New Website Showcases the Heart of the Civil War

We are pleased to announce the launch of our newly redesigned website, heartofthecivilwar.org. While much of the content from the old site remains present, there are several new features which serve visitors and residents alike.

Visitors to the Heritage Area now have the opportunity to explore the Heart of the Civil War by theme (On the Home Front, In the Heat of Battle, and Beyond the Battlefield), historical events (on the timeline), and/or geographic location (through the interactive map). A comprehensive calendar of events and ongoing opportunities offers additional ways to discover the Heritage Area.

Another new portion of the site is devoted to stakeholders, including nonprofit organizations and local governments, who qualify for grants, tax credits, and other benefits through the Heritage Areas program. These current and potential partners can review past grant recipients, browse upcoming grant guidelines, and view a list of participating municipalities.

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Dear Friends,

As we leave behind the American Civil War Sesquicentennial, the Heart of the Civil War has embarked on a Reconstruction of sorts. This year has been one of transition to an independent operation after a long incubation within the Tourism Council of Frederick County. The 150th anniversary years have been intense in every way: event-packed schedules, record numbers of visitors, and a spectrum of emotions born from reflection on a past that reverberates socially and politically today. Frankly, I thought we all might have a touch of “Civil War fatigue” at this point in time. To my delight, the HCWHA team is experiencing a gust of inspiration—even liberation—as we plan for the future. Here are a few things on the heritage area horizon:

- Exploring ways to build new audiences (watch for news about the international millennial engagement firm, Museum Hack, coming to HCWHA).
- Innovating fresh ways to connect with traditional audiences while focusing on HCWHA themes such as “Reconciliation and Reunion.” What was it like when the war ended and troops that had been fighting on opposite sides came home to resume civilian life? How did the formerly enslaved forge post-War lives? What can we learn from stories that reflect economic changes resulting from the war? When did memory become memorial? How do the shadows of war dapple today’s society?
- Reaching students across the country (even internationally), via an online portal that will offer classroom activities linked to national curriculum standards that use HCWHA resources; inviting student groups traveling to the D.C. area to use our area “base camp” for their year-end visits to the nation’s capital, Civil War sites and more.
- Establishing strategic and organizational plans that will see the heritage area through the next five years.

The Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area may be undergoing “Reconstruction” but our offices remain located at the Frederick Visitor Center, where the heritage area has been housed for a decade. Stop by any time, or check out the HCWHA Exhibit and Visitor Center at the historic Newcomer House (on Route 34 near Keedysville) where outstanding volunteers will share up-to-the minute information about how to extend your Civil War experience in mid-Maryland.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Scott Shatto
Executive Director

PS. As the Bugle Call goes to press we have received word that our friend and colleague, Chris Haugh, has left his position as Scenic Byway and Special Projects Manager for the Tourism Council of Frederick County. Because of the mutual interests of heritage areas and byways, we counted Chris as a HCWHA team member and are grateful for his many contributions, including the Emmy award winning film, and “superapp” (as Chris dubbed it) featured on the back page of this newsletter. Godspeed, Chris, and thank you for your selfless dedication to our work.
## FY15 Management, Project and Mini-Grants

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<th>Type of Grant</th>
<th>Applicant/Purpose</th>
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<td>Town of Manchester/Expansion of Manchester’s Museum of Heritage</td>
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<td>Catoctin Furnace Historical Society/Forgeman’s House restoration</td>
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<td>Mini-Grants</td>
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<td>Battle of Falling Waters, 1863, Foundation/Develop website and print brochure</td>
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<td>New Windsor Heritage Committee, Inc./New Windsor Heritage walking tour brochure</td>
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<td>Western Maryland Interpretive Association/Rack card on battlefield guides</td>
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<td>Friends of Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks, Inc./ Interpretive Signage at Iron Master’s House ruins and Catoctin Furnace Art Festival</td>
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**New Website**  continued from page 1

Our Bugle Call blog (www.heartofthecivilwar.org/blog) provides in-depth content on programs and events, historical research, and opportunities for engagement. Recent blog post topics include outdoor recreation, millennial involvement in Civil War commemorations, and famed sculptor John Gutzon Borglum’s marble bust of Abraham Lincoln at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts.

The website, developed by the web agency Orases and designed by Jean Peterson Design in Frederick, has been financed in part with State funds from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, an instrumentality of the State of Maryland.
Events

• Thousands attended sesquicentennial commemorations of the Battle of Monocacy—also known as “the Battle that Saved Washington”—as well as the ransoms of Hagerstown, Hancock, Middletown, and Frederick which took place in July 2014.

• November 1, 2014 marked the 150th anniversary of emancipation in Maryland. Events took place throughout the Heritage Area, including presentations and living history at Tolson’s Chapel in Sharpsburg.

• Ed Bearss, former Chief Historian of the National Park Service, spoke about the election of 1864 at our annual meeting in November.

• A new Civil War Trails marker, telling the story of Civil War correspondent George Alfred Townsend in covering the Lincoln assassination and its aftermath, was installed at Gathland State Park.

• To mark the 150th anniversary of the surrender at Appomattox, bells rang out across the nation—for four minutes on April 9, 2015. Many churches, schools, libraries and other public buildings in the Heritage Area participated in Bells Across the Land, coordinated by the National Park Service.

• The capstone to our 150th anniversary commemorations was Illuminating Frederick 1865: From Celebration to Grief. HCWHA partnered with the City of Frederick, the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, and the Historical Society of Frederick County to commemorate the end of the Civil War with a free program at Frederick’s City Hall. The evening included a presentation by author James Swanson, an illumination in the square in front of City Hall, and a living history walking tour.

Other news

• After a successful public hearing in April and approval from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, the municipality of Sharpsburg has been added to the boundaries of the Heritage Area.
• Kudos to the Frederick Keys for producing and airing a thirty-second clip about the Heart of the Civil War at their home games this season.

• The Newcomer House at Antietam National Battlefield is now open for the season! Stop by the Heart of the Civil War’s Visitor Center between 11 AM and 5 PM (daily through September, weekends in October and November).

**AWARDS**

• Congratulations to “Captain” South Trimble Lynn for his Outstanding Stewardship of an Easement Property Award from the Maryland Historical Trust. For more than 40 years, he has demonstrated an incredible commitment to Kennedy Farm in Washington County, the house that John Brown rented to plan his raid on Harpers Ferry.

• The Tourism Council of Frederick County received the Excellence in Organizational Leadership Award from the Maryland Historical Trust for their leadership in advancing the public’s appreciation, understanding, and involvement in historic preservation, particularly during the past five years of commemorations for the Civil War, Civil Rights and the War of 1812.

• Kristen Butler, who managed the HCWHA’s Civil War Selfies project as the Program Coordinator for the Historical Society of Frederick County, won the Hunter-Burley Award from the Small Museum Association. The award recognizes an individual’s outstanding contributions to the advancement of public access and professional growth for an individual institution.

• Two organizations in the Heritage Area received awards from Preservation Maryland. The Save Historic Antietam Foundation (SHAF), celebrating their 30th anniversary of protecting priceless Civil War heritage throughout the Antietam Valley, won the Volunteer Award. The Maryland Theatre, a staple of Hagerstown’s cultural community for 100 years, received the Community Choice Award.

**Bells Across the Land**

To mark the 150th anniversary of the surrender at Appomattox, bells rang out across the Heritage Area on April 9, 2015, including these Sharpsburg Elementary students at Antietam National Battlefield. NPS photo.

**Preservation Maryland Awards**

Above: Jessica Green, Executive Director of the Maryland Theatre, pictured with Preservation Maryland’s Executive Director Nick Redding. Below: Paula Reed and Tom Clemens of SHAF with Nick Redding. Photos by Abby Tesfaye, courtesy of Preservation Maryland.

Kristen Butler
Kristen Butler (right) and Jen Winter of the Historical Society of Frederick County. Photo courtesy of Kristen Butler.
Discover Maryland’s Heart of the Civil War

We are happy to announce the creation of a new educational tool: *Maryland’s Heart of the Civil War: A Collection of Commentaries*. This companion to the 2012 Emmy® award-winning documentary film *Maryland’s Heart of the Civil War* is more than a commemorative publication, more than a mobile application, and more than an e-book.

The *Collection of Commentaries* is a free, downloadable mobile app available online and through the iTunes and Google Play stores. Whether you’re accessing it on your smartphone, tablet, or desktop computer, this “superapp” takes the form of an electronic flipbook with many interactive features. Viewers can access over 200 additional audio and video clips which enhance the 12-chapter, 348-page book. These unique segments include additional commentary from historians, authors and rangers as well as readings from local diaries, soldiers’ letters and newspaper accounts.

For more details and download links, go to www.HeartoftheCivilWarFilm.com

*This publication has been financed in part with State funds from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, an instrumentality of the State of Maryland. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.*