

# Strasburg Heritage Association



Strasburg, Virginia  
www.strasburgvaheritage.org

## SHA Quarterly Meeting

### You are invited! Strasburg’s Early Days and First Families and the 250<sup>th</sup> Monument Dedication

We hope all of you can attend what will be an exciting event – the presentation by Daniel W. Bly of “Strasburg’s Early Days & First Families” and the dedication of the monument to honor our town’s founding 250 years ago. Set for Sunday, February 27, and to be held at the Strasburg Volunteer Fire Department, the event is also SHA’s annual meeting and will include a brief business meeting and elections for the Board of Directors. The SHA annual meeting will begin at 2:15 with the 250<sup>th</sup> program to follow at 3:00 pm. In an effort to accomplish our annual meeting before the larger crowd arrives for the 250<sup>th</sup> program, we decided to ask our members to gather early. By the time we finish guests will be arriving for the program following. Please make an effort to attend the 2:15 annual meeting – we need a quorum!

Co-sponsored by the SHA and the 2-5-0 Committee, our program will be the presentation by author, historian and native son of Strasburg Daniel W. Bly about the settlement of Strasburg and our early families. Following the program we will walk across the street for the dedication of the monument – a bronze plaque embedded in a beautiful native limestone rock – to commemorate the people who founded our town 250 years ago. Guests will be invited back to the Fire Hall after the dedication for refreshments.

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### Nominating Committee Report

Nominating Committee members Sue Foster and Barbara Adamson have reported that board members up for re-election in 2011 include Dennis Hupp, Martha Jones, Kathy Kehoe, Wendy Pieper, Richard Seelbach, Tim Taylor and Judy Troxell. Martha Jones has decided that she will not stand for re-election and we have lost Michael Whittle from the board due to his move out of state. We are very pleased that Mary Hitchings and Linda Williams have agreed to serve to fill the two vacated positions. We thank Dennis, Kathy, Wendy, Richard, Tim and Judy for continuing on the board. While continuing on the board, Richard has decided to step down as treasurer with Sue Foster taking up that position. Our thanks to all of you for your contributions

# President's Letter

Barbara Adamson

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2011 is here and the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration has begun! The year arrived in style with the New Year's Celebration sponsored by the 2-5-0 Committee held at the Recreation Center on Rt. 11North. Attendance was very good and it was clear that folks were enjoying themselves with music, children's activities, bowling, swimming and a mid-night balloon drop. Congratulations to event organizers Patsy Morehead and Kate Sowers for getting the year off to a good start.

The next 250<sup>th</sup> event is our annual meeting and program Feb. 27, which will include the election of members of the SHA board. The Nominating Committee report is elsewhere in this newsletter but I want to thank Michael Whittle for having served on the board since 2003 and as president from 2006-08. We miss him and hope he and Cheryl will be back in Strasburg soon. Martha Jones, who is also leaving the board, has been a valuable member since 2005. We have especially appreciated her knowledge of local history and genealogy. While Richard Seelbach is remaining on the board, he is stepping down as treasurer. We appreciate the important contribution he has made in that post for the past four years. Our thanks to all of you. And I thank all of those who continue to serve on the board.

Thanks also go to our members and board members for hosting a Community Meal at St. Paul in January. We were pleased to participate in this worthy community effort.

I hope to see all of you at the annual meeting and 2-5-0 program on Feb. 27!

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## LITTER PICK-UP DAY

Join us on Saturday, April 30th for litter pick up for the SHA Adopt-a-Street program. We'll meet at the Old Mill Restaurant parking lot at 8 a.m. to work our way down Rt. 11 South.

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## Reminder: February Dues

Dues are due in February. Your \$20.00 annual membership dues help keep the newsletter coming, support our quarterly program meetings and subsidize our historic building plaque program. They also help fund projects such as the Strasburg Museum's new roof and Strasburg's 250th celebration. Our newsletter is made possible through many hours of volunteer time and the many town residents who share their memories and allow us to share it with you. Thank you for being a part of the SHA! - Kathy Kehoe.



## **Strasburg's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

### **2-5-0 Activity Updates**

*By Barbara Adamson*

We're pleased to announce that BB&T Bank has made a \$2,500 contribution to SHA to be used for Strasburg's 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Many thanks to BB&T for their generous support. Their contribution is another example of the great support from our community during the commemoration of the founding of our town.

If you haven't stopped to look at the 2-5-0 windows in the Arthur and Brown Law Offices be sure to make an effort to do so. The first two exhibitors, Strasburg Rotary Club and Strasburg American Legion Post 77, filled the windows during the month of January with colorful displays. Now you need to catch the February exhibitors, Queen St. & Sunset Hills School 1875-1965 and the SHS FFA and SKMS FFA groups. We hope you'll make a point of stopping by every month to see who's in the windows next!

We'll have more details later about our second quarterly program, scheduled for June 18, Strasburg Pottery-Fest. Previously the event was scheduled to be held June 25, but because of conflicts, the date has been changed. We couldn't celebrate the history of our town without a day that focuses on Strasburg pottery!

Other activities this spring include the Strasburg Community Library Series, "Strasburg During the Great Depression: A Look at the 1930s", on March 19 at 7 PM to be held at the library; a 5KRun, 30KBike, 5KRun Duathlon to be held on April 9; and another in the Library Series, "Strasburg on the Home Front During WWII", scheduled for May 7 at 7 PM at the library. You can view the entire 2-5-0 calendar on our website, [strasburgvaheritage.org](http://strasburgvaheritage.org) or go to the Chamber website at [strasburgvachamber.com](http://strasburgvachamber.com). Be sure to check the calendar periodically for details and any changes or additions.

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## ***A Little History on History***

*By*

***Kathy Kehoe***

Our town is 250 years old this year. While we citizens are planning, participating, and documenting the activities of 2011, we are also remembering back fifty years ago, when local businesses and citizens worked together to preserve our heritage.

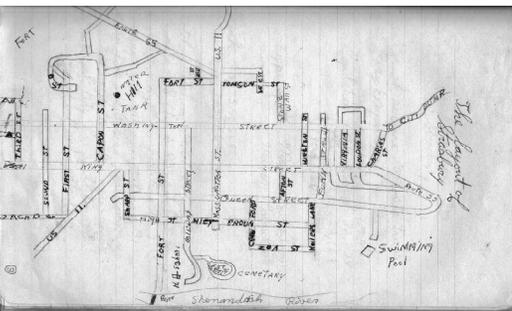
Those of us who are alive to remember the bicentennial were either children or young adults in 1961. Most of the older townspeople who participated in the 200<sup>th</sup> are gone, as we older citizens of today will be gone when the town celebrates its 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary. What we leave behind in the way of documentation will be part of our legacy, recorded memories for our descendants and others who will choose to be citizens of Strasburg.

Much of the community involvement for the town's 200<sup>th</sup> was organized, promoted and funded by local businesses. Area businesses involved in the 200<sup>th</sup> celebration included the banks, the electric company, stores on Main Street, and our local newspaper and publishing house. The citizens put on a community play, participated in a parade and competed for best float. The Cub scouts, Fire Department Woman's Auxiliary, and both banks entered floats into the Bicentennial Parade.

One of our most cherished historical accounts is the "Story of Strasburg" written by our local author and historian Virginia Hinkins Cadden in 1961. "Gin" Cadden, who lives in the family historical home "Spengler Hall" in Strasburg, wrote articles on the history of Strasburg for the Northern Virginia Daily newspaper in honor of the town's bicentennial. Her writings and other "historical articles" were then "compiled and reprinted as a public service by the First National Bank (now 1st Bank). This booklet was used in Strasburg school classrooms in 1961 and for many years afterwards when Strasburg students studied the history of their hometown. The officers and directors of the bank are listed on the back of the booklet, but it is not known who wrote these words in the preface: "Believing that the strength of our present day community stems in large measure from the deeply sunk roots of yesteryear, we think it is important for each succeeding generation to be reminded of the wellspring from whence has come our accomplishment of the past, and now springs our hope for the future." This year, in honor of our 250<sup>th</sup> birthday, the SHA is updating and reprinting "The Story of Strasburg."

One 12-year-old boy, already harboring a passion for history, stored his seventh grade project on his hometown carefully away for fifty years.

Mike Kehoe's English assignment called "My Strasburg Booklet" documents how the townspeople recognized their heritage. In that first year of a new decade, time seemed to move a little slower. This was before the History Channel, when traveling was not as frequent or as easy, before Interstate 81, before we knew what living history portrayals were all about. For many, this was the first time they learned anything about local history. "The biggest thing to me" said Mike, "were the displays in the store windows. Every store on Main Street had a display." His favorite was Julian Hammond's Appliance Store window with Indian artifacts and Civil War relics. He remembers seeing antiques and the Miller Bible in one window. Barricks Shoe Shop had a Civil War artifact display in his shop window beside the town run. (a building since torn down that had stood across the run from what is now the Dollar Store).



Mike drew a map of the streets for his project booklet and then listed the businesses along the street. "King Street.....runs through Strasburg for about a mile..... There are six stores in the town just on main street. These six (grocery stores): Lamberts, Safeway, Skeeters, Johnsons, Brills and Littles. There are four barbershops; there are two shoe shops, one beauty shop, a Singer sewing

machine shop and one theatre. There are six doctors—three physicians, two dentists and one veterinarian. The NewsStand is next, (then the) two drugstores, Vaughn's Drug Store and Peoples Drug Store. The Massanutten Bank is located on the corner .....and the other side is First National Bank." One of Mike's best friends and classmates, John Painter, recalls how he rode his bicycle around town, writing down the names of the streets for his project.

Many post cards available in 1961 were published by Shenandoah Publishing House. Mike added these postcards to his project which included the Strasburg Post Office and Lloyd's Department Store. Another one, titled "Municipal Reservoir, Strasburg, VA." has this

caption: "Within this valley during 1922-23, the town of Strasburg Constructed a 25,000,000-gallon reservoir.



The First National Bank sponsored a float and furnished colonial costumes for employees, their family and friends to wear while riding the float. Several seventh graders are in a group picture taken before the parade. Brenda Keller Weaver remembers how she and "John Painter, Ricky Roller, Joyce Garber.....dressed up in those costumes and we rode on the First National Bank float. My dress was red with black lace. I thought it was so pretty." Joyce Garber Gamse said, "I remember it so well. We got to ride on a float in the Strasburg Bi-Centennial Parade. This was such a happy day! Later there was a big party and covered dish picnic. Daddy got to play the

organ and sing 'Roll out the barrel, we'll have a barrel of fun.' And we did!" Joyce's father is listed on the back of "The Story of Strasburg" as "H. Glenn Garber, Cashier." Others in the photo are Mildred L. Ridings, Assistant Cashier, and Pat Clem. A clipping from the NVD is a picture of the "Winner of the Best Float award for the bicentennial parade" by the First National Bank, with a stagecoach and four white horses and citizens in colonial costumes. Lila

Williams remembers making her husband Jim a colonial outfit for one of the floats. The Cub Scouts won the Grand Prize Award for their "Miller Massacre" float, depicting the Indian attack on settlers in 1764. According to a NVD editorial in 1961, "A parade drew the attendance of about 5,000 persons who saw bits of Americana of the colonial and intervening eras.'



THE BICENTENNIAL MUSEUM is being operated by members of the Stover Camp, United Daughters of the Confederacy. Here are seven of the ladies attired in period costumes. They are Mrs. Julia Hammond, Miss Patricia Higgs, Mrs. Samuel Slocum, Mrs. L. A. Zerkle, Mrs. Ray and Mrs. Julia Campbell. In front of the ladies is a chair of ancient vintage which has attracted much interest. Hanging on the wall behind are other museum pieces.

The Daughters of the Confederacy Stover Camp operated a Bicentennial Museum. Many of the items they collected from citizens for display were later donated or loaned to create the Strasburg Museum we have today.

The NVD reprinted articles from The Strasburg News. One article was the first editorial, in 1881 announcing that it was "published weekly by J. B. McInturff and S. D. Myers, Editors and Proprietors." It sold for one dollar for a year's subscription. The editors requested "all communications should be addressed to "THE NEWS", Strasburg, Va. I'm sure that, in 1882, that was all the address needed on the envelope for the U.S. Post Office to deliver to the newspaper. One part of that news was the announcement of a new store called Fisher & Bro. where you could buy "groceries, confectioneries, fresh and salt meats, flour and mill-feed."

Mike wrote in his 7<sup>th</sup> grade conclusion: "In the next hundred years if the world is not destroyed by then, there may be such changes in Strasburg that one person... would marvel at the changes." And so we have marveled at the changes in the past fifty years.

An 1961 NVD editorial entitled "Successful Bicentennial" sums it up this way: "Future generations will profit because history which might have been lost has been made to live again."



LLOYD'S DEPARTMENT STORE  
STRASBURG, VA.  
Photo by Bell, Strasburg, Va.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

As Good As Can Be - Shenandoah County through the Lens of Hugh Morrison, Jr." an exhibit at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in partnership with the Shenandoah County Historical Society. February 11 - July 3, 2011

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Welcome to Fort Valley", a program about this new book presented by its authors, Jeanette Ritenour, Meg & Jim Trott. Hosted by the Shenandoah County Historical Society. Tuesday, March 8, 7PM, St. Paul's Heritage Center 106 S. High St.  
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### Strasburg Heritage Association

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[www.strasburgvaheritage.org](http://www.strasburgvaheritage.org)

### Membership Application & Renewal (Members 2011 dues are now due.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost is \$20.00

Additional Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please mail completed form to:

Strasburg Heritage Association

PO Box 525

Strasburg, VA 22657