



Shenandoah County Historical Society

P.O. Box 506 ✦ Edinburg VA 22824

Newsletter

Fall ✦ 2013

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Historic Groups receive bequeaths

French & Indian War to be subject of November 10th Program Meeting

SCHS member, R. Patrick Murphy, has recently published a book on *The French & Indian War in Shenandoah County - Life on the Inner Frontier, 1752-1766*. This struggle took place before the Revolutionary War and went on for so many years, yet not much is read about it and how it affected the lives of the people in Shenandoah County.

Mr. Murphy will join us for our Nov. 10th Program meeting at the St. Paul's Heritage Center, 106 S. High St. in Edinburg, and will discuss his book in detail.

The public is invited to the 7 PM Program.

There are many organizations in Shenandoah County that center on local history and we all depend on the support of members and friends. Recently SCHS, the Mt. Jackson Museum and the Woodstock Museum have become beneficiaries of generous supporters.

SCHS has received a gift of \$26,300.00 from the estate of Ethel Ritenour Garber. Mrs. Garber and her husband, Hoyle, were founding members of the society and both served on our Board. Ethel served as Corresponding Secretary for more than a decade and on the Board beyond that. She survived her husband and passed away in July 2012.

The Mt. Jackson Museum has received gifts from two donors. The Museum has been the recipient of the generosity of both Ethel Garber and supporter Bill Paxton. One museum board member commented that they sometimes see items come up for auction that they cannot afford and it's distressing to see them go elsewhere instead of being preserved in a public place to be appreciated by the community. Mrs. Garber and Mr. Paxton's gifts will enable the museum to acquire artifacts to add to their collection.

The Woodstock Museum has received a gift from an unassuming but supportive member, Sidney MacLeod, who left the Museum his entire estate including his home in Woodstock. We can imagine that Mr. MacLeod knew how beneficial his gift would be to the Museum, with the demands of its two historic properties in downtown Woodstock and care of extensive collections.

The SCHS Board is delighted to have these additional funds from Mrs. Garber. While we don't have the demands of property ownership, we always have projects in mind that we plan to do or would like to do. In the near future we will be publishing the reprint of Richard Kleese's updated book, *Shenandoah County in the Civil War The Turbulent Years*. We've talked among ourselves about wanting to publish a book about Shenandoah County's wonderful historic architecture which is a very expensive endeavor. In addition, our upcoming move to the Historic Court-

Continued on Page 3

Courthouse Update

With the completion of renovations at the Old Edinburg School, contractor Caldwell-Santmyer is again focusing attention on the rehabilitation of the Historic Courthouse. Infrastructure work continues and includes all new electric, plumbing and HVAC. Workers are currently filling in and sealing the old basement entrance on W. Court St. and installation of a fire suppression sprinkler system is due to begin in late September. Work to install a new metal roof is slated for early October. Contractors want the roof in place before much more interior work is done in case of weather issues. Interestingly, records show that when the first addition to the courthouse was made in 1871, the metal roof installed then replaced an existing metal roof. This indicates that in its relatively short life from construction in 1795, the courthouse was getting its third roof. We presume that the original 1795 chestnut shingles were replaced with metal, and it's been metal ever since. Expected completion date of rehabilitation of the building is mid-November.

Welcome: New Members

Zachary Hottel
Wanda Finney
Kenneth Clem
Joe A. Stamm
Nelson T. Smith
Laurie Burgess & Bill Billeck

New "Life" Members

Richard Bell
Phyllis Wright
John & Barbara Adamson
Charles & Beverly Veatch

Q: Is Your Membership Fee Due?

A: Check the address label



R. Patrick Murphy

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.*

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Newsletter Editor:

Janet Wagniere

Member Spotlight: R. Patrick Murphy

With the publication of *The French and Indian War: Life on the Inner Frontier, 1752-1766* (available from SCHS—see the book list) R. Patrick (“Pat”) Murphy is embarking on his fourth career, local historian. Pat was born in Alexandria, VA, and grew up in Fairfax County, where he attended public school. He graduated from Yale University in 1963 with a BA in English and was then commissioned in the US Navy. The Navy, in its infinite corporate wisdom, decided that “Eng” was a fungible abbreviation and so he was assigned exclusively to engineering duties, first on *USS Intrepid* (CVS-11) then on *USS La Salle* (LPD-3). His last assignment was as Engineer Officer of *La Salle*. After completing his active duty service in 1967, he attended graduate school at the University of Virginia, receiving an MA (1968) and Ph.D. (1971), also in English. Pat then taught English at the University of Idaho for six years, after which he decided on a change of careers. He matriculated at Duke University Law School, from which he graduated with a J.D. in

1980. Pat practiced law, first in Houston, TX, then in Washington, DC, for 25 years, mostly for large, multinational firms. During his legal career, he obtained a national reputation in immigration and nationality law and was the 1996 recipient of the Edith Lowenstein Memorial Award presented by the American Immigration Lawyers Association “for excellence in advancing the practice of immigration law.” Pat retired with his partner, Diane L. Ferguson, to their home in Shenandoah County, where they both became immersed in the County’s rich local history. Besides working as a volunteer and interim Newsletter Editor for a year for SCHS, he is active in the Capt. Jack Adams Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and is a member of the American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, Military Officers Association of America, and Yale Veterans Association.

Growing up on land that was once part of one of George Washington’s farms, Pat has had a lifelong interest in history, particularly Civil War history. Pat wrote *The French and Indian War in*

Shenandoah County because persons interested in the history of modern Shenandoah County are overwhelmed by the history of the County in the American Civil War. Indeed, it is not an exaggeration to say that there is no terrain in Shenandoah County capable of being traversed by man, horse, or mule that was not marched over, camped on, fought over, or used as a hospital or place of recuperation. Pat wrote his book to highlight the fact that modern Shenandoah County was on the front lines of an earlier, often overlooked, but nonetheless important conflict. Thank you, Pat, for all you do. For the SCHS.

Spirits of New Market Annual tour scheduled

The Virginia Museum of the Civil War, in New Market, has scheduled their annual lantern tour for Sat., Oct. 26th. Step back in time during the program, “Spirits of New Market”, as the indomitable spirit of those whose lives were impacted by the Battle of New Market is celebrated. You’ll follow your guide on a lantern lit, eight station tour of the Battlefield encountering living historians portraying the soldiers, townsfolk and Bushong family. While interacting with the characters you’ll be able to lend aid to the wounded, ask questions and experience the Battlefield in a whole new way.

Cost is just \$10.00 per adult, ages 13 and older. Youth are ages 6-12 and their tickets are \$5.00. Children 5 and under are free.

Each walking tour lasts approximately 45 minutes. Tickets go on sale at 6:30 PM on the 26th.

Tours begin at 7:00 PM and depart the Virginia Museum of the Civil War, 8895 George Collins Parkway, every 15 minutes. For more info, call (866) 515-1864.

Message from The President

This week the weather is perfectly autumnal. It’s welcomed but who knows what we’ll get next week! Volunteers from all over the county are still recovering from September’s successful GermanFest and Edinburg Ole Time Festival. These events require hard work but are very rewarding and we enjoyed being at both.

SCHS and Civil War graffiti in the Historic Courthouse have been much in our local news the past couple of months. We appreciate the attention paid to this historic discovery in the most historic building in Shenandoah County. It will be an expensive project with costs of around \$50,000 to uncover suspected graffiti in the 1795 portion of the building and apply a protective coating to what is found. That cost does not include the installation of signage and exhibition of found graffiti. The SCHS board

has decided to engage paint conservator Chris Mills to return to Woodstock as soon as renovation work is complete in the courthouse and we have committed \$7,000 to uncover more graffiti during this next trip. Early next year we will begin grant applications and fund raising to engage Chris to continue with the work.

In our last newsletter we included an appeal to anyone who would like to be a part of our volunteer corps that will be needed when we move to the Historic Courthouse and begin to keep it open for visitors. Please call me at 465-5570 or Janet Wagniere at 984-3114 to find out more.



Edinburg School Re-Dedicated



Charterhouse School, in partnership with Shenandoah County and Shenandoah County Public Schools, has opened a new school to serve students with special needs. Charterhouse School - Edinburg opened in the fall of 2013 and will serve students with autism, emotional disabilities, learning disabilities, intellectual disabilities and other health impairments in the former Edinburg High School. The school will serve middle and high school students between the ages of 11 and 22. Renovations have been done under Vir-

ginia's Public Private Education Act (PPEA) program. The \$4.5 million renovation, from a bond program, includes a separate entrance and specialized classrooms for students on the autism spectrum. An initial re-dedication of the school was held on August 16th, which was attended by former County Administrator, Doug Walker and former School superintendent, R. Keith Rowland, who were the initial advocates for the new use of the Edinburg School. The Board of Supervisors also attended, along with a number of other visitors. There will be larger dedication at a later date.

White Glove Access: Behind the Rope - Woodrow Wilson's Pierce-Arrow



This new program offered by the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library, will allow visitors a behind the scenes look at the collections and archives which have previously been unavailable to the public. For this third program in the series, they will be taking a closer look at Woodrow Wilson's Pierce-Arrow Limousine. Through artifacts and documents relating to the Pierce-Arrow, Library Archivist Peggy Dillard and Curator Andrew Phillips will be discussing both the history and restoration of Mr. Wilson's favorite car.

The event is on Sunday, October 6 at 2:00 pm in the Library and Archives Building of the WWPL at 20 North Coalter St., in Staunton, VA. Light refreshments will be provided. Reservations suggested as space is limited. (540) 885-0897

Strasburg Heritage Assoc. to hold Quilting Lecture

Mrs. Joan Knight, former curator of the Virginia Quilt Museum in Harrisonburg, will be guest speaker on Sunday, Oct. 6, 2013 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 193 W. Washington St.. at 2:00 PM. Using examples from her own collection, she will present an overview of the quilt styles in the Shenandoah Valley down through the years, beginning with woven coverlets. Following the lecture, Mrs. Knight invites participants to bring a treasured quilt for identification of the pattern and age of the material. Because of time restraints, she requests that attendees limit themselves to one item. Free.

Civil War Living History & Reenactment Weekend to be held at Belle Grove

A weekend devoted to Civil War Living History at Belle Grove plantation and the reenactment of the 149th Anniversary of the Battle of Cedar Creek is planned for Sat. & Sun., Oct. 19th & 20th.

The Plantation is interpreted to the 1860s as they commemorate the famous battle. The house will have costumed interpreters to demonstrate life on the home front during the Civil War. The grounds will have an encampment of Confederate soldiers who will discuss camp life and drilling technique.

The reenactment takes places on the Cedar Creek battlefield (8437 Valley Pike in Middletown VA) from 10-4 PM For information: info@ccbf.us or call (540) 869-2064.

The Manor House hosts collections of museum-quality artifacts. A memorial wreath-laying ceremony will be conducted on Sunday to honor those who fought and died on the hallowed grounds and those who supported them on the home front. For information, call 540-869-2028. www.bellegrove.org

BEQUEATHS [From Page 1]

house, its Civil War graffiti project and the development of museum exhibits in the courtyard will require significant expenditures.

All of us in the historic preservation community are profoundly grateful that these individuals have remembered us so generously. Their gifts enable us to continue historic preservation efforts in Shenandoah County.

Program

Nov.12th - 7:00 PM

R. Patrick Murphy

*The French & Indian War in
Shenandoah County -*

Life on the Inner Frontier,
1752-1766"

St. Paul's Heritage Center

106 S. High St., Edinburg
VA



Photo #26639

**Photos to be
identified**



Photo #26803

✦ Continuing Series on Historic Buildings in Shenandoah County ✦

Shenandoah County Alms House

Our Historical Society President, Barbara Adamson, was recently elected to the board of directors of the Alliance for Shelter here in Shenandoah County. Most of the Society's members know that "The Alliance" uses the very historic county Almshouse to provide shelter for families in need. The almshouse has been used for this purpose since it was completed in 1829. Because Barbara is now actively engaged with this facility it caused me to once again consider what a monumental historic and architectural treasure our Almshouse is.

Instead of using my own words to describe the Almshouse, I want to quote from the application to the U. S. Department of the Interior to place the Almshouse on the national Register of Historic Places. The application was made in April 1993 and approved in September, 1993.

"The Shenandoah County Almshouse, constructed in 1829, and the County Farm on which it is located are significant in the social and architectural history of Shenandoah County and Virginia. The present structure is a rare and well-preserved example of a handsome, early-nineteenth-century, Federal-style institutional building."

"The Shenandoah County Farm is believed to be the only purpose-built county poorhouse still operating in the state and is one of the few buildings constructed specifically for that use... The county farm site demonstrates a high degree of architectural and visual integrity in that its original design and materials remain substantially unaltered by changes to the buildings or by surrounding development."

The 1993 application states that the interior of the almshouse appears to be "little altered" and goes on to describe the structure as follows:

"...a large, symmetrical, Federal-style, institutional structure constructed in brick above a limestone foundation. The five-bay, two-story center block is flanked on the north and south by eight-bay, one-story brick wings."

"The interior contains examples of fine



By John Adamson

and his family lived when he became the commander of the 8th Virginia Regiment during the Revolutionary War. After the war, the Anglican Church was disestablished as the state religion and the glebe house became Shenandoah County's almshouse. By 1828, the old house was determined to be "in a very rotten and uncomfortable state and not worth repairing" and an order was made to the overseers of the poor to build the almshouse that is still being used today.

During October, 1864, the farm was a campsite for Confederate cavalry under Lunsford Lomax and on October 9, was the right flank of the Confederate position during the battle of Toms Brook. A 1908 survey of county and city almshouses noted that the Shenandoah County almshouse was "one of the best institutions in the State." The almshouse has been in service continuously to people in need since its construction in 1829, operating under a lease from the county to the Alliance for Shelter beginning in 1990.

Several weeks ago, I accompanied Barbara on a visit to the Alms house taking some photographs of original 1829 details, still quite visible. Around 1930, Woodstock photographer Hugh Morrison Jr. produced the black and white photograph accompanying this article. The Shenandoah County Almshouse is a true historical gem that every member of the Historical Society should be aware of. Its preservation is, quite literally, the preservation of a remarkable story of Shenandoah County history



Mantelpiece Detail



Stairway Detail

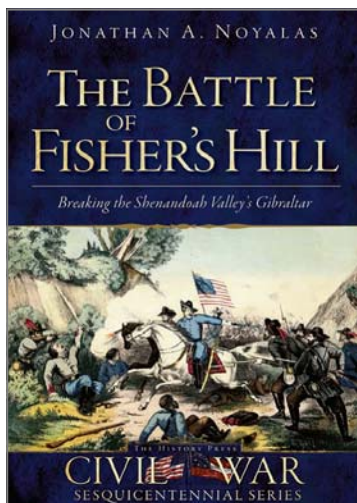
original woodwork and hardware, including mantelpieces, paneling, wall cabinets, door frames and entablatures, and wrought-iron door hinges.

The application provides further interesting details explaining that the farm, formerly the Glebe House for Beckford Parish, was the place where Reverend Peter Muhlenberg

Ghost Tours Scheduled in Strasburg

The annual Walking Ghost Tours will be held in around Strasburg and run from 6:00-10:00PM, on Sat., Oct. 19th. Beginning at the Hotel Strasburg. Pre-sale tickets for the Ghost Tour are available at the Town Office for \$3./person; \$5./person on the day of event. There will be a special bus tour that afternoon at 3pm, for handicapped persons. (Must pre-register at 233-2250)

New on Book List



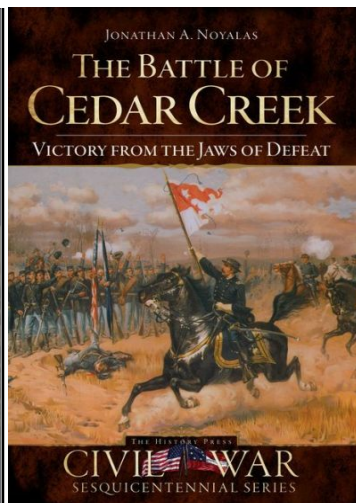
The Battle of Fisher's Hill created a greater opportunity to destroy harvests from the "Breadbasket of the Confederacy" than any other Union victory in the hotly contested Shenandoah Valley. Union major general Philip Sheridan's men forced Confederate lieutenant general Jubal A. Early's smaller force to retreat, leading to the burning of barns and mills across the region. In this first-ever book focused on this engagement, Civil War historian Jonathan A. Noyalas explains the battle, its effect on area civilians and its meaning to both sides, as well as the battlefield's important role in postwar reunion and reconciliation. Available on SCHS Book List \$21.00 / \$20.00

Art Show planned at The Edinburg Mill

The Third Annual Art Show at the Edinburg Mill will be held on October 12th & 13th. Saturday's hours are 10 AM to 8 PM, with a reception with the artists between 6 & 8 PM. Sunday's hours are 1 PM to 5 PM.

Over 40 artists will participate and there will be over 150 original works of art on display and for sale. There will be paintings, sculpture, pottery, glass, wood, metal, jewelry and photography.

More ►



Nestled between the Allegheny and Blue Ridge Mountains, Virginia's Shenandoah Valley enjoyed tremendous prosperity before the Civil War. This valuable stretch of land—called "the Breadbasket of the Confederacy" due to its rich soil and ample harvests—became the source of many conflicts between the Confederate and Union armies. Of the 13 major battles fought here, none was more influential than the Battle of Cedar Creek. On October 19, 1864, General Philip Sheridan's Union troops finally gained control of the valley, which eliminated the Shenandoah as a supply source for Confederate forces in Virginia, ended the valley's role as a diversionary theater of war and stopped its use as an avenue of invasion into the North. Civil War historian Jonathan A. Noyalas explains the battle and how it aided Abraham Lincoln's reelection campaign and defined Sheridan's enduring legacy. SCHS Book List: \$21.00 / \$20.00

ART SHOW (Cont.)

The show is free to the public. Proceeds from purchases during the event will go toward the Save The Mill Fund of the Edinburg Heritage Foundation.

Late entries may still be accepted. For information, call: 540-984-8400.



War of 1812 Preserve the Pension Project is Introduced

The War of 1812 Preserve the Pension project is a program that will provide valuable research tools for those working on genealogy projects.

The non-profit historical project seeks to conserve, preserve and publish the unique War of 1812 pensions. The Pensions and Bounty Land Files housed in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. are being digitized and placed online indefinitely; easily available to lineage society members, researchers and others for FREE.

Why are these pensions so important? The pensions of 180,000 of our bravest "Second Revolution" patriots have never been microfilmed or digitally preserved until now. The Federation of Genealogical Societies is leading the effort to raise \$3.2 million to digitize the 7.2 million images and preserve these precious historical documents. Ancestry.com has committed to match dollar-for-dollar everything raised toward this effort. This means every dollar contributed turns into two and preserves four images! It will stay FREE, even though it is generously contributed to by Ancestry.com.

How can one support the Preserve the Pensions Project? The project asks that all historical/heritage/museum groups display the brochures about the project in their facilities and in their newsletters. Help is needed to get the word out about this very worthy project. To receive the materials, call toll-free to: 888-347-1500 or e-mail: 1812@fgs.org

Pensions are already being digitized by the team at the National Archives. To view the images already available online for FREE, go to <http://go.fold3.com/1812pensions>

Learn more at their site: www.preservethepensions.org



Photo #26334

DO YOU KNOW THEM?

There are 55 albums, in the Shenandoah Room at the County Library in Edinburg, that are filled with images from the photo files of Hugh Morrison, Jr.

Plan to stop in and see if you can identify someone you know.



Photo #26711

This Newsletter

Is now

Available to you

Electronically by e-mail.

(many photos in color)

E-mail: schs.va@gmail.com

Family Recollections presented at 2013 Heritage Day

The following family history item about her family was written by Rena Whittington, dated Feb. 18, 1965. She was 74 years of age at the time. The article was typewritten without the luxury of spell check and auto correction. We thought it was interesting and might be enjoyed by our members. The story will be carried over two issues of the newsletter.

Charles W. Whittington and Dahlia Rebecca Brill were married by Rev. Jones, June 8, 1878. They took their honeymoon trip by horseback up on the Wilson Cove accompanied by John Lockstampfer, of Baltimore, and Malissa Whittington, sister of the groom, who were married that same Fall, in Sept.

Charles had built a house (or cage) before he caught the bird, just across Cedar Creek from his home, along the road leading across North Mountain to Fisher's Hill RR Station. The next April 13th, their first child, Daisy Whittington Orndorff arrived. Charles was a young stout man, eager to get started. At 25 he had started several projects, when their house burned about the year 1883. He took into their home two neighbor boys, Henry Rudolph and Riley Lineweaver. About this time, the community decided to build a new church across the creek to avoid high waters that all could get to Church. They sold the old church and Charles bought it, rolled it out of the center of the cemetery and converted it into a barn. After the house burned, Charley and Dahlias got busy. They drove the livestock out of the old church, or barn, cleaned it up and moved in. At this time when the house burned, Charles and Dahlia had 3 children, Daisy Whittington Orndorff, Ivy Whittington Brill and Stella, along with the two boys they took in to raise. While the house was burning, Riley, the one boy they raised, sat up in the young orchard crying. Mother went to him and asked "what are you crying about?" and he was so heart-broken and said, "Oh, my hat, my coat, my britches that Dad had just gotten me for Christmas and I was so proud of, burned up." Soon after the fire, their first boy was born, Thomas Whittington, February 8, 1884, while they lived in the barn, in what had been their hog pen after cleaning the old church up which had been a barn. This made a very nice apt. until they could build another house. It was plastered, painted, with plenty of windows and doors. Nothing was saved from the burning house so Dad got busy at once and sawed lumber to build another house. He was drying this lumber in a dry kiln when it caught fire and burned. Dad built the new house as soon as possible and moved in before the next baby, Russell, arrived Sept. 21, 1886.

During this time, Dad was working on several projects. Building a dam across Cedar Creek, scooping out a pond, a long race and a large foundation for a mill site, including a saw mill, grist-mill, flour mill, still house, lathing mill and turning lathe all run by turbine water power, fed by water down the race from the dam which he had built. About half way down the race was a wooden gate which when opened, turned the water into the pond, which later was stocked with carp fish. When a flood a flood came overflowed and washed out a lot of these fish. To this day it is believed that the big carp fish caught in Shenandoah River came from this pond. This was at the period of the full production of leather at both the Zepp and Star Tanneries and Cedar Creek really was booming. Churches, schools, large families and plenty of work for all in a thickly settled little valley. Dad would drain the water off the pond through another gate at the north side of the pond, just under the hill where the new church was build and still stands. This pond covered about 2 acres. He would go seining or drag a net through to catch the fish. He would draw the water off the dam in the same manner, by the help of several other men and boys. He gave them all the fish they wanted and

sold others to the Tannery men. He built an ice house at the west end of the pond, filled it with about 3 or 4 feet of sawdust on all sides, which would keep ice often over two summers. He used this ice to keep the fish fresh. The whole community had lots of fun in winter skating on the pond. Just about every New Years Day, Dad would cut ice from the pond and fill the ice house. Sometimes, a dozen or more men would help him. Later in the summer they would get ice for making ice cream. They sawed this ice in big thick blocks and pushed it up a chute near the top of the ice house and let it fall down in a thick bed of sawdust. That was a big job for we children to get out ice everyday, take it to the Creek, wash it and wheel it to the cellar and into the cooler which held about 8 or 10 gallons if water. In building the dam, Dad build a square pen or an abutment of heavy logs about 10 feet square and filled it with rock. As of that time, there were no cement. Here he fastened one end of the long heavy logs and the other end reached across the creek to the high bank where he started scooping out the race. He spiked heavy boards slanted to these logs to raise the water up, then it flowed down the race to mills and pond.

He built a blacksmith shop near the mill to do all of his iron work for his building. His father was his blacksmith, also the community blacksmith. We children would often pump the bellows for Granddad in the shop, which was much fun. All of this work was done by hand and horse power. There was no machinery then to move dirt and rock and what a lot to be moved in scooping out the pond and head race as well as the tailrace. In my father's early life, he decided to clear a ridge on the west side of the North Mountain and plant it in peach trees. The soil was good. Deep and perfect for growing No. 1 peaches, although quite a big job moving large Mt. rocks as well as three roots, etc. This orchard produced such fine peaches, he decided to clear two more ridges and set in peaches. These two were excellent. One year he had the Sunday Canning Factory from Woodstock, Va. Move in and can the heavy crop that year, which proved to be a success as that year he cleared \$1700. after all expenses were paid. This didn't satisfy him, so he cleared still another area and planted 3,000 trees again. By this time lots of the older trees were dying and borers were getting the roots and trunks of the trees. Spraying was unknown at this time, yet he did try to keep out the borers by digging the dirt away from the trunk about a foot all around the using pocket knives to dig out the worms. The last worming these young trees had, I supervised. We, about 8 or 10 boys the ages of 12 to 18 years old, walked to the orchard every day when the weather was favorable, after school closed, carried our lunch and wormed these trees. We began this job in April and finished on July 4th about 1910. When we arrived home that evening Mother had a freezer of ice cream for us. I never tasted better ice cream. The distance from home to the orchard was about 1 1/2 miles. I really enjoyed this work even though it was a long walk and hard work for a girl.

Getting back to the pond, Dad built a fish trap out in the pond. A pen, made of wooden slats about 1 in. apart, Eel would get in the trap and stay there until they grew too large to get out. We would catch them, skin and fry them.....

[This account goes on for another full page and will be concluded in the next issue of the SCHS newsletter, due out around the end of the year.]

National Sheep Dog Finals taking place at Belle Grove Plantation

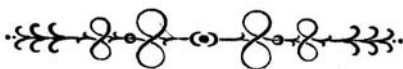


The National Sheep Dog Finals will take place at Belle Grove Plantation in Middletown, VA. Watch as over 150 champion sheep dogs and their handlers from throughout the United States and Canada gather to compete for the title of the best working sheepdog-handler team in North America.

For more info on the National Sheep Dog Finals, go to: <http://www.nationalsheepdogfinals.org/> Tickets are only available at the gate on the day. Adult fee is \$12 per day or \$40 for all 6 days. Special rates for children and Sr's. Cash is preferred. Ample free parking and food will be available for purchase . 540-869-2028

Guided Civil War Walking Tours are Available in October

Guided Civil War Walking Tours are now available through October in Old Town Winchester, Stephens City, Middletown, the Kernstown Battlefield, and Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park. The tours are a project of the Winchester-Frederick County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee, and are coordinated by the Winchester-Frederick County Convention & Visitors Bureau. Most tours are designed to last about one hour. For more information, or to schedule a special tour, call the Winchester-Frederick County Visitors Center at 540-542-1326 or email: coates@visitwinchesterva.com . A list of the tours is available at: <http://www.visitwinchesterva.com/tours-and-itineraries> .



Civil War Double Southern Cross Ceremony scheduled at Union Forge Church

New Market Historical Society presents Program on Railroads in Shenandoah Valley

On Thursday, November 21st, at 7:30 PM, the New Market Historical Society will present Bob Cohen who will discuss the history of the railroads that ran and run through the Shenandoah Valley. The local route was first conceived back in the 1850's as the Manassas Gap Railroad. You'll see photographs of many of the passenger stations, hear names of station agents like Zirkle, Murphy, and Stoneburner. The railroad played a significant role in helping build the Valley and move locally grown and made products around the nation. Free. Held at the New Market Town Council Chambers.



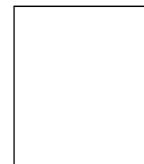
Church Project Recap

We have recently uploaded the 58th brief history to our website, the Mt. Hebron United Methodist Church in Toms Brook, but it still leaves us a long way to go out of the 152 churches that we have listed in Shenandoah County. Has the church that is near you, or the one you go to, given us their history? To check, go to our website www.shenandoahcountyhistoricalsociety.org and from the Home page click on the tab REFERENCE and follow through the links to the Shenandoah County Churches or call or email us and we can tell you. The churches are listed both alphabetically and by denomination. If the name is in White lettering, we do NOT have the history. If you can mention to someone connected with the church that we are looking for the information to put the church history on the website, then a giant step has been taken. Please call 984-7842 and let us know who we need to contact to obtain the material we need.

On October 26, 2013 at 4 p.m. at 131 Union Forge Church Road (Union Forge Methodist Church) in Edinburg, VA there will be a double southern cross of honor ceremony for Maj. Samuel B. Myers and his brother Capt. John E. Myers. Both are formally members of the 7th VA Cavalry and there will be a posthumous promotion for Samuel B. Myers to the rank of Lt. Col. The Myers were not native Virginians, Sam moved to Shenandoah County in 1852 along with his newly wed wife Elizabeth Wisler Myers and his brother John E. Myers. They bought Columbia Furnace, Union Forge, and had controlling interests in many other Furnaces as well as other businesses throughout the Valley making them one of the top employers in the area. Spring of 1861 word of secession came to the Valley, the Myers then decided to stand with their adopted country Virginia and gathered their friends, co-workers, and church members to form the Shenandoah Rangers later to become Company C of the 7th VA Calvary. Sam and John both had exemplary records in their service with the 7th. John was shot and wounded in the leg at Wilderness, his leg was then amputated, but unfortunately died two days later, Sam continued on. In 1864 General Rosser left the Valley leaving Sam with 200 men to police the Valley from Winchester to New Market in an area that was lawless. He was the only vestige of law left to the Valley. In November 1864, Sam was recommended for promotion, but before the orders could reach him he died on January 15, 1865 due to wounds, exposure, disease, and fatigue. As the chaplain, Averit, of the 7th VA said of Sam, "The Valley should long remember with gratitude, all that the Myers gave to the people of the Valley, both in peace and in war. They gave their fortune, their business, their family, and finally when there was nothing left to give they gave their lives. No nobler a soul was left behind."

By: Jeff Peck





Shenandoah County Historical Society, Inc.

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Join the SCHS

Individual: \$10 per year

Family: \$15 per year

Lifetime (Individual): \$200

Lifetime (Family): \$300

Send Fee to address above.

Upcoming Events of Interest

MORE EVENTS ON WEB SITE

Saturday, Oct. 5, 2013—9:00 AM

Civil War history program at Clermont Farm in Berryville, VA Farm Life Under Wartime Conditions, 1863. Living history programs at the 250 year-old farm looking back to how agricultural life in the Valley was affected during the war. (801 E. Main St.) For information, call 540-837-2790.

Saturday, Oct. 5, 2013 - 12 N - 8:00 PM

Ocktoberfest at the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton, VA. celebrates German Heritage. Visit the German Farm and sample traditional Food, Beer & music. Traditional craftsmen will demonstrate. Tickets \$15.00 for adults, \$6.00 for children (6-17), and under 5 are free.

Thursday, Oct. 17— 6:30 PM

Retreat from Gettysburg is the subject of a lecture by local historian **Richard Kleese** at the Shenandoah County Library at 514 Stony Creek Blvd., Edinburg. Most of the sick & wounded from the Battle of Gettysburg received treatment at the Confederate Hospital at Mt. Jackson. Hosted

by the Shenandoah Room/Truban Archives Advisory Committee.

October 18-19, 25-26 & 31 7:30-10:30 PM

Belgravia Haunted Mansion, one of the featured houses last year in our series on historic properties will be open to the public this month, decked out for Halloween. \$10 fee per person. 1466 Belgravia Rd., (Red Banks area) Edinburg.

Saturday, Oct. 19— 9 AM—4 PM

Crossing the Pond: Searching England & Ireland is an all-day conference sponsored by the Genealogical Research Institute of VA being held in Midlothian, VA. Fees apply. Call Brent Morgan at 804-550-3039

October 24th - 7:00 PM

Woodstock Museum's Annual Docent Dinner and Program will feature a lecture by R. Patrick Murphy, author of the new book, *The French & Indian War in Shenandoah County—Life on the Inner Frontier, 1752-1766*. Fee for dinner. Call 459-5518

Nov. 2 & 3 - 10:00 - 4:00 PM

Antiques Appraisal Fair & Traditional Crafts Weekend at Belle Grove Plantation in Middletown. Bring an antique or collectible for appraisal by a team of experts. Appraisals are \$10 per item or 3 for \$25. Admission: \$10 per person & \$5 for children under 12, Belle Grove members and National Trust Members. Visit the highlight of the Event, an **Exhibit of 18th & 19th Century Longrifles** made in the Shenandoah Valley. Nowhere else will you find such a collection of Virginia Longrifles in one location. For information: 540-869-2028

Christmas Holiday Parlor Tours

Sun., Dec. 8th 1-5 PM Staunton VA Visit the beautiful homes of the Newtown area. Call (540) 885-7676 for information

Saturday, Dec. 14 10- 4:00 PM Strasburg Heritage Holiday Homes Tours are scheduled for five locations. Tickets \$10. See website: www.strasburgvaheritage.org for ticket sales sites. Or call 465-5570.

The SCHS web site: www.shenandoahcountyhistoricalsociety.org