



Shenandoah County Historical Society

Summer 2019

Newsletter

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L to R: Norman Scott, for Shenandoah Iron; Tom Price, for Box Office Brewery; Margie Hisey Tackett, accepted for the Shenandoah County Library; Janet Wagniere, accepted for the Shenandoah County Historical Society and Leigh Devier, Chairman, Preservation Awards Committee. [Jenna French, County Tourism Director, was not present for the photo.]

Annual Preservation Awards

The Shenandoah County Historical Society presented three "Excellence in Historic Preservation" Awards at its annual meeting and banquet on May 21 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post in the historic Edinburg Hotel building in Edinburg. The preservation awards program seeks to recognize outstanding preservation projects in the fields of history, architecture, scenic beauty, and material culture. These annual awards are intended to bring public recognition to these achievements and in so doing encourage others to follow their examples, bringing greater awareness of the value of historic preservation.

The 2019 Awards were presented by

Awards Committee Chair Leigh Devier to:

Norman H. Scott for his book, *Shenandoah Iron*, a thoroughly researched work which documents elements of the historic iron industry in Shenandoah County and nearby areas.

Thomas Price and Karl Roulston for the careful restoration and repurposing of the 1920 Strand Theater in Strasburg, now the Box Office Brewery on Main Street in Strasburg.

Shenandoah County Library and Truban Archives, Shenandoah County Tourism and the Shenandoah County Historical Society for the creation of a brochure, [Continued on Page 3]

New Members

- Adam & Megan Smith
- Diane Holsinger
- Sarah L. Clark
- Brad Skipper
- Chris Lovegrove / D.J. Long
- Tara Pifer
- Jack & Cynthia Moody
- Jaclyn Cleaver
- Wilson & Cyndie Ryman
- Dan & Tacy Hawkins
- Ben Myers
- Bradley Pollack
- Mike & Kathy Kehoe

Life Members

- Kathleen Rivers
- Tom & Leslie Carr
- Bob & Suzanne McIlwee
- Linda Varney
- The Ettinger Family

Edgar Lamma III Joins SCHS Board of Directors



With Karen Cooper's recent retirement from the SCHS Board of Directors, Orkney Spring resident, Edgar Lamma III was invited to fill Karen's slot and we are pleased to report that he has accepted.

A little bit about Edgar . . . Edgar Lamma III was born in Bethesda, Maryland, but his family moved back to Virginia when he was a few months old. He attended Triplett for 1st Grade and from 2nd through 8th Grade he attended schools in Rockingham County/Harrisonburg. During this time the family would frequently travel to Orkney Springs for the weekend. Before Edgar started the 9th Grade, the family moved full time to their property in Orkney Springs which was to become Orkney Springs Campground.

After Edgar graduated from Stonewall Jackson HS in 1976, he attended JMU for two years then transferred to VA Tech. He obtained a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1981 and a master's degree in 1982. Edgar started work at Newport News Shipbuilding in 1982 and worked there until he retired in July 2018. He and his wife Linda live in the former parsonage for the Orkney Springs Lutheran Parish in Orkney Springs.

For most of his life, Edgar has been accumulating information on family and regional history. The collection currently resides mostly in tubs and boxes. After Linda and Edgar remodel the parsonage house, he will have a study room where he can organize his information to allow him to resume research in earnest. Before, but essentially since retirement, Edgar has accumulated artifacts of Shenandoah Valley businesses that no longer exist. He plans to proudly display these after the remodeling and says he will gladly welcome visitors.

[Continued on Page 3]



From the County Archives

By Zach Hottel, Archivist

Lantz & Lindamood Corresponds with Liberty Furnace

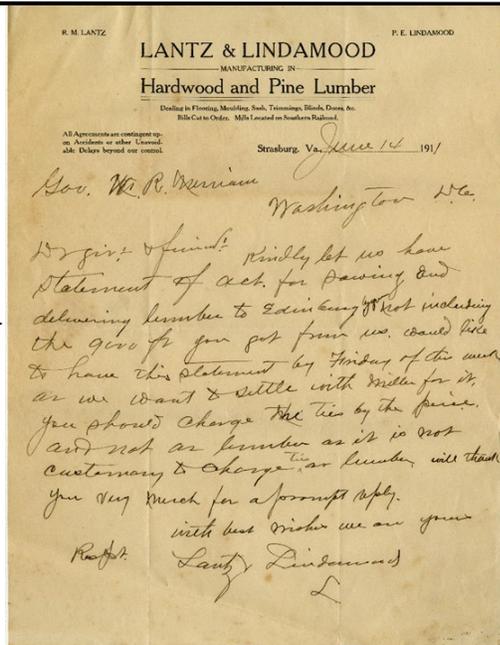
Lantz and Lindamood Letter, June 14, 1911, Folder 9.9 Lantz and Lindamood Lumber Company, 1910-1914, Series VI, Liberty Iron Furnace Collection, Truban Archives, Shenandoah County Library, Edinburg, VA

On June 14, 1911 Lantz and Lindamood, manufactures of "Hardwood and Pine Lumber" in Strasburg Virginia sent this letter to W.R. Merriam, President of Shenandoah Iron and Coal Company which managed Liberty Iron Furnace, concerning a bill for milled lumber.

This is one of several letters in a series concerning this bill. It included several legal notices threatening suits over the payment. Whether Liberty Iron ever paid, and what the reason for their delay was, is unknown.

Liberty Iron Furnace's history dates to around 1800. Attempts to produce iron on a large scale occurred in the latter part of the 19th and first decade of the 20th century, one of which was managed by Merriam's Liberty Iron Company, ultimately proved to be unsuccessful. By the time this letter was written the company had ceased iron production and was utilizing the timber holdings on its land to make a profit selling lumber and bark. They eventually ceased operation ca. 1917.

The company known as Lantz and Lindamood is first found in the historic record in 1893 when the Shenandoah Herald noted they opened a lumber yard in Edinburg Virginia. In 1908 the *Lumber Trade Journal* reported they had just commenced operations in Strasburg Virginia. On September 2, 1938 the Shenandoah Herald reported their former yard in Edinburg, which had been sold to "Simmons and Solomon," burned.



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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Message from the President

The Society's 34th Annual Dinner was held on May 21 at the VFW in Edinburg where over 70 attendees enjoyed a delicious meal and an excellent program provided by historian Daniel W. Bly, entitled "What We Can Learn From Local History". In his presentation Daniel reminded us that there is much to be learned from our immigrant ancestors, and their lives here in Shenandoah County and the Valley, that is relevant today. Also at the meeting our Preservation Awards presentations were made. My thanks go to members of the Awards Committee which includes chairman Leigh Devier and members Jim Stevenson and Anne Dellinger. Their job is a pleasant one that concludes with the awards presentations you'll read about elsewhere in the newsletter. Congratulations go to the awardees!

When I prepare this report about our programs during the past year, I'm always struck as to the high quality of what we bring to the community. In September writer and historian Deidre Sinnott shared her carefully researched story of the 1836 Escape, Capture & Rescue of two enslaved men, Harry Bird and George, from Woodstock to Utica, NY and finally to Canada. November brought Norman Scott to introduce us to his book about the iron industry in Shenandoah County and nearby. Norman is one of our Preservation Award winners as well. Our spring program in March was a presentation by Nick Powers, who has deep Shenandoah County roots and is currently Curator of Collections at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester. I found his program particularly exciting

as he shared previously unknown information about two county cabinet makers, William & Thomas Wright, who were responsible for many of the highly sought after early 19th C. clock cabinets that are well-known throughout the region. Our year was capped off with Daniel Bly's presentation about local families and history.

Our other activities include Heritage Day, which this year focused on a variety of small communities from different sections of the county and was held at the Mt. Jackson Town Hall. The Barn Program continues, of course, with no evident decline in interest from barn owners throughout the county, judging from phone calls and other contacts at my house. SCHS participated in National Tourism Week 2019, which included a scavenger hunt for those who visited sites in the county. Do YOU know who was the first sheriff of Shenandoah County?

On a sad note, I would mention again in this newsletter the passing of longtime supporter, former newsletter editor, historian and author, Patrick Murphy. He is missed. On a positive note, I welcome Orkney Springs resident, Edgar Lamma, to the SCHS board. We're delighted to have a member from that area of the county. We discovered how energetic Edgar is during Heritage Day. Good news!

Edgar has come on the board due to Karen Cooper's decision not to return. We know that she will remain very busy with her Shenandoah Germanic Heritage Museum duties and thank her for all she does to preserve our precious history.

Barn Survey Team Going Strong

Pictured at the right is our "Barn Team" and they have been busy these last few months. Program Manager, John Adamson, reports that having team members help schedule and conduct surveys makes the work go faster and helps to reach all areas of the county.

As of the date of this newsletter, the program to document the Historic Barns of Shenandoah County has surveyed 221 log and timber framed barns. John reports that as many as eight barns have been surveyed in one day, thanks to the team's ability to prearrange surveys in one small area. We now have t-shirts for sale, too.



L to R.: Kent Womack, Anne Dellinger, Sharon Weatherholtz and John Adamson

Program Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 17th, 2019
7:00 PM

St. Paul's Heritage Center

106 S. High Street, Edinburg, VA

Program:

Southern Oasis at Gettysburg

by

Historian & Author, Bob O'Connor

Southern Oasis at Gettysburg Program

The author of 14 Civil War Books, **Bob O'Connor** of Charles Town WV, will speak about the northernmost Confederate Hospital in the war, located at the Daniel Lady Farm. The farm was the site of the encampment of General Joseph Johnson's division of over 5,600 men, on the left flank of the Army of Northern Virginia, who battled at Culp's Hill. Over 1,800 of the division were casualties of the battle, and treated by medical personnel at the house and barn on the farm.

Among the men who camped at the farm and who were treated there were men from Shenandoah County who served in the 2nd Virginia Infantry, the 5th Virginia Infantry, the 10th Virginia Infantry, and the 33rd Virginia Infantry. O'Connor will identify some of those men. The farm is the only Confederate site in the North that is open on a regular basis for visitors.

Visit SCHS at the Edinburg Ole Time Festival on Sept. 21st & 22nd

As in past years, the SCHS will be at the annual Ole Time Festival, with their booth on Main Street across from Sal's from 9 AM to 4 PM on Saturday and 10 AM to 4 PM on Sunday. We will be selling books and memberships and will have several of the Morrison photo albums for people to hopefully ID photos. Stop by.

Preservation Awards - [From Page 1]

Farms, Factories and the Frontlines: Shenandoah County in the World Wars, which along with other projects and programs, commemorated the involvement of our community in World War I and World War II.

Lamma - [Continued from Page 1]

Edgar is currently working to update his information on the history of Orkney Springs so that he can offer a walking tour of Orkney to Shrine Mont visitors in 2020. There is so much to learn. One recent discovery was that the bowling alley in Orkney was built in 1870.

We welcome Edgar to the SCHS Board.

New Exhibit Opens at Historic County Courthouse on July 4th

The Mt. Jackson Museum will have a display, beginning July 4th and continuing through October, in the Visitor Center at the Historic Courthouse at 103 N. Main St. in Woodstock, each Thurs. - Sat., 11-4.

SCHS FINANCIAL STATEMENT

At the 5/31/19 end of the fiscal year, the Treasurer reported a total of \$65,171.49 in the SCHS accounts.

HELP WANTED:

Team Members needed to work 1 to 2 shifts per month manning the Visitor Center at the Historic Shenandoah County Courthouse

At the Visitor Center, you will greet tourists who are looking for things to see and places to go. We have all of the necessary free information for you to pass along and the 1795 Courthouse is there for them to take a self-guided tour. The SCHS book store is in the Visitor Center and some people come to buy books and postcards.

This is a low-stress opportunity with lots of free time for you to read or knit or write letters. You never have to worry about punching a time clock or wondering if someone else is making more than you. They're not. Each member is appreciated and if we had a budget, we would put everyone at the top of the pay scale. Call 540-459-1795 for more information. Volunteerism is good for the soul.

Divorce in New York State

If you think a family member had a divorce in New York State you may have to look to other states for the record. There were very few divorces up to 1787 and up to 1967 the only reason was adultery. Also, divorce is not considered a vital record – it is a court record. Different courts held the divorce records so it is important to know which court heard the divorce during which time period.

✦ For Colonial New York on [New York Heritage](#) - there is an article titled [Divorce in Colonial New York](#) by Matteo Spalletta from *The New-York Historical Society Quarterly*, 39 (1955): 422-440.

✦ Divorce in New York 1787-1847- legislation enacted a law permitting divorce on the grounds of adultery in addition to legal separations and annulments. A good article was published in April 1998 issue of *The Record*. Charles Farrell's "[Index to Matrimonial Actions 1787 -1840, New York County Clerk's Office](#)" includes an index which includes the plaintiff, defendant, date, and type of proceeding (divorce or separation). These records were recently moved from the New York County Clerk's Office to the New York State Archives. This summary list of major record sets transferred to NYSA may be helpful, though researchers investigating these records should reach out to NYSA directly for guidance and assistance

✦ Divorce in New York; 1847 –Present – County indexes are open to public but files are sealed for 100 years. [The New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer](#) addresses more recent divorces in the chapter on vital records: the divorce decree up to 1967 would usually specify that the innocent party was free to remarry while the guilty party (the adulterer) was not. The guilty party usually did remarry anyway but left New York State to do so. More on the website: <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org>

SCHS COMPLETE BOOK LIST

Is available on web site:
www.SCHS1795.com

✦ Continuing Series on Historic Buildings in Shenandoah County ✦

1693 SWOVER CREEK ROAD

Swover Creek rises just west of Conicville and flows almost due east until it joins Stoney Creek about three miles west of Edinburg. The pretty valley surrounding the creek has been attracting residents for over 250 years. It remains one of the most attractive areas of Shenandoah County and the interesting house at 1693 Swover Creek Road has brought me here for the third time since I began writing about our historic buildings about seven years ago.

Elizabeth Dean and her partner Eric Groot purchased the property in 2013 and became the last in a long line of property owners starting with Henry McKenney who obtained 235 acres here from Lord Fairfax in 1763. McKenney sold the property to a land speculator who sold it to John Keller in 1766. Keller probably built a log house that was replaced by the present brick house on the same foundation. John Keller sold the property to Robert Gaw, a Woodstock merchant with large holdings near present day Conicville, in 1798. Gaw, in turn, sold to his wife's brother, Absolom Rinker, in 1811. The Rinker family occupied and improved the property during the years 1811 to 1874. The main brick house was built in 1831 with a significant brick addition about 1850. The outbuildings still standing and a fine barn were all added during the period of Rinker ownership. Subsequent owners include Newlands and Wakemans until the 1990s. My thanks to Elizabeth and Eric for sharing their research including a photo copy of the original Fairfax grant conveying the property to Henry McKenney for the annual price of "one shilling sterling money for every fifty acres of land hereby granted..."

By: John Adamson



View of 1693 Swover Creek Rd. looking west. Front of house dates to 1831 with the circa 1850 addition on left.



Built in 1831, stairway to second floor used the old-fashioned and space efficient corner configuration.



Log spring house added during the Rinker years has a limestone foundation and is covered with weatherboards.

Elizabeth told me that she and Eric decided to purchase because of the beauty of the property and its surroundings. The house itself presented quite a few challenges. In fact, in my brief real estate career, I had seen this house more than 15 years earlier and can remember thinking that it would take great energy and courage to make it comfortably acceptable for 21st century living. Elizabeth and Eric have met the challenges of modernizing a fine old house without destroying its character. Their efforts include complete renovation of the kitchen, reorientation of the main entrance, drilling a well to replace the spring-fed water system, upgrading the electrical system to 400 amps, new heat pumps to replace baseboard heat, new roofs for porches and outbuildings, three new stoves for heat and charm and extensive planting and landscaping. Whew!

The brick house we see today reflects the success of the Rinkers during their ownership of the property in the mid-19th century. The façade of the 1831 structure displays the decorative Flemish bond brick pattern. The rest of the house and the 1850 addition are in the 5-course American bond pattern typical of the period. Constrained by the footprint of the original log structure, the interior floor plan includes old fashioned corner stairways and a partially finished attic used for living space. Original mantles and hardware are retained throughout the house and reflect the craftsmanship of home builders of earlier times. Original pine floors, thoughtful furnishings, colors and textures all combine to create an interior that acts as a time machine transporting the visitor to a time about 170 years ago.

Of course, I surveyed the barn adjacent to the house for the Historic Barns of Shenandoah County program. The barn exhibits all the tool marks and structural details of a barn built about 1840. Swover Creek is in the area affected by The Burning in October 1864,

[Continued on page 5]



A mid-19th century iron door latch still in use



A mid-19th century iron door latch still in use.



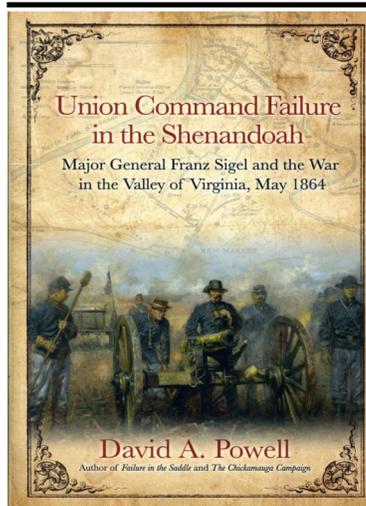
Looking west from the second floor with the barn in the foreground. The current owners purchased the property because of this beautiful setting.



Original mantle



View looking North. The main entrance to the house was changed from the 1831 brick portion to the stairway seen here..



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Union Command Failure in the Shenandoah - Maj. Gen. Franz Sigel and the War in the Valley of Virginia, May 1864

The Battle of New Market in the Shenandoah Valley suffers from no lack of drama, interest, or importance. The ramifications of the May 1864 engagement, which involved only 10,000 troops, were substantial. Previous studies, however, focused on the Confederate side of the story. David Powell's, *Union Command Failure in the Shenandoah: Major General Franz Sigel and the War in the Valley of Virginia, May 1864*, provides the balance that has so long been needed.

Author David Powell's years of archival and other research provides an outstanding foundation for this outstanding study. Previous works have focused on the Confederate side of the battle, using Sigel's incompetence as sufficient excuse to explain why the Federals were defeated. This methodology, however, neglects the other important factors that contributed to the ruin of Grant's scheme in the Valley.

Union Command Failure delves into all the issues, analyzing the campaign from an operational standpoint.

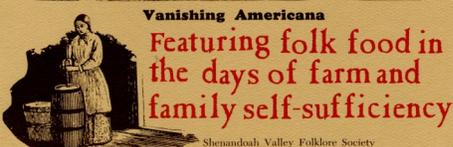
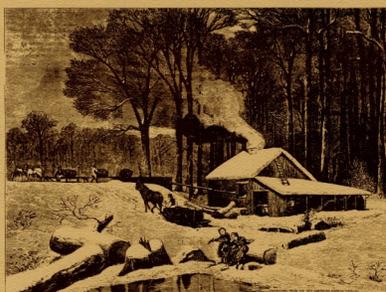
Complete with original maps, photos, and the skillful writing readers have come to expect from the pen of David Powell, *Union Command Failure in the Shenandoah* will satisfy the most demanding students of Civil War history. SCHS Price: \$31 Members: \$30

Swover Creek -[Continued from Page 4]

so the survival of this barn makes us wonder how it escaped destruction. Eric noted that tax records indicate a barn built immediately after the war, so perhaps I am incorrect in my dating of this particular barn. There is also the possibility of other barns on the same property or perhaps this barn was rebuilt on an old foundation. Whatever the case, the barn's presence adds to the charm of the property today.

Elizabeth and Eric shared their property with me in the most graceful and accommodating manner. Thanks to them for letting me see and write about it, thereby sharing it with all readers of the Shenandoah County Historical Society Newsletter.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY COOKING  *Recipes and Kitchen Lore*



Shenandoah Valley Cooking

This interesting book, published by the Shenandoah Valley Folklife Society, is much more than just a book of recipes - it is a look at life in the early days of the settling of the Valley.

It is filled with sketches and other artwork, has a lot of recipes and a lot of history about day to day life in the early years of settling in the Valley. You may want to try the recipe for fried apples, or you may want to try something more adventurous like Baked Ground Hog or Roast Opossum!

It's a really fun and interesting book and is priced at only \$6.00.

SCHS Membership Rates Increased at End of May

Due to the rising cost of postage, the SCHS Board has decided to raise the membership rate (for the first time since it's founding in 1985) effective at the end of May, 2019.

The Basic Family category will be eliminated and Membership will now have 3 categories:

Member - receive newsletter by e-mail..... \$15 per year

Member - receive newsletter by US Postal mail..... \$20 per year

Life Member - (no change) \$200 for single & \$300 for family membership

From this point forward, we ask you to make dues payments in the new amounts. In future newsletters, the rates are listed on the front address page under the SCHS logo in the newsletter.

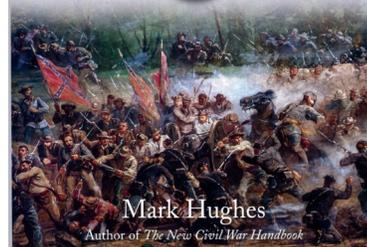
SCHS Web Site:
www.SCHS1795.com

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FACTS AND PHOTOS FOR READERS OF ALL AGES

CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS
in the American Civil War



Confederate Soldiers
In the American Civil War

Many books have been written about the Civil War, but only a handful cover the story of the Southern soldiers and sailors who wore the gray uniform and fought for the Confederacy.

Coverage includes more than 200 photos of life in camp, weapons, battles, technology, hospitals, prisons, the naval war, artillery, uniforms, and much more. Hughes also discusses African and Native American participation in the war, and the war's effect on civilians in general and women in particular. Also included is a timeline of the war, dozens of quotations from Confederate soldiers, and an extensive list of Civil War sites around the country, including contact and website information. A helpful chapter detailing the Civil War on the Internet, listing some of the most comprehensive and popular blogs and websites is included. He completes his work with a gallery of photos and stories of over 80 Confederate Soldiers and a guide to researching your ancestor.

SVHS price: \$17; Members: \$16

Records Access Alert

Library of Congress - WWI Newspaper Clippings

The Library of Congress (LOC) announced they have fully digitized their World War I Newspaper clippings 1914-1926. The almost 80,000 pages are freely available on the Library of Congress website. One can search by keywords or browse content chronologically and download pages.

To access the collection go to: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/world-war-history-newspaper-clippings/>

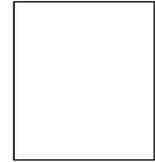
To learn more about the collection read the LOC about this collection at: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/world-war-history-newspaper-clippings/about-this-collection/>

[Reprinted from the Michigan Genealogical Council Newsletter, Spring 2019]



Shenandoah
County VA

Historical Society



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Edinburg VA 22824

Phone: 540-459-1795
E-Mail: SCHS.VA@Gmail.com

Join the SCHS Yearly Dues:

Member: \$15 (Newsletter by E-mail)

Member: \$20 (Mailed newsletter)

Lifetime Single: \$200; Family \$300

Send Fee to address above.

Renewal Date is beside name on
mailing label →

Upcoming Events

Friday, July 19th - 10 AM to 12 PM

“Bullets...Like a Hail Storm”: The **Battle of Rutherford’s Farm** is a tour offered by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation. A car caravan tour of sites related to the July 20, 1864 battle where Confederates under Gen. Stephen Dodson Ramseur were overwhelmed and routed by Union cavalry - a rare Federal victory amidst a series of Federal humiliations at the hands of Jubal Early. The least known of Winchester’s six major battles, the battlefield itself has been largely overwhelmed by development but this rare tour will allow visitors to understand the battle and learn the stories of the soldiers who fought there. Tour is led by Battlefields Foundation’s CEO Keven Walker. Pre-Registration is required by calling 540-740-4545.

Saturday, August 3rd - 9 AM to 4 PM

“The Forgotten Valley”: A **Civil War Conference** is a one-day event sponsored by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation focusing on the lesser known Civil War stories in the Shenandoah Valley. The day will feature eminent Civil War historians Eric Buckland, Gary Ecelbarger, Dennis Frye, Catherine Magi, Jonathan A. Noyalas, Scott C. Patchan, Keven M. Walker and Eric J. Wittenberg.

Cost is \$30 per person. Space, at the George Washington Hotel, 103 E. Piccadilly St., Winchester, VA, is limited. Pre-registration is required. Call 540-740-4545 or e-mail: info@svbf.net

Saturday, August 3rd - 10 AM to 4 PM

Honoring Soul Food’s Shenandoah Valley History and Chefs will take place at Belle Grove Plantation in Middletown, VA. Hear talks and activities honoring African American chefs of the Valley with the Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project, Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park, and other special guests. One of the special features of the day will be the release of *Send Judah First: The Erased Life of an Enslaved Soul* by Dr. Brian Johnson. This historical novel was inspired by the life of Judah, an enslaved cook at Belle Grove from 1817-1836. Call: 540-869-2028 for more information about this event.

Saturday, Sept. 7th - 6:30 to 8:30 PM

“To Think I Would Be Free Some Day”: **African-Americans’ Quest for Freedom During Reconstruction in Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley** will be discussed by Dr. Jonathan Noyalas, Shenandoah University

professor and Chair of the McKormick Civil War Institute. What life was like for the former slaves in the Shenandoah Valley during reconstruction will be the subject of the evening, sponsored by the Clarke County Historical Association. The program will take place at the Burwell-Morgan Mill, 15 Tannery Lane in Millwood, VA. Fee: \$10 for CCHA members and \$15 for non-members. For info: 540-837-1799

Thursday, Sept. 26th—7:00 PM

Burning of the Valley is the subject of a program presented by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, sponsored by the New Market Historical Society, in commemoration of the 155th anniversary of the event in 1864 that brought a new kind of warfare to the Valley. That fall, Gen. Philip Sheridan’s Union army embarked on “The Burning,” a systematic two-week campaign to neutralize the 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. The program will look back at those events. The event is free and is held at the New Market Town Council Chambers at 9418 John Sevier Rd. in New Market. Info:

MORE EVENTS ON WEB SITE

nmhs@newmarkethistoricalsociety.org