



Shenandoah  
County  
**Historical  
Society**

**Spring 2021**

# ***Newsletter***

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## **SCHS is Now on FACEBOOK**

[www.facebook.com/SCHSVA](http://www.facebook.com/SCHSVA)

## **New Life Members**

Randall Orndorff  
Suzanne Arthur  
Janice Fleming

## **New Members**

Charles Middleton  
Cheryl Dingwell-Keckritz  
Denise Mabie

## **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. Rates on Page 6.

## **SCHS Annual Meeting Save The Date**

The Annual Meeting of the Shenandoah County Historical Society is normally held the 2nd Tuesday in May. Last year due to the Corona Virus Pandemic, the in-person gathering was cancelled and a virtual meeting was postponed and held in September.

This year, the Board has tentatively decided to reschedule the 2021 meeting to Tuesday, August 10th and hold the meeting in an outside venue. At the present time, we are looking at having the meeting in the large open Pavilion at the Edinburg Town Park and our dinner will offer picnic fare. Due to the fact that this plan is still subject to change or further rescheduling, we are not enclosing a Reservation/Proxy form with this newsletter.

The summer newsletter will be sent out on July 1st, which will provide ample 30-day notice for members to respond to the meeting notice. The voting for Board members will take place at the finalized meeting date and the current Board members terms will continue until the meeting. Current Board members up for reelection for a new term are: Barbara Adamson, Rick Lytton, Margie Hisey Tackett, Susan Walls, and Ellen Markel. Member Edgar Lamma is not continuing and a new member will be elected to replace him.

The annual Preservation Awards will take place at the time and place of the rescheduled meeting.

## **Heritage Day**

A flyer promoting the

2021 Shenandoah County  
Heritage Day

Is enclosed with this April  
Newsletter.

Please pass it on. . .

**The SCHS web site:**  
[www.SCHS1795.com](http://www.SCHS1795.com)

## **Shenandoah County Heritage Day is Saturday, April 17th**

The 20th Annual Heritage Day, sponsored by the Shenandoah County Historical Society and the Shenandoah County Library, will adapt to a changing world. Heritage Day has been scheduled as an all virtual event that will discuss various topics from throughout Shenandoah County in place of focused in-person displays. It will be a free on-line event that will be available as a broadcast via Zoom and as a live event via Facebook@SCHS.VA

This year the following presentations are scheduled:

10:00AM: "Our Historic Barns: An Agricultural Legacy" featuring John Adamson

11:00AM: "Vintage Recipes and Eating Patterns" featuring Bev Butterfield

12:00PM: "Queen Street & Sunset Hill Schools: A History that Continues" featuring Marquetta Mitchell

1:00PM: "Unearthing the History of Fort Valley Manganese Mining" featuring Meg Trott and Hank Zimmerman

2:00PM: "Woodstock Reservoirs: A Brief History of Water in Woodstock" featuring Mariama Dryak

Everybody is invited to attend this virtual event.

To receive your Zoom link RSVP to  
[schs.va@gmail.com](mailto:schs.va@gmail.com)

For more information you can visit  
[www.schs1795.com](http://www.schs1795.com)

## **Donated Books Accepted**

The SCHS also sells selected "previously owned" books in the Visitor Center Bookstore.

If you are downsizing your book collection, the Society will accept Shenandoah County History books and anything relating to local events and history. NO TEXT BOOKS, please.

Books can be brought to the Historic Courthouse any Friday or Saturday between 11 & 4.



## From the: Shenandoah County Archives

By Zach Hottel, Archivist

### More From Baker's Store →

In August of 1924 William "W.H." Baker, owner of Baker Store in Mt. Olive Virginia, started this "Shipping Book No. 6" ledger to track items he shipped from his store to other areas.

Primarily William Baker shipped eggs and poultry related items to individuals in Washington DC who were in turn selling them to residents of the district. Shipments during this time would have been via the railroad from the Toms Brook Depot.

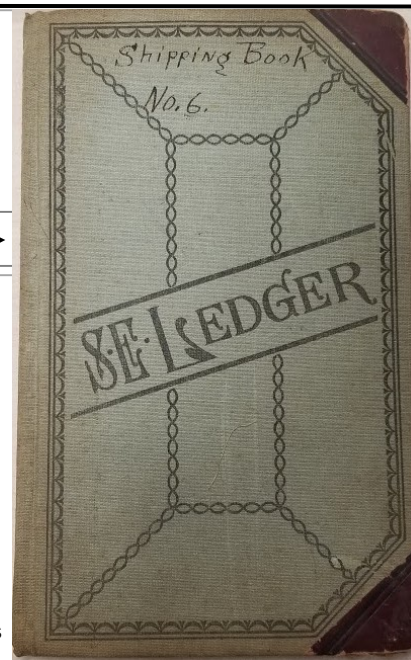
W.H. Baker purchased these items from local farmers. In essence, his store operated as a wholesaler and, based on the number of ledgers, was a profitable one.

A typical entry occurred on January 10, 1925 when William Baker recorded he shipped two cases of eggs to "J. A. Rudolph." At the time, W.H. charged \$16.50 for a case of eggs. Rudolph's total bill was \$33.60 with the extra sixty cents most likely being the shipping fee.

While we do not know for sure, it is possible that "J.A. Rudolph" was Jonas A. Rudolph (1895-1944), a Fishers Hill native who moved to Washington DC after his 1923 marriage.

The Rudolph in Baker's ledgers was a regular customer, ordering 1-2 cases of eggs every day for his eager clients.

The sale of eggs and other produce by local farmers, via various middlemen, to individuals in Washington DC was a common practice during the 20th century, though few enterprises were as large as Baker's. In the later part of the century these individuals became known as "Hucksters" and often delivered directly to houses in the District.



Shipping Book No. 6, August 1924-April 1925, Series II: 1914-2018, Baker Store Collection,

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.**

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

#### Board Members:

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

Newsletter Editor:  
Janet Wagniere

## Message from the President

A year ago, when we postponed our March 2020 meeting program due to the COVID pandemic, I for one, would not have imagined that we'd not present that program until March 2021! Finally, on March 16, Kirk Gibson, Director of Development at Shrine Mont, was viewed (virtually) by well over 70 people as he gave us a walking tour and shared the fascinating history of Shrine Mont and Orkney Springs. Many thanks to Kirk and to SCHS board members, Dennis Atwood and Edgar Lamma III for their excellent video and other technology skills required for a virtual presentation. In case you missed it, Kirk's presentation will remain available for viewing via the SCHS Facebook page.

You'll read elsewhere in the newsletter that the Historic Courthouse Visitor Center and Museum has reopened for the season, though we're presently limiting our open days to Friday and Saturday. Welcome back to our volunteers and visitors! You'll also read that our annual dinner, canceled in 2020, is tentatively planned for a date in August, to be held outdoors. More later on that event.

With every issue of this newsletter, readers have an opportunity to enjoy county archivist Zach Hottel's excellent research. Zach is closely involved in many of SCHS's events and projects. We all have come to admire his skill as an archivist and researcher, depend on his advice, and enjoy working with him. It's no surprise to us then, to learn that Zach has been appointed to the Virginia State Historical Records Advisory Board. This board acts to support policies and

practices in the state that ensure the preservation of and access to historical records both public and private. I don't know the particulars of the board's work but feel confident that it's work, through the Library of VA, is one reason our Shenandoah County Court Clerk's office has been successful about ensuring the preservation of our precious Will and Deed books that date back to 1772. We're very fortunate. Congratulations, Zach, for your appointment to this important post.

I often note here the passing of Shenandoah County citizens who have played a role in our local historic preservation community. On December 28, 2020 Fort Valley resident, Fort Valley Museum VP and Curator, Dorothy Plauger Corder, passed away. Dorothy was an important part of the Ft. Valley Museum family and is missed by all. Another notable citizen no longer with us, is Noah Dellinger. Mr. Dellinger died on February 13, 2021, three days before his 106th birthday. He shared wonderful memories in oral history interviews. John Adamson particularly enjoyed his story of being present for the barn raising of his very own barn back in 1938.

Don't forget Shenandoah County Heritage Day!!! Though virtual and not a chance to meet and greet so many of our fellow history lovers, it's assured to be a day packed with excellent presentations.

**Shrine Mont / Orkney Spring SCHS  
Program Facebook Link:** [https://  
www.facebook.com/648874495178635/](https://www.facebook.com/648874495178635/)



## Genealogy Research Source:

### Soldiers and Sailors Database – Civil War National Park Service

Website: <http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>

Description: The Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System is a publicly available website providing record lookup capability on individuals who served during the United States Civil War. Every soldier who participated, from either the Union or the Confederacy, should have a record on this website. The initial focus of the CWSS was to record basic information on each soldier, including full name, North/South, unit, and company. The source for this data was the General Index Cards into the Compiled Military Service Records, at the National Archives. This information about the soldiers came from records that are indexed to many other documents about Union and Confederate Civil War soldiers, maintained by the National Archives and Records Administration.

Other information includes: unit histories for both the Union and Confederate Armies, descriptions of 384 significant battles, sailors records, prisoner of war records, burial records, medal of honor recipients, and other historical information. Additional info in each of these areas will be incorporated into the website over time as its capabilities are expanded and improved.

The Civil War was the first war in American History in which a substantial proportion of the adult male population participated. Please note that the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors system contains just an index of the men who served in the Civil War with only rudimentary information from the service records. You can obtain copies of these records, using the film number listed in the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System record.

Also, Use this link:

<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/pre-ww-1-records>

The Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System (CWSS) is a cooperative effort by the National Park Service (NPS) and several other public and private partners, to make information about the Civil War publicly available. The primary goal of the CWSS is to provide an interpretive tool on the Civil War for the National Park Service Civil War Battlefield Parks and other Civil War-related Park units. An additional objective is to increase the American people's understanding of this decisive era in American history by making the information about it widely accessible. The CWSS enables the public to make a personal link between themselves and history.

[Reprinted with permission from the Michigan Genealogical Council Newsletter - January, 2021. Article was written by Megan Heyl of the Zeeland Genealogical Study Group ]

## 2021 Preservation Award Nominations Invited

The annual Society's annual Excellence in Historic Preservation Awards, usually presented in the May annual meeting will be presented at the rescheduled meeting for 2021, tentatively set for Tuesday, August 10th. In view of the move for the meeting date, the deadline for nominations for the award has been extended to Saturday, May 15th.

The Committee hopes that they will receive more applications 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.

Application deadline, this year, will be extended to May 15th. A Nomination Form is available on the SCHS web site [www.schs1795.com](http://www.schs1795.com) under "Interest Areas". Forms are also available throughout Shenandoah County at libraries and museums, by contacting the Society at 540-459-1795, or by email at [schs.va@gmail.com](mailto:schs.va@gmail.com)

### County Library to Host Exhibit: Agents of Change: Female Activism in Virginia from Women's Suffrage to Today



This traveling exhibit, sponsored by the Virginia Historical Society, explores a century of women's social and political activism in the Commonwealth before, during, and after they received the right to vote.

The exhibit opened on March 15th and will continue through Saturday, April 24th.

The free exhibit will be on display in the County Library, 514 Stony Creek Blvd. in Edinburg, VA, Monday-Friday Noon-5 and Saturdays 10-3.

### SCHS COMPLETE BOOK LIST

Is available on web site:

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

## Shenandoah County Historic Courthouse Museum and Visitor Center Opens

On March 5th, the historic building opened for visitors and will be open every Friday and Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. until the end of the year. All CDC guidelines for the Covid pandemic -- face masks, social distancing, small groups -- will continue to be observed during the open hours. There is no charge for admission.

The SCHS bookstore is located in the Visitor Center and book purchases may be made by cash or check. The Society also processes book orders by mail.

Museum visits at other times may be arranged by request to 540-459-1795.



### Historic Weather Vane is Restored and On Display Again at Courthouse Museum / Visitor Center

We've been reporting for several years about our plans to preserve and exhibit the unique, 18<sup>th</sup> C. weather vane that graced the top of the Historic Courthouse until being replaced with a replica, probably in the 1940s. At that time the damaged weather vane was removed and the current replica made and installed on the Historic Courthouse cupola where it remains today. The figure from the vane was given to the Woodstock Library for safekeeping since there was no museum in those days. The library framed the figure and took good care of him until he was given to SCHS and returned to the Historic Courthouse in 2015. The four arms of the weather vane were put in the basement of the courthouse where they were discovered around 2010. We believe that we have about 75% of the various parts of the original weather vane.

(Continued on Page 6)

## THE JACOB BOWMAN HOUSE

The Jacob Bowman house has the honor of being listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The owners Deb and John Veitch received assistance from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in completing the application for this designation. Many people have the mistaken idea that placing a house on the National Register restricts what the owners are allowed to do to maintain and modernize their house. This is not true. But a house with this designation may qualify for tax credits when it is repaired or rehabilitated if such repairs are done according to historic standards. In any event, I think every house on the register benefits in value because it proves that the owners care about their property and that the house has been determined to be a significant contributor to the history of the place it occupies.

Deb Bowman Veitch is the great-great-great-great granddaughter of Jacob Bowman who built the house, according to the Register, about 1840. She inherited this family treasure in 2012 and took up the effort to repair, restore and refurbish the house which her grandmother, Nancye Bowman (former SCHS President) had begun years earlier. Though the house had been occupied most of its life, it was suffering from deferred maintenance and needed a caring owner. Deb, along with her husband John, has proven to be that owner, personally managing the repairs and upgrades.

The following description is taken directly from the Historic Register nomination:

"The Jacob Bowman House is a two-story, three-bay, frame dwelling with a symmetrical façade and native stone foundation. The house is clad in weatherboard siding and is covered by a hip-on-deck roof capped with standing-seam metal with two interior brick chimneys flanking the deck area. A rear ell with a gable roof extends from the northwest corner of the main block. It is believed the ell was added approximately ten or fifteen years after the original construction date."

The Historic Register nomination also

By: John Adamson



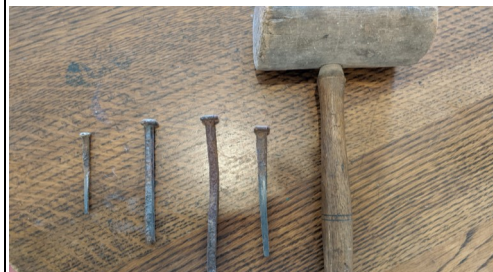
Looking southwest. The front door is on the left



The front door from the lower central hallway



Greek Revival mantle showing faux marble finish thought to be original



A workman's mallet found in the wall and cut nails from the mid-19th century



The newel at the top of the stairs echoes the shape on the lower level

describes the interior details:

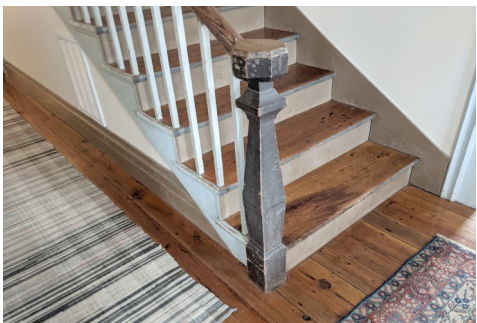
"Modest in its details and craftsmanship, the house features wide flat baseboards, simply molded trim at the windows, and bull's-eye corner blocks and pilaster trim at the doors. The staircase has simple, rectangular balusters, a slim, molded handrail, and a uniquely angular shaped newel post with a large, flat-topped octagonal newel. Many of the interior two-panel hall doors on the first floor are grained in an oak pattern with some featuring a pale blue trim and an amber base. It is believed that all are original finishes. There are three fireplaces on the first floor of the main block, one in the north parlor room and one in the southwest room; all have been restored to working order."

The land this house occupies was part of a 394 acre parcel granted to Henry Theany (an assignee of Ulrick Miller) on April 5, 1780. The parcel a couple of miles southwest of Edinburg was originally surveyed on June 14, 1754. Sometime after 1780, the land came into the Lantz family which was later joined with the Bowmans by marriage.

The house was occupied for several generations by Bowmans, but eventually they built another house nearby and the Jacob Bowman house became a residence for farm workers. Lake's 1885 Atlas shows the house occupied by Whiten Bowman who was Jacob's son. Later in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, it became the residence of Hazel and Retty Bowers, daughters of farm hands. However, ownership of the house remained with the Bowman family. Through this period, the house suffered from lack of maintenance and modernization, but that also meant that many of its earliest features and finishes were retained.

Deb has done a great deal of the restoration work with her own hands, learning to repair plaster and taking nine months to hand finish the original floors. In managing the repair and rehabilitation of the house, Deb has been careful to

(Continued on Page 5)



Newel post at the foot of the stairs with unusual carved shape



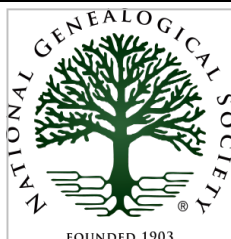
Stairway to the room above the kitchen. This room does not connect to other rooms above



## National Genealogical Society

2021 Family History Conference

May 19 and 20, 2021



Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the annual conference will now be virtual. The main event -- NGS 2021 LIVE! -- will take place on Wednesday and Thursday, May 19th and 20th.

Attendees have the chance to enjoy the benefits of learning from home, as all sessions will be virtual. Enjoy two full days of presentations by nationally known genealogists, plus 40 On-Demand Lectures. Learn more and register at the NGS website: [www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org)

For more information:  
703-525-0050 or 800-473-0060

## Bowman House -- (Cont. from Page 4)



This view shows the rear addition and both chimneys

to retain original moldings, floors, windows, doors and hardware. And, surprisingly, original paint and faux grain finishes wherever possible. As a result, the house presents any modern visitor with a great opportunity to experience the same sense of space and form that it did to its earliest visitors.

It was certainly a treat to visit the house with Deb and get access to every room, as well as the cellar and attic. Naturally, I took advantage of the visit to survey the large, circa 1875, barn on the property and add it to my list of Historic Shenandoah County barns. I wish to express my thanks to Deb for the opportunity to enjoy seeing another great, historic Shenandoah County home.

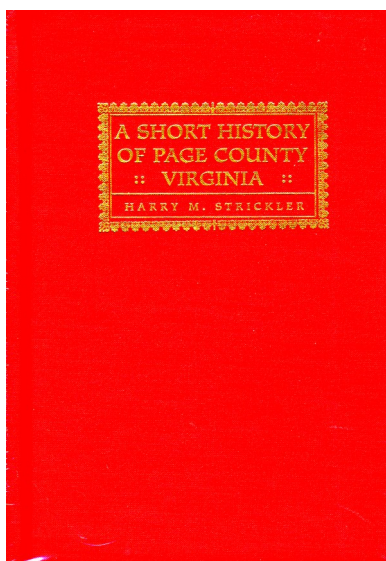
## SAVE THE DATE

### Shenandoah County Anniversary

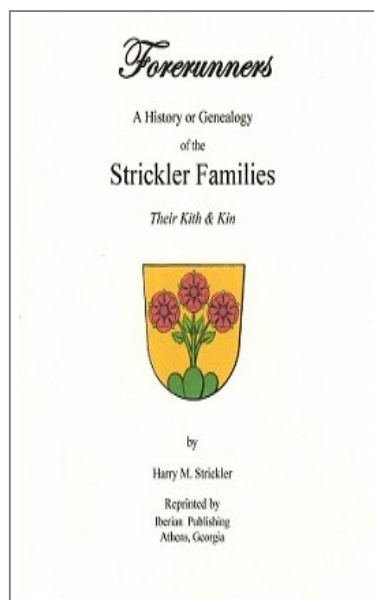
Actually, you may want to save the entire year -- 2022 will be the 250th anniversary of Shenandoah County's founding in 1772. The 250 Committee is hard at work making plans to commemorate this special year. The committee is comprised of organizations, citizens and representatives from our towns and county.

There are no event announcements yet, but look for a 250th website by the fall of 2021.

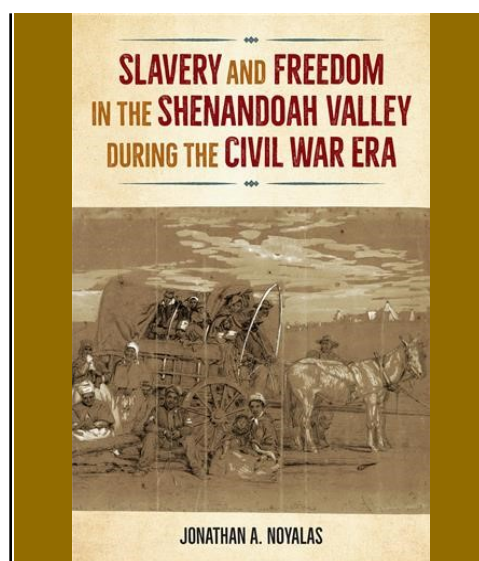
## New Books Available



*A Short History of Page County* by Harry Strickler • In the first half of the 18th century, it was believed that the first settlement in the Shenandoah Valley was at Massanutten in 1776 in what is now Page County. Old homes, excerpts from court records, the Civil War, towns and villages, Shenandoah National Park, churches education, industry, Indian mounds, biography and genealogy information can all be found in this book. Published in 1952; reprinted in 1996. (427 pages) Hardcover - Price: \$43 -



*FORERUNNERS: A HISTORY OR GENEALOGY OF THE STRICKLER FAMILIES, THEIR KITH AND KIN* -- Harry Strickler's 1925 classic work on the Stricklers of the Shenandoah Valley is back in print. Included in this early work is material not only on the Stricklers, but also collateral lines among the following families. Kauffmans, Stovers, Burners, Ruffners, Beavers, Shavers, Brumbachs, Zirkles, Blossers, Groves, Brubakers, Neffs, Rothgebbs, and many other early families of



This book examines the complexities of life for African Americans in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley from the antebellum period through Reconstruction. Although the Valley was a site of fierce conflicts during the Civil War and its military activity has been extensively studied, scholars have largely ignored the Black experience in the region until now.

Correcting previous assumptions that slavery was not important to the Valley, and that enslaved people were treated better here than in other parts of the South, Jonathan Noyalas demonstrates the strong hold of slavery in the region. He explains that during the war, enslaved and free African Americans navigated a borderland that changed hands frequently—where it was possible to be in Union territory one day, Confederate territory the next, and no-man's land another. He shows that the region's enslaved population resisted slavery and supported the Union war effort by serving as scouts, spies, and laborers, or by fleeing to enlist in regiments of the United States Colored Troops.

Noyalas draws on untapped primary resources, including thousands of records from the Freedmen's Bureau and newspapers, to continue the story and reveal the challenges African Americans faced from former Confederates after the war. He traces their actions, which were shaped uniquely by the volatility of the struggle in this region, to ensure that the war's emancipationist legacy would survive.

This hard-cover book, with 226 pages, will be available in April. SCHS price is \$80; Members: \$75

Shenandoah, Rockingham, Frederick, Augusta and Page Counties, Virginia.  
SCHS Price: \$38; Members: \$35



P.O. Box 506  
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WEB: [www.SCHS1795.com](http://www.SCHS1795.com)

### Join the SCHS

#### New Yearly Dues:

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

Member: \$20 (Mailed newsletter)

Lifetime \$250

Send Fee to address above.

Renewal Date is beside name on  
mailing label →

### Forest Service Exhibit is on Display at Historic Courthouse Museum



The US Forest Service exhibit is back in the Visitor Center at the Historic Shenandoah County Courthouse on Main Street in Woodstock. It will be there through June

The display highlights the rich history of the Lee Ranger District's Fire Warden's System, early firefighting activities on the George Washington National Forest and controlled burning activities. Come enjoy the exhibit and learn about the interesting history of fire in your national forest.

### Historic Buildings Series Now on Web Site

Nine of the historic homes featured in past newsletters are now on the SCHS web site. Click on either the Resources or History tab to access the series. [www.schs1795.com](http://www.schs1795.com)

### Weather Vane - (Cont. from Page 3)

It was evident that the figure and the vane's arms needed conservation treatment. Both objects are made of iron. The figure was in relatively good condition, having been kept high and dry for over 70 years. However, the courthouse basement was not an ideal place for the arms and rust had become a serious problem.

A grant from the Shenandoah Community Foundation assisted SCHS to seek a proposal for conservation treatment in 2018. The treatment itself, funded by our members, has been completed and all parts are back at the Historic Courthouse. Amy F. Byrne, Conservation of Fine and Decorative Art, of Shepherdstown, WV, and her team carried out the treatment. Their excellent work will allow us to preserve this iconic, folk art object for future generations.

The figure is now hanging on the wall in the courthouse museum. The arms are not yet out for viewing, but we're looking forward to creating an exhibit of the entire weather vane, made by a local blacksmith, that is unique to Shenandoah County.



### Local Museum Hours:

Many Museums and businesses have closed during the Covid pandemic. Below is the updated status of the Museums in Shenandoah County:

#### Open Daily:

**Virginia Museum of the Civil War** (New Market Battlefield Museum) in New Market, VA 540-740-3101

The Shenandoah Valley Cultural Heritage Museum at **The Edinburg Mill** in Edinburg, VA 540-984-8400

**Hupp's Hill Civil War Park** in Strasburg, VA 540-465-5884

#### Check to confirm:

**Mr. Jackson Museum** in Mt. Jackson, VA opens April 3rd from 1 to 4 PM. Open Saturdays only. 540-477-3951

**Strasburg Museum** in Strasburg, VA tentatively plans to open July 1st, 10 am - 4 pm and open every Fri., Sat. & Sun. 540-465-3175

**Woodstock Museum** in Woodstock, VA presently closed. Will try to open sometime in summer. 540-459-5518

**Fort Valley Museum** is now closed. Hope to open in July, 540-933-6690