



Master Docent Series Workshops 2026

February 28, 2026

8:30am-4:30pm

Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

located at 15 W Church St. Frederick MD

Recommend Parking at Court Street or Church Street Parking Decks

Themes

American Revolution * Historic Foundations & Public Practice

Charles Carroll of Carrollton * Mother Seton's Canonization

Washington's Dream: The Potomac Company

Registration includes lunch and "lite" breakfast

\$40 for Frederick County residents/docents

\$45 non-Frederick County residents/docents

Register at Visit Frederick link below

<https://www.visitfrederick.org/master-docent-series/>

Email mmannix@frederickcountymd.gov for more information





8:30am Registration, Continental Breakfast, Networking

9:00am *“American Revolution and the Fate of the World”*

Keynote speaker Dr. Richard Bell will discuss his most recent book exploring the full breadth and depth of America’s founding event. The American Revolution was not only the colonies’ triumphant liberation from the rule of an overbearing England; it was also a cataclysm that pulled in participants from around the globe and threw the entire world order into chaos. Bell widens the lens of the “War of Independence” manifesting itself as a sprawling struggle that upended the lives of millions of people on every continent and fundamentally transformed the way the world works, disrupting trade, restructuring penal systems, stirring famine, and creating the first global refugee crisis.

Dr. Richard Bell is a professor of history at the University of Maryland, a Research Fellow at the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Abolition and Resistance at Yale University and a Resident Fellow of the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress. He is the recipient of more than a dozen teaching awards and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Center for History and Culture, and is a founding member of the 1856 Project. He has authored multiple articles and books including Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped into Slavery and their Astonishing Odyssey Home, and We Shall Be No More: Suicide and Self-Government in the Newly United States.

10:00 am “Charles Carrol of Carrollton: What Was the Relationship of the Man to the Manor?”

The only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence Charles Carroll never actually resided at Carrollton Manor. So why did he use this moniker? What was his actual relationship to the plantation that bore the family name? Horstman will discuss the Carroll family and their relationship to their various lands including Carrollton Manor and how it served the Carroll family as a financial investment and business venture rather than family home.

Kirk Horstman is a local history enthusiast, genealogist and retired engineer. Former owner of a B&B in Buckeystown, he volunteers as a tour guide and docent at Heritage Frederick. Horstman spends most of his time visiting libraries and poking around old cemeteries.

11:00am *“Living in History: My Summer as an Intern at Mount Vernon”*

This presentation will cover Lucy’s experience last summer as a Historic Trades intern at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, highlighting the skills she acquired, the people she met, the history she learned, and the final project she presented. Lucy’s presentation will also touch on advice she got as an intern over the summer, and advice she has for others who have an intern working with them. Lucy’s experience at Mount Vernon provided her with a large amount of professional and personal experience that she has used in her everyday life, and she will always be thankful for her time there.

Lucy Adkins is a senior at St. Mary’s College of Maryland, majoring in English and minoring in History and Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies. She was born and raised in Frederick, Maryland, and absolutely loves Frederick County. Last summer she was a Historic Trades intern at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, interpreting history to the public. Lucy has worked at her campus library as a manger for four years and has worked as a Teacher’s Aide for three years. She has also interned at the Greenwell Foundation and the St. Mary’s County Chamber of Commerce during her college career.



12:00pm LUNCH & pop-up presentations

During lunch we encourage you to step up to the podium and share with everyone any current research projects you are working on, new donations we should all be aware of, exhibitions you are excited about or other local history news.





12:30pm “Historic Foundations, Livable Futures: Updating the Frederick County Preservation Plan”

A Historic Preservation Plan is a practical document that guides preservation efforts. It explains what our County’s preservation goals are and how we intend to achieve them. Planning for historic preservation in a large county with hundreds of historic resources and competing preservation interests requires a broad and evolving strategy. Frederick County Staff will present on the process of creating this Plan and the draft goals and initiatives.

Amanda Whitmore has been a historic preservation planner with Frederick County since 2019. Previously she worked as a Main Street manager for Hagerstown, Maryland and with the National Park Service as a volunteer coordinator at Gettysburg National Military Park. Amanda also served as an AmeriCorps VISTA with the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia. She holds a Master’s in Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University and a Bachelor’s in Environmental Studies, with a concentration in historic preservation from Shepherd University.

Originally from North Carolina, Beau Lockard earned his bachelor’s degree in Archaeology and master’s degree in Historic Preservation from Appalachian State University. He worked for the Town of Boone, Old Salem, and the City of Winston-Salem in various roles ranging from archeologist to historic researcher before moving to Maryland and joining Frederick County’s Office of Historic Preservation in their Long-Range Planning Department in 2022.

1:30pm “George Washington’s Dream: The Potomac Company”

Between 1758 and 1828, before the C&O Canal and B&O Railroad, over 200,000 tons of freight, mostly grain was shipped down the Potomac River to ports. This accomplishment was due to the efforts of the Potomac Company which sought to “get the rocks out of the way” and allow for in-river navigation. This lecture will help you see the Potomac River through the eyes of our first President and understand the technologies used to “open up” the Potomac as Kreingold explores the success and failures of the project.

Paul Kreingold is president of the Banshee Reeks Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists and Conservation Director for the Loudon County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League. Paul is the author of Potomac Marble: the History of the Search for the Ideal Stone and regularly leads “expeditions” to the rediscovered Latrobe Potomac Marble Quarry.

2:30pm *“The 1970s and Mother Seton’s Canonization”*

Alongside the preservation, commemoration, celebration, and public history-ation of the Bicentennial was the culmination of a decades-long campaign by American Catholics to see one of their own recognized amongst the Communion of the Saints. The year 1975, well into the Bicentennial era and at the doorstep of the Bicentennial year, saw the public strife and national frustration of the post-Watergate 1970s, yet also saw the redoubling of efforts to commemorate the American 200th, save local history and memory, and envision each individual in the founding narrative. And for American Catholics, 1975 provided the opportunity to celebrate a member of their own nation, Elizabeth Ann Seton, as she became the first native-born saint from North America. The long-term efforts of laypeople alongside the clergy to make this happen speaks to the drive of the organizers and provides lessons for us now that we are in the Semiquincetennial year.

Scott Keefer has been the Archivist for the Daughters of Charity in Emmitsburg since 2018. He has held prior positions in Fairfax, VA and throughout the greater New York City area including at the American Museum of Natural History. He has also been involved with AARCH Society since 2021.



3:30pm *“Taste of the Mountain: Community Recipes from the Catoctin Region”*

“Taste of the Mountain: Community Recipes from the Catoctin Region” is a community cookbook project that compiles historic and family recipes from Northern Frederick County. Drawing from personal collections, handwritten recipe cards, church and community cookbooks, this compilation will preserve the food traditions that have been passed down through generations of local families. In addition to presenting recipes alongside brief historical context, we will explore the historical popularity of community cookbooks and why they became such an important form of record-keeping and fundraising, especially for churches, civic groups, and women’s organizations. By examining who created these cookbooks and how they were used, this project highlights their role in strengthening social networks, sharing practical knowledge, and preserving local identity.

Christopher Kelly is currently a student at Frederick Community College and is working toward a career in historic preservation and landscape architecture. He has a strong interest in local history, with particular enthusiasm for historic cemeteries and the stories they hold. Chris enjoys engaging with the community through historical research and leading oral history projects that help preserve personal and place-based histories for futures generations.

Makala Harrison grew up in Frederick County and is currently pursuing a Master’s degree at the University of Maryland, College Park. She has a strong interest in local history, particularly in how communities understand and preserve their shared past. Much of her work focuses on public education, interpretation and connecting people to the landscapes and stories that shape Frederick County.

