

The Strasburg Heritage Association

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Strasburg, Virginia

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Judy Bogner

The Strasburg Heritage Association is proud to have the opportunity to partner with our community to preserve the rich history, architecture and heritage of a Valley treasure, our small town of Strasburg and the surrounding Davis District.

In our fast paced world and increasing isolation from each other, most of us long for a return to quieter times when people got to know their neighbors, and to a revived sense of community. The Strasburg Heritage Association needs your support to help us protect our history and our special sense of community.

We welcome and encourage all residents to become members of SHA because each person will bring something unique and valuable to the organization.

We hope you enjoy reading our first newsletter and that you find it informative. Please join us in our upcoming series of planned activities. We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing and talking with you at our Strasburg Heritage Association Community Meeting on September 9th.

GENERAL MEETING

Scheduled Speakers for Sept. 9th Meeting

SHA will hold its second general meeting on Sunday, Sept. 9 at 4 p.m. at The Old Mill Restaurant in Strasburg. The program will include several speakers.

David Edwards from the Winchester office of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources will speak about Historic District designation, signage and what these kinds of projects can mean to preservation efforts in our community.

Howard Kittell, Executive Director of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation will let us know how plans are proceeding with the Valley Battlefields Cluster project and specifically with our own Cedar Creek/Fishers Hill/Toms Brook Cluster.

National Park Service project manager, Wendy O'Sullivan, will talk about the possible formation of a national park at Cedar Creek. The Strasburg Town Council and the SHA Board both recently passed resolutions in support of the formation of such a park.

Mary Jo Scala of the Valley Conservation Council in Staunton will speak about their preservation efforts and how their experiences may be of help to our group in the future.

And Nancy Walsh from Valley Abstracts, will take a few minutes to share instructions on how to research deeds at the Shenandoah County Courthouse. Nancy is a professional in this field and should be of great help to anyone wishing to document the age and history of their home.

Refreshments will be served at the meeting. The public is welcome.

A PIECE OF HISTORY

Virginia Cadden

The Hupp Mansion is the largest building of the complex of historic Hupp Family properties at the old town boundary on Rt. 11 North. It is the large brick house with tall columns on the east side of the highway. The first section or west wing was built by Geo. Franklin Hupp, Sr. who was paymaster during the War of 1812 and who operated a number of charcoal iron furnaces in Fort Valley, West Virginia and elsewhere including the Columbia Furnace operation with its narrow gauge railroad in the Edinburg area. His son built the main portion of the the brick house and columns were added by subsequent owners. Here at various times during the Civil War Confederate Generals Stonewall Jackson and Jubal Early, and Federal Generals Banks and Shields, made the large and convenient building their headquarters while campaigning in the Shenandoah Valley. More than a hundred years later it became the home of the original English spoken version of the Oberammergau Passion Play. In a beautiful garden theater, with local children and adults augmenting the professional cast for a number of years, the play opened in July, 1971.

The mansion house overlooks two of its progenitors on the west side of the highway, the Frontier Fort, the current residence of Frank Hupp, and another small stone building which served as the still house for the original 1000 acre property. The Frontier Fort was built in

1775 beside a copious spring (the source of Strasburg's "town run") and is the original Hupp homestead. It was used as a fort in Indian attacks, the water being led into the cellar and the walls loopholed. About seventy feet downstream is the small structure known as the distillery which within memory has been used as a restaurant, office and residence.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 18TH--LIVING TOWNS CONFERENCE.

NEW MARKET

This year's theme, "Old Crossroads-New Crossroads", will explore the challenge of keeping the older parts of our towns viable while visitors may only see the shops and eateries increasingly being built on the fringes of towns.

Tom Christoffel, senior planner for the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission, will moderate the conference. The public is welcome. Cost to attend is \$20.00 and includes a catered lunch, walking tour of New Market and will conclude with cookies and punch at the New Market Battlefield. For more information call 740-3432.

Saturday, December 8, Christmas House Tour: SHA is sponsoring a holiday tour of homes in Strasburg from 12-5 p.m. More details will follow.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITY

We are pleased to report that the Strasburg Town Ordinance Committee has formed a sub-committee called the Community Improvement Committee. It's purpose is to note properties within town that have become eyesores. The Committee is charged with the responsibility to contact these property owners and work with them to enforce town ordinances regarding trash, debris and other unsightliness. This topic has been of concern to SHA members and we hope this new committee will have a positive effect on a growing problem. Tim Crisman has been appointed chairman of the committee and Maggie Hyde, Marshall Robinson, Tim Taylor, Brent Manuel and Kevin Fauber are members. The Committee has scheduled its first meeting for Monday, Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall. The public is welcome to attend.

PLAQUE COMMITTEE REPORT

Among the highest priorities with SHA Board and members has been our goal to create a historic building plaque. We believe that recognizing our old homes with this signage increases awareness and pride in these buildings within our community. The plaques will contain our logo and name and the date of construction of the building.

The Logo Committee, with Sarah Mauck as chairperson, and the Plaque Committee, with Carla Wallen as chairperson, have joined forces to work on this project. Other committee members include Dee Keister and Don Le Vine.

The Committee, as well as the entire board, has spent a great deal of time considering various logo designs that reflect Strasburg's history. Hilary White, a local artist, has generously given of her time and talent to produce on paper the ideas we've shared with her. We expect to have a final design very soon.

The Committee has also been working on the process by which plaques will be placed on buildings. The cost of each plaque will be around \$90-100 and will be borne by the homeowner. The SHA board has decided that the criteria for the age of the house will be 60 years of age and older. We are asking the homeowner to do their own research about the history of the house. One of the best sources of information for this is property and tax records at the Shenandoah County Courthouse. Realizing that many people have no familiarity with accessing county records, we will try to help property owners whenever possible. Several of our members have volunteered to help out and, at our September 9 general meeting, Nancy Walsh, a research professional, will share information about conducting your own research.

We also encourage owners to share stories about people and events associated with their house. If the building is a business, stories about previous owners and uses would be appropriate. Photographs, drawings, plats or any other graphic materials would also be welcome. An application form with complete information about the process is available upon request. Call Sarah Mauck @ 465-5590 or Carla Wallen @465-8793.

SUPPER AT MARLBORO FURNACE

Mr. Gene Dicks has graciously invited SHA members and the Middletown Heritage Society to a covered dish social at Isaac Zane's Marlboro Furnace on Sunday, Sept. 23. The social is to be held from 3-6 p.m. There is no charge.

Marlboro Furnace was the location of two Indian sites from the Archaic and Woodland Indian periods and many artifacts have been recovered there. There will be an exhibit of Indian artifacts found on site. Mr. Dicks will also have an exhibit of artifacts from the iron industry, which was present there beginning in the 18th century and will talk about the operation of the furnace. **Guests are asked to bring a covered dish to share and BRING THEIR OWN CHAIRS.**

Marlboro Furnace is located on Middle Road on the Frederick County side of Cedar Creek. RSVP to Judy Bogner at 465-5502. Don't miss this rare chance to enjoy the history of this significant site!

HISTORIC DISTRICT SIGNS--Many people may not be aware that a portion of the town of Strasburg is designated a Historic District. One of SHA's first priorities is the erection of signs to recognize the presence of this district. We will be working with Town officials on this project.

Strasburg Heritage Association Board of Directors

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Strasburg Heritage Association
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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

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