

Carroll History Journal

The Historical Society of Carroll County, Maryland, Inc.

PRESERVING CARROLL COUNTY HISTORY: 75 YEARS AND COUNTING

The year 2014 marks another milestone for The Historical Society of Carroll County (HSCC) as we celebrate its 75th anniversary. In keeping with that aim, we devote this issue of the *Carroll History Journal* to the history of the Society itself.

At milestone anniversaries, members of the Society have recapped its history in the *News Letter*. Lillian Shipley and Dorothy Elderdice told the story of the first 15 years in 1954. Their article was reprinted in 1969 with an update by Jane Griffin for the Society's 30th anniversary. For the 40th in 1979, Lillian Shipley adopted a humorous tone with her essay, "Here Comes the Hysterical Society!" Interested readers can view these earlier histories on our web site at <http://www.HSCCmd.org>.

Many years have passed since the last telling, and so much has happened that the Publications Committee decided not to try to tell the whole story from the beginning, or even since 1979, but instead focus on particular topics to give a flavor of the Society over the years. Perhaps some intrepid member will decide to take on a complete history of the HSCC in time for the centennial in 2039! But for now an eclectic assortment of short articles fills the 12 pages that follow, each describing a small part of the total experience of the HSCC over the past three-quarters of a century. Running along the bottom of each page is a photographic time line to help orient readers and add to the text above.

Frank Batavick starts us off by going back to 1919, twenty years before our Historical Society began, when a group of Carroll Countians living in Baltimore formed the Carroll County Society of Baltimore City. Jim Lightner follows with a short biography of Lillian Shipley, one of the Society's founders and its first "Curator and Hostess." Mimi Ashcraft highlights some of the most treasured items in the Society's remarkable collection, including



John Cunningham presents the deed to the Shellman House to HSCC's first president, J. David Baile, Mrs. Charles O. Clemson (left), and Mrs. W. Carroll Shunk (right) 1939.

our tall case clocks. Then, Frank Batavick samples the many books, pamphlets, newspaper columns, and radio broadcasts the Society has produced. Next I review some of the many lectures, talks, and workshops we have presented and conclude with highlights of some just-plain-fun events, including fancy-dress balls, ice cream socials, and Mardi Gras fetes. And to wrap things up, in honor of the Society's countless (and tireless) volunteers, HSCC trustee Jim Shriver provides a summary of the volunteer efforts by members of his own family for three-quarters of a century.

We hope you enjoy this look at a few of our Society's accomplishments over the past 75 years. Please congratulate yourselves for helping to create and maintain The Historical Society of Carroll County.

Samuel T. Brainerd, editor

OUR ROOTS: THE CARROLL COUNTY SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE CITY

Before Carroll County had its own historical society, there were people who regularly met for the purpose of preserving and fostering “an appreciation of the history, traditions and pleasant memories of Carroll County.” They didn’t reside in the county but in far off Baltimore City, back in the first decades of the 20th century. On March 19, 1919, these sons and daughters living in exile founded the Carroll County Society of Baltimore City, replete with a constitution, bylaws, officers, and a board of governors. The new society boasted 196 members and 11 associate members, and a perusal of their names affirms their county of origin: from Armacost, Babylon, and Bankert through Leister, Mathias, and Myers, to Wentz, Yingling, and Zepp.

The motto of the society, “Maryland’s Fairest Daughter—Always at the Front in Everything Worth While,” may betray a certain lack of creativity, but the members’ motives were pure, if tinged with a bit of homesickness, given their constitution’s nostalgic reference to “pleasant memories.” Active membership was limited to “any person, eighteen years of age or over, who is a native of Carroll County; or any descendant of such to the second generation, residing or doing business in Baltimore City or any of its suburbs.”



Garden party for the Carroll County Society of Baltimore City in the yard behind the Shellman house, August 6, 1941.

The society held its annual meetings at 8 p.m. on the 10th day of April of each year, the anniversary of the “day Carroll County started to function.” Each year they scheduled a regular meeting on January 19th to commemorate “the date of the erection of Carroll County” by the legislature. Other “special” meetings were rather loosely held “at such time and place as may be deemed wise, upon the call of the President by the advice and counsel of the Board of Governors.” Annual dues were one dollar.

The local newspapers gave front-page coverage to the society’s gatherings. Westminster’s *American Sentinel* of December 14, 1923, describes a meeting at which Louis H. Dielman, Executive Secretary of the Peabody Institute and former resident of New

1946



HSCC sponsors its first exhibit: teapots loaned by its members.

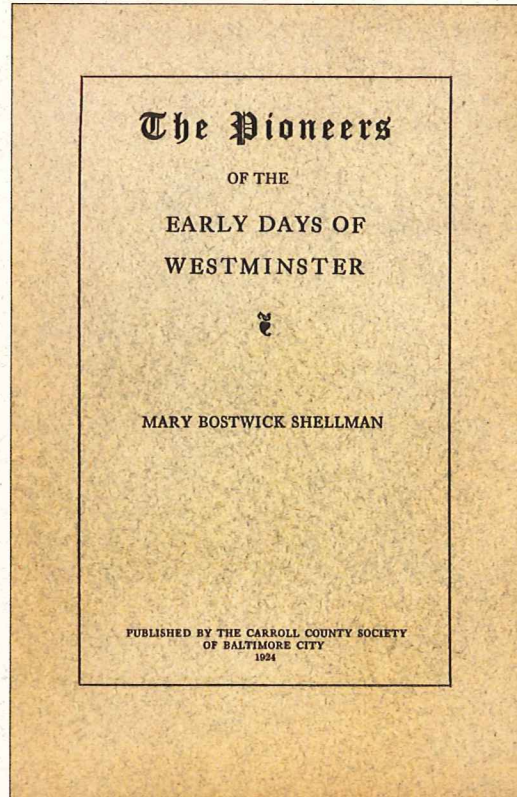
1957



The play *The House That Jacob Built* commemorates 100 years of Shellman house history.

Windsor, spoke in a lecture hall at the Institute. He used a recently discovered trove of old newspapers to discuss the region's early history and illustrated his talk with lantern slides depicting the roads and boundary lines of the county. An undated and unidentified newspaper article in the HSCC archives notes another meeting which featured a presentation by Edwin Shriver, "formerly of Westminster," on the development of Rural Free Delivery in Carroll County. Shriver also gave the Society a "collection of valuable historical records, incident to the formation of Carroll County." Two of these were maps "used by Isaac Shriver as a member of the House of Delegates from Frederick County, when he was successful in having Carroll County erected." The Society later donated these maps and other valuable papers to the Maryland Historical Society.

In an article in the January 22, 1926, *Democratic Advocate*, we learn that Francis Scott Key-Smith, a descendant of the author of the National Anthem, addressed the Society at its 7th annual dinner at the Hotel Rennert. Carroll County residents Charles O. Clemson, H. P. Gorsuch, and Nathan H. Baile attended the meeting.



The Carroll County Society of Baltimore City published a history of Westminster in 1924. Gift of Paul Reese, 1941.

In 1939 Mary Test Kimmey and Lillian Shipley of Westminster visited the executive board of the Society and received its warm endorsement for a county historical society and a promise to send representatives to an organizational meeting. Following the establishment of The Historical Society of Carroll County later that same year, the Carroll County Society of Baltimore City continued to meet. After all, their constitution also stated, "The purpose of this society shall be to promote social intercourse among its members [and] to advance their common

interests." And that they did, well into the 1960s. On June 29, 1963, for instance, representatives of the society came to the HSCC to place a brass plaque on the portrait of Governor Frank Brown, Maryland's only governor from Carroll County.

Not much is known about the Carroll County Society in subsequent years, and it is quite probable that it slowly died out as its members did. Today's HSCC members should proudly acknowledge and salute the society as an integral part of our Historical Society's family tree.

Frank J. Batavick

1958



Society members stop for tea at Hard Lodging in Union Bridge during a driving tour of county historic sites.

1961



HSCC members attend a meeting in the Shellman yard.

LILLIAN SHIPLEY: FIRST CURATOR AND OUR "HISTORICAL DAME"

On June 20, 1962, Miss Lillian Shipley, described by *The Democratic Advocate* (on June 28) as "one of Carroll County's most beloved citizens," was honored at a testimonial retirement dinner held on the lawn of the Shellman House. Almost 200 Society members and friends paid glowing tribute to her for her long service to the Society, especially the nine years she had served as the first curator. Several poems had been composed for the occasion, including a humorous one by Edith Rill that ended:

She knows everybody, no matter where they be,
All over the Country - a handshaker is she.
She's now past 50. So her we can claim
As an antique relic - We love this Historical dame.

Lillian Shipley was born January 30, 1890, the daughter of Dr. Daniel Shipley and his wife Laura. She was the second of four children raised at 172 East Main Street in the large home at the corner of Center Street. She became interested in local history when she accompanied her father on medical calls around the county in his horse and buggy. He would often note natural and historical points of interest and share related legends and the history of the region. After she graduated from Westminster High School in 1908, she attended a millinery school in Baltimore and then moved to Georgia to apply her newly-



Lillian Shipley in the Shellman house kitchen. Courtesy of Millie Shipley.

learned skills, staying there for eight years before returning to open a millinery shop at 14 West Main Street. Lillian ran this shop for 11 years before selling it and joining her brother Daniel in a poultry business, "LilliDan," that he had begun north of Westminster in 1919. Daniel sold this business in 1943 and started a nursery in Baltimore; Lillian

bought a house at 144 Pennsylvania Avenue and moved there to live and take care of her mother, renting out the two upstairs apartments for income.

In 1939 she was one of the group of concerned citizens who raised funds to save the Shellman House at 206 East Main Street from demolition and formed The Historical Society of Carroll County. From the beginning, she shared her knowledge of the county and filled in details gleaned from her childhood trips with her father, helping to preserve local history. She was remembered as knowing the facts and figures about even obscure historical topics, but also could tell many little anecdotes that gave a deeper perspective.

By 1953, the Historical Society membership had grown sufficiently to enable the organization to engage Miss Lillian as its first Curator and Hostess; she welcomed many visitors to the Shellman House

1964



Civil War centennial exhibit in the Shellman House basement.

1968



HSCC acquires the Kimmey House to provide space for a library and auditorium.



The retirement party for Miss Lillian in the Shellman House garden, 1962.

for tours and often for tea, while living upstairs in the house and taking her meals at Hoffman's Inn two doors up the street. In this role, she was described as the motivating force behind the Historical Society, making it into a well-recognized source of information and a repository for many collected artifacts, especially in the decorative arts. Indeed, she was so zealous in her collection of items of historical interest that folks claimed, if Miss Lillian were coming to visit, you'd better nail down any old objects you wanted to keep, or she would talk you out of them! She developed education programs and cooperated with other organizations on local history activities. She was especially remembered for working with the Carroll Garden Club in a comprehensive Shellman House garden restoration, assuring that there were blooming flowers throughout the seasons. She also had served on all the Society's committees over the years. In 1956 the

Soroptimist Club of Westminster named her the Outstanding Woman of Carroll County, and at her retirement the Club established an endowment fund in her honor for the upkeep of the Society and the Shellman House.

Miss Lillian's community involvement included the Westminster Methodist Church, Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, Carroll County Farm Bureau, and Community Players. She also enjoyed traveling in the U.S. and abroad. Her hobby was collecting sets of antique glassware, which have been passed down through the Shipley family of which she was a proud member.

With the onset of Parkinson's disease, Miss Shipley retired as curator in 1962. She left the Shellman House and moved to West Green Street where, for the next 17 years, she rented a room from Dorothy Elderdice whom she had met in 1915 on a trip to the American West. Lillian then became the first resident of the Health Center at Carroll Lutheran Village, living there until her death at 99 on March 29, 1989. Even with her illness, she enjoyed rides, Sunday dinner with relatives, ice cream in Snydersburg, and shrimp dinners at Harry's.

Miss Lillian will always be remembered for her faithful service to the Society in its early years; her gracious manner in welcoming guests to the Shellman House; her ability to secure valuable data, documents, and artifacts for the Society's growing collection; and her fund of legendary lore willingly shared.

James E. Lightner

1968



The new auditorium ready for its first event.

1980



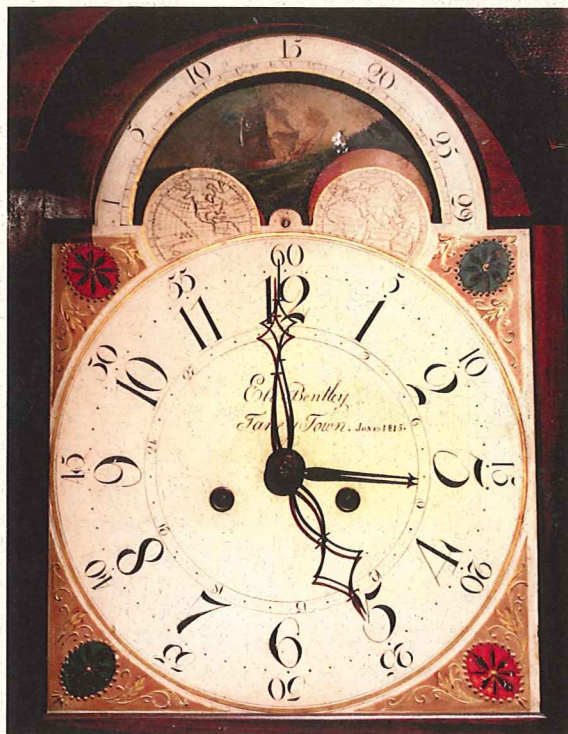
HSCC staff Joanne Manwaring and Brad Greibel in the research library.

COLLECTING CARROLL COUNTY'S TREASURES

No historical society is worth its salt unless it maintains a collection of items representing its citizens and their accomplishments. Our collection began just months after the Society's founding when Miss Mollie Shriver donated a few miscellaneous items. Seventy-five years later, it includes thousands of objects ranging from manuscripts and photographs to furniture, weapons, textiles, pottery—even a tombstone.

The HSCC is proud to own a 1787 dower chest made in Uniontown that belonged to Salome Lehman. Winterthur Museum recently borrowed it for an exhibit, but now it's back "home," on display with many other treasured items in the Shriver-Weybright Exhibition Gallery at the Kimmey House.

In 1969, the Society received the first of its Eli Bentley tall case clocks, a gift from Victor Weybright. When the clock's works were purchased from the renowned Taneytown clockmaker in 1815, they cost a staggering (for that time) \$95! That expense was just the beginning: the works needed an equally fine housing. An unknown cabinetmaker, probably someone from Frederick County, built a handsome mahogany case. Our most recently acquired Bentley clock was a gift from Ann Boyle Alexander, whose ancestor John Brooke Boyle once owned Cockey's Tavern. Our collection also contains a fine clock by Jacob Wolf of Westminster. These clocks are outstanding examples of what craftsmen



Tall case clock by Eli Bentley. Gift of Victor Weybright, 1969.

from this area produced several centuries ago.

Quilts, coverlets, and samplers, some of the Society's most colorful items, are part of an extensive textile collection. William H. Gernand wove coverlets as well as carpets at his Westminster shop from the 1850s through the 1870s. Examples of his weaving and that of Lineboro's Peter Warner were acquired by HSCC over the years, joining a sizable collection of 19th century samplers and quilts produced by Carroll County women.

The Society can't always rely upon donations, but must purchase objects to broaden its holdings. In 2002, for example, Collections Committee chair Jeanne Laudermilch alerted staff

to an upcoming auction of a locally-made sampler stitched by Ruth Elizabeth Bennett in 1844. Luckily, our bid was successful. The HSCC maintains a small fund for such occasions so it can acquire items particularly relevant to the county's history.

Dr. Arthur Tracey, a Hampstead optician and pharmacist who served as HSCC president in the 1940s, spent years researching central Maryland's early land grants. Since he turned over his mammoth collection of hand-drawn maps and notes to the Society in the 1950s, it has become an important resource for people researching the land their

1988



Executive Director Joe Getty (right) presents an award to Mt. Airy Middle School student Drew Baldwin at the Carroll County Birthday celebration.

1991



Dedication of the restored Sherman-Fisher-Shellman House.

ancestors owned. Volunteers Betsy Murphy and Kenny Vrtacnik have photographed Tracey's maps so they can be printed from a dedicated computer in the Research Library. After more than seven years of work, the Carroll County maps are complete and Betsy is putting the finishing touches on maps for Frederick, Washington, and Allegany counties.

Photographs, some dating to the mid-19th century, of Carroll County scenes and citizens are a popular part of our collection and often appear in the *Carroll County Times* or in our own publications such as *Images of America: Carroll County* and *Carroll County Then & Now*. Reproduced and framed, some of these photographs appear in exhibits in the Kimmey House and Cockey's where they fascinate visitors.

The collection also includes old maps, original newspapers, diaries, tax lists, and other records. Sifting through papers left by Irish immigrant and Taneytown resident Clotworthy Birnie (1765—1845), you will come across the signatures of men Birnie knew personally such as Francis Scott Key and Roger Brooke Taney (Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1836 to 1864).



But perhaps even more important are tiny scraps of paper bearing the names of common laborers who worked for the Birnie family from 1810 until the 1840s—names which may never show up in any other records anywhere.

Dr. Arthur Tracey.



Coverlet by Peter Warner of Lineboro, 1861. This object was part of a national travelling exhibit, *American Fancy: Exuberance in the Arts*. Gift of Jane Benson Mays, 1972.

Over the last 20 years, Carroll County has rediscovered the beautiful tombstones carved by an African American named Sebastian "Boss" Hammond that mark burials in local cemeteries. Between 1830 and the late 1850s, he created scores of gravestones, many while he was still a slave. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Malatt, owners of the land where Hammond's workshop stood on the Carroll/Frederick border, found two unused headstones carved for children lying among Hammond's discarded rock fragments. They presented one to the HSCC and the other to the Maryland Historical Society.

It is impossible to mention all the diverse and fascinating objects in the Society's collection, but some of those discussed here are displayed in the Shriver-Weybright Gallery.

Mary Ann Ashcraft

1992



Dr. Theodore Woodward signs copies of his autobiography, *Make Room For Sentiment*, HSCC's newest publication.

1994

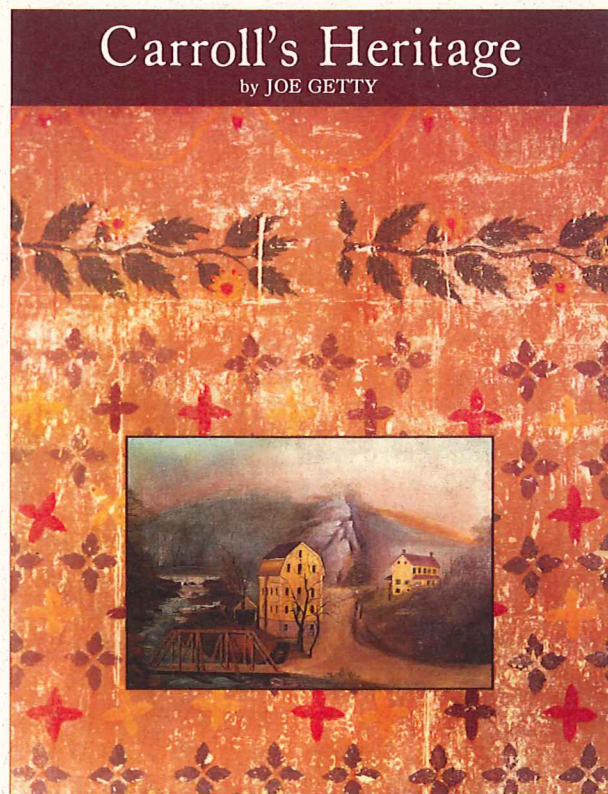


Mardi Gras—a popular fundraising event for many years.

A BOOKSHELF OF HISTORY

Although artifacts and images are invaluable tools for documenting a region's history, nothing surpasses the printed word for interpreting and preserving our knowledge of the past. And, according to former HSCC executive director (1987—1994) and now state senator, Joe Getty, "It is unusual for such a small society to have published so many books and articles." Getty was the first paid executive director of the Society as it transitioned from an all-volunteer organization to one professionally staffed. He had come from the National Trust for Historic Preservation where he learned the value of long-term funding and vowed to put the society on a sound financial footing. He also wished "to break the hold" that colonial history had on the Society by expanding the areas of interest to attract a broader population. One sure way to do this was through publications.

The Society had already published *Just South of Gettysburg*, edited by Frederick Shriver Klein, in 1963 as part of its Civil War centennial observance, but during his tenure Getty ratcheted up the effort by rolling out an assortment of books, pamphlets, calendars, and even postcards. His first effort was a reprint of *Spangled Banner*, a monograph on Francis Scott Key by Victor Weybright. This was followed by such titles as *Carroll's Heritage- Essays on the Architecture of a Piedmont Maryland County*, authored by Getty himself, a 16-volume series of translations of 18th and 19th century German church records in Maryland, edited by Frederick S. Weiser, the monograph *William Winchester, 1711—1790*, by Emma Shelton, and *Abstracts from the Engine of*



Liberty and Uniontown Advertiser, edited by Getty. Aside from serious scholarship, the Society printed wall calendars from 1986 to 1992, each dedicated to a theme, like the county's musical heritage, its historic mills, and the 150th anniversary of its founding, and featuring archival photos that were carefully selected to represent each voting district to ensure broad appeal. To finance the calendars, Getty borrowed a page from any high school yearbook team—he sold \$150 ads to local businesses and placed them at the bottom of each month. These fully funded the printing costs, so when the Society

1998



Barn Dance at the Thomas Farm.

1999



HSCC Trustees in costume celebrate our 60th anniversary at the 1939 Soiree.

retailed the calendars at \$10, the few thousand dollars earned were pure profit. He also used that approach for the 1993 reprint of *An Illustrated Atlas of Carroll County, Maryland*, originally published in 1877, and 1994's *The Carroll Record Histories of Northwestern Carroll County Communities*. Another offering was a poster featuring postcards, separated by perforations, of historic photos of *The Towns of Carroll County*. Its purpose was to promote a 1986 series of lectures on the towns.

In 1989, one of the most popular *Carroll County History Journal* articles focused on the 1954

construction of the Route 140 bypass—an event remembered vividly by long-time residents. The Society also created a traveling exhibit on the bypass, featuring panels of text and photos, and erected it in the new Cranberry Mall where it received wide attention. In a further effort to link history with the interests of a broader range of county residents, the Society published the 1991 *Journal* article, “A Celebration of the Fabulous Forties,” and tied it to a fundraiser, a 1940s-themed ball. Getty’s overriding goal with these publications

Tours of Duty: Carroll County and the Vietnam War



Gary D. Jestes
Jay A. Graybeal

Tours of Duty was released by HSCC in 2007 after almost a decade of research.

was to teach residents that the sum of history was more than another exhibit on colonial cooking or blacksmithing.

With the hiring of curator Jay Graybeal in 1988, the Society published his visitor guides to the Sherman-Fisher-Shellman House and Hard Lodging, gallery guides for exhibits including “50 Years of Collecting,” and a 200-page companion to an exhibit on World War I, *Carroll County and the Great War for Civilization*.

Starting in 1991, Getty also reached out to the public with a weekly column, “Carroll’s Yesteryears” for the *Carroll County Times*.

Written by Graybeal from 1993 to 2002, the column survives today as a bi-monthly article by library volunteer Mimi Ashcraft. The column was part of a comprehensive media campaign that included a weekly radio show on WTTR and a monthly program for Prestige Cablevision. The torrent of words and images about county history unleashed by Joe Getty in 1987 has created an impressive legacy for the Society that is much appreciated and will long endure.

Frank J. Batavick

1999



Board President Helen Riley, Director Jay Graybeal, and Curator Cathy Baty cut the ribbon to open the Shriver-Weybright Gallery.

2001



Executive Director Jay Graybeal attends the signing of the bond bill to fund the renovations to Cockeys'.

HISTORICAL EDUCATION IN MANY FORMS

When asked about the high points in HSCC history, Helen Riley, long-time member and past president, responded with conviction: "One was the enthusiasm when it was formed. A second one was when we bought Kimmey and there was all the enthusiasm over the auditorium. . . . A third one would be Antiques Appraisal Day. And a fourth would be Box Lunch Talks."

Those last two are examples of what has made the Society so special. Our staff and volunteers have not been content to let the HSCC simply be a repository for artifacts and documents. From the earliest years, members have enjoyed a rich array of educational and entertaining events and activities.

Many have centered on tasty food. In recent years we have had the *Soirée at Sunset, Tea & Tidbits*, and the *Winter Wine Warmer*, but the tradition of gathering to share food goes back much further. For example, we offered card parties with dessert starting in 1969 and celebrated Mary Shellman's birthday and the County's birthday for many years. Victorian Christmas teas and Christmas open houses were featured between 1972 and 1992. The Memorial Day snack bar satisfied parade goers from at least 1970 until 1984. A perennial favorite, the *Ice Cream Sundae Social*, began in 1982 and continued almost to the present day.



Members Ober and Jeanne Herr attend the Antebellum Ball at Antrim, 1990.

The premier occasion for dining with Historical Society friends has been the Annual Dinner Meeting, held every fall since at least 1953. During the 1970s, these dinners were served in the Shriver-Weybright auditorium in Kimmey House. But after the museum took over that space, the dinners have been at venues in Westminster and in firehouses around the county. Presentations at the meetings have often been serious and historical ("The Challenges of Our Maryland History" in 1971; "Mules to Microchips: Carroll County's Agricultural History" in 1987; and "Evolution of the HSCC

Main Street Campus" in 2001) but sometimes they were just pure fun ("Ghosts and Legends" in 1984 and "Timeless Tunes by Two" in 2006).

Music and dancing have been popular, too, including the Mardi Gras balls held from 1994 through 1997 and the barn dances in 1998 and 2004. Antrim in Taneytown hosted the *Antebellum Ball* in both 1990 and 1997 and will be the site of the upcoming 75th Anniversary Gala.

One of the most popular events during the 1950s was the "Summer Tour," an automobile "pilgrimage to historic spots in Carroll County." The inaugural

2007



HSCC runs the scarecrow booth at Westminster's Fallfest.

2008



Director Timmi Pierce joins in the fun at Westminster's Memorial Day parade.



The Ice Cream Sundae Social, 1999

version wended its way through Hampstead and Manchester in 1951 and spawned other “caravans” through Eldersburg (1952), New Windsor and Union Bridge (1953), Taneytown (1954), Finksburg (1955), and Union Bridge again (1958). In 1970, Dr. Grace Tracey designed a complete “Do-It-Yourself Driving Tour” with detailed directions, including mileage and driving times.

Since 1971, HSCC has offered its members over 120 bus tours to attractions all around the region; members have enjoyed historic sites and museums throughout the mid-Atlantic.

One of our scholarly highlights was the annual *Maryland and the Civil War: A Regional Perspective* conference. Held from 1998 through 2014, the event (co-sponsored by Carroll Community College) brought together local, regional, and national experts who explored Maryland’s role in the Civil War.

Antiques Appraisal Day has become one of the Society’s most successful fundraisers since its inception in 2001. The HSCC held an annual Rummage Sale as far back as 1969, but Antiques Appraisal Day has involved the local community more compellingly, because anyone might find a treasure in one’s own home.

The Box Lunch Talks began in 2000 with a handful of people in the Shellman House parlor. These lectures were by no means the first given by the Society. Member meetings had featured them from the beginning, and there was an extensive monthly series called “Heritage of Carroll County” from 1984 to 1986. But the sheer variety of interesting topics given by fascinating speakers at more than 160 monthly Box Lunch Talks has ensured that they have developed a large and loyal audience. Examples? Archaeology, Corbit’s Charge, cemeteries, elections, canning, genealogy, cranberries, copper mines, log structures, presidential visits, and wormseed oil.

It seems that the number and variety of interesting events is limited only by the creativity of our Society’s members.

Samuel T. Brainerd

2008



Appraiser Bob Harrison at Antiques Appraisal Day.

2009



Carroll County third grade students visit HSCC.

IN CELEBRATION OF 75 YEARS

I fondly remember my family's long association with The Historical Society of Carroll County. Our ties began with the marriage of David Shriver, Jr., to Eve Sherman, daughter of Jacob Sherman, who operated a tavern in Westminster. Opposite Jacob Sherman's tavern was a vacant lot on which in 1806 he built the home that today is known as the Sherman-Fisher-Shellman House. David Shriver later purchased the home from his father-in-law. Soon, however, David moved with his young family to western Maryland to superintend the building of the National Road from Cumberland to Wheeling. Although David lived in the house for only a brief interlude his connection encouraged my family's interest in the house that would be key to the founding of the HSCC.

In 1939, when the Society was founded to preserve the historic Shellman House from demolition, my family stepped forward as early supporters with my great aunt Madeline Shriver serving as a member of the Board of Directors, representing Myers District from 1940—1949. In turn, my grandmother Helen Shriver, my grandfather James M. Shriver, my father James M. Shriver, Jr., and my aunt Helen Riley served as members of the Board of Directors. In addition, both my grandfather and aunt served as presidents.

When I was growing up, the Historical Society was where we stopped after the Memorial Day Parade for the bake sale and refreshments. Throughout my teenage years I followed my grandparents' interest in the Historical Society. I remember well my grandfather's friend Victor Weybright, who impressed me because he had his own car and driver. In time I discovered that he was a most successful publisher, writer, and founder of the New American Library, as well as the author of *Spangled Banner: The Story of Francis Scott Key*. Through his

generosity the HSCC was able to expand into the Kimmey House.

After my grandfather died, my grandmother increased her involvement and for many years took the lead in securing docents for weekend tours. Because she did not drive, anyone in my immediate family with a driver's license was always on standby to take her to the Society when no docent was available and she filled in. We tested her dedication one weekend by sending a friend on a motorcycle. She saw through our ruse and politely declined the unorthodox ride to Westminster.

In the years that followed many in my family attended annual dinners, lectures, dinner theaters at Frock's, galas at Friendly Farms, and a 1940s dance at Western Maryland College, all through the encouragement of my grandmother. We soon appreciated the HSCC's social value.

My Aunt Helen, a member of the staff before her service on the Board, always kept us informed of happenings at the Society. My father also enjoyed his involvement, speaking at two Box Lunch Talks on two of his favorite subjects—farming and vegetable canning in Carroll County.

For me, the Historical Society truly connects people with a passion for history and the stories of past times and events that made us who we are today. Perhaps the golfer Arnold Palmer said it best: "Your hometown is not where you are from, but who you are." I hope that the 75th Anniversary is not just a celebration but also serves as a re-dedication for the generations to follow.

James M. Shriver, III

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The Historical Society of Carroll County, Maryland, Inc.

210 East Main Street

Westminster, Maryland 21157

Phone: 410-848-6494 Fax: 410-848-3596

Email: Info@HSCCmd.org Website: www.HSCCmd.org



HISTORICAL SOCIETY
of Carroll County

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Samuel T. Brainerd, editor

Mary Ann Ashcraft

Frank J. Batavick

Eleanor S. Darcy

James E. Lightner

Catherine E. Baty, Curator of Collections

Fred K. Teeter, Jr., Executive Director

Tom N. Rasmussen, Chair, Board of Trustees