

# SOTTERLEY TIMES

Preserve our historic structures and natural environment and use the powerful stories of our land, lives, and labor to bring American history to life while serving as a cultural resource.

NEWSLETTER OF HISTORIC SOTTERLEY, INC.

FALL 2017

WINEFEST, P.5

## A CREATIVE PARTNERSHIP PAVES THE WAY



Tobacco Barn Distillery has supported Sotterley for several years, but this summer, they found a new and innovative way to provide a benefit, not only to our site but to our many visitors! During Tobacco Barn's long and in-depth process of distilling their rum, there is a by-product created that is known as *dunder*. This yeast-based product is thick, sticky – and strangely perfect for treating dusty roads. By heating up the concoction and spraying it down Sotterley Wharf Road, they have helped us significantly reduce the dust that inevitably follows our guests' vehicles.

Tobacco Barn Distillery is committed to combining the best of methods of creating Whiskies, Bourbons and Rums, while being as environmentally responsible as possible by using a combination of solar, geothermal and heat recovery systems. The staff here at Sotterley can't thank Dan Dawson and Scott Sanders enough for their donation! This unusual partnership has not only enabled Sotterley to treat our roads in an entirely environmentally-friendly way, it has also opened up other doors in the community.



## FIRST LANDING AT SOTTERLEY



Celebrate the Maryland roots of Bourbon distilling, and the "rebirth" of America's Native Spirit in St. Mary's County. Join Historic Sotterley and distillers Scott Sanders, Sean Coogan & Dan Dawson as we explore the history and development of bourbon in Maryland. The evening includes light fare and a first "taste" of First Landing - the newest bourbon from our friends and neighbors at Tobacco Barn Distillery, which has been recently recognized as Maryland's "Craft Bourbon" in Whiskey Advocate magazine! We hope you will join us for the exciting event on Saturday, November 4 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m!

## A COMMUNITY THAT CARES

We are only able to do what we do at Sotterley with the help of the community. Thanks to grants from Patuxent River Appreciation Days and The Patuxent Partnership, we are reducing our upfront costs to our education programs, enabling us to reach more people for less. As is always the case with historic buildings, our Visitors' Center is in constant need of upkeep and maintenance. Thanks to our friends at the Rotary Club of Leonardtown for a grant to repair part of the Visitors' Center! To ensure that this season's Farmer's Market is another success, the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission has given us marketing dollars to use in order to reach more of our Southern Maryland community. We also can't thank SAIC enough for their support of June's Gala in the Garden, or this season's Farmer's Market, as well as the Community Foundation of Southern Maryland through the Julia A. King & Raymond J. Cannetti Foundation for their general support.



# HISTORIC SOTTERLEY, INC.

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NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION CLASSIFIED BY  
THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE UNDER  
SECTION 501(C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL  
REVENUE CODE. A COPY OF  
THE CURRENT FINANCIAL STATEMENT IS  
AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT THE OFFICE.**

## A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT



We need lots of friends to accomplish our mission, and Sotterley has been blessed with so many! In this newsletter we share several stories of partnerships. Because of these partnerships, we have hosted schoolchildren, preserved our archival collections, held our Farmer's Market, donated produce to those in need, helped repair and preserve historic structures, and even stabilized our roads to keep dust at a minimum. Each and every partnership makes our site stronger.

Fall is a great time for events at Sotterley. Coming is the "Backstairs/Upstairs" tour, "Birding the Fields" with David Moulton, "Homeschool Day", our new Bourbon Event, and, of course Christmas events. And two of our biggest fundraisers are just around the corner:

- WineFest will be October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> and promises to be our best one yet! This year we are holding the event in the historic area which we believe will make it even more special!
- By the time we go to press, Ghosts of Sotterley will have been cast and rehearsals about to begin. "Ghosts" will be held the last two weekends of October.

And finally, our Speaker Series is wonderful again this year! From Civil War letters & photographs, to cultural foods that were and are critical to African-Americans' survival, we can't wait to host our speakers and you! We thank our friends at the Boeing Company for once more underwriting this great Series. So much to see and do—we look forward to hosting you soon!

Warmest Regards,  
Bert Johnston  
President, Board of Trustees



*Eagle Scout candidate Kyle Goodrich poses with one of the 6 wood duck boxes he crafted and helped install at Sotterley! Thanks so much for your hard work this season, Kyle!*



Elizabeth Harman (standing center) surrounded by the Garden Guild in May 2002.

## IN MEMORIUM

### Elizabeth Kuhl Harman, 1915-2017

A Tribute from Sandy Kraft

Elizabeth Harman was intertwined with Sotterley’s story for almost 35 years. During that time, she wore many hats, always with style. Beginning in 1969, she served as “administrator” after Mrs. Ingalls opened the site to the public. At an age when others were retiring, Elizabeth kept the books, gave tours, even made pound cake to sell. She and husband Wilbur lived in the house that is now Sotterley’s office.

At almost 80 years of age, she saw an urgent need and took on a new job: restoring the then-neglected gardens. Under her direction, the Sotterley Garden Guild was formed in 1995, growing to more than 20 active volunteers today.

Elizabeth Harman died on June 17, 2017 at the age of 101. She was always a fierce protector of Sotterley’s stories, and she knew them all. According to her daughter, one of her dying wishes was to see Sotterley again.

Read Elizabeth Harman’s Oral History Interview at – <https://goo.gl/Mo9TfB>

## EDUCATION CORNER

We have just completed our final successful **Butterfly Friday** event. This program was geared to the swing set and stroller crowd. We enjoyed learning about pollinators, especially butterflies, using Sotterley’s butterfly garden and Colonial Revival gardens as our laboratory, along with hands-on activities, observations and fun. Thank you to those that spent their Friday mornings with us. The landscape looks so inviting with beautiful children and families enjoying themselves and learning. Sotterley has hosted several descendant groups and individuals this summer. They identify as descendants of owners, workers, free or enslaved people of Sotterley.



A Butterfly Friday at Sotterley.



Descendants of Rebecca Plater

Historic Sotterley’s **Descendant Project** has gained momentum as descendants share with other family members across the nation and the world. Sotterley is connecting with these people and the stories that transcend time and generations. The project was officially launched at Sotterley’s Slave Cabin exhibit dedication weekend. If you think you are descended from a person at Sotterley between 1699 and 1960, or even share a common surname, we invite you to fill out an official descendant form and return it to us, or contact [education@sotterley.org](mailto:education@sotterley.org).

We recently hosted teens from the **Bronx Connect Group**, a community-based program that works to prevent recidivism and address youth-initiated goals in education and employment. We were honored to be one of their stops on their journey south, and to offer an experience the students could never have in New York City. The students toured both the grounds and the Plantation House and instructors relayed how important the day was to their students. The success of this Field Trip reflects Sotterley’s relevance as an educational resource – a community cornerstone in Southern Maryland and on the East Coast.



Students in the Bronx Connect Project

## SPEAKER SERIES 2017

### **Speaker Series #4: Civil War Echoes — James Robertson**

Wednesday, August 30 – 7:00 pm

*“Dear Mother - I am here a prisoner of war & mortally wounded. I can live but a few hours at farthest.”*

*~ John Winn Moseley, July 4, 1863*



From the attics and shoeboxes of Virginia, 33,000 family letters, diaries, photographs, drawings and other documents capture the thoughts and feelings of men and women who lived and fought in Virginia during the Civil War. James I. “Bud” Robertson Jr., one of the nation’s most renowned Civil War historians, received so many documents that he was only able to use a small fraction of what was found. He will speak about the selections he chose to include in *Civil War Echoes* and explain why the Civil War 150 Legacy Project collection is so important. Published as the final project of the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission, he was able to illuminate the emotions of people during the Civil War using excerpts from historical documents brought to life.

### **Speaker Series #5: Liberty’s Torch — Elizabeth Mitchell**

Wednesday, September 27 – 7:00 pm

*The Statue of Liberty has become one of the most recognizable monuments in the world: a symbol of freedom and the American Dream. But the story of the creation of the statue has been obscured by myth.*



In reality, the Statue of Liberty was the inspiration of one quixotic French sculptor hungry for fame and adoration. Inspired by the Colossus of Rhodes, the young Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi first envisioned building a monumental statue of a slave woman holding a lamp that would serve as a lighthouse for Ferdinand de Lesseps’ proposed Suez Canal. But after failing to win this commission, and in the chaotic wake of the Franco-Prussian War, Bartholdi set off for America, where he saw the perfect site for his statue: Bedloe’s Island in New York Harbor. From the black waters of the Nile, to the revolution-torn boulevards of Paris, to the muddy streets of New York, Mitchell tells the story of an artist, entrepreneur and inventor who fought against all odds to create this beacon of hope to the modern world.

### **Speaker Series #6: The Cooking Gene — Michael Twitty**

Wednesday, October 11 – 7:00 pm

*From the farms of colonial times, to plantation kitchens and backbreaking cotton fields, Michael Twitty sifts through stories, recipes, genetic tests, and historical documents to tell his family story through the foods that enabled his ancestors’ survival across three centuries.*



This illuminating memoir of Southern cuisine and food culture offers a fresh perspective on race while tracing the author’s ancestry - both black and white - through food, from Africa to America and slavery to freedom. Southern food is integral to the American culinary tradition, yet the question of who “owns” it is one of the most provocative touch points. In this unique memoir, Michael W. Twitty takes readers to the center of this fight, tracing the roots of his own family and the charged politics surrounding the origins of soul food, barbecue, and all southern cuisine. As he takes us through his ancestral culinary history, he travels from Civil War battlefields in Virginia to synagogues in Alabama, to Black-owned organic farms in Georgia.

## **FARMER’S MARKET — Growing Strong**

Our Farmer’s Market is still going strong! Visit us on Saturdays from 8 - 1 for the full Farmer’s Market experience, including organic veggies, locally grown produce, delicious baked goods and more! Join us on Wednesdays from 10 - 4 to browse our Sotterley veggies and purchase them at the Visitor Center!

## Speaker Series #7: Forgotten Patriot — Reisha Raney

Wednesday, November 1 – 7:00 pm

**Raney reflects on her heritage, her recently discovered family ties to President Jefferson, and her accomplishments as a leader in the Daughters of the American Revolution organization.**



After watching Professor Henry Louis Gates Jr.'s PBS special, *African American Lives*, Reisha Raney began searching for her African roots, but instead stumbled upon family ties to Thomas Jefferson's aunt, Mary Jefferson, who was the mother of Revolutionary War patriot William Turpin. The discovery led her to join the DAR and to assume a leadership position. The DAR does not officially keep records on the race of its members; however, out of over 3000 chapters, it is estimated Reisha is one of only ten African-American chapter regents in the history of the organization. Additionally, Reisha has been credited with saving her chapter from disbandment by leading an intensive revitalization effort which reengaged existing members as well as attracted prospective members. Her personal journey has inspired her to tell her story about her experience as an African-American leader in the DAR and her lineage to a patriot of the American Revolution.

## SOTTERLEY RECOGNIZED FOR TWO DIFFERENT EXHIBITS

Historic Sotterley was recognized by the St. Mary's County Commissioners and the St. Mary's County Historic Preservation Committee in May 2017 for two exhibits. *Land, Lives and Labor* uses the 19th century Corn Crib to tell the stories of the people who labored at Sotterley over the centuries to include primarily the enslaved, but also those who continued to work the land and property post emancipation as hired labor and tenant farmers. The second exhibit, in the 1830's *Slave Cabin*, vividly illustrates the lives of Sotterley's enslaved, and subsequently emancipated people. The experience for both heritage visitors and school children is greatly enhanced by these exhibits, fostering creativity, heightening curiosity, and widening perspectives.



## REDISCOVER WINEFEST

15th Annual Riverside WineFest – New wines, new bands, new location! Instead of being on our fields, WineFest will take place in our historic core, making use of our amazing buildings and beautiful garden. This fantastic weekend full of regional wines, live bands and local artisans will be on October 7th & 8th! As always, we will have wine tastings from the best Maryland Wineries, live music, hand-crafting Artisans, Food and Beer Vendors, Free Tours of the 1703 Plantation House & the Colonial Revival Garden, crafting demonstrations and more!



RIVERSIDE  
winefest  
AT SOTTERLEY

Partner with us to reach 5,000+ people for your business! This year, we are looking for business partners to make this event another success! Consider sponsoring or advertising with us! Want a free ticket? Volunteer with us! Any individual who works a complete shift will be given a free admission ticket along with a Sotterley tasting glass for unlimited tasting. Contact us for more details. Please help us by spreading the word to your family, friends and co-workers who would also enjoy volunteering at this event!

Contact the office at 301.373.2280

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## ONGOING EVENTS:

**SATURDAY FARMER'S MARKET:** Enjoy the bounty of Fall at Sotterley! Enjoy the cooler weather while visiting our stand full of zucchini, cucumber, squash, peaches, watermelon and more! Stop by from 8 am – 1 pm every Saturday to get your fill!

**FIRST PICK WEDNESDAY:** Stop by our Visitor Center on Wednesday to browse our freshly picked produce! Every Wednesday from 10 am – 4 pm, our fresh veggies will be available on the Front Porch of our Visitor Center.

### **SPEAKER SERIES #4: Civil War Echoes**

**August 30, 7:00 pm**

Using excerpts from 33,000 recovered letters, diaries, and other documents brought to life during the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, James Robertson's presentation captures the thoughts, feelings and daily lives of people who lived and fought in Virginia during the Civil War.

### **BACKSTAIRS/UPSTAIRS**

**September 9, 11:00 am & 1:00 pm**

Guests will be allowed to enter rooms not seen on a regular tour and view our notable collections not normally shown to the public! Tours begin promptly at 11am and 1pm! Tickets on sale now!

### **HOMESCHOOL DAY**

**September 13, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm**

Visit 4 stations throughout the day and learn about life at Sotterley during the 1700s. Appropriate for younger students in grades 2-6, explore the lives of children on a Plantation using hands-on activities that illustrate work, interactive games, education, behavior, and food using the backdrop of Sotterley Plantation's outbuildings and gardens. Students compare the lives of these children to their own experiences while learning about the importance of pollinators. Students complete a craft to take home.

### **MUSEUM DAY LIVE!**

**September 23, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm**

Every September, Sotterley participates in *Museum Day Live!* sponsored by the Smithsonian. On Saturday, September 23, Sotterley will celebrate Museum Day Live, by offering free tours to all that register at [SmithsonianMag.com/MuseumDay!](http://SmithsonianMag.com/MuseumDay!) Join us for a special tour at our regularly scheduled tour times – 10:30, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00, and 3:00. Guests can also take advantage of the audio grounds tours, natural trails, beautiful Colonial Revival gardens, and enjoy another amazing Sotterley Farmer's Market running from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm.

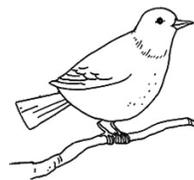
### **VOLUNTEER HAPPY HOUR**

**September 14, 5:30 - 6:30 pm**

To show our thanks to our amazing volunteers, we hope you'll join us on our Riverside Portico to get to know your fellow volunteers! Be our guest – this month the Sotterley staff will provide the appetizers and drinks to show our love and appreciation for all that you do to support us. Bring a friend and enjoy the evening! Please email Ashley Morgan at [coordinator@sotterley.org](mailto:coordinator@sotterley.org) to RSVP.

### **FALL BIRD WALK**

**September 23, 8:00 am**



Join David Moulton and Michael Patterson for a fall excursion of Sotterley's scenic and historic Patuxent River property. Bald Eagles, migrant songbirds and lingering meadowlarks and sparrows can be found on Sotterley's grounds!

### **SPEAKER SERIES #5: Liberty's Torch**

**September 27, 7:00 pm**

The Statue of Liberty has become a symbol of freedom and the American Dream, but the story of the statue's creation has been obscured by myth. In reality, she was the inspiration of one quixotic French sculptor hungry for fame and adoration.

### **15TH ANNUAL RIVERSIDE WINEFEST**

**October 7 & 8, 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

That's right, this is our 15th year of hosting WineFest on our grounds! This year we are moving up to our Historic core and employing a new layout! By moving the festival, we are enabling our guests to see what they are supporting and why Sotterley is important. Festival goers will enjoy just as much wine, music and artisans as previous years! Tickets are on sale now on [Sotterley.org!](http://Sotterley.org!)



See you in October!

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## **SPEAKER SERIES #6: The Cooking Gene**

**October 11, 7:00 pm**

From tobacco and rice farms of colonial times to plantation kitchens and backbreaking cotton fields, Michael Twitty sifts through stories, recipes, genetic tests, and historical documents to tell his family story through the foods that enabled his ancestors' survival across three centuries.

## **GHOSTS OF SOTTERLEY**

**October 20, 21, 26, 27, 28**

Death, Despair & Darkness! It may seem early, but ghosts have already descended on Sotterley! This fall, we are expecting another amazing Ghosts of Sotterley theatrical production! Not only is this event one of the best Halloween events in Southern Maryland, it is put on entirely by our amazing volunteers. Don't miss out on this year's production!

## **SPEAKER SERIES #7: Forgotten Patriot**

**November 1, 7:00 pm**

Reisha Raney reflects on her heritage, her recently discovered family ties to President Jefferson, and her accomplishments as the leader of Daughters of the American Revolution Fort Washington Chapter.



## **FIRST LANDING: November 4**

Tobacco Barn Distillery and Sotterley are partnering up again – this time to bring you the best bourbon by St. Mary's first (legal) distillery! Tickets on sale soon!

## **MEMBER'S NIGHT**

**December 7**

A not-to-be-missed holiday favorite! An evening of food and friends to celebrate Sotterley's wonderful members and supporters. Invitations will be mailed in early November. Reservations required.

## **A TOAST TO CHRISTMAS PAST**

**December 8 & 9**

Our new holiday event! Join us in the decorated Plantation House to enjoy food, libations, music, and scenes from the past. Tickets will be available on Ticket Derby in early November.

## **SANTA'S TABLE**

**December 9**

Bring the family to enjoy breakfast with the "big guy" and stay to explore the site for the day with included admission to Home for the Holidays. Tickets will be available on Ticket Derby in early November.

## **HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

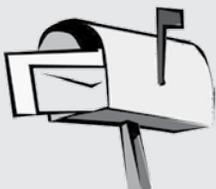
**December 9 & 10**

A family-friendly day of fun on the site, including decorated house tours, access to our exhibits, our Garden Guild greens sale, "Santa's Secret Shop", and a host of holiday activities for all ages.

## **GOING GREEN & SAVING GREEN!**



Why Monthly Giving? A longtime friend and 10+ year Sotterley supporter just made her life easier by enrolling online in our Monthly Giving program. Her monthly gift ensures that funds are available year-round while reducing administrative costs – and there's no added paperwork or hassle for her! She chose the amount of her monthly gift – and retains all the membership benefits that she loves. When we asked her why she decided to make the switch to monthly giving, her answer was, "Why not? It's so easy!" Make YOUR life easier! To continue supporting Sotterley's mission through monthly giving, call Jane or Laura at 301.373.2280 or enroll online.

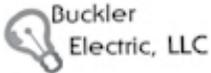


Stop waiting for Sotterley news – it can be available at your fingertips! Instead of receiving a physical copy of the newsletter, you can receive an electronic version straight to your inbox, as well as keep in keep in touch with Sotterley news through email. Save us the postage and you the hassle – share or update your email address with Laura at 301.373.2280!

HISTORIC SOTTERLEY, INC.  
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Historic Sotterley, Inc. proudly acknowledges our 2017 Community Partners:



The Ganlee Fund



Petty Family Trust

**JEFF'S TREE  
SERVICE**

## A NOTE FROM NANCY

What a season it has been so far! We have hosted thousands of school children and visitors who have experienced our stories and site, and held many wonderful programs and events for our community. But it has also been a season of challenges: not one, not two, but three internet outages totaling a week and a half, a lightning strike that fried lines, phones, and office equipment, and then our well pump motor failed (its demise also traceable to the lightning strike). No well = no water, and that is never a good thing for visitors or staff! Challenges abound daily at any historic site, but particularly for sites like ours when not only our interpreted buildings are historic, but almost every structure is over half a century old as well. Time and time again we persevere, however, because our partners and friends are there beside us. Take our well as just one example – our dear friends Minor Buckler of Buckler Electric, and Curtis Winslow of Winslow Pump and Well, stepped forward to personally help Joe Goldsmith, our own Sotterley miracle worker, trouble-shoot the problem and come up with a solution which not only put us back in business quickly, but could be done with the few resources at our disposal. A dear, long-time friend of Sotterley also donated the upfront cost of the new well pump.

We remember our dear friend Elizabeth Harman in this issue, acknowledging her many years of unwavering devotion to Sotterley, but I realize that we continue to be blessed by exceptional people whose support of Sotterley through their time, talent, and treasure make everything possible here. Because you step forward to support us, we not only are able to meet our challenges, but, more importantly, you allow us to educate, enrich, connect, preserve and inspire. It is the lives we are able to touch through our efforts that ultimately matters most, and through your generosity we are able to touch more and more lives each and every year. I know Elizabeth would be proud to know her legacy lives on.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Nancy L. Easterling'.

Nancy Easterling  
Executive Director