



Shenandoah
County
Historical
Society

Summer 2016

Newsletter

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2016 Preservation Awards Given



For Charterhouse School: (L. to R.) – Rev. Robert Jones, St. John's United Methodist Church in Edinburg, Shenandoah County Board of Supervisors Chairman Conrad Helsley, Charterhouse School Principal Tonya Salley-Goodwin, United Methodist Family Services CEO Greg Peters, and United Methodist Family Services COO Jay Ziehl.



For Nash/Hudson Auto Dealership: (L. to R.) Greg Orndorff, Ricci and Erica Troxell, and SCHS President Barbara Adamson.

The SCHS Board of Directors is very pleased to have presented three Excellence in Preservation Awards at the annual dinner in May. The intention of the awards is to recognize outstanding preservation projects in Shenandoah County, thereby encouraging others to embark on such projects as well.

The 2016 awardees include: Jeanette Ritenour, James and Margaret Trott, for their book, *Welcome to Fort Valley*, which through intensive research beautifully documents Fort Valley's unique geography, population, culture, and history; Ricci and Erica Troxell, and Greg Orndorff for their rehabilitation and preservation of the historic Nash/Hudson automobile dealership in Strasburg, and its transformation into a museum displaying vintage automobiles, original signage, tools, and collectibles; and Shenandoah County Board of Supervisors, Shenandoah County School Board, United Methodist Family Services, and the Charterhouse School for the careful rehabilitation and preservation of the Edinburg School to provide space as an educational center for students and the community.

These three deserving projects reflect an enormous amount of work and dedication, and an appreciation of our local history and its preservation. We thank all of the individuals involved for their efforts.



Welcome to Fort Valley authors, Jeanette Ritenour and Margaret Trott. Jim Trott was also honored, but could not attend.

New Members

- Cathy Holcombe
- Julie & Andre des Rosiers
- Margaret Cook
- Ellen Baker
- Mr. & Mrs. William Walls
- Tom Cooper
- Beverley H. Fleming
- John & Laura Boor
- Chuck & Rebecca Conaty

Life Members

- Anna Mae Orgies

Neff Quilt is Home

A large and enthusiastic crowd found their way to the Shenandoah County Historic Courthouse on June 18th to celebrate the homecoming of the 1843 Elizabeth Neff quilt as it has now come back to the Valley. At the same time visitors enjoyed a rare opportunity to see more than 40 additional Shenandoah County quilts, quilt tops, and quilted wall hangings, all attesting to the skill and creativity of long ago ancestors. Almost all of these treasures usually reside safely at the homes of their owners, not available for public viewing.

The courthouse was full of happy conversations about stories of the quilts, their makers and families, and the quilts

journeys through the years. Virginia Quilt Museum Curator, Gloria Comstock, with Quilt Museum volunteer, Jenny Miller, hung the Neff quilt in a place of honor in the 1871 courtroom, where visitors stopped to enjoy it and to learn about its origins and travels. Many visitors, and quilt owners alike, were pleased that several attendees had expertise in the field, and learned a great deal from them about their own heirlooms and others. Discussions about Neff family connections were overheard, and it's possible that a few people discovered new family relations. Gloria Comstock had

[Continued on Page 3]



Diane Miller

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

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Dennis Atwood

Karen Cooper

Anne Dellinger

Diane Ferguson

Andy Thayer

Meg Trott

Dr. Charles Wood

Newsletter Editor:
Janet Wagniere

Volunteer Spotlight: Diane Miller

Diane Miller is the newest member of our Courthouse Visitor Center team and we welcome her.

She was born in Alexandria VA and grew up in Fairfax VA where she attended both NVCC and Lord Fairfax CC. In 1988 she moved to Stephens City and worked for Valley Health for 27 years.

She was already familiar with Shenandoah County as she used to come here as a youngster to vacation at her Dad's hunting cabin outside of Edinburg.

History has always been a main interest for her, since her grandmother gave her a Virginia history book as soon as she was old enough to read. She literally grew up, cutting her teeth, on Virginia history, Pocahontas and John Smith. In the 4th grade she

wrote a report on "Earp's Ordinary" in Fairfax and got an "A".

Along the way, she also developed an interest in genealogy and has just helped complete a 3-volume genealogy on the Early family.

She is a member of the DAR and the Colonial Dames of the 17th century.

Her engagement to local poultry farmer, Guy Pence, brought her to Edinburg in 2014 and she has already become involved in local community groups. Recently, she accepted employment with Family Promise of Shenandoah County, a newly organized local charity that finds temporary housing, through churches, for

(Cont. on Page 3)

Message from The President

This issue of the newsletter is always an opportunity for me to thank those who have helped to make the past year a successful one. They include our wonderful board members, our treasurer and other SCHS members, and members of the community who have helped along the way.

The historic courthouse Visitor Center team includes Dennis Atwood, Gerald Buttram, Anna Mae Ortgies, Kim Stevenson, Jim Stevenson, Gloria Boone, Bill Boone, Kent Womack, Janet Wagniere, Kevin Frazier, Meg Trott, Elizabeth Dalton, Diane Miller, Larry Beazley, John Adamson, Karen Cooper, Ellen Markel and Jenna French. Past team members are Bob Lowerre, Edna Haller, Rick Rhoades, and Nancy Stewart (who still helps out in a pinch).

We thank the board of the Woodstock Library for their donation of the original 1795 courthouse weathervane figure to SCHS and offer special recognition to volunteer and board member, Lynn Tucker, for her efforts to return it where it's now displayed in the courthouse museum.

The Elizabeth Neff Quilt project gave us the opportunity to work with Gloria Comstock at the VA Quilt Museum, Caroll Douglas of the New Market Historical Society, and to get to know many quilt lovers throughout Shenandoah County. What a pleasure!

It's been good to have folks from the other county museums bring

their exhibits into the courthouse and work with us to share their stories with visitors. This year, those were Glenna Loving from the Strasburg Museum, Mike Kehoe from Hupp's Hill Civil War Park/Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation and Kenna Fansler from the Mt. Jackson Museum.

Heritage Day always brings a great opportunity to work with people from across the county, as we focus on different small communities and county families. Our focus and location this year in the Fort Valley gave us the opportunity to work with members of the Fort Valley Museum and the Fort Valley Fire Department. We offer special thanks to Meg Trott, Dorothy Corder and John Gaunt, Fire Dept. members, and the Shenandoah Valley Minstrels.

During the year, we often go into the community and set up a booth, and you will often find Diane Ferguson, Patrick Murphy, Robert Frye, Janice Miller, Dr. Charles Wood and Pat Shelton manning those posts. We couldn't do many of these things without the wonderful help of these members. Thank you.

You've read elsewhere in the newsletter about the recipients of the Excellence in Preservation Awards for this year. I thank Leigh Devier for chairing the committee, and members Anne Dellinger, Kent Womack and Nancy Stewart for their assistance.

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Virginia Genealogy Fall Conference Scheduled for Sept. 30—Oct. 1

The Virginia Genealogical Society (VGS) and the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society (MVGS) will present a joint conference, "Genealogy Strategies: The Basics and More," on September 30—October 1, 2016, at the Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center (RELIC) for Genealogy and Local History, at Bull Run Regional Library, Manassas, VA and the Hilton Garden Inn, in Woodbridge, VA.

Sharon Hodges, Charles "Chuck" Mason, Jr. and Donald Wilson will be the featured speakers at this year's Conference.

For schedules, programs, registration information, and reservations, go to the web site: www.vgs.org

SCHS WILL BE AT EDINBURG OLE TIME FESTIVAL ON SEPT. 17 & 18

This will be the eleventh year that the SCHS has participated in the annual Edinburg Ole Time Festival.

It is always a great opportunity to meet members and friends and display and sell the many interesting books that we have on our book list.

Many of our members have actually joined up during the festival.

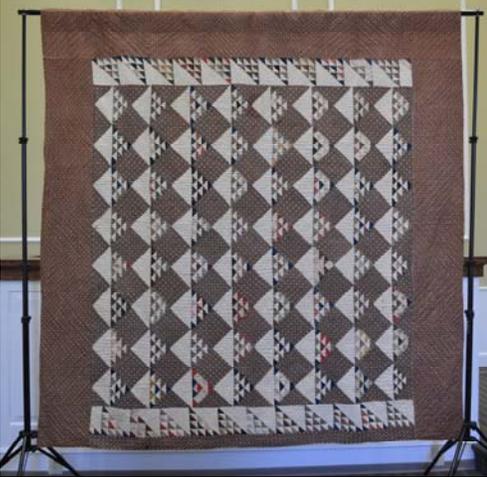
Plan to stop by our tent on Main Street, across from Sal's Bistro, and introduce yourself. It's a great time to put names with faces.

ATTENTION

ARE YOUR DUES DUE??

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

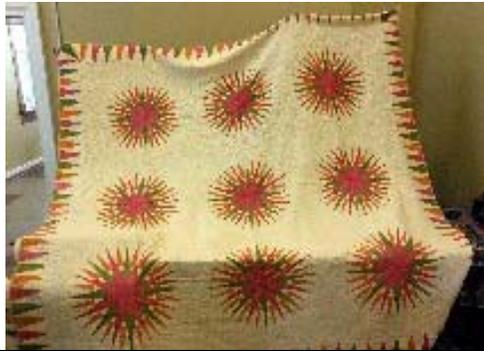
Neff Quilt [Cont. from Page 1]



Elizabeth Neff Quilt

mentioned previously that she hoped the event would be an opportunity to commend those who cherish and are the caretakers of quilts and we believe this was achieved.

Many thanks to those who shared their treasures and made the day such a success including Gloria Comstock, Jenny Miller,



Mariner's Star. A spectacular Stickley family quilt, about 150 years old, belonging to Mary Redmon of Strasburg.

Anna Palmer, Henry & Catherine Buhl, Gloria Stickley, St. Paul Lutheran Church Strasburg, C.J. Borden, Jane Rhodes, Laura Ellen Wade, Mary Redmon, Barbara Hollar, Ruby Swartz, Phyllis Wright, Anna Mae Ortgies, Vicki Mongold, Sue Brown Williams, Mary Ruth Parsons, Debby Cooney, Marlyn Hoffman, Jean Martin & the Woodstock Museum.



Admiring the many quilts on display

Clarke County Historical Association schedules events at Burwell-Morgan Mill

July 9th - 12 - 4pm

Colonial Kids Day at the Burwell-Morgan Mill, 15 Tannery Ln, Millwood, VA The Clarke County Historical Assoc. invites you to bring your kids out to the Burwell-Morgan Mill, where they will have fun and learn about the Colonial era! They will learn about George Washington's career as a surveyor, and even learn how to be a surveyor themselves. Local blacksmith, Michael P. Wilson, will show the kids his trade and talk about the history of blacksmithing and they'll be able to make their own hooks! Throughout the afternoon they will also hear different kinds of Colonial music. If your child is interested in participating, please come by and fill out the permission slip to participate in the blacksmithing activity. If you do not wish your child to participate in that activity, we will have an alternative activity for your child that will be just as fun! \$5 per child. Please call 540-955-2600 to reserve a spot today or email: director@clarkehistory.org

September 8th - 7:00 PM

OURS IS NO LONGER A DIVIDED COUNTRY: THE PATH TO REUNION AND RECONCILIATION IN VIRGINIA'S SHENANDOAH VALLEY will be presented, by the Clarke County Historical Association, at the Burwell-Morgan Mill, 15 Tannery Lane, Millwood, VA. The evening of history and refreshments will welcome historian Dr. Jonathan Noyalas who will examine the complexities of healing the deep and bitter wounds of Civil War in the Shenandoah Valley and the many ways that Union and Confederate veterans in the region, beginning in the mid-1880s engaged in activities (some common and others a bit unorthodox) to heal and advance some form of reconciliation in the region and consequently the nation. \$12 for non-CCHA members, \$8 for CCHA members. Wine and other refreshments will be served. Grain will also be available for purchase. call 540-955-2600 to reserve a spot. or Email : director@clarkehistory.org

Woodstock Museum Exhibit opens July 1st at Historic Courthouse Visitor Center

The Woodstock Museum will be displaying a selection of artifacts, from their Museum inventory, at the Historic Courthouse Visitor Center for a four-month period beginning on July 1st. Be sure to stop by and see these new items. The Woodstock Museum is open every Thursday - Saturday, May through October.

September Program

Tuesday, Sept. 20th

7:00 PM

St. Paul's Heritage Center

103 S. High St.
Edinburg VA



Celebrating 100 Years of our National Parks

With

Karen Beck-Herzog, NPS

September Program to Celebrate 100 years of our National Parks

This program will be presented by Karen Beck-Herzog, who is the Site Manager for Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park in Middletown, Virginia. Karen also served for many years in Shenandoah National Park, so she knows our local parks very well.

Formed in 2002, this new park is rapidly evolving and has much to offer in telling important stories of Shenandoah Valley history.

Join us to celebrate the National Park Service 100th anniversary and to hear an insider's view on our two local National Parks.

The program takes place at 7:00 PM at the St. Paul's Heritage Center in Edinburg. The public is invited. Ample parking is available in the Shentel lot across the street. Refreshments will be served following the lecture.

Volunteer Spotlight -

[Continued from Page 2]

homeless families with children.

Diane and Guy enjoy travel and camping and she is also interesting in photography and bird-watching.

She has a son who lives in Frederick County.

We are very fortunate that she has joined the SCHS and our Courthouse Visitor Center team.



The SCHS web site: www.shenandoahcountyhistoricalsociety.org

[An interesting perspective from almost 60 years ago.]

Excerpt From: *Twenty-Five Chapters on The Shenandoah Valley*

By John W. Wayland, Published in 1957

Races and Religions [From Chapter VII]

There is no other part of Virginia, possibly no section of any other state in the Union, in which can be found so great a variety of races and religions as in the Shenandoah Valley. The Blue Ridge for a long time served as an effective barrier against any large influx of the English from the east, while the Valley was being settled mainly by Germans, Scotch-Irish, Welsh, and others from Pennsylvania and other colonies on the northeast. Most of the English who came early into the Valley from eastern Virginia were Episcopalians; most of the Scotch - Irish and Scots were Presbyterians; but the first great tide of Germans was made up of Lutherans, Reformed, and Mennonites; among the later-coming Germans were Tunkers and United Brethren. The latter are to be distinguished from the Moravians; a number of them had passed through the Valley as missionaries around the middle of the 18th century.

Some of the earliest settlers in the lower Valley, in what are now the counties of Frederick and Warren, and the West Virginia counties of Berkeley and Jefferson, were Friends (Quakers), a considerable number, and among them were Welsh, English, and other nationalities. From the beginning there were a few Irish among the Quakers and elsewhere, and much later, about the middle of the 19th century, Irish Catholics began to come in; a few were to be found here and there in much earlier times. Shortly before the Civil War the first Jewish families (Germans) appeared.

Van Meters were among the first pioneers in the lower Valley, and in later times other Dutch names, including Van Devanter, Van Fossen, Van Lear, and Van Pelt, have been prominent in the upper Valley. Among the few French families, the Maryes were outstanding in what is now Page County; and for many years the Mauzy's have had comparable standing in Rockingham. In Rockingham, too, the Maupins have been represented. In colonial times the Seviere's were conspicuous in Rockingham and Shenandoah. Most or all of these French families, we assume, were of Huguenot ancestry.

This brief outline will perhaps serve to justify the statement made at the beginning of this chapter. It could be reinforced by a catalog of the various sects that have effected organizations in this region within comparatively recent years.

Estimating from old county records, early census rolls, and other sources, we may confidently assert that at least 70 per cent of the early families in what are now the counties of Shenandoah, Rockingham, and Page were of German stock. It is easy to underestimate the number, because many of the German names were soon anglicized or otherwise changed. Wills that were submitted for probate in the German language were translated into English before they were recorded, and sometimes the same thing was done with the family names. This was not always done, but such names as Schwarz, Fuchs, Vogel, Zimmermann often appeared in the records as Black, Fox, Bird, and Carpenter, and have so been handed down. A number of items pertinent to this phase of our subject may be found in Chapter XIII of my History of Rockingham County.

The three counties named above were doubtless the most thoroughly German sections of the Valley; but in what are now the counties of Frederick and Augusta it is probable that about half of the population has been German and of German lineage; and it would be difficult to find any considerable area in the Valley from the Potomac River to the hills of Staunton and beyond in which Germans have not been represented.

Southward from Staunton the Scotch-Irish and Scots were much in the majority, so much so that in early times that region was known as the "Irish Tract"; yet the county records show that there has been a considerable sprinkling of Germans even in what is now Rockbridge County. And farther south, in what are now the counties of Botetourt and Franklin, are localities in which German families predominate. Not a few have been found in Roanoke County.

As may naturally be conjectured, the heaviest infusion of the English from eastern Virginia was along the eastern skirts of the Shenandoah Valley, near the crossing places of the Blue Ridge. What are now the counties of Warren and Clarke in Virginia and Jefferson County, West Virginia, had numerous English families among the early settlers. "King Carter" and other Tidewater "barons" secured large tracts of land in this area. In Jefferson and Clarke the Washingtons, Burwells, Pages, Lewises, and others of kindred stock were prominent. In Clarke County the White Post and Greenway Court remind us that Thomas Lord Fairfax, proprietor of the vast Northern neck, had there his country seat.

Evidently in and around Front Royal and in other parts of Warren County were many English families; and they were rather numerous, too, in the southeastern border of Rockingham, especially in the vicinity of Port Republic. In Staunton, Harrisonburg, Woodstock, and Winchester English names were familiar. The towns in early times were "boom" centers and attracted men with money or at least with a yen for speculation. The first county clerk of Dunmore County (now Shenandoah) was Thomas Marshall from Fauquier, father of John, who was later Chief Justice. Another "Tuckahoe" who was a prominent figure for years in and around Woodstock was Jonathan Clark, brother to the "Hannibal of the West."

In speaking of the various race elements, we must not overlook the Negroes. They have never been numerous in the Shenandoah Valley, as compared with eastern Virginia. The Germans, as a rule, were opposed to slavery - very few of them had slaves. The Quakers, too, opposed it. The majority of slaves in the Valley were held by the English from east of the Ridge and by the Scotch-Irish, but even among them slaves were by no means as numerous as they were in localities in Eastern Virginia. These conditions enable us to understand why the Valley, comparatively, recovered so quickly from the devastation of the Civil War. From the days of first settlement the majority of the families lived on rather small farms and did their own work, hence their impoverishment was soon overcome.

Board Officers elected at Annual Meeting

Immediately following the annual dinner meeting on Tuesday, May 17h, the SCHS Board of Directors met and unanimously elected the following officers to serve for the coming year:

President: Barbara Adamson
V. President: Janet Wagniere
Secretary: Ellen Markel
Treasurer: C.F. Wagniere

SCHS FINANCIAL STATEMENT

**At the 5/31/16 end
of the fiscal year,
the Treasurer re-
ported a total of
\$65,592.53 in the
SCHS accounts.**

Reenactments Scheduled

July 22—24

155th Anniversary Reenactment of the Battle of First Manassas (Bull Run) to be held at Cedar Creek Battlefield, Middletown, VA by Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation. This is a National Event, so thousands of reenactors expected.

Times: Friday (July 22) 4pm –9pm (Fee \$5); Saturday (July 23) 9am-7pm (Fee \$15); Sunday (July 24) 9am-5pm (Fee \$15); Reduced prices for Seniors. Children 6 and under are free. For more information: (540) 869-2064 or visit the web site: www.ccbf.us

October 15th & 16th 10 AM - 4 PM

Battle of Cedar Creek Commemoration Weekend. Belle Grove Plantation and their partners in Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park will commemorate the 152nd Anniversary of the Civil War Battle Cedar Creek. More details to come! Info: 540-869-2064

Genealogy Help

You can download 83,947 genealogy books free of charge: Several organizations have been digitizing old genealogy and family history books for several years. Perhaps the largest such collection is available in Archive.org's genealogy collection. Available items include books on surname origins, vital statistics, parish records, census records, passenger lists of vessels, and other historical and biographical documents.

Archive.org never charges for any of its holdings. You are free to read, download, print, and enjoy anything and everything available at Archive.org.

[From: Michigan Genealogical Newsletter]

Fort Valley Museum to hold 13th Annual Ice Cream Social

Saturday, July 31st, from 2 - 5 PM will be a good time to take a drive over the mountain to the Fort Valley Museum's Annual Ice Cream social. There will be 6 flavors of ice cream, a bake sale, artisan exhibits and refreshments by Rutz's BBQ. Live music will be provided by the Charlotte and Charley Smith Duet. The museum will be open for browsing with its expanded exhibit on Fort Valley's Iron Furnaces. All of this will take place at 8361 Fort Valley Road, at the Museum's Old Brick Church and adjacent Trinity Church at the intersection of Fort Valley Road and Dry Run Road. Arrive early before the ice cream runs out! For info: 540-933-6690 or at www.fortvalleymuseum.org

Events Commemorating "The Burning"

August 14th - 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Car Caravan Tour: "Columns of Black Smoke: Page County on Fire, 1864"

Some of the most bitter and heartbreaking events of the Burning took place in the Page Valley, in the narrow corridor between Massanutten Mountain and the Blue Ridge Mountains. Join author and historian Art Candemquist on this car caravan tour of Page County sites related to the Burning. Participants will gather at the Luray Valley Museum at Luray Caverns for an introduction and then form carpools to travel to sites. Info: call 540-740-4545 or Email: info@svbf.net Sponsored by Luray Caverns and the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District. Free.

August 13th

Conference: "Red With Fire": The Burning of the Shenandoah Valley. In 1864, a new kind of warfare came to the Valley. That fall, Gen. Philip Sheridan's Union army embarked on "The Burning," a systematic two-week campaign to neutralize the Shenandoah Valley's role as the "Breadbasket of the Confederacy." Thousands of mills, barns, and farm buildings were put to the torch, stores of grain and livestock were destroyed or confiscated, and livelihoods were turned to ash.

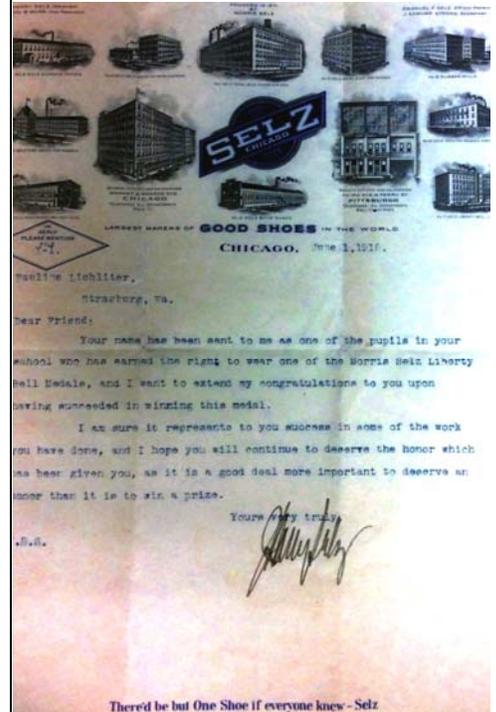
But the destruction in the Valley wasn't limited to those two weeks, or to the areas customarily identified with "The Burning." It began much earlier, under Union Gen. David Hunter, and ranged throughout the Valley, north to Clarke County and east to Page County. Its effects were widespread, from civilians left destitute by "fire and sword" to soldiers ensnarled in the vicious cycle of reprisals. Those who witnessed the scale of the destruction were stunned. Confederate guerilla Newtown Burkholder described how "The whole vale is red with fire mile on mile, and enveloped in smoke high overhead, twisting and writhing, dissolving. Is the world being set on fire?"

The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation will look back at those events with a conference entitled "Red With Fire: The Burning of the Shenandoah Valley." The conference will feature eminent Civil War historians Eric A. Campbell ("A scene of desolation and ruin": The Burning of the Shenandoah Valley), Col. Keith E. Gibson (Hunter in the Valley), Scott C. Patchan ("Fire and Sword": Destruction and Reprisal in the Northern Valley), Eric J. Wittenberg (Union and Confederate Cavalry and the Battle of Tom's Brook), and Edward L. Ayers ("Making Sense of the Burning": The Civilian Experience) \$20 For Info: 540-740-4545 or E-mail: info@svbf.net Location: James Madison University



From the County Archives

By Zach Hottel, Archivist



On June 1, 1915 J.R. Selz, of the Chicago-based Selz, Schwab & Co., sent this letter to Pauline Lichliter of Strasburg Virginia, notifying her that she had been awarded the coveted Morris Selz Liberty Bell Medals.

Named for the Selz Company's founder, Morris Selz, this award was given to students across the country who obtained the highest averages in their schools in specific subjects. While we are not sure what subject Pauline excelled in, her later career in newspapers, indicates it may have been in English.

The Selz Company, which later became Selz & Cohn and later Selz, Schwab & Co., was founded in 1871. They were a major producer and distributor of shoes in the mid-west. Their plants in northern Illinois employed over 1,500 people and produced over 12,000 pairs of shoes and boots per day in the early 1900's. The company operated until 1929 when it closed as a result of the Great Depression.

Pauline Lichliter was a Strasburg native who had a very interesting career. Her father was an employee of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and later the Strasburg Junction's depot.



✦ Continuing Series on Historic Buildings in Shenandoah County ✦

STRASBURG POTTERY / RAILROAD STATION / MUSEUM

The subject for this article is a very public building, the Strasburg Museum. The museum building was completed in 1891. It is a 50 ft. x 90 ft. brick structure and was built with a slate roof. Massive oak beams, 50 feet long, are part of the roof system and must have made quite a spectacle as they were hoisted into place before the days of hydraulic lift machinery. With its spacious interior and exposed structural timbers, the building reminds me of some of the large barns in Shenandoah County.

By: John Adamson

In the late 1960s a group of forward thinking local citizens imagined the idle railroad building as a museum to house items that would tell the story of Strasburg. Led by Virginia ("Gin") Cadden, these citizens formed Strasburg Incorporated which continues today, better known as the Strasburg Museum. They were able to negotiate the purchase of the old steam pottery/railway depot from the Southern Railway for the token price of \$1.00 in 1969. They immediately began to collect donated treasures to tell the story of Strasburg and to adapt the building for use as the town museum.

The building was not built to be a barn, but was designed for a very different purpose – to serve as a "steam pottery". Town business leaders believed consolidating the various small, local, family run, potteries into one modern operation would be a financial success. They formed the Strasburg Stone & Earthenware Manufacturing Company, sold shares and constructed a building large enough to house a steam engine and turn multiple pottery wheels at the same time. Thus the term "steam pottery".

Located at 440 East King Street, the Strasburg Museum has about 4000 visitors each year. These people come from all across America and also from various foreign countries. Naturally, many local folks come to the Museum too; as visitors and to manage the various tasks that keep the museum open to the public. Opened to the public in 1972, the Museum has become a fixture of the Strasburg community. It reflects a sense of belonging through its all-volunteer work force and the strong support it receives from the Town of Strasburg and the local citizenry.

We know a lot about the resulting company, because the ledger from that business survives and is on display in the museum. Construction workers are named in the ledger and most were paid a dollar a day for their labor. Later when local potters were hired to turn pottery and make bricks, their pay was similar, although a few were paid more, \$1.50 per day. The steam pottery was located in an area at the east end of Strasburg sometimes referred to as "Frog Town". This low lying area had never been developed, perhaps because of poor drainage, but sits atop large clay deposits and next to the railroad, so it was a logical place to make ceramics and ship them by rail. The steam pottery churned out thousands of crocks and flower pots and included bricks and drain tile in its production. Except for bricks marked "STRASBURG", none of the pottery appears to have been marked.

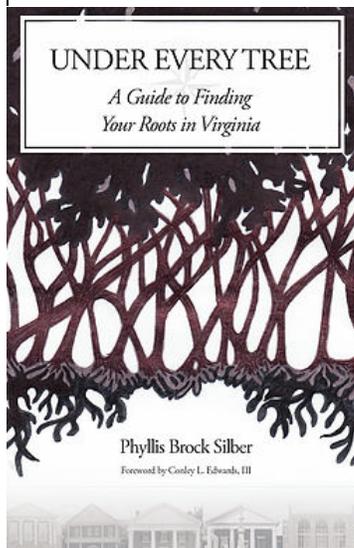
But my story is supposed to be about buildings, not Museums, so let me return to my subject. Any old building, especially a massive old brick building in a poorly drained location requires constant care. During the years I have served on the board of the Strasburg Museum, we have been challenged by numerous maintenance issues. About eight years ago, the leaky old slate roof was replaced by a standing seam metal roof. The entire plumbing system was recently replaced. Structural repairs to the roof system have been accomplished. The crumbling mortar has been partially repointed and that work continues. Drainage problems, which have affected the building since its 1891 construction, continue to be addressed. Of course, painting, minor interior modifications and cleaning are frequent concerns. I mention all these things because it reminds me that the treasured old buildings of our communities are not permanent fixtures without the stewardship necessary to maintain them. Fortunately, the Strasburg Museum has had the support of a loving community to help it reach the age of 115. I have been proud to be a small part of that effort and I expect others will continue to be faithful stewards long after I am gone. That is the way of treasured buildings.

The pottery business was a financial failure. Competition from large Midwestern pottery businesses was intense. Glass jars and tin cans were rapidly replacing pottery for food storage. Efforts to diversify the product line with drain tile, flower pots and other fancy ware were not enough to save the business which closed about 1900. The last entries in the business ledger are from 1896.

It seems that the large brick building and the adjacent kiln must have sat unused for several years, however, the building's location and size made it attractive to the Southern Railway which purchased it in 1913. The building was modified for railway use and served as a passenger and freight depot into the 1950s. This was the first adaptive reuse of the old brick building, but it would see another big change when railroad operations ceased about 1960.

Date	Description	Amount
Apr 23	By 18 1/2 days work	1.15
May 20	By 27 days work	2.70
Jun 17	By 15 days work	1.50
Jul 15	By 36 1/2 days work	3.63
Aug 19	By 24 days work	2.40
Sep 16	By 27 days work	2.70
Oct 14	By 27 days work	2.70
Nov 11	By 27 days work	2.70
Dec 9	By 27 days work	2.70
Jan 6	By 27 days work	2.70
Feb 3	By 27 days work	2.70
Mar 2	By 27 days work	2.70
Apr 30	By 27 days work	2.70
May 28	By 27 days work	2.70
Jun 26	By 27 days work	2.70
Jul 24	By 27 days work	2.70
Aug 21	By 27 days work	2.70
Sep 18	By 27 days work	2.70
Oct 16	By 27 days work	2.70
Nov 13	By 27 days work	2.70
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New Book



Under Every Tree
- A Guide to Finding Your Roots in Virginia by Phyllis Brock Silber.

“Finally there comes along a true guide to finding primary genealogy resources in Virginia! This little book will dispel the burden of where one should go first: a courthouse, library, or historical society. It provides detailed driving and parking directions to the most helpful

resources in each locality and a suggested visit-here-first for each county in the Commonwealth. The reader will also find valuable suggestions for places to visit in each county. Pack *Under Every Tree* with your essential research materials, put it in the glove compartment of your car and head out.” - [A review by Conley L. Edwards, Retired State Archivist of VA.] SCHS: \$21. / Members \$20.

President’s Message -

[Cont. from Page 2]

Our quarterly programs are always excellent and this year included a History of the CCC Camp Roosevelt, shared with us by Forest Service Specialist Stephanie Chapman, Quilts from the Valley and their Stories presented by VA Quilt Museum Curator, Gloria Comstock, and *Connect with the Past: An Archivist Toolkit*, presented by Shenandoah County Archivist, Zach Hottel.

The annual dinner program was a highlight of the year, with well-known Valley broadcaster Alan Arehart, along with vintage radio collector Ted Ferrell, presenting *The History of Broadcast Radio in the Northern Shenandoah Valley*. Alan’s voice is well-known in the area and his presentation was most interesting.

In the 21st C., social media continues to grow in importance. I thank Hank Zimmerman and Janet Wagniere for all they do with the SCHS website, Dennis Atwood for watching over Facebook for us, and Zach Hottel for his involvement in both of those sites as well as others.

SCHS partnered with other county organizations August 1, 2015 for the Fisher’s Hill Veterans Commemoration, part of the Civil War Sesquicentennial events. It was a terrific day and a pleasure to work with others in the county.

The fact that we have such an outstanding newsletter is due to the dedication and skill of editor, Janet Wagniere. I also appreciate the contributions of John Adamson for his Historic Building Series, and Zach Hottel for his *From the County Archives* column.

Whew! A lot to say. But a testament to our ongoing activities and wonderful volunteers. Thank you!



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. A set of 4 with a holder is \$40. To ship, add \$5.

Summer Battlefield Series Programs Scheduled

The Battlefield Series Programs are special two-hour tours starting at 2:00 PM, conducted by the National Park Service, that highlight numerous park sites and resources associated with the battle, including areas not normally accessible to the general public.

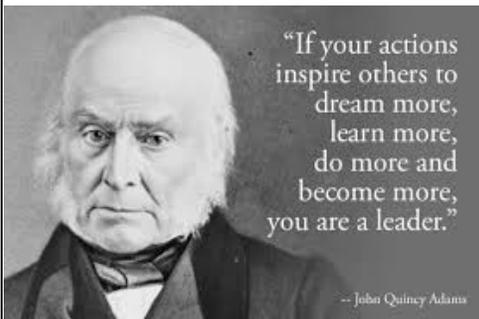
Saturday, July 9th: “Battling in the Streets” - Middletown and the Battle of Cedar Creek” - Location: NPS Visitor Contact Station, 7712 Main St., Middletown, VA

Saturday, July 30th: “An Appalling Spectacle of Panic” - The Collapse of the Army of the Shenandoah - Location: Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation, 8437 Valley Pike, Middletown, VA

Saturday, Sept. 10th: “A great deal of labor was... Expended in building breast-works...” - Exploring the Civil War Entrenchments at Cedar Creek - Location: NPS Visitor Contact Station, 7712 Main St., Middletown, VA

Saturday, Sept. 17th: Capt. Henry DuPont and the Role of Artillery at the Battle of Cedar Creek - Location: NPS Visitor Contact Station, 7712 Main St., Middletown, VA.

For more detailed information, call: 540-869-3051 or visit the web site: www.nps.gov/cebe



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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.

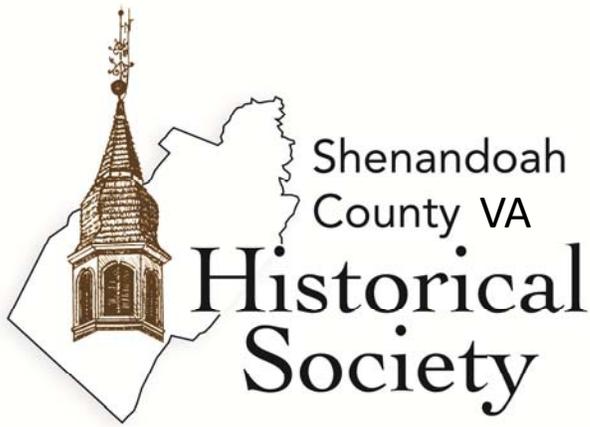
Stop in and see if you can find someone you know.



28126

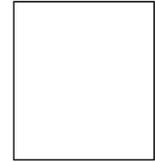


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Shenandoah
County VA

Historical Society



P.O. Box 506
Edinburg VA 22824

Phone: 540-459-1795
E-Mail: 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

July 16th - 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Woodstock Museum's Ice Cream Social will take place on the lawn of the Wickham House on Lawyer's Row, Woodstock. In addition to ice cream, there will be music by Wildflower and a display of antique military vehicles. For more information, call 540-335-2152.

July 23 - 10:30 AM and 2:00 PM

Second Battle of Kernstown Anniversary Programs Special Commemorative Tour: "Caught Between the Lines: The Pritchard Farm During the Second Battle of Kernstown" with Prof. Jonathan Noyalas.

10am – 4pm – Periodically throughout the day: Pritchard House tours, live artillery demonstrations and a live period fashion show.

Location: Kernstown Battlefield on Pritchard-Grim Farm, 610 Battle Park Drive, Winchester, VA 22602 Info: 202-302-9129

Sponsor: Kernstown Battlefield Assoc.
Website: <http://www.kernstownbattle.org/home.html>



August 12 - 6:30 to 9:00 PM

Landmines in Our Back Yard: The Civil War's Buried History. Dr. Ken Rutherford, Director of the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery (CISR) and Professor of Political Science at James Madison University, will present a special program on landmine use during the Civil War, to be held at Miller Hall, #1101, at JMU. Sponsored by CISR and James Madison University. Dr. Rutherford is the author or co-editor of four books, has testified before Congress and the United Nations, and has published more than forty articles in academic and policy journals. He co-founded the Landmine Survivors Network, and is a renowned leader in the Nobel Peace Prize-winning coalition that spearheaded the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty and the global movement that led to the 2008 Cluster Munitions Ban Treaty. Free. Info: (540) 740-4545 or Email: info@svbf.net

September 11th - 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

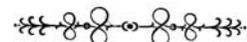
Keller's Mill Tour hosted by the Strasburg Heritage Association. Visit the 1790's Mill at Fisher's Hill owned by Bill & Martha Erbach. See what Bill has done lately to repair the mill dam and get the mill wheel turning again. Free. Located on Battle-

field Road at Fisher's Hill, Strasburg VA

September 24th - 7:30 PM

New Market Remembers

Whether it is churches, businesses, restaurants, school activities or personalities, the *New Market Remembers* program is always the most popular and anxiously awaited program of the year, sponsored by the New Market Historical Society. The programs are held at the New Market Town Council Chambers at 9418 John Sevier Rd. in New Market. For info: nmhs@newmarkethistoricalsociety.org



SPECIAL RESEARCH HELP SESSIONS ARE PLANNED AT THE SHENANDOAH COUNTY LIBRARY, in Edinburg, at the following dates / times:

Tuesday July 12 from 4 PM to 6 PM
Saturday July 16 from 1 PM to 3 PM
Monday August 1 from 3 PM to 5 PM
Saturday August 6 from 1 PM to 3 PM

Volunteer research assistants will be available to help with Genealogy research projects. Info: 540-984-8200