

# The Laurel Historical Society Speakers Bureau

Add a dash of the past to your club meeting, class, scout group, or social gathering with a **Free** speaker from the Laurel Historical Society Speakers Bureau.

**Are Children Part of Your Program?** There's a special program just for kids, with content designed around school standards.

Want to see the city's past up close? Schedule a *Walking Tour of Laurel*.

Speakers are engaging presenters with a deep knowledge and understanding of Laurel history.

[How To Book a Program information at the end of this document](#) .

## Available Topics



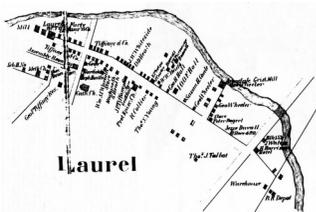
**Black History of Laurel** Tracing black history from early days of slavery in the Laurel area until the end of segregation through the struggles and changes of African American life as laws affecting them changed for worse or better.



**A Trip Through Time: Unlocking Laurel's Past** (Laurel's early years to present) – Take a photo trip through Laurel's early years up to the present – Discover surprising facts about Prince George's only factory town. Meet some of the events and people that molded the community.



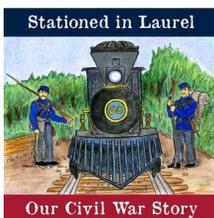
**A Long Overdue Story.** Dianne Cross's odyssey of historical discovery started with a portrait of her great-great grandfather, Isaac Hall, which hung in her grandmother's living room. As children they called it 'the solidier'. Hall's curiosity led her to find out more about him. Who was he and what did he do? Cross's extensive research has enabled her to weave together the compelling story of his life from a slave to soldier to freedom. The long overdue story is the story of one of the over 200,000 African Americans who fought in the Civil War.



**Early History of Laurel: Snowdens to WWII.** A photo presentation of Laurel history from the Snowdens in 1658 through the Revolutionary War, Industrial Revolution, Civil War, incorporation of Laurel as a town, WWI and WWII.



**Lost Laurel Leader** Combines the best of the "Lost Laurel" web site and the *History Matters* column from the *Laurel Leader*. Journey back through the 20th century in Laurel to learn about obscure, interesting historical events, and to revisit the vanishing retailers and buildings of the city.



### **Stationed in Laurel: Our Civil War Story**

Thousands of Union troops were stationed in Laurel during the Civil War to guard the railroad and the Patuxent River. Learn about this long-forgotten part of Laurel history, including a newly discovered Civil War map and "Aunt Becky."



### **Horace Capron: From Laurel to Japan, A Laurel Founder's Story.**

Born in 1804 Horace Capron helped build Laurel's early cotton mills. His later career included service as a Union Civil War General, head of the Department of Agriculture, and travel to Japan. His statue stands in the center of Sapporo.



**Laurel's Mills and Mill Workers** Based on the recent exhibit: **True Life: I was a Laurel Mill Worker.** Learn how Laurel's Mill workers lived, what they earned, and the ups and downs of the Mills in Prince George's County's only factory town.



**Shake, Rattle N Roll: Laurel in the 1950s** Based on the LHS exhibit, this presentation takes a stroll down the shops, history and developments that shaped Laurel after WWII.



**George Nye and His Diaries: Discovery to Transcription.**

Learn about the discovery and acquisition of these 19<sup>th</sup> Century diaries, their importance to Laurel history and the man who wrote them, whose life included fighting at the Battle of Antietam and running Laurel's mills for 9 years.



**Traveling Through History Along Route #1 in Laurel** The history of Laurel told through two centuries of time travel along Route #1.



**And They're Off: 100 Years of the Laurel Race Track** Discover the history of Laurel's famed racetrack, from famous horses and celebrities to the glory days of the Washington International and the personalities who've shaped the course.



**Why Laurel Grew: Location, Events & People** A pictorial history of Laurel focusing on factors and events which caused Laurel to grow from a wilderness to an area of 100,000 residents with a Laurel mailing address. Presentation can be adapted for adults or children.



**Researching History: Secrets of a Successful Search**

Whether researching Laurel's rich history, your family history, or any historical topic, learn how to be an efficient and productive researcher. The presentation includes guidance on area research facilities and tips for maximizing your research time.



**Genealogical Searches: An Introduction** An experienced genealogist provides information to get you started on the search for family.



**Your Laurel Museum: Highlights and History** What does the Laurel Historical Society do, anyway? Learn how LHS grew out of the nation's bi-centennial. Discover highlights of the collection and how the LHS preserves artifacts, letters and other items of local history. Your attic may have a treasure we would like!

**Don't see the topic you would like?**

**Ask us! Our speakers may be able to accommodate your specific interest.**

**Walking Tour of Laurel's Historic Main Street**

Take a trip down Laurel's Main Street. Learn about its history and the businesses that formed the City.

Select either Upper Main Street (includes Laurel Museum, St. Mary of the Mills and St. Philips Church) or Lower Main Street (St. Philips South to the Laurel Train Station/Civil War Encampment)

1 hour. Maximum 12 people

**Just for Kids – Laurel History Trunk**

Great for a Sunday School, brownie or cub scout troop, homeschool group or camp/afterschool program. Experience and learn about life as a young person in the 1870s. Includes period games, dress-up, and chance to learn about a real-life mill child.

Time: 30 minutes to 1.5 hours. (to meet your needs)

Minimum participants: 10.

A variety of lesson plans and activities are available fit to VSC standards.

With adequate advance notice this program can also be tailored for specific ages.

## How to book a presentation:

Contact the Laurel Historical Society

**assist@laurelhistoricalsociety.org or director@laurelhistoricalsociety.org**  
**301-725-7975**

Tell us the topic(s) in which you are interested, and dates you have in mind. Try to have at least one alternative date. The LHS representative will contact our speakers. Once the date and speaker have been confirmed, you and the speaker will communicate directly. We request that you keep the LHS informed of any changes of date/time.

Presentations are 30-45 minutes but can be adapted to fit your group's requirements.

LHS speakers can supply their own projector and computer.

**Cost:** Presentations are given free of charge, but donations to the Laurel Historical Society are appreciated and gratefully accepted to support our activities. The LHS is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible.

**Audience** We ask that you respect our volunteer speakers' time and the effort involved in preparing a presentation for your group, and have a minimum of 12 people at any presentation.

Speakers will bring materials related to the LHS and we request they be made available to your group.