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FRONTIER EXHIBIT OPENS AT THE B&O RAILROAD MUSEUM’S ELICOTT CITY STATION FEATURING IMPORTANT 18TH & 19TH CENTURY LONGRIFLES MADE IN MARYLAND

An important new exhibit opens at the B&O Railroads Museum’s Ellicott City Station on Saturday April 21, 2013 and runs through October 16, 2013 titled Maryland to the Frontier, An Exhibition of Maryland Longrifles. Presented by the Kentucky Rifle Foundation in conjunction with the B&O Railroad Museum Ellicott City Station this special limited engagement exhibit will feature more than 20 longrifles made in Maryland from private collections. Most have never before been on public exhibition.

Before the railroad came there were colonial roads, turnpikes and wilderness paths over which many men and their families traveled from the eastern regions of Maryland to the frontier territories of Western Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio and the Shenandoah Valley. An essential tool of that journey was the uniquely American “Kentucky” Longrifle. Considered one of America’s highest forms of folk art, these beautifully crafted rifles were a part of daily life on the frontier from before the Revolution through the mid-19th century. Finely carved stocks, gracefully engraved brass furniture, and highly accurate long barrels were signature features of these everyday tools of survival.

This early industry established itself in and around Frederick, Hagerstown, Emmitsburg and Cumberland, among other locations, being located on or near the well-trodden routes of early settlers. Many of the rifles made in Maryland are considered among the most beautiful and significant art works ever produced.

Other elements of the exhibit will feature American colonial conflicts and the early development of the rifle, colonial roads, the development of the National Road and other artifacts associated with early migrants into the wilderness.

The B&O Railroad Museum’s Ellicott City Station sits on the Frederick Turnpike in Ellicott City, Maryland, the Eastern leg of the National Road. Thousands of early Marylanders plodded their way West across this route before the coming of the railroad. Ellicott City Station is the oldest surviving railroad station in America, and was the original terminus of the first 13 miles of commercial railroad in the country. The site features the Main Depot building, constructed in 1830-31; the freight house, designed by E. Francis Baldwin and built in 1885; a replica of the first horse-drawn passenger rail car, the Pioneer; and a 1927 “I-5” Caboose. Housed in the freight house is a 40-foot HO-gauge model train layout showing the original thirteen miles of
commercial rail track stretching from Baltimore to Ellicott Mills. Living historians tell the story of the development of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, the nation’s first common carrier railroad, and its impact on Ellicott City between 1827 and 1868. Ellicott City Station is a National Historic Landmark.

**Saturday, April 21 – Wednesday, October 16, 2013**

**B&O Railroad Museum: Ellicott City Station**
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The B&O Railroad Museum: Ellicott City Station is the oldest railroad station in America! Completed by the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad in 1831, this National Historic Landmark is the perfect complement to the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum’s Baltimore campus. Ellicott City Station showcases the people who built and operated America’s first railroad, tells stories of soldiers and citizens caught in the turmoil of Civil War and highlights the clash of technology that transformed America’s transportation systems from Roads to Rails.

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