

The Carroll COURIER

Newsletter for the Historical Society of Carroll County, Maryland



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Fall-Winter 2026



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Visit the Historical Society of Carroll County, MD, Inc.

210 E. Main Street, Westminster
410.848.6494 · info@hsccmd.org

Bookshop, Shellman House Tours &
Exhibits are FREE,
Wednesday – Friday, 11 am – 4 pm,
Offices by appointment.

COVER IMAGE:

Shipley Garden Dinner, 1962

Newsletter Editor: Kimberlee Schultz

Greetings,

The *Society's Building Community, Inspired by History* Campaign launched in 2025, was an incredible success. By the beginning of 2026 the Society met its \$650,000 pledge goal! A Capital Campaign report will be made available at the annual meeting of the membership in October.

On May 8th we officially opened the Helen A. Gorman Library of Carroll County History at Cockey's, and on July 9th, we were thrilled to open the Naganna Exhibits Hall & History Learning Center and rededicate the Shriver-Weybright Auditorium. The first exhibit featured in this space highlights 250 years of history in our area with amazing artifacts and documents on display in commemoration of the Semiquincentennial. We cannot wait to welcome Carroll County elementary students to the "new" HSCC campus this coming school year.

HSCC Board members, staff, and volunteers now set their sights on two major campus projects for the rest of 2026 and 2027. First, our vision of opening additional historic rooms on the second floor of the Sherman-Fisher-Shellman House is a top priority. Second, finishing the needed renovation work in the Kimmey Kitchen is also an important goal. We have set two fundraising marks for these projects; \$50,000 for the Shellman historic rooms project, and \$75,000 to complete the Kimmey Kitchen. New naming opportunities are available in both cases for anyone interested in helping us.

We are also excited to announce the relaunch of HSCC's online Digital Library with enhanced and upgraded search features and new research materials added like a complete run of the Carroll News newspaper from April 1886 - September 1897. The Society's 2026 Carroll History Magazine is also now posted. Thank you, Mona, Frank, and all of our Magazine authors!

Since our last newsletter, there have been some changes on the HSCC Board. We wish to give a sincere thanks to Dale Bowman for his dedication to the Society as a longstanding HSCC Board member. Year after year, Dale's support of the Society was and is very much appreciated. The Trustee vacancy was filled by Jennifer Riley McDonald. Jennifer has been actively involved with the Historical Society of Carroll County for the past five years, both as a volunteer and through her role as Social Studies Student Achievement Coordinator for Carroll County Public Schools.

We look forward to seeing everyone at this year's Annual Meeting coming up in October. Many thanks to all of you for your continued support of HSCC and its mission.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason".

Honoring Our Amazing Volunteers !



Marihelen Stringham

The Historical Society of Carroll County relies on dozens of volunteers who give their time and energy to support our programs. HSCC volunteers perform many essential functions that help us preserve and share Carroll County's history, such as gardening, research, assisting with tabling at events, collections management, and staffing exhibits, and more!

Each year, at our Volunteer Luncheon (this year, on August 8th) we honor these important and vital contributions. Approximately 70 people attended the luncheon.

***Thank you, volunteers!
We couldn't do it without you!***

**Our 2026 Volunteer of the Year is:
Marihelen Stringham!**

Marihelen has volunteered for us (whenever we ask) for almost four years now. She is mainly a Gorman Library volunteer, but she goes above and beyond in every area of the Society.

She stuck it out through all the transitions, moves, and improvements - never judging or saying we were crazy.

She just supported us however we needed and continues to do so.

Thank you so much for everything,
Marihelen.

You are a GEM



Volunteer Luncheon – 8/8/26



Upcoming Events

October 8th

6 pm – 8 pm

History: Shaken & Stirred - Untold Stories of Agriculture in CC, Covalent Spirits, Sponsored by Ann Gilbert

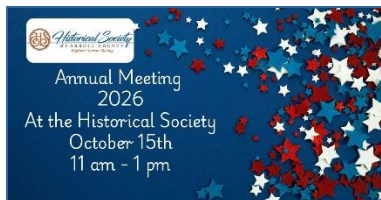


October 15th

11 am – 1 pm

2026 Annual Meeting, HSCC Campus

Tickets at hsccmd.org/events. Or scan the QR code.



October 16th

8 am – 1 pm

Second Annual Golf Tournament

Quail Valley Golf Course

Go to hsccmd.org/events, or scan the QR Code for tickets & Sponsorship Opportunities!



October 20th

12 pm – 1 pm

Box Lunch Talk: The Greek Families of Westminster

Presented by Antigoni Ladd

HSCC Campus – Auditorium



October 26th

6:30 pm – 7:30

Carroll 250 Speaker Series:

October 19, 1774 – The Annapolis Tea Party

(The Burning of the Brig, Peggy Steward)

Presenter: Tim Dioquino, Exploration Commons

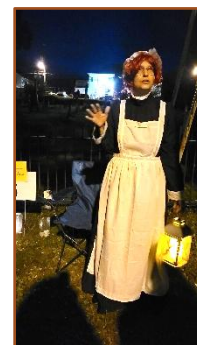


October 29th

6 pm – 8 pm

Spooky Tales Open Mic Night

Bring YOUR spooky ghost stories to tell, HSCC Auditorium



November 17th

12 pm – 1 pm

Box Lunch Talk: Church of the Brethren: Beliefs, Practices, and Customs Presented by Reverend Dr. James Benedict, HSCC Campus – Auditorium



November 28th

11 am – 1 pm

Home For the Holidays Open House

HSCC Campus – All Three Homes



December 12th

7 pm – 10 pm

Carroll 250 Event: Liberty & Legacy Ball

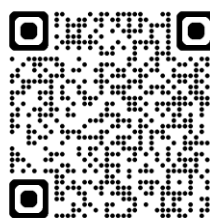
Presented by New Windsor Heritage

St. Paul's UCC, Contact Lisa at

nwhc28@gmail.com for tickets



Events are added to HSCC's calendar all the time. Visit hsccmd.org/events or scan this QR code.



2ND ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



Friday, October 16, 2026

Registration: 7:00 AM

Shotgun Start: 8:00 AM

Quail Valley Golf Course

900 Teeter Road
Littlestown, PA 17340

This year's tournament proceeds will help support a new Society initiative to reinterpret and open the remaining second floor rooms at the Sherman-Fisher-Shellman House. Five rooms will be transformed to tell the stories of boarders, enslaved individuals, domestic servants, and forgotten visitors. Golf funds will support minor renovations, interpretive signage, artifact purchasing and supplies, and marketing the new initiative. This project will focus on individuals whose lives unfolded in unglamorous and forgotten spaces. Connecting local stories to larger regional and national themes is an important part of HSCC's long range plan as we continue to strive to Build Community, Inspired by History.

Join Us for Our Annual Meeting 2026!

October 15th 11am-1pm at the Society's campus 210 East Main Street, Westminster
Members: \$25, Non-Members: \$35



This meeting will be a cocktail style format with heavy hors d'oeuvres and time to mix, mingle, and explore the new exhibit ***Carroll at 250: People, Place, and the Making of History.***

Guest curator **Samantha Dorsey** will provide an “insiders look” at the new exhibit and there will be condensed-format society business presentations during the event.

Contact Laura Bankard at 410.848.6494 ext. 200
Or, email lbankard@hsccmd.org with any questions.

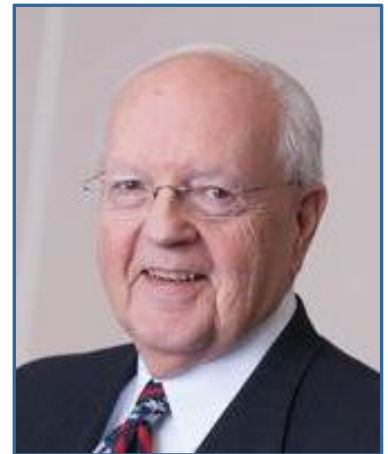
Regsiter on the website at <https://hsccmd.org/events/hscs-annual-meeting-2026/>

Or scan this QR code.



Awards to be Presented at the HSCC Annual Meeting:

The **Distinguished Service Award** is awarded to Lee Primm for helping transform HSCC over the past year, thereby strengthening our mission and our ability to demonstrate the relevance of history in our community. Lee served as the Campaign Advisor for our ***Building Community, Inspired by History***, Capital Campaign and we are very grateful for his contributions and leadership.



Lee Primm

The **Distinguished Historian Award** is awarded to Joseph Getty for being a champion of history for many years. Some of Mr. Getty's recent research has been on historical topics involving the Carroll County courthouse and lawyers in Carroll County. He has given numerous lectures accompanied by pertinent well-researched articles highlighting local history. Furthermore, his efforts to bring to light stories of the Semiquincentennial are deeply appreciated.



Joseph Getty

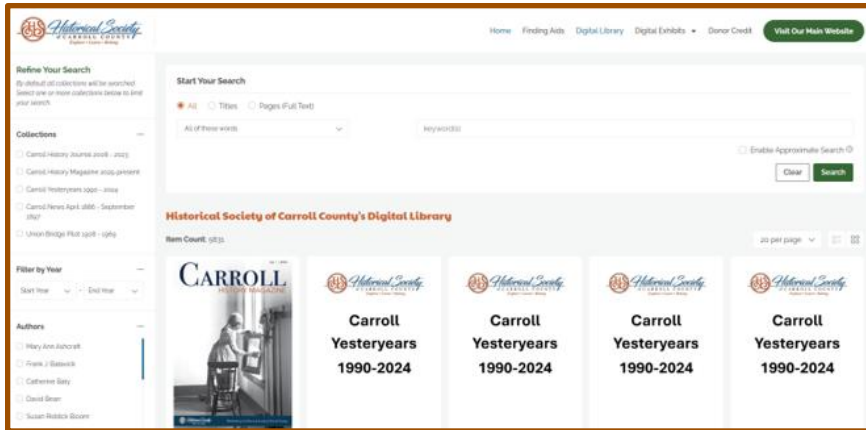
The **Historic Preservation Award** is awarded to the City of Westminster for the incredible accomplishment of saving and restoring the Durbin House at Wakefield Valley Park.



Durbin House Ribbon Cutting Ceremony & the Restored Durbin House



Digital Library Update



Explore the Collections Hub at
<https://hub.catalogit.app/historical-society-of-carroll-county-maryland>
or use this QR Code



Explore the **Digital Library** at –
<https://digitallibrary.hscmd.org/>,
or use this QR Code



The Historical Society of Carroll County offers two searchable research resources through the Research tab: the **Collections Hub** and the **Digital Library**.

The Collections Hub includes photos, paintings, objects, archived documents and a catalog of research library books. The Digital Library includes HSCC publications from past decades and selected local newspapers.

HSCC will continue expanding these resources by digitizing additional publications, newspapers, and research materials that currently exist only in hard-copy form.

JOIN US! Membership Drive

We are currently in the midst of our membership drive and would love to welcome new members.

If you have been considering joining or have not renewed your membership in a long time, now is a great time to become part of our community!

HSCC First Board of Trustees - 1939



Member Benefits

- Invitations to special events like the Annual Meeting
- Subscription to The Courier newsletter
- Complimentary Carroll History Magazine (sent electronically & option for purchasing a hard copy)
- Free use of the research library
- Discounted admission to our Box Lunch Talks
- Discount on rentals of the Auditorium
- First hour of family research for free using the Society's online research request form

Phase 1 of the Kimmey Kitchen Renovation Project!

The Gala event in May at Taneytown's historic Antrim 1844 netted just under \$50,000 for the Society while the evening's special "gift for the cause" program witnessed a record-breaking **\$81,500** raised for Phase 1 of the Kimmey Kitchen renovation project. Phase 1 includes stabilizing the kitchen floor, installing new drywall, and plumbing and electrical upgrades.

Work on Phase 1 is slated to begin at the end of 2026. Phase 2, to cost \$75,000, will finish the kitchen with new cabinetry, a workspace, and appliances like an icemaker and warming drawers. HSCC aims to complete the project before the summer of 2027 if funding for phase 2 becomes available.

All givers will be included on a special sign in the kitchen recognizing their generosity. Gifts of \$10,000 or more will receive special recognition in the space. If you would like to help HSCC complete this project with a gift, do reach out to Jason at jillari@hsccmd.org

Thank You!



Historical Society Launches

Where the Servant's Stairs Lead Initiative

In 2025, HSCC opened its new bedroom exhibit *Mary Shellman: Civil War to Suffrage* in the Sherman-Fisher-Shellman House. HSCC now sets its sights on a new ambitious initiative; *Where the Servant's Stairs Lead*.

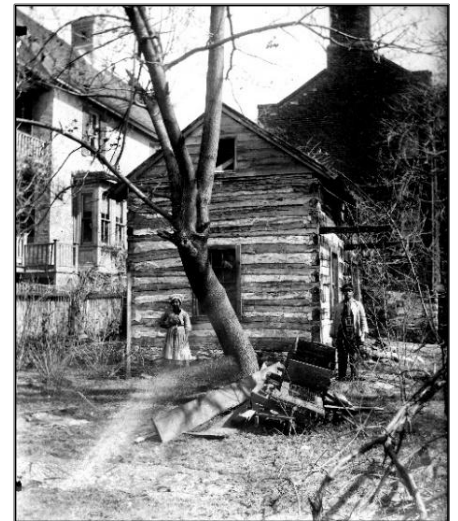
The Society's next phase of interpretation at the Shellman House will reimagine 5 spaces, long forgotten, that tell the stories of boarders, enslaved individuals, domestic servants, and forgotten visitors. These spaces will be transformed into interpretive environments that explore domestic work, family life, and social change in Carroll County in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Building on the successful interpretation of the Mary Shellman Bedroom, the project will focus on individuals whose lives unfolded in unglamorous and forgotten spaces.

Individuals like Mary Key, Lizzie Tyson, the Shellman family's cook, and children and extended family members who lived or boarded in the house will be remembered. For example, Key was born enslaved but freed upon her 18th birthday. She chose to remain in the world she knew as a nanny to her former enslaver's family and lived and died in the same room where she was born.

Naming Opportunities are Available for These Rooms!

To receive a naming opportunities brochure,
reach out to Jason by phone or email at jillari@hsccmd.org



*Matching funds are
needed to help transform
these spaces into
interpretive environments
that explore domestic
work, family life, and
social change in Carroll
County in the 19th and
20th centuries.*

Some Moments from the HSCC 2026 Legacy Gala,
The Lost Secrets of Carroll County



Save the Date: **April 20, 2027**, for the Next HSCC Gala!

Historical Happenings Around the County

October 2nd 9am to 5pm – **Carroll 250: American Revolutionary War Tavern Exhibit** at the Mt. Airy Branch of CCPL

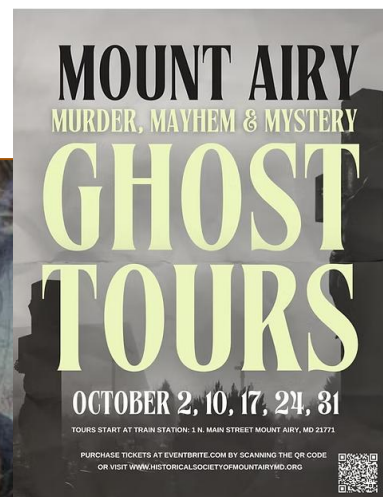
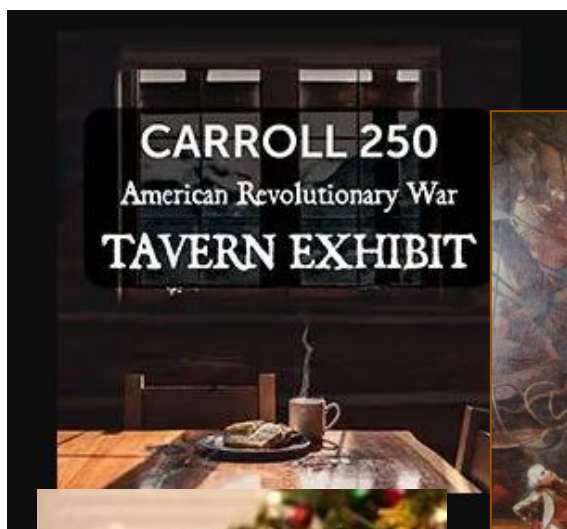
October 26th 6:30 – 7:30pm – Carroll 250 Speaker Series: October 19, 1774 – **The Annapolis Tea Party (The Burning of the Brig Peggy Stewart)** at Exploration Commons

Mount Airy Ghost Tours – October 2nd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st . Tours at 5pm and 7pm. Historical Society of Mount Airy. Get tickets and more info at www.historicalsocietyofmountairymd.org

Saturday, November 21 10am-4pm – **Christkindlmarkt at Union Mills Homestead**
www.unionmills.org/events

November 28th thru December 12th – **Holiday of Trees, Wreaths & Centerpieces** at ACNB Bank, Taneytown during bank hours. Visit www.taneytownhh.org for more information.

December 12th 7-10pm – **New Windsor Heritage, America 250 Liberty and Legacy Ball** at St. Paul's UCC. For more information and to purchase tickets visit www.newwindsorheritage.org





**210 East Main Street
Westminster, MD 21157**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The HSCC Recognizes and Thanks its Business Members for Making a Commitment to Preserving Carroll County History

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