

The Carroll Courier

Published by The Historical Society of Carroll County, Maryland, Inc.

Annual Meeting Goes Virtual

Join HSCC on Wednesday, November 4 at 7:00 P.M. as our Annual Meeting goes on-line

This year, due to circumstances beyond our control, we're having a "no dinner" dinner. The annual business meeting will include all the usual things: a report by our Executive Director on the State of the Society, a financial update from our treasurer, and election of members of the Board of Trustees. **And there will also be a special guest speaker**. But, you'll have to provide your own dinner.

Allison Tolman, Vice President of Collections and Interpretation at the Maryland Center for History and Culture (formerly the Maryland Historical Society), will do a special presentation on their *Spectrum of Fashion* exhibition. The exhibition includes nearly 100 garments spanning four centuries of Maryland history. This presentation will go behind the scenes of the Fashion Archives at the Maryland Historical Society and detail the process of analyzing, conserving, researching, and mounting the nearly 100 garments that have become the Spectrum of Fashion.



This program will be live via Zoom. Registration is required

to access the program. To register, email Catherine Lusher at execassistant@hsccmd.org by October 30. Registrants will receive the Zoom link on the morning of November 4.

The following persons will be presented to the Historical Society membership at the Annual Meeting for election to the Board of Trustees:

Incumbent Trustees for a 1-year Term

Douglas P. Velnoskey

Incumbent Trustees for a 3-year Term

Glenn Bair Tom Beach Jim Shriver

New Trustees for a 3-year Term

Larry Bohn Iosh Kohn



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Office hours: T-S, 10:00 - 4:00
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Library: Ready to help by phone or email

From the Executive Director

Dear Friends of the Historical Society,

I am running out of words to describe the year 2020. The pandemic disrupted work, school, and our personal lives. Yet, out of the chaos and fear came generosity and resilience of spirit. Our gracious *Box Lunch Talk* and *Talk*



at the Tavern speakers learned to present on Zoom from wherever our relentless Programs Leader, Lynn Wheeler, could find a strong internet connection. A team of volunteers including Kristen McMasters, Frank Batavick, Jill Schultz, Austin Hewitt, Wendy Raith, and yours truly created video clips to keep the community engaged in history during the worst of the lock-down. Our most popular posts were Doris Hull's still pictures with brief, well-crafted text. Cathy Baty began featuring collection items on Fridays, and Mimi Ashcraft and David Buie did not skip a beat writing in the *Carroll County Times*.

Then, there was the *Breaking Barriers* Virtual Gala. Much has been said already, and deservedly so, about the Herculean effort by Historical Society's Gala & Development Committees, the Community Media Center, and Historical Society staff to make it happen. I can already see it, 50 years from now at an Historical Society Annual Dinner, a retrospective will be featured on the effort put forth in 2020 to keep the Society afloat. Our own Catherine Lusher is young enough to be the guest speaker!

Yet, the hour-long *Breaking Barriers* program is only half the story. The generosity of spirit of those who executed the Gala was matched by the amazing financial generosity of those who sponsored our event and donated to the Society this year. The official numbers are not in but we likely netted between \$60,000-\$70,000 from the Gala. Added to this was a banner year for the Annual Fund where we surpassed our goal by a wide margin with over \$70,000 in gifts for the year ending June 30, 2020.

This may sound like a lot of money, and, no doubt, it is. However, COVID-19 still looms large, and there is no large fundraiser on our horizon. The aforementioned gifts will be the Historical Society's lifeblood through about a third into 2021. Repairs to our historic homes, utility bills, office supplies, printing, and website costs will consume these funds, but for a good cause. History, I believe, keeps us grounded, brings joys, and ties communities together, especially through uncertain times. The Historical Society is honored to play a role in keeping Carroll County history alive and the community connected.

To that end, while the Historical Society is planning talks and thinking of creative ways to share history in 2021, we have terrific events scheduled for the remainder of 2020 (see page 5). I also hope you can join our virtual Annual Dinner! It's free to attend, and we have a great speaker, Allison Tolman, from the Maryland Historical Society (now the Maryland Center for History and Culture). She will be speaking about their popular exhibit, the *Spectrum of Fashion*. "See" you then!

Steven Jakobovic

Stene

BUSINESS MEMBER

~ Dulany, Leahy, Curtis & Brophy ~

A Message from the Chair

Dear HSCC Members and Friends,

I am becoming more and more convinced that you need to be an optimist to be a good preservationist! You need to believe that you have purpose in saving older items and structures. You need to be convinced that the future will have an interest and awe in the materials you have saved for them. You also have to be able to hurdle yourself in headlong to the uncertainties of all our current shallonges with an uncurs outcome. You need to believe that there



uncertainties of all our current challenges with an unsure outcome. You need to believe that there is a future for our Historical Society and that we will remain relevant and important to that future. I am confident that we have a prominent place in that future; and let me make the case why I hold that belief.

Firstly, we have an amazing set of materials. For 85, soon to be 86, years our Historical Society has been building our collection. We have some neat items, and we are in very historic structures right on Main Street in our community. Our public has just been invited back in to see what we have and how they can learn from the past. We are doing our best to fulfill our mission and mandate of supplying the public with local history, and I think there are people who want the information we have for education and entertainment.

Secondly, we have great members, volunteers and staff ready to continue with us on our mission. In the last quarter, when everyone said NO, YOU CAN'T BE OPEN because of the Pandemic, we found ways to rally! We went more digital. We found ways to fundraise in a virtual environment. Our beloved educational talks (the BLTs and the Talks at the Tavern) have all been retooled to reach the community in new ways. Hopefully, we will look back on this time of distancing and see that we have developed new partners and terrific, novel opportunities.

Lastly, you can see and feel that we have the right spirit. Those that stepped in and stepped up realized that we were working ourselves simply to the point of being weary. Many of us had our own health issues. Many of us were facing fears and concerns that we could not share or sorrows of losing loved ones. Some of us were working in isolation with shifting rules and regulations. Still a central core of the Historical Society dug in and simply got the work done without complaint. It just took grit and some grace to all work with each other.

We are not yet through the pandemic, and we have a long, long slog ahead, but I really believe that we have the right combination to be very successful in the coming months. We have a great platform of history. We have some amazing people to build with. We have a kind and loving spirit among those of us pressing our hardest forward. And we have a track record of perseverance, luck and hard, hard work that has brought us some terrific outcomes. I would not bet against the HSCC. No, I am very optimistic that we are going to be just fine with everyone working together.

Kristen McMasters Chair, HSCC Board Kriaten Mc Masters

Welcome to Our Newest Staff Member

Recently, Darlene Elllis-Jones joined the staff as bookkeeper, replacing Krista Seifert who left to take a full-time position. We asked Darlene to introduce herself:



As a bookkeeper, I look forward to working with, and being a part of, the team at the Historical Society of Carroll County. I am an analytical thinker with a fundamental belief that hard work and determination, coupled with strong core values, will position you for a seat at the table of any organization. I bring with me over 15 years of accounting experience, including finance management and HR principles. I am an advocate for community, and one of the joys of my career is having the opportunity to be an independent consultant for several small and local businesses. Being a part of the fabric of the financial industry is a passion of mine, and something I take great pride in.

Our Legacy Gala Broke Barriers

- Lynn Wheeler, 2020 Legacy Gala Chair

It took a community of great folks to create a successful Virtual Gala! I give a heartfelt thanks to everyone involved. When the Gala Committee chose the theme, Breaking Barriers, in the fall of 2019, we did not know its full impact. Originally selected to recognize barrier-breaking women in our community, in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, the Covid-19 Pandemic required that we expand the theme to include the creation of a virtual experience that would reach the fundraising goal of the Society's most important event of the year.



CMC staff handled all the technical aspects of the live broadcast from the control room.



Co-hosts for the broadcast were HSCC Executive Director Steve Jakobovic and Carolyn Black-Sotir.

Throughout the process, the Society developed partnerships that were critical to promoting and presenting the gala. Staff at both Kohn Creative and the Community Media Center worked hard and with great skill to create a positive Virtual Gala experience.

The Society was very fortunate to benefit from the immense skills of Frank Batavick, who wrote the script for the gala, and Dwight and Marilyn Phillips, who shared their considerable expertise as TV producers.

Success would not have been possible without the barrier-breaking women, musicians, and on-air talent who readily participated in creating an excellent show.

Of course, the success of the gala, which to date has grossed \$112,000 for the Society, would not have been possible without the diligent work of the Gala Committee and the generosity and commitment of our sponsors and donors. Thank you to all involved!

If you missed the gala broadcast on Saturday, September 12, you can see it online through YouTube and Facebook by

clicking on the link provided on the HSCC website. It will also be re-broadcast on HD 1086. (We apologize that the initial broadcast on HD 1086 did not have the audio and video in sync. That has been corrected! We hope you will watch it again. Streaming worked perfectly, so try that method too.)

Thank you for your support of HSCC!



Upcoming Events

Normally the *Courier* includes an insert with our full Calendar of Events. But, recently we've had to make significant changes to the schedule. Below is an updated calendar for the next few months. There may be additional changes, so, please check our website (hscccmd.org) and Facebook for updates.

- Oct 20

 Box Lunch Talk ~ Ghosts & Legends of Carroll County, 12-1 p.m. Dr. Jesse Glass, Carroll County native and author of Ghosts & Legends of Carroll County, Maryland, will share ghost tales and folklore about Carroll County. Originally published in 1982 and updated in 1998, Ghosts and Legends is scheduled for a new edition in 2020. This program will be live via Zoom. Registration is required to access the program. Registration will be available at www.hsccmd.org/events.
- Talks at the Tavern ~ The Panic Broadcast, 7-8 p.m. In 1938, the Mercury Theater of the Air's dramatization of H.G. Welles' War of the Worlds frightened millions, triggered a FCC ruling, became a case study in the power of the media, and is now a Halloween staple. How and why did it work so well? Join Frank Batavick as he plays excerpts from the historic radio program and discusses its continuing power and appeal. This program will be live via Zoom. Registration is required to access the program. Registration will be available at www.hsccmd.org/events.
- Nov 4 HSCC Annual Membership Meeting ~ We've had to cancel our dinner, but we'll still be holding the event on-line. See p. 1.
- Nov 17 Box Lunch Talk ~ On Account of Sex, 12-1 p.m. 2020 marks the 100 anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution. Marilyn Hanchett reviews significant events that led to voting rights for women, as well as explore its continued relevance supporting today's discussions about women's and civil rights. This program will be live via Zoom. Registration is required to access the program. Registration will be available at www.hsccmd.org/events.
- Box Lunch Talk ~ Arts & Crafts in Colonial Carroll County, 12-1 p.m. Take a walk back in time to Colonial Carroll County where artisans created necessities for everyday life rather than the luxury we consider these objects today. Susan Williamson explores types of crafts as well as creation and construction techniques. Surprisingly, 200 years later, many of the techniques and tools have changed very little. This program will be live via Zoom. Registration is required to access the program. Registration will be available at www.hsccmd.org/events.
- Jan 19

 Box Lunch Talk ~ Carroll's African American Soldiers and Sailors in the Civil War, 12-1 p.m. Carroll County contributed a large number of its free and enslaved African American men to fight for the Union during the Civil War. Most ended up in the infantry, but some were assigned to the cavalry and others to the U.S. Navy. Join Mimi Ashcraft in exploring the stories of these men, the challenges they faced in segregated military service, the battles in which they fought, and their families' efforts for pensions after the war ended. This program will be live via Zoom. Registration is required to access the program. Registration will be available at www.hsccmd.org/events.
- Jan 23 Carroll County Birthday celebration ~ This year, the annual event goes virtual. See p. 8.
- Box Lunch Talk ~ Amidst the Mischief & the Misery: the Story of Three Famous Civil War Caregivers, 12-1 p.m. Recently, Civil War scholars have finally begun revealing in detail how our colossal American tragedy turned the nation into a "Republic of Suffering." Burt Kummerow, director of Maryland's Four Centuries Project, discusses three famous Americans—Clara Barton, Walt Whitman, and Louisa May Alcott—who were eyewitnesses to what Barton called the war's "mischief and misery." Their brilliant accounts of the suffering they witnessed "brings the war to our doorsteps."
- Mar 16

 Box Lunch Talk ~ The Manchester Historical Center, 12-1 p.m. Originally opened in 1989, the Manchester Historical Center moved to its new, expanded location in 2018. Volunteers Betty Smith and Belva Lamotte provide highlights from the town's history, share the history of the museum, and give an overview of the more than 3,000 items in its collection.
- April 20
 Box Lunch Talk ~ Alice Roosevelt's 1st Press Conference in 70 Years, 12-1 p.m. Teddy Roosevelt's 17-year-old daughter made headlines from the day she arrived at the White House in 1901 until her death at age 96. Her long life in our nation's capital made her a living time capsule of 20th century events. Mikele Garfield Stillman brings Alice to life with humor and sensitivity as she shares rare insights into past events including prohibition, women's suffrage, two World Wars, and 14 Administrations.

Tales from the Library

- Cathy Baty, Curator

The buying and selling of land was a more complicated process in early America than it is today. Maryland was one of the proprietary colonies. This meant that the English king granted the proprietor all land and governing power within the colony. In Maryland, the proprietors were the Calvert family, the Lords Baltimore.

The proprietor was free to do whatever he wished with his land, including giving or selling the land to whomever he chose, under whatever terms he established. Often, land was sold to anyone who could afford to buy. The proprietor made money not only on the initial sale but also on a small annual fee, called a quitrent, paid by the landowner. Additionally, the proprietor received a fee, called an alienation fee, every time the land was sold to a new owner. Through these means, the land continued to generate revenue for the proprietor long after it was sold.

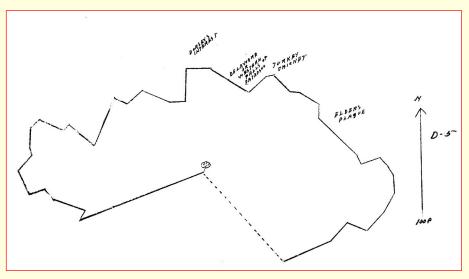
There were several steps involved in buying land. First, the prospective owner obtained a warrant which gave him the right to select a specified amount of unclaimed land. Initially, warrants were free, but later the buyer paid a fee known as caution money to the land office in Annapolis.

Once the warrant was issued, the Surveyor General directed a deputy surveyor to survey the tract. The deputy surveyor worked with the buyer to determine what type of land was desired and where in the colony the buyer wanted to settle. The surveyor then conducted a survey of the selected tract.

The surveyor submitted a Certificate of Survey and a drawing to the land office in Annapolis. The certificate included a metes and bounds description of the property. "Metes" means measurements (in this case, distance plus direction) and "bounds" means boundaries. So, metes and bounds is a description of a series of measurements (the metes) between designated points (the bounds) that form the boundary of a parcel. The drawing that accompanied the certificate was a visual representation of the metes and bounds description.

These drawings appear odd to today's eye because of the unique shapes of the properties. Buyers sought the best land so property lines frequently detoured to avoid rocky ground or swamps or were extended to include a particularly desirable site. The original metes and bounds also can be difficult to translate to modern maps because they used natural monuments such as trees or rocks as the bounds and, often, these monuments no longer exist.

If there were no conflicts with existing surveys, a patent was recorded which transferred ownership to the buyer. The first patent of land in the area that would become Carroll County was issued in 1723 but by 1754 over 33,000 acres had been patented.



Metes and bounds drawing for *Belt's Hills*, an 800-acre tract patented to Benjamin Belt, July 10, 1723. The mark at the center indicates a tree that was used as the boundary monument where the survey began. Dr. Tracey has added the names of the adjacent properties to this copy of the plat.

Dr. Arthur Tracey spent nearly 30 years researching the land records of Maryland, especially Baltimore, Carroll, Fredrick, and Washington counties. The result of his efforts is an amazing collection of metes and bounds drawings discovered in a variety of sources, and index cards organized by property name and owner's name. There are also over 200 original surveyors' notebooks. The collection has information pertaining to almost 30,000 tracts. Tracey's collection is part of our research library, and for the past few years volunteers have been digitizing the drawings and the cards. The materials are available during regular library hours.

The Curator's Corner

- Cathy Baty, Curator



Among a community's most important events is the election of government officials. But the way we select our presidential candidates has changed over the years. When George Washington decided not to run for a third term as president there was suddenly a need to find new candidates. Congressmen began choosing their parties' nominees in private caucuses. Critics mockingly called the system "King Caucus." As an alternative, in September 1831 the Anti-Masonic Party held the first national presidential-nominating convention in Baltimore. The bigger change came in 1832, when President Andrew Jackson decided that his party, the Democratic Party, should also hold a convention.

In the 19th century there were no primaries. The conventions were where the candidates were selected and almost anything could happen. For example, in 1880, James A. Garfield gave a convention speech endorsing John Sherman as the Republican nominee. However, the speech went over so well that the delegates nominated Garfield who went on to win the presidency.

During the 20th century, the growth of primaries took much of the suspense out of the political conventions. But, while they most often served as a springboard to launch the candidate's national campaign, some conventions still offered suspense.

1884 Republican Convention, Chicago

Vice-president Chester A. Arthur had assumed the presidency in 1881 after the assassination of President Garfield. Despite his three years in office, Arthur was unpopular with many party leaders. It took four ballots for the delegates to select their nominee – James G. Blaine.



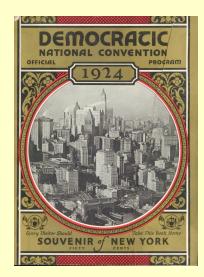
1912 Democratic Convention, Baltimore

This year, for the first time, the Democratic Party used primaries to select delegates to the convention. When the convention convened, support was divided among three contenders, none of whom had enough support to win the nomination. With none of the candidates willing to step aside it was not until the 46th ballot that Woodrow Wilson gained enough votes be named the nominee.



1912 Republican Convention, Chicago

The Republicans returned to Chicago for another raucous convention in 1912 as former president Theodore Roosevelt competed with incumbent William Howard Taft for the nomination. When Taft was renominated by a large margin, Roosevelt's supporters bolted the convention and created their own party – the Progressive ("Bull Moose") Party.



1924 Democratic Convention, New York

The nation listened - the proceedings being broadcast live on national radio for the first time - as the convention deadlocked between two contestants: Alfred E. Smith and William McAdoo. Through nine long days and 103 ballots the Democrats fought, finally selecting John Davis to be the Party's standard bearer. Unfortunately, Davis was trounced by Calvin Coolidge in the general election.

Show Your Support for HSCC in a Unique Way!

One of the most unique items offered in the auction during this year's virtual Legacy Gala was the "wearable history band." Made for HSCC by Lucas and Marcos Beach-Bayon, the wristband features a handmade resin bead that encapsulates brick dust salvaged from the crumbling bricks from the Sherman-Fisher Shellman house. The decorative key replicates the key from the Shellman house front door (which is also part of HSCC's logo). Also included is a souvenir booklet giving a brief history of the house and explaining the wristband project. Bands are adjustable so one size fits all.



Proceeds from the sale of the wristbands go toward the restoration of the Shellman house bricks.

The bands are \$20 each. To get yours, call Catherine Lusher at 410-848-6494, x.200. Payment can be by credit card or check. Bands can be picked up in the office, or we will mail them to you.

Happy Birthday Carroll County!



Each year, HSCC hosts an event to celebrate the establishment of Carroll County on January 17, 1837. This year, the event will be held on-line via Zoom at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, January 23. As we go to press, we're still finalizing the program details so watch for more information on our website, Facebook, and through our Constant Contact updates.

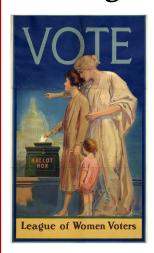
The commemoration of Carroll County's "birthday" began in the 1920s with a group called the Carroll County Society of Baltimore County. These descendants of Carroll Countians organized to promote "an appreciation of the history, traditions and pleasant memories of Carroll County." They held a meeting each year on January 19. They also sponsored lectures and published pamphlets on Carroll County history.



Garden party for the Carroll County Society of Baltimore City in the yard behind the Shellman house, August 6, 1941.

Eventually, HSCC took over the birthday event, apparently in the 1950s. We've been hosting it ever since and are proud to keep it going, even in these unusual times.

Breaking Barriers Exhibit Now Open



After a delay of several months for the COVID lockdown, HSCC is pleased to announce the opening of its newest exhibit. The *Breaking Barriers* exhibit examines the two largest women's movements of the 19th and early 20th centuries: Temperance and Woman's Suffrage. The exhibit begins with the temperance movement. Prior to suffrage, the temperance movement provided a forum for women to flex their political muscle through governmental channels. Next, it moves into the suffrage movement, focusing on both the hardships and the successes to remind visitors that the vote was not easily attained. The exhibit then touches on the role of women in the Civil Rights Movement and a push in the 1970s for an Equal Rights Amendment. Lastly, the exhibit highlights current trailblazing women in Carroll County today.

The exhibit is open by appointment, Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 - 4:00. In accordance with health department recommendations, groups are limited to four visitors and face coverings must be worn. Please call 410-848-6494, ext. 200 to schedule your tour!

Talking Shop

- Catherine Lusher

While the Shellman Shop and Bookstore is temporarily closed for browsing, we are excited to offer curbside pickup for book purchases! Books may be ordered over the phone or through the mail and can be either picked up or shipped. Pickup is free, and shipping charges will be determined by weight of package. Looking for something for that hard-toplease person? Books make great gifts for the coming holidays! Below is just a small portion of our books offered for purchase. Visit our website at hsccmd.org, and click the Shellman Shop and Bookstore tab at the top of the page to find our mail-in order form and to see more of our available books. Have questions about what we offer? Don't hesitate to reach out! The shop can be reached at info@hsccmd.org, or by calling 410-848-6494, ext. 200.

The Civil War in Maryland by Daniel Carroll Toomey. A chronology of the war in the Old-Line State, covering the major and minor military engagements on land and water as well as many political events. \$20.00

Ghost of Legh Furnace by George Donald Riley, Jr. For over two centuries, ghost stories prevailed in Frederick and later Carroll County, Maryland, describing the evil deeds of Legh Master. Riley examines Legh Master's life and character to determine if he really deserves the sinister reputation history has bestowed upon him. \$15

Carroll's Heritage—Essays on the Architecture of a Piedmont Maryland County by Joe Getty. Using early buildings as a documentary resource, these essays show how the settlers established farmsteads using the architectural traditions of the Pennsylvania German and Tidewater English cultures. This book is an illustrated guide to this pattern of architectural development and provides insight about the daily life of the early settlers. \$12

Images of America. This series from Arcadia Publishing features historic photographs of local communities. HSCC has volumes on Carroll County, Sykesville, Taneytown, Westminster, and Farming in Carroll County. Also available is **Carroll County Then and Now**. Call for pricing.

The Forgotten Corner: A History of Oakland Mill by Diana Mills Scott. This book presents the fascinating tale of the Oakland Woolen Mill, the town it supported, and the drowning of both under the waters of Liberty Reservoir. \$22.00

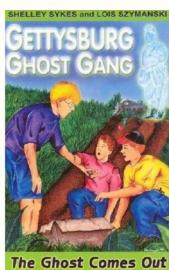




Diana Mills Scott

Legacy of the Land by Carol Lee. Tracing the history of agricultural enterprise in Carroll County, it documents many of the farm traditions and a way of life that is quickly disappearing from the Carroll County landscape of today. \$6

For younger readers, try the Gettysburg Ghost Gang series of books about a group of young friends who have ghostly adventures in and around Gettysburg. Historical fiction is a great way to get children interested in history!



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