



Shenandoah
County

Historical
Society

Summer 2021

Newsletter

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SCHS Annual Meeting Scheduled for August 10th

The Annual Meeting and dinner of the Shenandoah County Historical Society, normally held the 2nd Tuesday in May, has been rescheduled to Tuesday, August 10 at 6:00 PM at the Edinburg Town Park large pavilion. Last year due to the pandemic, the dinner was canceled and a virtual meeting held in September. This year, we're looking forward to seeing many of you in person!

We will gather for social time at 6:00 PM with a picnic fare style dinner to follow at 6:30 PM. The cost for the dinner meeting is \$23.00 per person. After our meal SCHS president, Barbara Adamson, will conduct a brief business meeting highlighting our accomplishments over the past year and conducting the election of Board of Directors. Following the meeting we will make Excellence in Preservation Awards. Our program for the evening will be music provided by well-known local musicians Bill Foster and Don Crigler.

The proposed slate of current board members standing for re-election include Barbara Adamson, Rick Lytton, Margie Hisey Tackett, Susan Walls and Ellen Markel. Board member Edgar Lamma has decided not to return to the board. Hank Zimmerman was appointed to the board upon Edgar's resignation and will now stand for election to a full two-year term. [Continued on Page 3]

Preservation Awards to be Presented at Annual Meeting

A highlight of our annual meeting is the presentation of the Excellence in Preservation Awards. Last year the awards ceremony was postponed until the fall and attended by a small crowd due to the pandemic. We're pleased that this year they will again be a part of the annual dinner to be held August 10.

Committee chair, Leigh Devier and members Anne Dellinger, Jim Stevenson, Kent Womack and Barbara Adamson have the pleasant but sometimes difficult task of choosing which projects will receive an award. Nevertheless the committee takes great pleasure in being able to reward hard work that highlights the preservation of different aspects of Shenandoah County history.

New Battle of Toms Brook Exhibit now at Historic Courthouse

The new exhibit at the Visitor Center at the Shenandoah County Historic Courthouse in Woodstock is a very attractive Diorama showcasing the Civil War Battle of Toms Brook. SCHS member and Visitor Center staff member, Jim Stevenson, created the Diorama, which includes only a portion of Jim's vast inventory of miniatures he has collected through the years that cover many different battlefields and events.

(Continued, with picture, on Page 3)

Hank Zimmerman appointed to SCHS Board of Directors



We are pleased to announce that Henry M.

(Hank) Zimmerman has been appointed to fill the Board vacancy of Edgar Lamma who resigned last year. He is now up for reelection at this year's Annual Dinner.

Hank's involvement in Shenandoah County/Valley history began over 40 years ago. It started with local and regional media productions that span decades and includes a diversity of technical and creative experience. He has a degree in Broadcast Communications/Journalism from Shippensburg University. His first job in the Shenandoah Valley was at WFTR-AM in Front Royal in 1978. That same year, he and his wife, Laura, had moved from Pennsylvania to Fort Valley, Virginia.

Since then, his career highlights include a wide range of information technology and media production work: Co-founder/owner of Shenandoah Technology Systems, Inc. in 1990, IT chief at the Northern Virginia Daily during the 1990s, Internet Project Manager at Shentel for nearly 10 years. Since 2010 he has been the owner/operator of Shenandoah Valley Productions, LLC, a production company that specializes in custom website design and development, as

(Continued on Page 5)

SCHS is Now on FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/SCHSVA

New Life Members

Elizabeth Davison

Hope Brim

New Members

Phyllis Shoe

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.



From the: Shenandoah County Archives

By Zach Hottel, Archivist

Lemuel Borden, Author →

In 1912 Lemuel Borden published this booklet entitled "Works of Lemuel Borden." It was the third edition of this publication, and one of several scores of publications Borden published in his lifetime.

Born in 1850, Lemuel Borden worked as a teacher and later became a self-taught lawyer. He specialized in the collection of claims, apparently proving to be very successful in his chosen career.

He lived in the Calvary community, located just west of Woodstock Virginia on Senedo Road. His house still stands on Sheetz Mill Road near Mt. Calvary United Church of Christ.

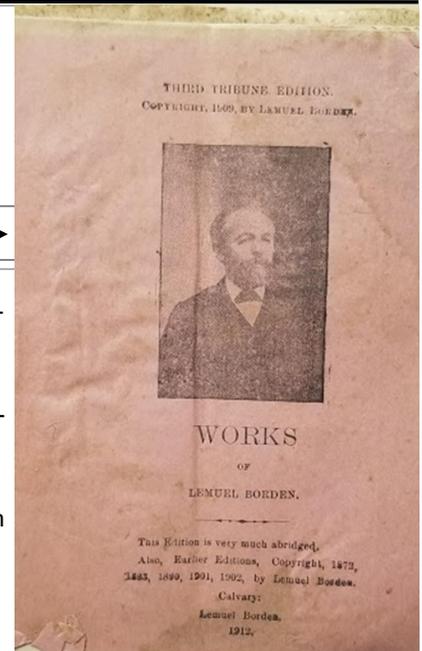
Borden married three times. The first time to Emma Lee Painter who died in 1901. They had four children, Lula, Viola, lone, and Robert. In 1903 Lemuel married Carrie Deere of Illinois who he met through a matrimonial bureau. She died in 1905. Six months later he married Julia Steed of Philadelphia who left him after two weeks of marriage.

Lemuel was labeled an "eccentric" by his neighbors and local newspapers. He walked everywhere he went, stopping to talk current events with anyone he could find along the way.

Borden's publications seem to be an extension of this desire to discuss politics. They include writings about current events, poetry, political commentary, and much more. The booklets met with some success, being mailed to and read by people throughout the region. Seventy-one of them, including numerous volumes of his "The Tribune of the People" journal, survive as part of the library's Lemuel Borden Collection.

During Borden's lifetime people who did things outside accepted norms were often labeled as eccentrics or treated as outcasts by parts of society. Lemuel Borden certainly fit this label. He was apparently very intelligent, a talented lawyer, and a prolific writer but local papers like the Shenandoah Herald considered him odd because he did things like express different political views, valued walking, and shared his opinions in publications. Today these are traits many in society promote.

Learn more about Lemuel, and the community he lived in, at the Shenandoah County Library's Truban Archives, now fully reopened to visitors. More information on our hours and research policies at www.countylib.org/local-history or (540)984-8200.



Folder 4.9 Works of Lemuel Borden, Third Tribune Edition, 1912, Lemuel Borden Collection, Truban Archives, Shenandoah County Library, Edinburg, Virginia.

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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Meg Trott
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Hank Zimmerman

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Janet Wagniere

Message from the President

Welcome to a "more normal" 2021! Last year I felt grateful for any outdoor activities that we dared attend and though vaccinated, I'm still feeling that way in 2021. Hence our plans for an outdoor annual dinner in August. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you in person.

As always there are changes taking place. A few months ago SCHS board member Edgar Lamma decided to step down from the board and concentrate his energies on other projects and family time. Though Edgar was on the board for a short time, all of us enjoyed his enthusiasm and willingness to do hard work and take on many tasks. We thank Edgar for his time on the board and appreciate that he will be available in the future to help us on future undertakings.

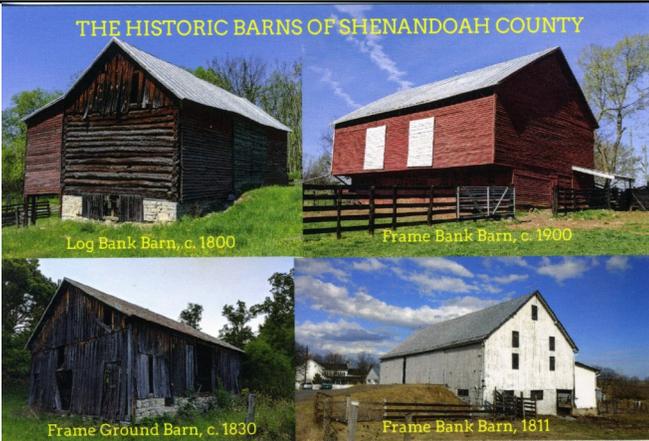
We're pleased that Hank Zimmerman has agreed to serve on the SCHS board and look forward to working with him. Hank has been involved in community activities for many years and most of us know him because of his website work. We're delighted to have him on the board!

Probably many of you have attended numerous Zoom meetings during the past year. At the beginning of the pandemic, when we were pretty much staying at home (my garden had lots of

attention last year, not so now) the SCHS board meeting was conducted via email for two months. We next held an outdoor board meeting; it was so nice to see everyone in-person, even wearing masks and social distancing. We then graduated to virtual meetings and held them that way through the fall and winter until June 2021, when we met in person. Yay!

Whether we've enjoyed it or not, we now know how to use Zoom or a similar virtual meeting platform, which really has helped keep us connected. You'll read elsewhere in the newsletter about our use of Zoom for Shenandoah County Heritage Day. And, of course, our excellent March program about Shrine Mont was a virtual presentation.

SCHS always receives numerous research requests from people all over the US. Our intrepid researcher, Kathy Rivers, had to adjust to library restrictions this past year, which kept us from fulfilling requests for some time. She's hard at work now with, I think, a surge in requests. We appreciate Kathy very much for the service she provides folks looking to learn more about their Shenandoah County ancestors. Thank you, Kathy!!!



Our new postcard, pictured above, is of four different barns that have been surveyed by our Barn Preservation Committee. The card can be purchased at the Historic Courthouse Visitor Center or by Mail. The card sells for \$1.00 and if ordering by mail, please include an additional \$1. for postage and handling.

On-Site Barn Program scheduled for September 12th

Our program in September will be to visit and learn about the Reiley barn on Fairview Road west of Woodstock. Eric and Amber Reiley have graciously agreed to host the program in their recently restored forebay bank barn. Eric will tell us about the work done to restore this early, large timber frame barn. Guests will see the interior arrangement of a very large (85' x 45') two level barn built when grain farming dominated Shenandoah County.

Explore this icon of Shenandoah County agricultural history including harvest "graffiti" from many years penciled on the granary wall. SCHS Historic Barns Program Manager, John Adamson, will be present to chat with guests and answer questions about local barns.

Where: 2384 Fairview Rd., Woodstock, VA (big white barn easily seen from the road, plenty of parking)

When: 3 p.m.

Please bring your own chair, refreshments will be served.

Tom's Brook Battle Exhibit - (Continued from Page 1)



Mention the word 'toy soldier' and many an old man remembers having a set of colorfully painted or unpainted plastic soldiers as a child. Shoeboxes were full of Spacemen, Cowboys, Knights, Indians and Civil War figures. The fact that toy soldiers have been around since ancient Egyptian times attests to their timelessness. Such noted collectors as Winston Churchill and H.G. Wells were known to do battle with small armies.

Jim Stevenson collects and models war game 15mm (3/4-inch tall) miniatures. He started painting miniatures twenty-five years ago and his collection has expanded from a few hundred to over 9,000 today. Currently, he has armies from the Crusades, Napoleonic Wars, Revolutionary War, War Between the States and WWII (North Africa and the Eastern Front, as well as ships and planes from WWI and WWII. He says they have multiplied and taken over his basement!

Painting miniatures (or as his wife calls them, "little men") is a hobby where he can delve into the history of uniforms, conflicts and military weaponry. He says he finds it relaxing to paint and rewarding when he gets a favorite unit or adversary ready to battle it out on a table top.

War gaming with little men has become a worldwide phenomenon with many active clubs. H.G. Wells wrote the first rules for playing with toy soldiers titled "Little Wars." In his words it was "a game for boys from 12 to 150 and for that more intelligent sort of girl who likes boys' games and books."

This is definitely a "must see" exhibit that will be in the Visitor Center until September. The Visitor Center / Museum is open every Friday and Saturday from 11 am to 4 pm.

Heritage Day 2021 Was a Zoom Event

Circumstances prevented SCHS and the Shenandoah County Library to have an in-person annual Heritage Day – again. In 2020 Heritage Day was canceled. During the past year, we have learned a great deal about virtual programming and as a result were able to have a very successful day of presentations on Saturday, April 17. The event was expertly managed by Zach Hottel from the Shenandoah Room at the Shenandoah County library. It was free, on-line via Zoom, and broadcast live on the SCHS Facebook page.

The five excellent presentations included "Our Historic Barns: An Agricultural Legacy" presented by John Adamson; Vintage Recipes and Eating Patterns" with Bev Butterfield; "Queen Street & Sunset Hill Schools: A History That Continues" presented by Marquetta Mitchell; "Unearthing the History of Fort Valley Manganese Mining" with Meg Trott and Hank Zimmerman; and "Woodstock Reservoirs: A Brief History of Water in

Woodstock" featuring Mariama Dryak.

Many thanks to our speakers, who made this programming possible, and to the planning committee, Zach Hottel, Dennis Atwood and John Adamson. We also appreciate those who made the introductions for our speakers including Judge Dennis Hupp, Dennis Atwood, John Adamson and Barbara Adamson. The presentations may still be viewed at:

<https://www.facebook.com/SCHSVA/posts/3764621613603892>

The 2020 Heritage Day was to have focused on Strasburg and the surrounding area. We felt that trying to cover this expansive history virtually would not have done it justice. We hope that by April 2022 all will be well and we can gather in-person to enjoy Strasburg and Heritage Day.



SCHS will be at Edinburg Ole Time Festival

The Edinburg Ole Time Festival will take place this year from Sept. 17th through the 19th and they will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the event.

The SCHS will be on site with their booth offering books for sale and Morrison photos to identify. As in past years, the booth will be located directly across from Sal's Italian Bistro on Main Street.

Stop by and say hello and take a look at the many new books we'll have on hand.

Annual Meeting - [Continued from Page 1]

A reservation 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, and to 3) renew their annual membership dues, if appropriate. Non-members are, of course, welcome to attend the dinner as well. The deadline for reservations is Friday, August 6th.

✦ Continuing Series on Historic Buildings in Shenandoah County ✦

DAVID CLEM'S CABIN ✦ ST. DAVID'S CHURCH RD. ✦ FORT VALLEY

Fort Valley is one of my favorite places. I think it is the prettiest part of the prettiest county in the prettiest state in America. I imagine the early settlers in the Fort recognized this as well, though their concerns probably focused more on establishing their farms and homes to ensure their survival on what was then the frontier. A look at the dates of surveys and grants in Lena Fuller's *Original Land Survey Atlas of Shenandoah County* (2010) show that many of the earliest settlers in the Fort obtained their land between 1760 and 1800.

One of these settlers, David Clem, obtained 246 acres in 1778 along both sides of upper Passage Creek. David also obtained adjacent tracts totaling 425 acres in the 1790s which suggests he was a resident and very likely built his first home on the original tract. It is pure speculation on my part to think that the little log cabin at 2335 Saint Davids Church Road started as David Clem's residence, but it certainly shows evidence of being an early log structure with Germanic characteristics so I will embrace that idea.

A recent visit to the cabin gave me a chance to try to look backwards in time at the structure as it evolved. Brenda Rawlings and her husband, Steve, purchased the property as a weekend getaway in 1983. They made many improvements over the years to the house that had already seen many 20th century upgrades. This layering of improvements and changes can make the original structure hard to discern, but I enjoy the challenge of trying to unravel the changes and creating a theoretical building evolution history. I am humbly aware that I often miss clues and that the story I create may be in error. Nonetheless, here is my version of the evolution of "David Clem's Cabin" thanks to property records research gathered by Steve and Brenda.

About 1790, David Clem built a 23' x 16' yellow pine log house a few hundred yards east of Passage Creek. This house on a limestone foundation with a partial cellar had two rooms and two front doors.

By: John Adamson



This view shows the newest addition on the left. On the right is the original cabin section though the roof was raised in the 19th century.



The two doors visible in this view are the two original front doors. One for each of the two rooms of the original structure.



A view of the original interior space. As built, there was a single panel wall containing a central fireplace which created a room on the right and a room on the left.



This limestone stack in the center of the cellar supported a central fireplace that was later removed.

A central limestone fireplace in the living space served both rooms, one side probably providing a hearth cooking area. The cabin likely had a sleeping loft, but not a full second story. This layout is a diminutive version of the very early Germanic "Flurkuchenhaus" architecture found elsewhere in the county. (See my house article in the Spring, 2018 newsletter.) David Clem sold his little cabin some time before 1809. During the 19th century the cabin was owned successively by Rinkers, Sheights, Siberts, Habrons, Clems (again), Coverstones and Shipp. In 1903, ownership changed from Shipp to Habron (again). Also in the chain of ownership are Shipes and Burners. This list of property owners includes many of the family names of Fort Valley and it is impossible to know who made various improvements over the cabin's life.

19th century upgrades include raising the roof to accommodate a second story and installing a corner stairway, expanding the tiny cellar as well as removing the central chimney and installing brick fireplaces and chimneys on the gable ends. 20th century improvements include installing plumbing, electricity and the addition of a carport covering the two entrance doors.

Steve and Brenda Rawlings continued to improve the cabin during their ownership. The carport was enclosed and made into a very comfortable family room with a big wood burning stove. The last major change was to double the footprint of the cabin with a two story addition including a kitchen with large open family room on the lower level, and a new open stairway to the master bedroom suite above. During the late 20th and 21st century mechanical systems were modernized. I do not know if David Clem is really the original builder of this house, but if he is, he would have to look hard to recognize the cabin he constructed so long ago. If he was able to return, he would find the original floors, limestone foundation walls and exposed interior logs that he installed two centuries ago and I believe it would make him smile.

(Continued on Page 6)



Corner stairs were added to the cabin when the second story was created, probably in the first half of the 19th century.



The notches in the log were for roof rafters as built. In the 19th century the 2nd floor was created by adding new logs above.



The last major change was a two story addition containing this kitchen/family room below and a master bedroom suite above.

Zimmerman - (Cont. from Page 1)

well as video production and other creative services.

In 2008, Mr. Zimmerman and James R. Morris co-produced a video, "*The Burning*," for the Edinburg Mill Museum, now the Shenandoah Valley Cultural Heritage Museum. The video has been shown in the museum theater for the past 12 years, along with hundreds of DVD versions sold to the general public. Zimmerman's most recent video history-related video project was "*The World On Fire*," a Civil War documentary he produced in 2019 for the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation. The video can be seen at the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation's Third Winchester Battlefield visitor center.

He is a former Chairman of the Shenandoah County Library Board of Trustees and has been providing continuous volunteer website content management support to the Shenandoah County Historical Society since 2012. Hank Zimmerman is also currently a seven-year member of the Woodstock Rotary Club and serves on the club's board of directors, and he is a volunteer webmaster for the Fort Valley Museum and the Edinburg Ole' Time Festival websites.

Welcome, Hank!

UPDATE

Shenandoah County 250th Anniversary

We'll be sharing more info about the Shenandoah County 250th Commemoration as plans move along. By the time you read this newsletter the 250 website at www.ShenCo250.com will have launched.

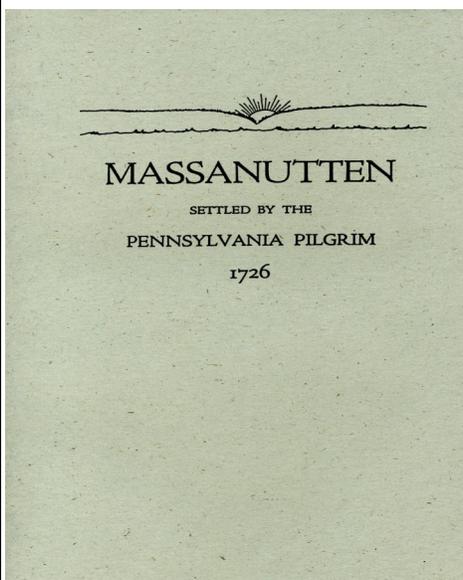
One item included on the website is our announcement that the committee is seeking people with an interest in writing an article about some aspect of Shenandoah County history. Be sure to read the Publications Guidelines for more information.

While the entire 250 Commemoration Committee has contributed to the site's look and content, I must note others who have done much of the detail work. That has largely been done by 250 Committee Chair, Zach Hottel and the site's designer, Hank Zimmerman. The site will evolve, of course, as plans move along. Events will be added. If your organization plans a 250th Commemoration themed event, let us know. Be sure to visit ShenCo250.com often to stay up to date!

By Barbara Adamson, Member
250th Commemoration Committee

SCHS Web Site:
www.SCHS1795.com

New Books Available



This, *Massanutten settled by the Pennsylvania Pilgrim 1726*, by Harry Strickler, was first published in 1924, and it discusses the first settlement in the Shenandoah Valley in 1726. The settlement was the beginning of five counties -- Augusta, Frederick, Shenandoah, Rockingham and Page. The materials in this book, for genealogists, are voluminous and valuable. There is good information on early religious organizations, mainly the Baptists and Mennonites. It also has information on many old homes and forts. SCHS Price: \$18 Member: \$17 + shipping

Shenandoah County Libraries Return To Some Normalcy

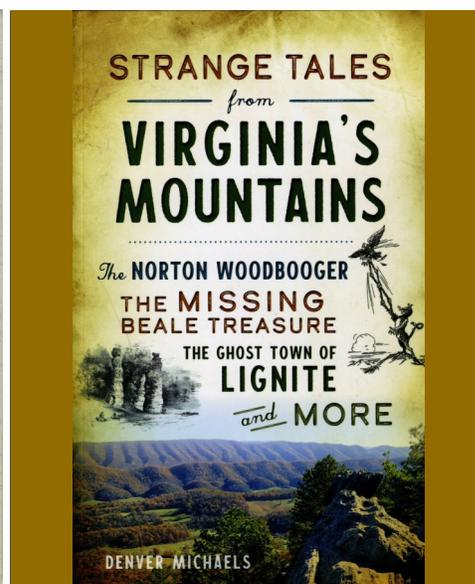
Following months of restrictions due to the pandemic, the Shenandoah County Library and the county's community libraries are now open for normal hours.

During the past year, County Archivist Zach Hottel discovered that some changes that had been implemented for visitors to the Shenandoah Room and Truban Archives are actually beneficial for researchers and staff alike.

Zach will continue with the policy that anyone coming in for research assistance, use of family folders, access to the historic site survey, or to request items from the archives make an appointment prior to their visit. This policy makes more efficient use of the researcher's time as well as staff time. Browsing the shelves in the Shenandoah Room and use of microfilm and computers is allowed during open hours without an appointment.

A slight change in hours available for assistance has also been implemented. They are now 10:00AM-5:00PM Monday-Friday. You can reach Zach via phone at 540-984-8200 or email at:

zhottel@countylib.org.



The stunning mountains of Virginia offer spectacular views and endless outdoor activities, yet they also hold secrets: A nineteenth-century cache of gold is buried in the hills. Nine-foot giants once walked the ridges, pre-Columbian explorers built homes on isolated mountaintops and a ghost town lies deep in the Jefferson National Forest. The mountains conceal canines that walk upright, black panthers and a resurgent mountain lion population. The hide-and-seek champion of the world, Bigfoot, lurks in the dark hollows, phantom dogs pace the back roads and aggressive monkeys swing through the trees. UFOs crisscross the skies, and ghosts haunt the caverns below. Denver Michaels, local author and explorer of the unexplained, explores these mysteries and many more. SCHS Price: \$23. + shipping

Book Price Reduction

In our last issue, we introduced a new book by Jonathan Noyalas, *Slavery and Freedom in the Shenandoah Valley during the Civil War Era*.

We were able to take advantage of a special offer from our supplier and are able to offer a limited number of the books at a special price of \$50 + shipping. The book is available by mail order or at our bookstore in the Shenandoah County Historic Courthouse in Woodstock VA.

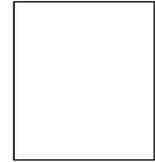
SCHS COMPLETE BOOK LIST

Is available on web site:
www.SCHS1795.com



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Clem Cabin - (Continued from Page 4)



Fireplace probably created when the central fireplace was removed during the 19th century.



A 20th century carport was later enclosed and made into a comfortable sitting room.

I always consider the modernization and expansion of old houses to be successful if those changes cause the house to be preserved. It is even better when the changes, no matter how extensive, incorporate and display much of the original fabric as is the case here. Congratulations little cabin for serving so well for so long.

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

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

Check to confirm:

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

Openings & Events

July 2nd -- 10 am to 4 pm

The Strasburg Museum will be reopening on July 2, 2021, with a Friday through Sunday schedule, 10:00AM - 4:00PM.

Free Admission, Saturday July 3, Only!

July 3 & 4 -- 11 to 5 & 12 Noon to 5 pm

Fort Valley Museum opens for the 2021 season. The museum, located at Dry Run Road at Fort Valley Road, will be open from 1-5 on Saturdays and 2-5 on Sundays.

Every Wednesday - 10 am to 8 pm

Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, at 901 Amherst Street in Winchester VA, offers free admission every Wednesday, all day year round.

Belle Grove Plantation in Middletown VA is now open. Tours of the Manor House are available Monday-Saturday, 10 AM-4 PM. (last tour 3:15 p.m.) and Sunday 1-5 p.m. (last tour 4:15 p.m.)

Would you like to join the Historic Courthouse Visitor Center Volunteer Staff?

The Museum / Visitor Center / SHS Bookstore is open every Friday and Saturday from 11-4, March through December. We hope to reinstate Thursdays to our schedule but need more volunteer staff to do so. If you would like to join our group, please call 540-459-1795. Leave a message and we'll get back to you.