

Ellicott City's 250th Anniversary

Elementary

Ellicott City is a nice historic community located just west of the city of Baltimore, within the valley of the beautiful Patapsco Rivers. The city is known as the home of the United States' oldest surviving train station. It is called the B & O railroad. It went from Baltimore to Ohio. The Baltimore and Ohio railroad became one of the largest railroads in the United States of America! Ellicott city has been there on top of a hill for 250 years! Ellicott City was built by three brothers named John, Joseph, and Andrew Ellicott. They built and built until they created a place. When they had finished building they had accomplished their American dream. But after the city was finished it wasn't called Ellicott City. It was called the "Hollow" because of the steep hills. People started moving into Ellicott City. Ellicott City was and still is unincorporated. But the city they built exceeded their expectations. The population grew and grew.

We moved to Ellicott City 2 years ago when the Covid-19 pandemic started. My mom who is a realtor says that Ellicott City is one of the most sought after neighborhoods in Maryland. Ellicott City has so much to offer. Ellicott City schools are among the best in the East Coast. There are also many nature parks and trails. There are a lot of cool places to shop and eat as well. During the pandemic we explored different parks and trails in Ellicott City. When me and my family are in Old Ellicott City my 6 year old brother always knows we are there. I asked my brother how do you know you are in Old Ellicott City. He said Old Ellicott City has houses very close to each other. Most of the buildings are even attached to each other. He also said that the houses in Old Ellicott City look old. He is correct. Old Ellicott City's buildings are made out of stone but in New Ellicott City the houses are made out of bricks and vinyl. Also the architecture is different from New Ellicott City. The houses in Old Ellicott City are small compared to the houses in New Ellicott City. I noticed that the roads in Old Ellicott City are much narrower than the roads in New Ellicott City. Most of the ELLICOTT CITY'S 250 ANNIVERSARY posters are also in Old Ellicott City.

Me and my family one time went on a stroll in a park named The Trolley line #9 in Ellicott City. There are a bunch of mini boards on the side of the trail that talk about what happened a long time ago in Ellicott City. I learned that a person called Benjamin Banneker was a neighbor of George Ellicott, one of the three Ellicott brothers. Banneker was a smart and helpful person. He is known for a thing he made when he was very young. When he was young he saw a watch on the ground. No one knew who it belonged to so Benjamin Banneker borrowed the watch to see how it works and he made a clock. It was no ordinary clock. It rang every hour. People from all over the world come to see Benjamin's clock. Benjamin Banneker's clock was the first clock in America. Andrew Ellicott's son, George Ellicott soon heard about the clock and became friends with Benjamin Banneker. George Ellicott's interest was astronomy. He shared that interest with Benjamin Banneker. Though George Ellicott shared his interest in astronomy, Benjamin taught himself astronomy by watching stars and eclipses. Another notable person is Thomas Isaac, an African-American, purchased a cabin in 1858 to make his

land larger. The cabin was an important resource for the African American community. The Thomas Isaac log cabin was one of the first structures in Ellicott City. During a flood in Ellicott City his cabin was destroyed. People started rebuilding it in the 20th century. Ever since the cabin was rebuilt, it became a historical attraction. Now it is located on Main Street.

So far I have talked about good times that happened to Ellicott City but there are bad times as well. The Civil War that occurred between 1861 to 1865 had a bad effect on Ellicott City. In that time North America got divided into north and south. Ellicott City had no choice but to split up into north and south as well. People on both sides began to fight against each other and people died on both sides. Ellicott City is vulnerable to flooding because Ellicott City is part of a watershed and a natural drainage area. The latest flood in Ellicott City was in 2018. It caused a lot of property damage. A brave soldier named Sgt. Eddison Hermond died while saving the life of a civilian. After the flood the state and local governments signed a paper to demolish houses that could fall. There is a New Ellicott City because in Old Ellicott City the population grew. New Ellicott city has better and sturdier homes and there are a lot of trees to prevent flooding.

Ellicott City has survived many natural & man-made disasters but still retains it's beauty. And I am proud to call it my home.

References:

- <https://visitoldellicottcity.com/places/thomas-isaac-log-cabin/>
- <https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/howard/bs-md-ho-civil-war-reeanctor-gives-talk-0215-20150219-story.html>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018_Maryland_flood