



COURIER

The Carroll

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HSCC Annual Membership Meeting



Once again, HSCC members and friends are invited to attend the Society's Annual Meeting on **October 31, 2023**. The meeting will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This year's event is being held at **Best Western Conference Center, 451 WMC Drive, Westminster**. Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. and lunch begins at noon. 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 will be presented.

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*.

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 sign-up 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, online or check by mail to HSCC.

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Distinguished Service Award 2023



Dr. Jim Lightner

Distinguished Historian Award 2023



Frank Batavick

Volunteer of the Year Award 2023



Cindy Lawyer

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Historical Society of Carroll County, MD, Inc. 2023

210 East Main Street, Westminster, MD
21157

410-848-6494 · info@hsccmd.org

Society Open Hours

Wednesday—Saturday

Tours, Shop, Exhibits: 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

Library: 12—4 p.m.

A Message from the Executive Director



Dear members and friends,

At this writing, members should have in hand the Society's 2023-2025 Strategic Action Plan. Many of the initiatives outlined in the Plan are underway, and we cannot thank you enough for your input over the past year.

We warmly welcome Laura Bankard to the role of Outreach and Events Director. Bankard began work on August 7, 2023. Laura will be instrumental in implementing many of the initiatives outlined in the Society's 2023-2025 Strategic Action Plan and will be the primary lead on outreach, events, rentals, social media and marketing, volunteer coordination, and many other duties.

Work begins on Shellman September 28 2023! Sam Muller, who has extensive experience with historic brick preservation, will undertake the much needed brick repairs. Craftsman Doug Blacksten will take the lead on carpentry and window repair. HSCC is thrilled to commence this long-awaited project. Mark your calendars for a **Donor Appreciation Reception on the evening of October 12** in the Society gardens. More details and an invitation to follow.

Finally, on a personal note, the Illari family is expecting child number 3 early this fall! This is an exciting time for Rachel and me, and the Board of Trustees has graciously extended paternity leave to me so that I can spend ample time helping out with the new little one. I will be checking in with Society Board leadership and staff regularly, but I want to let the membership know that you will probably not see or hear from me often in the months of October and November. Laura will be entirely up to the task of serving as the Society's primary point of contact while I am away. She can be reached at lbankard@hsccmd.org or by calling the Society offices Monday-Friday at ext. 200.

With most-grateful regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason".



The retirement party for Lillian Shipley, HSCC's first curator, was held in the Shellman garden in 1962.

The Shellman Gardens will be open during the work on the home.

Sundae Scoop 2023

A fun time was had by all at the annual Sundae Scoop! Once again, King George

made an appearance and was dunked at least six times.

It was great to see everyone, and we look forward to next year.



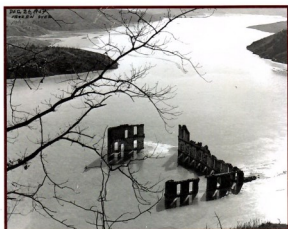
Historical Society Happenings

We had a wonderful book signing on September 7th, featuring **Diana Scott's book, *The Forgotten Corner: A History of Oakland Mill***. We had a lot of people show for the signing and Diana was a wonderful host. She was gracious and informative.



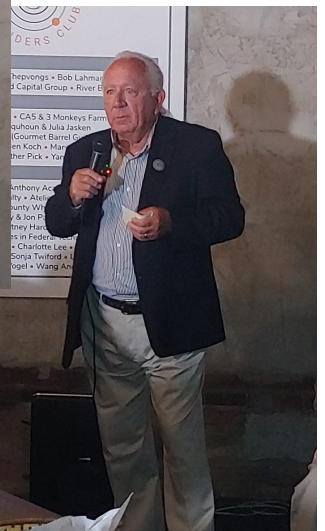
Copies of the book are still available!

THE FORGOTTEN CORNER
A HISTORY OF OAKLAND MILL



Diana Mills Scott

Our **History: Shaken & Stirred** event was a big success. Thank you to Covalent Spirits in Westminster, our speakers Commissioner Tom Gordon, Ryan Melhorn, Steve Bowersox, Sam Riley, & Galen Roop! We couldn't have done it without you.



Bluegrass, Bourbon & Bocce 2023

Everyone came out for **Bluegrass, Bourbon & Bocce** despite the weather, the bluegrass band, Seth Mulder and Midnight Run, and Union Mills Homestead were awesome. Everyone enjoyed our vendors: Covalent Spirits, McClintock Distilling, Monument City Brewing, and Tenth Ward Distilling. Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, or supported HSCC!



Historic Ghost Hunting



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.

TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE

History Happenings Throughout the County & Beyond

In this new column for the Courier we will be showcasing local historic sites and historical/heritage society events and happenings.

1776 Dobbin House Tavern

Sept. 29th at 1:00 pm

The Dobbin House Tavern Gettysburg, PA, will be revealing the long-awaited new quilted artwork of the historic building created by local artist Deb Altemose. This new quilt will be commemorating the 1776 Dobbin House's upcoming 250th anniversary.



A portion of the quilt is represented in the above picture.

Union Mills Homestead

September 30th from 11 am—6 pm

Union Mills Homestead will once again host the 17th annual Maryland Microbrewery Festival. This fun festival

celebrates and promotes the best of Maryland's handcrafted and distinctive microbrews.

Tickets are sold on a first come, first served basis.

November 18th from 11 am—4 pm
Christkindlmarkt



Union Mills Homestead will host their annual Christkindlmarkt a German-style Christmas Mart. Hand-crafted and unique gift items, along with food and drinks, will be available for purchase. A portion of the Homestead will also be decorated and open for guests.

Heritage Frederick **Now—December 31st**



There is still time to see Heritage Frederick's exhibit, Stitches through Time. Their hours are Wednesday—Saturday 10 am—4 pm.



We would love to have your input. If you have a major event you would like to highlight (Carroll County history related), please contact Laura Bankard at lbankard@hscmd.org or call her at 410.848.6494 ext. 200. Thank you!



History Connections

By Lynn Wheeler, Board Chair

The Community Media Center of Carroll County (CMC) offers a treasure trove of oral history videos recounting personal experiences of people in Carroll County. This superb library of local history recordings is organized under the headings: **Carroll County Remembers; Carroll County Through the Eyes of the Black Experience; Carroll County Veterans; and Local Documentaries.** These can be found on the CMC website at <https://carrollmediacenter.org/>

Carroll County Through the Eyes of the Black Experience includes an oral history video on the March on Washington, and a series of videos titled African-American Trailblazers of Carroll County. One of those trailblazers is John Lewis. Born in 1935, John Howard Lewis, Jr., his parents, and 9 siblings lived in a four-room house in Johnsville, which, in the mid-1930s, was a close-knit neighborhood of Black families. John grew up in a time when everything was officially segregated: schools, restaurants, movie theaters, community centers, swimming pools, and housing complexes. At dark, John's parents made him and his siblings come inside, due to the fear of a visit from the Ku Klux Klan.

From an early age, John began to accept leadership roles in the community to advocate for civil rights. On August 28, 1963, he participated in the March on Washington, an alliance of civil rights, labor and religious organizations that came together under the banner of "Jobs and Freedom," and drew an estimated crowd of 250,000. John headed to Washington, DC, with trepidation, but also with great intention. "I felt like I had to do something to contribute. I felt that something was needed to change the racial mood in [Carroll] County. I had a responsibility to do what little I could to try to change it, and by attending the March on Washington, then perhaps this would give me a foundation to work on the situation locally."

As John joined the crowd marching to

Constitution Avenue, "I was in awe of the fact that I was standing in such a massive group of individuals. You had to stop and think about the consequences of what you're doing. You have to understand that not everybody agrees with you. You have to understand that there are people out there who really want to hurt you for this particular movement, because they do not want this movement to take place, they do not want integration."



However, the massive gathering of people inspired John. "It was a beautiful day, I felt like God made this day particularly for this march... that God had drawn together this beautiful group of humanity to demonstrate to the world that the movement is on, that we shall overcome." John recounts that, "Everybody was waiting for one thing, the moment that Dr. King came on. When he spoke, the crowd was so quiet, a pin dropping would sound like thunder. When Dr. King said the words, 'When we let freedom to ring from every city and hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's



John Lewis, Jr.
Photo courtesy of
Carroll Media Center

children, black and white, Jews and Gentiles, will be able to join hands and sing the words of the old Negro spiritual free at last, free at last, great God almighty we are free at last,' it told the world the storm is coming. It gave legitimacy to the civil rights movement everywhere."

The inspiration John received would carry him on to a lifetime of civil rights advocacy, for the benefit of Carroll County.

You can hear more about John's experience at the March on Washington and his longstanding work as a civil rights leader in Carroll County by streaming his video accounts from the Carroll Media Center website.

The Historical Society is very interested in increasing its holdings of family stories. If you have documents, photos, and written accounts of your family history, please consider donating them (or a copy) to

HSCC, so that we can add to the library of family stories that increase the rich fabric of history in Carroll County.



We are thankful for our partnership with the Community Media Center which captures the monthly Box Lunch Talks, available on HSCC's YouTube Channel.



Curator's Corner

By Cathy Baty, Curator of Collections

The storm that tore through Carroll County in August was a reminder of how violent the weather can be in the mid-Atlantic. But this was not the first storm to cut a path of destruction through the county. 1952 saw two significant storms.

On Saturday, April 5, 1952, Carroll County was struck by a wind, rain, and hail storm that left devastation in its wake. The storm first hit around Keymar where seven barn roofs were torn off and left lying in fields. Farmer Newton Six narrowly escaped when the storm picked up his chicken coop and sent it flying straight at him. The coop missed the farmer but struck his windmill.

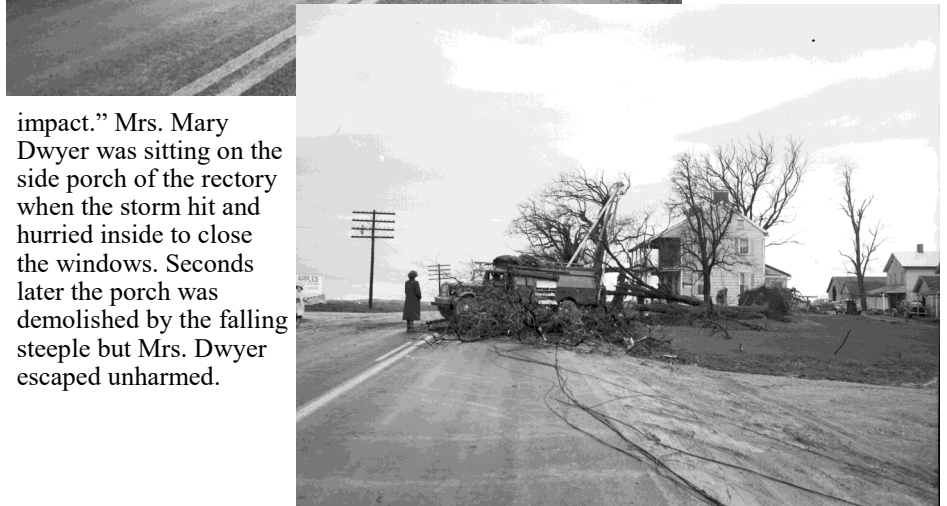
The storm then tore through Harney where four barn roofs were torn away and deposited in the fields several hundred feet away. It then hit Middleburg where a couple dozen trees were downed and the road was left littered with garage roofs.

The storm lost some of its power as it reached Westminster but still demolished a row of garages near the Meadow Branch Church. At the Westminster Airport, there was extensive damage. Fred Pease, the airport manager, was taken to the hospital in Baltimore with a head injury he suffered when he was thrown against a hangar door. Five planes were torn from their moorings. Two of them were tossed into Route 140 (now Route 97) where the planes, downed poles, and a tangle of downed power and telephone wires blocked traffic for hours. In all, eight planes received extensive damage.

On June 19 another fierce storm raced through the county. Fallen trees blocked roads throughout the county and almost 10% of the telephone system was out of service. The most notable damage that day was in Westminster where a 190-foot section of the steeple on St. John Church toppled to the ground. An eyewitness account that appeared in the *Carroll County Times* reported: "The steeple was intact after breaking off until it leveled off horizontally and then dropped through the rectory causing further damage. The back upper wall of the rectory fell over in a delayed action after the original



Left: Damaged planes block the road at the airport.

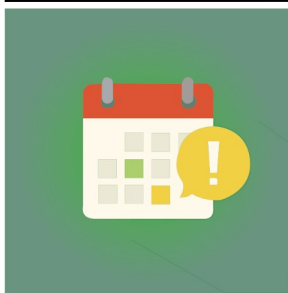


Below: clearing downed trees on Route 140 near the airport.

impact." Mrs. Mary Dwyer was sitting on the side porch of the rectory when the storm hit and hurried inside to close the windows. Seconds later the porch was demolished by the falling steeple but Mrs. Dwyer escaped unharmed.



Debris from the steeple of the church and the rectory roof and porch on the lawn next to St. John Church.



Upcoming Events

Please check our website (hscccmd.org) and Facebook for updates on our upcoming events.

OCTOBER

12 Garden Party Donor Event

We will be hosting an invitation-only donor event in the Shellman Garden. Donors will be able to see the Shellman House and the progress Sam Muller and Doug

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 Paranormal Investigation

Join HSCC for some spooky fun in two of our buildings. See page 5 for details.

31 HSCC Annual Meeting
Tuesday, October 31, at the Best Western Catering & Conference Center, Westminster. See page 1 for details.

NOVEMBER

6 thru 9

The **History Consortium** will present historical individuals by participating organizations.

Monday, Nov. 6—HSCC—Sadie Miller Kneller, one of the earliest women photojournalists, active in the early-20th century.

Tuesday, Nov. 7—Frederick Co.

Library—Lefty Kreh, a famous fly fisher and friend to many celebrities.

Wednesday, Nov. 8—Cumberland Co. Historical Society—James Hamilton, one of the society's founders.

Thursday, Nov. 9—Adams County Historical Society—Elizabeth Thorn, an immigrant mother who became the caretaker of Gettysburg's Evergreen Cemetery during the battle.

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.

23 & 24

The HSCC campus will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

NOTE: The Research Library will also be closed on November 25th.



25 Member Holiday Open House

We will be inviting our members in to enjoy hot cocoa, cider, deserts, and tours of the HSCC campus. We look forward to seeing everyone! Be on the lookout for more information.

We are planning more Holiday Happenings! More information to follow.

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. 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.

23 thru 25

The HSCC campus will be closed in observance of the Christmas Holiday.



Upcoming Events—Continued

BOX LUNCH TALK—2024 PREVIEW

JANUARY

20 Join us for Carroll County's 187th Birthday Party on Saturday, January 20, from 2:00 – 4:00 pm at Grace Lutheran Church.

This year we will celebrate the history and achievements of **Lehigh Cement**, which has been in operation in Union Bridge for nearly 100 years. During that time, Lehigh has been an important community partner, supporting countless initiatives in Carroll County. We will hear about future plans, as the plant transitions to a new technology that reduces the energy required to make cement and reduces its carbon footprint. We will have the opportunity to thank Kent Martin for his 18 years of outstanding leadership of the plant and welcome the new plant manager.

FEBRUARY

24 Carroll County History Day—More Information to follow

24 **SAVE the date for the Winter Wine Tasting.** Bernie Vogel will be back by popular demand to present a wine tasting from 4 pm to 5:30 pm. More details to come. Hope to see you there!

APRIL

27 **SAVE the date for the 2024 Legacy Gala**

January 16 -A tribute to Westminster High School on Longwell – Galen Roop

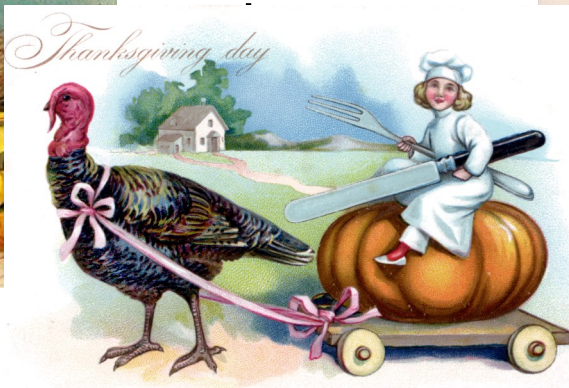
Westminster High School opened at 121 Longwell Avenue in 1936 and served as the high school until 1971, when the new high school opened on Washington Road. The old school served as East Middle School for the next 50 years. It was torn down in 2023, in order to make room for the new middle school operation. Plan to listen to and share your stories as we honor the old school and the role it played in the Westminster community. The discussion will be led by alumnus Galen Roop.

February 20 – Crawford Yingling Insurance: More than 100 years of Service– John Yingling

John will share the extensive history of the Crawford and Yingling families in Carroll County and the history and achievements of Crawford Yingling Insurance, which has served the community for more than 100 years.

March 19 - Westminster High School Alumni in World War II - Steve Bowersox

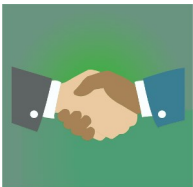
In addition to being a much loved history teacher at (and also a graduate of) Westminster High School, Steve Bowersox, has devoted tremendous time and effort gathering the history of Westminster HS alumni who served in WW II.





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