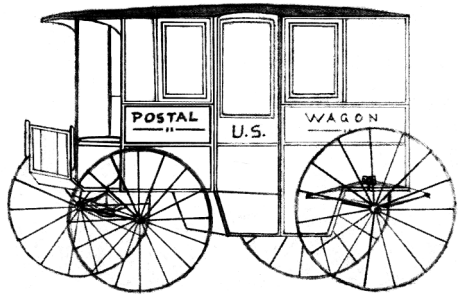


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The Carroll
Courier

Vol. 12, Number 3 - Summer 2019

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

JOIN HSCC FOR A BRAND NEW EVENT!

A VERY SPECIAL EVENING OF
BLUEGRASS, BOURBON & BOCCE



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

6—9 P.M.

FEATURING THE MUSIC OF NATIONALLY-KNOWN
BLUEGRASS BAND

SIDELINE

BUSINESS MEMBERS (as of May 31, 2019)
Please support those who support The Historical Society.

American Heritage Insurance Agency	Development Company of America	McDaniel College
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Baughner Enterprises	Farmers & Merchants Bank - Westminster	S.H. Tevis & Son
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 **GOURMET BURGERS AND FIX'INS**

 **FROZEN CUSTARD BY "THE COW"**

 **FREE BOURBON TASTINGS**

 **WINE & BEER AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE**

 **BOCCE UNDER THE STARS ON A LIGHTED LAWN**

AT ROB'S BLUEGRASS BARN, 821 VIEW WEST DRIVE, WESTMINSTER

TICKETS \$40 PER PERSON

(INCLUDES BURGER, DESSERT, AND SOFT DRINKS)

TO PURCHASE TICKETS, CONTACT HSCC AT 410-848-6494 OR [INFO@HSCCMD.ORG](mailto:info@hsccmd.org)



From the Board Chair

- Frank J. Batavick



The *Legacy Gala: 1939 Ruby Jubilee*, celebrating the society's 80th birthday, is now history and what an event it was! Revelers partied and danced into the night at Antrim 1844 and, most importantly, gave generously to the Society's live and silent auctions and this year's "Gift for the Cause." Because of this, we not only boosted our operating budget but ensured that a c.1845 dress and two 19th century oil portraits of prominent Carroll Countians will be restored and preserved for future generations. We also raised enough funds to purchase a sorely-needed collections management software system that offers some 21st century tools to handle our large inventory of artifacts, furniture, and manuscripts. Special thanks to all of those on the Gala committee who made the evening such a success, to all of our generous sponsors, and to the attendees. Look for more details about the Gala in this issue.

The birthday festivities continue from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on July 21 on the East Main Street campus grounds. All are welcome to attend our *Sundae Scoop* to celebrate our 80th year and, quite conveniently, National Ice Cream Day. Attendees get a ticket for free ice cream from "The Cow" truck; the Taneytown Lions Club food truck will be on-hand to enhance the summer menu; and we'll round-out the event with musical entertainment, old-fashioned games, and an opportunity to make your own hand-cranked ice cream. Be sure to put July 21 on your calendars.

Bluegrass, Bourbon & Bocce? That alliterative combination is the name of our big event planned for the evening of Friday, September 13. The venue is Rob's Bluegrass Barn, a musical treasure on the outskirts of Westminster. For just \$40 a ticket, you will be treated to a home-style meal of a "build-your-own" burger, hand-cut fries, coleslaw, and baked beans with a beverage. You can also purchase wine and locally crafted beer and do a taste test of some fine, aged bourbon. If you are willing, a bocce court beckons with a friendly coach for the uninitiated. Then it will be time for music from one of the nation's top bluegrass bands, *Sideline*. Check them out on YouTube. You can't do better than a September concert under the stars, so I hope you will join us for this new, different, and fun fundraiser.

Lastly, we continue to work on a fresh, new design of the exhibit space in Cockey's for spring 2020 and are still in need of items "Made in Carroll County" to display. If you have any of the following products, we would appreciate your kind donations: Cambridge Rubber shoes or slickers; Black and Decker tools circa 1950s-60s; a vintage Jos. A. Bank suit; Congoleum tile; 1970s book(s) from Random House; something from 3M; something from the Heifer Project at New Windsor's Brethren Center; and any old signs or ads from these enterprises. Also, what county industries have we missed and what locally made products might be lurking in your basement or attic? We may have a new home for them. Contact Cathy Baty, Curator of Collections, at 410-848-6494, X 203 or Cathy@hsccmd.org. Thanks in advance for your help!

Take care and have a safe and relaxing summer!

Frank

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Westminster, Maryland 21157
410-848-6494

Info@HSCCmd.org
www.HSCCmd.org

Office hours: T-F, 8:30 - 5:00

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

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

2nd & 4th Saturday, 9:00-Noon

BUSINESS MEMBER

~Carroll County Chamber of Commerce~

Boy Scouts Dig Into History

By the time you receive this *Courier*, HSCC will have a new interpretative feature behind the Sherman-Fisher-Shellman House.

The Historical Society has served as a client for several Eagle Scout projects over the past three years. Most recently, we worked with Connor Burnett, senior patrol leader of BSA Troop 420, which is sponsored by St. John's Roman Catholic Church in Westminster.

In May 2018, Connor approached HSCC asking whether we might be able to offer him an assignment that he could use to secure his Eagle Scout status. Staff suggested that he might recreate the outline of the Sherman-Fisher-Shellman loom house and install signage detailing the building's history and utilizing images from the Society's collections.

Connor worked closely with the Society's Curator of Collections Cathy Baty, Trustee Bill Palm, and members of the Properties Committee to develop a suitable plan in order to implement the project. The actual installation of the loom house outline occurred on May 11, 2019, under the direction of Connor and with the help of members of his troop. The final phase of the project, the interpretive sign, should be completed by early June.

Congratulations to Connor and his team for their fine work!



Above: Eagle Scout Candidate Connor Burnett.



Left: Members of Troop 420 prepare grounds for loom house outline.

HSCC Holds Open House

The Historical Society wishes to thank all of their volunteers who helped staff the Sunday, March 10th Open House on the East Main Street Campus from 2-5 p.m. The doors of all of our houses were thrown open, inviting the community to explore our resources and learn about our expertise free of charge. Between 150 and 200 people of all ages took advantage of the Society's invitation to see its exhibits and view our newest hands-on educational resources in Cockey's. The Research Library, the Museum Shop & Bookstore, and our small photographic gallery in Kimmey House were also accessible to the public. Tours were offered of the Shellman House and its gardens. Due to the success of this event, HSCC plans to offer several open houses each year.



HSCC welcomes visitors to its Research Library and the *Time on Our Hands* exhibit.

BUSINESS MEMBER

~Farmers & Merchants Bank ~ Westminster ~

For Your Information

All of our members received a survey, either by email or hard copy. We've had great results and thank those of you who have responded. There's still time to respond. If you'd like us to mail you a copy of the survey, please call the office at 410-848-6494 and let us know.

Save the Date:

HSCC Annual Dinner & Business Meeting

Wednesday, November 6

At the Best Western Catering and Conference Center

Watch for details.

Keep us updated!

Many of our members have summer or winter addresses. When we don't have that information in our records, your mail gets returned to us.

If you're not receiving your newsletter, please contact Marty (Marty@hsccmd.org) to make sure we have your correct information on file.

And, don't forget to let us know if you move or change your email or phone number.

Welcome, New Members March 1, 2019 ~ May 28, 2019

Vince & Kathleen Campanella, Sykesville
Pat L. Christian, Powhatan, VA
Tyler Codd, Finksburg
Patricia A. Gorman, Westminster
Paul & Mitzie Lynn Hastmann, Sykesville
Mia & Marc Hoyer, Westminster
William & Sharon Merryman, Westminster
Tom & Fran Miller, Westminster
Bruce & Michelle Myers, Union Bridge
Sandra Rommel & Charles Pickett, Union Bridge

In Memoriam

E. Wayne Baumgardner
Barbara E. Brown
Ralph Nupp

From the Executive Director

- Gainor B. Davis



Dear Friends...

I arrived at the Historical Society on January 20, 2015, to begin my tenure as Executive Director of HSCC. It has been an exciting four years and four months for me. Now I have taken a new position as Executive Director of the Connecticut River Museum, an organization dedicated to telling the stories and encouraging the preservation of the 410-mile river running from Canada through New Hampshire, Vermont, and Connecticut to Long Island Sound.

I have really enjoyed working with staff, board, and volunteers to set a path for the Society, based on the three goals of the Strategic Plan 2017-2020: to raise the Society's public visibility; to insure public access to the organization's resources and expertise; and to stabilize HSCC finances. I believe we have made progress in all areas, but your new Executive Director will take HSCC to the next level.

There are so many people to thank for making my sojourn here rewarding. I want to thank the Board of Trustees for their enthusiasm for and unstinting support of the Society and its educational mission. They have served as policy makers, ambassadors in the community, fundraisers, and "jacks of all trades" as active members of Board Committees led by wonderful chairs. In addition to the Board's commitment as volunteers, it has been my real pleasure to work beside so many extraordinary volunteers. Our pool of more than 100 make the depth and breadth of the Society's outreach activities possible, donating more than 16,000 hours annually—the equivalent of having eight full-time staff members. And our staff deserves so much credit for making HSCC viable.

I am proud to have inaugurated and/or completed a number of projects during my time at HSCC. These include:

- ♦ Advocating and working to create a new Chart of Accounts to give consistency to HSCC financial reporting
- ♦ Working with staff, board, volunteers, and community members to produce a strategic plan
- ♦ Overseeing a dozen school and college interns over the four-year period and co-curating the exhibit, *Faces of Carroll County: Past and Present*
- ♦ Focusing on the development of "travelling trunks," providing hands-on experiences for school children
- ♦ Co-curating with Antigoni Ladd and members of the Greek community an exhibit at Emerald Hill, entitled *Yearning to Breathe Free: Westminster's Greek Immigrants*
- ♦ Serving on the Celebrating America Initiative committee and helping to create a History Expo in tandem with the County National History Day Contest
- ♦ Implementing the move of the Research Library to the first floor of Kimmey
- ♦ Working in partnership with the Carroll County Master Gardeners to establish interpretive gardens (kitchen, herb, dying, and native species)
- ♦ Initiating a redesign of the Society's website
- ♦ Introducing "White Glove Affairs," hands-on programs to acknowledge the generosity of HSCC donors
- ♦ Helping to build the scanning and digitization capacity of the Society

On some level, it is hard to leave. I have made so many friends through the Historical Society of Carroll County! If you are visiting the Essex, Connecticut, area, give me a call.

Once again, thank you for your support of the Historical Society and me.

Gainor



Gainor Davis with Board Chair Frank Batavick and Commissioner Steve Wantz at the Legacy Gala.

Sundae Scoop



**Celebrate
National Ice
Cream Day
with HSCC!**

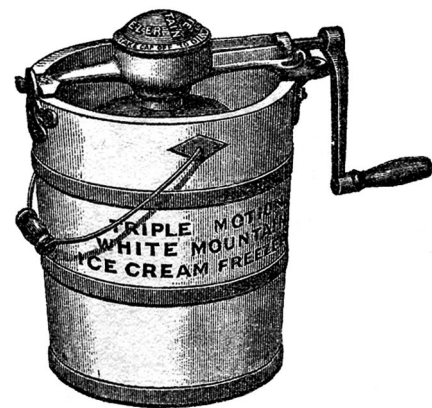
Sunday, July 21

1 - 4 p.m.

**East Main Street
Campus**



Taneytown, 1920s



**Frozen Custard and Italian Ices by
“The Cow”**

**Food available for purchase from
the Taneytown Lions**

**Try your hand at cranking an ice
cream maker**

Music

Lawn games & activities

Free Admission

A Free Custard or Ice for everyone



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Service LLC

SAPPHIRE SPONSORSHIP

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Carroll Hospital Center
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House of Liquors—Darren Barnes
David Max Realty
Myers-Durboraw Funeral Home
Paradiso Ristorante
Rhoten's Printing
Walsh & Fisher, Attorneys

SPECIALTY DRINK BAR

Modern Comfort Systems, Inc.

INVITATIONS

Mr. & Mrs. G. Melvin Mills

DESSERT TABLE

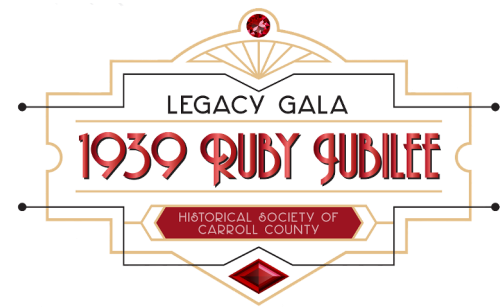
Midlantic Financial, Inc.
NWSB Bank, A Division of ACNB Bank

DECORATIONS

Ole Thyme Gardener
Pedestal Events

TABLE FAVORS

Carroll Lutheran Village
Dean Robert Camlin & Associates, Inc.
Hoffman, Comfort, Offutt, Scott & Halstad, LLP
M. T. Laney Company, Inc.



The Historical Society of Carroll County celebrated the 80th Anniversary of its founding in 1939 with its Fifth Annual Legacy Gala. One hundred ninety-seven guests attended this spectacular evening of dining, dancing, and socializing. This year's event was held on Friday evening, April 26, at Antrim 1844 in Taneytown. In conjunction with this year's theme, **1939 Ruby Jubilee**, HSCC transformed the historic landscape into New York City's nightclub environment of the 1930s and 1940s.

Due to the inclement weather, guests began the evening, enjoying hors d'oeuvres and an open bar under a beautifully decorated, subtly-lit tent. At 7:15 p.m., HSCC Gala co-chairs—Dort Mollett, Beckie Herrick, and Kathy Palaia—encouraged guests to be seated in preparation for the sumptuous dinner prepared by Antrim 1844's award-winning chef Ilhan Erkek.

Carroll County Commissioner Stephen Wantz presented Proclamation 15-2019 from the County to Board Chairman Frank Batavick and Executive Director Gainor Davis, which declared April 26, 2019, to be *Historical Society of Carroll County Day*.

Prior to the serving of the main course, auctioneer Galen Roop encouraged attendees to support the Society's outreach activities by participating in the live auction. Guests also bid on a variety of silent auction items. Proceeds from the event and the live and silent auctions support the educational mission of the Society to collect, preserve, and interpret Carroll County's unique heritage within the context of the greater American experience.

Following dinner, attendees wended their way to *The Ruby Club* where the Frankie North Band provided Big Band swing favorites and popular tunes for dancing. A table of mini-desserts and a liqueur bar provided another opportunity to satisfy one's sweet tooth.

Everyone has been waiting to hear how the evening's fundraising went. Overall, the 2019 Legacy Gala netted more than \$94,000 for HSCC. Here are the details of that total: \$49,000 from sponsorships of all types; \$25,800 from ticket sales; \$22,800 from the silent auction; \$11,780 from the live auction; \$3,240 from members and friends who could not attend the Gala; \$1,500 from the Wine Pull; and \$1,285 from our Legacy List, saluting Carroll County organizations and their years in business. Stunningly, this year's Gift for the Cause raised \$24,950 for collections management and conservation, which included the conservation of the Winchester and Longwell portraits and the Shriver dress in addition to underwriting a new, more flexible collections management system and the conversion of data to the new system.



HSCC thanks everyone who made this Legacy Gala a roaring success!



On The Road . . . Where we're going next

Join HSCC on **Thursday, September 12**, for a really sweet trip as we journey to **Columbia, Pennsylvania**. Our first stop is the **National Clock and Watch Museum**. The museum's collection is international in scope and covers a wide variety of clocks, watches, tools, and other time-related items. While the largest collection is of 19th-century American clocks and watches, the exhibits take you on a tour through the entire history of timekeeping technology from early non-mechanical devices to today's atomic and radio-controlled clocks.

Lunch will be at Hinkle's Restaurant. **Lunch choices are:** ham and Swiss on a pretzel roll; turkey wrap with sun-dried tomato vinaigrette; chicken salad on a croissant. Each comes with your choice of chicken corn or beef vegetable soup. **Lunch choice should be made when making your reservation.**

But, don't eat too much! Because following lunch we've visiting the **Turkey Hill Experience**. The Experience starts with the Turkey Hill Taste Lab where we'll get an "Ice Cream 101" class. Then everyone gets their own pint of ice cream to which they can add flavorings and inclusions to make (and eat) their own unique ice cream flavor. There will be time to visit the Experience exhibit to discover the history of Turkey Hill and how its products are made.

The bus leaves from the parking lot on Ralph St. behind the Church of the Ascension at 7:30 a.m. and arrives back in Westminster at 6:30 p.m. Cost for the trip (includes transportation, admissions, and lunch) is **\$75 for HSCC members and \$85 for non-members. Reservations are required by August 30. Payment is required when making your reservation.** No refunds can be given for cancellations received after the reservation deadline. Call HSCC at 410-848-6494 to reserve your seats.



And in December . . .



Join us on Friday, December 6, as we head off on our annual **Holiday Journey**. This year's destination is one of our favorites: **Winterthur Museum and Gardens** in Delaware. The Yuletide at Winterthur tour is always a special treat. This year, each room on the Yuletide Tour tells a story reflecting the ways in which Americans have celebrated the winter holiday season from the 1800s to the present. Other decorations and displays recall H.F. du Pont's family traditions during Christmas and New Year's at Winterthur—including the family Christmas tree, glittering with glass ornaments and fringed by baskets brimming with gifts, one for each family member. Other signature displays include the majestic dried-flower tree, on grand view in the Conservatory and featuring some 60 varieties of flowers.

Costuming THE CROWN features 40 iconic costumes from the Emmy award-winning Netflix series, a dramatized history of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. From the dazzling gold of Queen Elizabeth's coronation robe to the simple sophistication of Princess Margaret's wedding dress, from the majesty of royal crowns and tiaras to the comfort of clothes worn in private family moments, the exhibit provides a behind-the-scenes look at how costume design is used to create riveting drama and to re-create history.

Everyone is free to get their own lunch at Winterthur's Pavilion Restaurant. The menu features a sandwich station, specialty grilled cheese sandwiches, braised short ribs, a salad bar and à la carte options including soups and sweets.

The bus leaves from the parking lot on Ralph St. behind the Church of the Ascension at 7:30 a.m. and arrives back in Westminster at 7:00 p.m. Cost for the trip (includes transportation and admissions) is **\$75 for HSCC members and \$85 for non-members.** Reservations are required by November 22. **Payment is required when making your reservation. No refunds can be given for cancellations received after the reservation deadline.** Call HSCC at 410-848-6494 to reserve your seats.

Tales from the Library

- Catherine Lusher, HSCC intern

The John R. Byers Collection of photographic negatives is abundant with images of Carroll County’s past. Examining these images more closely and sorting through them creates a better understanding of how the photographer behind the images viewed Carroll County. The goal of the project was to digitize images and publish them on the website Digital Maryland. Selecting images was a task influenced by several factors: being able to identify who or what is in the image, intellectual value, and if the image is enjoyable to view. Digitization leads to a lifelong process of preservation so that future generations can enjoy the history we have collected in an easily accessible way.

Before diving into the process of images selection, it is important to understand the photographer himself. John R. Byers was born on Bear Branch Road in Winfield, Carroll County. Byers purchased his first camera in 1920 and did not put down the camera until his death in 1987. In 1942 Byers enlisted in the United States Navy as a pharmacist, but not long after he began service he applied and was accepted to become a Navy photographer. Returning to his home of Westminster in 1946, he began his life of public service. In 1951 he and his wife, Elsie, purchased the F.A. Sharrer Funeral Home. During that same year Byers was elected to the Westminster City Council. Additionally, Byers served as postmaster of Westminster from 1957-1971. Byers also was actively involved in many facets of the Carroll County community, including the Historical Society, the American Legion, the Kiwanis Club, and many others. Though photography was a hobby for Byers, he was a primary contributor to the visual history of the 20th century of Carroll County.

Identifying many of the Byers images proved to be tricky at times. Some of the original envelopes in which the negatives are housed have some identifying information, but many do not. Sorting through the images there are many people and places that are nearly impossible to truly identify. Using the information provided on the envelopes and research in old newspapers and resources available at HSCC more information can be found about the images. Choosing what images are published online is largely influenced by being able to identify the negatives and how much information can be found. There are still many images that are not identified but with more research they could reveal even more history.

Once images are identified, there then comes the task of choosing which of those images will be published on Digital Maryland. For the first “round” of negatives, images were selected that represent Carroll County, have educational value, and are enjoyable to view. There are images of weddings, holiday celebrations, businesses and even images of the Baltimore Colts during summer training camp at what was then known as Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College). Thirty-three negatives were chosen but there are many more digitized images waiting to be seen. These images give a snapshot of what life was like for the citizens of Carroll County.

Digitization is a way to give new life to collections. Publishing these images allows for more of the community access to their local history. Identifying images takes time and research. Choosing images also proved to be a difficult task. Preserving these images will help generations of the future to visually understand how life was different and in some cases the same.

Can you help us identify these images?

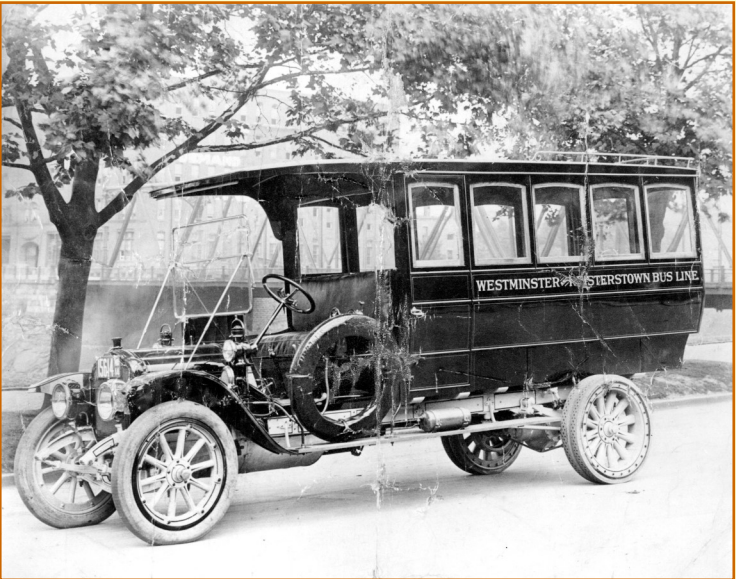


The Curator's Corner

- Cathy Baty, Curator

Highways or the “Red Line”? Maglev or high-speed trains? No tolls, tolls, variable tolls? Buses or subways? It seems like every day brings another debate about mass transit. Most of these aren’t pressing questions for Carroll County since we don’t have what most people consider mass transit. But at one time we did.

In July 1914, William H. Bowers & Sons launched the Westminster and Reisterstown Bus Line. The line began with one 25-passenger bus but a second one was added later that year. There were several designated pick-up points in Westminster but the bus would also stop anywhere along the route for waiting passengers. At Reisterstown passengers could transfer to the interurban line into downtown Baltimore. This was an alternative to riding the Western Maryland Railroad which, according to the *Times*, offered unsatisfactory service.



Westminster-Reisterstown bus, 1914

In January 1915, the Carroll Transit Company took over the bus line. At that time the company’s equipment included one 40-horsepower bus with a seating capacity of 30 and one 30-horsepower bus that seated 20. Negotiations were under way for the purchase of another 40-horsepower bus with a seating capacity of 32. The buses were touted as “modern in every respect” having heat and electric lights.

A route running north from Westminster to Silver Run was added in March 1915. A ride from Union Mills to Silver Run cost 3 cents one way but the round trip cost 10 cents. A trip all the way from Westminster to Silver Run cost 30 cents with a round-trip costing 55 cents. July 1915 saw the addition of service from Westminster to Taneytown. In January 1916, Solomon Suddler committed one of the most notorious crimes in Carroll County history when he murdered William Brown in Silver Run. And how did Suddler escape? By bus, of course. According to the *Times*, he “walked to Union Mills . . . took the bus to Westminster and here changed to the bus to Reisterstown and went from Reisterstown to Baltimore on the trolley car.”



Blue Ridge Bus Line, mid-1930s

The company thrived for a time but advertisements and notices of its schedule disappear in the early 1920s. Did the growing popularity of the automobile reduce the demand for bus service and lead to the line’s demise?

In March 1915, Bowers decided to compete with his former company by starting a new line between Westminster and Baltimore, by way of Smallwood, Gamber, Eldersburg, North Branch, Randallstown, and Pikesville. It’s unclear exactly how long this new endeavor survived.

The Blue Ridge Bus Line was one of several companies that provided service in the mid-Atlantic region. Advertisements from the 1930s promoted travel between Baltimore, Washington, and Pittsburgh, with regularly scheduled service to Westminster, Taneytown, Emmitsburg, Gettysburg, Hagerstown, Cumberland, Martinsburg, and Winchester. The company served Carroll County from the mid-1920s until 1955.

*To learn more about William Brown’s murder and Solomon Suddler’s trial, visit our website, Carroll Yesteryears, 20 April 1997.