Though the equipment and methods have greatly changed, agriculture remains the #1 industry in Carroll County. Through vintage photographs and artifacts, collected from local families, this exhibit offers examples of how farmers’ commitment and creativity have contributed to local agriculture’s cultural and economic importance.

Of special note is the patented Mehring Milker, invented and manufactured by William Mehring, a Keymar resident. This milking machine was marketed world-wide and was popular until about 1920. Also patented by a local resident is a hog oiler. William Stonesifer, of Taneytown, invented his hog oiler to relieve his hogs of bothersome pests.

You will notice that even before refrigeration, Taneytown’s proximity to Baltimore afforded the economic opportunity for hucksters to market local eggs and butter in the city. Farmers could deliver milk to cooling stations to be delivered and processed in the city.

Taneytown area also had many mills and businesses to serve the farming community. Today there are still a number of businesses supporting agriculture – whether it is a backyard garden or hundreds of acres.

Enjoy your visit to Taneytown History Museum. Watch for other special events throughout the Museum’s 2023 season as we salute local agriculture!

New on Display!

EXTREMELY RARE US MODEL 1794 FLINTLOCK MUSKET

Made by Mattias Schroyer of Taneytown, Maryland who was later contracted to produce 1798 muskets. The gun was found in Taneytown, and included 1798 document signed by John Ross Key, father of the famed Francis Scott Key, endorsing Schroyer as a capable gun maker for Federal contracts. The musket itself is fit with a 44 - 1/2”.69 caliber barrel proofed at the breech with an intaglio eagle head over “P” within a sunken oval.