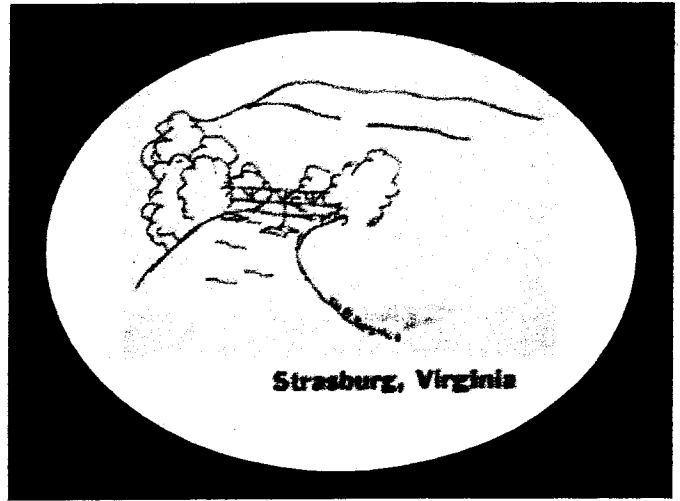


STRASBURG HERITAGE ASSOCIATION



VOLUME 9, ISSUE 1

WINTER 2009

STRASBURG, VIRGINIA

SHA Membership Meeting Sunday, February 22nd *"Indians in our Valley!!"*

Barbara Adamson

Join us for SHA's annual meeting and program on Sunday, February 22, 2009 from 4-6 PM at St. Paul Lutheran Church on W. Washington St. Our program speaker will be Carole Nash, archeologist and teacher who will share her vast amount of knowledge about Native Americans in the Shenandoah Valley and Shenandoah County. Carole teaches at JMU and is a member of the board of the Archeological Society of Virginia and works with chapters in the Valley, particularly the Massanutten Chapter in Harrisonburg. She has been a Field Director of Field Schools at Big Meadows for JMU and the National Park Service. Carole is an excellent speaker whose enthusiastic and knowledgeable presentation will spark your interest in the first people who lived here in the Valley.

The meeting will also include the election of board members. Please join us for fellowship and refreshments!

Approaching Sesquicentennial

In 2011 Strasburg will be celebrating its 250th Anniversary. At the same time, the commemoration of the Civil War will begin, with anticipated activities planned in the region through 2015. The SHA board has expressed its intent to participate in commemorative activities and will be planning to sponsor activities here in Strasburg. We welcome your suggestions and participation with upcoming events.

INTERIM PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KATHY KEHOE

This has been an exciting and productive year for the Strasburg Heritage Association. We gained two new wonderful board members and look forward to more. We continue to work as a team to foster and encourage enthusiasm and creativity in each of our members. We each bring our own special talents and abilities to share to make our association better and the best. Every year brings new and interesting experiences. We were sad that our community lost a past and founding SHA member, Doug Cooley, who wrote many articles for the SHA newsletter. We completed the first rescue preservation of the first grave in the old town cemetery and had several interesting annual meetings, including a visit to historic Harmony Hall and a wonderful quilt demonstration. SHA pulled together a fantastic Homes Tour Committee with Chair Maggie Maloney and produced another successful Homes Tour. I am so very happy that we did the homes tour this year, particularly after our slow start. The Committee produced, as Committee member Wendy Pieper described, "an outstanding event." The hard work of the committee was obvious. They put together a fabulous brochure and created great advertising. Our townspeople got a chance to "re-live history" for the 8th year in a row. I saw many familiar faces coming back this year and there were new faces too. I think it was evident that nobody was disappointed. The homeowners seemed to really love sharing their beautiful and interesting homes with us. I love the homes tour every year, but this year I was especially grateful for all the hard work and enthusiasm that was put into it, by the very positive and enthusiastic Committee, the gracious homeowners, and our wonderful docents who keep coming back every year. It has truly become a town tradition for the whole community. I, and all those who were able to enjoy another Heritage Homes Tour, say Thank You to all those who worked to make our 2008 Strasburg Heritage Homes Tour "an outstanding event." --Kathy

Announcement

Shenandoah County Historical Society
Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Program meeting by Don Silvius who will speak about the VAGenWeb website (vagenweb.org), an excellent online resource for anyone interested in genealogy and history.

St. Paul's UCC, 106 S. High St. in Edinburg at 7:00 pm. High St. is one block west of Rt. 11. The public is invited.

2008 Holiday Heritage Homes Tour Report

Maggie Maloney, Chair

The 2008 Holiday Heritage Homes Tour managed to be a great success even though this annual event was nearly cancelled earlier in the season, and the date was changed from the first weekend in December to the second weekend. Two hundred sixty people attended the eighth annual event.

The 2008 Christmas Homes Tour managed to be a great success even though this annual event was nearly cancelled earlier in the season, and the date was changed from the first weekend in December to the second weekend. With 260 attendees, the 2008 Tour enjoyed the second largest turnout in its* eight-year history. As always, much of the credit for this success belongs to the homeowners who so beautifully decorated and graciously opened their homes to the public. Once again we wish to thank Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dixon, Craig Morris and Mike Marcheterre, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Shea, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ritenour and Mr. and Mrs. Marty White for their enthusiasm and creativity. Special thanks also go to Crissy Willis Maddox of Cristina's Cafe for opening her doors for refreshments during the tour.

The Tour included some of the oldest homes ever to be shown * two each from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries * which are fine examples of early Strasburg architecture.

In addition to the homeowners, SHA members Barbara Adamson, Wendy Pieper, Judy Troxell, Joan Williams and our president, Kathy Kehoe are to be congratulated for their intrepid dedication, hard work and great, good humor.

As always, we also wish to thank the Massanutten Garden Club for their contribution of beautiful arrangements and greenery, help as docents and contribution to the refreshments.

Heritage Rescue Report

Update on old tannery outbuilding

Barbara Adamson

We reported in the spring that the owner of a house on Brown St. offered to give us an old, log tannery building located on the site, if we would take it down. He planned to replace the building with a modern shed and preferred to see it taken down and reconstructed elsewhere rather than demolished. We eagerly examined the building and discussed options for relocating it. After a great deal of consideration SHA has decided not to pursue the dismantling, storage and reconstruction elsewhere of the building. Its condition is poor with a considerable percentage of the logs damaged and requiring replacement. The roof is not original. The building is not in its original context, having been moved sometime after 1950 from the north side of Queen St. Also, historic preservationist James Massey examined the building and noted that its rude construction, without windows, indicates its lack of importance at the time of construction after the Civil War and that it was built only as a rough shed. When we reported our decision to the property owner, he stated that he and his tenant have decided to continue using the building instead of replacing it. So, you'll still see this reminder of a lost industry tucked away along Town Run.

Welcome New Board Member

We are pleased to announce our newest board member Marie Spence. Marie is a life long resident of Shenandoah County and a graduate of Strasburg High School, Shenandoah University and James Madison University. She also attended UVA. Marie taught school one year in Shenandoah County and then spent 34 years as an educator in Frederick County schools, teaching social studies, U.S. History and government. A local historian, Marie has authored two books on the history of the Strasburg Presbyterian Church. She researched the church history back 60 years to create "Reflections Along the Path" for the church 180th anniversary in 2002 and later wrote a second volume. At James Wood High School, Marie's exceptional photojournalism produced 10 award winning yearbooks. As well as her strong interest in history and English, she has also studied her Celtic ancestry. Her mother's ancestors were Irish and her father's Scottish ancestors came to Jamestown in 1607; Ancestor William Spence was a "first farmer" in the settlement. Marie has been a member of the Strasburg Museum Board for three years. She enjoys doing presentations for local civic groups on such topics as First Ladies, history, photography, and genealogy. The joy of her life is her Irish Terrier "Dirk." Marie

enjoys traveling and has visited ten other countries and recently hiked the Southwestern U.S. canyons in Arizona, Utah and the Grand Canyon.

We are honored to have Marie on the SHA board and are very happy she is sharing her many skills and abilities with us. She will be a valuable asset.

Shannonhouse Building Marie Spence

One large white frame multi-level structure, circa 1890's, which stands at 219 West King near the corner of Fort Street, has served numerous purposes for our community throughout its history and currently as Cristina's Café. For most of its existence, this building was directly adjacent to a better remembered edifice known as the Kaplan Building which originally was constructed as the People's Bank (local roots of the First Bank). When this bank relocated, Reuben Kaplan moved his business from the Strasburg Junction and operated a grocery and soft goods

store at that corner location on what then was widely known as part of "the business section" of Strasburg.

Mr. & Mrs. Kaplan and their three sons conducted business on the first floor and lived above the store for many decades. Later years saw several other businesses come and go until April 23, 1998 when a massive fire destroyed that structure. Great concern was raised that destructive day about the safety of neighboring buildings including the Strasburg Community Library, but only the Kaplan Building burned.

According to numerous long term Strasburg area citizens, the building has had many purposes and physical remodels. Once a business school in its early years, it has also served as a restaurant and bar run at different times by Lute Ludwig and Jazzbo Connor (father of Graham Connor), as Bob Riddleberger's General Merchandise and Clothing Store, a sandwich shop, Bush's Barber Shop (1940's thru 1960's), a laundry mat, Benson Pet Supply, a washing machine and heavy appliance enterprise, a furniture store, a coffee shop, a card shop and, in more recent years, several restaurants. The building's current occupant is Cristina's Cafe. Cristina's Cafe provided refreshments for this year's Holiday Heritage Homes Tour.

In its early years, the building was owned and leased to various business people by owner F. E. (Floyd) Grove. Later Pete (Cecil) Grove owned the structure and in more recent years Ann Grove Keller oversaw the property. It is now owned by Byron Brill and leased by Chrissy Willis Maddox.

Throughout its existence, this main street structure maintained relevant usefulness for the citizens of our community and visitors.

Update on Old Cemetery

The tombstone preservation work reported in our last newsletter has been completed at the old Queen St. Cemetery. Under the direction of member Gloria Stickley, Rinker & Frye Memorials in Mt. Jackson cleaned the 18th Century tombstone of Obadiah Funk and placed a protective plexiglass cover over it. Adjacent to the tombstone they placed a new granite marker with the same inscription as the original stone, which has become very difficult to read. Our thanks go to Gloria for spearheading this project. Make a visit to the cemetery and see the preservation work. It is part of the Strasburg Walking Tour on Queen Street.

The Heritage Association Remembers C. Douglas Cooley

Kathy Kehoe

C. Douglas Cooley, who died at the age of 87, was a founding member of the Strasburg Heritage Association and contributed many wonderful articles to the newsletter. Our community lost this local historian and author in October. Doug is especially remembered by the three volumes he wrote about his life and about the town of Strasburg: "Strasburg Community Memories—A Pictorial Display in the Strasburg Museum", "Strasburg Community Memories—The Second Volume", and "My Strasburg—The Beginning and Ending of my Life There," an autobiography. Doug also wrote "A Strasburg Potter's Daughter."

Doug was a great story teller and had a wonderful sense of humor. He writes in one of his books that after he retired, he and his wife Pauline moved back to Strasburg and couldn't decide which church to attend. Since they had "relatives and good friends in each one of the Strasburg churches" they decided that they would attend each one once a month. He writes of attending a community prayer breakfast and sitting at a table with all the ministers in town. Doug teased the ministers about which one would conduct his funeral. "I suggested that they match for it or play odd man out." he writes. As Doug tells it, the ministers decided each one would say something, "if there was anything worthwhile to say." Doug jokes that "I am sure it will be a brief service." As it turned out, Doug's memorial service was held at the Strasburg Methodist Church with Methodist ministers, Rev. Ed Winkler and Rev. Bill Taylor, Pastor-Emeritus and the Rev. Dr. Geneal Wilson, Pastor of the Christian Church.

In "My Strasburg" , written in 2002, Doug reflects on his eventual final journey from this life: He writes, "To bring down the curtain on at least some of the highlights of my life, I must say it has been a good one filled with a variety of experiences. I have a place in our family plot in Riverview that is ready for my ashes. That is the easy part. The hard part is not knowing whether my report card is acceptable enough to get me where I want to go on my next trip. The travels I have made to places all around the world were enjoyable for the most part, although there was some fear and apprehension involved on some of them and there will probably be some on this one. However, I still look forward to going to a place where I have never been. Hopefully, it will be a beautiful one. I shall see....."

I am sure it was a beautiful one for C. Douglas Cooley, our neighbor and friend.

Strasburg Heritage Association
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL
Members 2009 Dues are now due!

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