



# COURIER

*The Carroll*

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## HSCC Annual Membership Meeting

We invite all of our HSCC members and friends to attend the Society's **Annual Meeting** on **October 29, 2024**. The meeting will be held from **11:30 am to 1:30 pm** at **Best Western Conference Center**, Westminster. Doors open at 11:30 am and lunch will begin 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. Also, our third annual Distinguished Awards will be presented.

At the end of 2024, we will say farewell to retiring board members Lynn Wheeler, Frank Batavick, Jennifer Munch, & Bill Palm. We want to thank them for their many years of service to the Society and our community. Please join us in doing so.

Our speaker this year is **Sara Rivers Cofield, Curator of Federal Collections, Maryland Archaeological**



**Conservation Laboratory.** Sara will speak about the beautiful Civil War era dress that she found and the coded message inside.

The full menu is posted on the Society's online event signup 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 and \$50 for non-members.

Reservations and payments need to be received by October 20, online or check by mail to HSCC.

Sponsorship opportunities for this event are available. Please see the website or call for more information.

### Distinguished Service Award 2024

Douglas P. Velnoskey

### Distinguished Historian Award 2024

Mary Ann Ashcraft

### Volunteer of the Year 2024

Belva LaMotte

### NOMINEES TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

#### Returning Trustees (3-year term)

William Brown

#### Returning Trustees (1-year term)

Tyler Codd

Douglas Velnoskey

#### New Trustee (3-year term)

Steve Bowersox

John Laycock

Tammy Eney



Our Bluegrass, Bourbon & Bocce event is coming up on **Sunday, September 8th** from **4—7 pm** at **Union Mills Homestead**.

The entertainment this year will be **Billy Harrison & Haywire Bluegrass Band**. For more information about the band, please visit their website:

<https://harrisonhaywireband.com>.

Tickets, which must be purchased in advance, are \$40 for HSCC members and \$50 for non-HSCC members.

Tickets are on sale now at [hsccmd.org/event/bluegrass-bourbon-bocce-2024/](https://hsccmd.org/event/bluegrass-bourbon-bocce-2024/) so get yours today!



We look forward to seeing everyone for this exciting afternoon filled with music, food, friends, and fun.



## Board of Trustees 2024

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Jennifer C. Munch

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### Outreach & Events Director

Laura Bankard

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Stephanie Eckard

### Membership & Gift

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Beverly Staub

### Bookkeeper

Cathy Rose

### Shop Assistants

Danielle Dinsmore

Luke Rippeon

## Historical Society of Carroll County

210 East Main Street, Westminster, MD  
21157

410-848-6494 · [info@hsccmd.org](mailto: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 Society Members and Friends,

Thank you to everyone who participated and attended HSCC's 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Variety Show on June 6<sup>th</sup>! It was a fun night capped off by some major announcements about the Society's campus and how it will change in the coming months and years.

Here are three major takeaways:

- Work on the beautification and accessibility improvements of the walkways, entrances, and parking lot starts at the end of this summer! The outpouring of Gift for the Cause support at the 2024 Gala resulted in \$70,000 raised for this work, which will be matched dollar for dollar from the generous 2023 Shipley family and Bare family bequests.
- We have started preliminary planning to move the Society's library and manuscripts to Cockey's. HSCC will employ an interior designer for the new library space which will take on the aesthetic of a classic "private" library while at the same time offer modern amenities for patrons and researchers. A new ad-hoc committee will work alongside a campus campaign committee to make this dream a reality.
- This fall the Society will start the installation of an early 20th century bedroom dedicated to the life and work of Mary Shellman called "Civil War to Suffrage". A grant from the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area is making this possible! Sarah Coster, a period room and house museum expert from Annapolis, will help us develop this exhibit with a spring 2025 ribbon cutting planned. As you may have heard, walk-in tours of the Shellman House are now free!

A warm welcome to our new Collections Manager Stephanie Eckard! Stephanie and Kyle are working to make the collections more accessible through our Digital Library and Collections Hub. Be sure to check it out at <https://hub.catalogit.app/12914>

Mark your calendars for our Annual Meeting and BBB fundraiser coming up this fall (details enclosed). Congratulations to Doug Velnoskey & Mary Ann Ashcraft, recipients of this year's Distinguished Service and Distinguished Historian Awards. Thanks to Belva LaMotte for your outstanding service in the library. And *thank you* Laura Bankard for all that you do to make each one of these events a spectacular success!

Warmest regards,



HSCC SPECIAL  
*Events*  
Memorial Day Parade

Here are some of our events from summer 2024 ...



Campus Cleanup Day



Thank  
you





History: Shaken & Stirred—New Windsor



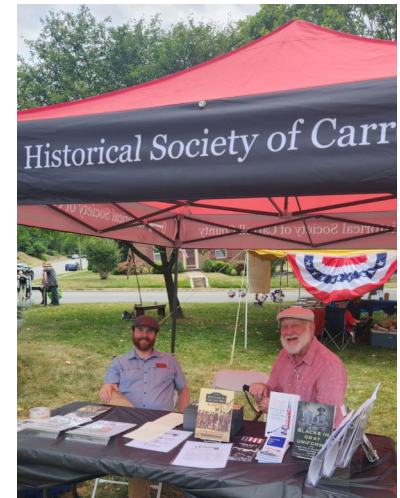


## Even more summer 2024 pics ...

HSCC SPECIAL  
*Events*



Corbit's Charge



## Welcome to Stephanie Eckard

We want to welcome our newest staff member, Stephanie Eckard, Collections Manager. She may have a familiar face as she also works with our good friends at Union Mills Homestead. She has also worked in our bookshop and volunteered at many of our events. She has lived in Westminster her whole life and graduated from McDaniel College. Stephanie has always loved history and looks forward to helping the Society maintain our vast collection of historical artifacts.

MARYLAND HUMANITIES

MARILYN HATZA MEMORIAL

# SHINE

Strengthening the Humanities  
Investment in Nonprofits for Equity

As we wrap up our 2024 fiscal year, HSCC is extremely grateful to Maryland Humanities for their FY2024 Shine Grant to the historical society.

The grant provided critical funds to support HSCC operations and mission-focused activities. Thank you Maryland Humanities and the entire MH team!

## History Happenings Throughout the County & Beyond

### Civil War Symposium

On September 28th, Carroll County Public Library, Carroll Community College, and The Historical Society of Carroll County will host the Civil War Symposium from 8:30 am—5 pm at Carroll Community College. Visit the



website at [carrollcc.augusoft.net](http://carrollcc.augusoft.net) and search for Civil War Symposium to register for the event.

### Union Mills Homestead

Maryland Microbrewery Festival  
On Saturday, September 28th from 11 am—6 pm, Union Mills will host the 18th Maryland Microbrewery Festival. Visit [Unionmills.org](http://Unionmills.org) for more information.



**Other:** There are so many other beautiful and informative historic sites in Carroll County. Here are a few of their websites.

**Carroll County Farm Museum:**  
[Carrollcountyfarmmuseum.org](http://Carrollcountyfarmmuseum.org)

**The Gate House Museum:**  
[Thegatehousemuseum.com](http://Thegatehousemuseum.com)

**Strawbridge Shrine:**  
[Strawbridgeshrine.org](http://Strawbridgeshrine.org)

**Mount Airy Historical Society:**  
[mountairyainstreet.org/mount-airy-museum](http://mountairyainstreet.org/mount-airy-museum)

All of our members are important to us, but we wanted to say thank you to those members and non-members that volunteer their time and energy to keep the Society clean, organized, and running smoothly.

If you would like to volunteer for HSCC, please contact Laura Bankard, Outreach & Events Director at [lbankard@hsccmd.org](mailto:lbankard@hsccmd.org) or 410.848.6494.

Types of things we need help with: Campus cleanup and maintenance, event setup/tear down or taking tickets, decorating, library research, and much more!

Heartfelt   
**THANKS**  
**TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!**

## Tales FROM THE Library



### The Rise and Ignominious Decline of the Main Court Hotel

By: Bill Palm

With many old buildings to contemplate in Carroll County, it is sometimes the long-gone structure that really piques my interest. The old Main Court Hotel that once stood across Main Street from the Shellman House is one such building.

In 1775, Jacob Sherman's family supported him in establishing a tavern on King Street (soon to be redesignated Main Street) in an emerging small village in rural Maryland. Sherman was only 19 years old at the time, but proved to be a highly successful entrepreneur, and the tavern thrived. At age 50, having acquired substantial agricultural land, Jacob sold his tavern to Issac Shriver, another successful businessman, and retired to live out his life as a farmer.

In her girlhood memories of Westminster during the 1820s, Katherine Shellman speaks of a small town of 100 buildings, five of which were taverns. We should first note that at that time a tavern was a highly utilitarian enterprise, serving as both a gathering place for the local community and a stopping place for travelers, not generally seen as elegant or luxurious. Travels could find a meal, some supplies, and a bed. And certainly, Westminster was positioned to serve the needs of travelers, with a major turnpike entering from Baltimore and Reisterstown on the East and then, to the west, forking to lead to either Littlestown, Pennsylvania or to Taneytown.

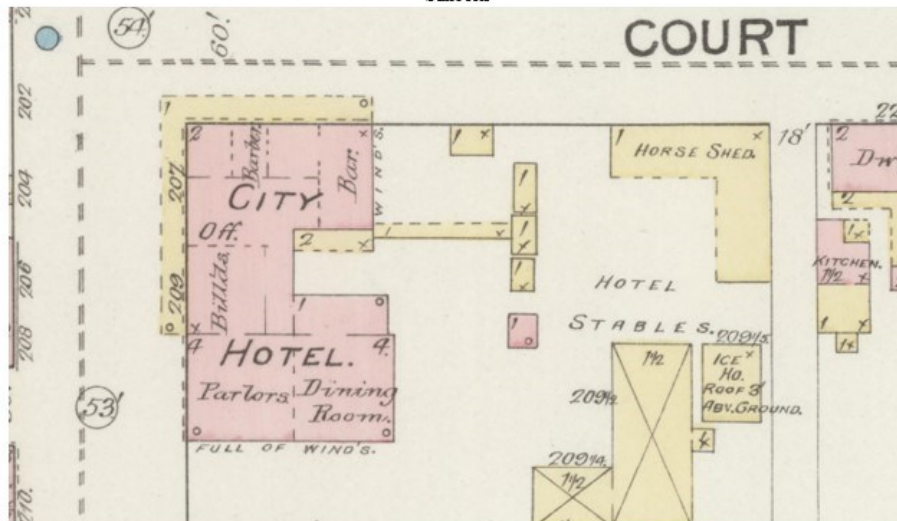
Newspaper accounts of the time frequently mentioned Isaac Shriver's involvement in various commercial, political, or civic activities. When, with Isaac's active involvement, Carroll County was formed, and he provided land for the new courthouse. Court Street then appeared, running from Main Street, between Shriver's tavern and his store, and leading to the courthouse.

By the time of the Civil War, the tavern had evolved into the City Hotel, with expansions to the original structure extending the length on Main Street to about 100 feet and on Court Street to about 70 feet. It is notable that following Corbit's Charge one of the seriously wounded Delaware cavalymen was taken to the City Hotel to recover. Following the Gettysburg battle, the hotel served as a major hospital for critically wounded soldiers.

Much of our account so far has been derived from newspaper accounts and similar sources. Following the Civil War, Sanborn Fire Insurance maps appeared, providing us with a marvelous source of information regarding the layout and appearance of American towns and cities. The accompanying depiction of the City Hotel is taken from the 1887 Sanborn map of Westminster, Maryland. Note that on these maps, red represents brick construction, and yellow represents frame construction. Sleeping quarters are on the second floor.

Following a period of success, with a subsequent period of decline, as features became outdated, the City Hotel was closed by 1904. The Main Court Hotel soon opened with steam heat, sanitary plumbing, combination electric light and gas fixtures, and telephones in rooms. And then, by 1918, the building that was "formerly Hotel Main-Court" featured public school rooms, office space, with an automobile garage and storage to the rear. The automobile seems to have taken over Main Street. In 1940, as American Oil prepared to take over management of the property, the grand old hotel was demolished and facilities for automobile sales and service emerged.

City Hotel (later Main Court Hotel), at intersection of Main Street and Court Street, Westminster, MD 1887, credit Sanborn



Fire Insurance Maps

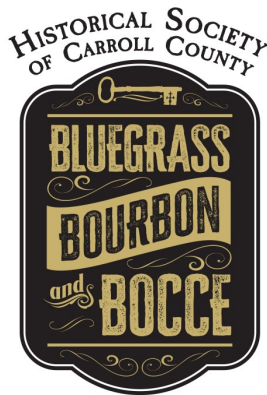


# HSCC **UPCOMING** events

Please check our website ([hsccmd.org](http://hsccmd.org)) and Facebook for updates on our upcoming events.

## SEPTEMBER

**2** In observance of the Labor Day holiday—the HSCC campus will be CLOSED



**8** **Bluegrass, Bourbon & Bocce**  
Save the date for this very popular and enjoyable event! Join us on Sunday, September 8th from 4—7 pm at Union Mills Homestead. Tickets on sale now at [hsccmd.org](http://hsccmd.org).

**17** **Box Lunch Talk - Carrollton Hounds and the History of Fox Hunting in Carroll Co.**

Jason Dudderar grew up in the Uniontown area and started riding horses at a very young age. He is now the Master of the Carrollton Hounds. He will share the history and adventure of fox hunting in Carroll County and the surrounding area. When not on horseback, Jason is a Vice President and CFA with Morgan Stanley. He also serves on the Board of the Carroll County Land Trust. **12-1 pm, Grace Hall, Grace Lutheran Church, Carroll Street, Westminster.** \$3 for HSCC members; \$7 for non-members.



**27** **Civil War Symposium Author**  
As part of our partnership with Carroll Community College, Carroll County Public Library, and A Likely Story Bookstore, we are having a Civil War Symposium Author talk on Friday, September 27th, 6:30 pm, at Carroll Community College. The Pulitzer Prize winning author and journalist Scott Shane will talk about his book "Flee North". The cost for the talk is \$30 and includes a copy of his book. Visit their website at [tinyurl.com/ccpl-scott-shane](http://tinyurl.com/ccpl-scott-shane) to register.



**28** **Civil War Symposium—Regional Impacts of the Civil War**

Enjoy a day filled with engaging speakers, fascinating exhibitors and displays, thought-provoking breakout sessions, and speaker book sales! Visit our website at [hsccmd.org](http://hsccmd.org) to see more about this event and to register.

## OCTOBER



**3** **History: Shaken & Stirred—Untold Stories of Taneytown**

Join us at Covalent Spirits in Westminster to hear stories of Taneytown. We gather from 6 pm—8 pm, share food, stories, and drink to celebrate this charming little town in Carroll County. NO CHARGE to enjoy the stories or the food. Covalent Spirits always makes a signature cocktail.

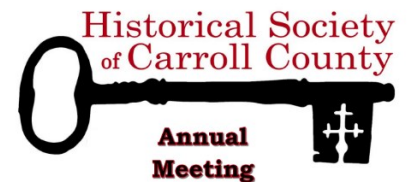
**15** **Box Lunch Talk - Taverns Along the Turnpike**

Historian and scholar, Sam Riley will share his research on local turnpikes with a focus on the eighteenth and nineteenth century taverns that played an important role in region's development. **12-1 pm, Grace Hall, Grace Lutheran Church, Carroll Street, Westminster.** \$3 for HSCC members; \$7 for non-members.



**19** **Halloween Celebration 2024**

The staff and volunteers at the Historical Society of Carroll County are coming together to bring everyone a celebration for Halloween. We are working on the details for this family friendly fun event and will have more information soon!



**29** Mark your calendar for this year's Annual Meeting of the membership on **October 29, doors will open at 11:30 a.m., lunch will be served at 12 p.m.** The meeting will take place at the **Best Western Conference Center, 451 WMC Drive, Westminster.**

Please see the article on page 1 for more information about the speaker and this important member event. Tickets will go on sale soon.





210 East Main Street  
Westminster, MD 21157

*RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED*



## **Business Members**

***Please support those who  
support the Historical Society.***

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Carroll County Chamber of Commerce  
Carroll Hospital Center  
Covalent Spirits  
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