



Shenandoah
County

Historical
Society

Spring 2024

Newsletter

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SCHS Annual Meeting Scheduled for May 21st

The 2024 Shenandoah County Historical Society Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held Tuesday, May 21st in Edinburg at the historic Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2447 located on Stony Creek Blvd at the railroad crossing. A social hour will begin at 6:00 PM followed by dinner at 6:30 PM. The cost for the dinner meeting is \$25.00 per person. A reservation form is included with this newsletter. Please note that the reservation form is to be mailed to a new address this year.

Immediately after the dinner SCHS president Barbara Adamson will conduct a brief business meeting that will include a report on the Society's accomplishments during the past year. She will also conduct the election of members to serve on the Board of Directors for the coming year. The proposed slate of current board members standing for re-election to a two-year term include Dennis Atwood, Anne Dellinger, Suzanne McIlwee, Mary Redmon, Janet Wagniere and Karen Whetzel. Presentation of the annual John H. Adamson Excellence in Preservation Awards will be made by Committee Chairman Karen Whetzel and the Program on the history of barn quilts, to be presented by Sally Shomo, will follow the dinner.

Historic Courthouse Visitor Center & Museum Opens for 10th Season



On Friday, March 1, 2024 this enthusiastic group met to open the Historic Shenandoah County Courthouse to visitors for a 10th season. SCHS has partnered with Shenandoah County Government to welcome the community and guests to the courthouse since 2014.

This iconic building, the oldest continuously used courthouse in Virginia and may be the first two-story courthouse built in the state.

Shenandoah County Board of Supervisors Chairman, Dennis Morris, made brief remarks and presented SCHS

New Life Members

Mary Redmon
Bill & Donna Smith

SCHS Web Site:
www.SCHS1795.com

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.

Please note new amounts.

President, Barbara Adamson, with a proclamation from the BOS extolling the courthouse's history and noting the role the Society plays in its continuing preservation. Those attending had the additional pleasure of ringing the 1809 courthouse bell to celebrate the special occasion.

SCHS Board Member and Volunteer, Dennis Atwood, dipped into old records to find the names of those who worked to greet visitors to the courthouse that first year. (See item on Page 5)



From the: Shenandoah County Archives

By Zach Hottel, Archivist

Russell Wilbur Funkhouser



Russell Funkhouser, Photograph by W.L. Mumaw, Belgrade, Virginia, Undated, Funkhouser/Jones Collection, Truban Archives, Shenandoah County Library, Edinburg, Virginia.

This photograph shows one Russell Wilbur Funkhouser as a child.

Russell was born July 25, 1906 in Macanie Virginia, a small community west of Mt. Jackson Virginia along Orkney Grade. Russell's parents were Ananias and Basha "Bertha" Funkhouser. He married Chandis M. Heishman on March 12, 1927 in Washington DC where the couple had moved. There Russell worked as a gas station attendant and later as a custodian for DC Public Schools.

Russell and Chandis divorced sometime between 1934 and 1940. They had one daughter, Vivian. Sometime after 1950 he returned to Shenandoah County, purchasing a farm in Ashby District. He died there on August 6, 1960.

This photograph was taken by W.L. Mumaw of Belgrade Virginia. Mumaw was a professional photographer who operated from the Belgrade community in the western part of Shenandoah County during the late 19th and early 20th century. Several of his photographs, including of local schools and other institutions survive.

You can learn more about Russell Funkhouser or William Lee (W.L.) Mumaw and other historic photographs by visiting the Shenandoah County Library's Truban Archives. Visit www.countylib.org/local-history for more information.

Strasburg Heritage Meeting to Focus on D-Day

On Sunday June 9th, Jay Neal will present a program, **Things My Father Saw and Did – The Normandy Landing on June 6, 1944**. In his presentation, Jay will share stories told to him by his father, Paul Jay Neal, Sr., about his experience and that of many men from Shenandoah County and the Valley, who were part of the 29th Division of the U.S. Army. He will discuss some of the history of the 29th Division as they were trained stateside and in England for the D-day landing, their journey to England and the landing on Normandy Beach on June 6, 1944.

The event will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church on W. Washington St. in Strasburg from 2-4pm. It is free and open to the public. Fellowship and refreshments will follow.

Message from the President



Barbara Adamson

March brings the re-opening of the Historic Courthouse and this was a special year. Hard to believe that we've been in the courthouse for 10 years, operating the visitor center and sharing this iconic 1795 building with the community and travelers. At the opening I showed several people around the Historic Courtroom who hadn't been in it before. That is always a revelation. Not just that they hadn't visited before, but I'm reminded of what an incredible building our courthouse is and how fortunate we are to have artifacts to share from its early history.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you'll read about the pencil drawing of Lady Justice that SCHS has had conserved. Drawn as "brown on brown", it still doesn't jump out at you when viewed, but it's the preparation that artist William Rupp needed to do in order to create the colorful fresco once on the west wall in the middle part of the Historic Courthouse. We're fortunate that somewhere, at some-time, someone had saved the drawing from 145 years ago and had the foresight to frame it. How that happened will likely remain a mystery!

I'm also pleased that we have an extensive exhibit about the Shenandoah County Alms House, destroyed by fire in 2014. The care of the poor was part of the responsibilities of the County Courts for many years and so is part of the history of the Historic Courthouse. Until 1871, visitors to the Courthouse came through the double front doors directly into the Courtroom. I can imagine anyone with business with the Courts, including destitute members of the community, entering and having their lives changed by a decision of the magistrates.

We thank Dennis Atwood for finding the list of those who volunteered at the Historic Courthouse that first year. Some of them are gone now but it's good to remember everyone's contribution.

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: Susan Walls
Treasurer: Laura Zimmerman

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Anne Dellinger
Kenna Fansler
Rick Lytton
Ellen Markel
Suzanne McIlwee
Mary Redmon
Karen Whetzel
Hank Zimmerman

Newsletter Editor:
Janet Wagniere

Strasburg Museum Exhibit on Display at Courthouse Visitor Center



The new display at the historic courthouse, which began on March 1st, features a selection of artifacts from the Strasburg Museum. The Museum has an amazing variety of historic items that focus on the history of Strasburg and its surrounding area. The exhibit may include pieces about Hupp's Hill, the Civil War, Native Americans, the Ladies of Fishers Hill, to name a few possibilities. Come see what the Museum curators have pulled out of their hats!

Donated Books Accepted

The SCHS also sells selected "previously owned" books in the Visitor Center Bookstore and at Heritage day.

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.



Quilt Mystery Information Requested

The Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, in Winchester, is researching and reconstructing histories for some of its quilts acquired from Mildred "Micki" Helsley (1925-2018). In particular, they are seeking information related to a "Mrs. Garvey" living in Lantz Mill and/or Edinburg from the 1970s - early 1990s, who purportedly owned two basket quilts collected by Micki and/or Bruce Helsley. While unlikely, the "Garvey" name could be a misspelling of more common Shenandoah County names like Carver.

Anyone with information should contact Curator of Collections Nick Powers at (540) 662-1473, ext. 205.

Lady Justice Returns to the County Courthouse



For many years a pencil drawing made by decorative painter William F. Rupp, in preparation for a fresco of Justice, has hung on the wall of the Historic Courthouse Courtroom. The original fresco was painted on the wall behind the Judge's chair in the 1871 Courtroom.

It has been destroyed by subsequent renovations and the pencil drawing is the only evidence remaining of this remarkable and colorful image.

According to newspaper reports at the time, Rupp painted the fresco in 1879 and refreshed it in 1900.

Rupp married Mary Catherine Spitzer of New Market and was well known in the Valley, having done decorative painting in churches, homes and other buildings, many of them in Shenandoah County.

Paper and fine art conservator, Maria Pukownik, and her staff, who have conserved the drawing, have ensured that the drawing will now survive another 145 years, at least, to remind us of the beautiful detail work that was included in the building and embellishment of the first of the Historic Courthouse's additions.

Be sure to stop in and see Lady Justice as she reclaims her place behind the judge's seat.



2024 John H. Adamson Excellence in Preservation Awards To Be Presented

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

The 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 60 years old, and the preservation project must have been completed to be eligible for consideration.

This year's Preservation Awards Chairman, Karen Whetzel, will present the 2024 Awards at the Annual Meeting in May.

2024 Heritage Day Planned for April 13th

The 23rd Shenandoah County Heritage Day is almost here! Join us on Saturday, April 13 from 11am-3pm at the New Market Fire Dept. If you haven't reserved a table yet, it's not too late. Call and leave a message at 540-459-1795 or call county archivist, Zach Hottel, at 540-984-8200.

In addition to the organizations and individuals who will bring exhibits to share, we'll have two special programs: Dr. Andrea Weeks from George Mason Univ, will make a presentation, *Lena Artz (1891-1976), a pioneering botanist of the Massanutten*, at 11:30am and The New Market Historical Society and Town will present an overview of New Market's historic buildings at 2pm followed by a walking or driving tour at 3pm for those who wish to participate.

Heritage Day is co-hosted by SCHS and the Shenandoah County Library Archives.

✦ **Continuing Series on Historic Buildings in Shenandoah County** ✦

How the Central Hotel Helped Name the Town of Mt. Jackson

The Central Hotel is one of the oldest structures still standing in Mt. Jackson on the west side of Route 11 before turning right onto Route 263. It was believed to have been built in the early part of the nineteenth century when the town was called Mt. Pleasant. The structure was operated as a Tavern and Bar Room.

The structure is built of logs pinned together. The doors have no nails, being mortised and pinned together with wooden pins. During a remodeling job in the mid 1930s, the logs were discovered to have been reduced to dust except for the heart pine center which supported the structure. The building was sometimes referred to as the Walton Hotel.

History says that Andrew Jackson stayed one night in the building traveling by stage coach on his way from his home in Tennessee to Washington, D. C. for his 1829 Inauguration after being elected the seventh President of the United States. The room where he slept was so positioned that his body guards could occupy the surrounding rooms. Jackson had previously traveled through Mt. Pleasant staying in this hotel several times.

His visiting the town caused the citizens of the town to petition the Virginia General Assembly to have the town's name changed from Mt. Pleasant to Mt. Jackson. The request was granted and the name of Mt. Jackson became



official on January 28, 1826.

In the early 1900s the building was purchased at a sale by Mr. J. M. Dawson for "both investment and historical reasons". In 1936, Mr. Dawson had the fourteen room "Old Walton Hotel" moved back 100' in order to build an English Cottage Type building referred to as the Pure Oil Station. Mr. J. B. Coffman of Edinburg, Va. Was in charge of moving the hotel. In 1944 Mr. Dawson remodeled six rooms for his living area.

During the excavation where the building stood, several items were uncovered. Among them were items such as human bones, old toys of hickory and stone, an old English coin (dating back to the early 18th century) spokes & other parts of old wagons.

Mr. Dawson opened his English Cottage Type service station which also included a Cottage Tea Room as seen in early pictures. The service station continued as a service station for many years under various owners until closing in the mid 1980s. It was followed by various businesses. The Central Hotel became an apartment building for many years.

Mr. Dawson passed away Aug. 28, 1954 and his wife Beulah Coffman Dawson continued living in their section of the building until her passing April 24, 1975.

[Submitted by Board Member Kenna Fansler]

Opening Dates for County Museums

- Woodstock Museum: Opening May 3 through October. Fridays and Saturdays 1-4 PM.
- Mt. Jackson Museum: Opening in March Thursday-Saturday, 1-4 PM.
- Fort Valley Museum: Open Memorial Day to October, Saturday 1-4 PM and Sunday 2-5 PM.
- Strasburg Museum: Open in May through December, 10 AM - 4 PM, Friday-Sunday.
- Historic Courthouse: Open March 1 through December 31st, Friday and Saturday 11 AM - 4 PM.
- Hottel - Keller Museum : Open by appointment year-round
- Edinburg Mill: Open year-round, Monday-Saturday 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM, Sunday Noon - 5 PM
- Hupps Hill: Open daily, year-round, 10 AM - 4 PM
- County Archives at Library: Open year-round, 10 AM - 5 PM Monday-Friday and by appointment on Saturday.
- Museum of Civil War at New Market - Open year round, 9 AM to 5 PM except Christmas, Thanksgiving and New Years
- New Market Battlefield Military Museum - Mid-April through October, 9 AM to 5 PM daily



Sally Shomo to Present Program on Quilts at SCHS Annual Meeting on May 21st

Barn Quilts have become very popular in our area. This program by Sally Shomo is on the history of barn quilts and how quilts were used during the Civil War.

Sally Weaver Shomo grew up on a dairy and poultry farm near Bridgewater, VA. She graduated from VA Tech with a degree in Agricultural Education and taught agriculture/FFA for 31 years in Augusta County.

Upon retirement, Sally discovered a new interest in painting barn quilts and has painted over 300 barn quilts since 2016 and operates as Sally's Custom Barn quilts. She and her husband, Scott, farm near Staunton with their youngest son.

SCHS Life Members

Each year we list our Life Members and say Thank You for your continuing support:

Barbara Adamson
Joan Anderson
Suzanne Arthur
Lucy Banks
Clyde & Judy Beachy
Richard & Susan Bell
Greg Bott
Laurie Burgess
Sally A Burlingame
Tom Carr
Carrie Ruda Clark
Mike & Pam Clem
Michael Cook
Diane Cooley-Lutz
Karen G. Cooper
Karen Costie
John & Elizabeth Cottrell
Richard D. Cummings
Peter & Kathleen Dalke
Elizabeth Davison
Phyllis Deeney
Ludwig Alex Deglmann
Leigh Devier
Susan E. Dietz
Richard & Linda Downer
John Eads
Carlton Etter
William & Cathy Ettinger
Kenna Fansler
Tom Faucett

Janice Fleming
F. Kevin Frazier
Elissa Blake Free
Robert Frye
Diane Gardner
Mary A. Giunta
Nonna D. Good
Shelly A. Good-Cook
Molly Greene Haywood
Dr. Conrad A. Helsley
Susan E. Hines
Shelby Hollar
Dennis Hupp
Pattie Irvin
P.D. Kelchner
Russell & Sarah Kohrs
Edgar Lamma III
Robin Layman
JoAnne Lockhart
Cindy Rose Long
Rick & Yvonne Lytton
Jean Martin
Patricia Mason
Bob & Suzanne McIlwee
Charles & Robin Middleton
Ashley A.L. Miller
Janice Miller
William J. & Diane Miller
Gregory and Alicia Neas
Jaclyn Neely
Randall Orndorff
Anna Mae Ortgies
Bonnie Painter
Jerry & Mary R. Parsons

Guy & Diane Pence
Judith Powell
Carolyn Lee Purdy
Sherrell & Carole Pyles
Sallie Massie Raynor
Mary Redmon
Edward & Joann Rinaca
Kathleen Rivers
Michael Rohrbaugh
Cindie Ryman
Mike & Melissa Seward
Pat Shelton
Terry Showman
Bill & Donna Smith
Andrew Thayer
Meg Trott
John & Cheryl Truban
Kim Uhl
August Van Dessel Family
Linda Varney
Charles & Beverly Veatch
VFW Post #2447
C.F. & Janet Wagniere
William & Susan Walls
Kathy Ware
William & Diane Warren
Michael Watkinson
Linda Wheeler
Karen Whetzel
Icia Wolfe
Phyllis S. Wright
Kim Yeck
W. Denman Zirkle



Sons of the American Revolution Honor Peter Muhlenburg

Every January, close to the date of Peter Muhlenberg's famous sermon exhorting Shenandoah County men to join him in fighting for liberty in the Revolutionary War, the Colonel James Wood II Chapter, VA Society, Sons of the American Revolution, hosts a commemoration of this extraordinary event. This year the ceremony was held on January 20, 2024 in front of the Shenandoah County Historic Courthouse near the figure of General Muhlenberg. SAR members from chapters throughout the Valley and beyond came to participate. Appropriate remarks were made, some history of Muhlenberg was shared, and wreaths from each organization were laid in front of the Historic Courthouse.

Shenandoah County's Narrow Passage Chapter, NS Daughters of the American Revolution also participated in the remembrance ceremony.

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

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

A Very Special Historic Thank You

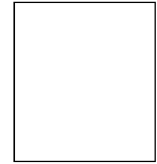
Thank you to the volunteers who served as docents during the first year of museum operations, in 2014, who were: Nancy Stewart, Larry Beazley, John & Barbara Adamson, Ellen Markel, Anna Mae Ortgies, Rick Rhodes, Jim & Kim Stevenson, Jenna French, Josie Woodwell, Bob Lowerre, Kent Womack, Tyler Hinkle, C. F. & Janet Wagniere, Gerald Buttram, Gloria & Billy Boone, Diane Ferguson & Pat Murphy, Steve Shipe, Harry Ellis, and Elizabeth Dalton

The earliest daily log, June 21st, 2014, reported that there were eight visitors, whose areas of interest were: courthouse history, Civil War graffiti, and books for sale. There was \$37.50 in book sales. A question that remained unanswered was "How was the original court room configured?" and a volunteer commented, "Visitors looked at everything and took their time going through the building and displays." (Research provided by SCHS Board Member Dennis Atwood)



Shenandoah
County VA

Historical Society



P.O. Box 506
Edinburg VA 22824

Phone: 540-459-1795

E-Mail: SCHS.VA@Gmail.com

WEB: 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 →

Upcoming Events

Slavery by Another Name: Black Labor after Emancipation

[Sponsored by Clarke County Historical Association]

April 14th at 2 p.m. at

VFW Post 9760 - 425 S Buckmarsh St,
Berryville, VA 22611

\$20 non-members / \$15 members

Emancipation freed the nearly 4 million people held in bondage in the Southern states, but when plantations ceased to exist, those newly freed men and women had to find work somewhere. But what did that look like? How did white farmers resist Black labor, and how did those newly freed men and women fight back?

Join Archivist Melanie Garvey to explore the realities of Black labor exploitation in Clarke County during Reconstruction. Info: 540-955-2600

Mark Your Calendar:

SCHS Annual Dinner & Program

Date: Tuesday, May 21st - 6:30 PM

Where: The VFW in Edinburg, Stony Creek Blvd. at Railroad track

Program: Learn about a new folk art tradition – Barn Quilts. Sally Shomo, who creates these beautiful objects throughout the Valley, will present a program about them and about how quilts were used during the Civil War.

BROCKS GAP HERITAGE DAY

Saturday, April 22nd
10 AM to 4 PM

J. Frank Hillyard Middle School
Broadway VA

Rocktown History

Coffee MILL



Come enjoy
*a series of informal gatherings
with Rocktown History's own curator,
researcher, and historians and other
friends of local history and genealogy.*

2nd and 4th Tuesdays
9:30-11:00 am.
382 High St. Dayton, VA



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