

Historic SOTTERLEY

CIRCA 1703

MAGAZINE FOR OUR HISTORIC SOTTERLEY FAMILY

1ST QUARTER 2020



Winter Investigation:
Manor House Restorations
and Archaeology are afoot

Finding Common Ground:
Sotterley Receives Award for
Excellence in Programming
from MD Historical Trust

2020 What's In Store:
Honoring
our Descendants & Women,
plus New Legacy Society

A Note From Our President



Happy New Year! We are looking forward to a new year with new opportunities. This is our year of Transcending Barriers to Common Ground. We are working hard to be change agents in our community and to make Southern Maryland a better place. We thank you for being a member of the Sotterley Family.

This issue includes our “Honor Roll of Donors” and lists the individuals, businesses and organizations that support Sotterley. Thanks to all of you – you mean the world to us.

We are proud to announce the formation of our Legacy Society. To join, simply let us know how you plan to make Sotterley a part of your legacy. Many of our longtime friends have already done so.

We are at the halfway point in our first Major Gift

Campaign. Sotterley’s goal is to raise \$1M by the end of 2020. I’m pleased to announce that we are at 95%! Thank you to all who have contributed and special thanks to descendant and former Trustee, Dr. Gita van Heerden and her siblings, Christiaan and Alida for their generous \$100K gift in memory of their mother, Sandra van Heerden.

We celebrate you. With your help, our programs continue to engage members of our community, visitors from afar, and our descendants. Our UNESCO Designation event to commemorate the end of Slavery and “Building Bridges to Common Ground” were inspirational. Both events were awarded the 2020 Excellence in Public Programming from The Maryland Historical Trust.

Many thanks to the hundreds of volunteers and to our dedicated staff. Sotterley thrives because of you.

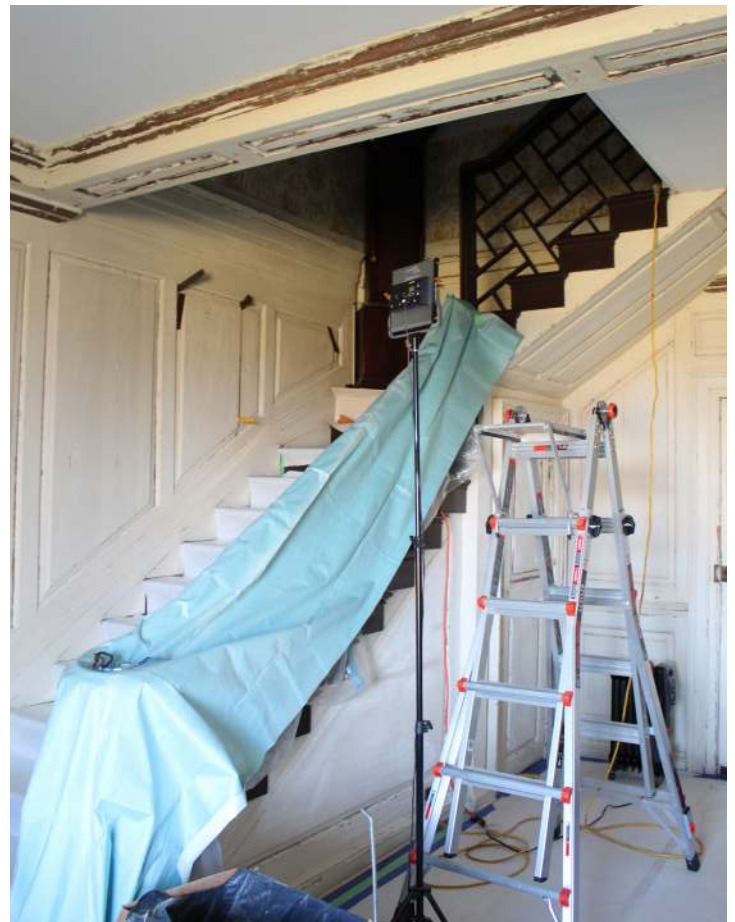
With Warmest Regards,
Bert Johnston
President, Board of Trustees

New Secrets Found in Sotterley’s Entryway Plus More Restorations to Come in 2020

After restoring the Red Room in 2019. We are continuing restoration work in the Manor House with the support of generous donors.

Sotterley’s Restoration Manager, John O’Rourke, has been working all of January restoring the hallway (entryway) of Sotterley’s Manor House. Some exciting discoveries are always made during a restoration of a house that is hundreds of years old and they add depth to Sotterley’s story. For example, the original paint has a more “peachy” and warm tone than originally believed. Some of the panels came from re-purposed woodwork from the 1703 Bowles main room.

Stay tuned - additional restoration work is planned for Sotterley’s iconic Chinese Chippendale Staircase, Drawing Room door and Dining Room this year. We are looking forward to finding secrets hidden beyond what we currently know today. This allows us to better understand the past and the lives it represents.



Right: the Manor House Main Hallway undergoing restoration
January 2020.

Common Ground: Award for Excellence in Programming 2nd Award in 10 years for Honest Conversations and Acknowledgment

Historic Sotterley's 2019 programming, Building Bridges to Common Ground, received an award in Annapolis on January 23, 2020 from Maryland Historical Trust for Excellence in Public Programming. This award recognizes significant achievements in the development and execution of programs and projects that engage members of the public with historic preservation and/or archeology in meaningful, dynamic and innovative ways. Sotterley's programs included expert presentations, panels, speakers, living history, as well as the August 23, 2019, UNESCO Day of Remembrance of the trans-Atlantic slave trade and its abolition. This year brought together generations of Sotterley descendants from around the state and nation. Paid for in part by a grant from Maryland Humanities, Sotterley's execution of its mission and vision



Left to right: Director of Md Historical Trust - Elizabeth Hughes, Descendant - Angela Wilson, Descendant and Board Member - Gwen Banks, Director of Educational Programming & Partnerships - Jeanne Pirtle, Descendant & Board Member - Jan Briscoe, Executive Director - Nancy Easterling, and Director of Development - Jane Bachman

continues to grow and evolve through its award-winning programs. In 2020, this initiative continues with Transcending Barriers to Common Ground, that will examine Perspective, Power, and Equity. We will be viewing history through multiple lenses including perspective; doing

so develops understanding. By looking at history unvarnished and knowing that education is a lifelong process, we work to find common ground. Sotterley Descendants have always had a role in the museum's support and operation. Look for an increase in descendant leadership and active participation in programming this year as well.

"Sotterley's commitment to making all stories relevant and highlighting what life was like for all many years ago is admirable. It should be a shining example of what can help when people seek to understand. We are all connected and separately and together we can truly make this world a better place." Gina Gilliam, Sotterley Descendant.



Left: Gina Gilliam, Right: Janice Curtis Greene portraying Harriet Tubman
Common Ground Sept. 2019

The Campaign for Sotterley Update. "If you want joy, give joy." – Deepak Chopra

To our dear friends, descendants, community members, and supporters, we want to share the wonderful news and recognize the role YOU have played in the success of Historic Sotterley's Campaign. We are proud to announce we have raised over \$945,000 in cash and multi-year pledges towards our \$1M goal. This vividly reminds us that our dearest supporters are individuals who care about Sotterley's future. You have told us that you care about our community. You have told us that you recognize the importance of our public programs for all ages. You have told us that the voices, stories, and people of our past are relevant.

More than ever we believe that our history can change lives, can change minds, and can make our world a better place.

You GIVE joy everyday.

Thank you.

Jan Briscoe & Bert Johnston,
Campaign Co-Chairs



Historic Sotterley's Honor Roll of Donors

FY2019 July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

We are blessed with the gift of good friends, honest family, and informed members.
We see your commitment to Historic Sotterley everyday, and we are humbled by your response every time we call, write, invite, or ask. You are truly the heart of Sotterley.

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**Sotterley's Honor Roll of Donors
 FY '19 July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019.
 Gifts received after June 2019 will be
 listed on FY '20 Honor Roll.**

It Takes a Village

Thank you to the unsung heroes of Historic Sotterley: our local friends, companies, and businesses who offer their quiet support, encouragement, and resources whenever we call. To the individuals and companies below, please know you have our heartfelt thanks.

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The Sotterley Legacy Society

Keeping Stories Alive for Future Generations

With determination, heart and compassion, our longtime friend, Marianne Harms, announced a bequest to Sotterley in December 2019. "I believe preserving and sharing Sotterley's powerful stories and the site where history happened, can empower future generations.

I am proud to link my legacy to Sotterley's legacy."

The subsequent formation of The Sotterley Legacy Society in December provides ways and means for individuals to



make bequests and planned gifts to ensure our continuous and future success. We are grateful to Marianne for committing to Sotterley.

We recognize that many of you have already made plans for Sotterley in your estate planning, if so, please let us know, so we can include you in our Legacy Society newsletter - coming soon.

If you would like to make a bequest to Sotterley, or discuss the many ways to join your legacy to Sotterley, please contact Jane Bachman 301-373-2280, or development@sotterley.org.

New for 2020 Celebrate Women's Right to Vote With a Women, Wine and History Day

As the United States, celebrates women's gaining the right to vote, Sotterley will be honoring women and specifically mother's with a day of *Celebrating Women at Sotterley* on **Saturday, May 9, 2020**.

Guests can choose from an **elegant buffet brunch** taking place in the 1920's era barn, a **special wine tasting** in the original 1757 brick warehouse, or **enjoy a unique tour rarely offered about the Women of Sotterley**: This tour includes

stories of women during suffrage, women who escaped the trappings of the 1900's and those who are last known to us on Emancipation Day in 1864.

Left: Louisa Satterlee, 2 unknown Plater descendants,
Right: Anna Plater Williams



A Place for You at Sotterley

Sotterley is in need of volunteers with diverse backgrounds & skill sets. Volunteer opportunities include:

- Tour Guides
- Museum Store
- Organization/Cleaning
- Garden Guild
- Special Events
- Office Support
- Outreach
- Preservation
- Education
- Research
- Marketing Assistance
- Growing for Good/Farming



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www.sotterley.org | 301-373-2280

Archaeology Survey at Sotterley

Searching for Buried "Treasure" from the Indigenous through Today

An archaeological survey is underway and made possible by a grant from the Maryland Historical Trust. A team from St. Mary's College of Maryland under the leadership of Dr. Julia King and Scott Strickland have made exciting discoveries that will impact the site and its future interpretation. Work continues this winter as planning and preparations are made, inventories created, and new discoveries incorporated into our programming. Hundreds of items have been discovered and include pottery and oyster shells dating back to the Indigenous peoples who once lived in this area and hand made nails from the colonial period.



Katherine Humphries (L) & Eve Love (R) screening for artifacts.

In Memoriam

Richard Thomas, 1925 - 2020. Richard's ancestral home was Deep Falls, Chaptico, MD. Richard was a Sotterley descendant and a Board Trustee from 1997 - 2003. He will be missed by all.

Historic Sotterley 2020 Preview

3/7/2020	History Day - Education Event	6/13/2020	Sotterley's Annual GALA
3/21/2020	Fly-In Farmers' Market	6/22-6/23	Junior Docent Academy
3/21/2020	Potato Planting Day	8/21- 8/22	Common Ground - Programming
4/6 - 4/10	Spring Break Kids Programming	8/28/2020	Barn Bash
4/25 & 4/26	Garden Guild Plant Sale	10/3 & 10/4	WineFEST
5/9/2020	Celebrating Women at Sotterley	11/14/2020	NovemBEER
5/30/2020	Common Ground - Genealogy	12/4 & 12/5	Christmas Tours

Historic Sotterley's 2020 Community Partners

