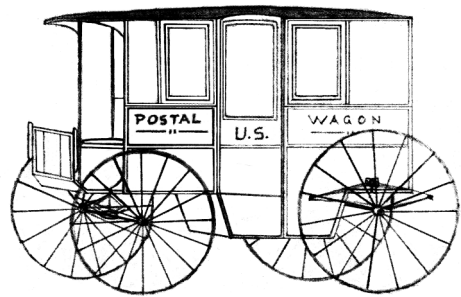


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The Carroll
Courier

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A Message from the Chair



Dear HSCC Members,

What a heck of a ride this has been! I didn't expect that my first official note to you would be the note that I am drafting today. I thought I would be crowing about how incredibly successful our very first Talks at the Tavern was in February and recounting how every seat was taken and how delicious the food was. That was an exciting inaugural event of evening activities as requested in last year's HSCC membership survey. I thought I would tell you how enthralled we were at our Box Lunch Talk with Richard Turner and about the terrific turnout we had to learn about the Community Media Center's history programs. I planned to ask you if you noticed how much more visibility we had in the newspaper and social media with our new marketing team lead by Jaime Ridley. I wanted to share with you all how splendidly our Annual Gala with a terrific team of volunteers and Lynn Wheeler taking the lead. I could honestly brag that every Corporate Sponsorship was taken and tickets well on their way to being sold. I wanted to point out that every grant that we had applied for and won - from the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area mini-grant to a new grant from the Maryland Historical Society. Our HSCC team with our new Executive Director, Steve Jakobovic, our strong Board, and our excellent staff put us on the edge of really growing and renewing our Society to even better heights. Then the Pandemic hit. Our doors had to close. Our plans have been postponed.

I, however, have a very different report to bring to you than the standard story of *oh, don't we do the same old thing better*. I can now tell you about an Executive Board that sprang into action when called to make some very tough decisions to keep us viable. I can laud a terrific HSCC Board that has been supportive of all our emergency decisions to keep our financial books floating. Just ask me about our treasurer, Tyler Codd, doing a video about the CARES Act and tax incentives geared towards encouraging giving to nonprofits. I can attest to a wonderful staff that has been working at home, trying their level best to continue to serve the needs of the Society regardless of how hard or frightening it is to safely work. Just ask me about Steve Jakobovic and his tireless efforts at working for Federal assistance to keep our staff on. Just ask me about our bookkeeper, Krista Seifert, driving to the drive-up window to get our grant for Federal assistance filed. Krista and Steve jumped on that opportunity quickly enough to get those funds in the first round. Ask me about our development assistant, Bev Staub, setting up a laptop and teleworking at her house for the first time. Catherine Lusher and Cathy Baty are doing their regular duties in awkward and difficult settings at home without the normal supports of equipment and materials at the HSCC. Ask me about our volunteers that have been calling to check-in on other volunteers that are alone or at risk. Ask me about the Board and Committee Chairs that have done their level best to reschedule events, reconsider carefully laid plans, and upend all the norms of how we work together without criticism or complaint. I am grateful to watch our team at work.

I thought our team spirit was good before the Pandemic. We, along with the entire country, have serious challenges ahead. I absolutely know we have a terrific Board, staff, and host of wonderful volunteers that are going to carry us through this very serious financial time. We will get through better than ever, and watch out when we do because we are putting ourselves in position to flourish once we do get through. We will be different, but stronger.

I want to thank you all for all the kind words and good wishes you have offered. I look forward to seeing you when the worst of this has past. I am always looking for ideas. Safe and stay with us.

Kristen McMasters
Board Chair

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www.HSCCmd.org

Office hours: T-S, 10:00 - 4:00

Shop hours: T-S, 10:00 - 4:00

Library: W-F, 12:00 - 4:00

Saturdays, 9:00 - Noon

From the Executive Director

- Steven Jakobovic



Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones healthy and safe.

It has been over a month since the Historical Society has had to close its doors to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While the museum is closed, we have used technology, primarily Facebook, to bring the museum to you. Our Board Members, volunteers and staff have stepped-up to create short video clips on a range of local history topics. We have also posted pictures, items from our collection, links to previously recorded talks and interesting articles for a bit of daily divergence from the 24-hour COVID-19 news cycle. In May, we are going to host our first live-streamed talk. Details will be available soon on Facebook, Twitter, and on our website.

As much as we like technology, museums are best when enjoyed in-person. We miss having our members, school groups, and guests tour our historic houses, visit our library or attend our talks and events. Lynn Wheeler, our amazing Programs Committee Chair, provides an update on the Historical Society's 2020 calendar on the next page of this newsletter. As you can imagine, the calendar will be subject to change due to the evolving news on COVID-19.

While uncertainty abounds, one thing is certain: we are living through an historic moment. As a history organization we believe our community's stories, as difficult as some might be, need to be documented for the benefit of future generations who can learn from our struggles and successes. We need your help to do this. We are requesting that fellow Carroll Countians email us digital pictures, short video clips, and comments of your experiences as they relate to the COVID-19 health situation. After the pandemic is well behind us, we hope to share submissions with the community through a digital exhibit. Please send submissions to info@hsccmd.org. For the full description of our Coronavirus (COVID-19) Preservation Project and submission terms & conditions, please visit our homepage www.hsccmd.org. Thank you for participating.

Regarding memberships, if your membership to the Historical Society will be expiring soon, you will receive a notification letter via email or mail. You may renew your membership on our website or by phone at 410-848-6494, ext. 200 (leave a message and we will return your call). While your membership dues are especially needed right now to help with our fixed expenses, we understand if you are unable to renew at this time and we will not allow your membership to lapse. We will send out follow-up notifications after the State of Emergency directive has been lifted.

I hope everyone continues to stay safe and be in good health. Soon, we will re-open, but getting back to a "normal" will not happen quickly. Nevertheless, I look forward to that process. Until then, enjoy the Historical Society virtually—and see you soon!

Steven Jakobovic

Our Final, and Most Critical, Appeal of Fiscal Year 2020

Like many other organizations, businesses, and families, the interruption to our daily lives caused by COVID-19 is proving to be financially challenging for the Historical Society. Your support will be critically important as we navigate the next several months together. As you know, we postponed our annual Legacy Gala to September to comply with social distancing mandates. However, the net proceeds from the event represents approximately 25% of the Historical Society's annual income and, despite being awarded a Paycheck Protection Program loan, we will be running lean until the Gala.

To help us cover our fixed costs and return to good form soon after the social distancing directives are lifted, please consider making a donation to our Annual Fund using the enclosed envelope or on our website. If you haven't heard, the recently passed CARES Act provides tax incentives to help you give and save at the same time. For example, filers who take the standard deduction can now deduct up to \$300 in charitable donations from their adjusted gross income (AGI). For individuals who itemize, the charitable giving tax deduction limit has been raised from 60% of your AGI to 100%. The tax deduction for businesses has been raised from 10% to 25% of taxable income. For general questions, you may contact Steven Jakobovic at the Historical Society at execdirector@hsccmd.org. For questions that are specific to your tax situation, we encourage you to contact a tax professional.

Again, we deeply appreciate your support, especially during these uncertain times. Stay safe, be well.

Talking Shop

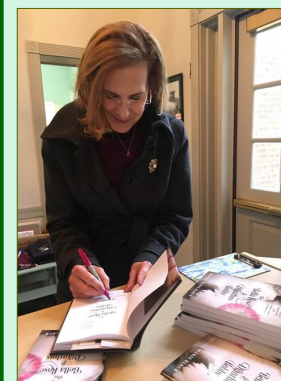
- Catherine Lusher

From September through January, River Myer, a senior from Century High School, interned through a business program at HSCC. River's task was to form a business plan to help guide the 'new' Shellman Shop and Bookstore as it undergoes changes. During his time at HSCC, River conducted a full physical inventory, evaluated prices, and drafted the new business plan. As noted in the last *Courier*, the shop will be refocusing on shifting its inventory, as well as devising a plan on what to do with inventory that no longer fits in the business plan for Shellman Shop.



Myer said of his experience:

"My internship at the Historical Society of Carroll County has been an incredible experience. I have learned so many things and made so many great friends. This is truly a fun and awesome place to work and volunteer at. I am so grateful to everyone who has helped me along my way."



One change the Shellman Shop has already seen is the addition of a brand new novel written using research gathered from our Library. Brenda Marie Black recently published *The Bella Rose & Dianthus Bobby*. Based on family stories and research, this work of historical fiction is based on the story of her grandparents love story and immigration. Brenda stopped in the Shop to deliver her books and was kind enough to sign all seven copies we received. The books were purchased for the shop by a very generous donor. Stop in if you would like to purchase a copy! But hurry, they're going fast! Copies can be purchased for \$15.49, plus tax.

With all of these changes, we are in need of shop volunteers! Can you help? Shifts are available Tuesday—Saturday, mornings and afternoons. Contact Catherine Lusher at ExecAssistant@hsccmd.org if you can give us a hand.

BUSINESS MEMBER

~ Literacy Council of Carroll County ~

BUSINESS MEMBER

~ Rob's Bluegrass Barn ~

Washington Toasted in Style

The new format of our winter wine event was an experiment. The added twist for 2020 was a wine tasting. Bernie Vogel of JeannieBird’s Baking Company volunteered his time and talent to present five Washington State wines in honor of George Washington’s 288th birthday.



Two groups, of approximately 30 participants each, tasted five different wines from a light Riesling to a full-bodied Cabernet Sauvignon in the City Council Chamber at Emerald Hill. From our guests’ feedback, we can say the outcome of our experiment was clear, and we have committed to a wine tasting format again in 2021. We thank all who attended; you made our winter fundraiser a success!



The Historical Society would like to thank Maggie’s for preparing the savory dishes and Herb Sell for playing a magnificent selection of music on the piano. A very special thanks goes to Bowman’s Feed & Pet / Home & Garden for sponsoring our 2020 Winter Wine Tasting.

For those who could not attend, the featured Washington State wines included: Kung Fu Girl Riesling, Merf Chardonnay, Charles & Charles Rosé, Chateau Ste Michelle Merlot, and Substance Cabernet.

Upcoming Events

Normally the *Courier* includes an insert with our full Calendar of Events. But these are not normal times. We’ve had to make significant changes to the schedule: cancellation of the March and April Box Lunch Talks, Past Times for Children, Talks at the Tavern, and cancellation of the June bus trip. The walking tour of the Westminster Cemetery has been cancelled but we hope to re-schedule it for the fall. The Legacy Gala has been postponed until September. Below is an updated calendar for the next few months. Since there is no way of knowing how long this crisis will last, there may be additional changes. Please check our website (hsccmd.org) and Facebook for updates.

While we’ve had to cancel our in-person events, you can still connect with HSCC. Visit our Facebook page for photos, articles, and videos about Carroll County history. New content is posted almost every day. And our “Carroll Yesteryears” articles are still appearing in the *Carroll County Times* (print and on-line versions) on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

- May 19

Box Lunch Talk ~ *Words and Images: Three Carroll County Women*, 12-1 p.m. Jim Lightner shares fascinating details of three women who broke barriers in Carroll County and beyond: Mary Shellman, a patriotic civic-minded suffragist; Sadie Kneller-Miller, renown female photojournalist; and Dorothy Elderdice who was a suffragist, writer, creator of pageants and a founder of HSCC. This program will be live on-line via Zoom. Registration is required to access the program. Registration details to be announced soon.
- Jun 16

Box Lunch Talk ~ *Digital Maryland: Celebrating More than a Decade Digitizing Historic Documents*, 12-1 p.m. Digital Maryland, a statewide digitization program of the Maryland State Library Resource Center, Enoch Pratt Free Library works collaboratively with cultural organizations throughout Maryland to facilitate digitization. Jodi Hoover, digital resources manager, presents an overview of the holdings. This event will be held either in person at Grace Lutheran Church or via Zoom depending on COVID-19 restrictions. Please watch the HSCC website for updates.
- Jun 25

Talks at the Tavern ~ *Owing to the confusion and excitement of the Battle of Antietam*, 7-8 p.m. Jay Graybeal, chief curator at the Army Heritage and Education Center, traces his great-great grandfather’s 36-year legal fight to recover damages from the Union Army’s destruction of his crops during the Antietam and Gettysburg Campaigns. This event will be held either in person at Cockey’s or via Zoom, depending on COVID-19 restrictions. Please watch the HSCC website for updates.
- Jul 18

Past Times for Children ~ *Toys and Schoolyard Games*, 10-11:15 a.m., Cockey’s.
- Jul 19

Sundae Scoop ~ Celebrating National Ice Cream Day, 1-4 p.m., East Main Street campus.
- Jul 21

Box Lunch Talk ~ *History of the Taneytown Museum*, 12-1 p.m. Look for event details soon on our website!
- Jul 23

Talks at the Tavern ~ *Walk & Talk in the Herb Garden*, 7-8 p.m. Look for event details soon on our website!
- Aug15

Past Times for Children ~ *Country Fair*, 10-11:15 a.m., Cockey’s.
- Aug 18

Box Lunch Talk ~ *The Road Most Traveled: The Shrivvers & the Turnpike*, 12-1 p.m. Look for event details soon on our website!
- Aug 27

Talks at the Tavern ~ *Gardening with Heirlooms*, 7-8 p.m., Cockey’s. Look for event details soon on our website!
- Sep 11

Bluegrass, Bourbon & Bocce ~ Music, food, and fun at Rob’s Bluegrass Barn.
- Sep 12

2020 Legacy Gala ~ Breaking Barriers. [Rescheduled from April 25.]
- Sep 15

Box Lunch Talk ~ *The Western Maryland Railroad Past & Present*, 12-1 p.m. Look for event details soon on our website!
- Sep 24

Talks at the Tavern ~ *Westminster High School’s Contribution to the Greatest Generation*, 7-8 p.m. Look for event details soon on our website!
- Sep 26

Past Times for Children ~ *Games*, 10-11:15 a.m., Cockey’s.

Tales from the Library

- Bill Palm, Library Chair

The HSCC Research Library has an expanding array of resources. Beyond the traditional books, maps, and documents, we now have Ancestry.com and other electronically-based resources. We have a state-of-the art microfilm reader that allows us to better access an older but still useful medium. We have digital images of Dr. Arthur Tracey’s early land plats dating from Colonial settlement of Carroll County.

Undergirding it all are our most valued resources: the dedicated, knowledgeable, and uniquely talented volunteer librarians, whose efforts have been recognized by many grateful patrons. The following compliment was included as a post script to a recent email that we received:

“I was at HSCC on Saturday a couple of weeks ago and was VERY impressed with the help I received! Extraordinary!”

Here is an excerpt from a more lengthy communication from another satisfied customer:

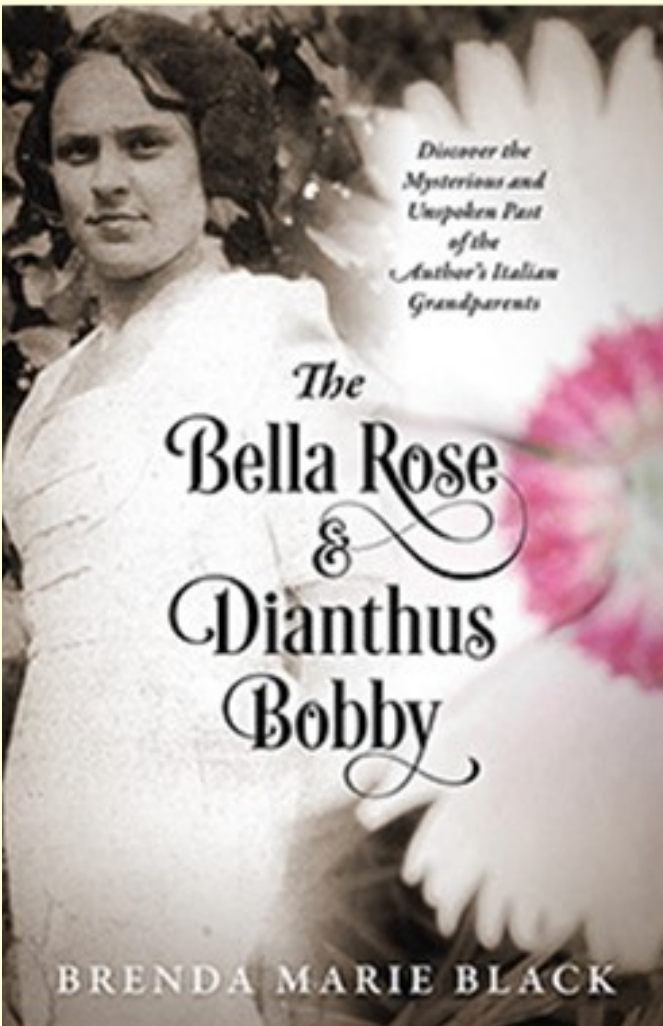
“My lifetime dream has been to write a story about my Italian grandparents, the late Pasquale and Lena (Casasanta) Donofrio.... They moved to Westminster, Maryland, where my grandfather... ran a successful nursery business, *Carroll Gardens*... [Their] story is historic in nature and ... span[s] Italy (Abruzzo region), New York (Ellis Island and Geneva), Pennsylvania (Ernest, Indiana and Punxsutawney), and Maryland (Westminster).

“The Historical Society of Carroll County made the research relating to Westminster enjoyable and rewarding. Last year, ... I entered the [HSCC] Research Room ... and was greeted by Mary ‘Mimi’ Ann Ashcraft, Research Library Volunteer. Mimi was amazing - friendly, knowledgeable and helpful - and once she discovered the items on my ‘to do’ list, she pointed me to the resources I needed. Catherine ‘Cathy’ Baty, Curator of Collections, also was helpful and ... [showed me] some vintage photographs.

“The information I discovered from my visit to the Research Room allowed me to incorporate authentic and significant details about Westminster within the story. For example, telephone directories were utilized to determine addresses and telephone numbers of Westminster residents and businesses. A file on St. John's Catholic Church gave me enormous historical insight.... Additionally, viewing photos of Westminster decorated during Christmas in the 1950s helped me understand and write details for a specific scene in the book. These are just a few highlights of the many records which were valuable to me in my research.

“With thanks,

“Brenda Marie Black”



The Curator's Corner

- Cathy Baty, Curator

This year will see a focus on women’s history as organizations across the country commemorate the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage. It was in August 1920 that Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the 19th amendment, giving women throughout the country the right to vote.

But there’s another anniversary this year that isn’t receiving as much attention. Under the 18th amendment, ratified in 1919, “the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.” And so on January 17, 1920, the entire country went dry.

Prohibition was the result of a “great crusade” that lasted over a century. It began as “temperance” which promoted abstinence from hard liquor (meaning distilled spirits) and moderate consumption of wine and beer. Gradually, temperance evolved into a movement to stop all alcohol consumption. Temperance societies existed in Carroll County as early as the 1840s. The members of the Taneytown Total Abstinence Society, which was organized in June 1841, pledged not to use intoxicating liquors, not to “traffic” in them, and not to “provide them as an article of entertainment.” The group had broken away from an older Temperance Society because that group allowed its members to drink wine and strong beer.

Women took a leading role in the temperance movement. The Woman’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), established in 1873, would grow to become the largest woman’s group in the country. The WCTU branch in Westminster was established in December 1882. Among its leaders were Mary Shellman, Mrs. Emily Buckingham Herr, Mrs. Charles Billingslea, and Lizzie Herr. Another Carroll County branch, the WCTU of Deer Park Methodist Protestant Church, was established in 1900.



Temperance rally in front of Immanuel Methodist Protestant Church in Westminster, c.1915.
Mary Shellman is standing at the far left.

“Drys” (those opposed to the saloons) took a different approach, proclaiming that “drunkenness, profanity, crimes, sometimes murder, unhappy homes, brokenhearted mothers and wives, neglected children and ruined lives are all products of the saloon that count more than dollars and cents.” The Drys won by over 1,200 votes. Another election in 1916 reaffirmed the result.

Ultimately, prohibition proved to be a failed experiment. It proved to be impossible to enforce and led to the rise of bootlegging, stills, speakeasies, and organized crime. The May 30, 1924, issue of the *Democratic Advocate* reported on the accidental discovery of a large stash of moonshine on a farm owned by Harry Kohler. Not knowing what to do with the stash, Kohler disposed of it by pouring the hooch down a large ground-hog hole near his barn.

The 18th Amendment was repealed in 1933 by the 21st Amendment. It remains the only amendment to be repealed.