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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Follow us on Facebook and  
Twitter (@FredCoHistory).

## New Names and Faces

Three new staff members have joined the Historical Society of Frederick County since the last issue of "History Connection," so I thought I would start this issue by introducing all of us.

I am Kristen Butler, the new program coordinator. I joined the Historical Society in March, and have been working to understand the school programs, coordinating group programs, and developing new programs for youth and families. I grew up not too far away in Shepherdstown, WV, and earned my BA in historic preservation from Mary Washington College and my MA in history and museum studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. After working as a museum educator at a county history museum in Wisconsin, I was glad to have the opportunity to come home. It is very exciting to be working with all of you to

make history come alive for children in Frederick County.

Brigette Kamsler took a position with Columbia University, and Rebecca Crago joined us as research center coordinator. She earned her MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh and has worked with the Erie County Historical Society, the Erie Maritime Museum, and the Hillman Library in Pittsburgh. Rebecca and I are thinking about creating an archives open house for students and would love your feedback. You can contact Rebecca at [rcrago@hsfcinfo.org](mailto:rcrago@hsfcinfo.org) or (301)661-1188.

Kelly McCartney married and moved to New York, and Carrie Blough joined us as curator. She earned an MA in history from American University and has worked at the Historical & Genealogical Society of Somerset

County, PA, Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, and Old Economy Village. She's currently working on our spring exhibit of 2011 acquisitions and our 2012 special exhibit on Barbara Fritchie in popular culture. You can reach Carrie at [cblough@hsfcinfo.org](mailto:cblough@hsfcinfo.org) or (301) 663-1188.

Rebecca, Carrie, and I are all excited to be in Frederick County and look forward to working with all of you!



**Kristen Butler**  
Program Coordinator

## Resource Guides & Tour Request Forms

Our teacher resource guides and school tour request forms have been updated to be a bit more clear and user-friendly.

The new resource guides can be downloaded as PDFs on the student programs page of our website: [www.hsfcinfo.org/education/school\\_groups.htm](http://www.hsfcinfo.org/education/school_groups.htm). Information on booking programs, fees, and my contact information are on the front page.

The revised school tour request form can be found on the last page of the resource guides and the last page of this edition of the newsletter. However, there are also three other ways to access this form. You can download it as a PDF from our website and mail or fax it in, or you can fill it in online at <http://bit.ly/HSFCschoolrequestform> or the "School Tour Request Form" tab of our Facebook page.



## Ways to Save

I know that it has been difficult for some of our regular classes to schedule programs since we started charging a fee. So, I thought I would outline a few great ways to save while still taking advantage of our school programs.

- **Title I:** All of our programs are free to Title I schools. If you have any questions about how this may apply to your class, please do not hesitate to contact me.
- **Teacher Memberships:** All HSFC teacher members get 25% off their classes' fees. Membership is only \$10 per year, and comes with the same benefits as our student memberships. More information: [www.hsfcinfo.org/members/individual.htm](http://www.hsfcinfo.org/members/individual.htm).
- **In-Class Programs:** Eliminate the cost of bussing altogether by bringing the museum to your classroom. All of our in-class programs include rich illustrations, hands-on objects, group discussion, and group activities. See our teacher resource guides for details.

Questions? Suggestions? Please contact me at (301) 663-1188, ext. 105, or [kmatlick@hsfcinfo.org](mailto:kmatlick@hsfcinfo.org).

*"Snow – We have had few  
snows this winter. The  
greatest as yet, is now on the  
ground which fell on Monday  
last 4 or 5 inches. Since that  
time the sleighs have been  
running in style day & night,  
to the pain & sorrow of  
many an old horse."*

Jacob Englebrecht,  
Wednesday, February 1,  
1826, 1 o'clock AM

## Student Contests

Our annual student contests provide the opportunity to explore a topic in local history and are open to any student who lives or attends school in Frederick County. After the awards ceremony, we send out announcements of the winners and their photos to area newspapers, so this can be a great way for schools to receive publicity for excellence in academics. This year's poster contest asks middle school students to apply the National History Day theme, "Revolution Reaction, Reform," to Frederick County, enabling students to create two contest entries from one project.

Information on the student contests can be found on the events page of our website ([www.hsfcinfo.org/events](http://www.hsfcinfo.org/events)), our Facebook page, or downloaded as PDF files from the following addresses:

- Harry L. Decker Historical Essay Contest for fourth graders: <http://bitly.com/wC2ZrX>
- Richard Markey Memorial Poster Contest for middle school students: <http://bitly.com/y9cGeN>
- John J. Markell Memorial Art Contest for high school students: <http://bitly.com/z1EPZR>

## Byerly-Rothwell Photography Contest

We also have a new photography contest that is open to individuals of all ages, amateurs and professionals, who reside or attend school in Frederick County. It is named for the Byerly-Rothwell family in honor and memory of Jacob Byerly, Frederick County's earliest professional photographer. The contest is supported through the generosity of the Rothwell Family Foundation. More information on the Byerly-Rothwell Photography Contest can be found on the events page of our website, our Facebook page, or downloaded as PDF files from the following address:

- Contest details: <http://bitly.com/t1EkrW>
- Entry form: <http://bitly.com/y5qWYC>

Jacob Byerly  
self-portrait



# @GUESStheDog



Guess the Dog is a major highlight for children on our second grade community walking tour, but we recently partnered with FCPS to extend students' relationship with Guess beyond the tour. Second graders now can follow Guess's

## Guess the Iron Dog on Church Street

Twitter feed, where "he" tweets Frederick County history questions to students who research answers in their classrooms.

We are excited about this opportunity to use technology to integrate local history into elementary classrooms and inspire students to learn more about their community's history.

The program currently is being piloted in a handful of classrooms

with plans to expand it in the coming year.

Although Guess's intended audience is elementary students, anyone (even those without a Twitter account) can follow Guess at [www.twitter.com/GUESStheDog](http://www.twitter.com/GUESStheDog).

Private school students, homeschool families, and other community members who wish to participate in the discussion about Frederick County history are invited to participate.

For more information, contact me or your curriculum coordinator.

*"I'm based on a 1839 sculpture by Horatio Greenough of his dog, Arno, who greeted visitors to his studio in Italy. #fcpsTwitter Tuesday"*  
**@GUESStheDog,**  
**January 10**

## Coming Soon

For more information on any of the following programs and events, visit the events page of our website: [www.hsfcinfo.org/events](http://www.hsfcinfo.org/events) or our Facebook page.

- hiSTORY Hour: every first and third Wednesday, 10 to 11 am
- Learning Lunches: every first Wednesday, 12 to 1 pm
- Lectures: every second Tuesday, 7 pm
- *What's New: Museum Donations from 2011* exhibit: opening February 7
- Brownie Girl Scout "Listening to the Past" Open House: Saturday, March 17, 1 to 4 pm  
 Online registration: <http://bitly.com/zxdJGt>
- Treasured Heirloom Event: at the Delaplaine, Saturday, March 24, 9 am to 3 pm  
 More information: <http://bitly.com/wh6TAH>

- Genealogy Open House: Fri., March 30, 10 am to 4 pm
- Bell & History Day: March 31, 10 am to 4 pm  
 County-wide Frederick Historic Sites Consortium event. Free admission to Museum of Frederick County History and Taney House.
- Weekend walking tours: every Saturday at 11 am and Sunday at 1:30 pm, starting March 31  
 Tours will highlight the Civil War, especially the Maryland Campaign, every first and third Saturday. This walking tour will also be available for group tours, including school groups.
- *War of 1812: Frederick County Supports a Nation* exhibit: opening March 31 at the Taney House
- Homeschool Open House: Frederick During the Civil War: Thursday, April 19, 1 to 4 pm
- Junior Girl Scout "Local Lore" Open House: Saturday, April 28, 1 to 4 pm  
 Online registration: <http://bitly.com/zxdJGt>
- Cub Scout "Your History" Open House: Saturday, May 12, 1 to 4 pm  
 Online registration: <http://bitly.com/zxdJGt>
- *The Fritchie Phenomenon: Barbara Fritchie in Popular Culture* exhibit: opening June 1



**Treasured Heirloom event**

# Blizzard of 1899

By Kelly Dwyer, HSFC intern

Many of us still remember "Snowmageddon" of 2010. Well if you think we had it bad, just think about what occurred in 1899!

There had been nothing out of the ordinary during the winter of 1898 to 1899, until the month of February, when the snow hit. Hard. According to meteorologists, the Blizzard of 1899 was the worst since Lord Calvert landed in Maryland in 1634. Moreover, it was not just Frederick that was affected; it was felt from Texas to Maine. There were blizzards in Tampa and the Port of New Orleans froze over. In Manitoba, Canada, the temperature was recorded at 61 degrees below zero.

Frederick received the brunt of it from February 3 to 17, with the worst happening from the 12th to the 14th. (Happy Valentine's Day!) Temperatures dipped down to a brisk four degrees below zero and there were nearly 16 inches of snow—in one day! All of this snow had to be removed by hand from the fields, driveways, and roads. The *Middletown Valley Register* reported that residents "will not be done shoveling snow in their back yards 'til spring."

Every facet of life was disrupted by the storm, as many could not leave their houses. The railroads were shut down, because the tracks were completely buried and the power supplies had been left unmanned. Towns and homes were isolated from news and mail. One postmaster from Middletown trekked the distance to Frederick in a sleigh to pick up newspapers for the citizens of his town. Without access to roads for transportation, another problem arose: an impending shortage of coal and oil. Without these commodities, heating and electricity would become impossible, which is obviously something to be avoided when the mercury in the thermometer is freezing.

People who ventured out found many of their possessions missing. Confused horses wandered off farms in the midst of the storm, and one man lost his chicken house. He went to tend to his chickens one morning and found the coop was nowhere in sight. After some searching, he found it sitting upside down in a snow drift atop a tree. After digging through the snow to find the door, he found his chickens, who seemed to know no different and happy to see him.

Although many of us are disappointed that we have not received much of the white stuff this year, we can be thankful that we have not had to dig our way through 20 feet of snow, as one railroad conductor did in his effort to clear the tracks between Middletown and Frederick.

*Unfortunately, we could not find any pictures of the 1899 blizzard. The photos on this page were taken on Jefferson Road after a blizzard on March 8, 1932.*

"The weather thus far the winter has been remarkably mild. We have had but 4 or 5 days cold weather in December. Now it feels more like March or April than January. We require very little fire in the stove. The outdoor mechanics (sic), were stopped but a few days thus far. They appear to go on as usual. P.S. The cold weather set in January 8, 1833." Jacob Englebrecht, Friday, January 4, 1833, 10 o'clock AM



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF FREDERICK COUNTY

# School Program Request Form



Scan this code to fill in the form on your smartphone.

Thank you for your interest in scheduling a program with the Historical Society of Frederick County. Please submit tour requests no later than two weeks prior to your program date. Upon receipt of this form, we will contact you regarding the availability of your preferred dates and time. Please note that your program is not scheduled until after we have confirmed your date and time. This form can be mailed or faxed to the address or number listed on the front page of this guide, or you may complete the form online at <http://bit.ly/HSFCschoolrequestform>. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments regarding your program at (301) 663-1188, extension 105, or [kmatlick@hsfcinfo.org](mailto:kmatick@hsfcinfo.org).

Sincerely,

Kristen M. Butler, Program Coordinator

## GROUP INFORMATION

Group Contact Name	School Name
Phone Number	E-mail Address
Grade Level(s)	# of Students / # of Teachers & Chaperones (1 adult for every 5 to 7 students)

## REQUESTED PROGRAM(S)

### Museum Tours:

- Museum of Frederick County History
- Roger Brooke Taney House (K-5th)
- The Taney House and Maryland Slavery (6th-12th)
- hiSTORY Hour (specify topic): \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Downtown Frederick Walking Tours:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Community Walking Tour
- Frederick History Walking Tour
- Into a New Era (20th century high school tour)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### In-Class Programs:

- History of Frederick County
- Life as a Maryland Slave
- How We Got From Here to There
- Reading Historic Photographs
- The Jacob Englebrecht Diaries
- hiSTORY Hour (specify topic): \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## SPECIAL NEEDS / NOTES

Please describe any special needs or any other information we may need to know: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## PREFERRED DATES / TIMES

In-class and museum programs are available Wednesdays through Fridays, starting 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

	Preferred Date	Preferred Start Time
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Choice</b>		
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Choice</b>		
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Choice</b>		