



Shenandoah  
County  
Historical  
Society

Spring 2016

# Newsletter

**Highlights in this Issue:**

- Volunteer Member Spotlight **2**
- President's Message
- Life Member List
- Ft. Valley Appreciation Event
- Mission Statement Explained **3**
- Mt. Jackson Museum Exhibit
- Alien Genealogy Tip
- Stagecoach Mary Fields Story **4**
- Slave Graveyard Dedication
- County Archivist Column **5**
- By-Law to be revised
- Amazon Smile request
- Ancestry.com News
- Historic Buildings Series **6**
- New Books on SCHS List **7**
- Symphony of Stitches Info
- Gift Item for Sale
- Upcoming Events **8**
- Insert: Annual Meeting Info

## Annual Dinner/Meeting set for May 17th

The 2016 Annual Meeting & Dinner will be held Tuesday, May 17 at the Edinburg Mill. A social hour will begin at 6:00 PM, followed by dinner at 6:30. (Reservation form included with newsletter)

Immediately after the dinner SCHS president, Barbara Adamson, will conduct a brief business meeting. She will give a report on the Society's accomplishments and projects during the past year. The membership will be asked to vote on a By-Laws revision which is outlined elsewhere in this newsletter. Members will also vote on a proposed slate to serve on the Board of Directors. Current board members standing for re-election to a two-year term include: Bruce Alger, Anne Dellinger, Janet Wagniere, Dennis Atwood, John Adamson and Meg Trott.

Our program this year will be *The History of Broadcast Radio in the Northern Shenandoah Valley*, presented by Alan Arehart. The

program will cover a broad range, from the first broadcast stations and home radios, through the advent of FM, and up to web-streaming. Alan is well-known in Shenandoah County and has worked in all phases of broadcast radio, from announcer to engineer to station owner. He has invited those attending to bring early home radios to display in the reception area before the meeting.

## Elizabeth Neff's Quilt to come back to the Valley



By: Barbara Adamson

In our last newsletter we told you about a quilt with the inscription "Elizabeth Neffs Property Shenandoah County VA 1843" written in ink. We had just embarked on a fund raising campaign with the Virginia Quilt Museum to purchase the quilt and bring it home from California. We're happy to report that the fund raising campaign has been a success, thanks to the support of SCHS members, New Market Historical Society members and Virginia Quilt Museum members. The quilt will be a part of the Museum's collection of Virginia quilts and one of several Shenandoah County quilts that the Museum owns.

A remarkable part of this story is what we have learned about "our" Elizabeth. In a conversation I had with local collector and Mt. Jackson Museum board member, Kenna Fansler, Kenna reported that he remembered a signed Shenandoah County quilt being for sale some years ago by Jeff Bradfield, owner of Rolling Hills Antiques

[Continued on Page 5]

## Shenandoah County Heritage Day is April 9th at Fort Valley Fire Dept.

This year's Shenandoah County Heritage Day will be held on Saturday, April 9 at the Fort Valley Fire Hall, 7088 Fort Valley Road, in Fort Valley from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The event will focus on the history, places and people of Powell's Fort Valley including churches, cemeteries, schools, CCC, furnaces, stores, families, Revolutionary and Civil War soldiers. Some of the local families are: Baker, Boyer, Burner, Cave, Crisman, Cook, Coverstone, Cullers, Dinges, Funk, Golladay, Johnson, Kibler, Kneisley, Lichliter, McClanahan, McInturff, Munch, Plauger, Powell, Rinker, Ritenour, Shipe, Sibert, Tamkin, Veach and Walter.

Attendees are asked to bring family bibles, charts, photographs, house history, etc. and they will be scanned and returned.

The Shenandoah Minstrels will provide

[Continued on Page 4]

### New Members

- Bill & Lorna Parsons
- Frank & Cindy Mullen
- Patrick & Joyce Stoner
- Judith Laton
- Nancy Hargesheimer

### Life Members

- Kevin Frazier

### ATTENTION

#### ARE YOUR DUES DUE??

The numbers beside your name on your mailing label is the month and year your membership dues are due.



Kevin Frazier

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

*The Shenandoah County  
Historical Society, Inc.*

is a

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

*President: Barbara Adamson*

*Vice-Pres: Janet Wagniere*

*Secretary: Ellen Markel*

*Treasurer: C.F. Wagniere*

*Board Members:*

*John Adamson*

*Bruce Alger*

*Dennis Atwood*

*Karen Cooper*

*Anne Dellinger*

*Diane Ferguson*

*Andy Thayer*

*Meg Trott*

*Dr. Charles Wood*

*Newsletter Editor:*  
*Janet Wagniere*

## Spotlight on Life Member/ Volunteer: Kevin Frazier

Kevin Frazier travels from his home in McGaheysville, Virginia to the Historic Shenandoah County Courthouse every month to serve on our team of hosts at the Visitor Center and Museum. He is also our newest life member of the SCHS.

He is a retired Marine Officer and was a public school teacher in Page and Rockingham Counties. He has also worked with troubled and disadvantaged youth and says that his 27 years as an academic tutor taught him much patience which he has used in researching family roots.

Both his mother's family and father's family lineage stretches back to Shenandoah and Page

County as well as Greene County and the southern part of Shenandoah County. Heishmans, Fadelys and Knupps are all found in his family tree. He developed a love for local history and family genealogy about thirty years ago when the family discovered there is a Frazier Mountain in Greene County.

Kevin is very personable and you can tell that he enjoys meeting and chatting with new people and visitors to the area. There is plenty of courthouse history and resources to read through at the museum, and he is one of our best customers in book sales.

Welcome to our team and our Society.

## Message from The President

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will read the latest about the Elizabeth Neff Quilt project. This project has been a great pleasure for me. We have really been taken by the idea of this wonderful object, so far away in San Diego, and the possibility of its coming back home to the Valley. I was nervous about achieving the fund raising goal; \$3,900 is a lot of money. But Gloria Comstock, Quilt Museum Curator, is a bundle of energy and has been confident about our success. She was right, of course, and we are all gratified with this demonstration of support for preservation from the community.

We continue to gather information about the 1795 weather vane and its figure, traditionally called a Swiss Guard. The latest research indicates that the figure most likely represents an 18th C. local militiaman. We are in the process of seeking expert advice about the preservation of the iron weather vane and the militia figure, and how best to exhibit. We are moving forward, but are proceeding carefully. Meanwhile visitors can see the militia figure himself, on view in the historic courthouse museum.

A pleasant duty at the annual dinner is the giving of awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation in Shenandoah County. The awards give us the opportunity to

reward people for making positive decisions about preservation and contributing to our store of historical information, not always the easy or least expensive path. I look forward to seeing who this year's honorees are and know that they will be outstanding.

From time to time the SCHS board discusses the sadness we feel when an old building in one of our towns or out in the county disappears. Just last week a front page headline in a local newspaper related the story of an old home destroyed by fire. These circumstances are tragic, but unfortunately the destruction of historic buildings is more often caused by demolition rather than an accident. None of our local jurisdictions forbid the demolition of historic buildings. Some ordinances delay demolition with the hope that a building might be saved, but the final decision is the property owner's. I understand this, but regret the destruction of any old building. It is our old and historic houses and other buildings that remain as visible proof of our heritage and define our historic character.

All of this serves as a reminder of why SCHS does what it does. With this in mind, you'll see an article about the SCHS Mission Statement later in the newsletter.

## Life Members

From time to time, we like to list our Life Members and say Thank You for your continuing support:

Barbara & John Adamson  
Betty Annis  
Clyde & Judy Beachy  
Richard Bell  
Greg Bott  
Gordon D. Bowman  
Virginia Cadden  
Carrie Ruda Clark  
Michael Cook  
Karen G. Cooper  
Dr. & Mrs. John Cottrell  
Ludwig Alexander Deglmann  
Leigh Devier  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Downer  
Carlton Etter  
Tom & Sue Faucett  
Diane Ferguson  
Forrest Kevin Frazier  
Elissa Free  
Robert Frye  
Mary A. Guinta  
Shirley Good-Cook  
Dr. & Mrs. Jacob Haun, Jr.  
Pattie Irvin  
P.D. Kelchner  
Robin & Lester Layman  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Lockhart  
Jean Martin  
Janice Miller  
R. Patrick Murphy  
William & Amanda Nooter  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Parsons  
Carolyn Lee Purdy  
Sherrell & Carole Pyles  
Sallie Massie Raynor  
Mike & Melissa Seward  
Nancy Stewart  
Mr. & Mrs. James Trott  
August Van Dessel Family  
Charles & Beverly Veatch  
C.F. & Janet Wagniere  
Linda Wheeler  
Betty Wisman  
Mrs. Icia Wolfe  
Dr. Charles Wood  
Phyllis S. Wright  
Frederick B. Wynn  
W. Denman Zirkle

## Fort Valley Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is April 20th

Following the 6:30 PM buffet dinner, John Adamson will speak on **Shenandoah County Longrifles: The Makers and the Art**. For reservations, contact Meg Trott (540-933-6036) or Dorothy Corder (933-6332)

# Shenandoah County Historical Society

## Mission Statement Explained

There is a reason that organizations create a mission statement. Such a document states the purpose of the organization and guides its governing body. A periodic review of the mission statement can be constructive. What are some of the ways with which we fulfill the SCHS mission statement? The Mission Statement and some answers are below:

Mission Statement of the Shenandoah County Historical Society, Inc.

- ◆ Foster a spirit of cooperation between existing organizations, writers, historians, genealogists, collectors, preservationists, and other members of the Shenandoah County community.
- ◆ Aid in the collection and creation of materials and publications about the history of Shenandoah County and ensure that they are preserved and made available to the community.
- ◆ Support efforts by citizens, organizations and government to preserve historic buildings and sites.
- ◆ Share history through programs and exhibits.

What do we do to fulfill the mission that is outlined in this statement? Our many projects and activities, which include:

- ◆ Quarterly programs on a variety of history related topics
- ◆ Host annual Shenandoah County Heritage Day
- ◆ Sales of local history books and items
- ◆ Man the Visitor's Center & Museum at the Historic Courthouse
- ◆ Sponsor the Excellence in Historic Preservation Awards
- ◆ Publish quarterly newsletter
- ◆ Website & Facebook presence
- ◆ Designated as local consulting party on public works projects
- ◆ Advise county on historic preservation issues
- ◆ Publish books
- ◆ Maintain & develop the Morrison Photographic Collection
- ◆ Share local history at public events
- ◆ Provide genealogical research services
- ◆ Partner with the Shenandoah County Library's Shenandoah Room and Truban Archives
- ◆ Conduct Oral History and Church History projects

The SCHS board strives to fulfill our mission with the help of all of our wonderful volunteers and the generous support of our members.

## Mount Jackson Museum Exhibit now at Visitor Center

An interesting collection of artifacts from the Mt. Jackson Museum have been placed on display at the Historic 1795 Court House Visitor Center. The exhibit will be in the Center through June. To see their complete offering, stop by the Museum at the Mt. Jackson Town Center on Main Street in Mt. Jackson. The Museum is open Thursdays & Fridays 1-4 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. During January and February, it is open on Saturdays from 1-4 PM.

The museum at the Town Center has exhibits on 2 levels of the building that contain Civil War artifacts, Bird Haven items from the Basye area, paintings, face jugs, Buck Ryan memorabilia, furniture and clothing from the Rinker families and much more. A recent acquisition is the loan from the Tisinger Estate of a painted blanket chest dated 1789 with floral decorations and lettering of the German spelling of Tisinger-Deisinger. Triplett High School is also well represented in their displays. Volunteers are welcomed. Be sure to put a visit to the museum on your schedule.



A Special Thanks to those who have contributed to the Shenandoah County Quilt Project

## May Program

Tuesday, May 17th

Dinner: 6:30 PM; Program 7:00 PM

### Edinburg Mill

Alan Arehart

### *History of Broadcast Radio in Northern Shenandoah Valley*

Reservations Required - See  
Annual Meeting Information

## Genealogy Tip

By Charles Hansen  
[Seattle Genealogical Society]

### INDEX TO U.S. ALIEN CASE FILES, 1944-2003

Are you researching an ancestor who immigrated to the U.S. prior to World War II, was alive during the war, but was not a naturalized citizen before the start of the war? Such individuals were required to register as an alien so seek out their "Alien File" aka "A-File". It will contain valuable genealogical information, including birthplace and birth date, maybe even a physical description and fingerprints.

Obtaining these documents can be a bit tedious. They are held by the National Archives and there is no on-line ordering system. You will have to write, call or fax in order to get the documents. However, if you have an Ancestry.com account, you can search the database "U.S., Index to Alien Case Files at the National Archives at Kansas City, 1944-2003" to determine if an Alien File exists for the ancestor you are researching. If you don't have an Ancestry.com subscription, stop by the County Library and use Ancestry there.

[http://wasgs.org/blog/2015/08/19/seattle-genealogical-society-tip-of-the-week-5/?utm\\_source=FGS+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=94a3a0ea03-The+Voice+August+2015+31+2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_1f1c05046e-94a3a0ea03-38154405](http://wasgs.org/blog/2015/08/19/seattle-genealogical-society-tip-of-the-week-5/?utm_source=FGS+Newsletter&utm_campaign=94a3a0ea03-The+Voice+August+2015+31+2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1f1c05046e-94a3a0ea03-38154405)

[Reprinted from the Michigan  
Genealogical Society Newsletter]

## “Stagecoach” Mary Fields was first African-American Mail Carrier in U.S.

(Reprinted from Michigan Genealogical Council Winter 2015 Newsletter)



*"Stagecoach" Mary Fields (1832-1914) the first African-American mail carrier (male or female) in the United States*

Mary Fields began her life as a slave in Tennessee in 1832, the exact date is unknown.

Mary's mother Susanna was the personal servant to the plantation owner's wife, Mrs. Dunnes. The plantation wife also had a daughter who was born within two weeks of Mary, and named Dolly. Mrs. Dunne allowed the children to play together. Over the years Mary was taught to read and write and the two girls became best friends. At sixteen, Dolly was sent to boarding school in Ohio and Mary was left all alone.

Mary's father worked in the fields on the Dunnes' farm. He was sold after Mary was born. Mary's mother wanted her daughter to have a last name, so since her father Buck worked in the fields, her mother decided her last name should be Fields. So thus Mary Fields came to be. After Mary's mother passed away, Mary became the head of the household at the young age of fourteen. After Dolly went away to boarding school, The Civil War began. The slaves were left to fend for themselves. It was during this time that she learned many life survival skills. She learned how to garden, raise chickens and practice medicine with natural herbs.

Around the age of 30 Mary heard from her dear friend Dolly. Dolly was now a nun and was renamed Sister Amadaus. The Sister asked Mary to join her at a convent in Ohio. Mary immediately began her twenty-day trip from Tennessee to Ohio. Mary remained with the Ursuline Sisters for many years – even when Dolly relocated to the St. Peter's Mission in Montana. Mary never married and she had no children. The nuns were her family and she protected them.

Mary wanted to follow her friend to Montana, but was told it was too remote and rustic. However, that all changed when Mother Amadaus became ill with pneumonia and wrote to Mary asking for her support and healing. Mary wasted no time and departed for Montana by stagecoach in 1885.

At 53 years old Mary started her new life in Montana. Mary helped nurse Mother Amadaus back to health. The sisters were all in amazement of this tough black woman. Mary was no stranger to rolling a cigar, shooting guns and drinking whiskey. She grew fresh vegetables that were enjoyed by the Sisters and the surrounding community. Mary was forced to leave her beloved mission and the Sisters after a shooting incident. Mary shot in self-defense, and was found innocent, but had to find a new home.

Wells Fargo had the mail contract during that time and was looking for someone for the Great Falls to Fort Benton route to deliver the U.S. Mail. It was a rough and rugged route and would require a person of strong will and great survival skills to maneuver the snowy roads and high winds. Mary immediately applied at the ripe age of 60 years old. It was rumored that she could hitch a team of horses faster than the boys half her age and due to her toughness, she was hired! Mary became the first African American mail carrier in the United States and the second woman. Mary was proud of the fact that her stage was never held up. Mary and her mule, Moses, never missed a day and it was during this time that she earned the nickname of "Stagecoach," for her unfailing reliability.

The townspeople adopted Mary as one of their own. They celebrated her birthday twice a year since she didn't know the exact date of her real birthday. Mary Fields was known as Black Mary and Stagecoach Mary. She was considered an eccentric even in these modern times. She was six feet tall and over 200 pounds. By the time she was well known in Central Montana, she had a pet eagle, a penchant for whiskey, baseball (which was a new sport at the time) and a heart as big as the gun she was famous for carrying. Mary wore a buffalo skin dress that she made herself – you might say she drew attention wherever she went – even in a small western pioneer town. Mary was a local celebrity and her legend and tales of her adventures were known by surrounding communities and neighboring states.

Gary Cooper (the actor) had his mail delivered by Mary as a young boy in Cascade County. As an adult, he wrote about her for Ebony Magazine in 1955. He wrote of her kindness and his admiration for her. The famous western artist Charlie Russell drew a sketch of her. It was a pen and ink sketch of a mule kicking over a basket of eggs with Mary looking none too happy.

Mary retired her post in 1901 and passed away in 1914. She is buried at Highland Cemetery at St. Peter's Mission. Her grave is marked with a simple cross.

*[ Originally from the Genealogical Society of Isabella County, MI newsletter ]*

## Corhaven Slave Graveyard Dedication

At least twenty-five unknown slave burials at this cemetery above Holman's Creek will be remembered and dedicated on April 30 as a sacred place, representative of forgotten slaves buried in Shenandoah County and their contributions to building it. Internment could have begun on this western edge of the Daniel Holman Fairfax Land Grant in 1750, the land also on which Edge Hill Plantation was completed in 1850 by James Madison Hite Beale. Corhaven is an Anglican retreat center just outside of Quicksburg on whose property this slave cemetery overlooks Holeman's Creek. 2:00-4:00 PM

<http://inthecoracle.org/what-we-do/slave-cemetery-at-corhaven/>  
Public is invited. RSVP at [inthecoracle@gmail.com](mailto:inthecoracle@gmail.com)

## Heritage Day - [Continued From Page 1]

period music throughout the day.

Participants are also encouraged to bring and display exhibits that cover other aspects of Shenandoah County history as well.

There will be new and used books for sale, light refreshments available nearby, longrifles, raffles, and children's activities. The building is handicapped accessible and parking is available.

The committee is looking for exhibitors who would like to bring and share local, community, church, school or family history.

You may contact the SCHS at 540-459-1795.



## Neff Quilt - [Continued from Page 1]

in Harrisonburg. I called Jeff, who remembered the quilt, and had been thinking about it after seeing an article in a local newspaper regarding the fund raising effort. Bless him, Jeff remembered many details about the sale of the quilt, when and where it took place, and when he saw photos, was able to confirm it as the same quilt. His recollections of the sale coincided with the memories passed to us from the seller, who is closing up her an-



tiques shop in San Diego. With these details, things began to fall into place, especially when Jeff said that he knew exactly where it came from.

He purchased the quilt in 2001 from Mary Miller, widow of Ralph L. Miller of Bridgewater. Mrs. Miller recalled that the quilt had come down through her husband's family. Research revealed that Ralph Miller's grandmother was Elizabeth Neff Miller (1833-1917)! Elizabeth was born in the Rude's Hill/Shenandoah Caverns area. Her parents were John Neff and Catherine Wine Neff. Elizabeth grew up in that area and left Shenandoah County, surely with the quilt, in 1856 when she married Samuel F. Miller and moved to his home near Bridgewater. We feel confident that this is our Elizabeth Neff.

We had assumed that the maker of the quilt had signed it. But Elizabeth was only 10 years old in 1843. It seems unlikely that she would have made it at that early age. Did a family member make it for her? Perhaps she and her mother made it together, and it was then her own quilt? We're anxious for the experts at the Museum to have the quilt in hand to examine it and offer their opinions about the maker or makers. We still have things to learn about this wonderful piece of Shenandoah County folk art! Our thanks to all of you who supported the fund raising effort.



## By-Law revision to be presented At SCHS Annual Meeting

At the Annual Meeting on May 10, 2011, the membership approved an updated and revised By-Laws of the Corporation. Among several updates to the By-Laws, was a change of date of the annual accounting period to end on April 30th.

The non-profit determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service, issued on Feb.6, 1995, states that the Annual Accounting period ends on May 31. Therefore, the Board is recommending a change of the annual accounting to conform to the original IRS determination letter.

The new wording will read:

ARTICLE III - MISCELLANEOUS  
Section 3.1—Fiscal year. The fiscal year of the Society shall begin on June 1 and end on May 31.

## Amazon Smile Request

Some time ago, we told members about an Amazon.com program where regular Amazon customers can register for their favorite charity and a percentage of their purchases will be donated to the charity. There is no cost and it will not affect the Prime membership. Go to: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1637605> and it will register you for SCHS. For future purchases, start at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and you will help the SCHS. Thank you.

## Ancestry.com News

Following the surprising announcement in December 2015 that Ancestry would be retiring their Family Tree Maker line of software, Ancestry announced in early February that Software MacKiev has purchased the Family Tree Maker line of software. Software MacKiev developed six years ago the Mac version of Family Tree Maker. The company plans to support both Mac and Windows version of the software going forward including software updates and new versions. Links to Ancestry hints, searches, and the ability to export family trees to Ancestry will also continue to be supported.

Additionally, RootsMagic, another genealogy software package, will be able to connect to Ancestry by 2017. Like Family Tree Maker,



## From the County Archives

By Zach Hottel,  
Archivist

## Talking About the Past: Learning from History Programs

Over the past several months, I have had the pleasure to conduct several history programs for various local groups. Two of them discussed the complex, and uncomfortable, history of slavery and racism in this area. Both of these revealed to me how easy it was for people to "forget" portions of their past that they do not enjoy in favor of "remembering" more pleasurable stories.

The first of these programs, "Lay aside your prejudices" reviewed George Rye, a Shenandoah County resident who opposed slavery during the antebellum period. During the program I discussed in depth the history of slavery in the area, how strong locals support for the institution was, and how George Rye was prosecuted for his beliefs. Yet the news articles reporting on the program and many of the questions I received focused on one thing, the engineering skills he needed to construct two local mountain roads. While there certainly were people who were interested in slavery, race, and oppression, most people seemed to be more comfortable discussing what could be considered an achievement.

A month later I did another program, this time on integration and segregation in Shenandoah County. Again I found people concentrating on the more positive, feel good portion of the story. Many individuals I worked with to conduct research had forgotten segregation or integration events had even happened. A large number of attendees made comments that things weren't as bad here as other places or observed how smoothly integration went. Very few people noted the difficulties African Americans faced or how most people supported segregated society.

For those of us reading this newsletter, this "forgetting" is something we certainly need to be aware of and know how to react. Most people don't purposefully ignore the difficult portions of history; instead it just happens, almost naturally, even to me. However that does not mean it should. Each of us has a responsibility to reach out and talk to people, whether we are the presenter or a member of the audience, and make sure people remember the entire story. If not, the true nature of history vanishes.

RootsMagic will also have the ability to connect to hints, searches, and to export trees to Ancestry.

[Reprinted from VA Genealogical Society Newsletter, February 2016 issue.]



✦ Continuing Series on Historic Buildings in Shenandoah County ✦

# 722 OLD GRADE ROAD

By: John Adamson

In the 19th Century the road leading west from Strasburg was called "The Graded Road". This road generally takes the path of Rt. 55 today toward Wardensville, West Virginia and points further west. Sections of the old road just a few miles west of Strasburg diverge from the modern road and are remarkably unchanged. Unpaved today, and twisting along without cuts or fills, you can almost imagine a team of oxen pulling a farm wagon across the ford at Mulberry Run just a mile or so east of Lebanon Church.

Just before Mulberry Run, a farm lane runs off to the right in the gentle hollow formed by the stream. At the end of this lane a venerable old house sits on a prominent hillside. Welcome to Missy (Melissa) Hockman's preservation labor of love. Not long ago, I had the pleasure of exploring the house and learning about the work being done there with Missy and her restoration expert Kevin McWilliams and his able son Nathan.

The house is composed of two rectangles. The front and oldest portion is a two story log structure on a limestone foundation that measures 28 ft. by 21 ft. The rear portion, also two story, is about 32 ft. by 18 ft. and is constructed of limestone. Missy has shown the house to Virginia Department of Historic Resources staff and to Bill Wine, noted local historic structures contractor, and they agree on a likely date of 1790s for the log portion and 1820s for the stone portion. My amateur opinion agrees with this timing.

Missy does not know who built the house, but the property has been in her family for several generations and she is determined to see that it remains a good place to live for a long time to come. A quick check in the atlas of original grants in Shenandoah County shows that the house site was part of a 345 acre grant from Lord Fairfax to Joseph Keller in 1764. Lake's Atlas of Shenandoah County, published in 1885, clearly depicts the house and shows it was occupied by a Mrs. Frashier.

Missy told me that about nine years ago she had an architect create a plan to modernize the house in one big project. She

contemplated that plan but decided that the old place deserved a more sensitive and careful effort that would retain as much original fabric and feeling as possible. She also decided to keep the floor plan basically unchanged with the exception of allowing bathrooms. About that time Missy found Kevin McWilliams, a local contractor who specializes in log structures and the two are now jointly committed to what must be described as a hands-on, one step at a time, restoration project. Still in progress, the structural work is nearly complete. This work has included replacement of decayed logs, reconstruction of old windows, repair of damaged floors, repairing stairways and stone foundation work. Missy plans enough modern plumbing and electrical to make the house pleasant to live in, but when the work is done the house will still look and feel like an early 19<sup>th</sup> century residence.

Walking around the house and seeing the work in progress with Kevin and Missy I could not help but feel as though I was travelling back in time. Hand forged iron nails, an early Federal mantle, hand-planed single board interior walls and even an old outhouse in back all suggest a simpler lifestyle than ours today. These elements appeal strongly to me - well, maybe not the outhouse. I understand completely a choice to retain and expose original handwork as a prominent feature rather than cover or alter it for a more modern look.

The pine log front and the limestone addition define the structure, style and era of the house. However, to me, the interior or woodwork defines the character and feel of the place. Original yellow pine floor boards and floor joists show the tight grain of old growth trees that were once common but no longer found. The sash saw marks on the joists, the hewing tool cuts on the logs and the hand plane marks on the board walls show slow and careful construction two plus centuries ago. The mortise and tenon joints, carefully cut and pegged together prove the house was built by skilled craftsmen experienced in the trade.

[Continued on Page 7]



Front portion of the house is log covered in weatherboard - 1790. This view shows both the front and rear section



The rear portion is limestone, Circa 1820s.



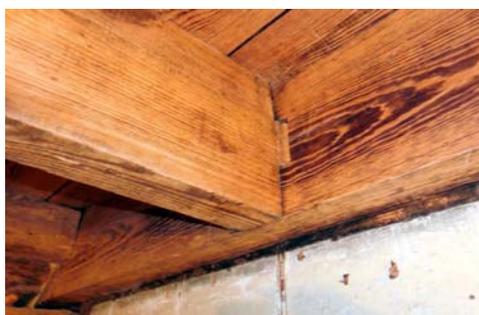
Hand forged nails about 2 inches long, and probably date from the 1790s.



Another view of the rear portion..



Detail of a fine Federal era mantle found in the limestone portion of the house. (1820's).

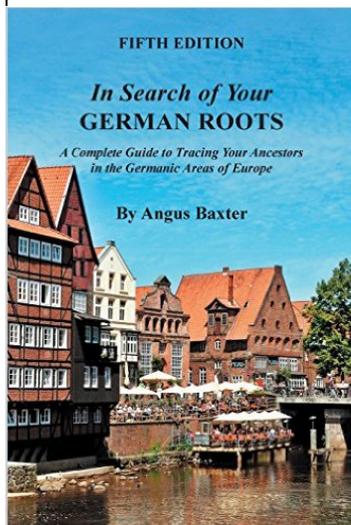


Yellow pine floor joist mortised neatly into adjoining element.



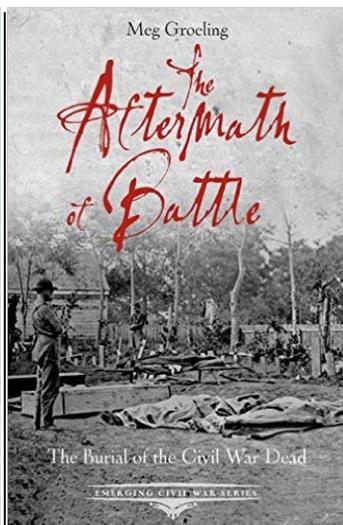
Yellow pine floor joists joined via through mortised technique. Notice the locking wood pin.

## New Books



This edition of *In Search of Your German Roots*, by Angus Baxter, is designed to help you trace your German ancestry, not only in Germany but in all the German-speaking areas of Europe, from the Baltic to the Crimea, from the Czech Republic to Belgium. It shows you how to conduct your research from your own home—at your computer, using a variety of online resources—and also points you to the most useful repositories of records abroad.

The first edition of this book was published in 1987. This new 5th edition highlights all of the recent developments — new facilities, new websites, newly available records — that have made German family history research immeasurably easier. Completely revised and updated, this edition is now the most current and comprehensive guide to German roots available.  
\$22.00 / Members: \$21.00



*The Aftermath of Battle* by Meg Groeling, begins when the stories of the battles end. It tells of shocked armies and overwhelmed communities dealing with thousands of dead . . . families struggling to retrieve the remains of lost loved ones . . . a government trying to collect and reinter its fallen sons.

“What did they do with all the bodies after the battle?” It’s one of the most common questions battlefield visitors ask. And, although they perhaps don’t realize it, it’s also one of the most sublime.

The answer is one of the most complicated stories of the entire Civil War: how armies on both sides learned to deal with death in its realest sense.

This is not just the story of a nation’s attempt to come to grips . This is the story of bodies strewn across the battlefield in the hot summer sun—and the urgent need to do something about it.

\$17 / Members: \$16

## New Gift Item



### County Seal Coaster Set

These beautiful hand-made cherry coasters showing the Shenandoah County Seal (and holder) are now available for purchase at the Courthouse Visitor Center. Coasters are \$9; the holder is \$10. Set of 4 with a holder is \$40. To ship, add \$5.



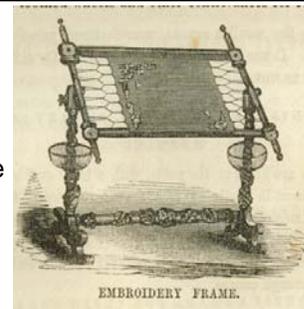
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### DO YOU KNOW THEM?

The Shenandoah Room at the County Library in Edinburg, has 58 albums filled with images from the photo files of Hugh Morrison, Jr. Stop in and see if you can find someone you know.

## Symphony of Stitches To be held April 23rd

The Edinburg Heritage Foundation's annual fund raiser for The Edinburg Mill, "Symphony of Stitches Symposium", will be held on Saturday, April 23rd at the St. Paul's Heritage Center at 106 S. High Street in Edinburg Virginia.



This year's focus will be “**The Evolution of Cookware**”. Rod Graves will discuss how form and function of cookware changed for Valley cooks from open hearth to stovetop cooking and beyond..

The afternoon session will feature Mariclaire Hale, Diana Hale and Juanita Leisch showing and discussing **Economy & Extravagance in Dress**. They will compare/contrast work versus play clothes - explore the economics of intended use and reuse - and see examples of work clothes and clothes intended for anything but work. **Aprons Through the Ages** will also be featured.

The Silent Auction, introduced last year, will be back again, and should be even bigger and better.

The Symposium is an all-day event, with an opportunity to purchase luncheon or bring your own. There will also be opportunities for attendees to bring and present unusual items pertaining to the subject sessions

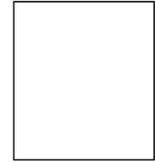
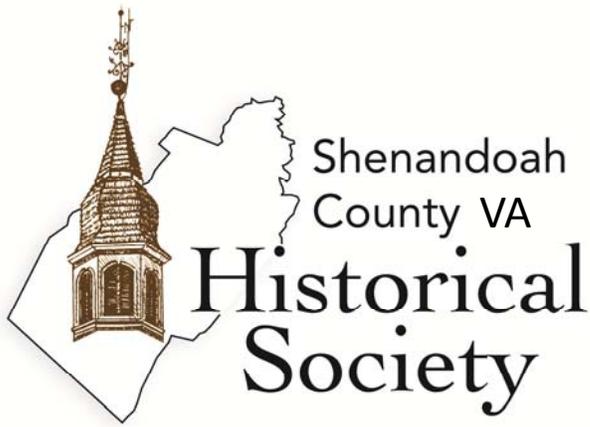
For information and reservations, call 540-984-9309 or send an inquiry to [stitchesva@gmail.com](mailto:stitchesva@gmail.com). A reservation form can be downloaded at: [www.edinburgmill.com](http://www.edinburgmill.com)  
Reservation required for lunch.

## Historic Buildings - [Continued from Page 6]

Missy told me that her restoration project has been going on for nine years. Kevin joked that it had become his “career”. But I know that anything good is worth waiting for. Certainly in this case, it is not how fast the work is done, but how well the work is done. I have asked Missy to put me on the guest list when the big housewarming party takes place – it may be a while, but that is fine with me, I can wait.

You can see other examples of Kevin McWilliams work on his website: [www.logcabinman.info](http://www.logcabinman.info)





P.O. Box 506  
Edinburg VA 22824

Phone: 540-459-1795  
E-Mail: [SCHS.VA@Gmail.com](mailto:SCHS.VA@Gmail.com)

### Join the **SCHS**

Individual: \$10 per year

Family: \$15 per year

Lifetime (Individual): \$200

Lifetime (Family): \$300

Send Fee to address above.

Renewal Date is beside name on  
mailing label →

## Upcoming Events - More events on Web site

April 10th - 2:00 to 3:00 PM:

**Shenandoah – A Story of Conservation and Betrayal** will be presented at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley at 901 Amherst Street in Winchester, Va. In this travel narrative, about the history behind the creation of Shenandoah National Park, author Sue Eisenfield will describe her personal journey into the park's hidden past. MSV Members: \$5; all others: \$10. Register by April 8. Call 540-662-1473, ext. 240. Limited seating.

April 16th - 10 AM to 4 PM

**Brocks Gap Heritage Day** takes place at Fulks Run Elementary School. Special programs on Brocks Gap Rifles, Textiles: Woven, Spun & Quilted, and William "Billy" Sager, KIA in WW II. For info, call 540-662-1475 or [patritchie@verizon.net](mailto:patritchie@verizon.net)

April 20th - 6:30 PM

**Fort Valley Museum Volunteer Appreciation Dinner** at the Fort Valley Fire Dept. at 7088 Ft. Valley Rd. Reservations required. 540-933-6036

May 14 & 15th - 2:30 Sat. & 2:00 PM Sun.

**The 152nd Anniversary Battle of New Market Reenactment** will take place at 8895 George Collin Pkwy, New Market, Va. on the New Market Battlefield, sponsored by The Virginia Museum of the Civil War. There will be food, demos, retailers, tours and more. More details at Web site:

<http://www.vmi.edu/newmarket>.

Information also at: (866) 515-1864

May 21st & 22nd - 9 AM - 5:00

**The Gathering - Honoring Military History and All Who Have Served** presented by DAV, Chapter 9 and The Hottel Keller Memorial take place at the Hottel Keller Homestead at 11523 Back Road in Toms Brook. Veterans who need help dealing with the VA can talk to the DAV service officers. Other veteran support groups will be on site to help and assist those in need. Reenactors representing the Revolutionary War to the present will demonstrate and teach about the era they represent. For more info: 540-305-4776 or [tcooper@shentel.net](mailto:tcooper@shentel.net)

May 26th - 7:30 PM:

**Civil War Era Music and History of the Songs** - by Shenandoah Valley Minstrels will be presented by the New Market Historical Society at the New Market Town Council Chambers at 9418 John Sevier Road in New Market, Va. Public is invited.

May 26th - 7:00 PM:

**Quarterly Program** sponsored by the Woodstock Museum at the Woodstock Town Council Chambers at 135 North Main Street in Woodstock, Va. For information, Call Barbara 540-459-3946 (11-5 daily)

June 26th - 8 AM - 5 PM

**Bike Virginia Day—Historic Courthouse will be open.** Bikers will be using the Court Square as an official rest stop.



The SCHS web site: [www.shenandoahcountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.shenandoahcountyhistoricalsociety.org)

[Book List is on web site]