

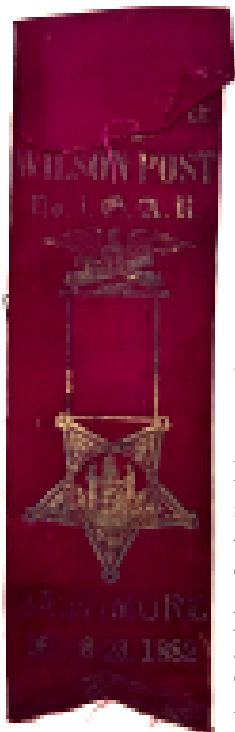
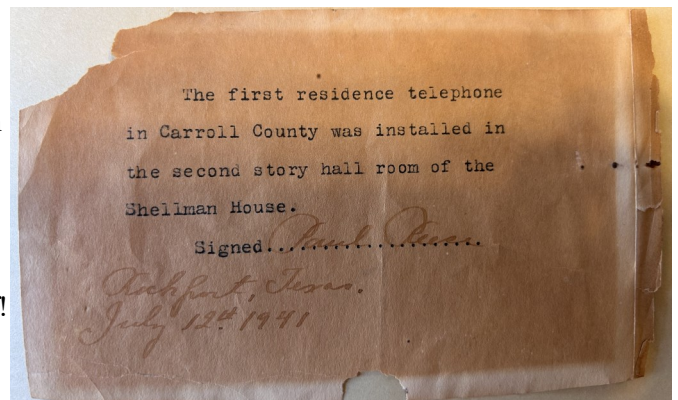


COURIER

HSCC Is Celebrating Mary Shellman's Remarkable Life In 2025!

Collections Corner: Mary Shellman Civil War to Suffrage Exhibit

The Society's amazing collections management team, led by Stephanie Eckard, is counting down the days to the installation of HSCC's new *Mary Shellman: Civil War to Suffrage Exhibit*. Stephanie and interns Sage Zavandro (WMHS '25), and Hayden Lloyd (WHS '25) have been working alongside Sarah Coster every week getting ready for the big reveal in May of this year. The new exhibit on the second floor of the Sherman-Fisher-Shellman House will feature never-before-seen artifacts from the collection, including items owned by Mary Shellman herself! The idea of creating a permanent exhibition dedicated to the life and public service of Mary Shellman has been around for a long time, but now, thanks to a grant from the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, and an amazing group of volunteers, the Society is finally making this dream a reality.



Auspiciously, just as Sarah Coster started working with the Society on this project, HSCC received an incredible collection of artifacts and archival documents related to Mary Shellman and her nephew Paul Reese, shipped to us from Paul Reese's descendant Coral Graham in Rockport, Texas. The collection consists of letters, poems, a ribbon from the General Army of the Republic given to Mary Shellman, and a card signed in 1941 by Paul Reese verifying that the first ever domestic telephone in Carroll County was installed on the second floor in the Sherman-Fisher-Shellman House. As a part of the May exhibit, we will also feature a special artifact on loan from the Carroll County Farm Museum in Mary Shellman's telephone room! Society members will receive a special exhibit preview invitation soon!

Special Event: An Afternoon with Mary Shellman at the Carroll Arts Center

May 24th 2pm-4pm, come experience an afternoon with one of Westminster's great female activists, suffragettes, community volunteers, and leaders. You will be immersed in Mary Shellman's life through her songs, poems, and letters. Historian, author, playwright, actress, and storyteller Darci Tucker brings Mary to life with her portrayal live on stage against the backdrop original music and poetry of Mary Shellman produced and arranged by Jacquelyn Slade of the Peabody Institute. This is a FREE event with donations being accepted for the League of Women Voters of Carroll County. This event is made possible through generous funding from The Maryland State Arts Council, Hey Westminster!, and the League of Women Voters of Carroll County.

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A Message from the Executive Director

Happy Springtime to all,

It is hard to believe 2025 is here, with warmer weather just around the corner! What an incredible last six months for HSCC! Phase 1 of our new walkway was installed at Kimmev, we completed the first room of what will become the new Library at Cocke's, we finalized plans for the new Shellman Civil War to Suffrage exhibit (thank you, Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area!), and we coordinated numerous events and programs! Thank you, Laura and our amazing volunteers and committees!

All this is accomplished because of your membership, donations, time, and love for history. HSCC's Board and Staff continue to be guided by the conviction that history is relevant and important. Local history shows how our community evolved and who built it. History provides us with invaluable lessons on what we did right and how we could have done better. Most importantly, stories of struggle and triumph from the past can inspire individuals to make their own community stronger and more connected.

The Society has secured some new grant support and special funding for various projects and initiatives since the last edition of the *Courier*, and I wanted to give readers a quick run-down of what we are working on.

The Maryland State Arts Council has awarded HSCC a grant to not only support *An Afternoon with Mary Shellman* event at the Carroll Arts Center in May. Thank you also to Hey Westminster! and The League of Women Voters of Carroll County. In partnership with the Peabody Institute we will record some of Mary Shellman's original musical scores! We will be able to listen to Mary Shellman's original suffragist music!

Private funding is allowing us to launch HSCC's digital library very soon. At first, we thought our new CatalogIt collections system might work in this capacity, but the new digital library will be much more search-capable. To start, the *Union Bridge Pilot*, *Carroll News*, *Carroll History Journal*, and *Carroll Yesteryears* will be accessible on the digital library, slated to launch before summer.

A grant from the Maryland 250 Commission will allow us to create a pop-up traveling exhibit for the 250 Semiquincentennial Anniversary! We will soon start this project in partnership with the Carroll 250 Initiative and the Society's Outreach Committee.

There is more in the works, but I don't have enough room on this page to share it all! Like in years' past, the plan is for Jim Shriver and me to have an open Zoom session to hear feedback from members and discuss the numerous projects and plans underway. Keep an eye out for this special on-line meeting in June/July. Of course, always email or call me if you have any ideas or questions about the Society.

With warm appreciation,



Jason



Carroll County's 188th Birthday Westminster High School's 125 Years of Community Service

Carroll County celebrated its 188th birthday on Saturday, January 25 with a talk presented by Steve Bowersox about Westminster High School's (WHS) 125 years of community service in the county.

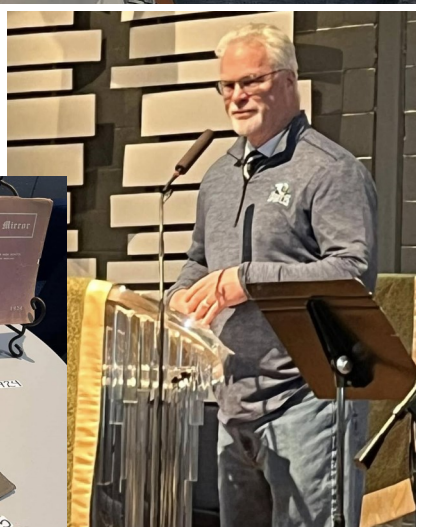
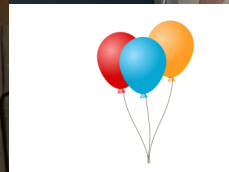
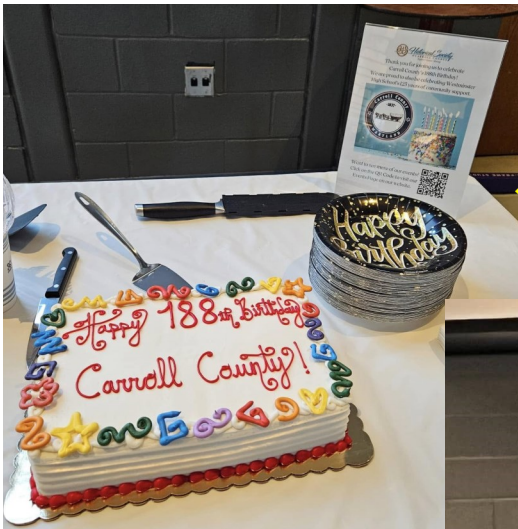
Grace Lutheran Church hosted the Society and guests, as always. We had four sheet cakes, three of which represented each time period of WHS. The fourth cake was in celebration of

the County's birthday. All were created by Starry Night Bakery.

We had another record crowd of almost 100 people. Everyone enjoyed the history of WHS, and some even shared their memories of their time at the school.

We want to thank Steve Bowersox for presenting the history of WHS. And, last but not least, we want to thank our team and the dedicated volunteers

that helped setup and teardown for the event.



Honoring Your Past, Embracing Our Future

Our 2025 Legacy Gala is coming up in a few months and we are excited to celebrate with everyone! For the second year in a row, we have sold out of tickets and sponsorships for this in-demand event. This year we are asking attendees to remember their heritage and dress as they do in their country of origin. Are you from Ireland or Scotland? Dress in green and wear your family tartan. Are you from Germany? Possibly wear Lederhosen or traditional Bavarian/German colors. We look forward to having a fun evening with wonderful food at Antrim 1844 and plenty of dancing and laughs. Keep a look out for our silent and live auction items, as well. We have a special treat for everyone, too.

See you at the Gala!

History Day 2025

A great time was had by everyone at History Day on Saturday, March 1st! We had a record crowd and 16 new exhibitors from the historic sites and societies in Carroll County. Thank you to all the participants from the Celebrating America partners to the elementary, middle, and high school students that participated.



HSCC's Launch of Our New Golf Tournament— Save the Date: Friday, June 27, 2025

HSCC's first annual golf tournament will support HSCC's educational outreach fund as we approach the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in 2026. The initiative, called Carroll 250, will spearhead anniversary programs, exhibits, and events. This milestone offers a unique opportunity for the general public to deeply engage

with history. One such opportunity will be the development by the Society of a new 250 travelling exhibit that will be made available at no cost to Carroll County schools and community organizations because of this year's tournament support.



Stay tuned for more information about this inaugural event!

History Happenings Throughout the County & Beyond



Taneytown
History & Heritage
Museum

Taneytown History Museum will be reopening April 27, 2025, with their exhibit *Taneytown A-Z*. Their hours are Fridays 10 am to 1 pm; Saturdays and Sundays 1 to 4 pm; closed holidays.

June 14, 2025—Hudson Days antique car show. Please see their website for more information.

<https://taneytownhh.org>



UMHS's 55th Annual Flower & Plant Market will be on May 2, 3, & 4, 2025. They will once again host their plant market for the enjoyment and purchase of flower and vegetable plants. Please see their website for the schedule and more information. <https://unionmills.org>



The Gate House Museum hosts "Citizenship in the Community" merit badge drop-in sessions Fridays in April (except Good Friday) for Boy Scouts. Visit their Facebook page for details.

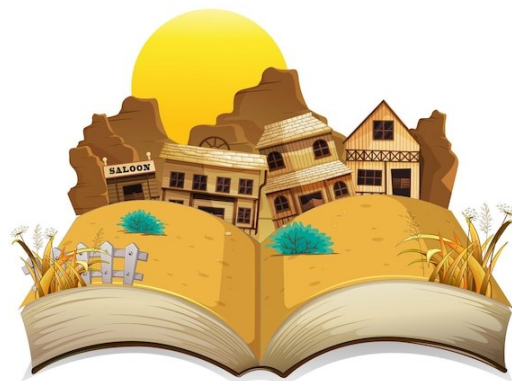
Monday, May 19 from 5—8 pm
Sykesville will have their Civics Day event at the Sykesville Town House. This event will be posted on the town website soon, so be on the lookout!

Former Students & Friends of Robert Moton High School will hold their annual Scholarship Dinner on May 4 from 2 pm—6 pm. Tickets are \$60. Please see their website for more information. <https://formerrobertmotonhighschool.org>

The Strawbridge Shrine will be opening on April 1—NO fooling!

They will host their Colonial Days on June 21, 10 am—4 pm, and this event is FREE. They are in need of help for this fun, family-friendly event. Please contact Helen Kemp at 443.289.0191 or curator@strawbridgeshrine.org.

Visit their website at www.strawbridgeshrine.org.



Do you have an event you want to share?
Please contact Laura Bankard at
lbankard@hsccmd.org or 410.848.6494



Tales from the Gardens

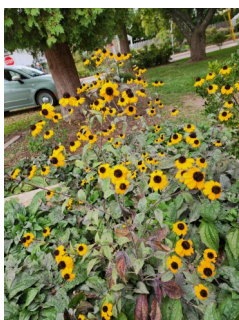
Welcome to the HSCC Gardens by Bill Palm

With the arrival of Spring, the HSCC gardens awaken. As plants appear, volunteer gardeners also arrive to cultivate them. This seems an appropriate time to review the scenes that you can expect to encounter as you enter the area.

First, a brief historical note: about 70 years ago (1955) the Carroll Garden Club began developing and caring for the garden area behind the Shellman House. This garden area became known as the Lillian Shipley Memorial Garden, in recognition of Miss Lillian Shipley who served as the Society's first resident curator from 1953-1962.

The Carroll Garden Club has resumed care for the extensive flower garden area to the rear of the Sherman/Fisher/Shellman House, providing blossoms that evolve during the seasons. There is a bench where you may wish to rest or to contemplate. Children may find the open lawn a convenient play area, or it may be used for special events.

The Carroll County Master Gardeners provide a volunteer outreach and education arm of the County Extension Office. They are implementing projects that evoke Westminster of two centuries ago, during the early days of the city.



Jacob Sherman, who built his home in 1807, was a highly successful businessman and farmer whose extensive land holdings included a 10-acre plot behind the house extending through the area now occupied by the American Legion. We know from Sherman's records that he maintained a substantial vegetable garden, probably located in the field near his barn. Because Sherman was raised in a Pennsylvania German family, we are willing to presume that his garden would follow their traditional four-square pattern. So, in our limited space, we have established a very small-scale garden to exhibit practices of the period, including the heirloom produce with seeds to be saved from year-to-year (and generation to generation).

It was common practice for a household of the period to have an herb garden, more for medicinal and aromatic purposes than for culinary use. The Master Gardeners researched herb garden patterns and developed a garden that follows German traditions as symmetrical, utilitarian, and attractive.

Jacob had a loom house where his enslaved servant wove linen fabrics. We created a small garden of plants that would have been available to produce dyes. It seems unlikely that the weaver produced her own dyes, which were commercially readily available when desired, but it seems appropriate to demonstrate the botanical sources for dyes.

The garden behind the Kimmey House features native plants. In fact, formal landscaping was uncommon in the small rural towns of two centuries ago. But there were attractive plants that occurred naturally. Cultivating such plants encourages maintenance of local conditions, such as maintaining a food source for local pollinators.

Please feel free to wander through our gardens. And if you encounter a volunteer gardener, please feel free to ask questions or discuss garden topics of mutual interest.



Shellman Garden Plaque (top)
Native Black Eyed Susans (middle left)



Shellman Vegetable Garden
(above) and
Herb Garden (left)

APRIL

3

History: Shaken & Stirred—Untold Stories of McDaniel College

Stop in for a drink at Covalent Spirits Westminster on April 3rd at 6 pm as HSCC continues *History: Shaken and Stirred*. Once again there will be five speakers telling 3-5-minute, untold, local history stories shared with the crowd in a fun, relaxed setting. This quarter, Untold Stories of McDaniel College will be told. A special history-themed drink will be developed by owners Jenn and Drew. Please have dinner before you come, as the refreshments are light and meant for snacking. Light refreshments provided by *Collision Course*. No RSVP or reservation required.

9

Carroll 250 Speaker Series: Author Dolen Perkins Valdez

Dolen will speak about her newest novel *Happy Land*. Please visit our website (hsccmd.org) for more information and to register for this event.

15

Box Lunch Talk: Girlhood Embroidery: The History of Samplers presented by Cynthia Steinhoff

Cynthia Steinhoff, Vice President and Program Chair for the Anne Arundel Genealogical Society, will showcase her collection of antique samplers. The sampler was a rite of passage for young girls to establish a skill and find their place in Society. An accomplished needle crafter and member of the Annapolis Historic Sampler Guild and Loudoun Sampler Guild, Steinhoff co-authored *Delaware Discoveries: Girlhood Embroidery, 1750-1980*, published by Biggs Museum of American Art in 2019.

Cost: \$3 for members \$5 for nonmembers
12—1 pm Grace Lutheran Church



HSCC UPCOMING events



18 & 19

HSCC will be closed on Friday, April 18th and Saturday, April 19th for the holiday.

21

Carroll 250 Speaker Series: "I am persuaded they will do great Execution." presented by Travis Shaw

Travis will present the story of the Maryland and Virginia Rifle Companies of 1775. Please visit our website (hsccmd.org) for more information or to register for this event.

MAY



10

Carroll Voices 250: Ellsworth Cemetery Tour presented by Diane Boettcher

Join us at Ellsworth Cemetery for a special event as Diane Boettcher, local researcher, will provide a tour of the historical African American cemetery. Please visit our website (hsccmd.org) for more information about this and other events.

20

Box Lunch Talk: The Snowdens, the Shellmans, and St. John Roman Catholic Church

presented by Dr. Melanie Nilsson

Dr. Nilsson, a researcher and Associate Professor of Chemistry at McDaniel College, also has a growing interest in local history. Recently, she has done in-depth research on the Snowden and Shellman families. She will share her interesting findings.

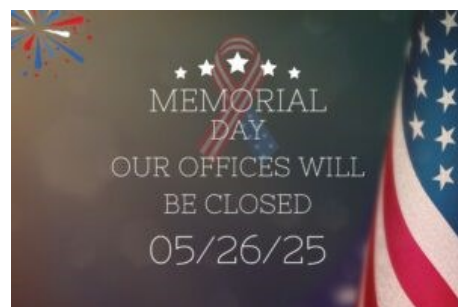
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12—1 pm Grace Lutheran Church



24

An Afternoon with Mary Shellman at the Carroll Arts Center

Come experience an afternoon with one of Westminster's great female activists, suffragettes, community volunteers, and leaders. You will be immersed in Mary Bostwick Shellman's life through her songs, poems, and letters. Historian, author, playwright, actress, and storyteller Darci Tucker brings Mary to life with her portrayal live on stage against the backdrop of original music, poetry, and period imagery. Please see our website (hsccmd.org) for more information and to learn about all the community members we have partnered with for this historic event!





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