

*Shenandoah County Historical Society*  
*P.O. Box 506 Edinburg, VA 22824*

<http://www.shenandoahcountyhistoricalsociety.org>



*Summer 2009*

**Next Meeting**

**YOU ARE INVITED...**

to our next quarterly meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2009. The meeting will be held at St. Paul's Heritage Center, at 106 South High Street in Edinburg at 7:00 pm. Parking is available on street as well at the Shentel parking lot across the street from the Heritage Center. Refreshments will be served.

The speaker will be New Market historian Philip Crown. Mr. Crown is a unique individual. He might best be described as an architectural anthropologist. He researches and documents the ownership history of buildings and land. Mr. Crown will present a program on Manor Mill.

**Announcements**

The Shenandoah Preservation League (SPL) has joined SCHS. During the last decade the Shenandoah Preservation League has worked to attain its goal of promoting the preservation of cultural and historic resources including historic buildings, sites, districts, roads, and landscapes within the Shenandoah Valley region of Virginia. Like many organizations, SPL

has struggled to maintain membership and the level of energy needed to carry out their goals. As a result, their board of directors has voted to dissolve and to join SCHS in our preservation efforts in Shenandoah County. Meg Trott, former SPL board member and secretary, is now a member of the SCHS board. The SPL board was particularly interested in seeing the re-establishment of their Excellence in Preservation Awards program. We believe this to be a worthy project and would welcome the involvement of any SCHS member to help us with the program. We welcome all SPL members to the Society and look forward to working together to further the goals we share.

Board member Robert Fry attended the Germanna Conference in Culpeper.

**Upcoming Events**

**Shenandoah County Fair,** August 29-September 5. SCHS will have a booth. Please visit us. If you might be interested in working at the booth, please contact President Barbara Adamsom. at (540) 984-8200.

**Tour of Zirkle Mill in Forestville**, Sunday, September 13 at 2:00 pm. This tour is sponsored by the Northern Shenandoah Valley Branch of Preservation Virginia/APVA, of which SCHS is a member. The afternoon will include a short business meeting, tour, and refreshments.

**Edinburg Ole Time Festival**, September 19-20. SCHS will have a booth. Please visit us. If you might be interested in working at the booth, please contact President Barbara Adamsom at (540) 984-8200.

**Genealogical Societies Conference**, October 10, 8:30-4:00 in Winchester. Shenandoah Valley Genealogical Society and Virginia Genealogical Society are sponsoring a conference, "Oh, Shenandoah! Migration and Settlement Across the Valley." Presenters will include Dorothy Boyd-Bragg with "Doing Research in Virginia," Victor Dunn with "Colonial Migrations In and Out of the Shenandoah Valley," and Pamela and Richard Sayer with "Google Earth for Genealogists." For more information go to the VGS website, [www.vgs.org](http://www.vgs.org).

### **President's Letter**

This president's letter must begin with our thanks to Patricia Shelton and Vicki Mongold, who have stepped down after serving ably on our board. Patricia has served on the board since 2004 and

as an excellent secretary for the Society for the past four years. We appreciate Vicki's contribution to SCHS and know that she is returning to her first love, Hottel-Keller family history. Current board member and webmaster, Janet Wagniere, has graciously agreed to serve as our new secretary. Thank you, Patricia, Vicki, and Janet! We offer a big welcome to our newest board members, Meg Trott and Kent Womack.. Meg was profiled in our last newsletter. Kent is from Woodstock and is active in the SCV Capt. Jack Adams Camp No 1951 in Edinburg (he proved his worth early by being a huge help at our office work day!)

My thanks also go to our many other volunteers that include Robert Fry (vice-president), Diane Ferguson (treasurer and Morrison volunteer), and board members Nancye Bowman (book salesmeister and Morrison volunteer), Connie Broy (genealogist), Liz Sollenberger (annual dinner specialist), John Adamson (Morrison volunteer and more), Jeanne Walton and Nancy Stewart. Our ever faithful Morrison project volunteers also include Phyllis Wright, JoAnne Lockhart, Harry Lockhart, CF Wagniere (our tech guru too), Andy Thayer, Dennis Atwood and John Wall.

We've had a burst of energy this spring that resulted in the purchase of five cabinets (and donation of one) in order to better organize and store glass plate negatives, books and other

supplies. We had a very successful workday when the cabinets arrived with CF, Janet, John, Kent, Diane, Robert, Andy, Dennis and Barbara all contributing. Our thanks go to Parks & Rec staff who cleaned windows, ceiling light fixtures, etc. and made our room more presentable than it's been in a number of years. The room looks great!

We look forward to the coming year and hope that all of you will participate in our activities.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Balance sheet for fiscal year 2009:

- First Bank Checking: \$6,506.60
- First Bank Savings: \$11,606.57
- First Bank CD #1: \$14,907.22
- First Bank CA #2: \$7,103.16
- Total: \$40,213.55
- Shenandoah Community Foundation Account : \$5,000.00

### ***The Burning***

The new film, "*The Burning*," based on the book *The Burning: Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley* by the late John L. Heatwole and produced by Jim Morrison and Hank Zimmerman, will have its official premiere during this year's Edinburg Ole Time Festival, Sept. 18-21<sup>st</sup>.

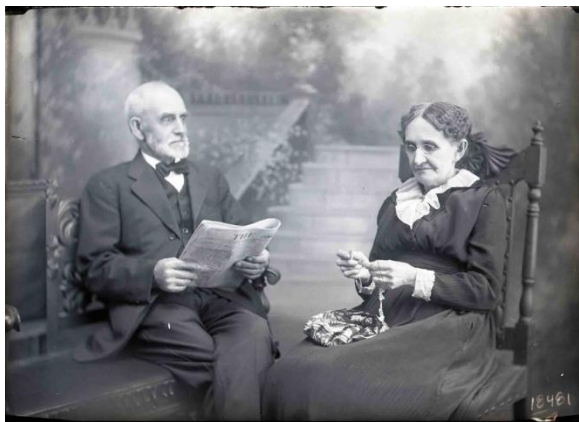
The new production is funded and sponsored by the Edinburg Heritage

Foundation and was produced to be shown regularly in the new theater that will be part of the Museum complex in the Edinburg Mill. The 45 minute film was ready before the Mill work was completed, so there were a number of showings in the Edinburg Town Council Room during last year's Ole Time Festival.

The film was very well received at last year's Festival and most of those who saw it wanted to purchase a copy. The Historical Society now has a supply for sale and the order forms are on line at the Society's web site: [www.shenandoahcountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.shenandoahcountyhistoricalsociety.org) and also by way of the Book List insert with the quarterly Newsletter. The price is \$20.

This totally new production is about The Burning that took place during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Valley Campaign of 1864, and you will hear the voices of a large number of local citizens as they tell the stories about what happened.

## Morrison Photograph



The dignified people in this photograph are unidentified. The glass plate from which this image was made was in a box dated 1929. This plate is number 18481 in the SCHS program of preserving and scanning the approximately 27,000 glass photograph plates from the studios of Hugh Morrison, Jr.

## Shenandoah County Library Resources in the Shenandoah Room

By Jean Martin

[Jean has been the archivist and genealogist for the Shenandoah County Library since 2001. During her career she has served as the director of two museums and as a curator, consultant, author, and lecturer in various areas of early American history and historic preservation. Jean is also involved in a number of local historic preservation organizations.]

Our mission is to acquire, record, preserve, and provide access to information about life in Shenandoah County, Virginia. The Shenandoah Room has over one thousand family history books. This room, in the Edinburg Central Library for Shenandoah County, is open to patrons and visitors whenever the library is open. The Truban Archives, where we store more fragile materials like documents, ledgers, manuscripts, and rare books, is not open except when the Archivist is in or by appointment. None of the materials can be checked out from either of these areas. We have microfilm readers and copy machines for patrons to use.

The Truban Archives was established nine years ago when the Library outgrew a space in the basement of the local bank. Today it is a single room with storage shelves, work space, map cases, and a fire resistant safe. It contains the Klaus Wust Collection; Baker Store Ledgers; Herbert Parker Collection of post cards, and Henkel/Henkle printed materials as well as photographs; fraktur; manuscripts and book plates; rare books, Shenandoah County tax records, church and school records, family Bibles, and ephemera from Shenandoah County are here. Dr. William A. Truban was a local veterinarian and state senator who passed away recently. He and his family were early supporters of the

preservation of local records having information about life in Shenandoah County. The archive is named in his honor.

The Shenandoah Room is not the County Archive, and does not collect tax records, deeds or court records with the exception of some of the duplicate copies of county land and tax records (for the years 1887-1890 and 1933 - 1970). We do collect printed census and building records, abstracts of wills, deeds, and indices of birth, marriage, indentures, and guardianships. We have CDs and microfilm copies of wills, deeds, marriage records, newspapers, and other official records not available in more user friendly formats. We subscribe to [AncestryLibrary.com](http://AncestryLibrary.com), [PoliticalFamilyTree.com](http://PoliticalFamilyTree.com), and to [Heritage Quest.com](http://HeritageQuest.com).

We keep a duplicate set of notebooks of the glass plate negatives from the Morrison collection processed by the Shenandoah County Historical Society and encourage patrons to identify the photographs.

The Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society Lending Library is housed in the Shenandoah Room. This collection of genealogical research materials focuses on German families and immigration. These books and periodicals are available to MAGS members and other patrons in the Shenandoah Room. The book list and more information are available on the MAGS web site at

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usmags/>.

There is a high concentration of Pennsylvania and German research available from county and church records in this collection. As you know, many of the Germans who settled the Shenandoah Valley came from Germany by way of Pennsylvania. It is really exciting for researchers to be able to look into these records and find their ancestors. Some people are beginning to call us "The German Library". Isn't that fun?

Our collection is growing and getting better all of the time. We have received the Civil War letters from the Sheetz family; letters that were written to a girl friend and to a mother by her son. They are so reflective of the years and the people of Shenandoah County as they went through those horrible war years..

### **Morrison Exhibit Postponed**

The special exhibit of Morrison photographs and photographic equipment at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley has been postponed until 2011.

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