

Historic Shepherdstown

Museum

Letter From the President

Spring is an active period for Historic Shepherdstown, and I hope you were able to join us at some recent events. Our Historic Museum has opened for the season, and you can visit every weekend from 11-5 on Saturdays and 1-4 on Sundays; tours on other days can be scheduled by contacting our office at 304.876.0910. Following up on our April 16 Speaker Series about Kentucky rifles, Shepherdstown Historian Laureate Doug Perks gave a wonderful talk about the men on the Bee Line March on May 14 at the Byrd Center Auditorium. The Entler Garden was featured on the Back Alley Garden Tour May 17-18, with the beautiful garden and the freshly painted Entler Hotel complex on display. And be sure to mark your calendars for the community-wide Bee Line March 250th Anniversary celebrations.

Historic Shepherdstown is sponsoring two additional Speaker Series talks this fall. On September 3, we present "Beyond the Storer College Campus, 1867-1917: The Early Roots of Black Community in Harpers Ferry." Storer College educated thousands of African American students across the region, yet perhaps its greatest impact was on the Black community that grew up within a one-mile radius of its campus. Local author Lynn Pecheukonis will discuss the roots of this evolution as well as some of the town's enterprising Black residents. And on October 15, the topic is "Fort Frederick, MD: In Their Own Words, Why We Say What We Say, 1756-1759." The State Park Ranger will use primary source material to explain why the park interprets the fort's French and Indian War story the way it does.

We recently lost a true history hero – Betty Snyder Lowe passed on May 3, 2025. Betty was a tremendous friend and contributor to Historic Shepherdstown in addition to an incredible number of other commitments to local non-profits. She researched and wrote on a numerous important local historical issues. All of us at Historic Shepherdstown express our condolences and our deep appreciation for all that Betty did for our community.
Jerry Bock, HSC President

Kentucky Rifle Exhibit - Historic Shepherdstown Museum

Kentucky Rifle Exhibit April 19 - October 19.

Historic Shepherdstown Museum's temporary exhibit – Longrifles by the Sheetz Family and Other Gunsmiths of Jefferson and Berkeley Counties – opened on April 19 to an enthusiastic crowd. More than 80 people visited the museum the first day the exhibit was open to the public.

The exhibit, co-sponsored by the Kentucky Rifle Foundation, features 13 rifles, two fowlers, and one shotgun. Ten of the rifles are in a case on the first floor of the museum and the rest of the guns are in the third floor Arts and Industries Room.

Several of the rifles and the shotgun were made by members of the Sheetz family. The earliest Sheetz rifle is a restocked Philip Sheetz. Philip and his brother Henry had a contract to provide rifles to the Virginia militia during the Revolutionary War. It is likely that Sheetz rifles were also carried by some members of the Bee Line March militia in 1775.

The exhibit also features two rifles by Philip's son Martin Sheetz; two rifles and a fowler by his son Jacob Sheetz; and two rifles by his grandson William Miller Sheetz. After the Revolution, Henry Sheetz moved to Hampshire County. The exhibit includes a rifle by his son Frederick, as well as a rifle signed by both Henry's son Michael Sheetz and James Clark. At the time the rifle was made, Michael Sheetz was working in Charles Town. Both of those rifles were made during the "Golden Age" of Kentucky Rifles.

Both of the William Miller Sheetz rifles are owned by Historic Shepherdstown Museum. One of them was commissioned by Rezin Davis Shepherd, grandson of town founder Thomas Shepherd, for his grandson Peter Brooks. The rifle features a small presentation plaque inscribed "Peter C. Brooks From his Grand Father Shepherd." The rifle, which was donated to the museum by descendants of Peter Brooks, is in like-new condition.

Other items in the exhibit include the oldest known rifle found in West Virginia; rifles by Daniel Marker and Martin Rizer, both from Martinsburg; a Bible and trunk owned by William Miller Sheetz; and a mannequin dressed to represent Adam Sheetz, who was a member of the Bee Line March militia. There is also a panel in the Arts and Industries Room that describes the history of Kentucky Rifles, including how they became known as "Kentuckies."

Prior to the exhibit opening to the public, master gunsmith Brian LaMaster and rifle expert Tim Hodges gave a Speaker Series talk about the rifles. The talk is available on Historic Shepherdstown's YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWhSbbplcV0&t=43s>.

Bee Line March 250th Anniversary Celebration

On July 17, 1775, a company of riflemen under the command of Captain Hugh Stephenson left Morgan's Spring, just outside of Shepherdstown, and embarked on a nearly 600-mile trek to Cambridge, Massachusetts, to join General George Washington's blockade of Boston. According to the journal kept by Shepherdstown resident Henry Bedinger, who was the fourth sergeant for the company, the marchers reached Cambridge on August 11.

This summer, Historic Shepherdstown will join several other community organizations in celebrating the 250th Anniversary of what is now known as the Bee Line March. The activities began with the opening of the rifle exhibit at Historic Shepherdstown Museum in April and the Speaker Series talk by Doug Perks in May. Several events are planned for June and July, and all are free and open to the public. For the most recent updates, follow the Beeline March 250th Anniversary Page on Facebook.

Three events are planned in June. On the 7th, the West Virginia State Society, Daughters of the American Revolution will dedicate a DAR America 250 Patriots Marker at Morgan's Grove Park at 11 a.m.

On June 14, which is considered the birthday of the U.S. Army, events are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Morgan's Grove Park and Elmwood Cemetery. Among the people attending the day's activities will be descendants of the Bee Line March riflemen.

Members of the Sons of the American Revolution color guard will give musket demonstrations and the West Virginia University Fife and Drum Corps will perform at Morgan's Grove Park. Several organizations, including Historic Shepherdstown, the SAR, the DAR, and Jefferson County Museum, plan to set up information booths; children are invited to participate in 18th century games; and food will be available for purchase from food trucks. In addition, the West Virginia National Guard's 201st Field Artillery Regiment from Fairmont, which traces its lineage to the Bee Line March company, will have a display of historical materials and several artillery pieces.

At 10:30, members of the SAR, led by the fife and drum corps, will march to Elmwood Cemetery, where the DAR will conduct an 11 a.m. wreath-laying ceremony at the Bee Line March monument. And at 2 p.m., a commemorative ceremony will be held in the park pavilion. Among the speakers will be Major General James Seward, the Adjutant General of the West Virginia National Guard; Lt. Col. Charles Naumann, Commander of the Guard's 201st Field Artillery Regiment; Lucia Bosqui Henderson, the Virginia Vice Regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association; and Jefferson County Historian Doug Perks.

On June 22, musicians from Music of the Regiment will present a recital and lecture about military music of the Revolutionary War period. The performance, co-sponsored by the Friends of Music, will be held at 3 p.m. at Shepherdstown's Trinity Episcopal Church.

July will also feature two major events. The annual Independence Day parade will include entries celebrating the Bee Line March.

On July 19 and 20th, there will be an encampment of Revolutionary War reenactors at Morgan's Grove Park. Events at the park will begin on Saturday at 10 a.m. with living history talks, children's games, fife and drum demonstrations, drill and flintlock use demonstrations, and demonstrations of Revolutionary War camp life activities. Food will be available for purchase.

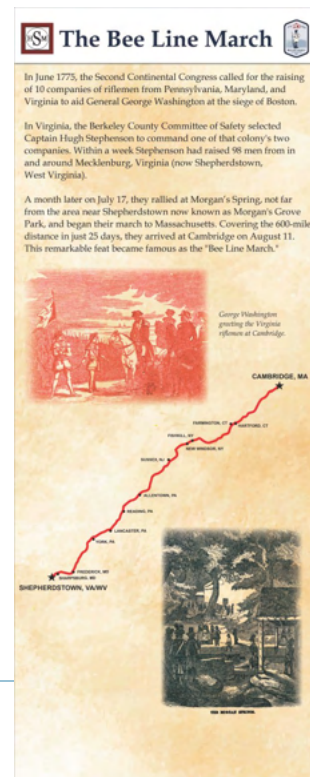
Around 3 p.m., the reenactors will march to downtown Shepherdstown to talk with the public about the Bee Line March and the Revolutionary War. A short commemorative event will be held at 5 p.m. on the lawn at McMurrin Hall. After spending the night at Morgan's Grove Park, the reenactors will return to downtown Shepherdstown on Sunday morning and continue to mingle with residents until about 3 p.m.

The rifle exhibit at the Historic Shepherdstown Museum will be open regular hours during all of the Bee Line March events.

A map of the Bee Line March, right, annotated with entries from Henry Bedinger's journal, can be found on the Historic Shepherdstown website.

[Click on link for the Map of the Bee Line March](#)

<https://www.historicshepherdstown.com/portfolio-item/250th-anniversary-of-the-bee-line-march/>



Upcoming Activities and Events

June 28 - StreetFest - German Street, Shepherdstown, WV.

[Click on link for events for 2025](#)

[https://www.canva.com/design/DAGgEcvDQ_c/t-EDYVgNZWicM1N47y_LA/edit?](https://www.canva.com/design/DAGgEcvDQ_c/t-EDYVgNZWicM1N47y_LA/edit?utm_content=DAGgEcvDQ_c&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton)

[utm_content=DAGgEcvDQ_c&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton](https://www.canva.com/design/DAGgEcvDQ_c/t-EDYVgNZWicM1N47y_LA/edit?utm_content=DAGgEcvDQ_c&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton)

Worth Saving: 205 West Washington Street

Historic Shepherdstown was invited by the Shepherdstown Chronicle to create a monthly column. The first from May 9 is included here. Look for upcoming columns in the Chronicle on the second Friday of each month; June 13 is the next one. Board member Greg Coble wrote this column, with research and editorial assistance of fellow board members Marellen Aherne and Terry Fulton. The goal of the column each month is to feature a historic home or building, its history and the people who live or work there now. Suggestions for future columns are welcome at hsc1786@gmail.com.

“We’ve saved this historic home for another 100 years”, said Rod Glover, who with his husband Tom Mayes, purchased the gothic revival cottage built circa 1881 at 205 West Washington Street in Shepherdstown in May 2021. While it may not be that simple with a 146-year-old home and the imprint that future owners might make, it is fair to say that the efforts and investment by Glover and Mayes have enhanced our historic town.

In a town with as long a history and architectural diversity as Shepherdstown, each structure has a story. This includes the people, past and present, and a glimpse into how it is being preserved for future generations. The goal is to tell these stories in this new column (intended to be monthly) sponsored by the nonprofit group *Historic Shepherdstown*.

Rod Glover, artist and member of the *Over the Mountain Studio* group, and Tom Mayes, the General Counsel of the *National Trust for Historic Preservation* in DC (and a member of the *Shepherdstown Historic Landmarks Commission*), first arrived on the local scene when in 2002 they purchased a 1954 cabin for weekend use on Whittings Neck Road with great views of and access to the Potomac. After 2019, when Glover and his business partner sold their pioneering home goods business *Home Rule* on 14th Street NW in DC, Glover spent most of his time at the cabin and Mayes joined him on weekends.

Glover and Mayes are the tenth owners of the property that is now 205 West Washington Street. The lot was transferred from Thomas Shepherd’s son Abraham to the first owner Michael Reichart in 1788. In 1869, the lot was reduced through subdivision, with sections of it now part of the old St. Agnes and an adjacent Church Street residence. William and Mary Arthur bought the property for \$82 in 1881 and subsequently built a home on the property. It is not known if it was the first structure built there, but late 18th and early 19th century artifacts are found each time Glover and Mayes dig a new garden bed. William was a Confederate war veteran now buried at Elmwood Cemetery. During the 1870s, he owned a canal boat that he used to haul coal to Georgetown on the C&O. Glover and Mayes believe he sold the boat for the proceeds to purchase the property and build the original house, which he and his wife sold to Thomas Callahan in 1890 for \$1,000.

Mayes, 2018 author of *Why Old Places Matter*, had been attracted for some time to the home as it reminded him of the old houses where he grew up near Davidson, NC. The last renovation of the house occurred in the 1970s when most original elements in the house (except the central stairway) were removed; an enclosed rear porch was added along with a first floor bathroom and bedroom above.

The ten month rehab, assisted by the state’s historic tax credit for homeowners which imposed architectural guidelines, was more extensive than they had originally planned. Found clues were used to recreate molding and woodwork. Original door hinges and knobs found underneath the house served as models. HVAC was added, kitchen and bathrooms were updated to contemporary standards and the plumbing throughout was updated. The original central stairway was preserved. Original wood floors in two rooms were used to help recreate similar floors in other rooms. The exterior was repainted to project a fresh white finish. In the rear yard is one of the few outhouses still existing in town and now used as a potting shed with the original two seats preserved. The diamond cutout on the outhouse door is a design element used elsewhere on the fence pickets and new porch railing design. An outbuilding at the back of the yard which appears on the 1899 Sanborn map, has been rebuilt several times and is now used as Glover’s art studio.

It seems easy to believe that with Glover’s and Mayes’ purchase and subsequent rehab four years ago, their gothic revival cottage has never looked and presented better. We have them to thank for helping keep their piece of Shepherdstown true to its history and architecture.



Because Of You

Fifty years ago, the Entler Hotel stood at a crossroads. Targeted for demolition to make way for a parking lot, this beloved building a piece of Shepherdstown's history, was nearly lost. But a group of passionate local volunteers came together, determined to protect what mattered. They rallied, raised awareness, and began the hard work of saving, restoring, and preserving the Entler.

Their vision became our mission. Today, because of them and because of you, the Entler still stands as a vibrant center of history, community, and learning.

Your annual membership continues this legacy. It supports preservation of the Entler building, sustains our museum, and ensures that the stories of Shepherdstown are shared with generations to come.

The 2025 Membership Drive has reached 80% of its 2-part goal of 175 paid memberships and 18 new members. When you join or renew your membership, you become part of this powerful story. You honor the volunteers who saved the Entler. You protect what makes our town unique. And you help keep history alive for all those who come to explore this special place.

In closing, if you have, thanks for renewing your 2025 membership. Please remember to renew now if you have not yet done so. Also, please share our worthwhile story with old and new residents who have not heard it. We welcome all to our mission of preserving Shepherdstown's long and interesting history.

2025 Members so far...

Preservation Circle

Marellen Aherne
John Allen Jr.
Frank Khare & Cheryl Brown
Jim & Betsy Butzner Greene
John & Terri Griffith
Susan Kemnitzer

Benefactor Membership

Greg Coble & CB Babcock
Frank Coe
Frederic & Anne D'Alauro
CEM & Judy Martin
Upton & Ann Martin
John Shank
Bob Smith

Patron Membership

Steven & Karen Alemar
Marianne Alexander
Jerry Bock & Bruce Massey
Wayne Goodrich & Donna Bertazzoni
Bill Carrigan
David & Margaret Coe
Eleanor Finn
Larry Dean & Mina Goodrich
Gary & Iris Heichel
Archibald & Constance Hoxton III
Paul & Diane Kradel
Alan & Jane Levitan
Susan Mayer
James Cain & Karen Meyer-Cain
James Stuart Osbourn
Dave & Jean Anne Pugh
Jack Kendall & James Puglisi
Lee & Patricia Stine
Frank & Annette van Hilst
Paul & Lisa Welch

Sponsor Membership

John Aldis, MD
Marie Anderson
Johnna Armstrong
Erwin & Carol Asam
Dennis Barron

John Bresland & Beth Batdorf
Kent Shaffer & Mary Bell
Roland & Barbara Bergman
Edwinna Bernat
Samuel & Linda Billmyer
David & Rosalind Black
Sandy Brown
Lynch Christian IV
William Conner
Jill Craig
John & Margaret Demer
Jack & Pat Egle
Bob Fairbaugh
Scott & Leslie Genovese
Theodore Gillette
Dow Benedict & Annette Gloomis
Tom & Linda Guild
Mary J.C. Hendrix
Michael Sullivan & Susan Hirsch
James & Mary Holland
Andy & Sondra Hosey
Judith M. Jones
Andrew Kavaliunas
John & Mary Kavaliunas
Martin & Marilyn Keesecker
Douglas Kinnett
Elliot & Nancy Kirschbaum
Richard & Kathy Klein
Margie Knott
Rod Glover & Tom Mayes
Bill Sturtevant & Jane McSwain
Mike & Rosemary Nickerson
Steve & Harriet Pearson
Rebecca Phipps
Michael Pieper
Mary O'Hara
Mark Outhier
Wanda Perry
Dick & Judy Pharr
Lloyd & Donna Prezant
Chazz & Donna Printz
Bob & Linda Reynolds
Tracy Riordan

Elinor Ross
Allen & Teresa Nicole Saunders-Meske
Katharine Schultz
Ralph & Marsha Scorza
Tim & Suze Sheehan
Austin & Carmen Slater
Sara Smith
Bill Senseney & Angie Sosdian
David Landsberger & Melody Stevens
Marie Tyler-McGraw
Bill & Stephanie Unger
Peter & Anne Van Ryzin
John Wagner
Dale & Henry Walter III

Sustaining Membership

Keith Alexander
Jamie Byron & Mary Ball
Denver & Wendy Beckner
Jeff & Petra Biggans
Nick Blanton
William Bromley
Martha Byron
Ann Christy
Sue Collins
Richard & Yocencia Deal
John Doyle
Josh Felman
Terry Fulton
Dr James Gibson
Donald Hale
Gay Shepherd Henderson
Jefferson County Historical Society
Ronald Kepple
Tammy Kershner
Stephen Kershner
Karen Kiaer
James Leathers
Jackie Lewis
Kathy Loftin
Betty Lowe
Martha Anne McIntosh
Ben & Cathy Miller
Susan Mitchell

Pamela Parziale
Doug & Cheri Perks
Patty Parrish & Andreas Pfann
Faye Pieper
Doug Poole
Maylene Reisbig
Bryan & Judy Robertson
Dianne Roman
James & Jean Scott
Mike & Kathy Sholl
Lori Simmons
Anne Small
Jim & Peachy Staley
Elisabeth Staro
John Streeter
Chris Stroech
Diana Suttentfield
Ann Taylor
Edward Trainor
Katherine Upton
Al & Sheila Vertino
Colin & Sonia von Heijne
Dr. Raleigh Watson, Jr.
Tim Whetzel
Henry Willard
Rie Wilson
Roy Winkel
Melanie Winter
Daren Wood
Lori Wysong
Judith Yost
Student Membership

Elizabeth Alfred

Bee Line March 250th Anniversary Celebration - Schedule of Events

Bee Line March 250th Anniversary Celebration

A consortium of civic groups in Shepherdstown (Historic Shepherdstown is a participant) is planning a major celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the Bee Line March, when a company of rifleman from Shepherdstown marched 600 miles to Cambridge Massachusetts, answering George Washington's call to arms at the start of the Revolutionary War. All events are free and open to the public.

March 21 - July 20, 2025

Additional information available on the Bee Line March 250th Anniversary page on Facebook

All events free unless otherwise noted

Saturday, May 31, 2025

250th Commemorative Bee Line March 5K Run-Walk

8:30 a.m. to 12 noon: The Bee Line Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will sponsor a 5K run-walk event at Morgan's Grove Park. The registration fee is \$35 per person. Online registration is available through the Chapter's website at www.beelinedar.com.

Saturday, June 7, 2025

Wayside Marker Dedication

11 a.m. The West Virginia State Society of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution will dedicate a DAR America 250 Patriots Marker at Morgan's Grove Park.

Saturday, June 14, 2025

Bee Line March Anniversary Celebration at Morgan's Grove Park and other locations

10:00 am: Park opens for celebration with drills and weapons demonstrations by members of the Sons of the American Revolution; musical performances by the West Virginia University Mountaineer Fifes and Drums; static displays by the 201st Field Artillery Regiment of the West Virginia National Guard, including some artillery pieces; displays by the Jefferson County Museum, the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission, Historic Shepherdstown, the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, Williams Flintlock Gunsmith, and others; and 18th Century children's games.

11 am: The Pack Horse Ford Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will conduct a wreath laying ceremony at the Bee Line March monument in nearby Elmwood Cemetery. As part of this event, starting at about 10:30 am, members of the Sons of the American Revolution, led by the West Virginia University Mountaineer Fifes and Drums, will march from the park to Elmwood Cemetery to participate in the ceremony, and then march back to the park. Members of the public may join in the march to and from the cemetery if they wish.

11:00 am to 2 pm: Food trucks will offer barbeque for purchase.

2 p.m.: Commemorative ceremony at the park pavilion. Participants will include Major General James Seward, the Adjutant General of the West Virginia National Guard; Lt. Col. Charles Naumann, Commander of the Guard's 201st Field Artillery Regiment; Lucia Bosqui Henderson, the Virginia Vice Regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association; Jefferson County Historian Doug Perks; the West Virginia University Mountaineer Fifes and Drums; and others. Descendants of the families of the men who participated in the Bee Line March will be honored. New Bee Line March signage at the park will be dedicated. The Jefferson High School Air Force Junior ROTC will provide the color guard for the ceremony.

After the ceremony: displays and demonstrations continue.

c. 4 p.m.: Events at the park conclude

Sunday, June 22, 2025

Concert of military music of the Revolutionary War Era

3 p.m. Music of the Regiment will present a concert of military music of the Revolutionary War period. The concert, cosponsored by the Bee Line March Anniversary Celebration and the Friends of Music, will be held at Shepherdstown's Trinity Episcopal Church. Music of the Regiment is an ensemble of musicians and network of researchers dedicated to the study and performance of 18th and 19th century European and American military music. For more information about the ensemble, visit its website at www.musicoftheregiment.com.

Friday, July 4, 2025

Annual Shepherdstown Independence Day parade

11 a.m.: Parade will include entries promoting the July 19 Bee Line March reenactor encampment.

Saturday & Sunday, July 19 & 20, 2025

Encampment of Revolutionary War reenactors at Morgan's Grove Park

Saturday, July 19

10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.: Events will include talks in the park pavilion to frame the living history context; 18th Century children's games; fife and drum demonstrations by the Old Line Fife and Drum Corps from Frederick, MD; drill and flintlock use demonstrations; and demonstrations of Revolutionary War camp life activities.

Food trucks will offer barbeque for purchase.

3:00 p.m.: Reenactors will march downtown Shepherdstown via Kearneysville Pike. When they arrive downtown, they will position themselves around town to engage the public in discussions about the Bee Line March and the Revolutionary War. Docents will be available at the Historic Shepherdstown Museum to talk about the museum's Kentucky Rifle exhibit.

5:00 p.m.: Reenactors will gather on the McMurrin Hall lawn for a commemorative event featuring a short talk about the importance of the Bee Line March.

Overnight: Reenactors will spend the night camped out at Morgan's Grove Park.

Sunday, July 20, 2025

11 a.m.: Reenactors will return to downtown and visit the gravesites of the town's Revolutionary War patriots and other important sites of the era.

Other events and activities

- Presentations for children and families in area county libraries about the Bee Line March and the beginning of the Revolution in our area. The Adam Stephen Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will conduct the presentations. The first of these presentations was held at the Charles Town Library on April 5