

History 101 for 2024 Sept. 30th – Oct. 3rd

History 101 is an annual week-long event offering free programs and activities relating to the history of the town of Mount Airy and our region. It is sponsored by the Historical Society of Mount Airy, supported by the Pine Grove Chapel, and the Mount Airy Branch of the Carroll County Public Library. All programs are suitable for all ages. Each program is expected to last about one hour. Please note that the locations and starting times may differ each night. Mark your calendars and plan on attending these presentations.

Monday, September 30th - 7 PM Pine Grove Chapel (803 South Main Street) Our speaker is Chris Haugh, the full time historian and preservation manager for Frederick's Mount Olivet Cemetery. Through his History Shark Productions, he chronicles the lives of national figures such as John Vincent Atanasoff, born Oct 4, 1903, died June 15, 1995, who with his graduate student, invented the first automatic electronic digital computer. Mr Atanasoff is buried in our own Pine Grove Cemetery. Atanasoff relatives can be found at Mount Olivet in Frederick. Mr. Haugh promises an entertaining presentation relating stories of famous and infamous local citizens.

Tuesday, October 1st - 7 PM Large room (lower level) at the Mount Airy Fire House (702 North Main Street) Our speaker is John Laycock, who has a love of genealogy and local history. He is a member of the Westminster Sons of the American Revolution and the Historical Society of Carroll County. He lives in Sykesville with his wife and family. His topic is 'The Other Road to Yorktown'. In the spring of 1781, General Anthony 'Mad Anthony' Wayne led his Pennsylvania regiments into Virginia to reinforce General Lafayette in the events leading up to the Battle of Yorktown. After putting down a second mutiny among his underpaid and under-supplied troops, Wayne took the down a road which led them through Carroll County.

Wednesday, October 2nd - 6:30 PM Mount Airy 's Public Library, Large Meeting Room (705 Ridge Avenue) Our speaker is Kyle Wichtendahl, Archivist and Librarian for the Carroll County Historical Society. His presentation will be 'The Gettysburg Campaign in Carroll County'. In 1863 the largest battle of the American Civil War occurred just a few miles away in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The Campaign had a profound impact on the county's citizens and communities. Carroll County also served a major part in the course of military events before, during, and after the Battle of Gettysburg. Kyle will recount local residents' experiences as Confederate and Union armies invaded and occupied Carroll County during the weeks surrounding the battle. Kyle will also discuss General George Meade's initial plans to deploy the Union Army of the Potomac along the banks of Pipe Creek and fight the climactic battle of the campaign in Carroll County, as well as the county's critical role as the logistical center of the Union Army.

Thursday, October 3rd - 6:30 PM Mount Airy Public Library, Large Meeting room (705 Ridge Avenue). Our speaker is Diana Klein, the Education Program Manager at the Josiah Henson Museum and Park. Reverend Josiah Henson was enslaved in Montgomery County for about 25 years before he self-emancipated with his family to Canada, became a conductor on the Underground Railroad, and then wrote his life story, which inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin. In his lifetime, Henson was known as an abolitionist who met with Queen Victoria, President Hayes, Frederick Douglass and other movers and shakers of the era. So why has his story slipped into obscurity? In this presentation, Diana Klein will delve into Henson, his life, and the social forces that shape how we view history.