

January

-archaeologists from EAC Archaeology, Inc., including Elizabeth Comer, presented papers about current Catoctin Furnace research at the 51st annual Society for Historical Archaeology conference in New Orleans

-applied for a bond bill through the office of Senator Michael Hough to assist with the unanticipated extensive repairs necessary at the Museum of the Ironworker

February

-Elizabeth Comer participated in the Maryland Engineering Challenge's "Future City" conference held at the Baltimore Museum of Industry, answering questions from students about the field of archeology and promoting the heritage work at Catoctin Furnace

-attended the AARCH Family and Community History Fair, where Elizabeth Comer gave the keynote address entitled, "Lives Wrought in the Furnace: Archeological Investigations of the Labor Force at Catoctin Furnace"

- hosted **In Their Own Voices**, our fifth annual commemorative Black History month event at Harriet Chapel's parish hall. Silver Oak Academy students prepared wonderful food and presented a great program. The event was very well attended and covered by LocalDVM TV

-DNA update: Received notice that Harvard University's Reich Laboratory researchers were able to retrieve usable genome-wide data from all 14 individuals tested

-submitted letter of intent for a \$72,000 National Trust for Historic Preservation African American Cultural Heritage Grant

-welcomed new intern, Alyssa Watson, from Hood College

-volunteer Tracy Lewis began interviews for ongoing oral history project focusing on Catoctin Furnace village residents

-Dewey Stewart interviewed archeologists and others during the taping of a history episode of Frederick Land podcast about Catoctin Furnace

March

- attended career fair at Hood College where CFHS intern Alyssa Watson gave a great presentation about her internship

-attended The Legacy of Slavery Conference at UVA/Monticello, which was attended by over 200 researchers from around the world.

-attended Museums at the Mall

-continued work at the Forgerman's house and made good progress on design decisions for the kitchen and bathroom

-sump pump and drain tile were installed at the Museum of the Ironworker to mitigate the water infiltration problem

-DNR and SHA visited the Museum and completed a topographical survey to determine how to ameliorate ongoing drainage issues

-Silver Oak Academy students continued work on the museum, learning about historic preservation work through hands on construction

-Elizabeth Comer and students from Silver Oak Academy testified before the Maryland General Assembly to request support for a bond bill to help fund needed (and unanticipated) work on the Museum of the Ironworker

-welcomed three new interns: Debbie Kim from The Johns Hopkins University and two students from Mount St. Mary's University: JT Bull and Jamie Karpency

April

-installed a chimney fan at the log house with all elements—including the fan itself, which is recessed below top of chimney—hidden

-gutters and downspouts installed and interior wooden walls completed at the Forgerman's house. Tile for the bathroom and kitchen ordered. Electricity and plumbing operational.

-hand pump was installed in the backyard of the log house to draw water for the Harriet Orth Gardiner Historic Kitchen Garden

- hosted a group of travel writers who came to learn more about the village's history
- received a \$600 grant for historic garden plants and materials from the Green-walled Garden Club
- welcomed new intern Michelle Tolson from Mount St. Mary's University
- hosted two costume sewing workshops to make costumes for volunteers
- recognized at the Hood College Intern Site Appreciation Reception
- members attended the Fort Frederick Market Fair

May

- CFHS member Nancy Anderson along with Silver Oak Academy students and the Green-walled Garden club planted the Harriet Orth Gardiner historic garden behind the log house
- Elizabeth Comer presented a talk on the African American cemetery DNA findings at Thurmont Library
- Elizabeth Comer recorded a WYPR/Maryland Humanities Podcast about the Spring in the Village, Art at the Furnace **Leading to Freedom** Program
- hosted the seventh annual Spring in the Village, Art at the Furnace event which featured historic crafts, games, food, and music
- assisted Catoctin Mountain Park staff in obtaining permissions for release of 1970s YCC oral histories

June

- received revised, ADA-compliant drawings for the Museum of the Ironworker renovation/restoration
- interns John Bullock and Jamie Karpency initiated European immigrant family research projects focusing on the Miller and Hoke families
- participated in Frederick County Public Library's summer reading challenge
- received two TRIPP grants: one to advertise events and one to help fund the Forgemans House "Everyday Treasures" program
- received an Ames Tool grant of garden tools
- hosted a peanut basket making workshop
- attended Lavender Festival at Springfield Manor
- attended Silver Oak Academy graduation

July

- participated in Fox 5 Zip Trip program in Thurmont
- Architectural Drawings for the Museum of the Ironworker were finalized
- received funding for two MHAA grants: one for log house repairs and the other to fund a Museum of the Ironworker facial reconstruction exhibit of two enslaved workers
- hosted Thurmont summer campers for a tour of the village
- water tests revealed that water at the hand pump in the Harriet Orth Gardiner Historic Kitchen Garden is free of E. coli and the vegetables grown 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
- renewed membership for the NMAAC and the AAM
- applied for membership in the NMAAHC's StEPs program
- hosted Catoctin Voices Evening of Poetry with guest Mark Greathouse
- held an open museum day in the log house

September

- attended the Hood College Community Service Fair
- attended the Thurmont and Emmitsburg Community Show
- attended History Day at the Fair
- applied for an emergency MHAA grant to rebuild the back wing of the museum and repair the damaged roof on the main, historic structure
- applied for private funds from Preservation Maryland to assist with roof repair
- published and distributed Volume 1 of *The Catoctin Crier* to neighbors in the village (this will be published and distributed throughout the year to keep residents informed)

-held elections and the following slate was elected unanimously: President, Christopher Gardiner; Vice President, Ken Brink; Second Vice President, Beverly Hoke; Third Vice President, Steve Dill; Secretary, Elizabeth Comer; and Treasurer, Elizabeth McGee

October

- participated in Fallfest, which featured traditionally made apple butter boiled by Silver Oak and CFHS's Steve Dill
- Green-walled Garden Club worked with Silver Oak students to plant perennials during Fallfest
- CFHS hosted Catoctin Voices Evening of Poetry
- CFHS, in partnership with Silver Oak and Cunningham Falls State Park, hosted Spirits of the Furnace.
- CFHS announced that Spring in the Village will be recast as The Maryland Iron Festival: Mountains, Metal, and Malt in 2019
- attended the Exploring Engagement through Museum Theater workshop
- Living Classrooms completed construction of custom benches for the Commemorative Cemetery Trail
- Catherine Comstock held an "Everyday Treasures" workshop in the log house to provide information on assisting CFHS in gathering items for display at the Forgemans House. This crowd sourcing project is sourcing whole antiques or reproductions of archaeologically derived artifacts for use and display within the Forgemans House
- hosted Frederick Tourism's Familiarization tour and Theresa Donnelly gave a presentation to the group over lunch

November

- attended the HCWAA Annual meeting at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts
- mourned the loss of longtime friend and supporter Robert M. Gardiner and voted to honor his legacy through the establishment of the Robert M. Gardiner Library of Catoctin Furnace History
- received a grant from Preservation Maryland to assist with replacing the roof on the Museum of the Ironworker
- attended Tourism Council annual membership breakfast
- met with Smithsonian Institution staff and DNA analysis team from Harvard University as they completed DNA collection of 15 additional samples, bringing the total genome-wide data to 29

December

- sent requests for proposals to graphic design firms to garner bids for the design of the trail waysides
- received a HCWHA mini grant to compile a blacksmithing demonstration exhibit
- hosted 100+ visitors for our eighth annual Traditional Village Christmas
- hosted 75+ visitors during Museums by Candlelight
- received a Monarch Waystation Grant of 115 quart-sized native plants
- welcomed new Intern Rachel Delatte from Mount St. Mary's University
- applied for a National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom grant for forensic facial reconstructions

Ongoing - open museum days were held regularly, representatives attended Frederick Historic Sites Consortium meetings, hosted *Catoctin Voices Evenings of Poetry* throughout the year

Many thanks to members and friends for generous donations of cash (including Giving Tuesday) and/or objects including "Everyday Treasures" for the Forgemans House