Heritage Day 2020 Cancelled

Heritage Day 2020, set for Saturday, April 18 from 11AM-3PM to be held at the Strasburg Fire Hall in Strasburg, has been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. At this point in time, no decision has been made as to whether to reschedule the event later in the year, or to postpone it completely until next year. Stay tuned.

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New Members
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Visit SCHS on Facebook
By Dennis Atwood

Want to access additional information about Shenandoah County history in an interactive environment? Then visit our Facebook page: facebook.com/SCHSVA or simply click on the Facebook icon at the bottom of our website main page. On our Facebook page you will find event announcements, videos like the announcement last year by Preservation Virginia that our Historic Barns Program is included in their 2018 Ten most endangered historic places, postings by our Shenandoah County Library Archivist, Zach Hottel, plus comments and other information from folks like you.

Annual Dinner Meeting is Scheduled for May 19th

The 2019 Shenandoah County Historical Society Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held Tuesday, May 19th in Edinburg at the historic Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2447 located on Stony Creek Blvd at the railroad crossing. A social hour will begin at 6:00 PM followed by dinner at 6:30 PM. The cost for the dinner meeting is $23.00 per person. Immediately after the dinner SCHS president Barbara Adamson will conduct a brief business meeting that will include a report on the Society’s accomplishments during the past year. She will also conduct the election of members to serve on the Board of Directors for the coming year. The proposed slate of current board members standing for re-election to a two-year term include John Adamson, Bruce Alger, Dennis Atwood, Anne Dellinger, Meg Trott and Janet Wagniere.

This year’s program, Forgotten in Plain Sight: The Fisher’s Hill Ladies Project will be presented. (See more about the program on page 3).

A registration form is included with this newsletter and members are requested to use the form to: 1) register to attend the dinner meeting. 2) sign a proxy to represent them if they are unable to attend. 3) renew their annual membership dues, if appropriate. Non-members are, of course, welcome to attend the dinner as well.

Additional parking is available at Farmers & Merchants Bank, across Stony Creek Blvd. Please use the VFW entrance facing the railroad track.

At this point time, no decision as been made about possibly rescheduling the meeting. We hope members will go ahead and make their reservation and send in their check. If the meeting is cancelled or rescheduled, you will be contacted and, if necessary, checks will be returned.

Shenandoah County Historic Courthouse and Visitor Center is closed until the Covid-19 Pandemic has ended.

Book orders will continue to be filled during this period.

SCHS voice mail will be checked regularly.

Notices will be sent out if Annual Meeting is cancelled.

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New Forest Service Exhibit will be on Display when Historic Courthouse ReOpens

As of April 1st, the US Forest Service will be debuting a new display in the Visitor Center at the Historic Shenandoah County Courthouse on Main Street in Woodstock.

The upcoming US Forest Service display will highlight the rich history of the Lee Ranger District’s Fire Warden’s System, early firefighting activities on the George Washington National Forest and controlled burning activities today. Why was the Warden System so important in Shenandoah County? Do you remember the Jawbone Fire on the Massanutten Mountain? Why does the Forest Service conduct controlled burns? Come enjoy their exhibit from April – July and learn about the history of fire on your national forest!
From the County Archives

By Zach Hottel, Archivist

This undated postcard shows Lloyd’s Department Store on King Street in Strasburg Virginia. The store was located beside what was the Massanutten National Bank which, until recently, was the Strasburg Chamber of Commerce, near the intersection with Holliday Street.

The building was first constructed around 1893 to house a store operated by Edward Zea which opened across the street in 1867. At some point, Zea was joined in business by R.S. Wright and the store became known as “Zea and Wright Department Store,” Their advertising claimed it was the town’s largest department store.

Edward Zea died in 1903. Sometime between then and the creation of this photograph, the store was purchased by Lloyd and Bertha “Doll” Rosson who also operated a 5 & 10 cent store in Strasburg. Most likely this transfer occurred in the 1930s. They sold a wide variety of retail products including shoes, clothing, furniture, etc. Operation continued through at least 1950. Today the building is part of the First-Bank complex.

Message from the President

Usually I would expect to be writing about the coming of Spring and reveling in the anticipation. But the coronavirus epidemic has changed everything. I’m sure all of us will remark on the vagaries of March weather – lovely one day, chilly and wet the next – and enjoying the emergence of buds on trees and shrubs. Only one early daffodil variety is blooming in our yard, but I’d bet that a couple of days of warm sunshine will bring out more. I cut some of those daffodils and brought them into the house. I highly recommend bringing a little of their cheeriness into our lives.

As you’ve read about elsewhere in the newsletter, SCHS events have been canceled due to the Covid-19 outbreak. We hope to reschedule Kirck Gibson in the fall to come tell us about the history of Shrine Mont. Whether we will try to reschedule Heritage Day sometime later in the year or wait until next spring for this celebration of our history is uncertain. We hope to have our annual dinner on May 19 as scheduled but clearly that also may change.

We regret that the Historic Courthouse and Visitor Center is closed until further notice. We were only open for a few days after our winter break when the coronavirus spread overtook everything! As noted on Page 1 we will continue to take book orders received by mail and will check the SCHS voice mail (540-459-1795) to answer any questions you may have.

I’m very pleased that those SCHS board members up for reelection have agreed to serve again for a two-year term as reported in the annual meeting announcement. We’re a collegial and productive group. I look forward to working with all of them.

Storm Crisis of 1928

Here is an article from the Shenandoah Herald that may surprise you, reminding us of how capricious spring can be. The date is April 27 and 28, 1928.

“Unprecedented snow storms for this season of the year visited the Shenandoah Valley and nearby sections of West Virginia last Friday and Saturday, followed by high waters in creeks and both branches of the Shenandoah River. One bridge......over the River at Red Banks, was washed out. The bridge is of submerged cement and was broken by driftwood hurled against it with force by the swift waters, which, at this point, covered the Valley Pike, making automobile travel dangerous and difficult. There was a similar condition along the Pike south of Strasburg.”

“The depth of snow varied ….from 13 inches to two feet……………….”

“Following a cold, dreary rain early Friday morning the snow storm started with flakes of immense size, the largest ever seen in this section, that kept falling steadily all of Friday and until noon Saturday. If some of the snow had not melted as it fell conditions would have been most disastrous. Telephone and telegraph lines were put out of commission by the heavy weight of snow and high winds and it was feared that the fruit would be frozen. However conditions were not so bad as at first expected and the loss from the snow will not be so great to the fruit except in the breaking down of many trees. The apples are said to be uninjured. More snow fell on Friday and Saturday than during the entire winter, the three winter months having been almost devoid of snow. It will be remembered that in 1926 there
**Life Members**

Each year we like to list our Life Members and say Thank You for your continuing support:

- John & Barbara Adamson
- Bruce Alger
- Betty Annis
- Clyde & Judy Beachy
- Richard Bell
- Greg Bott
- Laurie Burgess
- Virginia Cadden
- Tom & Leslie Carr
- Carrie Ruda Clark
- Mike & Pam Clem
- Michael Cook
- Diane Cooley-Lutz
- Karen G. Cooper
- Dr. & Mrs. John Cottrell
- Richard D. Cummings
- Peter & Kathleen Daiker
- Phyllis Deeney
- Ludwig Alexander Deglmann
- Leigh Devier
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard Downer
- Carlton Etter
- Cathy, William & Frank Ettinger
- Tom Faucett
- Forrest Kevin Frazier
- Elissa Blake Free
- Marian French
- Robert Frye
- Diane Gardner
- Mary A. Giunta
- Nonna D. Good
- Shelly Good-Cook
- Nancy Hammer
- Dennis Hupp
- Pattie Irvin
- P.D. Kelchner
- Russell & Sarah Kohrs
- Edgar Lamma, III
- Robin Layman
- Mr. & Mrs. Harry Lockhart
- Cherye Long
- Jean Martin
- Bob & Suzanne McIlwee
- Ashley A.L. Miller
- Janice Miller
- William J. Miller
- Gregory, Alicia & Gabriel Neas
- William & Amanda Neter
- Anna Mae Ortgies
- Bonnie Painter
- Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Parsons
- Diane Pence
- Carolyn Lee Purdy
- Sherrill & Carole Pyles
- Sally Massie Raynor
- Kathleen Rivers
- Mike & Melissa Seward
- Pat Shelton
- Nancy Stewart
- Andrew Thayer
- MEG Trott
- August Van Dessel Family
- Linda Varney
- Charles & Beverly Veatch
- C.F. & Janet Wagniere
- William & Susan Walls
- Michael Watkinson
- Linda Wheeler
- Icia Wolfe
- Dr. Charles Wood
- Phyllis Wright
- Frederick B. Wynn
- W. Denman Zirkle

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**Annual Dinner Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 19th, 2020**  
6:00 PM social; 6:30 PM dinner

**Edinburg VFW**  
100 Veterans Way, Edinburg, VA

**Program:**  
Forgotten in Plain Sight:  
The Fisher’s Hill Ladies Project

Our annual dinner program will be a presentation about three notable women — two nationally recognized artists and a writer — who lived and worked at Fisher’s Hill for a decade in the 1880s. These accomplished women were essentially forgotten locally. There is no found record of anyone remembering them and no stories about them. Bertha Von Hillem was a celebrated muralist and a champion of the then popular sport of endurance walking. Maria J.C. a’Beckett was also an accomplished artist. She and Von Hillem both had art works displayed in the 1884 World’s Fair. The third member of this trio was Emma Howard Wight who wrote serial novels, children’s books, short stories for newspapers, photoplays and radio dramas.

The program will be presented by four local residents who became aware of the Fisher’s Hill Ladies, felt compelled to learn more about them and now will share this knowledge. They are Cheryl Lyon from Dayton, VA who has strong family connections to Fisher’s Hill, Hope Brim who is an educator and board member of the Strasburg Museum and has an interest in Strasburg history, Gloria Stickley author or co-author of three books, Strasburg Museum president and a respected historian and Neil Thome a Valley native with a passion for history and research. Neil also lives at Fisher’s Hill.

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**Genealogy News:**

**Citizenship Records on Ancestry.com**

800,000 records have been added from the US Court for the Southern District of New York, (NARA series 471341). The records are declarations of the persons intention to become a citizen of the United States, a first legal step on the path to citizenship.

Declarations of Intention for Citizenship, 1/19/1842-10/29/1959 (799,867 records).  
See: ancestry.com/search/collections/naturalizationpetitions.

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**Shenandoah County and Women’s Right To Vote**

By Barbara Adamson

It’s hard to imagine now that women in the United States did not have the right to vote until 1920, 144 years after the Declaration of Indepence. The Woman Suffrage movement in America began in 1848 and culminated in the passage of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution on June 4, 1919, an action that required adoption by 2/3, or 36, of the 48 States. Local sentiment was reflected in the Shenandoah Herald with a notice on Sept. 5, 1919 that the Suffrage Amendment was indefinitely postponed in the Virginia Legislature by a large majority, with the writer hoping that that action would be followed by a number of other states.

When the amendment was finally adopted on August 18, 1920 by the 36th state, Tennessee, the Herald reported that the approval there was made out of fear of the women and that men were now to be pitied, for besides being bossed in their homes they would now be bossed in State and National affairs. The report also noted a common objection given to the passage of Suffrage, that it would take from the states the right to control their own affairs. Shenandoah County women wasted little time taking advantage of their new right, with 21 women having registered to vote by August 24.

During the following weeks the Herald addressed the subject again, apparently becoming resigned to the fact that women had now joined the electorate but continuing to press the states right issue. An editorial noted that in their outrage over the Suffrage Amendment, many persons declared that they wouldn’t vote at all. The paper criticized this attitude, stating that “Notwithstanding a new burden has been placed upon the women of the state without their consent or desire; for we believe that the majority of our women were opposed to it, it becomes the duty of all to make the best of it…Every one should faithfully study the platforms of the different parties; they should make themselves familiar with the issues involved and be able to vote intelligently…It is the duty of every man and woman to become informed.”

Yet another editorial stated that the ratification of the amendment “is an event of such crucial significance that it may be said without exaggeration to mark the end of an era…Twenty-two million women who have been guaranteed by this amendment equal political rights-and called to equal duties-with men. Not all of this vast number have needed to wait for this amendment to receive whole or partial suffrage, since by State enactment women in fifteen States already have been fully enfranchised, and in thirteen other states have been empowered to vote in presidential elections…” For many years the battle between the advocates and the opponents of (Continued on Page 5)
The Dosh House, Lot 27, Strasburg

By: John Adamson

As I write about the Dosh House in Strasburg, the Historical Society has just announced the cancellation of Heritage Day in 2020 due to safety concerns about COVID 19, the Coronavirus. Heritage Day was planned to be held at the Strasburg Fire Department literally next door to the Dosh House on April 18. The house was to be opened to the public and would have allowed anyone interested in the architecture of Shenandoah County the opportunity to examine a rare example of a very early log house. For now, this article will have to do. Tentative plans are to reschedule Heritage Day 2021 in Strasburg and give everyone another chance. The Dosh House is 240 years old; one more year should not make a big difference.

The Dosh House is actually two houses joined together. The older rear section was built by Phillip Hoffman who purchased Lot 27 and Lot 28 on April 20, 1778 from his father in law, Peter Stover. Stover had seen the potential for settlement and development where the major north-south road crossed an east-west route and where an active grain milling industry had begun. Stover owned the land that became Strasburg when the Virginia legislature chartered the town in 1761. Phillip Hoffman was one of ten trustees when the town was chartered in November 1761 and married Peter Stover’s daughter, Elizabeth. Purchasers of Strasburg lots were usually required to erect a dwelling house eighteen feet long by twenty feet wide with a stone chimney to the same... If the purchaser did not erect the house within one year of purchase, the ownership of the lot reverted to the seller. This requirement tells us that Phillip Hoffman’s building was probably completed in 1779 though we might conclude that Peter Stover would not have invoked the reversion clause against his own son in law. Phillip Hoffman established a tannery on the property some time shortly after he purchased the two lots. The two story log house that now faces directly on to Washington Street was probably built by Hoffman shortly before 1800. At a later date, the two separate log structures were connected by an intervening section about ten feet in length.

Lot 27 and lot 28 changed hands numerous times over the years. Phillip left the house to his son, Isaac Hoffman. Joseph Swisher, a tanner, acquired the property in 1822, but lived in nearby Lebanon Church. Perhaps workers at the tannery lived in the dwelling house. Doctor William Eyster acquired the property in 1831. George A. Hupp, brother of Eyster’s wife, acquired the property in 1837. (George A. Hupp was a cousin of George F. Hupp, owner of the “Hupp Mansion” in Strasburg). Peter Belew became the property owner in 1846 but sold the property to John G. Dosh and his wife, Caroline Funk Dosh, the same year. Dosh heirs owned the house until 1940 when it was given to the Town of Strasburg. The local Boy Scouts used the property for many years. The Strasburg Guard, a chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, acquired the property from the Town in 1995 with the mission to preserve the house and its history.

Because it is called “The Dosh House” it is worth noting a bit of John Dosh’s history. John Dosh was born in 1821 and was a saddlemaker. He was a member of Company A "The Strasburg Guards", of the 10th Virginia Infantry Regiment of the Confederate Army. Dosh served in 1861, but was discharged from the army to work for a contractor in Stephen’s City making leather equipment for the Confederate Army. Dosh rejoined the Confederate Army on November 21, 1863 as a member of the 23rd Virginia Cavalry Regiment. He was paroled at the end of the Civil War in Winchester on April 17, 1865. John Dosh died June 12, 1896 and is buried a block from his home in the St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery.

I try to imagine the rear portion of the Dosh House (the old part) as a stand-alone building constructed in 1779. This one and a half story log structure is a fine example of early Germanic architecture once common locally, but now quite rare as more than two hundred years have passed since this style was popular. The central limestone chimney is the telling feature of this dwelling structure, a distinctly “German” feature of early local buildings (see my article about the flurkuchenhaus on Swover Creek in the Spring 2018 SCHS newsletter). The external dimensions of the original structure are a modest 31 feet by 16 feet, but this [Continued on Page 6 ]
In 1920, Virginia's General Assembly refused to ratify the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution to grant women the vote. Or did they? When the 36th state ratified the amendment, women gained voting rights across the nation. Virginia suffragists were a part of that victory, although their role has been nearly forgotten. They marched in parades, rallied at the state capitol, spoke to crowds on street corners, staffed booths at fairs, lobbied legislators, picketed the White House and even went to jail.

The Campaign for Woman Suffrage in Virginia reveals how women created two statewide organizations to win the right to vote. At the centenary of the movement, these remarkable women can at last be recognized for their important contributions. Price: $25; Members: $24

Women's Vote - [Cont. from Page 3]

...woman suffrage has been relentless in the conscientious earnestness of two opposite beliefs. One side believed woman suffrage would bring good to the nation, and therefore fought to secure it; the other side believed it would bring harm, and so fought to prevent it...there is a new unity on which all conscientious people must meet. Women...must take up immediately their duty and their privilege...by voting, so faithfully register their high ideals that idealism will be by that much the more likely to shape the verdicts of the State and nation."

While the passage of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution allowed Virginia women to vote, Virginia was not one of the states that voted its approval. Virginia legislators did not adopt the 19th Amendment until 1952.

Fort Valley Museum Annual Dinner Scheduled in May

Fort Valley Museum's Annual Appreciation Dinner will be held at the Fort Valley Fire Department on Wednesday, May 6th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The evening begins with a social time from 6:00 to 6:30, followed by dinner, a program honoring the memory of our school, an appreciation of volunteers and a short annual meeting. Reservations are $19.00. Contact Dianne Maggard (933-6648) or Meg Trott (933-6036). The public is cordially invited.
was probably typical of houses built in Strasburg before the end of the Revolutionary War. The rooms are arranged in a “two over two” floor plan with evidence of the original stairway at one end of the structure. Both the original and later portions of the house were covered by horizontal weatherboards, now removed.

The newer portion of the Dosh House faces Washington Street. This 24 foot by 20 foot two story log structure incorporates a side hall plan and has two rooms on each floor. The house also has an attic with standing room in the center and a full basement that contains a cooking fireplace. The location of the fireplaces centered on the gable end of this structure had become the norm by the late 18th century. Though built only about 15 years after the rear portion of the house, this architecture reflects the transition from the Germanic to an American style as builders in the Shenandoah Valley blended the various architectural traditions of the early settlers.

If you had been a visitor to Strasburg in the early 19th century, you would have seen a town composed primarily of log buildings like the two parts of the Dosh House. A few limestone buildings were mixed in. Brick structures were just beginning to become popular. The town was profoundly different from what we see today. The Dosh house has survived every threat and all the changes that have come along for something over 240 years. Today, with limited resources, their own physical labor and with enthusiasm and respect for its history, the Strasburg Guards provide stewardship that allows anyone with an eye for historic architecture to look into our past.

We thank them for their efforts and willingness to share this treasure with our community.

DOSH HOUSE - [Continued from Page 4]

STORM - Continued from Page 2]

was snow on April 13 and 18 and that year produced the biggest fruit crop on record.”

“The Shenandoah River at Woodstock rose over thirteen feet, and the rich farming lands along its course will suffer loss.”

“But the beautiful sunshine and usual fine weather of the Valley have replaced the snow and rain and “God’s in His Heaven, All’s well with the world.”

STORM - Continued from Page 2]

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amazon

In a program that began a few years ago, customers who shop at Amazon.com can also donate to their favorite non-profit organization.

After a customer selects their non-profit group, Amazon will donate 0.5% of every purchase they make to the selected group. All one must do to sign up is to go to: http://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1637605 and confirm your selection. Or, you can go to: smile.amazon.com and pick your non-profit from a list. In the future, one must go to smile.amazon.com instead of just directly to the amazon site (as in the past), and your organization will receive the credit.

If you are an Amazon Prime member, nothing will change as far as your account is concerned.

Several members have already signed up and made purchases and it worked, the SCHS received a donation.

EVENTS ARE ON WEB SITE