



**ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT**  
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**NEWS RELEASE** *for Immediate Release*

**No. 2023 – 164**

**September 25, 2023, 3 p.m.**

**Commissioners of St. Mary's County Proclaim September 2023 International Underground Railroad Month in St. Mary's County**

**LEONARDTOWN, MD** – At their [business meeting](#) on September 19, 2023, the Commissioners of St. Mary's County (SMCG) proclaimed **September 2023 as *International Underground Railroad Month in St. Mary's County***, to acknowledge the roles played by the people of St. Mary's County in the history of the Underground Railroad and in commemoration of associated local sites, including The Old Jail Museum in Leonardtown, Point Lookout State Park, Sotterley Plantation, and St. Mary's College of Maryland.

The [State of Maryland also declared](#) September as International Underground Railroad Month, recognizing Maryland as the most powerful Underground Railroad storytelling destination in the world. It also commemorates all those involved in the Underground Railroad, including Maryland's courageous Harriet Tubman, the brilliant orator Frederick Douglass, and thousands of freedom seekers.

In St. Mary's County, the Old Jail Museum in Leonardtown, Historic Sotterley in Hollywood, the Mackall Plantation on the grounds of St. Mary's College of Maryland in St. Mary's City, and Point Lookout State Park all interpret fascinating and powerful stories relating to the Underground Railroad and the plight of local freedom seekers as they undertook the dangerous journey. These locations throughout the county are official sites on the National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, a national byway.

“International Underground Railroad Month is a significant opportunity to draw attention to the role that the four St. Mary's County sites on the Network to Freedom played in the lives of both the freedom seekers, as well as those local abolitionists who helped them,” says Karen Stone, Manager of the St. Mary's County Museum Division. “We hope to highlight these important stories here in St. Mary's County, so visitors get a sense of what it really was like during that period in our history.”

Residents and visitors are encouraged to visit [www.visitmaryland.org](http://www.visitmaryland.org) for information on the Network to Freedom and [www.visitstmarysmd.com](http://www.visitstmarysmd.com) for information on sites and events relating to St. Mary's County history and heritage. The official St. Mary's County Underground Railroad Month proclamation can be found at [Facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum).

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**About the St. Mary's County Museum Division**

The St. Mary's County Museum Division was established by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to collect, preserve, research, and interpret the historic sites and artifacts which illustrate the natural and cultural histories of St. Mary's County and the Potomac River. These sites include St. Clement's Island Museum, Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, the Old Jail Museum, and the Drayden African American Schoolhouse. With this as its charter, the Museum Division serves as a resource, liaison and community advocate for all St. Mary's County public and private cultural assets. For more information, please visit: [museums.stmarysmd.com](http://museums.stmarysmd.com).

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