Once again, HSCC will present an afternoon of Bluegrass, Bourbon & Bocce on Sunday, September 10, at The Union Mills Homestead from 4-7 p.m. We had so much fun last year, and we are excited to do it again.

Tickets include the concert plus gourmet burgers and hand-cut fries by Pat Martin, dessert, non-alcoholic beverages, and bourbon tastings by local distilleries. Beer and wine will be available for purchase as well. And, of course, there will be Bocce.

This year’s event features the band Seth Mulder & Midnight Run. They are traditional bluegrass music at its best! Hailing from the heart of the Smoky Mountains in Gatlinburg, TN, they present a high-energy show filled with nostalgic entertainment, tight harmonies, and skillful musicianship. Incorporating elements of Bluegrass, country, folk, and roots music, they preserve the legacy of bluegrass music but are also progressive by writing their own material and presenting old material like no other in the genre.

Tickets, which must be purchased in advance, are $40 for HSCC members and $50 for non-HSCC members.

Tickets will be on sale soon at hsccmd.org.

Watch for more information about this exciting afternoon filled with music, food, and fun as the summer unfolds.
A Message from the Executive Director

Dear members and friends,

I am thrilled to announce that the Society’s 2023-2025 Strategic Action Plan is now posted online. You can see the plan by visiting the HSCC homepage. A printed copy will also be shared out to members and stakeholders (if it hasn’t already hit your mailboxes by the time you read this edition of the Courier). The plan is ambitious but also has obtainable action items and objectives. The plan is also a living document and will be reviewed and updated regularly by the Board of Trustees. There is no reason why it cannot undergo revisions as new information comes to light or priorities change at the Society. On behalf of the Board and Staff, thank you to everyone who provided feedback and constructive criticism about the plan!

The 2023 Legacy Gala was a success, and what a party we had at the beautiful Antrim 1844 in Taneytown! The sellout crowd looked fabulous as they walked down our sponsor walk of stars designed by Kohn Creative. Thank you again to our Sound of Music sponsors: Antrim 1844, Bowman’s Feed & Pet, Crawford Yingling Insurance, Glenn Bair and Rebecca Bare, Puckett & Sturgill Financial Group, and Velnoskey Wealth Management. Thank you also to the numerous other sponsors, donors, auction givers, and committee members! Here is a breakdown of how we did:

Total Revenue (including auctions): $105,167
Total Expenses (all included): $ 49,977
Net: $  55,190

Thanks to the hard work of Dean Robert Camlin and Associates, HSCC submitted the required construction plans, drawings and paperwork for the Shellman House to the Maryland Historical Trust on May 15th. This was a painstaking but necessary process that needed to be completed properly in order for the Society to proceed with the long-overdue brick and window repairs at Shellman.

HSCC volunteers, Society committee members, and garden club volunteers should mark their calendars for a thank you luncheon that will be held in Cockey’s on August 12th, 11:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m. You work very hard, and we want to recognize you for your tireless efforts! Please R.S.V.P. to jillari@hsccmd.org by August 4th so that we can provide the caterer with an accurate head count.

Finally, I have heard from a trusted source that King George is especially dissatisfied with his Maryland subjects and plans to repeat his dunk tank heckling barrage at this year’s Sundae Scoop on July 16. Be sure to come out and express your outrage by dunking the King!

Thank you all for your passion for history and the Society.

Warm Regards,
Sundae Scoop 2023

Join us on Sunday, July 16, 12:00-4:00 p.m., for an afternoon of history fun at the Society. The infamous King George returns for the popular history villain dunk tank. Burgers, fries, and $1 ice cream will be available for purchase along with great historic games, garden tours, and entertainment. HSCC’s new exhibit, Strike Up the Bands, will debut in Cockey’s.

Are you a swimming pool installation or water supply company seeking a fun advertising opportunity? Reach out to King George himself (actually, Executive Director Jason Illari) at jillari@hsccmd.org to discuss sponsoring the dunk tank at $300. Your company can install a banner next to the tank to promote your business. Better yet, you can help pass out the “cannon balls” to fire at the King!

Interested in volunteering at the Sundae Scoop? Reach out to Outreach and Events Coordinator Catherine Lusher at clusher@hsccmd.org to coordinate your time slot.

King George about to get dunked at the 2022 Sundae Scoop.

New Exhibit Opens July 16

Join HSCC on Sunday, July 16, as we open our new exhibit: Strike Up the Bands. Community bands were once commonplace throughout Carroll County. Until radio entered the mainstream during the 1920s, town bands were the most common form of local musical entertainment in the United States. 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.

Carroll County’s incorporation records provide the names of 40 local bands from the Mount Pleasant Brass Band Society in 1857 to the Lineboro Band in 1952. But these were not all the bands in the County. Photographs in HSCC’s collection and articles in local newspapers document bands that do not appear on the list of incorporated organizations. The exhibit will include uniforms, equipment, and photographs from bands across the county.

The exhibit will be open during the Sundae Scoop event and then during HSCC’s regular hours, Wednesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Warfieldsburg Band posed at Morelock’s School in 1890.

Bass drum from the Carroll County Reed Band

Drum Major’s hat from the William F. Myers Band.
HSCC Annual Meeting October 31

Mark your calendar for this year’s Annual Meeting of the membership on Halloween, October 31, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. The meeting will take place at the Best Western Conference Center, 451 WMC Drive, Westminster. A hot buffet and dessert will be provided by Santoni’s Marketplace and Catering followed by Society business and the event’s keynote speaker. Our second annual Distinguished Awards and Volunteer of the Year recognition will also be presented. The Society’s Board of Trustees is currently reviewing award nominations.

This year we will hear from Margot Kopera, Director of Learning & Interpretation at the Maryland Center for History and Culture. Margot will speak about the Center’s featured exhibits, including the new traveling show The Jim Henson Exhibition: Imagination Unlimited.

Have you heard the tales of the ghosts of Cockey’s Tavern? The haunted portrait, footsteps, voices, and more! Join HSCC and the Mid-Atlantic Paranormal Project (MAPP) as we investigate Cockey’s and the never before investigated Sherman-Fisher-Shellman house on October 21 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. Learn the fascinating history of the buildings and explore with professional paranormal investigators two of Westminster’s oldest buildings. There are a limited number of tickets so get yours fast! $30 for members and $40 for non-members. Tickets can be purchased by going to hsccmd.org/event.

The Mid-Atlantic Paranormal Project is a professional team dedicated to documenting the research of unexplained phenomena to assist in the understanding of the unknown. The MAPP Team investigates free of charge and serves the Mid-Atlantic region and its surrounding areas.

Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Please wear appropriate shoes and please keep in mind the buildings will be dark during the investigation. All guests will have to sign a release form.

Nominees to the Board of Trustees

Returning Trustees (3-year term)
- Thomas C. Beach IV
- Larry Bohn
- Josh Kohn
- James M. Shriver III

Returning Trustee (1-year term)
- Glenn S. Bair
- Douglas P. Velnoskey

New Trustee (3-year term)
- Joe Dominick

Developed by Museum of the Moving Image, this 5,000-square-foot, Muppet-filled multimedia exhibition is full of hundreds of objects, including puppets, character sketches, storyboards, scripts, costumes, and film and television clips. Margot will also discuss how the Center reaches out to new audiences.

The full menu will soon be posted on the Society’s online event signup and payment page. Individuals wishing to pay by check may reserve their spot early by mailing payment to HSCC, attention Jason Illari. Cost is $40 for members, $45 for non-members. Reservations and payments need to be received by October 20.

We look forward to seeing you on October 31st!
What’s Been Happening at HSCC

It’s been a busy time at HSCC. Here’s a look at some of the things we’ve been doing this year.

Left: Docents for the tour by students from Spring Garden Elementary: Jack White, Rick Barrick, Executive Director Jason Illari, Barbara Guthrie, Outreach Coordinator Catherine Lusher.  

Below, left: Barbara Guthrie with students in the Sherman-Fisher-Shellman House parlor.  

Below, right: Rick Barrick with students in the Sherman-Fisher-Shellman House kitchen.

Rick Barrick and Jason Illari passing the HSCC campus during the Memorial Day parade.


Austin Hewitt chats with visitors at the Juneteenth event at Carroll Community College.
The 2023 Legacy Gala was a huge success and generated over $55,000 to support the Society. Special thanks go to our sponsors for their generous support!

**Sound of Music $5,000**
- Glenn Bair and Rebecca Bare
- Bowman’s Feed & Pet
- Crawford Yingling Insurance Agency
- Richard and Dorothy Mollett and Antrim 1844
- Puckett & Sturgill Financial Group
- Velnoskey Wealth Management Group

**Oklahoma $3,500**
- Kohn Creative

**South Pacific $2,500**
- Anonymous
- Carroll County Tourism
- Carroll Hospital
- Eleanor S. Darcy and Cornelius P. Darcy
- Dr. James Lightner
- Linda K. and G. Melvin Mills, Jr.
- Quantum Internet and Telephone
- Lynn Wheeler and Gerald Klauber

**Carousel $1,000**
- Anonymous
- 127 Creative
- Dr. James and Marie Ball
- Dori and Frank J. Batavick
- Carroll County Chamber of Commerce
- Dulany, Leahy, Curtis & Brophy
- Charles O. Fisher, Jr., Esq.; Walsh & Fisher
- Mike and Debbie Leazer
- Lovell Grass Fed Cattle Company
- Tim Kyle Electrical Service
- Jake and Genny Yingling Family

**Cinderella $500**
- Aquino Financial Group
- Larry and Ronnie Bohn
- EVAPCO
- Farmers & Merchants Bank
- Sam and Janice Greenholtz
- Hoffman, Comfort, Offutt, Scott & Halstad
- Bernie and Peggy Jones
- Lawn Doctor
- Fred and Marjorie Lohnes
- Max Realty
- Victoria and Terrence Powell

**Additional Support**
- ACNB Bank
- Advance Business Systems
- Dr. Joan Develin Coley
- Joe Dominick and Gauge Digital Media
- Thomas, Bennett & Hunter

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The Frankie North band

Galen & Cindy Roop

Lyndi McNulty & Anne Gilbert

Sound of Music sponsor Dale Bowman

Galen & Cindy Roop

Carolyn Scott & Dolly Snyder
Research requests relating to historical land ownership records are among the most frequently submitted questions that the HSCC Research Library receives. For example, someone who recently purchased an older home or business may want to know something of the property’s history. Or someone who is pursuing family history may want to demonstrate that his grandfather owned a particular farm. In fact, using online public records, you can do this research yourself, and we will provide guidance to get yourself started. Or, if this is just too daunting, you can visit the Research Library, and, for a very small fee, we can work with you. Or, if you are unable to stop by during our regular hours, you can go to the HSCC website and submit, for a few dollars more, a Research Request form.

To illustrate the general process for researching land records, we will use records of the Kimmey House, which currently houses the HSCC administrative offices and library. The address of the building is, 210 East Main Street, Westminster, MD 21157. Generally, the best starting place for property information would be in tax records. The Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation (SDAT) provides a database of current records available through the “Real Property Data Search.” At this site, you can select your county, and you will probably be searching by street address. When you find the page for 210 Main (note: do not include Street, Avenue, or similar designations), you will first see Owner Information, indicating in this case that the property belongs to the Historical Society of Carroll County. Of particular importance is the Deed Reference: 00421/00725. This specific deed can be found elsewhere as book (or liber) 421 and page (or folio) 725, which is essential for further research relating to this property.

Of course you can use the Real Property Data Search to view any property in Maryland, including your own home. In addition to providing a starting point for your search for the earlier history of your property, you will find current tax assessment and related records. You may see a date of construction for the primary structure; this is likely to be only an unreliable estimated date. You will also note in the upper left corner that there is an opportunity to “view map.” Click there and you will see a plat map for your property and neighboring properties that can be useful in further research.

Deeds have historically been maintained at the courthouse compiled in huge books, with each new deed recorded sequentially on numbered pages. Prior to the introduction of typewriters, entries were made by hand, hopefully by someone with legible writing. These old deeds are now accessible in a database maintained by Maryland State Archives. To readily access this site, search for MDLANDREC. And now the tedious, sometimes frustrating, but often rewarding endeavor begins.

You will note, as you open MDLANDREC, that you will need to open an account by entering your email address and a password (yes another opportunity to create a password). You will then encounter a page that, in the upper left corner, allows you to select your county. You will then find a page that opens Carroll County records, where you will enter 421 as the book number and 725 as the page number. The deed relating to this conveyance will display indicating that, in this case, the County Commissioners of Carroll County were transferring title to the Historical Society of Carroll County. This is your starting point, as you must then examine this document and others that you encounter for book and page numbers to locate previous transactions. Usually this works smoothly, but sometimes provisions for conveyance are included in a will, which is maintained elsewhere, or there are properties that are combined or subdivided, or there is information that is just missing. With experience, you can learn workarounds. Or you can feel free to contact the HSCC Research Library, as indicated above.
Summer is finally here – a time for picnics, parties, swimming, and all kinds of fun family activities. One of Carroll County’s most popular summer spots was Frock’s Sunnybrook Farm.

Elmer Frock moved his business, the Victor Farm Dairy, to 112 Bond Street in Westminster in 1932. The family owned about 30 head of cattle and was the first is Carroll County to pasteurize the milk. Mrs. Frock—Ethel—gained a reputation for the quality butter and cottage cheese that she made. The Frocks soon started hosting get-togethers for their family at the farm and then started opening the grounds for public events.

In 1939, a building was constructed for dances and dinners. Gov. Hebert O’Conner was on-hand for the ribbon cutting. Ethel’s cooking was legendary, and people came from across the county for the famous dinners that featured fried chicken, roast beef, shrimp, candied sweet potatoes, and an array of tasty sides and desserts. At the same time, the dance hall became a popular destination hosting well-known bands featuring headliners including Count Basie, Harry James, and Woody Herman. The Frock’s son, Gene, was a talented musician and often sat-in with the visiting bands. In 1965, a banquet hall that could hold almost 600 people opened. At the time it was the largest facility in Carroll County. A second, smaller hall held 200. Generations of Carroll Countians celebrated weddings and other events at Frock’s. Groups such as the Lions and Shriners met there regularly, and for almost two decades the Carroll Players presented dinner theater productions in the big hall.

In 1938, Frock opened what was then the only public swimming pool in Carroll County. His children recalled that their father had dug the pool using three horses and had mixed the concrete by hand. A much larger pool opened in 1950. Over the decades, hundreds of local youngsters learned to swim at the pool. Eventually, when the pool became too expensive to maintain, Frock’s son Gene (who had succeeded his father in running the business) offered the use of the pool to Westminster and Carroll County for only $1 per year if they would pay for maintenance. When those deals fell through, Frock ultimately closed the pool and had it filled in.

In 1997, Gene retired and closed the business. In 2001, the abandoned buildings were demolished for construction of a senior residential community. But the memories live on.
### Upcoming Events

#### JULY

**16**

**Sundae Scoop**
A fun day of ice cream, games, a dunk tank, and the opening of HSCC’s new exhibit. 12-4 p.m., East Main Street Campus. Free admission; food and beverages available for purchase. See page 3 for details.

**18**

**Box Lunch Talk - The History of Shiloh Pottery**
For more than 50 years, Ken and Marty Hankins have welcomed visitors to Shiloh Pottery in Hampstead. Ken has made stoneware pots, run a potters’ supply business, made and sold kick wheels, and fired salt-glazed pots with gas or wood. His beautiful work graces many homes in Carroll County and beyond. 12-1 p.m., Grace Hall, Grace Lutheran Church, Carroll Street, Westminster. $3 for HSCC members; $7 for non-members.

#### AUGUST

**15**

**Box Lunch Talk - The Tale of Three Schoolhouses**
When Patricia Greenwald was the director of Gifted and Talented Education for Howard County Public Schools, a student project piqued her interest in restoring and sharing the stories of historic schoolhouses in Carroll and Howard Counties. She will tell the stories of three schools: Ellicott Quaker School, Pfeiffer’s Corner Schoolhouse, and the Sykesville Colored Schoolhouse. 12-1 p.m., Grace Hall, Grace Lutheran Church, Carroll Street, Westminster. $3 for HSCC members; $7 for non-members.

#### SEPTEMBER

**7**

**Kimmy Bookshop Signing**

**10**

**Bluegrass, Bourbon & Bocce**
4-7 p.m. at the Union Mills Homestead. See page 1 for details.

**19**

**Box Lunch Talk - Manchester’s Cigar Industry**
Renowned Carroll County historian Joe Getty has done extensive research and writing on the history of the Manchester cigar industry. He will share his latest discoveries about one of Carroll County’s most unusual industries. 12-1 p.m., Grace Hall, Grace Lutheran Church, Carroll Street, Westminster. $3 for HSCC members; $7 for non-members.

#### OCTOBER

**17**

**Box Lunch Talk - Telling Isaiah’s Story**
Mary Ann Ashcraft follows the journey of Carroll County native Isaiah Lightner from Union Bridge to Civil War battlefields, to an Indian reservation, and finally to a farm along Nebraska’s Platte River. Years of research have uncovered the twists and turns in Lightner’s life. 12-1 p.m., Grace Hall, Grace Lutheran Church, Carroll Street, Westminster. $3 for HSCC members; $7 for non-members.

**21**

**Historic Ghost Hunting**
Join HSCC for some spooky fun in two of our buildings. See page 4 for details.

#### NOVEMBER

**21**

**Box Lunch Talk - The History of the Carroll County Choral Society**
The Carroll County Choral Society began in 1970, under the leadership of music director Herbert J. Sell, and gave hundreds of performances in the County and beyond—including as Maryland’s representative in “A Salute to the States” celebration at Independence Hall on July 31, 1976. Ronnie Bohn, who sang in the Choral Society for 30 years, explores the history of this Carroll County treasure. 12-1 p.m., Grace Hall, Grace Lutheran Church, Carroll Street, Westminster. $3 for HSCC members; $7 for non-members.

#### DECEMBER

**19**

**Box Lunch Talk - Carroll County’s Historic Courthouse**
The cornerstone of the Courthouse for the newly-formed Carroll County was laid in 1838, by Andrew Shriver. The building opened at the end of that year and has been in use as a courthouse ever since. Honorable Brian L. DeLeonardo, judge of the Circuit Court for Carroll County, has done extensive research on the building—described as “one of the most beautiful courtrooms in America”—and will share its interesting history. 12-1 p.m., Grace Hall, Grace Lutheran Church, Carroll Street, Westminster. $3 for HSCC members; $7 for non-members.

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Please check our website (hscccmd.org) and Facebook for updates on our upcoming events.
Please support those who support the Historical Society.

ACNB Bank
Arthur Willis Feeser Estate
Barnes-Bollinger Insurance Services
Baugher Enterprises
Law Office of Thomas C. Beach IV
Bowman's Feed & Pet
Carroll Community College
Carroll Community College Library
Carroll Hospital Center
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce
Dean Robert Camlin & Associates

Development Company of America
Dulany, Leahy, Curtis & Brophy
Farmers & Merchants Bank
Hoffman, Comfort, Offutt, Scott & Halstad
Kohn Creative Solutions
Literacy Council of Carroll County
Lovell Grassfed Cattle Company
McDaniel College
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Sweetbay Farms Nursery & Garden Center
Thomas, Bennett & Hunter
Velnoskey Wealth Management Group
Walsh and Fisher, P. A.