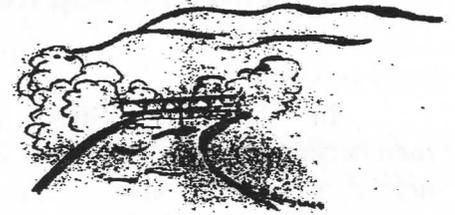


# Strasburg Heritage Association

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Strasburg, Virginia



## Annual Meeting to Feature Indian Culture and Elections

by *Babs Melton*

The Annual Meeting of the Strasburg Heritage Association is slated for 4:00-5:30 PM on Sunday, February 19, 2006, at Stonewall Jackson Museum at Hupp's Hill Battlefield Park. The annual meeting features election of Board members, installation of officers, a presentation on American Indian cultures, and refreshments.

Since Board members' terms rotate over a three-year period, SHA is assured of continuity in leadership. Accordingly, approximately 1/3 of the Board of Directors is up for (re-)election in any given year. The Nominating Committee of Chairman Mike Whittle, Barbara Adamson, Judy Troxell, and Babs Melton reported that for the 2006 term, Judy Bogner, Doug Cooley, and Fred Ritenour have opted not to continue on the Board but current Board members Babs Melton, Barbara Adamson, Don LeVine, and Dee Keister have agreed to run for reelection. The membership will have an opportunity to vote for these volunteers and any names proposed from the floor at the Annual Meeting. Not up for reelection, but continuing their service on SHA's Board are Dennis Hupp, Martha Jones, Kathy Kehoe, Jane Mowery, Richard Seelbach, Tim Taylor, and Judy Troxell.

According to the SHA By-laws, the Board of Directors chooses its own officers, so the body voted at its January 18 meeting to accept the recommendations of the Nominating Committee. Mike Whittle, the current Vice President, has agreed to move into the Presidency and Dee Keister will be the next Vice President. Secretary Barbara Adamson and Treasurer Don LeVine will stay in their current positions. They will be installed at the meeting.

SHA has been very fortunate to schedule **Louis Painted Pony** to speak on, and demonstrate aspects of, American Indian culture at the Annual Meeting. Painted Pony, an *Ish-naa-nay* (Muscallero Apache), made his way from New Mexico to Virginia via Maryland some years ago. Steeped in his tribal traditions and also well adapted to Shenandoah Valley lifeways, Pony provides important insights into Eastern Woodlands customs as compared to Plains Indians culture. You don't want to miss this unique program!

On a final note, your outgoing President would like to say farewell. Although I found these two years personally difficult with my mom's long illness and death, I take great pride in all that our organization has accomplished. Spearheaded by Sarah Mauck with input from numerous other volunteers, the new signage and brochures developed for the Historic Strasburg Walking Tour provide tangible and lasting evidence of our organization's appreciation of and efforts to preserve Strasburg's heritage, as do our ongoing work on the Oral History Project and Historic Buildings Inventory. What a great gift this is for future generations!

While I have agreed to stay on the Board for an additional term, after two years at the head of the table I'm proud to hand the gavel over to Mike Whittle, a man with enormous energy and vision for SHA. Our Board is simply great – dedicated and committed to SHA's goals of preservation and education. But, as "many hands make light work," I want to encourage the membership to step forward and assume a more active role: please consider volunteering to serve on the Board or on a Committee. With your ideas and energy, think of what we can accomplish!

## SHA Membership Renewal

by Barbara Adamson

In the past, SHA has sent our membership renewals on a quarterly basis according to when a member joined SHA. That was too complicated! So to simplify the process, the Board voted to set February as the annual membership renewal date for all members. No membership renewal requests have been mailed since the Spring of 2005, so all renewals are now due. We welcome your membership renewal now, but all members who have not renewed by late February will receive a reminder letter.

We thank you for your membership and support of efforts to fulfill SHA's mission statement: *To bring together citizens of the Town of Strasburg and surrounding Davis District and other interested parties to document their history, assume a leadership role as a voice for historical preservation of the community, and to promote Strasburg and Davis District as a desirable place to live, work, and visit.*

### **Show Your Pride In Strasburg's Heritage! Put a Plaque on your Historic Home!**

Obtaining a plaque is a purely voluntary effort to increase awareness of and pride in buildings important to the history of Strasburg and Davis District. Obtaining a plaque will not increase your real estate taxes or place limitations, restrictions, or covenants on your house.

To be eligible, the original building must be in Strasburg or the Davis District and be at least 60 years old (subsequent additions do not affect eligibility).

To apply, complete an application and mail with a check for \$120 to SHA, POB 525, Strasburg, VA 22657. The plaque and mounting hardware will be delivered in 4-6 weeks!

## Report on the 2005 Holiday Homes Tour

by co-chairs Barbara Adamson and Judy Troxell

Many, many thanks to those who so graciously opened their homes and churches for our 2005 Strasburg Holiday Heritage Homes Tour. We realize what an enormous amount of work is required to prepare for the Homes Tour, and we appreciate the generosity of those who made it such a success. As always, we received numerous compliments about the tour, which has clearly become a highlight of the holiday season. Our 234 visitors enjoyed the special things about each family's celebration of Christmas and enjoyed the opportunity to visit the church and historic school at Oranda and, of course, the newly renovated church in town.

Our thanks go to Richard and Mary Redmon, John Kuznicki and Marilea Waters, Robert and Karen Gnegy, Mike and Cindy Kerns, and Walnut Springs Church's and Strasburg Mennonite Church's congregations for being willing to open their homes and churches for the enjoyment of our community. We also thank the Massanutten Garden Club, who members supplied invaluable assistance as hosts, helped with decorating, and prepared refreshments. We also thank the many other volunteers from the community who acted as hosts and we greatly appreciate Hotel Strasburg, first Bank, Peoples Drug Store, Old Mill Restaurant, Stonewall Jackson Museum, Strasburg Chamber of Commerce, and Walton and Smoot Drugstore in Woodstock for selling our tickets. Strasburg Chamber of Commerce deserves thanks for promoting the Homes Tour in its advertising.

The Homes Tour serves to highlight our wonderful historic homes, promote an appreciation of our heritage, and encourage an ethic to preserve it while, at the same time, becoming an annual event enjoyed by the community. Many visitors have said that the tour kicks off the Christmas season for them – what a compliment!

*Editor's note: the two chairwomen deserve a resounding "thanks" for organizing the event!*

## Some "Minutes of the Town of Strasburg, 1882 to 1892," From #1 Record Book

July 8/1882 Ordinances for the running of a town were drawn up starting with sidewalks, nuisances, firearms, firecrackers, livestock, behavior of citizens, speed limits, riding or driving, horses or wagon or car, steam engines coming through town has to have a person warning people 50 yards ahead that a engine is coming and hold hitched horses if necessary, fish and meat, RR restrictions, chimneys and flues, lamps of the town, shows, peddlers and any other things that you can think of.

June 7/1887 \$20.00 was donated to the Strasburg Academy to purchase new benches, this was located at the corner of Queen and Massanutten Streets.

June 4/1889 Account of L.W. Keister of \$3.00 reduced to \$2.00 for laying one 1,000 bricks. Complaint of Peter Hinkens Property occupied by H.B. Chekbesin to move stinking hog pen.

May 6/1890 Paid L.D. Fleet \$6.00 for lighting town lamps for the months of March and April.

June 16/1890 On a motion it was ordered to sell the sough east square adjoining the property of Mrs. Rogers to the proposed bank officials.

Nov 4/1890 Mr. E. Zea was appointed to handle sale of this corner lot for a price of \$250.00.

January 6/1891 Councilmen to confer with the B&D Railroad with reference to building a depot with accommodations for passengers to replace depot on Fort Street Crossing.

April The committee staked off ground for depot and railroad officials seemed satisfied with location.

October 4/1892 Mr. Burgess appeared before council and ask for the privilege of running his real estate business without a license, OK at this time till business gets better.

## The Borum's Spring

by Doug Cooley

The Borum's Spring was located in the far northwest corner of the estate and home of Captain Anthony Spengler, which was built in 1820. During the period from 1920 to the early 1940's, Charles "Charlie" Borum and his wife Mariah owned this estate and lived there. It was then that it was known as the Borum's Spring.

On my fourth birthday, my mother let my older brothers Charles and Bill take me with them to this spring, about one half mile from our home on West King Street. We would go by the cottage at the end of Orchard Street owned by the Borum family where one of their farm workers, William (Potpie) Miller lived with his family, then follow a lane and cross a creek and a meadow until we came to the spring.

When I was about ten years old in 1930, I would make daily trips to my favorite spot near the spring. At that time there was a springhouse over it that was then getting quite old. It was obvious that families who had lived on the Spengler estate had used it for a long period to cool milk, watermelon, and other food products. The water temperature would be down in the low thirties even in mid-summer; your feet and legs would ache if you stood in the water very long.

A special attraction in the field nearby was the great number of Indian artifacts such as arrowheads, spearheads, and tomahawks. My brother Charles and I collected them and added them to the artifacts we found in the river bottomland around Strasburg. These are all part of the display at the Strasburg Museum. Prior to the 1700's, there was a lot of Indian activity in the area around Borum's Spring and along the Shenandoah River.

Behind the springhouse, some rocks and wood had been placed across the water to create a couple of ponds. In these ponds some wonderful watercress was growing that was harvested about twice each year. I would go out to the watercress ponds to watch and assist my friend Hobert Miller with his work. Hobert was a member of the Miller family from Fisher Hill. He would bring to the scene two large wooden barrels and a large block of ice and a very long

knife. Wearing hip boots, he would get into the water and cut down the cress. He would tie the cress into small bundles and I would place them into the barrels. When a few layers were in the barrels, I would chip ice and put it on top of each layer. When each barrel was full, a little more ice and the lids were placed on top. These were then taken to the Strasburg Junction train station for shipment to the markets in Baltimore and Washington. The well-to-do people in these cities would pay a good price for this delicacy since the hot taste of the watercress would put a lot of zest into their salads.

About a half mile south of the spring, there was a quite old house that belonged to the Borum family where the Joseph Artz family lived before they moved to their limestone house across from the Old Mill they owned and operated on the Valley Pike (Route 11). A large amount of water flowed in an eastern direction from the spring that went under a small wooden bridge and was diverted by the stone house where Joseph and Lottie Artz lived after they moved from the house on the Borum property. The speed of the water wheel was controlled when grinding the grain. The remainder of the water flowed around a bend under a bridge on Route 11 and down to the river below.

Charles and Mariah Borum sold the Spengler estate to the George Hinkins family in the 1940's and moved to the cottage they owned at the end of Orchard Street. After their deaths, the name *Borum's Spring* wasn't used by most people, but the name still lingers in my mind because of the wonderful experiences I had at that special place.

## Saturday Nights in Strasburg

by Doug Cooley

During 2006, when one rides down King Street in Strasburg at night, everything is dark and deserted with few if any people around. It is almost like a ghost town. It has not always been this way; in fact, during my youth, it was quite different.

Beginning in the 1920's through the Depression years of the 1930's and the World War II years of the 1940's, and ending with the

1950's, our story unfolds. During this period, all grocery, clothing, drugs, and hardware stores stayed open from early morning until eleven or twelve o'clock on Saturday nights, as did the restaurants, the barbershops, filling stations, and other businesses in Strasburg.

With this kind of convenience to suit their working hours, farmers and many others in the community responded to them. It wasn't long before a large number of people walked on both sides of King Street from Massanutten Street on the east side to Capon Street on the west. In good weather, there would be close to 2,000 people on the King Street sidewalks. Some would have to step over the curb into the street to let others pass. The people on the street came from Fort Valley, Star Tannery, Mount Olive, Fishers Hill, Lebanon church, Oranda, Toms Brook and Middletown to shop, attend a movie, or to just be part of the crowd.

The Saturday night spirit included a happy group of people who were relatives and friends. It was almost like a grand reunion every Saturday night. There was always an attitude of friendliness and caring among the group.

Most of the buildings on King Street that were included in the first and second volumes of my book *Strasburg Community Memories* were during this period. Those looking for amusements when they came to town would go to the pool hall, bowling alley, the Strand Theatre, or, later, the Home Theatre. Many of the young people would mix with the crowd and then get together at The Old Mill Restaurant, operated by George and Pauline Pappas, to party and dance by nickelodeon music until midnight.

There was rarely a parking problem. People would come early to get their favorite parking spot. Holbert Miller and his girl friend would usually park across from the Virginia Restaurant. Tilmer Stickley's family usually parked near the A&P store. Many others would seek the spot they like the most.

Fortunately, the spirit and attitude of friendliness and caring expressed then has influenced the people of the Strasburg Community. Older residents and new families alike feel this spirit and are glad to be a part of this great town.

**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). For those ambitious, a documented history of the building derived from the deed books in the Shenandoah County Court House (Woodstock) would be great. Just let us know if you need assistance in your research. Please fill in the following:

Building's Present Owner \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ 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, an estimate is acceptable. Sources might be:

Deed Book \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_

Will Book \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Record \_\_\_\_\_ Page No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date engraved or marked in woodwork or masonry \_\_\_\_\_

and the location of the marking in the building \_\_\_\_\_

Other sources (e.g., Grandfather Joel recalls the house being built in 1912) \_\_\_\_\_

Plaque Mounting (please check): Front mounted \_\_\_\_\_ OR Rear mounted \_\_\_\_\_

Please use extra sheet(s) for any stories, anecdotes, etc., about the building. It is hoped these will be the basis of a booklet on Historic Strasburg and Davis District.

Strasburg Heritage Association  
PO Box 525  
Strasburg, VA 22657

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: \$20

Patron (donation) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed form to: Strasburg Heritage Association  
P.O. Box 525  
Strasburg, Virginia 22657