



# Shenandoah County Historical Society

Winter 2020

# Newsletter

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### New Members

Doug Schaerman  
 Barbara Garber  
 Clarence Dennis Thrall, Jr.  
 C. Thomas Rhyne



### ATTENTION

#### ARE YOUR DUES DUE??

The date beside the name on your mailing label is the month and year your membership is due. Thank you for staying current.

## Morrison Photo Collection to Be Accessible On Line

By: Dennis Atwood

The historical society and the Shenandoah County Library have executed an agreement to make digital copies of the over 30,000 photographs in the Hugh S. Morrison, Jr. collection available to the public online.

Morrison operated a photo studio on West Court Street, Woodstock, from 1895-1950. The collection was a bequest to the historical society from the estate of Charles Bauserman, by his brother, Donald, and sister, June Bauserman Hockman, in 1998.

Under the expert guidance of Sarah Rouse, of the Library of Congress, the society indexed, scanned, and made paper copies of the negatives, which have been made available to the public in large, 3-ring binders at the county library. This effort has taken over 18 years to complete.

Morrison is considered to have been a highly skillful photographer, especially in his studio portraits, by all who have seen his work. Historical society member John Adamson's book about the collection, featuring 206 prints of a  
 [Continued on Page 3]

### Heritage Day 2020 Planned

Heritage Day 2020, set for Saturday, April 18 from 11AM-3PM will be held at the Strasburg Fire Hall on Main St. in Strasburg. The fire company has generously agreed to move their equipment out for the day to give us ample space for exhibits about the history of Strasburg, surrounding communities, families, schools, cemeteries, historic buildings and more. As always, while we may focus on a particular community and it's environs, we welcome exhibits from folks all around the county who wish to share.

The day will include an architectural walking tour and other programs to be determined. The 18th C. Dosh House, owned by the Strasburg Sons of Confederate Veterans, will be open for tours. This will be a rare chance to see this historic house from the town's earliest days and learn about it's history.

Local historic preservation organizations will be attending with local history books and other items for sale. We invite you to bring  
 [Continued on Page 3]

## Shenandoah Publishing House Postcards on Display



The November 2019 postcard collection on display, at the Shenandoah County Historic Courthouse in Woodstock VA, is from the personal collection of Edgar Lamma III. Edgar has been collecting these postcards for about 20 years and is only one of a handful of individuals that he's encountered that collect these postcards. Shenandoah Publishing House used to publish the Northern Virginia Daily newspaper.

SPH postcards were printed in varying shades of black, green and brown inks. There are only a few known postcards that contain any color. Several "logos" were used on the backside of  
 [Continued on Page 5]

## Historic Courthouse / Visitor Center Hours to Change in 2020

Beginning January 1, 2020 regularly scheduled days of operation for the Visitor's Center and Museum at the Historic Courthouse in Woodstock will change, but only for the months of January and February. Over the last five years of the Society's operation of the facility, we've come to realize that visitation during these two winter months is very low. The SCHS board has decided that we will not open for our usual Thursday-Saturday, 11AM-4PM open hours. We will, however, be available for Historic Courthouse visits by appointment. New signage and notification will alert the public to this change and the opportunity for tours by appointment. Information is available by calling 540-459-1795. Book orders and genealogy requests will continue to be processed during these months.



## From the County Archives

By Zach Hottel,  
Archivist

"Fort Brick Church," Arlene Strickler Photograph Album, Truban Archives, Shenandoah County Library, Edinburg, Virginia.

### Fort Brick Church



Sometime around 1940 this image was taken of what is now called the Dry Run Union Church in Fort Valley Virginia. Though the photographer who created the image is unknown, it was labeled "Fort Brick Church" and placed in a photograph album maintained by one Arlene Strickler.

At the time this photograph was taken, the Union Church was already over 100 years old. Built sometime after 1830 when Daniel Munch donated land for its construction, the church was open to all Protestant denominations in the area. The one room church, made of locally fired bricks, was used by five different churches until 1949. After the last church moved to its own building, this structure became a community meeting space until the Fort Valley Museum opened here on July 4, 1974.

You can access more photographs from this album at the Truban Archives in the County Library, open Monday-Friday, 10-5:30 and by appointment. More information on the church can be found at [shenandoahstories.org](http://shenandoahstories.org).

Have historic photographs like this one? Consider donating them to the archives to improve our collection. Call (540)984-8200 for more information.

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](mailto:schs.va@gmail.com)

## Message from the President

Time marches on, here we are, and it's 2020! Each year brings changes and 2019 brought two sad ones among the historic preservation community. In September Edinburg native, Jean Allen Davis, passed after a long life as librarian, art and piano teacher, and community activist. Jean Allen was a founding member of Edinburg Heritage Foundation and served many years on its Board. She was co-author along with the late Mary Ann Williamson of *The History of Edinburg*, published in 1994. In early November we were saddened by the death of Lena French Fuller, noted historian and lady of many talents. Her most notable accomplishment was the publication in 2010 of 15 years of research and compilation of survey maps of original land grants in Shenandoah County. Lena's Original *Land Survey Atlas of Shenandoah County, VA 1739-1850s* is an invaluable resource for historians and genealogists. Shortly before her passing she received the Virginia Genealogical Society 2019 Virginia Records award for this effort.

We're saddened to report that a local museum that was recognized with our Excellence in Preservation Award in 2016 was destroyed by fire in November. Ricci & Erica Troxell and Greg Orndorff received the award for their preservation of the Nash/Hudson automobile dealership in Strasburg. We know how proud Ricci was of the trans-

formation of the dealership into a museum displaying vintage automobiles, tools and collectibles. Fire is a deadly enemy of historic preservation.

Our volunteers deserve many thanks for all they do to keep SCHS going. We gathered on November 24 at St. Paul's Heritage Center in Edinburg for a dinner and fellowship, and an opportunity to thank all of them for their efforts. Not everyone was able to attend but we extend thanks to all. Many of our volunteers fill several different shoes. Here is a list of all volunteers who help out in so many ways. Bill Boone, Gloria Boone, Anna Mae Ortgies, Kent Womack, Kim Stevenson, Jim Stevenson, Kevin Frazier, Sally Raynor, Larry Beazley, Nancy Stewart, Diane Pence, Robert Frye, George Gould, Janice Miller, Liz Sollenberger, Phyllis Wright, Zach Hottel, Jenna French, Karen Cooper, Sally Veach, Hank Zimmerman, Bonnie Painter, Leigh Devier, Kathy Rivers, and Sharon Weatherholtz. And of course I thank our board members, who take on multiple tasks. They are Dennis Atwood, John Adamson, Meg Trott, Janet Wagniere, Treasurer C.F. Wagniere, Margie Hisey Tackett, Susan Walls, Edgar Lamma, Anne Dellinger, Ellen Markel, Bruce Alger, and Rick Lytton.

We are always looking for new members to join our team. Call 540-459-1795

*The Shenandoah County Historical Society, Inc.*

is a  
501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

Pres.: Barbara Adamson  
Vice-Pres: Janet Wagniere  
Secretary: Ellen Markel  
Treasurer: C.F. Wagniere

**Board Members:**

John Adamson  
Bruce Alger  
Dennis Atwood  
Anne Dellinger  
Edgar Lamma III  
Rick Lytton  
Margie Hisey Tackett  
Meg Trott  
Susan Walls

**Newsletter Editor:**  
Janet Wagniere

## Preservation Awards Nominations Invited

It's time again to invite nominations for the Society's Excellence in Historic Preservation Awards, to be presented at the annual dinner in May. The purpose of the awards 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.

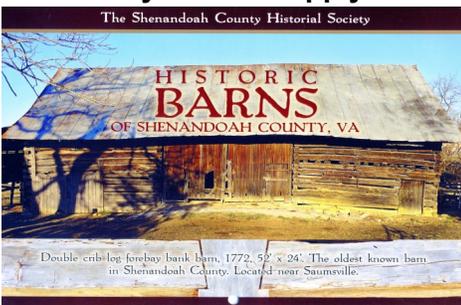
The awards are intended to recognize outstanding projects in the fields of history, architecture, scenic beauty and material culture (this includes furniture, textiles, documents, folk art, photography, basketry, tools and more). The original, or source object(s) must be at least sixty (60) years old,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

"Each year we look forward to receiving a number of high quality applications," Committee Chairman, Leigh Devier said.

"Shenandoah County is rich in accomplished and potential historic preservation projects and we are pleased to be able to support this awards program. The Society believes that the quality of life in the county is greatly enhanced by preserving evidence of our unique history, and that publically recognizing these achievements may bring about a greater awareness of the value of historic preservation."

Application deadline is April 1 of each year. A Nomination Form is included with this newsletter and on the SCHS web site [[www.schs1795.com](http://www.schs1795.com)]. Forms are also available in early winter throughout Shenandoah County at libraries and museums and by contacting the Society at 540-459-1795, or by email at [schs.va@gmail.com](mailto:schs.va@gmail.com).

## Very limited Supply



Just a few of the 2020 Barns calendars are left. Fourteen of our county's historic barns are pictured and they compose a unique collection of scenic and historic icons. The calendars celebrate the agricultural history of our great county. Hurry and get yours soon as the quantity is very limited.

The Calendars are only \$10 and they are on sale at the historic courthouse in Woodstock (Thurs - Sat, 11 to 4). You may also order them from the book list through the SCHS website: [schs1795.com](http://schs1795.com). (\$2 shipping charge).

## Morrison Photos on Line -

[Continued from Page 1]

wide variety of subjects captured for posterity by Morrison. *A Pictorial History of Shenandoah County: 50 Years Through the Lens of Hugh Morrison, Jr.*, has been one of our best-sellers since it appeared, in August 2007.

"The historical society has long desired to make this superb resource available world-wide via the internet and we are delighted that the county library's digital storage capabilities and website, along with a team of historical society volunteers, and library staff, will finally make this a reality," said SCHS President Barbara Adamson.

"The Shenandoah County Library has had a lengthy and fruitful partnership with the Shenandoah County Historical Society, and we are excited to add this chapter to our mutual efforts to make county history available to the public," said Library Director Robert "Sandy" Whitesides.

Several months of offline work, such as data entries for descriptive labels and search capabilities, remains to be done, but we anticipate the first public availability of a portion of the Morrison photo collection to be available sometime in 2020. We will keep you informed of our progress

## Heritage Day 2020 -

[Continued from Page 1]

items to be scanned and saved for Shenandoah County Library Archives. Topics include family history, Civil War, building histories, churches, cemeteries and more.

There is no fee to participate in Heritage Day. Call 540-459-1795 to reserve a table, or email at [schs.va@gmail.com](mailto:schs.va@gmail.com). Deadline is April 1. The event is hosted this year by SCHS, Shenandoah County Library Archives and Strasburg Heritage Association.

## Upcoming Events

Thursday, January 23 -

"**Soundtrack to the Settling of America**" a live musical program will be presented by the Frontier Culture Museum following the Annual Catered Buffet Dinner sponsored by the New Market Historical Society. Listen and learn as the musicians reveal the wide-ranging cultural influences that blended together to form the music of early America. The dinner and program will be held at Manor Memorial United Methodist Church, New Market. Guests are welcome. Reservation information and details will be available after January 6th at [www.newmarkethistoricalsociety.org](http://www.newmarkethistoricalsociety.org).

Sunday, February 16th - 7 - 9 PM

**(George) Washington at War** will be the subject of a talk by Historian Stephen Campbell at the VFW, 425 S. Buckmarsh St. in Berryville. Sponsored by the Clarke County Historical Society. \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members and VFW members free. Info: 540-955-2600

## Program Meeting

Tuesday, March 17th - 7:00 PM  
**St. Paul's Heritage Center**  
 106 S. High Street, Edinburg, VA



Program:  
**The History of Shrine Mont Orkney Springs, VA**

The Orkney Springs Hotel was one of the more popular Virginia spring resorts at the end of the nineteenth century. The resort opened in 1875 and is now one of the few that not only remains standing, but is a vibrant vacation destination. Join us on March 17<sup>th</sup>, as Kirk Gibson, from Shrine Mont, will talk about the history of Orkney Springs and the resort including its incredible renovation by Shrine Mont in the 1980's

Ample parking is available in the Shental lot across the street from The Heritage Center. There will be refreshment served after the program. The public is invited.

## Strasburg Heritage Association Introduces New Book

On Sunday, February 23rd the Strasburg Heritage Association will hold its Annual Meeting, from 2 to 4 PM, at the St. Paul Lutheran Church, W. Washington St. in Strasburg. The Program will be a presentation by historian Gloria Stickley and Rev. William Hall about their new book, *Legacy: A History of St. Paul Lutheran Church Strasburg, VA 1700-2000*. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing. The Public is invited.

## SAVE THE DATE

Shenandoah County Heritage Day

Celebrating Strasburg VA  
 and other county communities

Saturday, April 18 2020  
 Strasburg Fire Department  
 11:00AM-3:00PM

106 S. High Street, Edinburg, VA 22824 Sponsored by the Shenandoah County Historical Society, Strasburg Heritage Association, & Shenandoah County Library

## SCHS COMPLETE BOOK LIST

Is available on web site:

[www.SCHS1795.com](http://www.SCHS1795.com)

✦ Continuing Series on Historic Buildings in Shenandoah County ✦

## MOUNT PLEASANT - HITE LANE IN STRASBURG, VA

Just north of Strasburg is a fine brick home in the Federal Style built in 1812 by Isaac Bowman. The house sits about one half mile east of The Old Valley Pike (Rt. 11) but is no longer visible from the road due to development and tree growth. When Isaac Bowman completed the house, travelers heading south along the road could tell they were near Strasburg when they saw the big brick house with its distinctive round window in the west facing gable end. Isaac Bowman built a most impressive house in the finest style of his times, but before we explore the house, it is worth relating some of the remarkable history of its first owner and creator, Isaac Bowman.

Isaac was born in Shenandoah County (then part of Frederick County) in 1757. He was the youngest of five sons of George Bowman who was among the very first settlers in the Valley. George came to the area with his famous pioneering father in law, Jost Hite, in 1732. Jost Hite and several young families including George Bowman and his wife, Mary, were the very first European settlers to make their homes in what is now Shenandoah County. George Bowman took up land along Cedar Creek and soon began grain farming. George constructed a grist mill on Cedar Creek and connected his farm and mill complex with other early settlers via roads built along the path of the creek. Like his father in law, Jost Hite, George Bowman prospered through his efforts in agriculture and land speculation. Older brothers John, Jacob, Joseph and Abraham all left home for other parts of the frontier, so when father George died in 1768, young Isaac was left with his mother at the Bowman homestead. An interesting note is that Isaac was the first cousin of his neighbor, Isaac Hite, who built and operated Belle Grove Plantation just to the north on the opposite bank of Cedar Creek.

During the Revolutionary War, Isaac Bowman joined George Rogers Clark's militia regiment as a 21 year old lieutenant and served with his brother, Joseph, during Clark's famous Northwest Campaign. Isaac was present at the capture of the British controlled outposts of Kaskaskia (present day Illinois) and Fort Vincennes (present day Indiana). These exploits were critical



Chairrail above paneled wainscotting

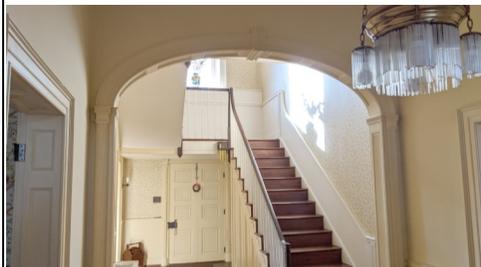
By: John Adamson



Current front entrance, originally the back of the house



The original front facade of Mount Pleasant



Elegant archway in the central hall with stairway visible behind



Master bedroom fireplace with architectural niches on either side



Unusual nursery room entrance directly on to stairway



to the United States gaining the Northwest Territories at the conclusion of the war, nearly doubling the size of our young nation.

While returning to Virginia with captives from the Northwest expedition, Isaac was captured by Chickasaw Indians and held captive for several years. Though the story of his captivity was not recorded until much later, Isaac was known to have been adopted by his captors and taken into one of the families and said to have been given an Indian wife. Eventually escaping his captivity and travelling to Cuba, Isaac returned to his home in 1782. This wild adventure was apparently never carefully documented, but a brief description can be found in Conquest of the Country Northwest of the River Ohio, 1778-1783, by William Hayden, published in 1896.

Upon returning to Shenandoah County, Isaac lived the life of a prominent, slave-owning Shenandoah County farmer and grain mill owner. He married Elizabeth Gatewood, and after her death, Mary Chinn, and was the father of thirteen children. Isaac died on September 9, 1826. Isaac lived for several years at Fort Bowman, the family house constructed about 1770 on Cedar Creek. Isaac constructed Mount Pleasant about one half mile downstream on Cedar Creek in 1812 - 1813. Judging by the scale and elegance of Mount Pleasant, Isaac's agricultural business endeavors were very successful.

Mount Pleasant is a large (54' x 34') two story brick house with attic and a full basement on a limestone foundation. Attached to the east side of the house is a large limestone kitchen contemporary with, or possibly predating, the main structure. The west side of the house has an enclosed screened porch added during the second half of the 20th century. Today, the entrance to the house is south facing, but when first constructed, the main entrance was north facing and overlooking Cedar Creek. The strip of land between the house and the creek was probably too narrow for modern access, so owners during the 20th century simply used the south facing back door as the main entrance. No interior changes were made to accommodate this change as the original staircase facing and room arrangements are undisturbed.



Artistic original door hardware, still in use

## From the Shenandoah County Library Newspapers Archive

By Dennis Atwood



### Walton & Smoot

Drugs — Phone 1  
WOODSTOCK — VIRGINIA

Announce the Most Beautiful Assortment  
Of Christmas Gifts We Have Ever Shown

WE WRAP IN ATTRACTIVE GIFT  
WRAPPINGS AND DELIVER OR  
MAIL FREE.

YARDLEY'S SETS — Ladies' and Men's  
ELECTRIC RAZORS (All Makes)  
OLD SPICE SETS—Ladies' and Men's

(WITH A SMALL DEPOSIT WE WILL HOLD  
ANY ITEM FOR YOU)

ABOVE ALL — GIVE

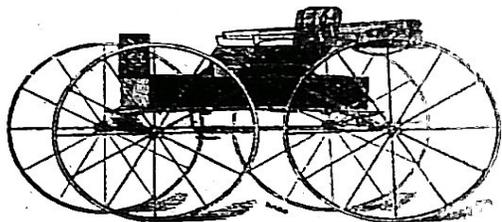
WHITMAN CHOCOLATES — FRESH  
BUXTON BILLFOLDS  
(Beautiful — Ladies' and Men's)

MAX FACTOR SETS (Ladies' and Men's)  
IN ATTRACTIVE BOXES.

ASK FOR A CALENDAR

Walton and Smoot ad: Dec. 7, 1951, Shenandoah Herald;

**JNO. W. SAUM,**  
SAUMSVILLE, VA.,  
--DEALER IN--

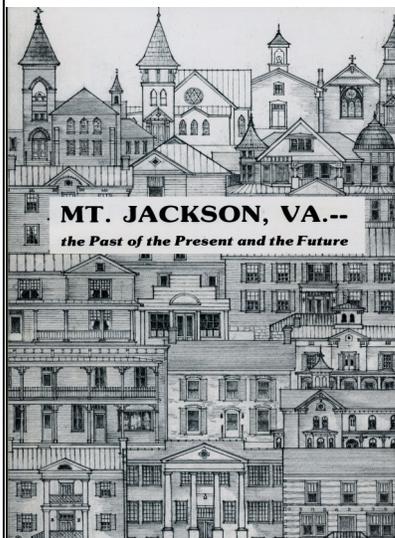


**Buggies, Carriages, Surreys,**  
**Buckboards, Farm Wagons. &c.**  
Also all kinds of buggy repairs.

A full rubber top buggy for \$52.50. Give  
me a call and be convinced that I can save  
you money. [19 May 93.]

Saum Buggies: Nov. 24, 1893, Shenandoah Herald

## New Addition to Book List



This book, published by the Mt. Jackson, VA, Museum is a collection of articles from the Mt. Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce's newspaper, *Chamber Chatter*, during the period from July 1984 to May of 1989. It covers the History of Mt. Jackson and is chocked full of stories about many of the homes, churches, businesses in the town and in the surrounding communities.

It is for sale at the Mt. Jackson Museum for \$10 and the SCHS has just added it to the selection in our bookstore at the Historic Courthouse in Woodstock and through the Society's website.

We are attempting to include a book on each of the towns in the county in our available inventory.



Slave sale:

Dec. 10, 1840, *Shenandoah Valley and Shenandoah & Page Advertiser*

### ADMINISTRATOR'S SALE OF VALUABLE NEGROES.

WILL be sold, on Saturday the 26th inst., (Dec) at the Tavern of Thomas G. Durrett, in the town of Strasburg, Shenandoah county, A NUMBER OF VALUABLE NEGROES, consisting of Men, Women and Children — The terms will be—Six months credit, the purchaser giving bond with approved security.

JOHN KOONTZ, Adm'r de bono non with will of Dan'l Funkhouser, dec'd annexed. December 17, 1840.

## EXHIBIT - [Continued from Page 1]

postcards, some of which are on display. SPH postcards predominately cover the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia and West Virginia. Most cover historic landmarks many of which deal with Civil war sites.

Generally, SPH postcards are known to be numbered from 1 through 331. There is one odd postcard numbered 400. There are 34 numbers for which a postcard has not yet been identified. Some postcards were printed without an identifying number in the lower left corner on the backside. Of the known SPH postcards there are: (a) 244 in Virginia; (b) 49 in West Virginia; (c) 4 in Maryland; (d) 2 in Pennsylvania; (e) 1 in North Carolina; and, (f) 1 in Washington DC.

Be sure to stop in and see one of Edgar's favorite SPH postcards that is directly above the copy block. Notice that he is sitting on two chairs.

There are several publications known to contain block images (with text) that appear on the front side of SPH postcards. These include: (a) *A History of Shenandoah County* by John W. Wayland; (b) The prospectus for John W. Wayland's book titled *The History of Old Shenandoah*; (c) *Shenandoah County Geography Supplement*; and, (d) *How Fair the Way to Strasburg*.

Edgar has indexed 79 publications, mostly hardbound books, that were printed by SPH. There are many, many more that Edgar has not yet documented.

The exhibit will be on display through March at the Historic Courthouse Visitor Center.

## Traditional Figgy Pudding Recipe

When served, a traditional holiday pudding would be garnished with holly or other festive greenery. Today, few people cook with suet, and figgy pudding has been out of favor for at least a century. This modernized recipe from *The Farmer's Almanac* offers an updated twist on making this old fashioned treat:

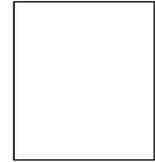
1 stick butter  
2 eggs  
1 cup molasses  
2 cups dried figs, finely chopped  
1/2 teaspoon grated lemon peel  
1 cup buttermilk  
1/2 cup walnuts, chopped  
2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg

Cream the room temperature butter in an electric mixer until fluffy. Add the eggs and molasses and beat again. Add the figs, lemon peel, buttermilk, and walnuts and blend for approximately 1 minute. Add the flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, and nutmeg, and blend until everything is incorporated. Grease and flour an 8" x 4" soufflé dish and pour in the batter. Bake at 325° F for 1 hour, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Serve with whipped cream



Shenandoah  
County VA

# Historical Society



P.O. Box 506  
Edinburg VA 22824

Phone: 540-459-1795  
E-Mail: [SCHS.VA@Gmail.com](mailto:SCHS.VA@Gmail.com)  
WEB: [www.SCHS1795.com](http://www.SCHS1795.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

Saturday, March 7th - 10 AM to 1:15 PM  
**Shenandoah Valley Heritage Day** at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, 901 Amherst St. in Winchester, VA (Bad weather date is Sat., March 14th). This year, in celebration of women's suffrage, talks will focus on tracing female ancestors and preserving fabric heirlooms (quilts, samplers, etc.). For details, 540-662-1473, ext. 226 or [www.theMSV.org](http://www.theMSV.org)

Saturday, March 14th - 11 AM to 2:00 PM  
**Spinning Workshop.** Learn how spinning works and how to spin in this 3-hour workshop with Melanie Garvey, sponsored by the Clarke County Historical Association. \$5 fee.  
Call: 540-955-2600 for further info.

Thursday, March 26 - 7 PM to 9 PM  
**Civil War Genealogies** will be the subject of a program by Nicolas Picerno who will demonstrate on-line resources as well as explain how archives and historical societies assist with ancestor research in Tracing Your Civil War Roots. The program, sponsored by the New Market Historical Society, will be held at the New Market Town Council Chambers at 9418 John Sevier Rd. in New Market, VA. The program is free and guests are welcome.

## Mount Pleasant - [Continued from Page 4]

Elegant exterior details are of the finest quality found locally in the early 19th century. Both the north facing and south facing exterior walls are constructed with Flemish bond brick pattern. There is a wooden cornice with modillion and dental detailing. Very tall nine over nine windows are topped with stone lintels containing a center keystone. The roof displays slate shingles. A circular window in the west gable peak and semi-circular upper windows on the east complete the tasteful outside appearance.

The interior of Mount Pleasant continues the visual elegance for anyone fortunate enough to explore the house. The entrance hall is divided by a paneled archway supported by graceful columns. Mantles throughout the house appear to be original and all differ but each displays high-end Federal era decorative detail including reeding, herringbone pattern, central carved medallions and fluted pilasters. Other interior details include high ceilings, chairrails, paneled wainscoting and built-in cupboards flanking the fireplaces. The master bedroom has arched niches on each side of the fireplace. Several of the rooms are quite large, both the parlor and the master bedroom measuring 19'6" x 18'3". The stairway is served by a graceful, curved

walnut banister. The stairway treads show the wear of two hundred years of foot-steps, while the banister displays a careful repair said to be made after it was slashed by a saber during the Civil War.

A most interesting feature is the entrance to a smaller bedroom appearing on the middle of a flight of stairs. Inside the bedroom is a half flight of steps leading up to this entrance on the stairway. There is also a doorway entrance to this bedroom from the master bedroom. It is easy to imagine this arrangement for a nursery room allowing access to a care-giver without disturbing anyone sleeping in the master bedroom. This convenience probably reflects the large number of children in the Bowman household.

Current Mount Pleasant owners, Inge-mar and Teresa Westphall, were most gracious in allowing me to explore and document their fine home. This continues the rich history of this significant building which appears to have been nicely renovated in the 1920s and the 1970s without harm to its original features. Mount Pleasant was well documented in March 1993 during an extensive architectural survey of Shenandoah County. That survey can be found in the Truban Archives housed in the Shenandoah County Library in Edinburg.

**MORE EVENTS ON WEB SITE**