM. *Also happening: [Memorial Illumination](#) at Antietam*