



Shenandoah
County

Historical
Society

Summer 2023

Newsletter

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2023 Preservation Awards Presented



Kathleen Brockway & Jim Stephenson Mary Sue Fuller Weatherholtz Dan Harshman & Zach Hottel

The 2023 SCHS Annual Dinner, held at the VFW Post in Edinburg on May 16, was well attended, with guests enjoying a delicious meal and presentation by Hoyle Laughlin II and Hoyle Laughlin III, who shared stories about their local family business, Laughlin Auctions.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the John H. Adamson Excellence in Preservation Awards which were given by Preservation Awards Chairman, Jim Stephenson.

Honored were Kathleen L. Brockway for her research and writing of *The Lost Shared Signing Community of Lantz Mills and Shenandoah County*. The story preserves the history of this important and little-known deaf community that developed its own sign language. The booklet was published individually and was included in the compiled volume, *Stories of Our Community Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of Shenandoah County, Virginia 1772-2022*.

The family of the late Lena French Fuller was awarded for their donation to the Shenandoah County Library Archives of the lifetime research of their mother, Lena F. Fuller. Mary Sue Fuller Weatherholtz accepted the award for her family. The collection consists of 33 linear feet of material that has been processed by library staff and is now available for family and local history researchers searching for information from the mid-18th Century into the 21st Century.

Also honored was the Shenandoah County 250th Commemoration Committee with Committee Chair, Zachary Hottel, and Committee Member, Dan Harshman, accepting the award. This year-long celebration of our county's history included numerous public events, the publication of local history booklets and a final bound book, memorabilia, and the support of volunteers, businesses, civic groups and the community.

New Life Members

Michael Rohrbaugh
Lucy Banks

New Members

Tina Reuwsaat
John Clem
Robin Pewtress
Vicki Ruckman
Joel David
Robert Cline
Virginia Rosen

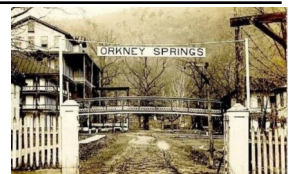
One More Weekend



The exhibit case at the Historic Courthouse Visitor Center in Woodstock will continue to feature the display celebrating the 250th anniversary celebration of the Woodstock Fire Department for one more weekend — Friday, June 30th and Saturday, July 1st.

If you missed it after it opened in March, you have 2 more days until the next exhibit opens.

New Exhibit to Open at Historic Courthouse Visitor Center



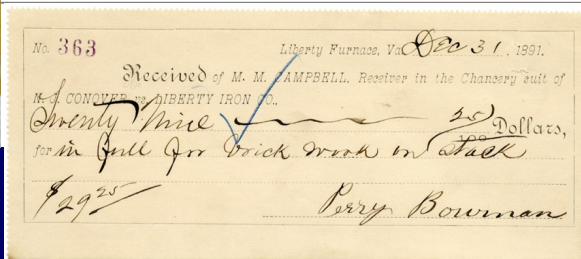
Nestled among the trees at the foot of Great North Mountain in the Shenandoah Valley is the beautiful, serene community of historic Orkney Springs. This exhibit will open July 7th and continue every Fri. and Sat. through Sept. Come see photos and learn about the people, businesses and events that made this unique town a real place to go starting back in the 1800's.



From the: Shenandoah County Archives

By Zach Hottel, Archivist

Liberty Iron Company Receipt



"Liberty Iron Company Receipt," Liberty Iron Company Receivership Documents, December 1891, 2 of 2, Series III: Receivership Documents, July 1891-February 1892, Samuel G. Clark Liberty Iron Furnace Collection, Truban Archives, Shenandoah County Library, Edinburg, Virginia.

On December 31, 1891 Perry Bowman of Edinburg Virginia signed this receipt certifying he had been paid

\$29.25 for brick work for the Liberty Iron Company at Liberty Furnace Virginia.

The receipt was issued by M.M. Campbell, "Receiver in the Chancery Suit of N.J. Conover vs. Liberty Iron Company." At the time, Liberty Iron Company was having legal difficulties regarding its financial condition, creditors, and ownership of the property. Milton M. Campbell was appointed by the Shenandoah County Court as receiver until a chancery suit filed by N.J. Conover against the company was resolved.

Campbell would have been responsible for operating Liberty Iron Company until the case was resolved. That included paying workers, selling iron ore, and making sure the structures were in good repair. This receipt is one of several issued at the same time for brick work on the company's stack, most likely the furnace stack which was used while processing iron ore.

You can learn more about Liberty Iron Furnace, the people who operated it, and the community that surrounded it at the Shenandoah County Library's Truban Archives. Visit www.countylib.org/local-history for more information or to schedule a research appointment.

This Newsletter can be sent to you electronically. Many photos will appear in color, and it saves postage! Notify us at: schs.va@gmail.com

Message from the President



Many of you know that Shenandoah County is said to be the driest county in Virginia. As I write this, that seems to be the case. Not only are our farmers hoping for rain for their crops, the North Fork is in need of a good rain as well.

A good time was had by all at our annual dinner on May 16. Many thanks to board members who helped organize, the Laughlins who gave an enjoyable presentation and Jim Stevenson and his Preservation Awards Committee members, Anne Dellinger, Kim Stevenson, Leigh Devier and Dennis Atwood, who made excellent awards choices this year. We said goodbye to retiring board members, Meg Trott and Margie Hisey Tackett. But also welcomed new members, Kenna Fansler and Mary Redmon to the board.

We have been saddened by the passing of two of our most valued local history researchers and authors in April. Judy Coffman Stickley compiled three volumes of *Someone You Knew*, information drawn from local obituaries that listed important facts about most everyone in Shenandoah County beginning in 1989 until 2005. Judy also compiled the book, *Shenandoah County Marriages 1916-1940*, another helpful tool for researchers. Judy's work is one of the most frequently used resources in the library's Shenandoah Room.

A beloved former SCHS board member, researcher and author, Nancy Branner Stewart, passed in April as well. Nancy served on the board for several years, retiring in 2011. She authored numerous books and her interests were broad. Nancy wrote about Reformation Lutheran Church New Market, Shenandoah

Lantz Mill Story Receives Wide Acclaim

Kathleen Brockway's *The Lost Shared Signing Community of Lantz Mills and Shenandoah County History* was wildly popular here in the county when published last fall.

Interest in this important story went far beyond the county's borders. The Library of Virginia printed and distributed copies of Kathleen's work and created a traveling exhibit about the story, which was on display at the Edinburg Library.

Readers might want to search the new spatial MAP on <https://deaflibva.org/> (Deaf Culture Digital Library) where you can see some stories in our area. Also, encyclopedia Virginia is about to go public on the Lantz Mill deaf village with primary sources including written transcripts.

Here's a link:

https://encyclopediaofvirginia.org/?search_box=Lantz+mill&x=0&y=0

We have also been informed that *The Lost Shared Signing Community of Lantz Mills and Shenandoah County, Virginia* by Kathleen L. Brockway, published by Shenandoah County Historical Society, has been nominated for consideration in the nonfiction category for the 2023 Library of Virginia Literary Awards coming up on October 14, 2023.

County history, old houses, New Market and the Civil War, schools in New Market, and George Rye, abolitionist. Probably her most significant work was her deep research and documentation of the history of African Americans and slavery in Shenandoah County. This important research is available at the Shenandoah County Library in Edinburg as are her other publications.

We hope many of you will be able to visit our booth at the Ole Time Festival Sept. 16 & 17.

The
Shenandoah County
Historical Society, Inc.

is a
501 (c)(3) non-profit
organization.

Pres.: Barbara Adamson
Vice-Pres: Janet Wagniere
Secretary: Ellen Markel
Treasurer: Laura Zimmerman

Board Members:

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Anne Dellinger
Kenna Fansler
Rick Lytton
Suzanne McIlwee
Mary Redmon
Susan Walls
Karen Whetzel
Hank Zimmerman

Newsletter Editor:
Janet Wagniere

LOCAL HISTORY:

Mt. Jackson Coronet Band Gave Concert

[Article reprinted from *The Shenandoah Valley Newspaper*, late 1800's]



MT. JACKSON, CORNET BAND,
ORGANIZED FEB. 5 1881.
S. H. Koontz, Leader, Prof. J. D. Daughtrey, Instructor, J. M. White, Secty.,
PHOTOGRAPHED BY W. O. TOWNS, MT. JACKSON, VA.

In the late 1800s, many communities each had their own musical groups, mainly cornet bands. The following article was obtained from the "Shenandoah Valley" newspaper in New Market about the band in Mt. Jackson.

The Mt. Jackson Coronet Band was organized Feb. 5, 1881 and is now composed of the following members: Samuel Koontz (leader), Frank Jones, James M. White, E-flat cornets: Thomas Ryan, 1st and J. Romack, 2nd B-Flat: A. L. Gorley, 1st and Robert Ruby, 2nd E-flat alto: J. Clem solo alto: J. Hamman, tenor: Jeremiah Shaffer, bass: John Shaffer, B. Bass: A. Rinker baritone: Geo Furry, bass drum: Jos. Maphis, cymbals.

The Band has had a teacher but twice – in all five and a half months time. Under the instructions of Prof. J.D. Daughtrey, Suffolk, Va., it has made surprising and commendable progress. It plays sixty pieces, thirty- five of which are of Prof. Daughtrey's own composition.

Last Friday and Saturday nights, this Band gave two Benefit Concerts at Lonas Hall, Mt. Jackson which was well attended. The receipts were \$50.00 and the expenses only \$5.00, so the Band made \$45.00 to pay for instructions.

The concerts consisted of Band & amp; Orchestra music, with amusing, farce, after-pieces in Negro character, and were good.

The Mt. Jackson Orchestra – composed of Messrs. Jos. Spengler, John A. Heller, John Branham, J.C. Murphy, violinists: R. O. Windle, flute: Samuel Koontz, B-flat cornet: Newton Braham, bass violin – assisted in these concerts as well as Miss Maggie Bartenstein, with most charming organ accompaniments.

The Band desires to express its thanks to all who assisted in the concerts, to the public for so liberally patronizing them, to Mr. J. P. Lonas for the free use of his hall, to the Temperance Union for the use of its organ and to Prof. Daughtrey for his untiring and efficient efforts, as a teacher.

Prof. D. has two band classes - one at Columbia and the other at Liberty Furnace – between which places he is dividing his time. The Mt. Jackson Band has engaged his services for several months this fall.

The Mt. Jackson Orchestra, which had but two months instruction under Prof. Daughtrey, has succeeded well. We hardly know whether it is due to the proficient teacher or apt pupils – perhaps a little of both.

We are glad Mt. Jackson has a good band which is fast improving.

Also, in addition to the Mt, Jackson Cornet Band, in a local paper dated April 9th , 1881, mention is made of The Colored Band of Mt. Jackson. The Band was in New Market on Easter Monday and gave an afternoon concert playing a number of pieces of music. No other information was mentioned.

Anyone having any additional information or pictures of any county bands can contact the Mt. Jackson Museum with the information.

Submitted by Kenna Fansler

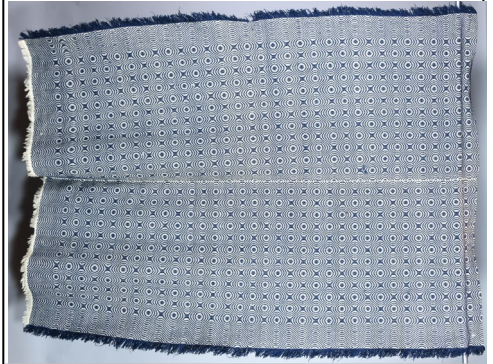
COLONIAL KIDS DAY

Saturday, July 8th, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Burwell-Morgan Mill, 15 Tannery Lane, Millwood, Virginia — \$5 per person To register: 540-955-2600

Join us for our 7th Annual Colonial Kids Day. Interactive activities include blacksmithing, craft making, colonial games, a scavenger hunt, the history of the Mill, living history interpretations, and grinding in action. [Clarke County Historical Association]

September Program:

"Everything But The Bedroom Quilt"
on Tuesday, September 26th



Textiles from the
Museum of the Shenandoah Valley

While the Shenandoah Valley is known for its strong quilting tradition, quilts are only one facet of the tapestry of textiles produced and used in the region. Samplers and needlework pictures, sumptuously decorated whitework, homespun blankets in vibrant colors, and even fire-bags emblazoned with owners' names transformed Shenandoah Valley houses into homes.

Drawing largely from the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley Collection, this lecture by A. Nicholas "Nick" Powers, Curator of Collections at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, will explore everything but the bedroom quilt."



Nick Powers is Curator of Collections at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester, Virginia. A native of the Shenandoah Valley, Powers graduated from James Madison University in 2011 with a degree in History. In 2014, he graduated from the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture at the University of Delaware. At the MSV, Powers researches, exhibits, and lectures on the museum's collection of Valley fine, decorative, and folk art, as well as the collection of American, European, and Asian art assembled by museum benefactor Julian Wood Glass Jr. (1910-1992). Powers has written several articles on Shenandoah Valley and Southern decorative arts and material culture.

The Program, on Tuesday, September 26th, will take place at 7:00 PM at the St.
[Continued on Page 5]

✦ Continuing Series on Historic Buildings in Shenandoah County ✦

Mabel Lee Walton House - Sigma Sigma Sigma

By: John Adamson

The very large and impressive house on N. Muhlenberg Street in Woodstock, with the prominent rounded portico, is the national headquarters for Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority. I have driven past it many times wondering why the sorority came to have their headquarters in this grand house in Woodstock while also wondering if the house was as impressive inside as it is outside. Recently, the sorority began work rehabilitating the large house next door, and I decided now was the time to find out more, and perhaps feature the house in one of my Historical Society newsletter articles. I called upon Marcia Cutter, Executive Director of the Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority and received a gracious invitation to come see the house, learn about it and take a few pictures for a newsletter article.

The house was built in 1914 by Clyde and Maude Walton. Clyde was a druggist and co-owner of Walton & Smoot Drug Store in Woodstock which opened in 1906. The couple lived in the house and after Clyde's death, Mrs. Walton operated the house as a boarding house. In 1946, Dr. Roy Clyde Fravel and his wife purchased the house from Mrs. Walton's estate. For the next five years, Dr. Fravel managed a hospital and his medical offices there. The hospital closed after Dr. Fravel's illness in 1951 and the Fravel family sold the house in 1961. In 1963, Sigma Sigma Sigma purchased the house for their national headquarters and named it in honor of Mabel Lee Walton, National President of the sorority from 1913 until 1947 and sister of druggist Clyde Walton. Because the sorority was founded at Longwood University in Virginia, and because of Mabel Lee Walton's long association with Woodstock, the leaders of the sorority recommended the purchase of the Walton house to serve as their national headquarters when it became available. Prior to serving as Sigma Sigma Sigma headquarters, the house was known as Muhlenberg Hall. Upon becoming the sorority's national home the name was changed to honor the long service of Mabel Lee Walton to the sorority.

The house was built in the Colonial Revival style of architecture which was popular in the early part of the 20th century. However, this house is earlier than many local examples of the Colonial Revival style suggesting that Clyde and Maude were architectural trend setters of their day in Woodstock. Inside, there is a very large entrance foyer that leads to the graceful central staircase. The parlors on either side of the entryway are only divided from the entrance by interior columns. The left hand parlor leads to a spacious dining room with a very large opening



225 N. Muhlenberg Street



Staircase



Left Parlor



Recently purchased house next door

between the rooms which can be closed off with oversized pocket doors. The openness between the entry hall, the two parlors and the dining room creates a sense of great space which is further enhanced by the very large size of the house. The galley kitchen in the center rear of the house is surprisingly small, but perhaps seemed large enough 100 years ago.

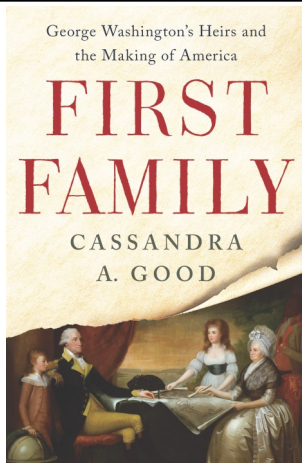
Upstairs are 4 very large bedrooms arrayed around the open central hallway, echoing the spaciousness of the first floor public areas. The third floor has smaller bedrooms and a laundry. The hipped roof and central entrance with fanlight and sidelights are typical of the Colonial Revival style. The house is currently configured to allow 28 overnight guests. These overnight accommodations serve Sigma Sigma Sigma sisters and alumna for meetings, conferences and social events. In addition, the sorority's archives and a small museum are located here. The rear of the house, including an addition and enclosed porches house the sorority's administrative offices.

The Mabel Lee Walton house in Woodstock has been the site of the national headquarters for Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority for fifty years. The sorority has been an active part of the Woodstock community during all that time and, importantly, maintained a grand historic house in the Historic District of Woodstock. Recently, the sorority purchased the house and property immediately next door to the Mabel Lee Walton house. Plans are to renovate this house and use it for the sorority's business office and administrative needs. This, in turn, will allow for greater accommodation of visitors, activities, archives and the sorority museum in the Mabel Lee Walton house.

I wish to thank Executive Director Marcia Cutter for sharing the story of the Mabel Lee Walton house with me and thank Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority for its successful efforts to use and preserve the grand house at 225 North Muhlenberg Street.

Their plans to renovate the property next door and expand the sorority's national headquarters ensure that this part of Muhlenberg Street will contribute to Woodstock and Shenandoah County history for many years to come.

This article by the late John Adamson was reprinted from the Winter 2014 issue of the SCHS newsletter.



Growing up at Mount Vernon

The Clarke County Historical Association will feature a program with Dr. Cassandra Good from Marymount University who will present her book research on what it was like for George Washington's step-grandchildren to grow up at Mount Vernon, and the lives they led later as adults. One of those step-grandchildren was Nelly Lewis, who lived at Audley Farm in the later years of her life.

The event is at 2:00 PM on Sunday, September 17th at the Audley Farm at 752 Audley Lane in Berryville, VA.

\$25 non-members, \$15 CCHA members. Reservations are required. Call: 540-955-2600

SCHS FINANCIAL STATEMENT

At the 5/31/23, end of the fiscal year, the Treasurer reported a total of \$91,941.40 in the SCHS accounts.

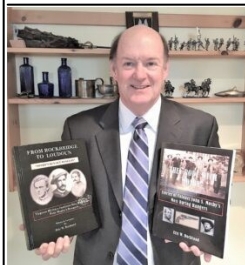
Quilts -- [Continued from Page 3]

Paul's Heritage Center, 106 S. High Street in Edinburg, VA. Ample parking is available in the Shentel lot across the street from the Center. The public is invited. Refreshments will be served after the program.

New Exhibit at Belle Grove Plantation Honors John Adamson

In honor of local historian and long-time Belle Grove Museum Board member John Adamson (who passed in November of 2021), the Belle Grove Plantation was able to establish the John H. Adamson III Memorial Fund.

The first project to benefit from the fund, Belle Grove has published an online exhibit about the Jackson family, the story a free Black man from Frederick County named Emanuel Jackson and how he purchased the freedom of his children and grandchild who were enslaved by the Hite family. Here is a link to that exhibit.. <https://virtual.bellegrove.org/the-jackson-family/>



A Fiery Fall

Mosby's Rangers Historian Eric Buckland will give a presentation on Saturday, Sept. 9th, beginning at 2PM, at the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation at 8437 Valley Pike in Middletown VA.

His lecture will be about the Rangers operations in the Shenandoah Valley during the Fall of 1864. Events included in the talk are the Duffield Station Raid, the Berryville Wagon Train Raid, the fight at Morgan's Lane, the execution of 6 Rangers in Front Royal and the Greenback Raid.

A book signing will also be available in the Museum's Digital Media space before and after the presentation.

Eric Buckland has written several books about the lives of some of the men who rode with the 43rd Battalion Virginia Cavalry – Mosby's Rangers and has given over 100 presentations about the stories in his books. He has appeared on C-Span and had two articles published in America's Civil War magazine. Eric is a graduate of the University of Kansas and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. The majority of his 22-year military career was spent in Special Forces. He retired in 1999 as a Lieutenant Colonel. Some of his awards include the Ranger Tab, Special Forces Tab, Master Parachutist Badge, Special Operations Combat Diver Badge, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. He retired at the end of 2021 from his second career as a Policy Analyst for the United States Government. He is currently in his third term as President of The Stuart-Mosby Historical Society.

For more information: 540-869-2064 or info@ccef.us

Strasburg Historic Walking Tour Reopens after Recent Renovations

On a drizzly Sunday in early May an enthusiastic group of Strasburg history lovers gathered at the Strasburg Museum for a ribbon cutting to officially open the recently redone Historic Walking Trail. The crowd heard a short history of the Walking Trail from Strasburg Heritage President, Tim Taylor. After the ribbon was cut, attendees headed off to learn some Strasburg history and get some steps!

The Trail consists of ten stops throughout the Historic District where signs feature photos, history, and interesting facts relating to the areas near the stop. The trail is 1.6 miles in length and takes about 60 to 90 minutes to complete. The Trail can be enjoyed one stop at a time, in short walks, or all at once. Stop #1 is in front of the Strasburg Museum. Rack cards with a map and information are available at the Museum, Town Hall, Visitors' Center, and Library and will get walkers oriented and on their way. Visitors using their cell phone cameras can scan QR codes on the signs and access more photos and history for each stop.

The Trail began in the early 1980's as a brochure written by local historian, Virginia Cadden. In 1988, the Tourism Committee used Cadden's brochure to create nine signs throughout the town. In 2005, the Strasburg Heritage Association upgraded the signs and printed a brochure with more content for each stop. The current signs were created by a coalition of members of the Heritage Association, Museum, and the Town of Strasburg. Some of the stops have been moved slightly to more accessible placements.



The Fort Valley Museum's 18th annual ice cream social will be held on Sunday, July 30, 2-5 pm at the museum at 8631 Fort Valley Road, at the intersection of Fort Valley and Dry Run Roads.

Take a drive over the mountain to enjoy a delightful old-fashioned gathering and six flavors of ice cream (including grapenut), and barbecue sandwiches. Select a seat in the pavilion and enjoy music by guitarist Joe Martin.

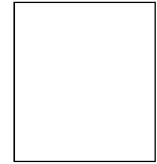
The museum will be open for browsing with its latest "Fort Valley Stores through the Years" exhibit. Come early before the ice cream runs out!

For more info: 540-933-6690 - Also, Facebook or www.fortvalleymuseum.org.



Shenandoah
County VA

Historical Society



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Edinburg VA 22824

Phone: 540-459-1795
E-Mail: SCHS.VA@Gmail.com
WEB: www.SCHS1795.com

Join the SCHS

New Yearly Dues:

Member: \$15 (Newsletter by E-mail)

Member: \$20 (Mailed newsletter)

Lifetime \$250

Send Fee to address above.

Renewal Date is beside name on
mailing label →

Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 8th - 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM
"Wreathed in Battle Smoke": Civil War Walking Tour of New Market Join Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation Park Ranger Wade Custer for a downtown walking tour of historic New Market which focuses on the Battle of New Market (fought on May 15, 1864) - covering both the battle as it swept through the town and the individual stories of the soldiers and civilians who were caught up in the dramatic events. Cost: Free, No Registration Required Location: Tours begin at 11AM in front of the Strayer House (SVBF HQ), located at 9386 S. Congress St. in the center of downtown New Market (intersection of US-11 and US-211)

Sunday, September 17th - 4:00 PM
Shenandoah County Historic Courthouse bells will ring to commemorate the signing of the Constitution of the United States. This has become an annual event for the Narrow Passage Chapter of the NSDAR as they celebrate Constitution Week. Museum will be open 3:30-4:30 PM.

**SCHS will be at the
Edinburg Ole Time Festival
Sept. 16th & 17th
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Booth on Main Street
(across Street from Sal's)
Books for Sale, photo albums to view
Bring a friend by to join**

Thursday, August 3rd - 1:00 to 2:00 PM
An Overview of the Battle of New Market Stop by the Strayer House in downtown New Market to hear Shenandoah Valley Park Ranger, Wade Custer, give an overview of the Battle of New Market fought on May 15, 1864. Talks begin in front of the Strayer House and New Market Battlefield Visitor Center located at 9386 S Congress St, New Market, VA The cost is free and no registration is required. Simply show up!

Saturday, August 19th - 2:00 to 3:30 PM
Partners in Preservation Driving Tour The tour begins at Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation Museum & Visitor Center, 8437 Valley Pike in Middletown. Established in 2002, Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park is a partnership between the federal government and preservation organizations. Three stops on a guided driving tour of the park give visitors a behind-the-scenes look at how partners work together to preserve Cedar Creek Battlefield, Belle Grove Plantation, and other parts of Shenandoah Valley history. The stops will include the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation museum, the Bowman-Hite farmstead being preserved by the National Park, and Belle Grove's archeology exhibit. Call 540-869-3051 to reserve a space for this event.

Every Fri. & Sat. through October
The Woodstock Museum on Muhlenberg Street in Woodstock will be open from 1:00 to 4:00 PM

SCHS COMPLETE BOOK LIST

Is available on web site:
www.SCHS1795.com

ATTENTION

ARE YOUR DUES DUE??

The date beside the name on your mailing label is the month and year your membership is due. Thank you

