Volume 26 Fall 2026 Issue 3



NEWSLETTER

Strasburg, Virginia

Strasburg Holiday Homes Tour

Saturday, December 12th

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tickets go on sale Thanksgiving weekend.

$15.00

Don't miss this year's tour: Buy your tickets:

Clementine Vintage
148 E. King St.

Sager Real Estate
111 E. King St.

Strasburg Visitors' Center on Hupp's Hill

And on December 12 at the stops on the Tour

2026 Strasburg Heritage Association Homes Tour

Showcasing four beautiful homes and two historic buildings for our semi-annual Holiday Homes Tour.

by Mary Redmon and Maggie Maloney



Built in1892, this beautifully preserved Queen Anne influenced Victorian home at 220 S. Massanutten St. leans heavily into the romantic, whimsical aesthetic of the era. It retains its original wood interior doors, historic hardware, nine foot ceilings, and beautiful hardwood floors. Karen Cox and John Preloh have chosen furnishings that compliment the flowing, light filled spaces. An expansive porch that wraps around two sides is another feature of homes of the day. In the early 20th century the home served as an academy for girls. The finished third floor doubled as a recreation area, dormitory space, and a makeshift auditorium for theatrical skits. The tiny stage is flanked by nooks for storing props and costumes.



The lovely 1930 brick Colonial Revival at the corner of Massanutten and Queen is the home of Sara and Norm Cohen. The home features a large, light filled entry hall. Double doors on the right open to a spacious dining room. On the left is a full length living room that opens to a comfortable screened porch.
The home is tastefully decorated with an eclectic mix of modern furniture, oriental accents, original art pieces, and enormous, thriving house plants.



Academy Hall on High Street, one of the oldest brick buildings in Shenandoah County, was a school for boys in the mid-1800's, The home features beautiful random width pine floors, a graceful curving staircase, and exposed ceiling beams. Adam and Megan Smith purchased the house in 2023
and have been lovingly restoring it to preserve its historical charm. A terraced patio and garden have been added at the rear of the home.



Lance and Pam Cardaro's charming Strasburg two up, two down home at 165 W. Washington St. was built in 1900. It features a center staircase with the cozy living room to the right as you enter and a dining room to the left. The living room is highlighted by a mantel carved with ivy and tulips. An antique pine dining table and chairs and a cherished family rocking chair furnish the dining room. An open plan kitchen and den has been added to the back of the home. Many interesting items decorate the home throughout.



St. Paul Lutheran Church, built in 1844, will open it's doors to the Homes Tour this year. The Congregation dates from the mid-18th Century and will be displaying a number of artifacts from their long history. The sanctuary featuring an elaborately carved Andover organ and beautiful stained glass windows will be open to those on the Tour. The narthex will feature a display of artifacts from the church's long history.

We are pleased to present, courtesy of Laura Ellen Wade, a display of antique dolls from the collection of her mother, former Strasburg elementary teacher, Virginia Beeler, in the Fellowship Hall.

Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall and bathrooms are available for guests.



The Strasburg Museum is inviting folks on the Homes Tour this year to come and step back in time among the artifacts and memorabilia of our beautiful historic town. The space will be decorated and the gift shop will be open. Richard Kleese and his co-authors will be signing their book *"So Badly Routed, the Battle of Fisher's Hill"* during the Tour.

During the Holiday Homes Tour the Winchester Arts Chorale Outreach Group will be caroling at stops along the Tour.

President's Letter

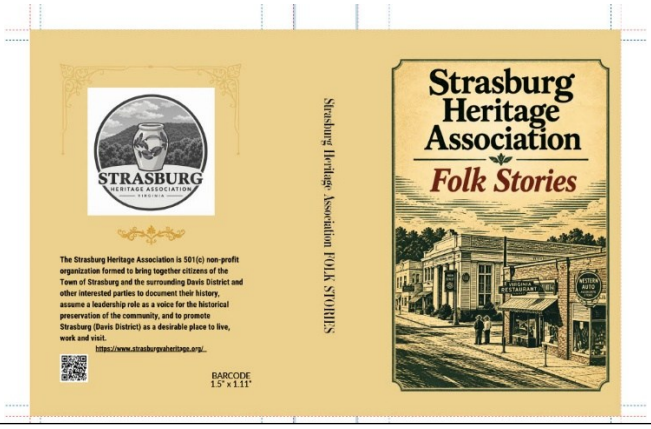
Tim Taylor

Greetings from the Strasburg Heritage Association! Hard to believe, but the holiday season is here! We are excited about our Holiday Homes Tour, which is scheduled for Saturday, December 12th. We have great destinations as always, so I hope you take the time to enjoy this opportunity and get in the holiday spirit. A big "thank you" to the property owners for being part of this year's tour and the SHA Board Members, led by Mary Redmon that has organized this special holiday event. More information can be found in this newsletter and on our website.

We are very excited to share that we have composed our first book ever! It is a compilation of our folk stories from our newsletters and ghost stories from our ghost tours. The book will make a great holiday present. More information on how to purchase this great book will be on our website, social media and in our local newspapers soon.

If you have a home that is 60 years or older, you can get one of our beautiful historical building plaques. The interest in this program has increased, with many plaques being purchased this year. Thanks to Joan Williams for leading our plaque program! You can learn how to get your own plaque via our website and in this newsletter.

Have a safe, enjoyable, and relaxing holiday season.



The SHA has compiled all our folk histories and ghost stories into a book. Stay tuned for it to be on sale in November! We have stories of the past, including the Virginia Restaurant, The Silk Mill, Tastee Freeze, drug stores and grocery stores, Teen Dances and interesting ghost stories from around town and beyond.



A Little Folk History—The Moose Club on Massanutten Street

by
Kathy Kehoe



The steps! The first thing people seem to remember about the Moose club in town is the steep, sometimes scary, stairway leading from the front door on Massanutten Street to the club on the second floor. That stairway was a legend of itself.

Sharon Bly Ferguson said that when her husband Jimmy Ferguson was working for Preston Moffett Distributors, he "pulled a cart up all those steps full of beer. Jimmy said it was 2 feet inside the door before the 28 steps started. Jimmy had 8 cases of bar bottles of Schlitz beer and each case weighed 28 pounds." "I never saw so many steps straight up." said Donna Davis. She recalled she used to go to the old Moose with her father, Bob Bromley. Bob was an officer in the club and an active member who often volunteered as a bartender. "I could always find my father there." said Donna. "I will always remember those steps." said Brenda James. "My father and Skip Baker climbed the steps so many times. Love the memories going to the Moose, eating at Sylvia's, and the Diner on 11." Pat Lambert remembers one night when a man fell down the steps. "He had too much to drink and he fell from the top step all the way down and didn't have a scratch on him", said Pat. She and her husband put him in their car and drove him home. This was one of the ways people in a small town looked out for each other. Jerry Ann Stinson remembers that "more than once someone fell and rolled out into the sidewalk. Funny times but very serious also." She recalls that women often fell on those steps wearing high heels. "But that was the only way you could get in, was using the steps." "A lot of them rolled down those steps", said Tommy Walters. "Some Front Royal boys came over one night and got in a fight, Neff sent him down the steps and he never came back up."



The Beginnings: The Strasburg Moose had its start in 1947, when several Strasburg men decided to apply to the International Royal Order of the Moose for a social club. They were officially chartered in August 1947, establishing Lodge No. 403 in the upper floor of a building on Massanutten Street. There was a time when you could see the word "Moose" in a neon sign on Massanutten Street. Below it was a door that led up steep steps to the first Moose club in our town. Gary Sherman collects Strasburg memorabilia and he has saved that sign and shared a photo with us. (See 1st page of story)

It wasn't until October 1952 that women obtained their own charter as an auxiliary: Women of the Moose. Until then, females could only attend if they were chaperoned by a male, usually a husband or father. Sharon Pangle Ferguson remembers going there with her husband. "Danny took me there a few times and we couldn't sit on the bar side because I was a woman. We had to sit on the dance floor side. Women were not allowed on the bar side." Women, or girls, remember going to the old Moose with their parents, husbands or other adult males. "When you got to the door at the top on the left you had to ring a buzzer to get in and they could see you. You couldn't see them." said Donna Bromley Davis. This was likely a one-way window so that a guest could be seen before opening the door.
I heard from many people who remembered going to the Moose club as children, with an adult male member. Tanya Bly Heller remembers when she "was little", she went to the old Moose with her aunt and uncle, Bill and Charlotte Rogers, on Friday nights. Tanya said that children "were not allowed in the bar area". Terri Holsinger Marks went there with her father, Sandy Wilkins said she went there "when I was young with my parents." And Michael Tucker remembers going there with his parents Peggy and Donnie Tucker. "Kids had to be out by 9 o'clock." said Pat Lambert. "They could play on the pool table but there was no gambling then and no slot machines."

Sandy Stickley said that Dan Hockman "was born there", an expression meaning he was very active volunteering in many activities. "He kept the Moose running", she said. Daniel Mason "Dan" Hockman's obituary stated that "He became a member of the Strasburg Moose Lodge 403 in 1959 where he held many offices and earned his Pilgrim Degree in June of 1976. He also served as the Administrator for 30 years." Dan passed away in 2013 at age 76. Trudy Kerr, daughter of Cecil "Sonny" Bly, remembers that Dan Hockman was "Santa Claus" and when she was a little girl she sat on Santa's lap to tell him what she wanted for Christmas.

One of the few people still around who have memories of the old Moose on Massanutten Street is Kitty Jean Morris Miller. In her own words, Kitty shares with us: *"My memories of the old MOOSE lodge when it was upstairs was when I was a little girl. My dad was a member. Sometimes on a Saturday afternoon he and I would climb those steep stairs and "ring the bell" for admittance at the top. Mr. Johnny Riddleberger was the doorkeeper Probably a man of many jobs. As we followed that "jolly old elf" Mr. Johnny into the lodge I had to smile. He was such a sweet guy. My dad would get a cocktail and Mr. Johnny would give me ginger ale. Fast forward to the late 1950's: My future husband had just gotten out of the military and the family hosted a big family party up there. I was introduced to him and several times throughout the evening, he asked me to dance. Thus became my "infatuation" with "that Miller boy".* Kitty continues: *"There were dances held there every weekend. When Donald and I began dating some years later, we often went to the dances. His brother Paul was a very active member, and was the first member of the lodge to earn the* coveted Pilgrim Degree. Once again, the Miller family converged on that dance hall for a formal presentation ceremony. Members volunteered to "work the table" checking people in and sometimes when Donald did that, I would get a baby-sitter and go with him. I fondly remember spending time with the Updyke families, Frank and Liz Wilson, and watching all of the smooth dancers One of the best in my recollection was James Ballowe Sr. who brought his daughter Ragland as his partner. They danced beautifully together. Good times. Over the years Donald, Paul and most of his brothers, were active in the lodge. They sponsored many little league teams and were charitable to many needs in the community. One of my favorite memories, though, is New Years Eve. Paul and his wife Edith, Donald and I and others were usually there. At the close of singing auld liang syne we switched into Happy Birthday as Edith's birthday was New Years Day. And Paul would pick her up and swing her around. I also remember when there were musical programs where there were quartets formed from

different moose lodges. The only two that I remember from Strasburg were Bob Bromley and Louis Pike. They wore white dinner jackets and black trousers. Kind of like barbershop or harmony concerts." -- Kitty Jean Morris Miller

Tommy Walters joined the Moose in 1962 when it was on Massanutten Street. He told me they had 265 members when they moved to the new place off Rt. 55. "They sold beer and coke and mixers," said Tommy. "You had to bring your own bottle if you wanted liquor. You put your name on the bottle and kept it there. No women were allowed at the bar, they had to stay on the side of the room where the dance floor was. The Moose was always closed on Sundays because Shenandoah County was a dry county back then and they couldn't sell beer on Sundays."



Jimmy Ferguson remembers a bottle of beer costs 45 cents. He worked part time as a bartender. A cash register that was used at the Moose on Massanutten Street is part of Gary Sherman's collection of memorabilia. The numbers in the window of the cash register, where the total sale would pop up, is now permanently "403", the number of the Strasburg Moose Lodge 403. Jimmy said he used that cash register. Gary explained that the chrome cash register does not look shiny in the photo he took because it was damaged when the new Moose building caught fire. Jimmy mentions other bartenders as Sonny Bly and Bob Bromley who were officers and volunteered to work the bar. Trudy Kerr, Cecil "Sonny" Bly's daughter, remembers her father bartended there. Robert "Bob" Huntsberger was the paid bartender.

Several people have memories of the dances at the Moose club. Brenda James said: "I will always remember the fun times as a family. My Grandma Hollar was a Charter Member. I always have memories of my Grandma Campbell playing. My Grandma Hollar one time sat in the corner jokingly playing the drums." Brenda's "Grandma Campbell" is Loretta "Tillie" Rutz Stickles Campbell who sang with her Rutz family from the time she was a little girl and still sang at her 106th birthday party in October of 2026.



Cindy Mckelvey shares that: " I remember when you could take your kids to the dances. My mom and dad used to take us with them. It's where I learned the 2 step. Fun times!" "I remember it mostly as a fun place to dance." said Patricia "Patti" Byrnes. Margo Hammock remembers learning how to dance at the Moose. She doesn't remember any bands playing music at that time but the jukebox was always on.



Debbie Huntsberger Winkler shared a photo of her Uncle Danny Fleet playing in a band at the Moose. You can see a large moose head mounted on the wall behind the band. Danny Fleet is standing on the stage under the Moose head. Debbie also shared a photo of her parents, Bob and Evelyn Huntsberger, who were active members of the Moose, at a table with friends.

Sharon Bly Ferguson remembers being there at a dance. "Everyone was dressed really nice . At that time, men wore nice dress pants and a shirt and maybe a tie and the women would have on a nice dress . I remember Elvis songs." Sharon remembers the old Moose Club had a pool table, card tables and a jukebox.

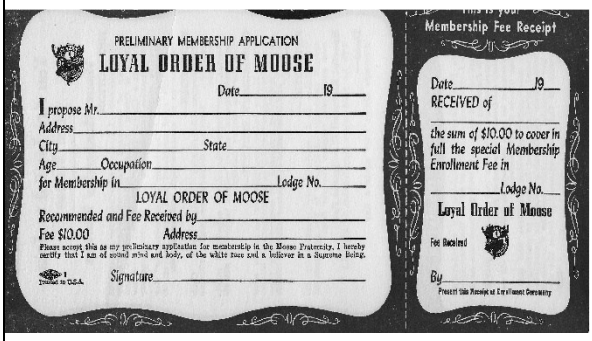
Pat Rhodes Lambert met her husband at the Moose. She had moved away and returned home, divorced with three children, to live with her mother and step-father, Billy "Popeye" Miller. One night Popeye asked her mother to go with him to the Moose but she wanted to stay home to spend time with her grandchildren and

suggested Pat should get out of the house and go with her stepfather. They were sitting at a table when the bartender, Harry "Skeeter" Lambert Jr. walked over and asked them what they wanted to drink. Popeye asked for a Blue Ribbon beer and she asked for a Country Club. Skeeter told Pat he would have to card her before he could serve her, so she showed him her drivers license. Later Skeeter would admit he only carded her to find out her name. A little bit later, Skeeter sat down and joined them. Skeeter worked at Crabills Meats and bartended at the Moose in the evenings. "The next week he called me and wanted to know if I'd go out to eat with him." said Pat. Pat told him no, because she didn't want her mother to have to watch her children. That was the beginning of a lifetime romance when Skeeter said, "I'm asking you and the children to dinner." After they married, he adopted her children. Both husband and wife were very active in the Moose. They were married 52 years until he passed away in 2022. "It was a good marriage" said Pat, "Meant to be!"

Sandy Stickey joined the women of the Moose in the 60s. She spoke of the closeness of the women and the special ceremonies. Sandy described the once a month women's ceremony. "We had to wear white dresses and high heels. When a new member applied to join the Women of the Moose, there was a ritual where the new member had to "go in front of the women." The female members voted in the new member by a process of putting a white ball in for yes, and a black ball in for no. Since all new members were sponsored by an existing member, Sandy doesn't remember anyone being "black-balled". Ray Steed sponsored her daughter Benita Dodson, and as a joke, threw in a black ball instead of a white one. All the women were stunned, said Sandy, until someone admitted they were teasing. Good-natured Bonita still laughs at the memory of how she was once "black-balled". Bonita and her mother were long time members of the Women of the Moose. "The men also had beautiful rituals" added Sandy. "If they didn't have enough men for a ritual, they invited male Moose members from the Front Royal or Winchester Moose." Sandy described how the women had to have five to participate. A woman who had achieved the status of "regent" conducted the ritual which included a Bible and a prayer. Members could progress their status through "four chairs". Then the woman could go to Mooseheart, the national headquarters, to get a cap and gown. "Shirley Pangle capped me for my green cap". said Sandy. She said "There were strict rules for the ceremony. If you were late to the national headquarters, and they had already closed the doors, you couldn't get in and had to come back the next year. If you advanced farther, you were given a red stole." Women could earn "junior regent", then "senior regent". Pat Feathers held the office of senior regent. She remembers they once did 52 fundraisers in one year. In 2006, there were 1400 male members and 900 female members at the new Moose Club off Rt. 55 West.

According to the Moose International website, "The Moose supports the operation of Mooseheart Child City & School, a 1,000-acre community for children and teens in need, located 40 miles west of Chicago; and Moosehaven, a 63-acre, five-star retirement community for its members near Jacksonville, FL……Old National Moose Lodge bylaws restricted membership in this men's club to white people. The national organization removed their whites-only policy in 1973." (https://www.mooseintl.org/the-moose/) Our local Moose Lodge has supported charitable and civic activities, supported Boy and Girl Scout programs, given scholarships to high school students and sponsored local ball teams. 82 year old Gary Pangle said the Moose "sponsored the little league baseball team I played on." Moose Lodge 430 moved from Massanutten Street to a new building off of Rt. 55 West, on more than 25 acres of land where they continued community service and social events until it closed. Moose International sold the property in July of 2026 for $615,000.

The original moose lodge in the heart of our downtown was a special place for many of our citizens. It was where members gathered to socialize, with each other, and with their families. After the lodge moved out of town it continued to be a focal point of the Strasburg community. The countless hours of volunteer hours, community service, member and family socialization, and contributions to our citizens continued over more than 75 years. It all started with that stairway to the second floor, a step back in time our older generation will never forget.



PRELIMINARY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE

Date_____ 19____

I propose Mr._____

Address_____

City_____ State_____

Age_____ Occupation_____

for Membership in_____ Lodge No._____

LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE

Recommended and Fee Received by_____

Fee $10.00 Address_____

Please accept this as my preliminary application for membership in the Moose Fraternity. I hereby certify that I am of sound mind and body, of the white race and a believer in a Supreme Being.

Signature_____

Membership Fee Receipt

Date_____ 19____

RECEIVED of

_____

the sum of $10.00 to cover in full the special Membership Enrollment Fee in

_____ Lodge No._____

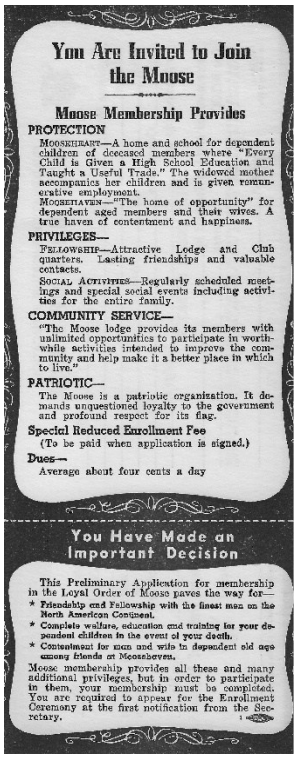
Loyal Order of Moose

Fee Received

By_____

Present this Receipt at Enrollment Ceremony

Gary Sherman was given these Moose pamphlets by Gary Holsinger. Gary says they came out of the attic of the Moose Lodge when it was on Massanutten Street. The phone number back then was "H05-8632".



You Are Invited to Join the Moose

Moose Membership Provides

PROTECTION

MOOSEHEART—A home and school for dependent children of deceased members where "Every Child is Given a High School Education and Taught a Useful Trade." The widowed mother accompanies her children and is given remunerative employment.

MOOSEHAVEN—"The home of opportunity" for dependent aged members and their wives. A true haven of contentment and happiness.

PRIVILEGES—

FELLOWSHIP—Attractive Lodge and Club quarters. Lasting friendships and valuable contacts.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES—Regularly scheduled meetings and special social events including activities for the entire family.

COMMUNITY SERVICE—

"The Moose lodge provides its members with unlimited opportunities to participate in worthwhile activities intended to improve the community and help make it a better place in which to live."

PATRIOTIC—

The Moose is a patriotic organization. It demands unquestioned loyalty to the government and profound respect for its flag.

Special Reduced Enrollment Fee

(To be paid when application is signed.)

Dues—

Average about four cents a day

You Have Made an Important Decision

This Preliminary Application for membership in the Loyal Order of Moose paves the way for—

* Friendship and Fellowship with the finest men on the North American Continent.
* Complete welfare, education and training for your dependent children in the event of your death.
* Contentment for man and wife in dependent old age among friends at Mooseheven.

Moose membership provides all these and many additional privileges, but in order to participate in them, your membership must be completed. You are required to appear for the Enrollment Ceremony at the first notification from the Secretary.





The Moose emblem on the front of the old cash register. Photo courtesy of Gary Sherman.

PO Box 525

Strasburg, VA 22657

Strasburg Heritage Association

www.strasburgvaheritage.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

☐ New ☐ Renewal

SHA Membership dues are $20 per year for an individual, couple, or household. Lifetime membership dues are $150.

Membership Dues $_____

Additional Donation $_____

Scholarship Fund $_____

Total Enclosed $_____

Name(s)_____

Address _____

_____

Email Address _____

Contact # _____

Emailed newsletters save us postage. Can we send your newsletters and other correspondence to the email listed above?

☐ Yes, please send to my email address.

☐ No, I prefer postal mail.

Please mail your completed application to:
Strasburg Heritage Association
P. O. Box 525
Strasburg, VA 22657

Questions? Contact Tim Taylor (President) or Ruth Hoffman (Treasurer) at strasburgheritage@gmail.com.