

THE RUGGED ROAD TO *Revolution*

Cheers to a Successful Year!

The Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) has been working diligently since receiving the grant award notification for the 2023 Preservation Planning Grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program (National Park Service). With this grant, MHT is working with the public to identify and document the understudied encampment sites and cultural resources associated with the march of American and French soldiers through Harford and Cecil Counties. At the beginning of the year, MHT held two successful public meetings that included a presentation on grant objectives, an overview of the National Register process and archaeological testing strategies to be utilized, and ended with a Q&A session. Feedback from the attending public helped with the first stage of the grant, which focused mostly on contacting landowners and non-disturbance archaeological survey.

Architectural Fieldwork Update

This year, MHT staff have been working hard to determine the two properties for National Register of Historic Places listing and/or updating. With the support of the Museum Curator and the Town of



of Perryville, we are happy to announce that the existing National Register nomination for **Rodgers Tavern** will be extensively updated! It was chosen due to its significance to Maryland's legacy with American Independence and the strong potential for new information to be added to the listing, such as elements of the Tavern's story relating to enslaved labor. A second property in Harford County will be selected for additional National Register documentation in the new year, so stay tuned!

To learn more about the grant or to submit potential site information, please visit <https://bit.ly/mht-rochambeau> or scan the QR code!





Archaeological Fieldwork Update

MHT archaeologists have been busy working all across Cecil and Harford Counties! Over the summer, archaeologists conducted geophysical surveys at three areas of interest in Elkton. This fall, MHT crossed the Susquehanna River into Harford County to conduct survey near Abingdon. Methods of survey included ground-penetrating radar, fluxgate gradiometer, and magnetic susceptibility – all of which can help determine if an area retains intact archaeological features below the ground surface. Volunteers from the general public, as well as representatives from the Harford County Department of Planning & Zoning, Harford County Historic Preservation Commission, Daughters of the American Revolution, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Bel Air Historic Preservation Commission, and Archeological Society of Maryland, assisted MHT archaeologists with the fieldwork. In the new year, archaeologists will be analyzing the results of the surveys and determining which areas may be appropriate for excavation! A special thank you must be extended to the landowners and managers for allowing us to come out: **the Town of Elkton, Cecil County Public Schools, Historic Elk Landing Foundation, and the Riviera Giovanni Trustee.**

Volunteers Needed!

The MHT Office of Archaeology is always interested in taking on new volunteers! This upcoming year, we'll need assistance with additional geophysical survey and excavation. No experience is required! If interested, please sign up using the QR code or link on the front of the newsletter!