

Historic Rich Hill

Timeline of Activities

THE FRIENDS OF RICH HILL

- June 18, 2015 – The Historical Society of Charles County establishes the *Friends of Rich Hill* Steering Committee and holds its first meeting.
- August through December 2015 – The Surratt Society wages an extensive fundraising campaign among its membership and raises \$2,500.00 for the *Friends of Rich Hill*.
- August 12, 2015 – *The Maryland Independent*: “Renovations to Historic Rich Hill will add attraction to Booth Trail”.
- November 1, 2015 – The *Friends of Rich Hill* sponsor the event “Behind the Walls at Historic Rich Hill.
- December 3, 2015 – Preservation Maryland presents a check to the *Friends of Rich Hill* for \$6,500.00 to develop an Interpretive Plan.
- December 8, 2015 – Rich Hill Interpretive Planning Meeting with Consultant Dean Krimmel and the *Friends of Rich Hill* Steering Committee.
- December 9, 2015: *The Maryland Independent*: “Charles County Historical Society receives \$6,500 grant for Rich Hill restoration”.
- March 2, 2016 – Rich Hill Interpretive Planning Meeting with Consultant Dean Krimmel and the *Friends of Rich Hill* Steering Committee.
- April 2016 – The *Friends of Rich Hill* produce a “pull-up” exhibit: *Rediscovering Historic Rich Hill*.
- May 14, 2016 – The *Friends of Rich Hill* participate in *Market Days* at the Port Tobacco Courthouse.
- May 18, 2016 – Rich Hill Interpretive Planning Meeting with the *Friends of Rich Hill* Steering Committee.
- July 2016 – The Final Interpretive Report for Rich Hill is produced by Dean Krimmel, consultant, in conjunction with the *Friends of Rich Hill* Steering Committee.
- July 2016 – The *Friends of Rich Hill* produce a “pull-up” exhibit: *Booth’ Escape Into Southern Maryland*.

- August 2016 – The *Friends of Rich Hill* create an outdoor signage for Rich Hill: *Rich Hill Through the Years*.
- September 2016 – Historic Rich Hill Group is established on Facebook.
- October 3, 2016 – The *Friends of Rich Hill* are awarded a grant from the Charles County Heritage Commission for a research paper on Dr. Gustavus Brown and his descendants.
- October 4, 2016 – Presentation by the *Friends of Rich Hill* to the Charles County Antique Arts Association: “Dr. Gustavus Brown, builder of Rich Hill and the Legacy of his Influential Family”.
- October 13, 2016 – The *Friends of Rich Hill* in partnership with the African-American Heritage Society is awarded a grant from Preservation Maryland to develop exhibits entitled: “From Slavery’s Shadows to Freedom’s Light: The Story of Mary Swann and the Enslaved African-Americans who Toiled at Rich Hill”.
- October 22, 2016 – Pull-Ups from the *Friends of Rich Hill* are displayed to the Historical Society of Charles County.
- October 24, 2016 – Esther Doyle Read, Charles County Archeologist, lead the Charles County Archaeological Society and members of the *Friends of Rich Hill* Steering Committee on an investigative walk at Rich Hill.
- October 27, 2016 – Presentation by the *Friends of Rich Hill* to the Port Tobacco Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution: *Dr. Gustavus Brown, builder of Rich Hill and the Legacy of his Influential Family*.
- October 2016 – Presentation by the *Friends of Rich Hill* to Federal Retired Employees, Indian Head.
- November 2016 – Presentation by the *Friends of Rich Hill* to the Richard Clark Senior Citizen Center, La Plata.
- November 18, 2017 – The Friends of Rich Hill are awarded a grant from Charles County Tourism to produce the following: Panel exhibits: *Samuel Cox, Dr. Gustavus Brown, Charles County Conspirators & Accomplices of the Lincoln Assassination*; Pull-Ups: *Genealogy of the Brown Family, Genealogy of the Cox Family* and a brochure on *Rediscovering Historic Rich Hill*.
- January 10, 2017 – The *Friends of Rich Hill* are awarded a grant from the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium to produce a brochure on *Rediscovering Historic Rich Hill*.
- March, 2017 – Through a grant from Charles County Tourism, the *Friends of Rich Hill* produce the following panel exhibits: *Guilty or Innocent: Charles County’s Conspirators, Witnesses, & Accomplices: George Atzerodt, Thomas Jones, Dr. Samuel Mudd, Oswell*

Swann, and Mary Swann; Samuel Cox: Innovative Farmer & Community Icon; Samuel Cox: Harboring of Fugitives & Master of Rich Hill; Samuel Cox, Jr.

- March 3, 2017 – “An Evening with John Wilkes Booth and the Friends of Rich Hill,” First Friday Event sponsored by the Society for the Restoration of Port Tobacco at Port Tobacco Courthouse, 6:00 p.m.
- April, 2017 - Through a grant from Charles County Tourism, the *Friends of Rich Hill* produce the following panel exhibits: Dr. Gustavus Brown: Immigrant, Physician and Builder of Rich Hill; The Illustrious Descendants of Dr. Gustavus Brown.
- April, 2017 - Through a grant from Charles County Tourism, the *Friends of Rich Hill* produce the following pull-up displays: *The Brown Family Genealogy; The Cox Family Genealogy.*
- April, 2017 - The *Friends of Rich Hill* produce a panel exhibit: *The Descendants of Lucy Beall Cox Neale.*
- April 23, 2017 – The *Friends of Rich Hill* open house at Historic Rich Hill: Costumed docents, tours, Civil War encampment, archaeological digs, 3D Virtual Tour, displays from the Charles County Archeological Society and the Thomas Stone National Park Service. Over 188 attendees including 25 descendants of Samuel Cox.

To date, the Friends of Rich Hill include 80 Memberships from the following areas:

California	Iowa	North Carolina
Delaware	Maine	Ohio
District of Columbia	Maryland	Pennsylvania
Florida	Missouri	South Carolina
Illinois	New Jersey	Virginia
Indiana	New York	

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Rehabilitation

CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT

- January 9, 2014 – Senate Bill 133.
- June 20, 2014 - Received award letter and grant agreement from Maryland Department of General Services- Begin processing award documents for signature by Charles County Commissioners.
- June 24, 2014 - No Adverse Effect letter received by Maryland Historical Trust, ending their review.
- July 21, 2014 – Return signed grant agreement, insurance certificate, matching funds certification to DGS. Commence grant activities. Begin developing scope of work.
- December 2014 -Technical Proposal received for Historic Structures Report, Conditions Assessment and Cost Estimates.
- February 2015 - Contractor hauls trash from interior and installed OSB to replace missing floor. Installed exterior OSB panels to secure building and prevent further exterior deterioration. (Garner Construction)
- March 2015 - Historic Structures Report, Conditions Assessment and Cost Estimates PO Issued to Ottery.
- April 2015 - Initial Site Enhancements Completed for Lincoln 150. Spread bank run (16 loads) and gravel (134 tons) for access drive and parking area. Installed drainage pipe. Removed debris and overgrown areas around house, Bushhogged surrounding landscape. Installed gate.
- April 17-19, 2015 – Charles County Tourism presents: “On the Trail of the Assassin” with exhibits, displays and encampments at Rich Hill.
- April 2015 - Archaeological testing to define outbuildings on south elevation (11 units) followed by artifact cleaning and cataloguing.
- July 2015 - Interior demolition of 1970s drywall completed. (Garner Construction)
- October 2015 – Dendrochronology analysis conducted by Oxford-Tree Ring Laboratory.
- November 2015 - Conditions Assessment completed (Silman -Structural Engineers)

- January 2016 - Dendrochronology completed (Oxford Tree-Ring Laboratory), revealing the structure was built in 1729.
- April 2016 - Landscape Studies grant application submitted
- May 2016 - Historic Structures Report Completed (Ottery)
- August 2016 - Preservation Matters Newsletter published with feature article on renovation project and progress to date.
- August 2016 - Scope of Work completed for Structural Stabilization.
- September 2016 - Updated Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties completed – Submitted to Maryland Historical Trust
- September 9, 2016 - Landscape Studies Grant Agreement fully executed. Three Bids solicited & reviewed, Contractor selected.
- September 15, 2016 – Fencing installed adjacent to parking area.
- November 2016 - Appraisal bids submitted & reviewed.
- December 2016 - Final Technical Proposal for Structural Stabilization Engineering & Design Received and submitted to contract approval. (Ottery)
- January 10, 2107 - Purchase Orders issued for Landscape Studies (Ground Penetrating Radar, Magnetometry and Archaeological Shovel Testing around the house) & appraisals. Work Commences.
- March 1, 2017 - PO issued for Structural Stabilization Engineering & Design. (Ottery/Silman)
- April 2017 - Appraisals Complete. Discuss Land Acquisitions with owner.
- April 2017 - Well replacement complete. (due to vandalism)
- April 13, 2017 - Site visit with Structural Engineer to commence Structural Stabilization Engineering & Design.
- April 23, 2017 - Archaeological Investigation of the Midden during Open House. Parks cleaned interior and grounds.
- April 27, 2017 - Processing artifacts during Open Lab.