

# WORCESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## MISSION STATEMENT

The Worcester County Historical Society is a 501-C3 non-profit organization dedicated to discovering, preserving, and disseminating the rich natural and cultural history of Worcester County and the State of Maryland.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Museums .....	2
Local Interest .....	3
From the President .....	5
Membership Application .....	6

### Please send dues to:

Worcester County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 111  
Snow Hill, MD 21863

### Submit articles or information to:

Worcester County Historical Society  
Allison Blakeman, Editor  
historicalworchester@gmail.com



## WCHS BOARD MEMBERS

<b>President</b> .....	Jefferson M. Moak
<b>Vice President</b> .....	Cara Downey
<b>Secretary</b> .....	Erin Scott
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Roxie Dennis	Danny Mumford
Barry Laws	Karen Neville
Bunk Mann	Newt Weaver
Allison Blakeman	Kim Jones

## SPRING 2025 GENERAL MEETING

Friday, May 16, 2025  
Pocomoke Fire House  
5 PM Social Time; 6 PM Dinner  
Chicken and dumplings and all the fixings  
Program to be announced

## The Riggin Family of Delmarva

Tege O'Regen of Northampton County,  
Virginia and Teague Riggin  
of Somerset County, Maryland

VOLUME I

GEORGE F. RIGGIN

***Reminder: please share your email with us if we do not have it on file!***

New local history book by George F. Riggин!  
Check out page 3 for more information.

## **HISTORIC HOUSE REINTERPRETATION**

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In the spring of 2024, the Taylor House Museum debuted a reinterpretation of an existing space in the downstairs. We have two historic house plans that were done to provide a framework for how the interior spaces of the historic home should be set up to reflect life in the 1830s. On the first floor of the house, for 20 years we had a small room set up as an office of the 1830s. Both historic house plans tell us that due to the placement and style of the doors into the small room, it was probably used as a family sitting room, or as a temporary butler pantry to stage prepared food during a multi-course formal dinner.

Working with food historian Joyce White, we reconfigured the small room to provide a “snapshot in time” vignette of preparations for a multi-course formal dinner. This reconfiguration built upon an existing exhibit we have in the dining room that included faux food dishes arranged on the dining room table to replicate a dessert course of an 1830s formal dinner. This exhibit has generated lots of interest from our visitors. They are very curious about how people lived in the 1830s and they have many questions about the food and how it would have been prepared.

We see this new exhibit as a permanent reinterpretation of the small room. Because the exhibit will be permanent, this will provide a lasting impact on how we present life in the 1830s as well as opportunities to explore other community partnerships based on historical local food. It also represents an opportunity to partner with the Edward H. Nabb Research Center at Salisbury University to utilize their archives to find historical regional recipes that could be integrated into the food displayed in the exhibit. As well as find ways to incorporate the lived experience of the enslaved humans who would have cooked the food eaten at these formal dinners. --**Melissa Reid, Calvin B. Taylor House Museum**




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## **MUSEUMS OF WORCESTER COUNTY**

- Calvin B. Taylor House Museum
- Costen House Museum
- Delmarva Discovery Center
- Furnace Town Historic Site
- Girdletree Barnes Bank
- Julia A. Purnell Museum
- Museum of Ocean City
- Ocean City Lifesaving Station Museum
- Queponco Railway Station
- Rackliffe House
- St. Martin’s Church Museum
- Sturgis One Room School Museum

### **OTHER HISTORIC SITES**

- Germantown School Community Heritage Center
- Marva Theatre Performing Arts Center

**PLEASE VISIT THE MUSEUMS AND HISTORIC SITES IN OUR COUNTY!**

## MY CONNECTION TO THE MARYLAND COLONY

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BY KAREN SWANN SMITH

My 7th great-grandfather was Rowland Bevan, born in 1643 in Boston and died in 1709 in Somerset Co. (now Worcester Co.) He owned a 400-acre plantation called Warwick in Somerset County. I had a map overlay done (I can't remember now who did the overlay) but it found the plantation, Warwick, is located inside the Pocomoke River State Park.

I visited the park and asked whether any burial sites have been found in the park and the ranger told me that two had been found and one of the sites had several flat stone markers but only one stone had a name that was legible and the name on the stone was Bevan. Even though the park was closed when I visited, the ranger took me to see the burial site. It is roped off, but I was able to take pictures with my phone. I asked the ranger if there were any digs going on when these sites are found but he said none were being done in the park.

I am wondering if there is information about the first lands that were sold and the locations and if there have been any digs to find treasures from the past? And are there any records being kept of burial sites? I found the history of the Bevan family at the Naab Center at Salisbury University. They gave me a copy of the will of Rowland Bevan from 1709 when Maryland was a colony.

I descend from John Bevan, son of Rowland. Four generations later, Rowland Bevan, who descends from John Bevan, sold land in Sussex Co. so a new courthouse could be built in Georgetown. This Rowland Bevan of Georgetown had a son, John, who moved his family across Pennsylvania to the eastern side of

Ohio. From this John, children followed the Ohio River southwest and settled on the Ohio River across from the city that is now Huntington, West Virginia... And that is where I was born.

When I stood at the burial site of Rowland Bevan of Somerset/Worcester County, I realized I have come full circle back to where the Bevan family had its start in Maryland. I don't know if the members of WCHS share their connection to the county but I would like to know how other members are connected. I wonder if our ancestors knew each other or were friends and neighbors?

## EASTERN SHORE READS

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Announcing the new book *The Riggin Family of Delmarva Volume 1: Tege O'Regen of Northampton County, Virginia and Teague Riggin of Somerset County, Maryland*, the most comprehensive, factually based and referenced compilation of Riggin (and Rikken, Riggan, Riggins, Riggens) names found in the original records of the Eastern Shore and elsewhere that has been published to date. Through meticulously researched, documented and referenced original records, together with family provided first source records, the names and lineages found in the book are presented in a generation by generation format, making it easy to follow the growth and spread of individual family lines across America through the years. Based on 35 years of research, this 900 page book documents almost 2,300 descendants of Teague Riggin over 13 generations, footnoted with over 7,000 citations. Available from on-line book retailers, all royalties from the sale of this book have been donated to the Edward H. Nabb Research Center at Salisbury University.

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT JEFFERSON M. MOAK

Welcome 2025! The Worcester County Historical Society had an eventful 2024 and looks forward to the new year. The Society elected new leadership in May at its Spring dinner and new board members are now in place, filling vacancies of long standing. We welcome Kim Jones of the Sturgis Schoolhouse Museum in Pocomoke and Allison Blakeman, a librarian at the Ocean City Library, to the Board. We also accepted, with regrets, the resignation of Mabel Rogers. Thank you for your long service to the Society, Mabel. Mabel's resignation leaves a new opening on the Board. Please contact me if you are interested in serving the Society. We are also looking for someone who would be interested in serving as Treasurer. The work is not onerous. Mabel has turned over management of the website and monitoring of the email to Erin Scott and Cara Downey.

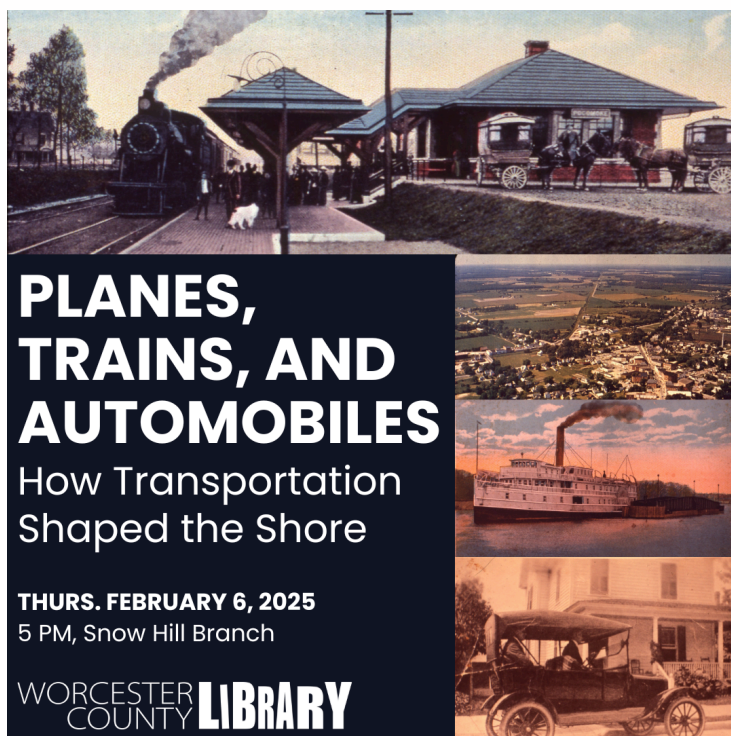
Plans are in the works for various events in 2025. The Spring Dinner will be held at the Pocomoke Fire Station and Community Center on 16 May 2025. The chicken and dumplings will be on the menu again.

As part of Women's History Month, board member Allison Blakeman will be giving a presentation on women on the Eastern Shore at the Snow Hill Library on 3 March at 5:30 PM. Details will be placed on our webpage. Be sure to mark your calendars to attend. In August, the Historical Society will again have a booth at the Blessing of the Combines to celebrate Worcester County's agricultural heritage.

The Board will adopt new By-Laws of the Society, which have not been revised since 2009. This includes a review of the current dues structure for 2026 and beyond.

Please support the Worcester County Historical Society in 2025 and send us ideas for articles and information. The author of the article appearing in this newsletter entitled "My Connection to the Maryland Colony" stated that this connection is part of the reason she joined the Society. We are hoping for additional articles from our members.

Jefferson M. Moak  
President, Worcester County Historical Society



**PLANES,  
TRAINS, AND  
AUTOMOBILES**  
How Transportation  
Shaped the Shore

**THURS. FEBRUARY 6, 2025**  
5 PM, Snow Hill Branch

**WORCESTER  
COUNTY LIBRARY**



# Worcester County Historical Society 2025 Membership

Dues period January 1-December 31, 2025

Thank you for choosing to be a member of the Worcester County Historical Society.

*Your membership will help support our efforts in Worcester County. You might also wish to volunteer at one of our county's 12 museums of WCHS at a time that is suitable for you.*

**Renewal** \_\_\_\_\_

**New Member** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>ANNUAL DUES</b>	<b>AMOUNT ENCLOSED</b>
<i>Individual</i>	<i>\$10.00/year</i>	_____
<i>Family</i>	<i>\$15.00/year</i>	_____
<i>Business/Patron</i>	<i>\$25/year of \$100/5 years</i>	_____
<b>LIFETIME</b>	<b>\$150 (ONE TIME)</b>	_____
<i>Donation (501C-3 deductible)</i>		_____

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone (circle type)** \_\_\_\_\_ *Home | Cell | Work*

**Email address please** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check here if you wish to only receive an electronic newsletter (will not be mailed)** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to the Worcester County Historical Society (WCHS) and mail to:

**Treasurer, WCHS**

**Worcester County Historical Society**

**PO Box 111**

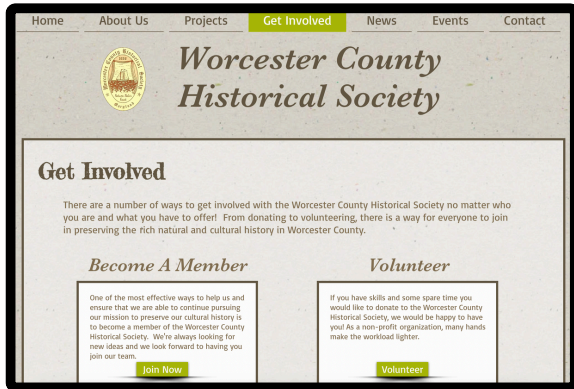
**Snow Hill, MD 21863**

*Feel free to include any comments or suggestions regarding the WCHS. Thank you.*

# JOIN WORCESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Do you love history? Do you have friends and family members who love history? Why not invite them to attend a Worcester County Historical Society meeting? Gifting membership into the organization is another great way to introduce family and friends to the rich local history of Worcester County. Spending time with other history buffs is an added bonus! Please share this newsletter and the membership application with a friend. Also, take the time to visit our website and our Facebook page! Thank you for helping WCHS grow and continue to maintain and preserve local history.

## OUR WEBSITE



[www.historicalworcester.org](http://www.historicalworcester.org)

## OUR FACEBOOK



Worcester County Historical Society

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