

Volume 25

Fall 2025

Issue 3

Strasburg, Virginia

NEWSLETTER

strasburgvaheritage.org

Strasburg Heritage Association and the Town of Strasburg Present

STRASBURG GHOST WALKING TOURS

Saturday and Sunday, October 18th and 19th, 2025

6 to 8 pm

Strasburg Visitor and Information Center at Hupp's Hill

33229 Old Valley Pike

One-hour tours of up to 15 people leaving every 15 minutes

Last tour leaves at 8pm

As you walk the paths on Hupps Hill and you stop and listen to the storytellers, you might catch a glimpse of a soldier from long ago, a shadow out of the corner of your eye, in the tree line. But when you look again, there is nothing there. Listen to haunting tales from the greater Strasburg communities, such as Star Tannery, Gravel Springs, Wheatfield, and more! Learn about the ghost that haunts the Toms Brook Volunteer Firehouse! Come and enjoy this family-friendly event!



RAIN OR SHINE EVENT (unless the rain is just ridiculous!)
Visit: www.strasburgvaheritage.org or call 540-325-4397 for
more information.



President's Message

Tim Taylor

Fall is here, which is my favorite time of year! Cooler temperatures, fall colors, harvest time, apple butter, cider, fall sports, and Halloween! Fall brings many enjoyable things, and one of them is our ghost walking tours! We are working with the Town of Strasburg again to provide our tours. They will take place at Hupp's Hill Visitors Center and will be held two evenings! More detailed information is in this newsletter. This year, our ghost stories will cover neighboring Strasburg communities. This is a fundraiser for us, so we hope you will come out and support us while having some ghostly fun!

If you missed our June program featuring Coach Glenn Proctor, you can watch the recording along with other previous programs by visiting our website. Also, you can view our newsletter archives, podcast episodes, and historical videos. Our website is definitely a "treat" and not a "trick." Have a safe, enjoyable, and relaxing Fall season.

Sincerely - Tim Taylor - SHA President and the SHA Board

FROM THE Northern Virginia Daily, Wednesday, Nov. 22, 1933, Page 4.

Chambers Believed Hidden In Battlefield Crystal Caverns

by HELEN DAVIDSON

Many, many years ago, when the Red Man struck terror to the hearts of the settlers in the Shenandoah Valley, there was a story abroad that the Indians would be seen in the vicinity of what is now known as Hupps Hill, and then they would vanish, and no trace of them could be found. Then they would re-appear as mysteriously as they had disappeared. Later, when slavery was a matter of grave concern in the South, slave owners would trace their fugitives to the same location, and they would suddenly vanish from sight. Then came the great War Between the States, and the same thing proved true when either army attempted to track down deserters. What had become of them? No one knew.

But we do know now. For during the latter part of the nineteenth century, a great underground cave was discovered on the east slope Hupps Hill. For several years the cave was left in its natural state. Then it was cleaned out, lighted by electricity, and first opened to the public in 1922. Although it is one of the smaller caverns of the state, few can surpass The Battlefield-Crystal Caverns in scenic beauty. Upon entering, the spectator is greeted by such fantastic shapes as that ancient reptilian monster, the Brontosaurus, and the Giants Casket which is so realistic that one almost expects the huge lid to slowly rise and reveal another type of ancient monster. It is often said that when you see one of the Virginia caverns, you have seen them all, but this does not apply to Crystal Caverns, for they are actually different in formation and possess a subdued beauty that gives them a character all their own. The channels are narrow and deep and the rooms and chambers occur chiefly along intersecting joints instead of in the continuous longitudinal pattern which is so pronounced in other caverns of Virginia. A new room has been recently discovered. One that is at a lower level than any other explored part of the cave except the Crystal Pool. Passages have been found which, it is believed, lead to chambers that have never been explored, and it is probably only a matter of a few years before Crystal Caverns will be greatly enlarged and extended beyond its present limits. The owners are now installing a new lighting system which will greatly enhance its loveliness and bring out even more of its hidden beauty, and many other improvements are expected to be made during the winter. Because of the historical significance of its location, and the legendary background of the cave itself, it has been fittingly named—the Battlefield-Crystal Caverns.

A Little Local History

Jarrett's Grocery

By

Laura Ellen Beeler Wade

Philip Newtown Jarrett's Journey from Ohio to Strasburg

While some people were moving from Virginia to Ohio in the 1880s, Philip N. Jarrett along with members of his family were traveling back east to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia following his father's death. Philip was born on January 30, 1853 to Mary and James Jarrett in Belmont County, Ohio situated in the southeastern part of the state near West Virginia. He was one of twelve brothers and sisters. Several of his siblings came with their mother to the Frederick County area and finally three sisters and a brother including Philip settled in Strasburg.

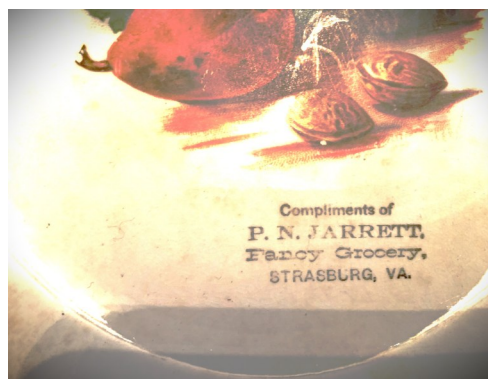
Philip's mother, Mary Jarrett, was listed in the 1880 census of the Opequon District in Frederick County as being 60 years old, born in Pennsylvania, a widow and a farmer along with her sons. Her children living with her and helping to farm the land were Atwell, Elizabeth J., Philip N., S. Catherine, Orlando, Mary E., Talmon E. and Salina V. While living in the



Philip & Ella Jarrett, circa 1897

Frederick County/Stephens City area, Philip met and married Miss Ella M. Leathers. According to the family Bible of 1897, Ella and Philip were married on February 23, 1887. Two years later they moved to Strasburg. At first Philip was a farmer and operated a feed store. Expanding his operation, he began operating a grocery business which lasted for 25 years. Later Mr. Griffa M. Racey followed him and operated a grocery store at that same location. The store was located on





King/Main Street in the present day Edward Jones building. A dish with painted pears, apple and walnuts with the words “Compliments of P.N. JARRETT, Fancy Grocery, Strasburg, Va.” printed in gold lettering advertising Mr. Jarrett’s store is pictured in this article. A different dish in the Strasburg Museum is painted with two red apples, an apple cut in half with walnuts and greenery in the background suggesting perhaps this would have been offered at

Christmas. The lettering is the same.

Mr. Jarrett’s home was on the corner of South Massanutten Street and Brown Street. Pictured in front of the home are Mr. Jarrett, his wife, and his three children taken between 1897 and 1898. His son, Elmer Elsworth Jarrett, died at the age of six on January 17, 1897.

Elmer’s two sisters were Mary Lucinda born in 1892 and Maude Vashti born in 1894. The youngest child, Elsie Virginia, was not born until after this photo was taken. She was born on Feb. 5, 1898.



Home of Philip and Ella Jarrett, corner of Massanutten and Brown.

Mr. Jarrett passed away on April 11, 1928. According to his obituary in the *Strasburg News* April 12, 1928, he was an active member of the Strasburg Christian Church. He and his wife, Ella, are buried in Riverview Cemetery. His three daughters married and their spouses became prominent citizens in our town.

Mrs. Mary Maphis married Dr. Carl B. Maphis, a local dentist. Mrs. Maude Crim married Rev. Dr. Harry Crim, a minister at the Strasburg Presbyterian Church for many years and Mrs. Elsie Beeler married Mr. James S. Beeler, owner of Strasburg Heating and Plumbing later Valley Gas Co. (Pyrofax Gas Co.).

(For our readers, there are other Strasburg family connections.)

According to the 1910 census, one brother, Martin Jarrett, lived on Depot Street, now Fort Street.

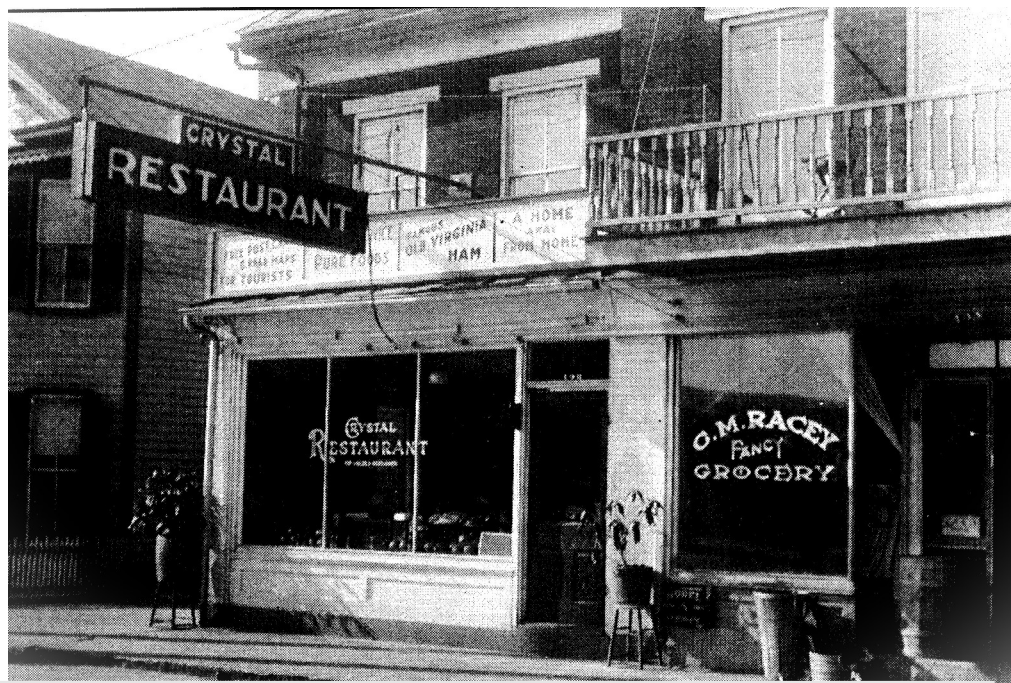
Three of Mr. Jarrett’s sisters married Shenandoah County natives, lived in Strasburg and

were buried in Riverview Cemetery. They were: Sarah Katherine “Kate” Sonner (married Albert Sonner), Mary Elizabeth Bowman (married Theodore Bowman), and Lula V. Funk (married Christopher Paul “Christie” Funk).

Sources used for this article:

www.findagrave.com, www.virginiachronicle.com, and www.familysearch.org.

Family papers, photographs and Bible owned by Mrs. Sandra Fogg O'Connor (granddaughter of Mrs. Elsie Jarrett Beeler)



After Jarrett's Grocery closed, Griff Racey operated G.M. Racey Fancy Grocery in the same building. Photo courtesy of Doug Cooley Collection, Strasburg Museum.

To Our Readers: If you have memories of Jarrett's Grocery Store, please share them with us.

News from our Strasburg Museum

Lentil the Clown will be at the Museum on King Street on Saturday, Oct. 11th, 11am to 4pm
Lentil will present art, sing-alongs, dance, and other happy activities for kids of all ages.

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Northern Virginia Daily Best Of 2025

The Strasburg Museum has been selected as
the 2025 BEST museum in Shenandoah County.

SHA Scholarship

Each year the SHA offers a scholarship to students at Strasburg High School to help with college expenses. Priority is given to students who are interested in majoring in history or a related field. If you would like to donate specifically to our scholarship fund, please send to: Strasburg Heritage Association, Scholarship Fund, PO Box 525, Strasburg, VA 22657. Note "Scholarship Fund" on your check. Thank you for your donation.

Shenandoah County Historical Society

Traces of a Thousand Years Left in the Fields and Woods of the Valley.

Presented by Mike Kehoe, avocational archeologist and Shenandoah Valley historian. Using a power point, he will discuss prehistoric sites in Shenandoah County and nearby, and today's understanding of the collecting of artifacts versus earlier practices. Mike will give an overview of where prehistoric sites are likely to be found. He will share some information about the village site on land he now owns and it's connections to historian Samuel Kercheval's work.

7pm. St. Paul's Heritage Center High St. Edinburg.

November 18th

Parking available across the street in the Shentel lot.

Board of Directors 2025

Tim Taylor, President

Laura Ellen Wade, Vice-President

Ruth Hoffman, Treasurer

Barbara Adamson, Secretary

Kathy Kehoe, Newsletter Editor

*Mary Cottrill, Sue Foster , George Hoffman, Dennis Hupp, Dee Keister,
Mark Loving, Mary Redmon , Wendy Tiefenbacher, Joan Williams , Linda Williams*

THE HISTORIC BUILDING PLAQUE PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION: Our plaque program hopes to increase awareness of, and pride in, buildings important to the history of Strasburg and Davis District. Obtaining a plaque is purely voluntary. Real estate taxes will not increase, nor will any limitations be placed on the property. There are neither restrictions nor covenants associated with obtaining a plaque.

ELIGIBILITY: The building must be at least 60 years old. - Thus, in 2025, the structure must have been built before 1965. - What matters is the year the original house was built. Additions do not affect eligibility. The building must be within Strasburg or Davis District.

PLAQUE COST: \$120.00

APPLICATION PROCESS:

The application should be filled out as completely as possible. Please make your check payable to Strasburg Heritage Association and mail it, along with the completed application, to Strasburg Heritage Association, 196 Maynard Lane, Strasburg, VA 22657.

Once the Association ensures the application is complete and the building is eligible, your plaque will be ordered. Delivery, which includes hardware for mounting the bronze plaque, should take approximately 6 weeks.

RECOGNITION:

The Strasburg Town Council or Shenandoah Board of Supervisors will be asked to recognize the building as important to the culture and history of Strasburg and the greater Davis District. This is purely an honorific statement, with no legal status or financial implications.



Note: You can also find a larger plaque application on our website:

www.strasburgvaheritage.org

Strasburg Heritage Association
P.O. Box #525 Strasburg, VA 22657

Historic Building Plaque Application

The goal of the Historic Building Plaque program is to obtain insight into people, places and events that make up our Strasburg and Davis District history. Informal stories and anecdotes about previous owners and uses, as well as important or funny events associated with the building are encouraged. Even strange or (allegedly) ghostly incidents are acceptable! Recollections of any sort that involve the building are what the program is about.

Photographs, drawings, plats or any other graphical material would be interesting (originals will be copied and returned). Documented history of the building derived from the deed, tax and will record books in the Shenandoah County Court House (Woodstock) would be appreciated. Contact us if you need assistance with your research.

Please submit the following:

Building's Present Owner _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone # _____ Cell # _____ Email _____

Street Address of Historic Building _____

Previous Owners, if known _____

Date Built _____ (must be associated with some record).

If the date is not known exactly, acceptable sources would be:

Deed Book _____ Page(s) # _____

Tax Book _____ Page(s) # _____

Will Book _____ Page(s) # _____

Date engraved or marked in woodwork or masonry _____

and the location of the marking on the building _____

Other examples of sources may be: (Grandfather Joel recalls the structure being built in 1912) _____

Plaque Mounting Required: Front mounted (wood surface) _____
or Rear mounted (all other) _____

Please use extra sheet(s) for any stories, anecdotes, etc, about the building. It is hoped these will be the basis of a future booklet on Historic Strasburg and Davis District. Also, any photos for original molding, floors, windows would be appreciated and provide additional information on the age of the building.



PO Box 525

Strasburg, VA 22657

Strasburg Heritage Association

Strasburgheritage@gmail.com

www.strasburgvaheritage.org

Annual dues are due in February; if you are not sure if you have paid your dues, please contact us.

Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Landline: _____ Cell: _____

Email address: _____

MEMBERSHIP _____ Cost is \$20.00 annually

Donation: (optional)

General Fund: _____ Scholarship Fund: _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

If this is a gift subscription, add your name and contact info here.

Please Mail Completed Form and check to:

Strasburg Heritage Association

PO Box 525

Strasburg, VA 22657