

# CATOCTIN FURNACE

*The Catoctin Crier*

Sharing Catoctin Furnace news and  
events with historic village residents

Volume 1, August 2018

Hello! As of August 6, 2018, this is the first of what we hope will be regular updates about Catoctin Furnace Historical Society (CFHS) projects and events. As you are aware, The Catoctin Furnace Historical Society was founded in 1973 to protect, preserve and interpret the rich history of this historic iron making village.

### **Museum of the Ironworker**

In partnership with the State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources, we hope to open the Museum of the Ironworker in the old Sager House in 2019. Architectural drawings have been finalized and a set is available for review in the building at 12610 Catoctin Furnace Road. We are hoping to begin construction during August. When complete, the Museum will be open year around with exhibits telling the story of the rich history of workers and families at Catoctin Furnace.

### **European Immigrant family research**

Summer student interns, John Bullock and Jamie Karpency, are working on projects tracing village families back to their European ancestry. They began with the Hoke and Miller families. John and Jamie, both Mt. St. Mary's University students, are using ancestry.com as well as the archives at *Heritage Frederick* to trace the families back to their villages in Europe. Please let us know if you would like us to trace your family history

### **Oral History Volunteers Needed!**

Tracy Lewis has been recording oral histories in the Catoctin area but we need your help! Tracy would like to interview you or someone in your family about Catoctin Furnace. Your memories and stories you heard as a child are incredibly valuable. Please let us know if you want Tracy to interview you so that you and your family can take part in this rich research. We would love to have you be a part of our team.

### **Water Testing**

Catoctin Labs tested water at the hand pump in the Harriet Orth Gardiner Historic Kitchen Garden behind the log house and verified that there is no E. coli present. This means that the vegetables grown in the garden are safe for human consumption after normal washing.

The lab also tested the well water at the Museum of the Ironworker and found that it fully meets the standards for the Frederick County Health Department for human consumption. Great news!

### **Grant Success!**

We received one advertising grant and one development TRIPP grant. These grants are a huge help to our programs and we are incredibly grateful to the Tourism Council of Frederick Country for their support! The advertising grant will allow us to advertise each of our events in the next year and the development grant will allow us to purchase replicas of artifacts for display and use in the Forgerman's House including period toys and dishes. We are calling this *Everyday Treasures*.

### **Monthly meetings**

The Catoctin Furnace Historical Society meets each month on the second Tuesday at noon in the log house. All are welcome to attend. We begin with a light lunch followed by the meeting. Please join us! Additionally, please note the many special events on our calendar. We would love to see more village residents, including children, at these fun and informative happenings.

### **Costumes**

We are searching for a leather apron (or 2) for our blacksmiths. If anyone knows where we can get a leather apron (or make one) please let us know. We are also searching for wooden overshoes...these fit over leather shoes to protect feet from molten iron (ouch)! Cunningham Falls has a pair that we can use as a pattern...we need a wood carver to make a pair or two. Please let us know if you can help!

### **Artifact numbering sessions...Not Quite As Exciting As Indiana Jones but extremely important**

We are going to have sessions where people can help number artifacts from the Forgerman's House excavation. We have approximately 25,000 artifacts, including two original Weller match blocks, toys, shards of dishes, beads, Civil war artifacts, etc. We need to find replicas of the items (e.g. dishes to match shards of plates) to put in the Forgerman's house (we will use TRIPP grant money to purchase these items). The schedule for these sessions will be announced shortly.

### **Forgeman's House Restoration**

You have watched patiently as we undertook painstaking restoration of the historic house at 12525 Catoctin Furnace Road. Known as the Forgeman's House, it will soon be ready to welcome overnight visitors as an Airbnb. We will have a grand opening this autumn for village residents so you can see the completed restoration.

### **Upcoming Calendar 2018**

House Tours/Open Museum Day, Saturday, August 11, 11 am to 3 pm

"Catoctin Voices" Evening of Poetry with African American Writers of Frederick, Friday, August 17, 7 pm ("Catoctin Voices" meets monthly in the log house for poetry and spoken word gatherings).

House Tours/Open Museum Day, Saturday, September 8, 11 am to 3 pm

September meeting - Tuesday, September 11, noon

History Day at the Fair – "Old Fashioned Day" - Thursday, September 20, 10 am to 5 pm

"Catoctin Voices" Evening of Poetry w/guest Alan Bogage, Friday, September 21, 7 pm

October meeting - Tuesday, October 9, noon

Fallfest - Friday, October 12 and Saturday, October 13

"Catoctin Voices" Evening of Poetry (guest TBD), Friday, October 19, 7 pm

Spirits of the Furnace - Saturday, October 20, 6:30 pm to 9 pm (\$ but free for village residents)

November meeting - Tuesday, November 13, noon

"Catoctin Voices" Evening of Poetry (guest TBD), Friday, November 16, 7 pm

Traditional Village Christmas – Saturday, December 1, 10 am to 4 pm

Museums by Candlelight - Saturday, December 8, noon to 5 pm

December meeting - Tuesday, December 11, noon

### **Upcoming Calendar 2019**

January meeting - Tuesday, January 8, noon

Garden Basket Workshop - Saturday, January 26, 9 am to 3 pm (\$ for materials, gift certificates available)

February meeting - Tuesday, February 12, noon

In Their Own Voices - Wednesday, February 27, 11 am to 12:30 pm

March meeting - Tuesday, March 12, noon

April meeting - Tuesday, April 9, noon

Green-walled Garden Club meeting at Catoctin Furnace - Wednesday, April 10, 9am

April meeting - Tuesday, May 14, noon

Maryland Iron Festival - May 18 and 19 (This is a recast of *Spring in the Village, Art at the Furnace*, focusing on what makes Catoctin Furnace unique and significant)

June meeting - Tuesday, June 11, noon

July meeting - Tuesday, July 9, noon

No August meeting (by tradition)

### **Contact us**

The Catoctin Furnace Historical Society website [www.catoctinfurnace.org](http://www.catoctinfurnace.org) & Facebook page are updated regularly with news and events. Please check them out or call 443-463-6437 for general information and specific questions. All events are free (Spirits of the Furnace is a paid event for the public but is free for all village residents). Organizations such as "Catoctin Voices" utilize CFHS facilities free of charge.

The historical society officers are also available via phone or email:

Chris Gardiner, President @ 240-205-4581 or [slice8x@yahoo.com](mailto:slice8x@yahoo.com)

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Elizabeth Comer, Secretary @ 410-243-2626 or [ecomer@catocctinfurnace.org](mailto:ecomer@catocctinfurnace.org)

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