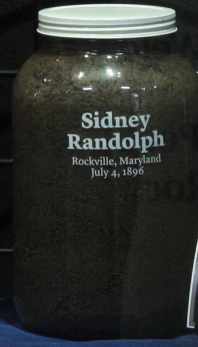
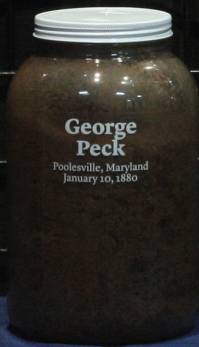


Remembering is Resistance

2021

"RECONCILIATION with a difficult past cannot be achieved without truthfully confronting history and finding a way forward that is thoughtful and responsible."

— BRYAN STEVENSON
Director, Equal Justice Initiative



MoCoLMP

Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project

OUR MISSION

The Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project (MoCoLMP) seeks to educate and engage the community about the history and legacy of lynching and racial terrorism in Montgomery County, Maryland; to gather soil from the three known lynching sites in the county; and to work with community groups and the Montgomery County Commission for Remembrance and Reconciliation to procure the installation of historical markers and a monument commemorating these events. As a grassroots organization we partner with the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project and are a designated Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) Community Remembrance Project.

REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND

In 2021, MoCoLMP organized the Remembrance Weekend to mark the lynchings of **Mr. John Diggs-Dorsey (1880)** and **Mr. Sidney Randolph (1896)**. The September 25–26 weekend included a Remembrance Walk and Soil Collection Ceremony. Our partners in planning the event were the Montgomery County Remembrance and Reconciliation Commission, Montgomery History and Peerless Rockville.

REMEMBRANCE WALK

MoCoLMP's History and Exhibits Committee developed a Remembrance Walk to take place prior to the Soil Collection Ceremony. The Walk started at the County Council Building, which is on the site of the old county jail. Mr. Diggs-Dorsey and Mr. Randolph were kidnapped from the jail prior to their being murdered by lynching.

The ceremony began with a cleansing performance dance by artist Liz Miller. James Stowe, Director of the Office of Human Rights, opened the event. The Walk was a single route and included stops at points related to both lynchings, as well as sites related to race in Rockville. Led by

(Left) James Stowe, Director of the Office of Human Rights. (Right) Artist Liz Miller.



Drummer Jabari Jefferson leads the Walk participants.



Historian Anthony Cohen describes the spot in downtown Rockville that both lynching parties passed.

drummer Jabari Jefferson, more than 100 people participated. Historians were posted at each stop to explain its significance.

The signs and photographs from the walk were later collected into an exhibit that was on display at the Red Brick Courthouse for a month after Remembrance Weekend. View the online exhibit of "It Happened In Rockville: Remembering Two Lynchings," [here](#).



Sarah Hedlund, librarian and archivist at Montgomery History, is the lead researcher tasked with telling the story of the lynchings.



Opening of the MoCoLMP photo exhibit at the Red Brick Courthouse.

SOIL COLLECTION CEREMONY

The Soil Collection Ceremony took place at Welsh Park in Rockville, Maryland, after the Remembrance Walk concluded. Choral voices

from Jerusalem-Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Clinton African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and Washington Revels Jubilee Voices provided inspiration through song. Lesley Young and the Rev. Alexa Fraser of MoCoLMP emceed the ceremony. Jason Green of the



(Top) Combined church choirs. (Middle) James Harkless and Jubilee Voices. (Above, left) Jason Green, Remembrance and Reconciliation Commission. (Above, center) Elliot Spillers, EJI. (Above, right) Montgomery County Council Proclamation recognizing the racial terrorism and injustice of the two lynchings.

"In this soil, there is the sweat of the enslaved...there is the blood of victims of racial violence and lynching... there are tears from all those who labored under the indignation and humiliation of segregation. But in the soil there is also the opportunity for new life, a chance to grow something hopeful and healing for the future."

—BRYAN STEVENSON, EJI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

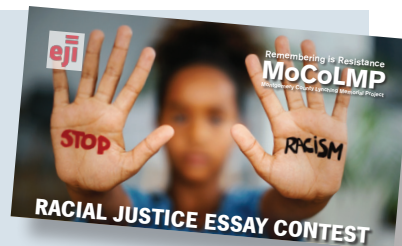
county Remembrance and Reconciliation Commission and Elliot Spillers from EJI in Montgomery, Alabama, spoke about our painful history and challenged us to keep fighting for racial justice. County Councilmember At-Large Hans Riemer presented a proclamation marking the day. Some 300 people attended the Soil Ceremony. View Jay Mallin's short video about the Soil Ceremony [here](#).



(Above, left) Rev. Alyce R. Walker Johnson, Clinton AME Zion Church. (Above, right) Local college and high school student volunteers carry the Soil Collection jars. (Bottom) Some of the community participants taking part in the Soil Collection.

RACIAL JUSTICE ESSAY CONTEST

MoCoLMP and EJI cosponsored a racial justice essay contest. The high school students who won were recognized in a virtual ceremony held by the Montgomery County Council at the end of November. The ceremony marked the conclusion of Remembrance Month in Montgomery County. Six thousand dollars in prize money was awarded to the top six winning students. See the names of the award winners [here](#).



AMONG OUR PARTNERS

(in alphabetical order)

City of Rockville

Clinton African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Coming to the Table–MoCo

Earl Dotter, Photojournalist

Equal Justice Initiative–Montgomery, Alabama

Gaithersburg Community Museum

Historic Medley

Jay Mallin Photos & Film

Jerusalem-Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church

Maryland Lynching Memorial Project

The Menare Foundation

Montgomery College Office of Equity and Inclusion

Montgomery County Commission on Remembrance and Reconciliation

Montgomery County Office of Human Rights

Montgomery History

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

Peerless Rockville

Poolesville Presbyterian Church

All photos, except where noted: Earl Dotter

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To join the Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project's listserv or to get involved in its ongoing work in Montgomery County, Maryland, email MoCoLMP at: mocolynchingmemorial@gmail.com

To donate: <https://mdlynchingmemorial.wixsite.com/montco>

 [MontgomeryCountyLynchingMemorialProject](https://www.facebook.com/MontgomeryCountyLynchingMemorialProject)



Maryland Lynching Memorial Project, a 501(c)(3) corporation, is the fiscal sponsor of the Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project. Your donations may be tax deductible.