

Historic Shepherdstown & Museum

Letter From the President

Dear Members and Friends of Historic Shepherdstown,

I am delighted to share that our Spring Opening Reception was a truly fabulous event. It was a pleasure to welcome so many of our members and esteemed guests as we gathered to celebrate the beginning of a new season. The energy, conversation, and shared appreciation for our town's rich history made the evening especially memorable.

I am also pleased to announce that the museum is now open to the public and will remain so every weekend through the end of October. We encourage everyone to visit, bring friends, and experience the stories and artifacts that make Shepherdstown so unique.

As we continue to connect with our amazing community, we were excited to participate in the Back Alley Garden Tour and Tea, a cherished community tradition that beautifully showcases the charm and character of our historic spaces. We are equally enthusiastic about hosting a booth at this year's Street Fest and look forward to connecting with many of you. Look for us outside the Entler Hotel.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to preserving and celebrating Shepherdstown's history. We look forward to a wonderful season together.

Warm regards,
Stephanie Unger
President, Historic Shepherdstown

New Historic Shepherdstown Logo Developed by Shepherd University Student

The Board of Historic Shepherdstown, after determining that the organization's logo should be updated and improved, worked with a class of Shepherd University graphic design students, taught by Assistant Professor of Art Jennifer Yablonsky, to design and adopt a new logo. The Board liked the idea of helping create a real-life experience for the students and adding to their resume, while betting that the students would produce great alternatives to consider.

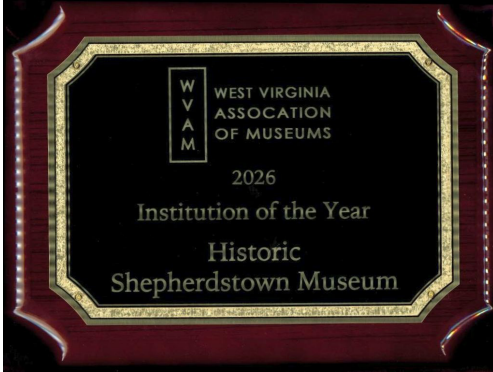


The students visited and explored the museum and met as a class in the Entler meeting space to learn about the mission and activities of Historic Shepherdstown, and to discuss how to convey that through the logo. Each student in the class developed and then presented a logo to their classmates, Professor Yablonsky, and other art faculty. All of them voted for their four favorites, which were then presented to the Board for a final evaluation. Members of the Marketing Committee listened to logo presentations from the four students.

The Board voted and selected the logo designed by Megan Ruddle of Williamsport, MD. The Marketing Committee then worked with Megan to fine-tune the design. The logo includes a contemporary image of the historic Entler Hotel, where the museum and offices are located. It is now on the website, in the museum, and on Historic Shepherdstown's letterhead.

Megan was introduced and thanked at the Spring Opening Reception and presented with a cash gift. The new logo clearly conveys the historic building that is most associated with Historic Shepherdstown, but it also pays respect to the town's rich historic resources that the organization celebrates and protects through its mission.

Your Institution of the Year



Historic Shepherdstown was recognized recently by the West Virginia Association of Museums for its participation in activities related to the Bee Line March 250th Anniversary celebrations last spring and summer. The award for ***Institution of the Year 2026*** was announced at the association's Annual Conference held in Wheeling in April. It was a unanimous decision on the part of the judges, according to Katie Thompson, president of the Association.

Historic Shepherdstown co-chaired a countywide committee that brought together local civic and historical organizations, museums, fraternal groups, businesses, and schools to plan events, ceremonies, and presentations. In partnership with the

Kentucky Rifle Foundation, the museum mounted an exhibit of locally made 18th and 19th-century rifles. Brochures, posters, and other displays highlighted the story of the Shepherdstown men who marched to Massachusetts to support Gen. George Washington. The museum also worked with the county GIS (Geographic Information Systems) staff to create an interactive Bee Line March map, featured in the July 2025 issue of *Smithsonian Magazine*.

In addition, Historic Shepherdstown's Donna Bertazzoni and the late Peter Smith of the Shepherdstown Rotary Club were also recognized by the Archives and History Division of the West Virginia Department of Tourism for their leadership roles in carrying out the Bee Line March Anniversary activities. They were both recognized as ***West Virginia History Heroes*** in an award ceremony held June 3rd in Charleston.

Historic Shepherdstown Welcomes Spring with New Flag, New Logo

Nearly 90 members and invited special guests turned out on a beautiful April evening to attend Historic Shepherdstown's Spring Opening Reception. The highlight of the event was the sneak peak members and guests had of the newly-hung 35-star flag in the foyer of the Museum.

The first special guest was Jennifer Giovannitti, president of the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, (<https://benedum.org>) which awarded a \$35,000 grant to Historic Shepherdstown last June. Much of the grant has been dedicated to improving the museum. Grant funds were used to pay for the restoration and installation of the 35-star flag, which now dominates the entrance foyer to the Museum.

West Virginia was the 35th state admitted to the Union. It joined on June 20, 1863. New flags officially take effect on July 4. The 35-star flag was carried during the final two years of the Civil War. It was replaced in 1865, as Nevada was admitted to the Union in October, 1864. Historic Shepherdstown purchased the flag at an estate sale. It had previously been owned by a local Civil War enthusiast who purchased it from an antique shop in Gettysburg, Pa. It was restored by Caring for Textiles, a Washington, D.C. area firm owned by textile conservator Julia Brennan.

The grant also funded additional improvements to the foyer and first floor of the museum, including rugs and a docent/display area in the front parlor. New signage throughout the museum and a museum guide are in the works. The goal is to provide a more inviting and educational experience for visitors.

Also in attendance at the Spring Opening Reception were Megan Ruddle, a student at Shepherd University, and her graphics instructor, Professor Jennifer Yablonksy. Megan was recognized for designing the new logo for Historic Shepherdstown, which features the iconic Entler Hotel.

The reception was held in Historic Shepherdstown's garden area, which was also featured on the annual Garden Tour and Tea sponsored by the Community Club. It was catered by Gypsy Soul.

The museum reopened for the season the following day. A small welcome reception was held in the foyer of the Entler Hotel prior to the 11 a.m. opening. Museum hours are Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. from now until the end of October. Private tours can be arranged on other days if a docent is available. Call Historic Shepherdstown at 304-876-0910 for more information.

Worth Saving: Parisian Apartment in a 19th Century Shepherdstown Log Home

Worth Saving Historic House Column

This article about the 1881 log house at 300 West High Street in Shepherdstown was part of a series of nine columns throughout 2025 featuring historic homes, their history and the people who live there now. The articles appeared in the *Shepherdstown Chronicle*, which recently closed its operations and publication after 34 years. This article was written by Historic Shepherdstown Board Member Greg Coble, with the research and editorial assistance of fellow Board members Marellen Aherne and Terry Fulton.



Growing up in a 1790s farmhouse in McLean, Virginia, where Dolley Madison fled during the War of 1812, must have influenced Deb Tucker’s thinking about historic places and her choice of Shepherdstown as a place to live when she moved from the Washington, D.C. area. While history defines much of Shepherdstown’s allure, we also know she was looking for a town – and more specifically a restaurant to buy - no more than 90 minutes from Washington where she had lived and worked most of her life.

We visited Tucker – many friends call her that – and her two cats Alfie and J.F. Kitty in her cozy, cocoonish, less than 1,300 square foot log home with a small rear addition. The historic log house, built in 1881, projects her engaging personality - bright colors, interesting diverse art, and contemporary flair. “I like to think of and describe this as a small Paris apartment,” said Tucker. And that’s how it conveys to visitors, complemented by a gated English garden which adds to the escapist nature of the home at 300 W. High Street, not far from Shepherdstown’s version of traffic on Duke Street and the 4-Way Stop.

In moving to Shepherdstown in 2011, Tucker purchased a multi-level historic row house and garden on West German Street, living there for eleven years. Health and physical issues caused her to search for a home that would be easier to maneuver and to age within. She purchased the one floor historic log home in 2022; it had been updated in the early 2000s.

The home sits on land that was one of the original 96 lots of the town, at the original western boundary of Shoe Lane. The land was sold by the Shepherd family in 1809 for \$20. In 1867, the lot was sold to Jacob Hill, who owned a blacksmith and wagon-making shop at the northeast corner of West German Street and North Duke Street. In 1881, Hopewell Creamer, an African American born in Shepherdstown in 1853, and his wife Mary Ann built the log home on the lot. The *Shepherdstown Register* in April 1881 noted that John Entler was the carpenter; Entler lived nearby on North Duke Street. Hopewell Creamer passed away two years later in 1883 and was buried in nearby Rose Hill Cemetery, an African American burial ground established in 1875. Unfortunately, we were unable to locate more information about the Creamers and Hopewell’s early death at age 30.

In the 1930s, the log home and land around it were purchased by the Schley family, which had historic connections to Frederick, Maryland. Mrs. H.P. Schley, an avid gardener, established the Shepherdstown Garden Club. They built a red brick home which still stands at the southeast corner of North Duke and West High, and they continued to own the log home until it was deeded to their daughter in the 1960s. In 1915, the Schleys had sold the land and a ten-room 1910s bungalow style home at the northeast corner of North Duke and West High to the state and used as the Shepherd University President’s residence until 1964; the house was removed in the 1970s. Caroline Landreau purchased the log home in the 1980s and was often visited on Sundays by Joan Mondale to throw pots together while dark-suited Secret Service men waited patiently on West High Street.

Creating what feels like a Paris apartment in a historic log home traces to Tucker’s long love of France and travel. While attending Georgetown University, she became engaged to a man from Bordeaux and moved there for a year. She described an engagement reception that evoked French chateaus, vineyards, and fine wine. Though she ultimately decided that living in France married to a Frenchman was not her destiny, the culture and cuisine stayed with her through a rewarding career in corporate communications, investor relations, and brand marketing – and raising a family in Great Falls, VA.

In 2011, Tucker purchased an existing restaurant (former Stone Soup Bistro) on German Street and created Bistro 112 in an 1830s building that had been a 19th century haberdashery and served as a hospital following the battle at Antietam. “Opening a restaurant was daunting and challenging but ultimately exhilarating. What didn’t intimidate me was the business side of the restaurant because I applied what I learned in my career – and I had confidence that I understood good French food.” For the next ten years, until she sold Bistro 112 in 2021 during the pandemic, Tucker established a reputation for great French food in an inviting environment.

While most of Shepherdstown’s log structures have been modified or covered with other materials, the original log structure of Tucker’s home is intact and visible. Tucker’s physical changes to the interior include new bathrooms but otherwise are subtle, including the addition of a much needed closet which extends around two sides of the guest bedroom without disturbing the historic integrity of the space. Changes are more noticeable in the garden, where she has replaced most of the hardscape, removed a few trees in the middle to make way for additional flowering plants, and used clover to replace grass. She retained the perimeter trees and continues to nurture enormous 100+ year old boxwoods. “My goal was to pay homage to Bunny Mellon, incorporating her garden ideas such as the use of textures in the hard- and soft-scape, and the creation of separate distinct spaces within the garden,” explained Tucker.

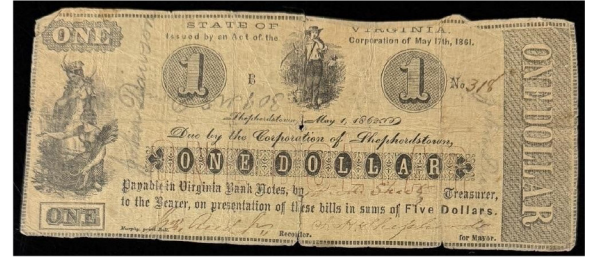
Creating unique living and business environments in historic settings are not all that define Tucker’s almost 15 years in Shepherdstown. When she moved here, one of her personal goals was to become engaged with the community. “I like to make a difference and I need projects.” She has served on the Shepherdstown Town Council and Planning Commission and served on the board of the Shepherdstown Visitor Center. She currently manages the marketing efforts of the American Conservation Film Festival.

When visiting Tucker for this column, she was preparing to move north to Ontario for a month to a rustic 1940s fishing cabin without electricity and wi-fi that her family bought in the 1970s directly on the shores of an island in the middle of Lake Temagami, around 250 miles north of Toronto. Growing up in a 1790s farmhouse, spending summers during much of her life in a rustic 1940s fishing cabin, establishing a French bistro in an 1830s commercial building, and now living in an 1881 log house that feels like a small Paris apartment creates a consistent vision of how Deb Tucker has lived and enjoyed her life. The future of one of Shepherdstown’s most visible historic log houses is in good hands – as is a historic fishing cabin in the wilds of Ontario.

Show Me the Money

In the early days of the Civil War, with the local economy disrupted, residents began hoarding coins of all kinds. Fractional currency was issued by the Corporation of Shepherdstown to keep the local economy functioning. The Museum recently acquired at auction a \$1 bill issued by the town in 1862. According to the auction house, the note was discovered in an old scrapbook in an attic in upstate New York.

In 1861 the town issued 1,205 one-dollar bills, 892 half-dollar bills, 1,196 one-quarter dollar bills, 197 fifteen-cent bills, and 740 ten-cent notes totaling in all some \$2,053, worth about \$10,000 in today's currency. An additional \$2,000 worth of scrip was issued in 1862. The notes were signed by the Mayor and the town recorder, and were payable in Virginia banknotes. John Zittle, the owner and editor of the Shepherdstown Register, received \$8 for printing the notes.



The Newest Bee Line Marcher



In 1775, rifle companies from Winchester and Mecklenburg (today's Shepherdstown) made a *Bee Line March* to Massachusetts to assist Gen. George Washington at the Siege of Boston. Dressed in frontier-style linen hunting shirts, leather leggings, moccasins, and hats decorated with bucktails, they carried with them long rifles, tomahawks, and scalping knives.

This statuette is of Daniel Morgan, the commander of the Winchester company, and was produced c. 1960. Its new home is the mantel in the front parlor of the Museum.

Eye Witness

This All-Seeing Eye sign was discovered on the second floor of the Shepherdstown Market House/Library, which once served as a meeting hall for the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Caledonia Lodge No. 4. It now hangs above the window in the corridor of the second floor of the Museum.

Representing the watchful eye of God, it is a symbol used by Masonic and Odd Fellow organizations and even appears on the U.S. one-dollar bill. A similar eye can be seen above the front door of the Market House building.

In 1845, the Lodge built a second story on the market house for use as a meeting hall and received an optimistic 999-year lease. The organization flourished in Shepherdstown after the Civil War through the early 20th Century.

In 1907 the U.S. Government awarded the Lodge \$1,200, "in full compensation for the occupation, use, and incidental injury to the property of said lodge by United States military forces during the civil war."

The Lodge disbanded in 1962 and the upstairs room became a part of the Library. The Library moved to Higbee Lane in July 2022, and the building now houses the Shepherdstown Visitors Center.



Office Space Available

Offices available for rent in the historic Entler Hotel. We offer competitive pricing, free parking, and utilities included. Call 304-876-0910 for details.

2026 Members so far... Thank You

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Historic Shepherdstown

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A Bizarre Hoax That Fooled Thousands

"The Great Moon Hoax" of 1835 is one of the most successful media pranks in history, convincing thousands of people that the Moon was populated by unicorns, two-legged beavers, and winged human-bat hybrids.

On August 25, 1835, a New York newspaper called The Sun published the first in a series of six front-page articles. The paper claimed the information was being reprinted from the prestigious (and entirely defunct)

Edinburgh Journal of Science.

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