

Carroll History Journal

Historical Society of Carroll County, Maryland

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

by Sam Brainerd

Welcome, fellow HSCC members! By now you will have noticed a change in the format of our society's newsletter. Its title has changed to the *Carroll Courier* while the old title, the *Carroll History Journal*, has migrated to these interior pages. What is going on?

We're trying something that is both old and new. In August, the society's board of trustees voted to create a publications committee, responsible for writing short articles about Carroll County's history. This *Journal* is the result. Although it is a new addition to the quarterly newsletter, it is an old idea, really. Ever since our newsletter began publication in 1952, it has featured articles about local history. More recently, though, its emphasis has shifted towards the current events of the society. Meanwhile, since 1990 HSCC staff and members Joe Getty, Jay Graybeal, and Mimi Ashcraft have published a series of articles, collectively titled "Carroll's Yesteryears," in the *Carroll County Times*. You can read those articles on our society's web site, hscc.carr.org.

What, then, is new about this *Carroll History Journal*? Rather than covering a general historical topic, almost all of these articles will spring from a particular original county document: perhaps a letter, a diary, a business day-book, a set of photographs, or a collection of vital records. Usually, these will be from the society's own archives, which will give our membership a chance to see what a treasure trove of county history we possess. Most articles will be accompanied by photographs and transcripts of the documents, along with a discussion placing the source in its historical context.

In this first issue we have several submissions from members of our publications committee. Jim Lightner, McDaniel College professor emeritus of mathematics and College Historian, whose history of his alma mater, *Fearless and Bold*, is now available for purchase, has chosen a few excerpts from the diary of J. T. Ward, the college's first president. Dating from the late 1860s, the selections describe the laying of the first building's cornerstone, the first day of classes at the college, and subsequent September activities.

Pat Brodowski, the historian and educator at the Carroll County Farm Museum, has been exploring materials donated by descendants of John Diehl Bowman, a nineteenth-century Middleburg farmer. Among the papers he left behind is a list of orchard trees he purchased and planted during the late 1870s. Using this one small document, Pat has shown that Bowman was not only a conscientious farmer, but an enterprising one.

Rounding out this first issue is the first of Bill Woodward's "Did You Know . . ." statistical notes, spotlighting the vast changes Carroll County has undergone during the last century, from a doctor's point of view.

We hope you will participate in this experiment by sending us your comments. Are we presenting the kinds of materials you would like to see? Would you prefer more historical background? Less? Do you have historical treasures of your own that might lend themselves to similar articles? We look forward to hearing from you!

SEPTEMBER ON THE HILL

by James E. Lightner

January 1 may be the beginning of the new calendar year, but for many people, the real “new” year begins in September. Vacations are over, schools begin, and we plan our activities for the coming fall and winter months. Such was certainly the case for the Reverend Doctor James Thomas Ward (1820–1897), founding president of Western Maryland College.

Ward was a minister of the Methodist Protestant Church for twenty-five years, serving several pastorates in Maryland and Pennsylvania, including two on the Pipe Creek Circuit near New Windsor. Ill health forced him to retire soon after the Civil War. He settled on a little ten-acre farm he called Rose Hill on the Littlestown Pike, now 188 Pennsylvania Avenue in Westminster.

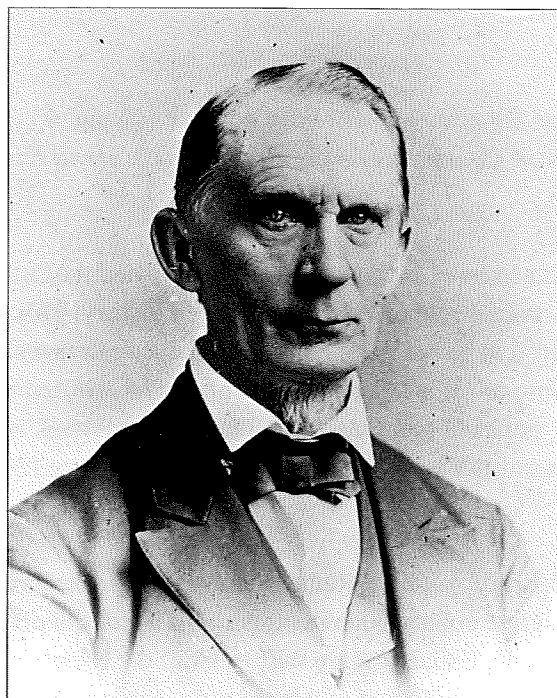
The McDaniel College Archives contain the diaries Ward kept between 1866 and his death in 1897. Written in clear, readable handwriting with very few corrections, his daily observations on activities at the college and his relationships with prominent Westminster citizens are both interesting and revealing of the life and times in the nineteenth century.

Soon after his arrival in Westminster, Ward came into contact with Fayette R. Buell who was operating a school in the stone house across the street at 203 Pennsylvania Avenue. Buell had the idea of forming a college and solicited Ward’s help in the planning. Ward recorded in his diary on April 9, 1866:

Had a long interview with Br. Buell concerning the College enterprize. He is sanguine of success and puts wonderful

confidence in my advice and influence. He has bought a most eligible site for the College buildings and spent in all more than two thousand dollars already. I urge him to “make haste slowly” and cautiously, and by so doing I think he may succeed.

From Ward’s diaries we can also learn of some of the activities that took place in September during the late 1860s. For example, the cornerstone of the first



James Thomas Ward (1820–1897); courtesy of McDaniel College

college building,¹ built on the property known as the Old Common, on the hill at the western edge of town, was laid on Thursday, September 6, 1866. John Smith, College Board President and also President of the Western Maryland Railroad, had offered free rail passage to all persons wishing to attend the event from Baltimore and the surrounding area. At 2:30 P.M., Ward met the attendees at the train station, and everyone marched in procession with the members of the local Masonic lodge to College Hill, where Rev. James W. Reese,² master of the Door to Virtue Masonic Lodge, formally laid the stone. Ward recorded what took place next:

The ministers and prominent visiting laymen took the stand which had been erected in the grove on College hill, and under my direction the following exercises were gone through with by said brethren in a most perfect and creditable manner:—

- 1. Invocation by my honored father, the Rev. Ulysses Ward of Washington City.*
- 2. Hymn, “Before Jehovah’s Awful throne,” given out by the Rev. Daniel Bowers of Baltimore, and sung by the whole assembly of not less than a thousand persons including nearly one hundred Masons, to the tune “Old Hundred.”*
- 3. Prayer by the Rev. John R. Nichols of*

Returned home to Rose Hill my dear father accompanying, and retired near midnight, thus ending one of the most interesting and perhaps important, although one of the most laborious days of my life. May God add His blessing,

Baltimore.

4. Announcement and reading of the hymn "Joy to the World! the Lord is come," by the Rev. Daniel W. Bates of Liberty Circuit, sung by the assembly to the tune "Antioch."

5. Reading of the 28th chapter of Job, by the Rev. T. D. Valiant of Baltimore.

6. Address by the Rev. J. J. Murray D.D. President of the Md. An. Conf.³

7. Address by the Rev. Edward J. Drinkhouse, M.D. of Baltimore.

8. Reading of the hymn "Master, Lord, the glorious time," by the Rev. Mr. Holloway of the English Lutheran Church, sung with hearty spirit by the assembly.

9. Address by Br. Beale H. Richardson of Baltimore.

10. Address by the Rev. J. Thomas Murray, Editor of the "Methodist Protestant" of Baltimore.

11. Doxology announced by Rev. R. Semple Rowe, of Baltimore, and sung with powerful effect by the whole assembly.

12. Returning of thanks to all who had part, on behalf of Br. Buell, and some explanatory remarks by myself. . . .

1[3]. Benediction by the Rev. Johnathan Munro of the M. E. Church.

After this the procession was formed again, returned to town and dismissed.

Took supper with my dear father, wife, and a number of others at Br. Joshua Yingling's.

. . . Returned home to Rose Hill my dear father accompanying, and retired near midnight, thus ending one of the most interesting and perhaps important, although one of the most laborious days of my life.

The formal opening exercises of the first academic year of Western Maryland College were held on Wednesday, September 4, 1867, one hundred and forty years ago. Because the Chapel Room had not yet been completed, the ceremonies took place in the Study Room for the Female Department. Present were Ward, Buell, five teachers, the governess and her two assistants, and about thirty students. The program consisted of an address and Bible reading from Proverbs by Buell; the singing of the hymn "A Charge to Keep I Have"; a prayer and address by Ward; and addresses by J. M. Newson (professor of English language and literature), William H. Zimmerman (professor of natural sciences, German, and French), and Daniel W. Hering (the young principal of the preparatory school).⁴ The names of the students were recorded, and Buell announced some of the rules of the institution. Ward noted in his entry for that day:

All the arrangements are as complete as the[y] can be made under present circumstances, and the College makes a very fair and encouraging commencement. If Br. Buell can only secure the money he needs to satisfy the claims of the mechanics, I am now fully persuaded that he will be able to carry on the institution with profit, success, and great usefulness.

Ward's diary chronicles the next two weeks, during which the faculty met to decide what textbooks to use and how to procure them, and plans for the first classes were made. He noted on September 7:

Evening at Br. John Smith's with himself and family, and Br. Isaac Baile of Pipe Creek settlement.⁵ the latter learning of my desire

to have a pig to put in the new pen I have had built, kindly offered to give me one, and bring it next week.

On Monday, September 16, Ward reported:

After conducting the religious exercises, and giving directions to the students of my Class, who are to commence recitations to-morrow, I spent the remainder of the morning in conversation with Brs. Buell and Zimmerman, who returned from Baltimore on Saturday, and with Br. Smith. Br. B. did not succeed in getting any relief in money matters, and his affairs are still in very critical condition.

The following day, his textbooks having arrived from Baltimore, Ward heard the first recitation of his Latin class.

In the years following the Civil War, the town of Westminster was changing and growing as well. Ward, as he presided over the opening of the third College year, noted in his diary on September 27, 1869:

I could not avoid observing, as I walked the well-lighted street this evening, and witnessed the number of pedestrians on the pavements and vehicles in the street, the wonderful change since I came to reside here. I suppose the population of Westminster has increased three-fold within five years, and business of every kind appears to be prospering. Four new and commodious Church edifices have been erected within that time, our College established, and other important public interests that were before

unknown here. I have tried to contribute my share towards the advancement of these interests, and being identified with the growth of the town, have come to feel myself more at home in it than anywhere else.

McDaniel College's collection of Ward's diaries were gifts of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren over a period of years. Plans are underway to digitize the entire collection to make them accessible to historians, for they give remarkable insight into the life, times, and people of the nineteenth century.

1. When the building was razed in 1959, the large cornerstone was mounted on a pedestal in front of Baker Memorial Chapel and the ninety-three-year-old contents, many not well preserved, were placed in the McDaniel Archives. On the 125th anniversary of the college in 1992, a bronze bas-relief of the complex of buildings which originally stood on the site (including Old Main) was attached to the cornerstone as a memorial to and pictorial reminder of the first college buildings.

2. Dr. James W. Reese (1838–1917) was also the rector of the Ascension Episcopal Church but would soon resign that post to become the Professor of Classics at Western Maryland College for the next forty-two years.

3. Methodist Protestant Church. In 1830, a group of clergy and laymen broke away from the Methodist Episcopal (M.E.) Church and formed the Methodist Protestant (M.P.) Church, because they were unhappy with the hierarchical aspects of the M.E. church and wished more control of their churches and worship. In Westminster, Methodists could attend either the Immanuel M.P. Church or the Centenary M.E. Church, located about a block apart on Main Street. In 1939 the churches reunited, and the smaller M.P. church building eventually became the first Davis Library, while the larger M.E. church became the sole building for Methodists in the town.

4. Daniel Hering (1850–1938), the cousin of Joshua W. Hering (1833–1913), a charter trustee and College Treasurer, was then only seventeen years old. He would eventually become Dean of the Graduate School and Professor of Physics at New York University.

5. Smith and Baile, both M.P. laymen, were the major financiers for the fledgling institution, lending the ten thousand dollars needed to erect the first building. The M.P. Church provided no financial support, only "patronage."

here. I have tried to contribute my share towards the advancement of these interests, and being identified with the growth of the town, have come to feel myself more at home in it than anywhere else. Indeed

sand or grain; cookbooks advised they would hold this way until the next summer. To extend the season of apples the grower would choose varieties that could be harvested in succession from August through December, and stored through the winter. Bowman's memorandum shows his serious intent over fifteen years to select apple trees that would yield fruit over a long picking season. He planted eighty one trees, building his orchard into twenty eight different varieties of apple while adding other small fruit.

Facts pertinent to apple culture can shed light on why Bowman increased his collection. Since the dawn of apple culture, the apple's unstable gene pool has been a lottery to sprout new and distinctly different apples, for every seed yields a tree with a new tableau of characteristics. Not all warrant saving. Chosen varieties are propagated by grafting buds or scions (small twigs) to hardy rootstock. Bowman wrote in his farm journal in 1879:

*March 28, 29, 30th Grafted
Peach, Pear, Apricot,
Cherry & Plum, on
Cherry Pear & Plum &
Quince stock*

The American Pomological Society published local accounts of about 340 varieties of apples introduced each year between 1877 and 1887; in 1870, 998 new species were sent from Russia and the society devised names for them. An orchardist could choose from apples of every color, including green, orange, and brown, with flavors that suggested coconut, banana, citrus, clove, or strawberry.

The memorandum shows Bowman's affinity for large showy apples, such as the Twenty Ounce, which weighed more than a pound. He planted the

Fallawater, a Pennsylvania cooking apple known for six-inch fruit, and the Gloria Mundi, a greenish, deeply ribbed apple that originated in 1804 in Germany. These were enormous apples harvested from September through October and prized for baking whole.

Bowman chose the Jeffries apple in 1878 to replace the Smokehouse, discovered in 1837 and revered for its cider flavor and keeping its quality until March. The Jeffries, flavored like a pear with attractive red-on-red striped fruit, originated in Pennsylvania in 1848 and is still a choice for early fall harvest. After ordering the York Imperial, which originated in Pennsylvania in 1830 and was hailed for keeping well for three months, Bowman tucked away the catalog page describing the accolades of Pennsylvania pomologists. They announced in 1878 it was the "coming" apple for exportation, and Bowman lived close to the train station.

*April 26th [1879] planted
the 5 Apple trees, the
2 Early Primates, the
Holland pip, the
Jefries, & the Rome
beauty*

1877 Geneva Nurseries Continued		
Hiltertrick Agent		
Peach		
2	Amsden	\$.60
<u>1</u>	Sweet October	<u>.40</u>
3		1.00
Planted in 1878		
1878 Richmond Nurseries		
W. F. Snider Agent		
Peach		
2	Stump the World	\$.50
2	Richmond	.50
1	Apricot, Dubois & Golden	.80
1	Nectarine, Pitmastons Orange	.60
<u>1</u>	Quince, Orange	<u>.60</u>
7		2.70
Planted in 1879		
1878 Hunters Run Nurseries		
John Peters, Proprietor		
Apple		
2	Early Primate	\$.40
1	Jeffries, in place of smokers)	.20
1	Holland Pippin, Late	.20
<u>1</u>	Rome Beauty, fall apple	<u>.20</u>
5		1.00
Planted in 1879		

Transcription showing the first column of the "Memorandum of Fruit Trees."

His interest in smaller, more difficult fruit began in 1867 with four varieties of pears, a peach, and a cherry. By 1878 he had decided to expand his peach orchard, for he acquired fourteen varieties of peach through 1880, plus three apricot and two nectarines, all *Prunus* species requiring similar cultivation. Peaches are temperamental anywhere, but in Middleburg the meandering Little Pipe Creek creates early and late frosts that can kill emergent blossoms. Bowman, like other Eastern fruit growers, was seeking "ironclad" fruit that would resist winter kill from drops of temperature. He continually chose new

varieties that had survived northern cold and frost. So Bowman began ordering his peaches from New York, slipping the Geneva Nurseries catalog page into his files after purchasing the Amsden and Sweet October in 1877. The Amsden was listed as “a new early peach, . . . flesh juicy and melting.” The Sweet October, proven hardy where it originated in Dorchester County, Maryland, “the fruit is gathered and stored like apples, keeping a month or six weeks.”

Bowman’s memorandum shows his enthusiasm for more *Prunus* species in 1878. He ordered Stump the World, a white fleshed, richly flavored red-cheeked peach resembling an early cold tolerant variety called Oldmixon Freestone. He ventured into apricot trees, deciding upon a juicy freestone called Dubois, with sweet, pale golden fruit on cold-hardy trees originating in Dutchess County, New York; and one probably for dried fruit, the deep orange Golden apricot which ripened in the hot, drying days of summer. Bowman’s flair for the exotic is evident in

Pitmaston’s Orange nectarine, illustrated in agricultural journals with showy flowers and deep orange flesh that was red at the pit. The Orange quince was grown for jam and jelly-making. When the trees arrived, Bowman grafted them to fruit tree stock he had been growing, and set them out during three days of orchard planting he described in his farm journal of 1879:

*April 7, 8, 9th planted 16 Peach trees & 1
Apricot tree round the Barn & 14 Peach
trees, 6 Pear trees, & 20 Apple trees planted
along the new middle fence*

From 1866 to 1881, John D. Bowman expanded his apple orchard to include nectarines, quince, cherries, pears and peaches. His interest in cultivating fruit, preserved against the odds in his “Memorandum of Fruit Trees,” reveals his creative and enterprising spirit.

OWNERSHIP OF THE BOWMAN FAMILY FARM

by Samuel T. Brainerd

Land records can yield surprising details about the people who owned and lived on the land and their relationships to one another. Certainly the Bowman family farm had an interesting evolution, its ownership ebbing and flowing between family members during the 117 years they owned it. During a considerable portion of that time, women were the principal owners, a rarity during the nineteenth century.

On April 18, 1829, Samuel Bowman purchased a 150.4-acre farm in the Middleburg district of what was then Frederick County, two miles northwest of Union Bridge. This farm would remain in the Bowman family until 1946. The first realignment of ownership came when Samuel died without a will on February 2, 1838. His farm, by then part of the newly created Carroll County, became the undivided, shared property of his three children, John Diehl

Bowman (then twenty-six years old), William Henry Bowman (age twenty-two), and Mary Anne Elizabeth Bowman (a girl of three). Samuel’s widow Elizabeth retained her right of dower to a one-third share and doubtless served as Mary’s guardian.

On a typical jointly owned farm in the nineteenth century, one son would buy up his siblings’ shares, one by one, until he owned the entire farm himself. That did not happen on the Bowman family farm. Instead, William, who intended “carrying on a tailoring business,” according to the *Carrolltonian*, sold his share on October 17, 1846—not to his brother John, but to his mother Elizabeth. Eleven years later, to the day, John also sold his share to his mother, so that Elizabeth then owned an undivided two-thirds of the original farm. Her daughter Mary owned the remaining third. Two days later, Elizabeth sold enough of her share (one-sixth of the whole) to Mary, so that they each owned one undivided half of the original farm. Neither of the two men in the family—William, who had moved to Frederick County, nor John, who still lived and worked on the family farm—owned any at all.

Some time within the next two years, Elizabeth and Mary agreed to partition their jointly owned farm into separate lots, unequal in size, but equal in value. Mary's portion, on the east side of the farm next to the road to Union Bridge, measured only 61 acres, but had better quality land than her mother's and featured a new house. Elizabeth's 89 acres included two old dwellings, a barn, a smokehouse, a hog house, a garden, two wood lots, and an old orchard. Shortly after Elizabeth died on October 2, 1863, her son John found her will in a wooden chest. She had bequeathed him 36 acres at the southwest part of the farm, the first land he had owned in almost seventeen years. Elizabeth willed the rest of her real estate, however, to Mary, so that John's younger sister controlled over 114 acres.

During the next thirty-four years, brother and sister enjoyed their separate sections of the family farm. Mary married her neighbor, David Haines, while John began to diversify his orchard, as his "Memorandum of Fruit Trees" showed. The

population around Middleburg was growing, so Mary sold off several small house lots along the road to Union Bridge to neighbors and relatives. Her part of the family farm had shrunk to 91 acres by May 20, 1897, eight years after her husband's death. That was the day she sold all her remaining land to her brother William's son, Samuel H. Bowman, a wealthy lumber merchant from Minneapolis, Minnesota. Three years later, on March 19, 1900, John D. Bowman died at the age of eighty-eight. His only child, Charles Henry Clay Bowman, inherited his 36 acres but sold out in 1902 to his cousin Samuel. For the first time in sixty-four years, the main farmstead was reunited under one owner, albeit an absentee one. However, because Samuel never moved permanently back to Maryland, his ownership was probably something like a mortgage. Indeed, on April 6, 1912, Samuel H. Bowman sold the entire farm back to its resident farmer, Charles Henry Clay Bowman.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

by William E. Woodward

In 1901, Carroll County mothers delivered 333 live babies.
In 1945, they delivered 542. World War II ended.
In 1946, they delivered 615. and . . .
In 1947, they delivered 944. The baby boom arrived.
In 2004, they delivered 1,991.

1900 county population: 33,860
1940 county population: 39,054
1950 county population: 44,907
2000 county population: 150,897

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