



**Calvert County Heritage Committee
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

TO: Board of County Commissioners
VIA: Terry Shannon, County Administrator *TS*
FROM: Harry E. Wedewer, Chairperson, Calvert County Heritage Committee *HEW*
DATE: October 13, 2017
SUBJECT: Annual Report for the Calvert County Heritage Committee

Background:

The Calvert County Heritage Committee was created by Calvert County Board of County Commissioners' (BOCC) Resolution 15-98

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2018

Budget: \$2,907

Actual: \$2,907

Purpose: Pursuant to BOCC resolution 15-98 the committee's purpose is to "promote programs and activities concerning the historical and cultural heritage of Calvert County to the extent that funds are provided to the Calvert County Heritage Committee." Further, as part of the same resolution, the committee was directed by the BOCC to particularly focus its attention on supporting programs to educate students in the county's history.

Past Accomplishments

- Historic Old Wallville School. In partnership with the Friends of the Old Wallville School, the committee was instrumental in assisting in the reconstruction of the historic Old Wallville School on Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) property adjacent to Calvert Elementary School where it serves as a learning laboratory for CCPS fourth grade students. The committee was equally instrumental in assisting in the development of a half-day long interpretive program for these students titled "Strive Not To Equal But To Excel." Since 2012, the Committee has supported this highly successful effort in joint partnership with the Friends of the Old Wallville School, Calvert County Public Schools, Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum (JPPM), the Maryland Humanities Council, and with the support of private donors in what has been a highly successful public and private venture.

Through "Strive Not to Equal, But To Excel," thousands of CCPS students have benefitted from this program. This effort will continue to develop the historic record of the school and African American education in Calvert County while increasing student awareness of these topics. In this regard, the interpretive program brings forward the stories of the accomplishments of Southern Maryland's African American communities and schools during the era of one-room schools in Calvert County. As noted below, the Committee will continue to support "Strive Not To Equal, But To Excel" during Fiscal Year 2018.

Aside from the educational benefits noted above the school has been of significant interest to tourists visiting the county and was featured in the 2015 Maryland Home and Garden tour. Finally, in partnership with the Friends of the Old Wallville School, the committee has assisted in the repair and

upkeep of the school, which will ensure that this historic gem will continue to benefit Calvert County citizens for years to come.

- Calvert County Public Schools History Day. The Committee has been a vital supporter and promoter of CCPS History Day and the development of this program into one of the leading such events in Maryland. Since its inception in 1990 with approximately 200 students, CCPS History Day has grown to approximately 3,500 participating students annually and has provided these students with an important educational experience that enhances their critical thinking, and research and writing skills among others. Several CCPS students have been recognized at the state and national level for their History Day projects. In sum, CCPS History Day has been extraordinarily successful due in significant part to the committee's support.
- Calvert County Heritage Photography Contest. For the last 12 years, the committee has sponsored this highly successful contest in which over 1,000 CCPS student have participated. In addition to providing a photo of a subject of historic significance, CCPS entrants are required to submit a written description describing the historical significance of the photograph. Through this contest, the committee has significantly raised historic awareness among participating students. Finally, the committee added a seniors category to allow residents of county assisted living facilities to participate. Several prizes were awarded and the winning photos were subsequently posted on the Calvert County website (see attached Appendix to this report).

Current Projects

- Support of Calvert County Public Schools History Day. The committee is continuing its vital support of CCPS History Day in Fiscal Year 2018 through three lines of effort: (1) commitment of a portion of the committee's budget; (2) endorsement of CCPS grant efforts in support of the event; and (3) volunteer and judging support at the CCPS National History Day event in March 2018.
- Support of the historic Old Wallville School and its interpretation. In Fiscal Year 2018, the committee is continuing its important support of the historic Old Wallville School through three lines of effort: (1) commitment of a portion of the committee's budget to support the "Strive Not To Equal But To Excel" interpretive effort; (2) volunteer support of interpretive and maintenance efforts at the school; and; (3) support of grant efforts by the Friends of the Old Wallville School.
- Sponsorship of the Calvert County Heritage Photography Contest. The committee is continuing its sponsorship of this highly successful contest in Fiscal Year 2018. Specifically, the committee will be advertising and managing the contest in addition to providing prize money.
- Support of Maritime Heritage. The committee is investigating support of efforts to promote Calvert County's maritime heritage. In this regard, given the importance of maritime heritage to the county, the Committee believes that interpretive events, particularly focused on CCPS students, could significantly raise awareness among these students of this vital part of the county's heritage.
- Providing input to the Maryland Folklife Center. This is a state-wide project aimed at developing a center of Maryland folklife and that is in the initial stages of gathering stakeholder input regarding the center's mission, construct, funding, etc.
- Investigating support of the disposition of the Sunderland Polling House currently located on Maryland State Highway Administration property in Sunderland.

Future Goals

- Continue support of the Old Wallville School
- Continue support of the CCPS History Day
- Continue sponsorship of the Calvert County Heritage Photo Contest
- Focus on the maritime heritage of the county
- Provide input to the Maryland Folklife Center
- Providing direct support in history student visits and awareness to the War of 1812 Battle of St. Leonard's Creek.
- Support the CCPS History Day coordinator in locating alternative sources of funding
- Support a permanent repair to the Chimney at the Old Wallville School
- Support the upgrade of grounds in the immediate vicinity of the Old Wallville School
- Support development of the Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm
- Support relevant historic grant proposals
- Support efforts associated with the disposition of the former Sunderland Polling House
- Encouragement of other local historical education and outreach efforts.

Appendix - Calvert County Heritage Photography Competition

Each year the Calvert County Heritage Committee sponsors a photography competition to support awareness of the historical and cultural heritage of Calvert County. Below are the winning entries for 2017. Congratulations to these students on their fine work.

Junior Division

First Place Winner

My Brother's Crab Pots
by Summer Barnett

Grade 5
Dowell Elementary School



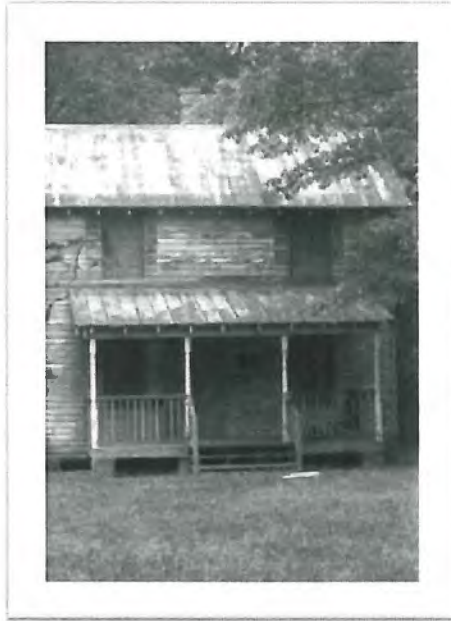
Second Place Winners

Calvert County Waters
by Taylor Bard

Grade 5
Mutual Elementary School



Tenant Farmer House
by Sean Jewett
Grade 4
Mutual Elementary School



Honorable Mention Winners

Crabbing Boat
by Natalie Bozman
Grade 5
Sunderland Elementary School



Frosty Pier
by Jack Sturge
Grade 8
Calvert Middle School



Oakland Hall Graveyard
by Danielle Hallberg

Grade 8
Calvert Middle School



Tobacco Barn
by Kassandra Sellers

Grade 8
Calvert Middle School



Senior Division

First Place Winner

Tobacco Barn Interior
by Christian J.A. Gott

Grade 9
Calvert High School

