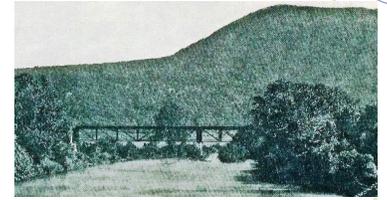


Strasburg Heritage Association



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Strasburg, Virginia

NEWSLETTER

strasburgvaheritage.org

VALLEY HERALDS: THE LEGACY OF THE HENKEL FAMILY

Join us for our June program to be presented by Nick Powers, Curator of Collections at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester. Nick will talk about the remarkable Henkel family of New Market. Though known today mainly for establishing one of the earliest German language printing businesses in the Shenandoah Valley, the family also included a talented array of ministers, artists, and craftsmen. Their influence spread beyond the Valley to places like North Carolina and Tennessee. Using the Henkel Press as a starting point, Nick will explore the multi-faceted endeavors of the Henkel family with the help of the rich letters, printings, and objects they left behind.

Sunday, June 5, 2016, 2-4PM

St. Paul Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

193 W. Washington St. Strasburg

The public is invited. Join us for fellowship and refreshments.

SHA & Strasburg Museum Partnerships

The SHA board is very thankful for the proceeds we receive from our biennial homes tour, as it's those funds that allow us to support preservation projects in the community. Our recent partnership with the Strasburg Museum has resulted in the preservation and repair of the Mt. Olive Cornet Band drum which has been returned to the museum for display after a two-year hiatus. The drum, with a stencil that reads "Mt. Olive Cornet Band Org'd, Aug. 15, 1902", had badly deteriorated over the years. The restoration was completed by fine and decorative art conservationist, Amy B. Byrne from Shepherdstown, WV. SHA and the Museum each paid half of the total cost of \$3,000 for the work.

The success of this project has led to another partnership between SHA and the Museum. The historic Heater quilt is now in the hands of Winchester quilt conservator, Pam Pampe, to be repaired. The cost of this project will also be shared by our two organizations.

Community Meal

For several years SHA has hosted one of the community meals held each week in Strasburg. Our meal is held at St. Paul Lutheran Church, usually in January. This year we're hosting a second meal, on Wednesday, August 17 at St. Paul. While the food for the main meal is taken care of, anyone who would like to contribute a dessert is welcome to do so. Please call 465-5570 if you would like to help or contribute. Also, you are welcome to attend the dinner!

Yoo Hoo! 2017 Dues Reminder

We hope you will continue your support of SHA by renewing your membership. Our annual membership fee of \$20 is due in February and is much appreciated. If you are not currently a member, we encourage you to join.

Help us continue to support historic preservation in Strasburg, offer interesting programs and an informative newsletter. Thank you!

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A Little Folk History: Growing Up In Strasburg 1946-1966

By Sheila Lemley Galford

My name is Sheila Lemley Galford. Strasburg holds a very special place in my heart even though I have not lived there since 1966. I am the daughter of Wallace G. Lemley, Jr. (Wally to many folks) and Sylvia Powell Lemley and the granddaughter of Wallace G. Lemley, Sr. (Pop) and Hazel Virginia Reedy Lemley (Mamo). For the first 10 years of my life I lived with my grandparents. Pop worked for the Southern Railroad and Mamo was a home maker and care giver of her Mom Mary Catherine Hupp Reedy. We lived in a big gray home beside the railroad track on Funk Street. What a wonderful place to grow up with so many wonderful neighbors.

We were members of the Strasburg Methodist Church where I learned about Jesus, God and so many wonderful people who lived back in Bible times. I was Christened as a baby, Baptized and became a member of the church at the age of 12 under the tutelage of Rev. John Scarborough. My Dad was Youth Sunday School Superintendent, worked with the Youth Group and was the Choir Director of what was then called "Sanctuary Choir." Oh, how I could hardly wait until my time came that I could graduate from the Children's Choir to the Sanctuary Choir.

Growing up with Mamo, Pop and Grandma Katie gave me so much love, Christian teaching, and everyday life learning. Being in such a caring, loving environment helped to create the loving heart which has resided inside of me during my adult years. Mamo taught me many valuable things while helping her can the food grown in the garden that had been planted and tended by my Pop. Mamo taught me that going to church meant you always wore your best for God, so I had Sunday clothes, school clothes and play clothes. God does not expect us to dress up for him, so to speak, but wearing our best for him shows respect and love.

I loved walking "up street" as we would say back in those days, with Mamo, going to Brill's Grocery Store, the 5 and 10 cent store and stopping in Vaughan's Drug Store to get an ice cream cone. Oh, what wonderful memories.

We were blessed to have two theaters in Strasburg, the Old and the New Theater, as they were called in those days. Most every Saturday night Pop would take me to the Old Theater to watch a western movie. Lash Larue and Whip Wilson are two that often come to mind. On the way home from the movie we would stop by Tracy Lineberg's Filling Station to buy a pint of chocolate ice cream to take home and share with Mamo and Grandma Katie. What a wonderful memory and one which comes to mind so very often.

Mamo and Pop both loved to play the piano and I loved to sing. We would often gather around the piano in the living room and have a joyous time of singing.

The home had a wonderful big screened-in front porch where I spent a lot of time playing during the hot summer months. Pop had been given an old mattress from one of the cabooses and he placed it on the front porch for me to have a comfortable place to sit and play. One of my favorite things to do was to take old catalogues and cut out the people and place them in a shoe box. Later I would have them to play with. You might think this strange but it was just like playing with paper dolls. It was making use of something already in the home which was not being used any longer. In today's world it would be known as recycling.

There was also a swing set and a sandbox out under a big tree in the yard where I would play when the weather was not quite so hot, having always been someone that did not like hot weather. Much of the time was spent on that wonderful front porch.

Going to the Apple Blossom Parade in Winchester was always one of my favorite things to do while growing up. Mamo and Pop did not drive a car but Mamo and I would ride the Greyhound Bus to Winchester to spend the day at the Apple Blossom Festivities. Back in those days so many folks who lived in small towns had no real need to have a driver's license as you could walk most any place you needed or wanted to go. There were also taxi cabs if the weather was not cooperating, that you could call upon and ride for a nominal fee, plus if you wanted to go to another town in the Valley you could always take a ride on the Greyhound Bus at a reasonable cost. I must confess growing up and living in the Valley in those days was so wonderful I wish young people today could have some of those same experiences I had; you just can't beat it.

I remember getting my bicycle: it was a blue and white Western Flyer. I was a very cautious person and it took me quite a while to feel confident enough to just get on it and ride. I can remember walking my bicycle from my Pop and Mamo's home to Mom and Dad's home which was a couple of blocks away. In trying to learn to ride it and ride it safely, I would walk across the railroad track from Pop and Mamo's to Hugh Sonner's wood lot and ride it around there—trying to learn to negotiate it around objects, all the while watching for vehicles, small animals and people that could possibly be coming into the wood yard. Once I finally felt confident enough to ride it on the roads around Strasburg, it was one of my very favorite things to do to pass the time. Oh, how I remember the Sunday afternoon bike rides my cousin Butch Hupp and I would take, riding up Queen Street just past Dr. Winkfield's home and down the hill to where there was a small concrete bridge over the "town run" (as we called it back in those days.) Butch and I would take a break from riding, park our bikes and sit on the bridge and talk. Butch was like the brother I never had, he always was protective of me and watched over me. Matter of fact, he was the one who actually told me that boys might try to take advantage of me and that if that ever happened, I was to immediately tell him who they were and he would see to taking care of them. Wow, need I say more?

Butch and I were so fortunate to be allowed to walk into our graduation ceremony beside each other, it made us feel so special and what better way to celebrate together all the years we had spent growing up and sharing so much.

I would like to take this opportunity to say how blessed we teenagers were to have Marie Williams who planned and chaperoned a teenage dance every Saturday night in the large banquet hall of the Strasburg Fire Department Building. Marie was our guardian angel. She played the records for us to dance to. Not only was she our chaperone she was a wonderful friend if we needed someone to talk with. As an adult I have often wondered what might have happened to so many of us had there not been Marie Williams who cared so much and put us first over what she might have wanted to do for fun on a Saturday evening. Thank You is so inadequate but someday when we meet again in the next life I will do my best to express to her what her dedication to us teenagers has meant and how many times in my adult life I have reflected on those wonderful times.



Butch Hupp, Sheila Lemley

And just behind is Marie Spence and Charles McWilliams

Halloween was always a fun time in Strasburg. Back in those days, you did not have to worry about going door to door, to see what type of homemade goodies might be given you on this fun night. Also in those days it was common practice to soap up business windows on main street with funny words, pictures and such. Sometimes people would write unkind things too, so it was always my idea to get to my Dad's store and soap up his windows with something nice and funny, so no one could write ugly things or draw ugly pictures on them.

The Virginia Restaurant stood on the corner and it was a place we all liked to hang out and play the juke box, drink a coke, laugh and talk with our friends. The boys would also like to stand outside and hang on the parking meters, yelling at the girls as they walked down or up street or drove by in cars. Speaking of driving up and down main street, a fun memory comes to mind. After I had gotten my driver's license I was driving Dad's car one Saturday night and I put 50 miles on the car just driving from one end of main street to the other. Let me say here, I was not the only one doing this fun adventure. We would drive from the Safeway Store on one end of town to Mowery's Gas Station on the other end of town, two great and safe places to turn around and keep driving up and down the street all evening. Wow, what a memory. As we would drive by the restaurant the boys would holler and whistle at us which made us smile.

Many people in today's world might think I am out of touch due to the fact that I would give a lot to return to those wonderful days in Strasburg, but until you have lived and experienced that type of lifestyle you should not judge. I am so very thankful that God put me in that place at that time with all of those wonderful caring people in Strasburg. It is not technology that makes our lives great and wonderful, it is the people we come in contact with on a daily basis that is the real joy in life. Thank You God, I will be forever grateful for growing up in the 1950's and 1960's in Strasburg.

SHA Scholarship for History Studies

SHA board member, Joan Williams, will continue her role as the committee chair for our annual \$500 scholarship to be awarded to a deserving Strasburg High School senior who will be studying in the field of history in college. Joan will work with guidance counselors at SHS to determine eligible students and her committee will make the final determination. The board hopes that with this scholarship, we encourage students to study and pursue a career in history and historic preservation.

Elizabeth Neff Quilt Homecoming!

You are invited to attend a homecoming event to welcome the 1843 Elizabeth Neff Quilt back to Virginia. Recently purchased by the Virginia Quilt Museum with the support of the Shenandoah County Historical Society and the New Market Historical Society, this historic quilt has journeyed home to the Shenandoah Valley from California.

An inked signature which reads "Elizabeth Neffs Property Shendoah VA 1843", revealed where the quilt came from, but didn't tell us which Elizabeth Neff was its owner. That mystery has since been solved and you can learn the details at the homecoming event on Saturday, June 18 from 11am-3pm at the Shenandoah County Historic Courthouse 103 N. Main St. in Woodstock, VA.

At the Homecoming you will also see on exhibit other historic Shenandoah County family quilts (several from Strasburg and surrounding area) and learn their histories. The exhibits will include a quilt made by Elizabeth's cousin, Annie Elizabeth Funkhouser Zirkle in 1885.

The event is free and open to the public. Hosted by the Shenandoah County Historical Society.

Call 540-459-1795 for more information.

Tribute to Wallace G. Lemley, Jr. 50 Years after His Death

By Sheila Lemley Galford

Today, June 15, 2016 marks 50 years since a very kind, honest and remarkable man left this earth, way too early at the age of 43, on his daughter's 20th birthday. Wally, as most everyone called him, was an exceptional man, many of you never had the opportunity to know him and a lot of you have never even heard of him.

I feel it is time some of his assets should be shared with you for historical purposes as to what this man did during his short 43 years in Strasburg, VA. He was the son of Wallace G. Lemley, Sr. and Hazel Virginia Lemley. Growing up in a loving home, his Dad worked for the Southern Railroad and his Mom was a homemaker.

Wally loved music, playing the trumpet and singing in church. As he grew and matured he became the choir director at Strasburg Methodist Church. He was also the Superintendent of the Youth Sunday School and worked with the Methodist Youth Fellowship. He continued to use his trumpet talent in playing taps for military funerals. He not only directed the Strasburg Methodist Church choir, he assisted the Toms Brook Methodist Church with their choir during the summer when Strasburg's choir took the summer off, using soloists for worship services. He also led many "Song Services" as they were called in those days, which were held on numerous Sunday evenings. People would come to the church, call out their favorite hymns and everyone would sing and enjoy an evening of music and fellowship under Wally's leadership.

Wally began his electrician/television repair career under the direction of Owen Shaver and Donald Keller in Strasburg. Donald decided to leave the business and go to work at the Bluemont facility and when the time came that Owen was ready to retire, Wally created his own business. He called it "Wally's Radio & TV Sales and Service". It was located on Main Street, between the Singer Sewing Machine Business and the Jewel Box, and directly across the street from the Strasburg Fire Department. Wally had been a part of the fire department since he was a young man so being across the street made it very accessible when the need came to go fight a fire or be part of a rescue for an accident on the road some place. Wally could easily close his door, put a sign he had made in a place on the front of the door and go get things started while waiting for the other volunteers to arrive. During his years of service he rose to the rank of Assistant Fire Chief. Not only was he part of the fire department, he had also been asked to become a part of the Forestry Department which he gladly joined as well.



Back in those days there was no local rescue squad. The Strasburg Fire Department received the life threatening emergency calls to homes or accidents, as they were trained in medical lifesaving procedures. I can think of two of those calls Wally responded to which were exceedingly difficult for him and some of the other members of the Fire Department. The first call which immediately comes to mind was when he received the call to go to his parents' home as his Dad was suffering chest pains. Wally arrived on the scene and did everything in his power to help his Dad. I cannot imagine the anxiety he was experiencing as he performed the life saving techniques he had been taught--though due to God's plan were of no avail. His Dad at the young age of 57 passed away in his arms. When the doctor did his examination following his Dad's passing it was discovered that the cause was a blood clot going to the heart and causing his death.

Another call Wally went on was when a group of Strasburg High School boys were out for an evening and coming down Route 11 back into Strasburg. As they rounded the bend of the river coming into town, they had an accident on the curve. Another fireman on this call was removing a boy from the wrecked vehicle and did not recognize him as his own son due to the boy's injuries. His son survived but was left with a limp when he walked from the injuries he had received. Wally's heart was full of sadness as well as worry because he knew his daughter would be coming of age soon and would want to get her drivers' license. This gave him great cause for worry.

When Wally passed away the members of the Fire Department voted to name their meeting room The Wallace G. Lemley Meeting Room and requested a framed picture from the family to be hung there in recognition of his years of faithful service. In March 2007 my husband and I visited the Fire Department and some of the members were there. I asked if we could visit the meeting room which had been named after my Dad only to be told it was no longer called the Wallace G. Lemley meeting room. I was astonished that this had happened. We were shown a wall of pictures of firemen that had passed away. I thought this was a nice recognition for the men that had served so faithfully, but we were never given an explanation why the meeting room no longer was named after my Dad.

Wally was dedicated to taking care of his family, doing everything possible to help others, serving God as he had been taught since a young man and working to support the town he grew up in and loved.--Written by Sheila Lemley Galford (his only child)

Editors Note: At the time the Town Council named the large meeting room in the upstairs of the Fire Department building for Mr. Lemley, the entire building consisted of the fire department, the town office and council chambers, and the police department. A new municipal building has since been built to house the police department and the town office and the fire department remained in the original building. Over the years, the meeting rooms became storage rooms for the fire department, which would explain why the room was no longer named and why the firemen at the time of Sheila's visit had no knowledge of any particular name for the meeting room.

Sheila and her husband Jim live in Rustburg, Virginia. She is a retired administrative assistant and has remained active in the United Methodist church as president of the womens group, director of lay speaking and as a certified lay speaker in the Lynchburg District. She also volunteers at assisted living facilities. She and her husband, who is a retired engineer and minister, love to travel, read, and go antiquing. The SHA appreciates that she is sharing her memories with us.

Strasburg Heritage Association

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Membership Application & Renewal

REMINDER: 2016 DUES

Enclosed: Annual Dues for 2016: \$20.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

MEMBERSHIP: _____ Cost is \$20.00

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