
The Gristmill Gazette

Jerusalem Mill Village Newsletter Summer 2020



2811 Jerusalem Rd., Kingsville, MD

www.jerusalemill.org

410-877-3560

Scheduled Events

Please note: The events listed below that have not already been canceled may be canceled in the coming weeks based on pandemic guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, the Governor of Maryland and local authorities. For updated information, please check our FaceBook page, watch for monthly updates of the Gristmill Gazette, or call our Visitor Center – Museum on 410-877-3560.

Sunday, July 12th: Free Range Blue concert by the falls. **Canceled.**

Saturday, July 18th, Jerusalem Mill Tournament Joust. 11 AM. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own chairs and practice social distancing. Jousters will be following guidelines issued by the Maryland Horse Council. The tournament is subject to heat and other weather cancellations. The jousting field is behind the bank barn.

Sunday, July 26th: Peace Run Band concert by the falls. **Canceled.**

Saturday, August 1st: Harry Brooks Memorial Tournament joust. 11 AM. Rescheduled from May 23rd. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own chairs and practice social distancing. Jousters will be following guidelines issued by the Maryland Horse Council. The tournament is subject to heat and other weather cancellations. The jousting field is behind the bank barn.

Saturday, August 8th: Third annual Amy's Ride and Run, co-sponsored by the Gunpowder United Mountain Bike Operators (GUMBO) and Friends of Jerusalem Mill. This event is in honor of Officer Amy Caprio of the Baltimore County Police Department, killed in the line of duty on May 21st, 2018. There will be a 5K memorial run in addition to the road and mountain bike rides. Registration will begin at 7:30 AM, with the rides and run starting at 8:30 AM.

Saturday, August 8th: Second Saturday Serve volunteer day. 9AM until noon. Come help us with a wide variety of tasks throughout the village. All tools, materials, equipment and safety gear will be provided. We'll meet on the porch of the General Store. Everyone is invited.

Saturday, August 8th: First Responder's Day with Smack-down contest between Kingsville Volunteer Fire Company, Joppa-Magnolia Volunteer Fire Company, and the Department of Natural Resources. Exhibits and activities are available for all ages. 11 AM until 3 PM.

Sunday, August 9th: Great Train Robbery concert by the falls, 6 PM – 8 PM. Tickets can be purchased at the event. Tickets are \$10 for members, seniors, military, and children 12 to 15 years old; \$15 for non-members; Children under 12 are free when accompanied by a ticketed adult.

Saturday, September 12th, 8 AM to 2 PM: Semi-annual Yard Sale. We'll have a wide variety of household goods, books, DVDs, tools, equipment, toys, hardware, supplies, etc. If you have any items to donate, please call the Visitor Center at 410-877-3560 to arrange for drop-off, or simply bring them on the 12th. No chemicals, clothing, food, towels or bedding. Most items in the yard sale will not be pre-priced. Take whatever you want, and make a cash donation of cash in whatever amount you think is appropriate.

Saturday, September 12th: Second Saturday Serve volunteer day. 9AM until noon. Come help us with a wide variety of tasks throughout the village. All tools, materials, equipment and safety gear will be provided. We'll meet on the porch of the General Store. Everyone is invited.

Saturday, September 12th: Founder's Day Joust. 11 AM. Rescheduled from June 6th. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own chairs and practice social distancing. Jousters will be following guidelines issued by the Maryland Horse Council. The tournament is subject to heat and other weather cancellations. The jousting field is behind the bank barn.

Saturday, September 12th: Animal Rescue Expo. 1 PM to 4 PM. Adopt a Homeless Animal Rescue is a nonprofit organization dedicated to rescuing and assisting animals in crisis. They actively combat animal cruelty in any form.

Saturday, September 19th: AJC Championship Joust. 11 AM. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own chairs and practice social distancing. Jousters will be following guidelines issued by the Maryland Horse Council. The tournament is subject to heat and other weather cancellations. The jousting field is behind the bank barn.

In the Spotlight:



Our Spring House is 175 Years Old!



The spring house in the field east of the general store was built in 1845, using rubblestone that was likely "mined" locally, similar to how the two-story springhouse-smokehouse (next to the mansion), the blacksmith shop, grist mill, mansion, and miller's house were built. The spring house was part of a 7.177-acre parcel surveyed for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in 1998, when the general store and adjoining property purchased by the state as part of the Gunpowder Falls State Park. This sale helped to ensure that the entire Jerusalem Mill Village remained intact as a complete preserved village. Local mapmaker G.G. Curtiss considered the spring house significant enough to include it on an 1860 map of the property that he had made for Ralph Sackett Lee. Curtiss labeled the field around the spring house, the "Spring House Meadow".

As the label suggests, a spring house is a structure built above a natural spring. The spring house served multiple purposes. Since homes in the 18th and 19th century had no running water, villagers relied on a spring or hand-dug well for their supply of drinking water. Springs were a natural source for clear, cool water. Building a “house” above a spring protected the spring from fallen branches and eroding soil, shaded it from the hot sun, and kept animals from adding elements that weren’t favorable to drinking water! More importantly to the villagers, a spring house provided a source of clean, refreshing water; served as a type of “refrigerator” for perishable foods; and provided a place to simply cool off on a hot summer day. Most spring houses had a gourd or a tin dipper hanging on a post, for the use of anyone wanting a refreshing drink of water.

Since the temperature of spring water typically hovers around 50 degrees Fahrenheit, villagers would use the spring house to store perishable food products that needed short-term preservation, such as milk, butter and eggs, or foods that taste better when chilled, such as watermelon. Jerusalem Mill Village’s spring house was probably also used to store some of the apple cider that was made in the small stone building behind the mill. The food products were typically placed in glazed crocks made of clay, or in glass jars, and the vessels were set in troughs that channeled water along the walls of the spring house. The crocks sometimes had wooden lids with handles. The shorter crocks or jars were placed on flat rocks or bricks so water didn’t overflow into the container. Some crocks and other food items would be placed on shelves higher up on the sidewalls of the spring house. The shelves provided better protection from the inevitable frogs that would inhabit the spring. Children loved visiting the spring house to cool off and see the progress made as the tadpoles developed into frogs and the frogs grew bigger and bigger.

Jerusalem Mill Village’s spring house is still fully functional, situated over an “active” spring. It is usually open to the public during living history hours, Saturdays and Sundays from 1 PM to 4 PM.



New Exhibit - Celebrating 100 years of Voting Rights!

August 26th, 2020, marks the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibiting states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to citizens of the United States on the basis of gender. It was the culmination of decades of effort by champions of women’s rights, many of whom are honored in a new temporary exhibit in the Jerusalem Mill Village Visitor Center – Museum. Those efforts met with varying degrees of success over those decades. Initially introduced to Congress in 1878, several attempts to pass a women’s suffrage amendment failed. Some states eventually allowed women to vote in school or municipal elections, some required women to own property before they were allowed to vote. Finally, on May 21st, 1919 the amendment was passed by the House of Representatives, followed by the Senate on June 4, 1919. But, in order to become part of the Constitution the amendment had to be ratified by at least 36 states. Individual states began approving the amendment over the following year, with Wisconsin being the first to ratify it on June 10th, 1919, followed almost immediately by Illinois and Michigan on the very same day.

Over the course of 14th months after the passage of the 19th amendment by the Congress, the ratification process experienced several defeats, with Maryland being one of the states refusing to ratify the amendment when it rejected the proposal on February 24th, 1920, becoming the fifth state to do so. Maryland suffragists claimed that they were deliberately excluded from the Maryland hearings on the amendment because they were given inaccurate information on the date and time of the hearings. As a result, no speakers were available to advocate for Maryland ratification, but the anti-suffragists were there and ready. Finally, on August 18th, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the amendment and it was officially adopted eight days later. Maryland symbolically ratified the amendment 21 years later, on March 29th, 1941!

In honor of the decades of the nation's struggle for voting rights, our volunteers have developed a special exhibit to honor the women who led the struggle. We invite you to come visit our exhibit highlighting significant advocates for women from the American Revolution to the historic date in 1920 when votes for all became a reality. This exhibit will remain available for 90 days after we re-open to the public.

Parade-less 4th of July

Proud of our patriotism and our important role in the history of Baltimore and Harford counties, the Friends of Jerusalem Mill participates each year in the Kingsville Independence Day parade, typically entering a float based on the theme of the year. Over the years we have received recognition for our creativity, artistry and our portrayal of important figures in the nation's history.

Since 1990 we have been awarded four 1st place trophies, five 2nd place trophies and seven 3rd place trophies. Just last year we won the 2nd place trophy for in the "Family, Group or Individual Float" category. Due to the pandemic, local officials felt it best to cancel the parade this year, to discourage large gatherings that might increase the risk to participants and the audience. So, organizers had to find another way to celebrate the United States' independence, demonstrate our commitment to freedom, and show our pride as important parts of Maryland's rich heritage. With strong support from Councilman David Marks, the Kingsville Volunteer Fire Department came



Photo courtesy of Rick Decker

up with a plan to allow interested citizens to celebrate the occasion while practicing social distancing! They hosted a static parade on the grounds of the fire department, by staging emergency equipment and other displays for people to stroll past and view at their leisure. They invited the Friends of Jerusalem Mill to join the festivities and we enthusiastically accepted. We loaded up the large mill model onto the flatbed like we have done for the parades in the past, and our Board President, Rick Decker, took the "float" to the fire department and parked it next to their emergency equipment. Since it was a warm day, he also loaded two coolers with a variety of beverages for thirsty visitors. And, of course, he had brochures about the village and answered any questions visitors had about our living history program and many activities. Visitors were able to drive by the vehicles on display to view the equipment from the comfort and safety of their cars. Rick estimates that he welcomed about 100 to 150 visitors who were happy to take part in the celebration of our nation's independence.

Friends of Jerusalem Mill Response to the Coronavirus

In order to protect our visitors and staff from the potential spread of the Coronavirus, the Jerusalem Mill Living History program for the month of July has been canceled, and all buildings will remain closed to the public, except for the Blacksmith Shop which will be open on a limited basis on

weekends. Decisions on August, September and October will be made just prior to the first of the month. You can call our answering service on 410-877-3560 for updated information.

The Friends of Jerusalem Mill takes seriously its responsibility to protect its volunteers, members, sponsors and visitors. We will continue to do our best to discourage activities that put people at risk of spreading or catching the virus and overloading our health care system. To that end, we have canceled all events and organized activities that make social distancing difficult and/or increases surface contacts. Jousting tournaments are the only *events* that have NOT been cancelled for July, since social distancing can be accomplished and surface contact minimized. The village grounds and local trails will remain open from sunrise to sunset. We strongly encourage the use of face masks while in the village, and the use of hand sanitizer before and after touching surfaces. Restrooms will not be available at least through July. To help control overcrowding, our overflow parking areas will remain closed. PLEASE park in designated parking areas only.

As stated by the President of the Board of Directors, Friends of Jerusalem Mill, in our Spring newsletter: *"We're all in this fight together, and together we'll overcome this difficult challenge. On behalf of all of the officers, Board members & members of the Friends of Jerusalem Mill, I want to wish you and your family good health ...We look forward to seeing you in the village when this is all over. Stay safe and stay healthy!"*

The cancellation of events and closure of our buildings adds to the loss of income from reduced memberships, sponsorships and cash donations due to the economic crisis associated with the pandemic, yet our expenses for utilities, maintenance and repairs don't go away. As we begin to recover from this pandemic, we hope you'll consider starting or renewing your membership or sponsorship (if not currently active), attend our future events, and consider making a cash donation to help us continue to preserve, restore, maintain and share this historic treasure.



...But Our Work Continues

Although the pandemic has forced us to cancel most events and our living history program, and we have had to close our buildings to the public, that hasn't eliminated the need to continue with the necessary maintenance and repairs on this aging village! We've been working hard over the last four months to do our best to keep the village in good condition while practicing our best social distancing. Here's just a few of things we've accomplished:

- Removed the dilapidated buildings from around and behind the mansion and springhouse-smokehouse.
- Removed the overgrowth from around the mansion so we can begin making repairs to the exterior.
- Repaired and secured the electrical switches and outlets in the Carriage House, and traced each circuit to document its source at the breaker panel.
- Organized the two maintenance shops, the hardware room and the tool room within the Carriage house.
- Created a Hugelkultur garden next to the Spring House, complete with native herbs and other plants.
- Fixed a drainage problem around the "chicken coop" (which doubles as a multi-purpose room, particularly for school field trips).
- Built a new Cooper exhibit and Brown Bess flintlock rifle display in the grist mill.
- Removed the rotted fencing around the Miller's House garden and replaced it with new planks.

- Made significant improvements to the miller's garden with a wide variety of native flower and vegetable plants.
- Reorganized and updated the general store layout and displays.
- Weeded and mulched the gardens behind the general store and in front of the grist mill.
- Removed excess materials throughout the village and took **tons** of material to recycling or the land fill.
- Continue to perform weekly grounds maintenance on 24 acres of land, to include cutting the grass, trimming shrubs, string-trimming, weeding, etc.



Diane and Hugh in the updated miller's garden.



Drainage repairs at the chicken coop.

Photos courtesy of Rick Decker

The above list is just a small sample of the wide variety of work we do to preserve and maintain our 18th and 19th century village and make it a place where friends and family can enjoy the natural beauty and rich heritage. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the volunteers who work so hard throughout the year to help us accomplish our mission. If you're not already a volunteer and want to join our dedicated group, please contact us at jerusalemmill@yahoo.com or by calling 410-877-3560. Following is a list of some of the volunteer opportunities available:

- **Docents:** Greet visitors and guide them through the visitor center/museum, the general store, or the Civil War Room. Provide information about the history and operation of the village and answer questions about the park. No prior knowledge of the village history or details about the park is required. Our Volunteer Handbook has most of the information you'll need.
- **Special events:** Plan and organize. Collect tickets/admission, set up chairs, tables, canopies, etc., direct parking, assist pedestrian crossings, guide visitors, tear-down, etc. This can be a year-round or one-event commitment.
- **Research/Curatorial Assistants:** Identify and inventory artifacts; perform various research projects online and/or at historical societies and archives; create displays, etc. Focus areas include genealogy, architecture, archeology, history and sociology. Much of the research can be done in the comfort of your home!
- **Living History Interpreters:** Wearing era-appropriate attire, share knowledge of various aspects of life in the 18th and 19th century. Most immediate need is for a cooper, tinsmith, carpenter/woodworker, toy demonstrator, gardeners/farmers, colonial cooks, tour guides.

- **Grant writers:** Help us manage our grant program by preparing grant applications for a wide variety of projects and purchases. Maintain a calendar of deadlines to ensure we don't miss an opportunity or obligation. This function can mostly be performed at home or office!
- **Village Maintenance and Repairs:** Second Saturday Serve is a year-round, monthly event open to volunteers of all ages, on the second Saturday of every month, from 9:00 a.m. until noon, to perform a wide variety of tasks. Just show up and we'll put you to work! It's a good opportunity for students to meet their graduation requirements if volunteer hours are required!
- **Lawn Service:** From April through October we cut grass (riding mowers and walk-behinds), trim around buildings and fences, weed gardens, etc. once per week, usually on Thursdays. We can use your help every week, once-per-month, or however often you can!
- **Web Master:** Help us keep our web pages up-to-date. This is another function that can be performed at home or office.
- **Trail maintenance:** Hike the wooded trails of the Gunpowder Falls State Park Central Area and pick up trash, remove debris from the trails, trim overgrowth, and report downed trees and other hazards.

If you want to help us to continue to preserve Maryland's history but don't have the time or ability to volunteer, please consider a donation, membership or sponsorship. You can also designate Friends of Jerusalem Mill as a recipient of Amazon's charitable contributions when you make your purchase through SmileAmazon.

Meet Our Volunteers

Each quarter we try to introduce you to our volunteers. As a non-profit charitable organization, with no paid staff, we greatly appreciate our dedicated volunteers, and we want to share their stories with you. Our newest volunteer is Anne Kauders. Anne has been helping us inventory a large collection of Civil War books donated by a former member, and an inventory of antique books donated by the Pullen family, formers resident of the Jerusalem Mill mansion. She is also researching our large collection of vintage chairs, several vintage "steamer" trunks, and a collection of kitchen ware. Anne is currently employed full-time at the Johns Hopkins University Physicians Billing Service, and says that the research she does at work is not as exciting as the historical research at Jerusalem Mill! When she was younger Anne enjoyed spending a lot of time at Harper's Ferry taking photos, hiking, listening to historic interpretations, researching and going on tours. We're very fortunate that her interests have turned more local! Anne says that "old structures have always been beautiful and intriguing" to her, and she thinks "It's amazing and exciting to find out how things were done and built years ago." We couldn't agree more, and there's no shortage of opportunities to research and explore topics relating to the Jerusalem Mill Village!

Special Thanks

Friends of Jerusalem Mill extends a special thanks to the Drescher Foundation for a generous grant to help us with general operating costs for 2020. As stated on their web site: "The Drescher Foundation is committed to providing hope in community life. We serve those who strengthen the capacities of

others to help improve lives, primarily in Harford County, Maryland.”¹ This is a private foundation that assists non-profit public charities such as ours.

We also thank Maryland Humanities for their CARES Act Emergency Relief Grant. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress in March, and a portion of the funds was administered by the National Endowment for the Humanities which provided funding to Maryland Humanities. The mission of Maryland Humanities is to “inspire learning and promote dialogue about our heritage, culture, and future as Marylanders.”

Both grants will help greatly to replace some of the income lost to reduced memberships, sponsorships, and cash donations, and as a result of canceling events due to the pandemic.

Yard Sale

We realize that many of you have used some of your “quarantine” time to clean and organize your homes to get rid of no longer needed items and reduce clutter. We can help! We’ll gladly take your usable housewares, books, tools, toys, hardware, small appliances, etc., for our September yard sale (Saturday, September 12th). We can schedule a date and time for you to bring your items to the village, ensuring social distancing. Just send an e-mail to us at jerusalem.mill.curator@gmail.com to arrange a drop-off time. Or you can just bring your donated items on the morning of the yard sale. Sorry, no chemicals, clothing, food, towels or bedding. We can send you a letter of donation if you provide an itemized list of the donated materials. The Friends of Jerusalem Mill is a registered non-profit, public charity, and therefore donations may be tax deductible as charitable contributions. All of the proceeds from the yard sale are used for maintenance, preservation and operating costs of the Jerusalem Mill Village.

Here's some projects recently completed by our volunteers and Maryland Conservation Corps (MCC).



Trail repairs



Wheelbarrow salvage



Painted the backhoe

¹ <http://dresherfoundation.org/> accessed on July 12, 2020.

Thanks to our Sponsors

We are sincerely grateful to our sponsors for their generosity, enthusiasm, and belief in our mission! We encourage all of our visitors to patronize our sponsors' quality services and products. Please let them know that you saw their ad in this newsletter, and that you visited or contacted them because of their support to Jerusalem Mill. To inquire about sponsoring our many activities and events, [e-mail](mailto:jerusalemill@yahoo.com) us at jerusalemill@yahoo.com !

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Our concert series is supported by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council and the Harford County Cultural Arts Board.



Special thanks to the Harford County Special Grants, Cultural Grants, and Office of Economic Development for their continued support!

To contact the newsletter editor, send an e-mail to gristmillgazette@gmail.com, or call the Visitor Center – Museum at 410-877-3560. To add another e-mail address to our subscription list, send an e-mail to gristmillgazette@gmail.com with a subject line of "subscribe" and enter the new e-mail address in the text box. To cancel your free subscription to the Gristmill Gazette, send an e-mail to gristmillgazette@gmail.com with a subject line of "unsubscribe".