

Vol. 13, Number 3 - Summer 2020

The Carroll

Courier

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



Join us as we break our own
barriers by hosting our first *virtual*
Gala!

Celebrate 100 years of Breaking Barriers in recognition of women's suffrage!

Saturday, September 12, 2020, at 7 p.m.

Listen to stories from local barrier breakers & enjoy special performances.
Participate in on-line Silent & Live Auctions to support the Historical Society!

This is a FREE Event!

Details will be provided on our website, Facebook page and direct mail.

Join our 2nd annual "Bluegrass at the Barn" as *Sideline*
gives an Encore Performance!

Friday, September 11, 2020, 6—9 p.m.

Due to health concerns, no food or
beverages will be served. You are welcome
to pack your own picnic and blanket or chair
for social distancing!

Free Admission - No reservations/tickets required

A donation benefitting the Historical Society is
encouraged and will be appreciated!

Rob's Bluegrass Barn, 821 View West Drive
Westminster





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From the Executive Director

Dear Members and Friends,

The world has changed in 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced businesses, schools, and families to adjust. The Historical Society has had to adjust as well. We hope you will stick with us and enjoy our adjustments as we navigate a “new normal” for at least for a little while longer.

Speaking of adjusting, on May 26, in partnership with the Community Media Center, we held our first virtual Box Lunch Talk via Zoom. We had over 50 participants, many first time Zoom users, join us for Jim Lightner’s presentation on Mary Shellman, Dorothy Elderdice, and Sadie Kneller Miller; three women that broke barriers and pushed challenged conventional gender roles for their time. If you missed the talk, Jim’s BLT can be found on the Community Media Center’s website. Please note, our July Box Lunch Talk and Talk at the Tavern will be virtual as well. Go to hsccmd.org/events to register!

Not only have our talks gone virtual, but so has our 2020 Legacy Gala. The new date for the *Breaking Barriers* Legacy Gala is September 12, 2020! The *Breaking Barriers* theme commemorates the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment granting women in the United States the right to vote. Be assured that the virtual Gala will celebrate barrier-breakers in our community, highlight our local heroes, emphasize our shared history, and provide an entertaining experience where friends and families will make a deeper connection with the people who have contributed to the evolution of our community. The Virtual Gala will be free! The Historical Society looks forward to hosting an open event for the entire community to enjoy. Details will be forthcoming, but for now, please save the date!

You may be wondering about this year’s *Bluegrass, Bourbon & Bocce*. The “Triple B,” as we lovingly call it, will be a “Single B” this year—bluegrass. With the possibility of stricter health codes for serving alcohol and food, as well as keeping shared bocce sets clean, the Triple B Committee made the hard decision to celebrate the end of summer with only music. We invite you to bring a picnic and a blanket or chair to Rob’s Bluegrass Barn on September 11 to enjoy a late summer night. The event will now be free, but we will be encouraging you to donate to the HSCC during the evening.

Although our budget is stretched extremely thin, we made the decision to host many of our 2020 events and programs free of charge. The Legacy Gala and Bluegrass event are two significant fundraisers for us and the lost income from ticket sales will be felt. In lieu of admission fees, please consider going to our website and making a donation. Your generous gifts will help the Historical Society preserve history and continue to offer educational and interesting programs for all ages. We deeply appreciate your support.

Good news! We will be re-opening the campus on Tuesday, July 21, 2020! Please see page 4 for safety measures and details about our new procedures.

Steven Jakobovic



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www.HSCCmd.org
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Library: Ready to help by phone or email

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~ Molli’s Café ~

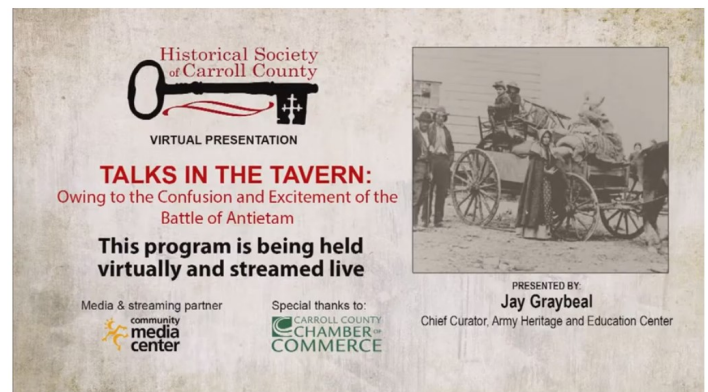
A Message from the Chair



Dear HSCC Members and Friends,

These are very unsettling times. With my last note to you, the HSCC was closing temporarily for the Covid19 pandemic. On some level, I thought we might be closed for a week or two to snuff out the virus. Certainly no more than a month, and we made temporary plans with that in mind. Over and over our staff and volunteers have dealt with a changing definition of our shared “near future plans.” We agonized over postponing our 2020 Legacy Gala. Certainly we were off to a great start with many faithful sponsors and tickets sold. As our very biggest fundraiser, we had high hopes. We felt we could nimbly move our Box Lunch Talks to an online version for a month or two because we no longer had Grace Lutheran Church to host us. We have tried to make up for the loss of in person activities with more Facebook and new YouTube educational opportunities. Even our very successful Tavern Talk has been moved to online in order to meet the interest and needs of our members and our public. These decisions have been made with lots and lots of staff input, volunteer concerns, and the Carroll County Health Department guidance. Our short term plans have had to stretch as the pandemic has continued.

How are we doing? Well we can mark ourselves pretty good in the productivity department. Our staff has had to scramble to do work at home with less support and less materials than ever. Many a time I get an idea or inspiration late at night and have to text, email, or message it off before that thought disappears. I am stunned when Cathy responds back on a Saturday night or Steve replies on a Sunday. I am surprised by the depths of knowledge our volunteers have in online activities, sparkling ideas, and willingness to do the “next best thing,” even if it is different from what we planned the week before. Our volunteers are really connected with other organizations and know what events are being planned and what is being cancelled. We are creative as a group and overall are doing OK in morale. Some of our staff and volunteers have had to very much rethink their role with HSCC. Some of our faithful volunteers will just not feel comfortable indoors with the public at events, the Research Library, or on tours for the foreseeable future. We are scrambling to do our best to make things work. We will be hosting research requests for the public so that they get our best volunteers working on their projects without coming in the facility. To submit a research request, send an email to Library@hsccmd.org or call 410-848-6494, ext. 204, and leave a message. The volunteers aren't there every day but will get in touch with you as soon as possible. We are offering as much digitally as we can with a small volunteer core and staff. See page 1 for updates on our Legacy Gala and Bluegrass, Bourbon & Bocce plans. A more complete calendar of events can be found on page 5. This summer we have a grant for an improved website design, and we are working with a local firm to add some “snap” to our digital presence.



If you missed the Box Lunch Talk or the Talk at the Tavern, you can watch them on the Community Media Center's website at carrollmediacenter.org.

Where can you help? I will not be sugar coating our finances. Without the Gala, 25% of our normal operating funds have not been available to us. Although visitors, the shop, and tours were never a large portion of our support, they are virtually nonexistent now. We are facing a serious shortfall and have been operating on reserves. Our Annual Fund Appeal has been doing well, but in these times, we need even more support from every HSCC supporter. Please consider increasing your support in good words to each other, good deeds when you can see we need help, and your financial support even if it doesn't seem like very much.

It is time to dig in for a long summer. We need you. We thank you, and we miss you!

Kristen McMasters

Chair, HSCC Board



Dear Friends,

The Historical Society of Carroll County is pleased to announce that we will be reopening on Tuesday, July 21, 2020! Please see below for safety guidelines and building availability. Thank you for your understanding and patience while we make sure our campus is opened safely for our guests, staff, and volunteers alike. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Safety Measures: The Historical Society will require guests to follow these safety measures to prevent the transmission of COVID-19:

- The wearing of masks is required inside the Historical Society's buildings.
- Upon entry, please use the hand sanitizer station located just inside the front door.
- Maintain a physical distance of 6 feet from staff, volunteers, and other visitors.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes and avoid rubbing your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Please do not enter the buildings if you feel sick. We will be here when you are better!

New hours and availability beginning July 21, 2020: The Historical Society will observe the following hours and availability for the next few months. We will announce any changes on Facebook and our website.

Administrative Office:

- The administrative office at 210 East Main Street will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

Research Library:

- We are happy to announce that our library volunteers are ready to help with your research requests via email or telephone.
- Please email library@hsccmd.org or call 410-848-6494, ext. 204, for assistance
- For the well-being of our librarians, the library will be closed to the public until further notice. Thank you for understanding.

Tours:

- Tours of Sherman-Fisher-Shellman House will be given by appointment only from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.
- Email info@hsccmd.org or call 410-848-6494, ext. 200, to make an appointment.
- Payment (\$5 per person) is required over the telephone when the appointment is made.
- Limit of four people per tour; we will not mix households/groups traveling together
- Tours of Cockey's Tavern are temporarily suspended while we work on our newest exhibit celebrating the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, "Breaking Barriers."

Shellman Shop & Bookstore:

- Beginning July 21, 2020, the museum shop will be open for curbside pickup or mail order.
- Please see page 9 and visit our website for a listing of our most popular items!

On behalf of the board and staff, I am so appreciative of your support during our months of closure. We are in a new normal and grateful for your patience and compliance with our safety protocols.

Best regards,

Steven Jakobovic



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, including the cancellation of our annual Sundae Scoop that would have been held on Sunday, July 19th. Below is an updated calendar for the next few months. There may be additional changes, so, please check our website (hsccmd.org) and Facebook for updates.

While we've had to cut back on our in-person events, you can still connect with HSCC. Visit our Facebook page for photos, articles, and videos about Carroll County history. 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.

- Jul 21** **Box Lunch Talk** ~ *History of the Taneytown Museum*, 12-1 p.m. Doug Heck shares the museum's history, current events, and future plans. This program will be live via Zoom. Registration is required to access the program. Registration is now available at www.hsccmd.org/events.
- Jul 23** **Talks at the Tavern** ~ *Talk in the Herb Garden*, 7-8 p.m. Herb gardens have for centuries been essential features of households. Join Master Gardener Linda Broadfoot in the newly renovated herb garden behind the Shellman House in a discussion of historic Pennsylvania German practices. Information on the use of herbs will be presented. This program will be live via Zoom. Registration is required to access the program. Registration is now available at www.hsccmd.org/events.
- Aug 15** **Past Times for Children** ~ *Country Fair*, 10-11:15 a.m., Cockeys.
- Aug 18** **Box Lunch Talk** ~ *The Road Most Traveled: The Shrovers & the Turnpike*, 12-1 p.m. Sam Riley, President of the Union Mills Homestead will share the interesting history of the first major turnpike through the area that became Carroll County, the road's important role in developing settlements along the Maryland-Pennsylvania Border, and the ties to the Shriver family at Union Mills. This event will be held either in person at Grace Lutheran Church or via Zoom. Watch the HSCC website and Facebook page for updates.
- Aug 27** **Talks at the Tavern** ~ *Gardening with Heirlooms*, 7-8 p.m. There is growing interest in preserving these old varieties for future generations. Join Master Gardener Kay Sedlak to learn about vegetables that have been passed down to us through the ages. Discover how you can enjoy growing heirlooms in your garden. The Pennsylvania German- inspired 4-square garden behind the Shellman House features some of these plants. This event will be held either in person in the Shipley Memorial Garden behind the Sherman-Fisher-Shellman House or via Zoom. Watch the HSCC website and Facebook page for updates.
- Sep 11** **Bluegrass, Bourbon & Beers** ~ See p. 1 for updated program information.
- Sep 12** **2020 Legacy Gala** ~ Breaking Barriers. See p. 1 for updated program information.
- Sep 15** **Box Lunch Talk** ~ *The Western Maryland Railroad Past & Present*, 12-1 p.m. It was on June 15, 1861, that the blast of a train whistle was first heard in Westminster as the Western Maryland Railroad arrived in town. Jim Shriver explores the development and history of the line, its impact on Carroll County and the state of Maryland, and its place in the era of America's railroad expansion.
- Sep 24** **Talks at the Tavern** ~ *Westminster High School's Contribution to the Greatest Generation*, 7-8 p.m. Steve Bowersox, a history teacher at Westminster High School, began researching the connection of Westminster High to World War II in 2007. He has been able to find over 650 Westminster High students, male and female, in the service during World War II. The students served all over the world and participated in every major campaign of the military. He will share some of the stories.
- Sep 26** **Past Times for Children** ~ *Games*, 10-11:15 a.m., Cockeys.
- Oct 3** **Walking Tour of Historic Westminster Cemetery**. See p. 9 for details.
- 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.
- Oct 22** **Talks at the Tavern** ~ *The Panic Broadcast*, 7-8 p.m. In 1938, the Mercury Theater of the Air's dramatization of H.G. Wells' *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.
- Nov. 4** **HSCC Annual Membership Meeting** ~ Watch for program details and invitation.

Tales from the Library

- David Buie, Library Volunteer

When someone hears the name “Basil Crapster,” the response is often a smile or a smirk. Still, few people realize the illustrious history behind the “Crapster” name in Carroll County.

The first of the Crapsters to migrate to the United States from Sweden was Ruliff (abt. 1730–1800). Ruliff settled in Somerset County, New Jersey, but soon acquired a large tract of land in the Taneytown area and built a home first known as “Locust Grove” and much later as “Sauble's Inn.” The Crapster burial plot was on the family homestead. Undoubtedly, Ruliff and his wife were among the first persons interred there. An article in the *Gettysburg Times* on February 9, 1965, stated, “According to a descendant, ‘the seven children of our pioneer ancestor were born at Locust Grove. Ruliff (a) and Abigail Crapster must be buried there. His son John (2) Crapster and his wife Susanna (Little) Crapster were buried there—but taken up to and buried in the Taneytown Reformed Cemetery.’” In life, John married Susannah Little (also called Klein), the daughter of Peter Little, founder of Littlestown, PA.

John and Susannah’s son, Basil (1787–1862), the beginning of a long line of Basils, left Taneytown for Howard County. There he surveyed land for many of the families responsible for the formation of Howard County out of the older Anne Arundel County. Basil’s son, Abraham (1813-1855), returned to Taneytown where the family remained for generations.

Dr. Basil Long Crapster (1920-1991) was born to Basil and Ellen Bruce Long Crapster on July 3, 1920. He grew up in Taneytown, Carroll County, and throughout his life maintained an interest in the history and the people of his birthplace.

After graduating from Mercersburg Academy in 1937, he entered Princeton University where he received his undergraduate degree in 1941. The following year he earned his master’s degree from Harvard University, then served three years in Naval Intelligence during World War II. When the war ended, he returned to Harvard for a doctorate in 19th-century English history.

Dr. Crapster joined the faculty of Gettysburg College in 1949. He taught European history until his retirement in 1988. During his tenure at Gettysburg he wrote articles for history journals and local newspapers and received the prestigious Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching.

Dr. Crapster and his wife Joan (Tewksbury) Crapster often worked together in researching the history of Taneytown and the northwest quadrant of present-day Carroll County. The history of his family and Taneytown became the core of his research. He and his wife were frequent visitors to the Frederick County Courthouse where early Taneytown documents are filed. As his body of research expanded, so did his search area. His notes indicate he collected material in most Maryland courthouses and those of bordering states as well as in numerous historical societies.

The mass of information he accumulated covering the early history of the northwest quadrant of Carroll County is a tribute to his dedication to this project. Ultimately, his work filled a large file cabinet, and that material is now available to anyone visiting the Historical Society’s Shriver-Weybright Research Library. Most of the material is handwritten. Deciphering Dr. Crapster’s writing can be challenging, but what researcher can resist access to content like this with the sources carefully noted.

Joan Crapster died in 1989, and Basil passed away two years later. Through the generosity of the Crapster children, their parents’ research has been entrusted to the Historical Society of Carroll County. Truly, this legacy illuminates the past and provides the basis for continuing research in the future.



Dr. Basil Crapster. (Courtesy of the Special Collections and College Archives, Musselman Library, Gettysburg College.)



Basil and Joan Crapster on their wedding day.

To learn more about the Crapster collection, including a list of the files, visit the Research Resources page on our website, hsccmd.org.

The Curator's Corner

- Cathy Baty, Curator

See the USA... in your Chevrolet. Get Your Kicks on Route 66. Hot Rod Lincoln. Mustang Sally. Little Deuce Coupe. Baseball, hot dogs, apple pie and Chevrolet. For over 100 years, Americans have had a love affair with cars. Car images dominate our popular culture—advertising, music, movies, and TV shows.

Bicycle mechanics J. Frank and Charles Duryea of Springfield, Massachusetts, had designed the first successful American gasoline automobile in 1893. In 1899, 30 American manufacturers produced 2,500 cars. During the next decade, 485 companies entered the business. In 1908 Henry Ford introduced the Model T. Originally, any automobile was a luxury purchase. In its first year of production, the Model T sold for \$825. By 1927, the last year of production, the price had dropped to \$290 and over 15 million had been sold.



The car show in the Armory in Westminster featured several car brands such as Ford, Hudson, Dodge, and Humpmobile.



Rudy & Rudy Chevrolet.



The employees of Davis Buick introduce the 1941 models.

Carroll Countians quickly became fans of the new technology. Walter H. Davis was one of the earliest local businessmen to take the plunge into the car business. He began selling cars in Westminster in 1910 and became a Buick dealer in 1920. In 1930, the company moved from John Street to a prominent location at 31 West Main, near the corner of West Main and Liberty Streets. The front of the first floor housed the showroom with service bays in the rear.



The Amoco service station at the corner of East Main and Court Streets, c.1950.

In October 1920, the first of several annual automobile shows was held in the armory in Westminster. J. Leland Jordan, editor of the Times, headed the committee that organized the event to allow local dealers and "accessory men" to promote their wares.

As automobiles became more common, more businesses opened to sell and care for them. Gradually, the old livery stables and harness sellers disappeared. The 1932 Westminster telephone directory listed 16 car dealerships. For example, Rudy & Rudy was located at 31 West Green Street in 1927 and had moved to 14 Liberty Street by 1932. The company may have gone out of business at that time since it does not appear in telephone directories after that year.

Today, we don't even need to go to a dealer—we can buy cars on-line. Somehow that doesn't seem like quite as much fun.

A Message to our Members

The following letter was posted on the Historical Society's Facebook page and website on *Juneteenth*, June 19, 2020. Juneteenth is a commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that Major General Gordon Granger landed at Galveston, Texas, with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. We are reprinting here for those without access to the internet or Facebook.

Dear Friends,

We, at the Historical Society of Carroll County, lament the ongoing effect racism has on our society. Current events clearly make evident that the country continues to struggle. The demonstrations here in Carroll County, in the nation, and around the world are urging us to recognize that silence is no longer an option. All people need to live in a society that does not perpetuate inequities due to false prejudgments. To stand in solidarity with ideas is easy. The true work begins now.

Today, we must have open dialogue with each other. We must also rethink the systems and institutional structures that have failed to bring equity and justice to all in our society. As a history organization, we suggest not shying away from analyzing historical patterns of past injustices to understand our present situation; healing might begin by recognizing a history that is less wholesome than we would like to believe.

Making the County's history meaningful and relevant for our diverse community is our continuing mission. To fulfill it, we commit to sponsoring upcoming talks, exhibits, and programming with themes focused on local African American history, as well as the stories of other groups that are underrepresented. Understanding history—and each other—are critical ingredients of change.

Sincerely,

The Historical Society of Carroll County

Historical Society Update

From late March to early June, the Historical Society was mandated to be closed and staff was required to work remotely as we were deemed non-essential. If you tried to reach us during the lock-down, and were unsuccessful, we profusely apologize! Although the lights weren't shining brightly on campus, we were busy working from home. Here are just some of our accomplishments:

- ◆ Posted new videos, pictures, and other content to Facebook on a daily basis
- ◆ Began hosting virtual talks on Zoom and provided our speakers with supporting material
- ◆ Published two *Courier* newsletters and a *Carroll History Journal*
- ◆ Logged over 900 items into our collections database
- ◆ Wrote an article for the *Carroll County Times* "Carroll Living" summer supplement
- ◆ Applied for and received a Paycheck Protection Program Loan; also applied for other operating grants
- ◆ Launched the Coronavirus Preservation Project
- ◆ Made enhancements to our website and moved to a new website host (Kohn Creative)
- ◆ Planned for our first, and hopefully only, virtual Legacy Gala
- ◆ Planned for a safe re-opening for staff, volunteers, and guests [see page 4 for details]
- ◆ Continued our usual administrative, bookkeeping work as well as mailings and special mailings

The staff is back in the office and looking forward to serving the community. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Steven Jakobovic at 410-848-6494 extension 202.

Walking Tour of Westminster Cemetery

On Saturday, October 3, join HSCC and the Westminster Cemetery Association for a very special event as Mimi Ashcraft, co-author of *Historic Westminster Cemetery & Union Meeting House*, will lead a guided tour of the ancient burying ground.

The Union Meeting House was a site for Westminster's public meetings in the early 1800s as well as a place for local Protestants to worship before individual denominations established their own churches. During the Civil War it served as a hospital. Over 7,000 individuals from all walks of life rest in the cemetery. Their stories are sometimes humorous, sometimes tragic, and they make a fascinating introduction to local history you probably never knew.

The tour is suitable for ages 10 and up. The tour requires standing for 1.5 hours and walking on uneven ground as well as paved roadways. Please wear comfortable shoes and dress appropriately for the weather.

The cemetery is located at 17 N. Church Street in Westminster. The tour begins at 2:00 p.m. Please arrive at the cemetery gate 15 minutes before the tour for check-in. Parking is available within the cemetery but please stay on the paved areas.

Tour costs **\$5 for HSCC members** and **\$10 for non-members**. Or, you can purchase a combination ticket which includes the tour plus an autographed copy of the book for \$20 members or \$25 for non-members. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Space is limited. Reservations are requested by September 25, 2020. No refunds can be made after the reservation deadline. Please call 410-848-6494, ext. 200, to reserve your spot.



The Union Meeting House that stood in the Westminster Cemetery served as a hospital during the Gettysburg campaign in 1863.

Talking Shop

- Catherine Lusher

Though the Shellman Shop and Bookstore is temporarily closed for browsing, we are excited to now be offering 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. Please see below for just a small portion of our books offered for purchase. Please 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**

David Shriver, 1735 – 1826: Pioneer & Patriot of Piedmont Maryland by George Donald Riley, Jr. The story of David Shriver, son of a German immigrant, who settled in Frederick (now Carroll) County in 1760 and became a founding father of the German American farmers in piedmont Maryland. **\$27**

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**

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**

Make Room for Sentiment: A Physician's Story by Theodore E. Woodward, M.D. In his autobiography Dr. Woodward traces his childhood in Westminster through his service with the U.S. Typhus Commission during World War II to his role as Chair of Medicine, University of Maryland School of Medicine. **\$25**

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