



## Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc.

12525 Catoctin Furnace Road  
Thurmont, Maryland 21788

December 18, 2015

Dear Friend,

As the 42nd anniversary year of the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society comes to a close, we're writing to ask you to support the society's work with a financial gift.

From the eve of the American Revolution through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Catoctin Furnace has helped define the industry, history, and culture of western Maryland. The Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc., a non-profit organization, celebrates, studies, and preserves the rich history of this pre-revolutionary industrial village. We hope you will make a year-end gift to help us continue our research into the architecture, cultural landscapes, and traditional lifeways of the workers who built the village.

This past year has been a particularly exciting one for the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society. We began renovating the Forgerman's House, collected Catoctin Furnace artifacts for the planned exhibits at the stone house that is now known as the Museum of the Iron Worker, and strengthened our partnerships with Silver Oak Academy, Springfield Manor, and other local and national tourism, educational, and historic preservation organizations and communities. We continue to hold our popular educational outreach programs every season, festively decorating our buildings and holding traditional craft demonstrations during Spring in the Village, Fallfest, and Traditional Village Christmas. In addition, our joint investigation of the origins and lifeways of the furnace's first workers with the Smithsonian Institution has become an exciting multi-pronged research project, involving (to name just a few) archaeological, archival, bioarchaeological, and metallurgical studies. We expect that this research will shed new, unprecedented light onto the lives of these inaugural industrial workers and inhabitants of Catoctin Furnace.

We think that the attached short overview of our accomplishments in 2015 highlights the work that makes Catoctin Furnace worthy of your support. As an all-volunteer non-profit organization, the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc., is funded by memberships, grants, bequests, and gifts from people like you who value the imaginative, high-quality educational experiences we provide.

Thank you for considering this request. We wish you all the best for 2016, and we hope to see you at one of our upcoming events.

Sincerely,

Christopher Gardiner  
President