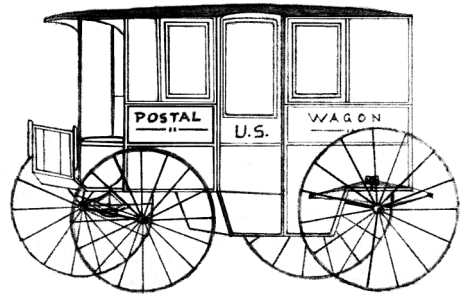


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Vol. 13, Number 1 - Winter 2020

The Carroll
Courier

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

**BREAKING
BARRIERS**
Legacy Gala

Join us
Saturday, April 25, 2020
6–11pm at Martin’s Westminster
as we celebrate the people who
broke barriers in Carroll County
... and beyond.



Black tie or costume of
your favorite barrier breaker.
More information to follow.

Unlocking the past for the future

\$175 per person. Watch for more details.

BUSINESS MEMBERS (as of November 30, 2019)
Please support those who support The Historical Society.

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Antrim 1844	Eagle Oil Company	Molli’s Café
Aquino Financial Group	Farmers & Merchants Bank - Upperco	NWSB Bank, A Division of ACNB Bank
Barnes-Bollinger Insurance Services	Farmers & Merchants Bank - Westminster	P.A. Martin & Sons
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From the Board Chair

- Frank J. Batavick



For some folks, the frozen landscape and dark hours of winter equate to a difficult time. The meager sunlight can have a negative impact on mood, and doctors have even given this a name—seasonal affective disorder. The good news is that you may not need a special “light therapy” bulb or even a visit to your pharmacy to deal with it. Self-help may be as close as your friendly historical society.

A 2017 study by the Mayo Clinic established that volunteering is a great way to beat the winter blues. It can decrease depression, especially for those 65 and older, by increasing social interaction with others who share your interests. This ultimately builds your circle of friends and social network. Volunteering also gives you a sense of purpose and reduces stress.

Lastly, volunteering helps you stay physically and mentally active, thereby improving overall health. The end result of all of this? A long-term study of aging found that volunteers have lower mortality rates than those who don't volunteer. What better incentive is there to serve on one of the HSCC's many committees, from Programs to Properties to Publications?

Give us a call today to find out how you can help. And if you're already a volunteer? Thanks for your much-appreciated service. It looks like it's a win-win for the Society and you.

On a final note, this is my last letter for the *Carroll Courier*. I'll be stepping down from the board's chairmanship at the end of December. I appreciate all of your support over the last two years and am certainly optimistic about the Society's upward trajectory, especially under our new executive director. We've scheduled many exciting activities for 2020 that I hope you'll attend, from the *Winter Wine Tasting* on February 22 [see p. 4] to the new *Talks at the Tavern* evening lecture series [see p. 11]. There's also our *Legacy Gala: Breaking Barriers* on April 25 that's shaping up to be one of the county's signature events.

Stay tuned. The best is definitely yet to come.

Frank



Frank Batavick prepares to pull the winning raffle ticket at *Bluegrass, Bourbon & Bocce*.

New Talks at the Tavern Lecture Series for 2020

You spoke, we listened!

Beginning in March 2020, the Historical Society of Carroll County will be offering evenings of history, gardening, and...Martians!?

Earlier this year, we conducted a member satisfaction survey to find out how we can serve our constituency better. A large number of respondents suggested evening events. Many of our members have busy days with work, school, or other engagements. Our Programs Committee heard you and scheduled a great series of evening speakers for 2020.

To commemorate Women's History Month in March 2020, James Lightner will speak about key women in the history Carroll County. The focus will be on Dorothy Elderdice, ardent suffragist, writer, and costumer (among many other things), and Sadie Kneller Miller, a pioneer woman photojournalist who was able to arrange a meeting with Pancho Villa at his guerrilla base in the Mexican mountains in 1916.



The four-square garden in the Shellman yard.

Several talks will cover gardening. In May, Master Gardener Dave Flora will speak on the ecological benefits and beauty of native plants. In July, Master Gardener Linda Broadfoot will host a Walk and Talk through the Shellman Herb garden to discuss historic Pennsylvania German practices.

In October, Frank Batavick will take us back to 1938 to talk about the Orson Welles' infamous “War of the Worlds” broadcast when many unsuspecting listeners thought the Earth was indeed being invaded by Martians.

We hope you can come to several, if not all, of these great talks. Cost is \$3 for HSCC members and \$7 for non-members. See the Calendar of Events insert in this *Courier* for more information. Please call the Historical Society of Carroll County for details at 410-848-6494 or visit our website at hsccmd.org.

Talking Shop

- Catherine Lusher

The Historical Society of Carroll County is excited to announce that we have changed our Museum Shop name to **Shellman Shop and Bookstore!** The new name is the start of several changes the shop will undergo. In 2020, we are planning to purchase new merchandise with a focus on our upcoming exhibits, Carroll County history, and Maryland spirit.

The new name serves to fulfill the mission statement that governs all Shop activities: “The Museum Shop and Book Store of the Historical Society of Carroll County supports the educational and financial goals of the Society. Through the Museum Shop and Book Store, the Society expands the educational journey of the visitor by enhancing the discovery of Carroll County's heritage and lifestyles.”

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

~ Farmers & Merchants Bank~Upperco ~

BUSINESS MEMBER

~ The Law Office of Thomas C. Beach IV ~

For Your Information

Winter Weather Warnings

HSCC's hours of operation may change when bad weather is predicted. If Carroll County Public Schools are closed, delayed, or dismissing early, HSCC will follow those hours. Listen to local news for closing announcements.



Moving?

Please let us know about any changes of address so we don't lose touch with you.

If you're away for part of the year, let us know and we'll adjust our records to suit your schedule.

Welcome, New Members September 1, 2019 ~ December 10, 2019

David Chambers, Reston, VA
Kathryn Johnson, Herndon, VA
Helen Redding, Westminister
Jaime Ridgley, New Windsor
Linda Toth, Westminister
Charles Wheatley, Westminister

In Memoriam

Mary Helen Conover
Bruce Hoover
Marie King
William Marks
Lewis Miller
Elizabeth Neal
Jane Nupp
Charles Poffinberger

Q&A With Executive Director Steven Jakobovic

- Jaime Ridgley, Marketing Committee Chair

Steven Jakobovic started in his role as the Historical Society of Carroll County's executive director in late October.

Hailing from Charlottesville, Virginia, Steve has spent the last 10 years working at an asset management firm that partnered with endowments, foundations, and other nonprofits to assist with their investment needs.

While his professional experience is financial, his passion is culture and history. Steve has a Master of Arts in sociology and has volunteered for the Louisa County Historical Society and Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. Steve curated an exhibit for the Louisa County Historical Society that accompanied its 1950s Oral History Project, served as an oral history interviewer, and participated in many outreach events.



I recently sat down with Steve to find out more about his background, his first impressions of the county, and plans for the Historical Society's future.

Q: Tell us a little about yourself.

A: History and culture have been an interest of mine for my entire life. I really enjoy getting to know about how people lived given their historical context. Growing up in Queens, New York, and then moving to Winchester, Virginia, when I was 14 opened my eyes to the tremendous diversity in thought and ways of being from one region to another. It's fascinating to look at history through a lens of trying to understand relationships—and not only with regard to historical heavyweights, but also learning from and understanding the joys and struggles of everyday people.

Q: As someone who is new to Carroll County, what are your first impressions?

A: It has been my pleasure to get to know the membership and the broader Westminister and Carroll County community. I can sense a deep passion for the county and its history.

On the lighter side, I've settled into a place in downtown Westminister. I still haven't figured out all the one way streets and alleys, but getting lost has been part of the fun!

Q: What do you think are the Society's greatest strengths?

A: The houses are a fantastic asset. They are our largest and arguably our most precious artifacts. The collection of over 40,000 items is a deep resource that I am looking forward to getting to know as well. However, the Society couldn't be what it is without our people. Over the past month, I've observed school tours, Past Times for Children, my first Box Lunch Talk, and I've sat in on several committee meetings. My office is directly across from the research library, and it has been a pleasure to overhear the library volunteers be of great help to people doing research, whether it's general or genealogical. The volunteers, staff, and board members put forth a joyful effort in making the Historical Society a creative, informed, and vibrant place.

Q: What priorities will you be focusing on first?

A: As much as I'd like to familiarize myself with our collection or learn to give a tour of the Sherman-Fisher-Shellman House without notes, I will be prioritizing two areas: finances and partnerships.

On my plate for December is the county budget request, making the case for more help toward maintaining our historic buildings. I'm also working on several grant applications to help the Society get additional funding.

Developing partnerships has been rewarding. I've met with several organizations over the past month. For example, I had a terrific visit at the Boys & Girls Club of Westminister last week. Their staff think our history trunks would be a perfect way to share Carroll County history with their kids. We will be planning several onsite trunk visits during 2020. After-school tours of Sherman-Fisher-Shellman House are also in the planning stage. I also met with the internship office at McDaniel College, and we are going to work together make sure students interested in history and museum studies have a resource where they can prepare for a rewarding career in the field.

There is a lot to do and so much we can offer the community. I'm looking forward to a fun and productive 2020!

Winter Wine Tasting: A Toast to George



Join HSCC on Washington’s 288th Birthday
For A Tour of Washington State Wines
Presentations & Tastings With Bernie Vogel

Saturday, February 22
4:30 – 7:00 pm
1838 Emerald Hill Lane

\$50 for HSCC members
\$60 for non-members



Reservations Required
by February 12

To make a reservation,
call 410-848-6494, ext. 200
Or email
ExecAssistant@HSCCmd.org

For more information go to
www.HSCCmd.org

Tasting sessions at 5:00 and 6:00. Please select the one you will be attending when you purchase your tickets.

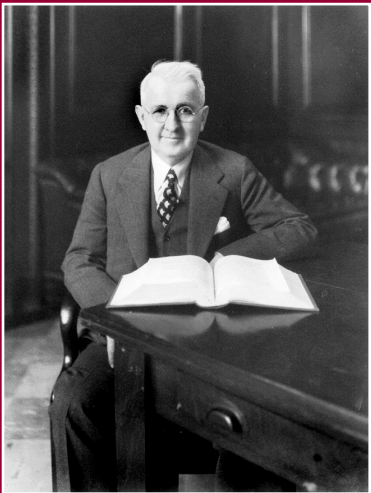
Space at each session is limited so get your tickets early to guarantee you get your choice of session!

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HSCC History Quiz

1. When was the Historical Society of Carroll County founded?
2. Which of HSCC’s buildings is the oldest?
3. Who is this and what was her role at HSCC?
4. What is the House That Jacob Built?
5. What occupied Cockey’s from 1922-1969?
6. What was the original use for the room that now houses the Research Library?
7. Where is the Shipley Memorial Garden?
8. Who is this man and what was his role at HSCC?
9. What historic house in Union Bridge was owned by HSCC?



- Answers:
1. 1939
 2. The Kimmey House (c.1800)
 3. Lillian Shipley, HSCC’s first curator
 4. The Sherman-Fisher-Sheilman House, built by Jacob Sherman in 1807
 5. Hoffman’s Inn
 6. The Shriver-Weybright Auditorium, built in 1968
 7. Behind the Sherman-Fisher-Sheilman House
 8. J. David Baile, President of HSCC’s first Board of Trustees
 9. Hard Lodging, built by Solomon Shepherd, c.1790

Society's Annual Meeting Held

About 80 HSCC members gathered on November 6 at the Best Western Conference Center for our Annual Dinner and Business Meeting. Board Chair Frank Batavick introduced the new Executive Director Steven Jakobovic, and everyone enjoyed the buffet dinner.

During the business meeting, outgoing Chair Batavick summarized the past year's activities and successes, especially the annual Legacy Gala in April, the *Sundae Scoop* in July, and the *Bluegrass, Bourbon, and Bocce* event held in September.

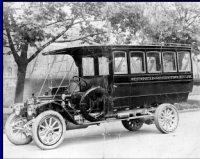
Tyler Codd, the Society treasurer, presented a detailed report on our present financial status which reflected a large deficit. Simply stated, membership fees, annual fund donations, and fundraisers are not sufficient to keep the Society functioning to achieve our mission. He and Batavick made an urgent appeal to the members to step forward with additional funding to help balance the budget.

New trustees were elected: Kristen McMasters and Jaime Ridgely. Each is already involved in Society committees. Leaving the Board after a number of years of service were Dean Robert Camlin, G. Melvin Mills, and Marilyn Maguire Phillips. Phillips ably chaired the Programs Committee, Camlin provided professional advice to the Properties Committee, and Mills advised the Development Committee. Appreciation was expressed to them for their service.



The program for the evening took the form of a HSCC history quiz in recognition of our 80th anniversary. Past Chair Jim Lightner and Curator Cathy Baty prepared about 20 questions about the Society's history, and attendees worked as table teams to vie for a special prize. One table got all of the questions correct, although there was some good-natured grumbling from other tables as to how they had done this! We've included a few of the questions on the next page so you, too, can test your knowledge of HSCC history.

A good time was had by all.



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

Join us on **Wednesday, June 10, 2020**, as we head off on our first Journey of the year. Our destination is one of Washington's newest attractions: **The Museum of the Bible**. The museum opened in 2017 and showcases rare and fascinating artifacts spanning 3,500 years of history, giving visitors an immersive and personalized experience with the Bible and its ongoing impact on the world around us. Discover the Bible's history from handwritten scrolls to mobile devices, walk through the stories of the Hebrew Bible and be immersed in first-century Nazareth, see fascinating archaeological discoveries from the Israel Antiquities Authority, and learn more about life in ancient Israel.



Everyone is on their own for lunch. The museum offers two dining choices: Manna (a casual restaurant featuring foods of the Mediterranean) and the Milk and Honey Café that features specialty teas, hot sandwiches, and baked goods. The museum is located in the heart of Washington so there are other restaurant options nearby.

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 5:00 p.m. Cost for the trip (includes transportation and admissions) is **\$65 for HSCC members** and **\$75 for non-members**. **Reservations are required by May 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.

Where We've Been . . .



Yuletide at
Winterthur

Tales from the Library

While working one Saturday morning in the small research library downstairs, a young man appeared with a photograph in his hand. “What are you hoping to find?” I asked. He looked at me and said, “Do you believe in ghosts?” I told him, “Maybe, but why do you ask?”

He handed me the picture, and as I looked into his face, I knew that he was sincere and honest about the question. He went on to explain that he had recently bought a house outside the Hampstead area. I looked at the picture and just in front of a shuttered window was a faint image of a middle aged woman sitting in a rocking chair. I really was speechless that he was so serious. “I need to find out who this lady is who is living in my house.”

My first thought was that this is not going to be easy, but I knew I wanted to help him solve his problem. I asked questions about the location and history of his property. This gave me something to go on. Amazingly, I was able to find some history on the people who once lived on the property.

By reading the Federal Census books and newspaper items of local gossip on our microfilm machine from papers published in Carroll County during that time frame, we were able to piece together a story of a family as well as an obituary on the lady. He had not known that a death had occurred in the house, but after 3 hours he left, very happy with his ghost.

I often think about that day and wonder if he is still living with the ghost of a lady who sits in his window.

- Belva Lamotte, Library Volunteer

It all started when Kathryn Riley asked me to help at the HSCC. We volunteered weekdays, labeling envelopes to be mailed out. There I met Evelyn Eichelberger, Mildred Shipley, Jay Graybeal, Helen and Don Riley, Helen Gorman, Paul Wardenfelt, and George Horvath. I have to mention Belva Lamotte, who started volunteering a few years later. She joined Kathryn and me; we were all working on Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) material to find our ancestors. If you saw one, you saw the three of us.

Then, Paul asked if the three of us would volunteer some Saturdays so he could attend his grandson’s ball games. So we started working on Saturdays. And we still volunteer on Saturdays.

That is when we started working on the Library correspondence files of old research requests. Kathryn and I worked hours on them to get the files in order. After years of work, the files have been organized and moved upstairs to our new library space. Despite their name, the correspondence files house much information on families and places.

While working on putting the files in order, I found my family. I did not know a cousin existed, so I wrote to her in Ohio. Norma Leonard had already joined the D.A.R. in Westminster a long time ago. She came to visit me and shared her material on D.A.R. She had traveled to Scotland to see the McClelland Castle. So much information was shared. It was easy for me to do my homework for D.A.R. She has been a blessing and a good friend for so many years.

For many years it was always the three of us: Belva, Kathryn, and I. Kathryn has now retired, but it is still always three of us: Belva, Steve Sinnott, and I. We may miss some days due to ice and snow, but we are not ready to retire just yet, since we enjoy volunteering at HSCC.

- Dot Benedict, Library Volunteer

The Curator's Corner

- Cathy Baty, Curator



The Westminster Band in the State Fireman’s Convention parade in Frederick in 1946.

But these were not all the bands in the County. Photographs in HSCC’s collection document bands that do not appear on the list of incorporated organizations. In an image of the Union Mills Cornet Band “Organized in 1907” is painted on the bass drum; yet the group is not on the list. Neither is the Mount Airy Boys Band which won first prize at the Carroll County centennial celebration in 1937. So, who knows how many bands have existed in the County over the years?

Bands in the 19th century had a wide range of formats and instrumentation, often including woodwind instruments, but all-brass ensembles were very common and were generally known as “cornet bands.” Of the 40 Carroll County bands, 21 had “cornet” in their name.

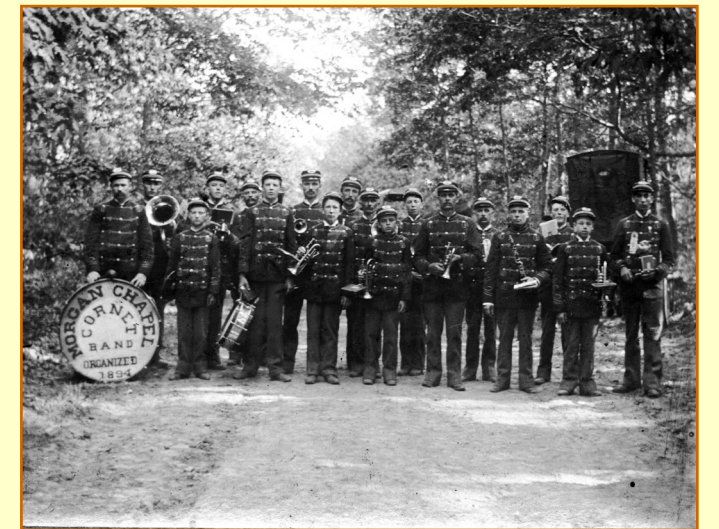


The bands provided music for social events such as picnics, patriotic observances, and parades. The parade held in Westminster on April 11, 1887, to celebrate Carroll County’s “Semi-Centennial” (50th anniversary) featured 12 bands. Often bands traveled to nearby communities to perform.

Photographs reveal that most of the early groups were small, having less than 20 musicians. But small in numbers didn’t mean small in talent. In 1890, the 24-member Warfieldsburg Band came in first out of 11 bands in a competition at Waynesboro, Pa.

The Carroll County Reed Band was organized in 1887. Despite its name, a photograph from the 1890s shows that the group had more brass instruments than woodwinds. The band reorganized in 1931 and was in operation until 1946. Recently the bass drum from the band became part of HSCC’s collection, a gift from Edward L. Wentz, whose father, Edward D. Wentz, played in the band.

Today, most of the community bands are gone, replaced by high school and college bands. But groups such as the Westminster Municipal Band and the Alesia Band still provide music for their communities.



The Morgan Chapel Cornet Band was an all-brass ensemble organized in 1894.