

# Upcoming Events

## August

- 18th - African American Gravesites by Dr. Latif A. Tarik CG\*
- 19th - Descendant Panel: Changing the Narrative CG\*
- 23rd - UNESCO Day of Remembrance CG\*+
- 28th - Barn Bash & Craft Beer Tasting+

## September

- 8th - Lincoln in the Natural Environment by Dr. James Tackach SS\*
- 15th - Life in History by Maya Davis CG\*

## October

- 6th - Upending History through Archaeology by Dr. Julie King CG&SS\*
- 27th&28th - The Color of My Country by Trudy Taliaferro CG\*

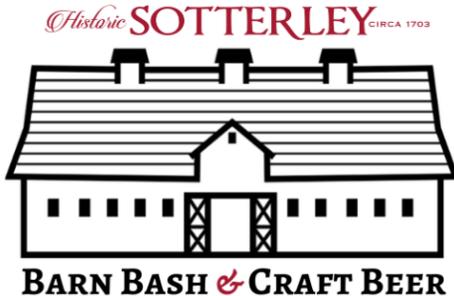
## November

- 10th - Food & Black Freedom by Dr. Bobby Smith CG&SS\*
- 13th - NovemBEER+

More Events Coming Soon! Check our website for more.

Live Event +  
Virtual Event \*

CG = Common Ground  
SS = Speaker Series



**BARN BASH & CRAFT BEER**

Saturday, August 28th

Over 20 craft beers, souvenir Historic Sotterley Beer glasses, Live Music from Unfinished Business, food vendors, artisans, and lawn games. Tickets available online at [www.Sotterley.org](http://www.Sotterley.org).



**NovemBEER**

Saturday, November 13th

Craft beer. Local music and food trucks. Tickets available online at [www.Sotterley.org](http://www.Sotterley.org)



Historic  
**SOTTERLEY**  
CIRCA 1703

Summer 2021 Sotterley Family Newsletter

## Descendants Continue to Lead and Engage

Four years ago, we formalized our Descendants' Project at the same time we dedicated our Slave Cabin exhibit to descendant and Trustee Emeritus Agnes Kane Callum. The following year we held our first Common Ground event and became a UNESCO Site of Memory for the Slave Route Project. Each milestone has helped to define Sotterley's path forward, but at the heart of why this site is both important and unique is truly the involvement of its descendants.

Five descendants currently sit on Sotterley's Board of Trustees, and they represent ancestors who were enslaved, owners, as well as 20th century laborers. Descendants are presenters in our Common Ground programming, and their willingness to share their stories allows for a more personal connection to, and understanding of, the realities of our shared past.

Descendants manage their own private Facebook page, allowing them to strengthen their ties to Sotterley and to each other. They serve on many Historic Sotterley committees and take leadership roles in Sotterley's interpretive and programming decisions. They are hosting family reunions, reconnecting to Sotterley's history and to their own. And most importantly, they model to the greater world how people from disparate backgrounds and who have experienced different realities can come together to foster understanding and healing in these troubled times. Their ancestors defined Sotterley's past, but it is our descendants who are shaping Sotterley's present and its future.

## The Long View

As I begin serving as President of the Board of Trustees, I want to acknowledge the incredible contributions of my predecessor, Bert Johnston as well as former Board member Lynn Fitrell. Bert served for ten years on the Board as did Lynn, Bert remains my Campaign for Sotterley Co-Chair, and their dedication and leadership continues to shape this organization. We are incredibly grateful for their service.

The first half of 2021 has shown us that while we have come far over the course of the last year, there are still many challenges ahead. The pandemic continues to shape our world and the ways Sotterley can interact with it, yet we unwaveringly are committed to serving our greater community.

I am excited for all that we will share with you in the upcoming months, but know that without the support of you - our members, donors, volunteers, and grantors - that Sotterley's reality would be very different right now. Whether you invest in Sotterley through its ongoing Campaign, by annual support, through your volunteerism, or through a grant, you allow us to continue as an exceptional and irreplaceable resource for our community. Because of you, we are planning for new and impactful programming, important restorations, and engaging events. You are, and will continue to be, part of our every success. On behalf of the Board and the Sotterley staff, you have our sincerest thanks and gratitude.

Jan Briscoe, President, Board of Trustees

*Thank you!*

Common Ground programs and projects will be sponsored over the upcoming year with grants from Maryland Humanities and the Maryland Heritage Area Authority!



Two companies have stepped forward to generously support as Community Partners: **The Boeing Company**, to help Sotterley's work to promote Equity, and **Northrop Grumman** for Education without Boundaries & STEM!

## Historic Sotterley's 2021 Community Partners



# The Conversation and the Campaign for Sotterley Continues

## Two Anniversaries Worth Celebrating

As we look forward with anticipation, we also glance backward and are reminded of past tenacity and courage as we celebrate two anniversaries this year: Historic Sotterley's 60th anniversary as a nonprofit, and the 25th Anniversary of the year Sotterley was named one of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places.

In the early 1950s, Mabel Ingalls opened Sotterley to the public for tours, and in 1961 she established the nonprofit foundation that today is called Historic Sotterley. To ensure Sotterley would be preserved, Mabel was instrumental in having Sotterley listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and in 2000, Sotterley was designated a National Historic Landmark. Today, the nonprofit founded by Mabel remains committed to preserving this irreplaceable site and its stories while promoting education, discovery, understanding, and equity.

In 1993 Mabel Ingalls passed away, and in her will she generously donated Sotterley to the nonprofit she had created. In the years that followed, however, Sotterley struggled to find a way to keep its doors open, and the Board feared that it might be lost. Due to many dedicated and inspiring Sotterley champions including descendent Board members Agnes Kane Callum and John Hanson Briscoe, in 1996 the National Trust for Historic Preservation came to recognize Sotterley on its annual list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. Notable historian David McCullough stated "The stories of this and other endangered places is not all history with a big H. They take us inside a way of life, a time past that was as real as our own and that we can still touch and learn from". 25 years later, Sotterley is proud to not only have survived, but to have become a leader in the honest telling of our shared history as well as a change agent for good.



Agnes Kane Callum and John Hanson Briscoe



Mabel Satterlee Ingalls



David McCullough



April 1961 Sotterley historic property designation from NPS

## Campaign for Sotterley Extended

On this important anniversary year, Sotterley's Board of Trustees wants you to know that we have extended our Campaign for Sotterley through December 2021. There is much work that we still want to accomplish, and we are planning to expand the ways we can serve our community and make it a better place. We reach out to all who believe in our work and our mission, and we do so with a renewed sense of purpose and urgency. Sotterley matters - now more than ever - and every contribution helps to tell our story, connects us with our community, and allows us to serve as an exceptional educational and cultural resource for all. Check out what the campaign has already accomplished:

## Education Without Boundaries

Education is at the heart of all that we do, and we constantly strive to expand and improve our educational programming. With the help of the Campaign for Sotterley, we partnered with the St. Mary's County Public Schools STEM Academy to bring new and expanded Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math education programs and opportunities to students – not only on site, but we also found ways to bring it virtually into the classroom during the pandemic.



## Environmental Stewardship

Part of what makes Sotterley so special is the beautiful natural environment we are dedicated to preserving. We have reduced run-off into our local waterways by over 90% by implementing critical stormwater management. We've worked with local natural resource experts to keep our ecosystem healthy and accessible with such projects as exploring ways to keep hay harvesting from interfering with nesting birds, and by sharing the site with visitors for activities like bird walks, nature painting, and more! The Campaign for Sotterley helps us to continue our environmental stewardship and provide connections to our Tidewater environment and how we can preserve it together.



## Growing for Good

Community is important to us, and that means helping our community through its struggles. That's why we use our farm fields to grow fresh, healthy produce to give to those in need, with hundreds of volunteers helping us in recent years with planting and harvesting. We have donated thousands of pounds of fruits and vegetables to local food pantries, and the Campaign for Sotterley has allowed us to expand our production. Starting last year, our hay now feeds cattle whose beef is donated to food pantries, and we've even started growing wheat and grains to create bread which is also donated. Growing for Good – together we can make a difference!



## Virtual Events

Over the past year Sotterley has hosted more mission-based programming than ever, in part due to our new ability to host virtual events. We are thrilled to be reaching audiences from all over the country and beyond, and our Common Ground and Speaker Series events have reached more people and touched more lives than ever before. Our incredible presenters have even included some of Sotterley's own descendants who have shared their personal stories, helping us connect to our shared past and to that which binds us.



## Restoration

Restoration is one of the most expensive parts of maintaining a historic site, but the Campaign for Sotterley has allowed us to restore deteriorating sections in the Manor House including the Red Room, the Hallway, and the Dining Room, and to repair important features such as the Chinese Chippendale Staircase and Drawing Room door. We have even had historic collections pieces come back to Sotterley, such as Elizabeth Plater's bible, Thomas family silver, the Briscoe Sofa, and an African American rocker. Preserving our past allows us to connect to its stories, and to the lives that are intertwined in them.

