

Cathy Baty

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Well, the first attempts to found what is now Carroll County go all the way back to 1813 when one group of citizens thought we should have our own county. They were going to put the county seat at Union Town and call it Union County and they even started the first newspaper in the county to be able to promote their idea of this but obviously it didn't take at that time, and over the next couple of decades the movement got stronger until by the 1830s there were really serious considerations of creating the new county out of the western part of Baltimore County and the eastern part of Frederick County.

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So Colonel John Longwell moved to Westminster in 1833 started a newspaper that he called the Carrolltonian. And it really was very strong in promotion of the idea of a new county but it wasn't a universally popular idea especially along what are now our borders. The communities like Manchester, and Libertytown and New Market really had stronger ties to Frederick and to Baltimore more than they did to Westminster.

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So, the state legislation passed a bill that allowed for the creation of a new county but only if the people who lived in the area that would be affected voted in favor of it. So there was a popular referendum on whether a new county should be created. The Manchester area really voted against it. It was actually defeated there and in Libertytown and New Market so those two towns got to remain part of Frederick County. Manchester unfortunately for them had to come along and be a part of Carroll County but when the bill passed and we became an official county on January 19, 1837 they really got onboard and joined in the big celebrations. There were parades, and bonfires and brass bands in the streets and everybody really got onboard in supporting the new county.

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Most of the celebrations were held here in Westminster. It was the new county seat; everybody wanted to support that. And like the Manchester band came and led one of the parades and all of the officials from all of the towns came and joined in the celebrations.

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Mt. Airy is now split across the county line which I know sometimes confuses people. Frederick County claims it, so does Carroll County. But the earliest part of the settlement is on the Carroll County side of the line. It actually sits at the top of Parris Ridge where the B& O Railroad had to make that climb up and needed an equipment station at the top of that incline. So we do claim the earliest part of Mt. Airy as part of Mt. Airy.

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A lot of people remember those celebrations fondly and Katherine Joan Shellman, who was raised here in Westminster, but in 1835 her family moved to Maine and yet she still got correspondence from all of her friends here. And in our collection at the historical society we have a wonderful letter from one of her friends that lists every day and all of

the events that were going on. There waiting for as she called him John, which is Colonel John Longwell, to come back from Annapolis with news about the event.

And she saying, “Oh, last night we all ran to the window cause there was a bonfire in the street” and then they heard a group marching by and then they went and saw what that was. And so for days end on there were big celebrations going on.

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By the time most of the European settlers were moving into this area it does seem that most of the Native Americans had pretty much moved out of this area. And one of their best legacies to us is all of their trails. And a lot of our modern road system and a lot of how people got into the county was along those well-established Native American trails. And then you can compare the maps that show their routes with our modern highways today and see that they really do correspond.

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Many of the early settlers in Carroll County came actually from other states. They weren't necessarily new immigrants to this country and many of them in the northern part of the county came from Pennsylvania. They were Pennsylvania Germans. William Penn had been actively encouraging them to come over and settle his new colony.

And after spending a while in Philadelphia or Lancaster they wanted to move west, get their own land, have new opportunities, and so they followed what had been Indian trails down into the areas around Manchester or over by Taneytown. Some of them even went as far west as Frederick before moving back into Carroll County from that direction.

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Monocacy Trail was one of them that they followed. Up in the northeastern corner was the Conawango Trail. And there other trails that actually led from the southern part up along the Patapsco River and all the way up to the Manchester area.

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A lot of the people who ended up settling in Carroll County were actually hoping to move further west or south, looking for new lands and new opportunities and when they got to what's now Carroll County and discovered our wonderful forests and our good water supplies, and the fertile valleys that were great for raising crops and the water that could power mills and so they decided that maybe they didn't have to go further that maybe this would be a good place to settle.

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The Pennsylvania Germans came down with a variety of trades. They tended to create little independent farms, settled around small town centers. So usually you would start with a store or a tavern and other businesses would grow up around it. Some of them who were farmers would make sure that their land had enough water that they could supply a

mill. And then you would get other farmers growing grains growing up around them so they could also bring their crop to the mill and have it processed.

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And any place that you got settlements like this you seem to get support structures. You got blacksmiths and coopers and cabinet makers and all the other things that would create a community. And even though they were primarily Pennsylvania Germans, we did get some Scotch Irish, we did get some English coming up from the Tidewater regions so were really become a melting pot here in Carroll County.

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In addition to the Pennsylvania Germans we got another movement of immigrants from the south and east coming up into Carroll County from the Tidewater. And they were really looking to be able to plant tobacco. Tobacco is a very hard on your soil crop and it will exhaust the soil quite quickly. So a lot of the plantations on the Eastern Shore were starting to have the soil exhaustion and they were moving out and looking for new lands. And so they came up the Chesapeake and up the Patapsco and followed right up into this region.

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And it's really quite interesting because the southern part of the county generally had bigger landholdings then what you'll find in the northern part of the county. They were more almost of a plantation agriculture as opposed to small family farms. And you really even see a difference in the architecture of the houses that are constructed in the two parts of the county.

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Carroll County did have slaves. We are south of the Mason-Dixon line. Maryland was a slave-holding state and there was slavery here in Carroll County. Even on the biggest plantations though they tended to be small number of slaves, not the large numbers that we think of in the deep south.

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And there were slaves throughout the county even in the smaller areas. And some of the Pennsylvanian Germans did as well, though they tended to have one or two slaves. They were primarily house servants or many of them developed skills such as being carpenters or stone masons. So it was a factor here but it wasn't as important in our economy as in some other areas of the state.

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There was a settlement of Quakers that moved into Carroll County and they settled in Union Bridge in the middle of the 18th century. And the Quaker meeting house is still there on the outskirts of Union Bridge and they were anti-slavery and they got along well with their neighbors despite the fact that some were slaveholders. But they always were sort of the center of the anti-slavery movements in Carroll County.

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Many of them arrived for the same reasons that they other groups did looking for new economic opportunities. I don't really think there was much religious persecution that they were fleeing but Pennsylvania was a heavily Quaker state. And so many of them also as their family farms were exhausted or families tended to be large and often the farm was left to the oldest son and so the younger sons were almost forced to move out and find new opportunities some place else. And many of them settled here in Carroll County.

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The Quakers built what they call the Pipe Creek meeting house just outside Union Bridge. A little stone meeting house, very simple, compared to what we think today as a church. There are much simpler meeting houses and it actually still stands on the outskirts of Union Bridge, as small as that structure is but it's very nice that it has actually survived as one of the oldest religious buildings in Carroll County.

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In the 18th century there really was no public school system in Maryland, so throughout the state people relied on the home schools or home schooling. And quite often the Quakers who were strong believers in Bible study and individual studying they would have schools right in the meeting houses or in family homes. And so a lot of the early education in the county came from them and from other religious groups who started home schools.

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There was slavery in Carroll County and while there were probably larger groups of slaves in the southern part of the county working on the larger farms, none of the slaveholders here in Carroll County had large numbers of slaves. They probably had a handful at best. But slavery did exist throughout the county including among the Pennsylvania Germans.

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For example, Jacob Sherman who had a house and a tavern in Westminster had several slaves. We know he had several who lived in the house and helped care for his grandchildren, and also were doing weaving. They had a little house in the backyard and were doing some commercial production of yard goods and we assume they also probably did some of the work over in the tavern. But he also had three male slaves that we believe were field hands working on farm property he had in other parts of the county.

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Later by the 19th century, some of the Shrivvers up in Union Mills were slaveholders. So even the families that you wouldn't necessarily think of did have some slave holding going on in their family.

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There were not large numbers of free African Americans in the county at that time although by the time of the Civil War you do have some who have moved into the county.

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People often wonder why Carroll County was named the way it is and they assume that perhaps Charles Carroll lived here or one of the Charles Carrolls lived here. But in fact it got its name because Charles Carroll of Carrollton who was from Maryland and everybody has fond remembrances of their American history and seen his big signature on the Declaration of Independence remember him. And he was actually the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence. He died in 1832 at 95 years of age. And it was shortly after that that the movement to found a county really got going and so they decided that it would be appropriate to name something in Maryland after our famous signer of the Declaration of Independence.

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The earliest farms in the northern part of Carroll County were really small family farms. They did primarily subsistence farming enough to support their family and maybe have enough left over to sell some of their crop to buy the things they couldn't barter for. And quite often these were grain crops.

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There were hundreds of mills all over Carroll County by the middle of the 19th century and these early mills were a great way to turn your crop into something that would keep. You could take it over to the mill; they would grind it and turn it into flour. Quite often they would take some of the flour as payment, you did not necessarily have to pay them in cash to get it ground. And then you had flour to last you through the winter and the mill would turn around and sell it to a bigger market, maybe Frederick or Baltimore, and so it was a nice economic system.

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One of the real cash crops in Carroll County was tobacco which was grown in some areas in the southern part of the county. And that was one of the few where people really moved out here with the intention of growing a cash crop. Its primary market was Baltimore and from there it got shipped off to other areas. And there have been stories of perhaps the slaves rolling the castles down the road to the river landings were being loaded onto ships and being shipped down to the ports for transshipment to Europe.

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Many of the towns in Carroll County got established along existing roads. For example, Westminster was laid out by a man named William Winchester in 1764 who laid out 45 town lots on what he described as the main road to Baltimore. Usually you would start with a tavern and they were spaced about a day's journey apart because people would need a space to stay and in those days you could do 10 or 15 miles before you needed to stop for the night. So you'll find towns growing up at those intervals.

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Now some of those towns in Carroll County also were established by individuals such as Winchester created Westminster, Bud Bill Raphael Taney laid out Taneytown and Isaac Attlee who laid out New Windsor. And so those are what we would almost consider planned communities. They laid out the town lots and sold them off in a very orderly fashion.

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Some of the others don't appear until later. If you look at the southern part of the county there aren't as many towns, primarily those two towns Sykesville and Mt. Airy actually grew up along the B&O Railroad. And that's because the railroad needed shops and support at specific intervals and so when they create those other industries grow up around that to support the workers for the railroad.

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One of the interesting things in the legislation that created the county was that the county was required to build three specific buildings. They had to build a courthouse, they had to build a jail and they also had to build an alms house. So it's kind of interesting to think about what the social services were that those were the three required.

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Now the courthouse was begun in 1838. A local businessman named Isaac Shriver donated the land and while that was a very generous thing to do it was also very good for him because he happened to own a tavern quite nearby. And so he assumed that when everybody came to town to do business and when the court was in session they would need a place to stay and a place to eat and his business would do quite well.

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James Shellman was a local attorney, and he had also been a colonel in the militia. and he had actually designed the courthouse as a very simple Greek revival structure. And so when the contract was let in 1838, they laid the cornerstone for what is the courthouse that we have today, although it has been expanded. Almost immediately after it was completed they decided to add the famous cupola which is its most distinguishing feature. And by the 1880s they had needed more room so they added wings to it, and it was expanded again in 1935 but we have one of the oldest courthouses in the state. And I believe it's probably the oldest in regular use.

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The second building they had to build was a jail. I guess if you have a courthouse you have to have a jail. And so the old stone jail was built at around the same time as the courthouse. It's looks very different today. It still stands in Westminster but it originally had a large stone wall, a solid wall that went all around the jail yard. And that was their way of enclosing the prisoners and also the gallows were within there. They did public executions in Maryland up until the 20th century so every county had its jail yard and its gallows.

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Now we didn't get around to building the alms house until a little bit later. In 1852 they constructed the building that is now the Carroll County Farm Museum. And it would house families and also individuals who were having hard times and couldn't support themselves. Some of them might be older and infirm and they didn't have any family to help care for them. And it was a working farm. If you were able to work you were expected to go out and work and it fed them as they were called the inmates. But if there was crops left over it helped to provide the financial support for the alms house.

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The early roads were not what we think of as roads. They were usually just dirt tracks that got widened by constant use by wagons and horses. And so it was pretty difficult traveling. Now in some places people got permission from the state to build what they would call a turnpike and sometimes they were just improved roads that had been graded, and maybe had some gravel on them.

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Sometimes they were corduroy roads which were logs which were laid next to each other to provide a solid surface, probably not very comfortable to drive on but better than the mud. And if you built a turnpike then you needed to maintain it so people quite often got permission to charge tolls on their roads. So you'll hear about the Reisterstown Turnpike or the Meadow Branch Turnpike and these were not very long roads but you'd find a toll house at each end. Usually they charged you so much for how many horses you were bringing on it or the size of your wagon. That was because of the damage that your vehicle would be doing to the road. So while it was nice just like today people have a choice of paying to take the toll road or taking the free road it was a good way to get improved roads.

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While most of the settlers in Carroll County were farmers of some sort there were also some who came for other natural resources. There were copper deposits, iron deposits, and other minerals, including limestone and marble in various parts of the county and people came to establish mines that would quarry these and there were even foundries that were established to do the processing of some of those materials.

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Carroll County really relied on its agriculture crops as its basis for its economy, and not only in creating the crops but then other industries grew up and took advantage of those agriculture products. Mills grew up that could convert the grain crops into flour that could be shipped off to Baltimore and from there out around the world. Canneries grew up around the county in places like Silver Run and Westminster and Mt. Airy and New Windsor. They could process those things that could then be shipped to urban markets throughout the county or the country and became world famous by the 20th century.

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B. F. Shriver products were being shipped to all over the world. And, in fact, we once met a World War I soldier who remembered being entrenched in France and being handed a can of Shriver corn as part of his daily ration. He sat there and said, "this is from my home." So we became well known for our agriculture products even some of these mills grew up not just to handle the local market but specifically to deal with the international market.

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Up at Union Mills the Shriver mill always intended to be a commercial operation to create large quantities of flour that could be shipped to Baltimore and then on to other areas.

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Some of these milling operations really became the center of a small community and the Union Mills area was a perfect example. The Shrivvers began with a mill and greatly expanded their operation over the years. And some of that was to support their business. They built a cooper shop to build the barrels that they would need to ship the flour. They had a tannery that they could produce the things they needed to operate the mills, and to work on the belts and other parts of that

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But they also became the center of the community for their workers. They also had a post office right in the homestead at Union Mills. There were churches that grew up in that area all to support that, and it really became its own little industrial complex, far enough from Westminster at that time, that it was a day's journey to Westminster and that it became its own independent community.

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We're quite lucky actually to have Union Mills in such good condition. Most of the mills throughout Carroll county had deteriorated over the years when they went out of business and their owners abandoned them and the property was allowed to deteriorate. Luckily the Shriver family has taken a strong interest in Union Mills and it remained in Shriver family hands for several generations. The last people to live in the homestead were well into the middle of the 20th century and took care of the mill. And they have now created a not for profit, the Union Mills Homestead Foundation, that supports the mill and makes sure it survives, and it's a wonderful example because there are many other places in Carroll county where you can see a grist mill operate, where you can really understand that early 19th century technology and how leading edge it really was.

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Our agricultural products really did become important and Carroll county was really very proud of it. And we have a wonderful photograph in our collection at the historical society showing the float that Carroll county put into the parade to celebrate the opening of the Severn River bridge. Every county in the state sent a float. Our representative has a big banner on it that says, "Carroll County #1 in the world in production of canned corn." And the float is fun because there are stacks of cans of corn on there. They also

bragged about our leading production of swine. And our third product at that point was congoleum so we've covered the gambit. By that time we did have some manufacturing and so we love that photograph and we use it quite often as examples of swine, cream corn, and congoleum.

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Carroll County did get one advantage in transportation when the national road came through. It doesn't cover much of Carroll County but it did literally put us on the map and increase our connection to some of the major cities and also opened up transportation to the west which meant that our people could move west easily and also we could ship products further west.

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The first railroads in Carroll County were down in the southern part of the county. When the B&O railroad expanded beyond Baltimore on its way west it reached Carroll County in the early 1830s. And it came through what is now Sykesville and along the southern part of the county all the way to what is now Mt. Airy where it actually had quite a challenge climbing the steep incline at Parris Ridge. It was quite a technological feat for them to develop all of the switchbacks that would allow them to climb that ridge.

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So they built shops at both Sykesville and Mt. Airy to service the trains. So the earliest railroads are actually down away from the county seat down in the southern part of the county.

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Having the B&O railroad come through the southern part of the county was really a great asset for that area because it was much easier to ship your products so you tended to have growth of mills. There were paper mills, agricultural mills. Some of the copper mills and iron factories down in that part of the county now found they could ship iron ore out much easier and it was really a boost to their business. And it also made it easier for them to get workers into this area. They could come by train. And it was easier to attract people to that area in the county.

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Many of the local residents supported the alms house. They donated items like clothing for some of the inmates; they helped take care of them when there were illnesses. One of them who did that was Mary Shellman who was active in a lot of different events here in Carroll County. And she used to go out to the alms house every Christmas and bring food and gifts for the inmates.

She also took an interest in some of the Civil War veterans who were living there who some of them had not quite recovered from the war; they were ill and could not work. They ended up living there and she helped take care of them, took a great interest in them. Actually she bought a lot in Westminster cemetery and when five of them died at

different times she made sure they were buried in Westminster cemetery with graves marked with honors. They would always be known as Civil War veterans.

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The Civil War years were difficult for Carroll County. As we've talked about it was a slave area and there was also anti-slavery feelings here in the county so you did have divided loyalties. Some people thought that we should have seceded; others were in favor of staying with the Union. And we did have soldiers from Carroll County join both the Union and the Confederate armies. So it was a difficult time. You had families that had sons on both sides such as the Shrivvers up in Union Mills, who had sons both in the Union and Confederate armies. So it was a very difficult time here. A lot of troops passed through here, three different campaigns 1862, 1863, and 1864. We saw troops from three armies in here in Carroll County and it was a very tense time.

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While Lincoln's call for volunteers brought in many recruits to the Union Army it wasn't quite as many as was needed and unfortunately they did begin a draft to try and get more people into the army. This was not necessarily a popular move and many people did object to this. There were ways to buy yourself out of the army; hire a substitute to take your place and it was seen as somewhat of favoritism to the upper class because it was usually the rich young sons of urban families who could afford to buy their way out. But there were people in Carroll County who bought their way out.

We do have in our collection some documents from a family where someone got a draft notice and then we have his certificate from being inducted, we have the receipt where he paid his exemption bounty, and then we got his discharge. So it did happen in Carroll County. It was not necessarily the wealthy who were able to buy their way out of their military service.

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Or you could hire a substitute to take your place. There were people who were hired as someone's substitute, and then they would desert and then they'd go and use a different name and get hired as someone else's substitute. They were making a pretty good living going into the army and getting back out.

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It does seem contradictory that up at Union Mills the Shrivvers who were Union supporters were the slaveholders and the ones who were the southern sympathizers were not slaveholders. But not everyone in the South had slaves and many of those who were not slaveholders weren't necessarily fighting the war for slavery, they were fighting for what they felt was their state's rights—that became a big phrase. But there were also loyal slaveholders who thought that slavery should be legal; it was legal in Maryland, and in fact was legal throughout much of the Union during that time period. And so while it seems like a contradiction, and they were not typical, they were not totally an unusual family.

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The sons did fight on opposite sides. The Shriver family was typical of one that was divided because David Shriver served in an infantry unit in the Union army while his cousin Mark served with a cavalry unit in the southern army.

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One of the interesting stories here in Westminster was of the Neal family. Abner Neal had been mayor of Westminster and his home was right on Main Street and he had two sons. And his two sons went off and joined the southern army. When Colonel Rosser's cavalry regiment was here in 1862 they went off with him to join the southern army. The following year they returned at the head of Jeb Stewart's column when he came to attack, actually on his way to Gettysburg.

And the family story is that his mother, it was a Sunday, and Mrs. Neal and her daughter were sitting in their parlor reading the Bible when they heard a commotion in the street. Mrs. Neal put a bookmark in the Bible and went out onto the balcony to see what the commotion was and coming up Main Street were her two sons leading Jeb Stewart's column and she and her daughter waved to them, and watched the whole column pass. That was the last time she ever saw her sons.

They both survived the battle of Gettysburg and wanted to come home from the end of the war but she warned them that maybe they should wait a little while because feelings were really very strong and she wasn't sure it was it would be safe for them. One of the sons moved west and never returned home and died just a few years later and so she never saw him again. Now her Bible that she was reading that day is still in the Neal family and they tell me that the bookmark has never been moved from the place where she put it that day.

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An interesting footnote to the story is that Mrs. Neal's niece had married a man who was going to become a Union general and he was wounded on the first day at Gettysburg and she ended up with General Gibbon, her niece's husband and also General Hancock staying in her home. He had also been wounded and so she had two wounded generals in her house while her sons were fighting for the southern army.

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Many of the wounded from Gettysburg were brought back down the Littlestown Pike to Westminster. They were cared for in temporary hospitals here and then eventually put on trains and taken back to Baltimore to more large permanent hospital facilities. One of the wounded who came back here was Colonel Paul Jay Revere, grandson of Paul Revere. He was cared for at the old Main Court Inn which stood at the corner of Main and Court Streets in Westminster and unfortunately he died on July 4 just hours shortly before his family came to visit him.

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A number of blacks from Carroll County enlisted in what were called the US Colored Troops. There were regiments from Baltimore as well. And these units were sent further south. Quite often they were given less than prime duties to take care of. They often were building roads, handling supplies, doing support duty.

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But some of the regiments eventually do see combat and there were honored soldiers from Maryland. And in fact I know there was one from Baltimore who won the Congressional Medal of Honor for his service. There was a soldier from New Windsor named Simon Burdock who served in the US Colored Troops and was wounded. He did survive and later pictures show him very proudly standing in his J.R. uniform and you can see the head wound that he received.

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Many slaveholders eventually filed with the government to get compensation for their lost property in the form of their slaves who had joined the Union army, but most of those claims really didn't go very far, and most did not receive compensation for their slaves.

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After the Civil War those slaves were freed. The 13th Amendment freed them and they came back as free men. Some people welcomed them, others didn't. And so I think there was probably not a universal reaction to people when they came home. But many of them were very proud of their service and did join the Grand Army of the Republican Posts. That was a Union veteran organization, and in fact the Stevens post here in Carroll County had many African American members who joined.

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One of the interesting stories about African Americans in Carroll County has to do with a man named Sebastian Boss Hammond. He was born a slave, and we're not sure who taught him, but he learned how to do stone carving and his owner which was very typical used his labor to make money. He would have Boss doing stone carving for other people and then the owner would keep the profits from that. But he apparently let Boss keep some of the money as well because Boss eventually saved up enough money to purchase his own freedom.

And he settled in the area near New Windsor and we know that he quarried his own stones and did all of his own stone carving. And you'll find his tombstones all over that area around New Windsor. There quite distinction in style. It's amazing because he never learned how to read but he was able to transcribe onto the tombstones whatever wording people wanted.

Now he was quite well known. He owned a lot of property and eventually he made enough money that he bought the freedom of his wife and all of their ten children. And there were this wonderful family and their descendants are still here in Carroll County today.

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There were a number of black churches in Carroll County and even though they were free they still were not accepted by many members across the country. It was just a different attitude—racial attitudes were very different and so they formed little clusters of settlements around the county, founding black cemeteries and black churches. Some of those churches still exist today but I think we've come a long way towards integrating everybody in the county.

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The post Civil war years saw a real growth in Carroll County. The soldiers came back, returned to their farms or businesses and had an economic boom as all of these soldiers came back began to plant new crops, start new families, schools grew, towns grew, new businesses appeared. There were a lot of foundries and manufacturing plants that sprang up around the county. New agricultural products such as wormseed which we became the largest manufacturing producer of wormseed which was used in treating animal illnesses and there were stills all over the county that processed that.

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We still were very big in canning but as it became more mechanized our products became able to be shipped all over the world. Some of our canneries became world famous and new products came in the 20th century. There were things like the Baltimore Roofing Company which existed in a town called Asbestos because they were using asbestos to make fireproof roofing tiles. So we had some interesting products that appeared in the 20th century.

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Things like the Lehigh Cement Plant which grows up in Union Bridge and became their major employer. It was an outgrowth of the smaller quarries there taking advantage of the marble. And so we do have major industrial growth in the 20th century

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Many of our census records give you a good indication of what's going on in the county, what people's professions are. And in the 1860 census Carroll County was ranked 6th in the state in industrial production. So were moving somewhat away from our agricultural economy even at the start of the Civil War.

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Some new industries also appeared in the mid 19th century. For example, there were paper mills down in the southern part of the country near Morgan Station. There was the large Woodbine Paper Mill and there was another big one up in the northeastern part of the country called the Hoffman Paper Mill. We also saw the growth of textile mills in places like Oakland where they had grown up from the early part of the century. And also some interesting industries like cigar making in Manchester, even though by that point there was very little tobacco produced in the county. There were a number of tobacco factories in Manchester and provided support to not only families but to women and children had employment in those factories.

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In 1865 the state of Maryland passed a public school law that now required the establishment of public schools. Up until that time education had been primarily in private schools and academies. It required the payment of tuition and so that did limit the number of people who would be getting a formal education. The public school law made it available to everyone and each county would create a school board and open schools. Primarily these were one-room schoolhouses around the county. Many of them looked quite similar; it was a brick structure with a cable roof and a bell tower so that they could call the students to class. Usually, one teacher, an unmarried woman; if you got married you no longer could be a teacher. And the students would range in age from five or six years old. Rarely did they go up to high-school age, but maybe they would stay until they were about 12 or 13 years old. So it was really a big advantage because now you had a much more educated population than you had before.

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In the very early years black children if they were educated it might be a school run by a church. With the establishment of public schools they did open schools for black students but they were segregated schools and many of them had to travel many miles to get to their school.

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There were a number of institutions of higher learning in Carroll County. Today everyone is familiar with McDaniel College, but long before it was founded as Western Maryland College, there was the Irving Institute over near Manchester, there was Calvert College which became Blue Ridge College in New Windsor, and there was a college in Union Bridge. So there were many institutions of higher learning that were available to Carroll County residents.

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School segregation existed in Carroll County until well until the 20th century. One of the earliest higher education schools for blacks was Robert Moton High School which was located in Westminster and they actually had to bus students from all over the county to the school. What started out as a very small one-room facility before being expanded to a larger brick multi-room facility and today there is a school carrying that name although it is an elementary school.

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One of the leading citizens in Westminster during the late 19th and early 20th centuries was Mary Bottswich Shellman. Her father was once mayor of Westminster and he was the one who designed the Carroll County courthouse, and she grew up on Main Street in Westminster. She never married but she was quite active in all areas of the community's life. She was only 18 years old in 1868 when she answered the call from the Grand Army of the Republic to start a national Memorial Day observance. She gathered local school children and marched them down Main Street out to Westminster Cemetery where they decorated the graves, not only of the Union soldiers but also of the Confederate veterans.

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That continues today. Anyone who's attended the Westminster parade will see all of the students from St. John's School all carrying flowers and wreaths that they take out to the cemetery and use to decorate veterans graves. She was also quite interested in other aspects of community involvement.

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She started the first boy scout troop in Westminster. Now at that time women weren't allowed to be involved with the boy scouts. It was felt they were not suitable to be involved. And to get around this instead of signing her name she used her initials M.B.Shellman, and she started a troop. She only had a small handful of boys when she started but she did follow all the rules, submitted all the paperwork and it wasn't until a couple of years later that somebody actually told one of the scouting officials that M.B.Shellman was actually Mary Bottswich. Shellman. At that point they told her she could not be associated with her troop anymore, that she really wasn't qualified, and she was believed to have made some rather telling comments about how qualified were they if it took them that long to figure out that she was a woman. So unfortunately she did lose her troop, she never lost her interest in children and in education.

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She actually started a literary newspaper in Carroll County. She called it the Ampheon's Journal and she would publish poetry and stories. Unfortunately it didn't really seem to find much of an audience and it didn't last very long but it was an interesting attempt-- a literary journal for that time period.

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She was also the first telephone operator here in Carroll County. The first telephone company in the city of Westminster was on the second floor of her home at 206 E. Main Street and her switchboard was there. And she even got a visit from Alexander Graham Bell who showed up early for his meeting and found her still at work wearing—she had cuffs that she wore to protect her dress to keep it clean and she said that was the badge of the telephone operator—the cuffs that they wore. He felt she deserved something better and he actually sent her a miniature gold telephone pendant and said that was a better

mark of a telephone operator. And that pin still exists—it's in the collection at the historical society. So she was quite an interesting lady.

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Carroll County is very proud to be the first county in the country that had county-wide delivery of mail right to your door. The idea of rural free delivery of mail was quite a novel idea and people weren't really sure that they liked this. Most of the times you picked up your mail at perhaps a general store, or for example the Union Mills homestead had a post office there and everybody in Union Mills had to pick up their mail. These business owners were quite concerned that if you didn't have to come everyday and pick up your mail you wouldn't come in quite as often and buy from their store so there was some opposition to this system. But in the 1890s the postal system did some test routes around the country, including Carroll County and decided that this really was a good thing to do. So in 1899 they came up with a number of routes and assigned the post masters to go out and make their circuit every day, delivering mail to people and picking up the mail.

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To help them on their routes they designed what they called the post office on wheels. And one of the designs for this was done by Westminster's post office by Edwin Shriver. It was a specially designed wagon that had all the various cubby holes and compartments you needed to sort the mail as you went along your route. And it could be pulled by one horse and the post masters would set out every day and cover a route of 10 to 20 miles a circuit through their system and hand out the mail to every body. Now eventually every body realized this was a good idea and I think today people would be shocked by the idea that they'd have to go to the post office if they wanted their mail delivery.

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A lot of postal customers were also a little bit worried that they would miss their daily visit with their neighbors. Quite often people would gather at the post office, trade news, gossip, get to see their neighbors every day. And it was a way to get out and socialize so they were afraid that they would lose some of that with people coming to deliver their mail every day. And there were also questions about privacy. When you brought it to the post master you knew it was going right into the mail bag and be secure and there were questions about how trustworthy was the guy who was driving in the wagon all day with your mail and nobody keeping an eye on him. So it really was quite a novel idea when they came up with the decision to take the mail right from your home.

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Westminster's post master, Edwin Shriver was quite involved in promoting the initial system and devising some of the routes for Carroll County. He kept accurate records as to what some of the routes were and traced their development and he also designed one of the wagons, drew up the blueprints for what he called his post office on wheels.

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There were a lot of changes that took place in Carroll County during World War I. Many of the local soldiers, the Maryland local National Guard unit, Company H was called up for national service. They started out actually serving on the Mexican border and helping to track down the Mexican bandit, as they called him Poncho Viva. Before they were actually called back and shipped overseas to France to finish their service.

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Many local women took their jobs in the factories and also did war work with the Red Cross rolling bandages, putting together care packages, sending things like that over to the soldiers. Knitting was really big, you could get patterns on how to knit regulation sweaters and socks to send overseas to the soldiers. And many industries started producing things for the war effort. Shriver Cannery produced a lot of canned goods that were shipped overseas to the soldiers. And one World War I veteran remembered being in a trench in France and being handed a can of Shriver corn as part of his daily ration.

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The 20th century saw the transition from horses and wagons to the horseless carriage--cars and trucks. And it made a major impact on Carroll County just like it did on all communities. Delivery stables disappeared from the towns downtown and were replaced by garages and gas stations. Most of the roads up until the 20th century were still dirt and were very difficult for cars to travel. So with the coming of the automobile they had to pave many of the roads. Now Carroll County still has some unpaved roads but the vast majority are good solid paved roads. Cars had a problem with winter and ice and mud and snow, heavy rainy seasons could bog them down so you see a large infrastructure investment.

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The development of the automobile also allowed companies to ship their products much easier. Many of the local factories had railroad sidings from the main lines right into their factories for loading and unloading of goods. But that was a fairly expensive expenditure. With trucks there wasn't much infrastructure needed other than a loading dock to be able to ship things in and out, but it did require good roads to Baltimore. Many of the roads in and out were improved and this also allowed new people to move into the county because it was now not a full day's journey to get to Baltimore and back. And people could start to go there for entertainment, shopping, go to the movies, but they could also work in Baltimore and live in Carroll County.

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And you started to develop bedroom communities for Baltimore and Washington out here. In the 1950s traffic had improved to the point where we needed a by-pass and so they completed Route 140 from Carroll County to Baltimore. And Governor McKeldin came out, there were big ceremonies, ribbon cuttings, and the big celebration that we now had a good connection to the city of Baltimore.

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Railroads in the 20th century in general saw a decline. As trucks and cars replaced railroads, commercial shipping and for passenger traffic, railroads saw their business decrease dramatically. Passenger service to most of the communities in Carroll County ended during the middle of the century and freight was drastically reduced. Today there are still some freight trucks that pass through Carroll County but I don't believe that they stop at any of the Carroll County communities anymore. It really attracts people's attention when they do hear a train; it's gone from being commonplace to being a rarity.

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Prohibition was an interesting period in American history and there were political campaigns for many years. Are you wet or are you dry? Carroll County was divided. Many of the churches were strong proponents of prohibition. There was a temperance union and Mary Bottsford Shellman was quite active in the temperance movement. There were big rallies, they would have signs that would say "It's evil", "We're in favor of this." Or sometimes we would see ones that said, "We mean to conquer." And in fact there was a temperance society in Taneytown and an offshoot of that was because they said the original people in the temperance society weren't really temperate enough for them and they were going to start their own temperance society.

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Women's suffrage was a big issue in the early 20th century. Here in Carroll County a group of local women formed what they called, "The Just Government League" as early as 1813. Their president was Mary Shellman. This was another one of her causes and she led her group. They met every month. There would be reports of their meetings in the newspaper, their minutes would be published and they were really trying to push to get the right for women to vote. They actually had some of the local men who were on their side, or at least saying they were on their side, and we're helping to push this suffrage movement through.

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Carroll County has always been quite proud of its history and in 1937 the county threw itself just one fabulous birthday celebration to celebrate its centennial. There were parades with floats from businesses all over the county. There was a huge industrial exposition There was a huge industrial exposition at the National Guard Armory in Westminster and local businesses each got to create a booth that showcased their product. One of the fun ones was the one from the conglomerate factory where they put conglomerate flooring down, and covered the whole booth with their products. Everybody would make a mistake as to what they made.

There was a huge pageant called a Caravan of History written by Dorothy Eldergeise that covered all of the major aspects of Carroll County history. It was presented at Hoff Field at Western Maryland College and had literally a cast of thousands who were all costumed to play the roles of the leading citizens of Carroll County history. I'm not sure who was left to watch it; there were so many people in the cast. But they just celebrated for weeks and had a wonderful time. There were band competitions and all kinds of events that went on.

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The Great Depression was difficult on everyone. A lot of families, husbands were losing their jobs, new students coming out of schools couldn't find jobs, but Carroll County wasn't as hard hit as many other areas. Many of the farms were able to subside, subsist on what they grew. They might not have had as much ready cash as they would have liked, but at least they weren't starving. Many of the local factories reduced their hours, cut back on employment a little bit. We didn't have the general huge unemployment that a lot of areas seemed to have.

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A number of young men in the county joined the Civilian Conservation Corps that provided income for them, job training for them and income for their families and created a lot of good public works. Many of the men in the Civilian Conservation Corps worked on projects such as the Blue Ridge parkway, and others worked on what we call the WPA projects, Work Progress Administration which built things like the old post office on Main Street in Westminster.

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A lot of these federal programs, and this was a very radical idea, was the government coming up with different job programs to get people off unemployment and to provide them with not just money, but with jobs that would provide them with training and also be of benefit to society. And the relief roles of Carroll County, as in many areas, were reduced thanks to these federal programs.

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World War II was a major event in the communities of our country and Carroll County was no different. Hundreds of men went to serve their country and women had to take their places, not only in offices, but factories, running the homes, taking care of business. High school graduates knew they would be coming out of high school and going off to serve their country. Many of the high school yearbooks have poems talking about that or talking about what it was like to be home with gas rationing, food rationing, blackouts, civil defense drills. It was quite an exciting time in our country's history. Really everyone in society was affected.

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One of the aspects of Carroll County's WWII history that many people are not familiar with was the heifer project where cattle and other farm animals were shipped over to Europe and given to families who had really lost everything in the war and this was a chance to get them started. And so the sea-faring cowboys of Carroll County became known internationally.

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In the years after WWII, Carroll County's population really exploded. Veterans came home, built new houses, started large families and people moved into the county with better transportation systems. And more and more workers came to the county and

worked in places like Baltimore or Washington. But new industries also came in. Agriculture is not as important to the economy as it might have been. In the 19th century many of the mills closed down as milling became more centralized and more commercial. But newer industries moved in such as Random House book distribution and the Lehigh Cement plant has expanded tremendously and is now one of the world's largest producers of cement. And other industries appeared in Taneytown, places like Shelter Systems which provides housing stock and housing equipment.

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The county's economy has also shifted in general to a more service-based economy. Our colleges have grown. McDaniel and Carroll Community College have become major employers. The Springfield Hospital was a major employer. But you won't find as many people being listed as farm hands or being in the manufacturing industries anymore.

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Today many of the agricultural lands are disappearing. Housing developments are growing up, shopping centers are coming in, and many of the agricultural buildings, the old mills, the barns, all of those types of structures, are starting to disappear from our landscape. I hope that many of them will survive; many of them are in danger now.

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Today new industries are providing employment for Carroll County's residents. Many work in what we would call service industries. They work at stores, offices, they work in places like as WalMart and the support businesses for the housing developments that are growing up here. Carroll Hospital Center is a major employer now and many people work in law offices and in banks and help the people who have moved into the county.

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Today we're also seeing what we'd call industrial parks with smaller businesses in them. Large manufacturing plants are not being built as quickly as smaller industries, light industries.

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Today farming is still part of our economy. It's not the major part that it once was but our farmer's markets are thriving and we're known for them and people come from all to them. We have some interesting crops. There are people who are raising buffalo for the beef market and we're still a major producer of what we call truck farming vegetables. So luckily our agricultural heritage has not completely disappeared and it is still holding strong in some areas. And hopefully it will be able to survive well into the 21st century.

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We still have a very strong 4H program. Young people are learning to farm and to care for animals. Our county 4H Fair is a major event in the county every summer with events like the world-famous cake auction that brings in thousands of dollars to support education programs. So I think the seeds are being planted for the future that we do have some young farmers coming along in Carroll County.

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Carroll County also celebrated its 150th anniversary in 1987. It wasn't quite the huge event that we had in the 1930s but I think people are very proud that their first 150 years in Carroll County had been so successful. And there were many celebrations and they even produced a book with the title *The First 150 Years* so that everybody would be able to share in reading Carroll County's heritage.

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Carroll County is a great place to live. It has wonderful small communities that each have their own identity. The people in Taneytown are very proud of Taneytown's history, as are the people in Sykesville proud of Sykesville's history. And we have good schools, we have a wonderful educational system, lots of good history here, lots of wonderful historical buildings here and I think people should be very lucky if they've moved into Carroll County.

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I think Carroll County is very proud of its heritage and is working very hard to preserve it. And so I think that newcomers to the county are learning about that history and becoming a part of the communities, and I think that down the road Carroll County is going to continue that dedication to its history and future generations will have lots to learn about what went on in Carroll County.