



Shenandoah
County
Historical
Society

Spring 2017

Newsletter

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SCHS Annual Meeting is Tuesday, May 16th

The 2017 Shenandoah County Historical Society Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held Tuesday, May 16 at the Historic Edinburg Mill. A social hour will begin at 6:00 PM, followed by dinner at 6:30 PM

Immediately after the dinner, SCHS president, Barbara Adamson, will conduct a brief business meeting. She will give a report on the Society's accomplishments and projects during the past year, and she will conduct the election of members to serve on the Board of Directors for the coming year.

Members will be asked to vote on a proposed slate to serve on the Board of Directors. Current board members standing for re-election to a two-year term include: Barbara Adamson, Karen Cooper, Ellen Markel and Dr. Charles Wood. Diane Ferguson and Andy Thayer will not be running for re-election and the Nominating Committee has selected Rick Lytton and Marjorie Hisey Tackett to fill those vacancies.

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.

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Shenandoah County Heritage Day is Saturday, April 8th



The 15th Annual Shenandoah County Heritage Day will be held Saturday, April 8, 2017 at the Shenandoah County Historic Courthouse 103 N. Main St. Woodstock, VA from 11AM-3PM. Admission is free.

Sponsored by the Shenandoah County Historical Society with the Shenandoah County Library, Shenandoah County Tourism & Woodstock Enhancement Committee, the event this year will have a special focus on World War I. The United States entered the Great War 100 years ago, on April 6, 1917, and Heritage Day will spotlight American and Shenandoah County involvement in the conflict.

A special part of the event will be the Profiles of Honor Tour VA Mobile Museum, which will be on site with interactive exhibits that commemorate WWI & WWII and feature stories and artifacts from dozens of Virginians who served as well as a full-scale model of a M5A1 Stuart Tank. The tour is part of a statewide commemoration marking the 100th Anniversary of WWI and the 75th Anniversary of WWII.

Working with the Library of Virginia the tour also will serve as a collection point for the scanning of images related to WWI & WWII for inclusion in the VA Profiles of Honor project. The public is invited to bring letters, photos, diaries, medals, first-hand accounts and other documents related to the World Wars to be scanned. Both the Profiles of Honor Tour Mobile Museum and the scanning project are modeled on the highly successful Virginia Civil War 150 History Mobile which visited the Shenandoah Valley multiple times.

As with every Heritage Day, local museums and historical groups are invited to attend and bring exhibits. The purpose of Heritage Day is to collect and preserve documents and photos of Shenandoah County families, towns, villages, churches, cemeteries, etc. and their histories.

[Continued on Page 3]

New Members

- Connie Ardoin
- James & Harriet Hiner
- Andy Shallal
- Dr. Curtis F. Morgan
- Susan E. Dietz
- S. Rebecca Ripper
- Rick Lytton

Life Members

- Diane & Guy Pence
- Cindy Rose Long & Family
- Richard D. Cummings

Virginia Museum of the Civil War exhibit now at Historic Courthouse Visitor Center

When March arrived, so did a new exhibit at the Historic Courthouse Visitor Center.

The Virginia Museum of the Civil War in New Market has installed an exhibit honoring George R. Collins, a VMI graduate of the Class of 1911, whose estate was instrumental in the founding of the current museum in New Market. On display is an original uniform that belonged to Cadet Collins.

Along with the display, information about the other museums in the Virginia Military Institute Museum Systems is also available. The exhibit will be at the Courthouse Visitor Center through June 30th.

SCHS BOOK LIST

Is available on web site:

www.SCHS1795.com

Board Candidates Spotlight



Rick Lytton

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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John Adamson

Bruce Alger

Dennis Atwood

Karen Cooper

Anne Dellinger

Diane Ferguson

Andy Thayer

Meg Trott

Dr. Charles Wood

Newsletter Editor:
Janet Wagniere

Rick Lytton

Rick Lytton was born in Woodstock, of Romeo and Fern Funkhouser Lytton, and is a lifelong resident of Shenandoah County. His early interest in U.S. history came from his father, who served in the Fourth Armored Division, in General George Patton's Third U.S. Army, from Normandy through the Battle of the Bulge, ending up in Czechoslovakia in 1945.

Rick became interested in the Civil War during the Civil War Centennial (1961-1965) and earned bachelor's and master's degrees in history from Virginia Tech University.

"In college, I was privileged to take Civil War History with Dr. James I. Robertson, the foremost

Civil War historian in America," Rick said. Rick taught Social Studies at Central High School for 35 years.

"I am fascinated with the many facets of Shenandoah County history, from manufacturing, to immigration, to weather records, to mills, churches and log houses., Rick said. "I like learning the history of Route 11 and what happened along this road, which has been an important North-South route since before the Revolutionary War."

Rick also likes learning about the small communities in Shenandoah County and how important they have been throughout our history.

Rick is married to Yvonne Hoffman Lytton and they have two daughters and three granddaughters .



Margie Hisey Tackett

[The following profile appeared in the Fall 2016 SCHS newsletter when Margie was a featured as a member/volunteer. As she has been selected as a candidate for the BOD, we are reprinting it:]

Margie is a true "Valley Girl". She was born in Woodstock, grew up in Edinburg and graduated from Central High School. She is the daughter of late Eddie & Charlotte Hisey and has spent her entire life in Shenandoah County. She inherited her father's love for history and documentation of the past. Genealogy was a shared interest and she took some of Jean Martin's genealogy classes at the library and began tracing her family ancestry. She is now a member of our Courthouse Visitor Center team and is helping with the genealogy research.

Fort Valley Museum schedules Volunteer Appreciation Event

The Fort Valley Museum will hold its Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event on Wed., April 26th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Fort Valley Fire Hall, 7088 Fort Valley Rd, Fort Valley, VA

The program, "Fort Valley during the Great War, Told in Story and Song," will be narrated by Hank Zimmerman. It will be followed by recognition of Museum volunteers, a brief Annual Meeting, and light refreshments. Visitors are welcome."

Message from the President

In every issue of the newsletter the editor includes a few unidentified images from our extensive Morrison Photographic Collection hoping that someone will see a familiar face or be inspired to search their family photos if they notice a family resemblance. After Hugh Morrison's death in 1950, his son Louis continued in the family business. We now find ourselves scanning film and producing images likely taken by Louis as opposed to the older glass negatives. One such photo (#29723), published in the Winter Issue of the newsletter, was identified by local historian Bonnie Painter. The picture was taken in 1958 and is of particular interest because of the men being photographed. The caption on the back of the picture reads "taken at the home of Fred Painter at Pugh's Run May 18, 1958. Sitting left to right Dr. John W. Wayland, Frank Bowman. Standing left to right Tom Painter middle Garnett Painter right Fred Painter". Garnett Painter was Bonnie's great uncle and she was told that Fred Painter invited the three school "chums" from Hamburg to his house for a get together.

John Wayland was a revered teacher, historian and writer whose book A History of Shenandoah County Virginia is still a must for anyone interested in local history. Fred Painter was also a local historian of note who penned

several books and was an inspiration to many who understood the importance of preserving history.

I was reminded of how long we've been working on the Morrison project (over 15 years) when I realized that we've scanned the picture featured above, but haven't yet placed it in an album where it and others can be seen at the library in Edinburg. When we began the project it was estimated that there were 28,000 negatives. That magic number was passed some time ago. Now we find ourselves moving on to other SCHS projects and responsibilities and so the work of scanning and producing albums from the collection has slowed, though the end is in sight. We would welcome a few new volunteers who could help with this project. Computer skills are not required, since our intrepid CF Wagniere continues to do scanning of the negatives themselves.

If you're not familiar with the Morrison Photographic Collection, or want to re-familiarize yourself with it, go to our website, www.schs1795.com, and click on Our Organization, then Morrison Collection. You'll find an online version of the wonderful Morrison exhibit that was held at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in 2011





From the County Archives

By Zach Hottel,
Archivist

Sharing at the Archives

Sixteen years ago the Shenandoah County Library opened at its current location on Stony Creek Boulevard in Edinburg. With this new building came a new service, the Truban Archives, which transformed the library's research room into a primary source depository.

Since then the archives has continued to share the history of our area with thousands of local residents and visitors. However, this process of sharing has never been a one way street. Almost our entire collection has been donated to us by members of the community who are dedicated to sharing historic knowledge.

Today we continue to look to those around us to share. In order to expand the ability of the community to do that, we have launched several new initiatives that encourage those around us to be involved in the distribution of historic treasurers and the creation of primary sources that tell the story of our present day community. Here are just a few of these:

- ★ Our newly launched online contribution platform. Here individuals can submit a story about an event or life experience, digital images, oral history recordings, important emails, and other types of media that will then be reviewed and made available to researchers. This platform is available at tinyurl.com/gru4a5r

- ★ A significant social media program that welcomes and encourages comments, discussions, and questions, especially when it reveals new nuggets of information. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter to be a part of the conversation.

- ★ An oral history project that gives members of the community the opportunity to conduct interviews using library guidelines so their family and friend's stories are preserved.

- ★ An expanded digitization program that allows individuals to loan items to the archives where they will be scanned, returned, and then shared online. This means that personally significant items can be retained by a donor and still made available to researchers.

As always, we also continue to accept physical items that individuals are willing to donate to the archives. These objects are preserved in perpetuity, will not be deaccessioned, and will be shared with researchers trying to learn about our areas past. We are always looking for new items, including those you never thought we might want. So, be sure to consider contacting the library before you dispose of old photographs, →

More Genealogy Sites to help with research

We recently received a correspondence from Cyrus Dylan, who is a member of a group of librarians and educators called "ForeverCurious" who is working on creating the best educational resources for kids on the web. In their research, they came across our SCHS site, and have shared with us some of the other useful sites they have discovered for those doing genealogical research:

[Top 100 Genealogy Sites](#)
[Resources for Military Families](#)
[Genealogy and the Law](#)
[Billiongraves](#)
[A Beginner's Guide to Starting a Family Tree Online](#)

[Military Indexes](#)

Heritage Day - [Continued from Page 1]

While not focusing this year on a specific area of the county, as in the past, individuals from any part of the county are invited to come and exhibit their own family or historical research. Especially welcomed are any family histories relating to military service in WWI and new people are encouraged to become involved. Documents and photos will be scanned for our archives.

Call by March 31 if you would like to reserve a space. No fee required. We invite you to enjoy our local history and the opportunity to share with each other while connecting with the past.

A related event combining fun with history is a Trivia Night to be held at the Woodstock Brewhouse on Sunday, April 9. Trivia night starts at 5pm and will feature WWI and local history categories. The Brewhouse is located at 123 E. Court St.

“ A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new ”

Albert Einstein

documents, books, ledgers, letters, cards, or personal records. Contact the library at (540) 984-8200.

All of this is your opportunity, as a member of the history community, to become involved in sharing our history with those around us and for future generations. We invite you, your family, friends, and neighbors to participate and become part of our community of local historians.

Annual Meeting Program

Tuesday, May 16th

6:00 PM

The Edinburg Mill

214 S. Main Street
Edinburg VA

Program:

**Learning From
Old Buildings**

by Michael Watkinson

2017 SCHS Preservation Awards to Be Presented at Annual Meeting

In 2014 the Shenandoah County Historical Society established an Excellence in Historic Preservation Awards program to be given at the annual meeting and banquet in May of each year. The purpose of the program is to honor projects within Shenandoah County that deserve recognition for their preservation efforts. By doing so we hope to encourage others to follow the examples of those being recognized. These awards continue an earlier program that had been created by the former Shenandoah Preservation League.

The Excellence in Historic Preservation Awards are intended to recognize outstanding projects in the fields of history, architecture, scenic beauty, and material culture (this includes furniture, textiles, documents, folk art, photography, basketry, tools and more). The original, or source object(s) must be at least sixty (60) years old, and the preservation project must have been completed to be eligible for consideration.

Nominations have been received and this year's awards will be presented at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 16th.

ATTENTION

ARE YOUR DUES DUE??

The date beside the name on your mailing label is the month and year your membership is due. We appreciate your staying current.

The SCHS web site: www.shenandoahcountyhistoricalsociety.org

✦ Continuing Series on Historic Buildings in Shenandoah County ✦

SHENANDOAH TIME MACHINE

By: John Adamson

Time travel is not really possible, right? But, if you find yourself in a place that looks and feels 250 years old, let your mind be free and you may feel that you have travelled in time. That is exactly what happened to me when I visited a recently reconstructed log house at the Luray Valley Museum. Let me tell you about my time travel experience.

A few weeks ago, Barbara (SCHS President) and I went to visit Rod Graves at Luray Caverns for a reason not part of this story. Rod is a fellow preservationist, long-rifle collector and local historian. He also happens to be Senior Vice President of Luray Caverns, a wonderful place for visitors to the Shenandoah Valley. In addition to the spectacular cavern, Rod manages other attractions at the cavern site. To this author, the most spectacular of these is The Luray Valley Museum, an amazing collection of Shenandoah Valley objects which tell vivid stories of the rich history of the Shenandoah Valley.

Rod, with his brother, John (CEO), and the entire Caverns board of directors are passionate about preserving and sharing this vital history and have devoted many years, significant funding and diligent research to creating a truly spectacular collection for the education and enjoyment of visitors. I could go on and on about the many objects and stories preserved by the museum, but my purpose is the time machine story. I can only say that if you are interested in the history and material culture of the Shenandoah Valley, you MUST go to The Luray Valley Museum.

Among the items preserved at the museum are several very important old buildings. Threatened with destruction and loss at their original sites are examples of 19th century Shenandoah Valley architecture. Included among these are a log farm house, a historic church, a school and a barn. This collection of buildings gives the visitor an opportunity to see historic Shenandoah Valley architecture in person.

In 2005 Shenandoah County builder Bill Wine (Historic Restorations, LLC) contracted to remove a small house at the northeast corner of Church and High Streets in Woodstock. The little old structure sat on property approved for townhouse development and was to be torn down. When Bill first encountered the house, he knew very quickly that it was an extremely old structure and had seen very little modification during its many, many years in Woodstock. Bill told me "I was filled with awe when I went inside. I could not believe how much original material remained in such an old log house." The original yellow pine logs were connected with full dovetail joinery, the floorboards, held in place with wooden pins, had never been replaced and original

[Continued on Page 5]



Corner of Church & High Streets
Woodstock, 2005



As reconstructed at the Luray Valley Museum,
2016



Front view as reconstructed



Original Woodstock site, front view
with weather boards removed



Under reconstruction, note full-dovetailed logs



Hand forged strap hinge, possibly original
18th century



Under construction, original logs all numbered
with minor repairs



2nd floor walls showing numbering scheme



Cellar cooking fireplace before disassembly



Reconstructed cellar cooking fireplace



Powerwashing original logs prior to storage



1st floor as
reconstructed,
note single
panel wall



Cellar interior
as
reconstructed

Shenandoah Time Machine - [Continued from Page 4]

doors swung on hand forged hinges. The house also contained original single-panel interior walls and its tiny stairway to the second floor tucked in one corner. The heating fireplace on the first floor and the cooking fireplace in the cellar, combined with the limestone foundation, reflected the skilled work of local stonemasons more than two and a half centuries ago. Bill estimated that the house to have been built about 1755.

But, sadly, this ultra-rare example of the earliest architecture in Woodstock was likely to be lost. Knowing how precious and original this example was, Bill looked for some way to preserve it. There were ideas about moving the structure to a nearby location, or reconstructing it as part of a history-themed shopping mall. But nothing came of these alternatives in time to save the house. Bill, ever the preservationist, carefully disassembled the house, numbering the logs, stones and boards, hoping there would be some opportunity to reconstruct this historic gem. He imposed upon his parents to safely store the parts in their barn near Harrisville. I imagine he assured them it would not be for long.

Fast forward ten years to when Rod Graves, through his connections in the world of preservation, learned about the old log house. Rod had long sought to find and preserve an 18th century example of settlement architecture. Very few such buildings survive and most that do have been heavily modified. The Woodstock log house provided a unique opportunity to preserve the type of building that served the freedom-seeking earliest settlers to the Shenandoah Valley.

The story of Rod and Bill agreeing to rebuild the house deserves much more space that I can give it here, but it is worth noting that two more knowledgeable forces could not have conspired together to make it happen. During the last months of 2015, the little house began to come back to life. In a functional partnership with Rod, the log building was reconstructed by Bill and his company with the able assistance of local stonemason Clyde Jenkins and family. Ed Eastman and son built a new roof to original specification and Rod's own in-house carpenter, Carl Vogleman, did much of the detailed finishing work. I find it very encouraging that the skill to accomplish this preservation work can be found locally. I spoke to Rod and his wife, Isabel, about this work and I learned about the hours Rod spent personally wrestling stones and sharing in the hard work of construction. Something in Isabel's expression told me that the work was harder and took more time than expected, but I could tell that, like Rod, she was excited with the results.

As an unexpected reward for their efforts, Bill and Rod made a fantastic discovery during the reconstruction. An original sill (the lowest log) had deteriorated too much to be reused. A replacement log was found, but Bill and Rod did not want to just throw away the remains of the original. So, the old decayed sill was carried to a storage barn at the museum. Bill looked carefully at the old sill and thought he saw some-

thing. Barely legible, old faded red script was scrawled on the sill. Upon close examination Bill and Rod agreed that it reads "1760 R Bowman"! I looked at the sill myself and agree with the date and the "Bowman", the "R" is partially missing and may be another letter. But to have a date and the name of the original builder is a fantastic piece of good fortune, richly deserved by the two men who are responsible for the building's survival. It also proves that Bill Wine knows his architectural history, estimating the building construction date to within five years.

At the museum, Rod found the perfect place to rebuild the house. A sloping site allows the cellar door to open on to a yard, just as it did in Woodstock. The house measures 22 feet by 18 feet, has a limestone foundation and two full floors. That is a total of nearly 1200 square feet, making the house bigger than many of its era. One reason the house survived is that it was covered in horizontal sheathing. Rod chose to replicate this feature on three sides, however on the front, the dovetailed corners of the logs are exposed. This type of joinery is rarely found in log structures in Shenandoah County and suggests early, skilled construction. V-notch joinery is much more common.

At 257 years of age, the house has many stories to tell, most of them yet to be discovered, but here are a few glimpses. On April 12, 1814, Christina Willey, widow of Reverend Bernard Willey of the Reformed Lutheran Church in Woodstock purchased the house for \$200. The house appears to have been renovated about 1810 to 1820, with simple built-in cabinets and shelves and a new roof. In the 1830 Land Records, the house was owned by Jacob Ott and had an assessed value of \$400 for the land (lots 181 and 182) plus \$62 for the house itself. In the early 20th century, the house was the home of Flora Jackson, a blind African American resident of Woodstock. In the 1960s, Bill Wine remembers a quirky one-man real estate business run by Edsel Walker from the house. If only these logs could talk.

Anyone concerned about moving the house from Shenandoah County to Page County should remember that in 1760, there was no Page County, or even Shenandoah County. We were still part of Frederick County and Woodstock had not yet been chartered. Everyone with an interest in our early history can be glad that this precious building has been preserved for all to see and enjoy. Rod expects to open the house to the public in early summer and plans to furnish it with simple, appropriate furniture and fixtures of the earliest period. When you visit the house, be prepared to enter the Shenandoah Valley time machine.



28004

DO YOU KNOW THEM?

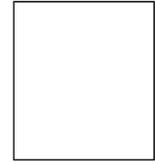
The Shenandoah Room at the County Library in Edinburg, has 58 albums filled with images from the photo files of Hugh Morrison, Jr. Stop in and see if you can find someone you know.



28221



28077



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

April 6th - 7:00 PM

How to Start a War - World War I

Sponsored by the Winchester-Frederick Historical Society, Joe Whitehorne will discuss the build-up that led to the US joining the World War on this date in 1917. The program will take place at the War Memorial Building at 1001 East Cork Street in Winchester. Info: 540-662-4946
The public is invited.

May 20 & 21st 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

The 153rd Anniversary Battle of New Market Reenactment held on the original battlefield property. One of the oldest continual reenactments in the nation. Walk in history's footsteps. Admission Fee is \$10 for ages 10 and older. Advance tickets available by phone: 866-515-1864

May 25th - 7:00 PM

Genetic Genealogy: What Can DNA Testing Tell Me About My Ancestry?

Will be presented by Dr. John Butler, for the New Market Historical Society, at the Town Council Chambers at 9418 John Sevier Road. We inherit DNA from our parents. This genetic material defines our physical characteristics but can also be used to understand our heritage and to connect family lineages. Dr. Butler's presentation will review what can and

Graffiti Names Research Continues

The winter issue of the SCHS newsletter included an appeal to find someone willing to take on the task of researching the names found written on the walls of the historic courthouse by, we believe, soldiers during the Civil War. We're pleased to say that members of the Narrow Passage Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution accepted the challenge! This energetic group also helped out with cataloguing papers from the Howell Collection that SCHS received several years ago. Their enthusiasm and competence are admirable, and we look forward to learning of the results of this most recent work.

cannot be done with DNA testing and review the basics of genetic markers used today in genetic genealogy tests by companies such as Ancestry, FamilyTree DNA, and 23andMe. Dr. Butler is a leading expert on forensic DNA profiling. The public is welcome.

June 2nd - 7:00 PM

Enslaved to Freed - The Story of Clermont Farm to Josephine City is a car caravan tour program by the National Park Service at Clermont Farm, 801 East Main St., Berryville, VA to explore a city created by freed African Americans. Info: 540-869-3051

Annual Dinner - [From Page 1]

The program this year will be given by Michael Watkinson, whose topic will be "Learning from Old Buildings." The presentation will explore observations and lessons learned through the process of restoring old houses in Shenandoah County. This area is fortunate to still have a wealth of historic structures. Understanding of traditional building techniques and where the traditions come from will help to enhance an appreciation for the historic landscape here in the Valley.

Mr. Watkinson's web site states: "We recognize that it is sentiment that attracts most of us to old buildings and we approach the restoration of these irreplaceable resources with respect. It is not just respect for the building and its owner that is important to us, but also respect for the successive generations of previous as well as future residents. We understand the artistry of early craftsmen and seek to recreate and preserve the same lasting quality in our work." His web site is:

<http://www.shenandoahrestorations.net>

It should be an enjoyable evening.

MORE EVENTS ON WEB SITE