

A black and white photograph of a large, multi-story brick building with many windows, identified as the Historic Shepherdstown Museum. The building has a classic architectural style with multiple stories and numerous windows. In the foreground, there are some people and what appears to be a horse-drawn carriage, suggesting a historical setting.

Historic Shepherdstown & Museum

Letter From the President

Dear Members of Historic Shepherdstown,

What a wonderful summer of celebration it has been as we mark the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding. This special milestone has provided us with many opportunities to reflect on our shared history; we are grateful to all of you who continue to support Historic Shepherdstown and its mission to preserve and share our local heritage.

As summer draws to a close, I want to remind everyone that the Historic Shepherdstown Museum remains open through the end of October. We encourage you, your families, and your friends to visit the museum and experience the history of our remarkable community firsthand.

We are also delighted to welcome several new members to our Board of Directors: **Elizabeth Alfred, Karen Kinnett, Dr. Sally Rockey, and Jennifer Wabnitz**. We are equally pleased to welcome **Jerry Bock** back to the Board! Their enthusiasm, experience, and commitment to Historic Shepherdstown will be wonderful additions to our organization.

At the same time, we extend our deepest appreciation to **Wendy Beckner, Terry Fulton, John Kavaliunas, Dave Pugh, and Dianne Roman** as they conclude at least six years of service on the Board of Directors. Historic Shepherdstown would also like to thank board members, **Jennifer Murray, Doug Perks, and Lori Wysong** for their time on the board. Each board member's dedication, leadership, and countless contributions have helped strengthen Historic Shepherdstown, and we are sincerely grateful for the time and energy they have given to our organization.

There is still much to look forward to in the months ahead. Historic Shepherdstown is excited about our remaining Speaker Series events for the year and hopes you will join us for these engaging programs. These gatherings are an important part of our mission and provide wonderful opportunities to learn, connect, and celebrate our local history together.

Thank you for your continued membership, support, and enthusiasm for Historic Shepherdstown. As we celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary, we are reminded that preserving history is a shared responsibility—and that the stories of our own community are an important part of the larger American story.

We look forward to seeing you at the museum and at our upcoming events.

Warm regards,

Stephanie Unger, President
Historic Shepherdstown

150 Years Ago: West Virginia at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition



In 1876 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the first-ever world's fair was held in Philadelphia and drew more than nine million visitors. The fair featured such technological advances as the typewriter and the telephone and new consumer products including Hire's Root Beer and Heinz Tomato Ketchup. Thirty-seven foreign countries were represented, including the major European powers along with Liberia, Egypt, Chile and Australia. Twenty-six of the 37 States built pavilions to showcase their state's natural resources or historical relics.



Shepherdstown's Alexander Boteler was the commissioner for the West Virginia exhibit at the Centennial Fair. The state built its very own pavilion to serve as a reception area for visitors and to showcase the state's natural resources and local industries. Inside, near the door was the inscription: West Virginia welcomes all; the latch-string is always out.

Each West Virginia county contributed to the exhibit and its products and artifacts were listed in a 38-page catalog. Coal samples were on display from many counties, along with examples of common and more exotic lumber.



Jefferson County's contribution included several specimens of marble: "One is jet black and glistens like glass; another is black and grey, such as is often used for mantel work, and the third is dove-colored with reddish spots." Also on display were hydraulic ochre, hydraulic cement, yellow corn and red wheat. Additionally, a photograph of an oil painting, "The Halt of the Stonewall Brigade" by David E. Henderson of Leetown was donated by Shepherd College. Berkeley County had on display samples of barley and white and yellow corn.

Another document prepared for the Exhibition, *Resources of West Virginia*, lists the following manufacturing establishments in Jefferson County: 4 cigar factories, making 329,350 cigars; 3

wool factories, 20 flour mills, 2 hardwood factories, 4 or 5 portable steam saw mills, 2 paper mills, 1 planing mill and sash factory, agricultural implement factory and foundry, 1 cement mill, and 1 pottery.

The B&O Railroad offered special fares to the Philadelphia Exhibition. Round-trip fare from Martinsburg was \$8.25 (about \$250 today) and from Hagerstown a little less: \$7.40 (\$230). Tickets were good for 15 days.

The *Shepherdstown Register* reported throughout the summer on local residents who made the trip to Philadelphia, including the Rev. S.G. Ferguson, pastor of the Shepherdstown M E Church, whose congregation raised funds to send him to the fair in September.

The entrance fee to the Exhibition was 50 cents, or about \$15 today. West Virginia locals thought the cost of attendance was high. Local newspapers, reporting on the theft of some sheep near Gerrardstown, commented: "These sheep, like visitors to the Centennial, were *fleeced*."

Worth Saving-Rescued 1869 Home Delights With Holiday Decorations



A series of nine monthly Historic Shepherdstown columns was featured in the Shepherdstown Chronicle throughout 2025. Unfortunately, the Chronicle ended publication after 34 years in December 2025. The columns were written by Board member Greg Coble with editorial and research assistance from fellow Board members Marellen Aherne and Terry Fulton. We thought with Halloween rapidly approach that we would include this column about the home of Historic Shepherdstown members Jim “Pug” Puglisi and Jack Kendall – a home known for its restored historic features and great history -- but also for its holiday decorations.

One of the more popular drive-by historic homes in Shepherdstown is at 207 East German Street – the one with the ‘extravagant’ Halloween and Christmas decorations. A gauge of that popularity is the official count (a hand held counter is used) of Trick-or-Treaters in October 2024 that reached 854 – an all-time high. To enjoy the Halloween spectacle, friends join the owners Jim “Pug” Puglisi and Jack Kendall on the front porch of their 1869 Italianate style home, also known as the Reynolds House in the name of the town doctor John Reynolds who constructed the home and served as Mayor during the height of the Civil War.

“When we started with Halloween, few homes in town were decorating, particularly at the scale we did. We expanded Christmas lights during the pandemic so that people would know we weren’t just interested in the supernatural,” mused Puglisi.

When they purchased the home in 2006, the last thing Puglisi and Kendall were thinking about was holiday decorations. “We knew we wanted a home in West Virginia. We gravitated to Shepherdstown, ranked the top ten homes that attracted us and ended up buying the number ten home on our list because of its availability,” explained Kendall. What they purchased was a preservation project that would take 18 months to complete.

Perhaps a penchant for details in their careers prepared them for what was ahead. Kendall, who grew up on a farm in Capon Bridge, WV, was an attorney for the Department of Energy, including working in petroleum regulation and energy pricing. Puglisi, from the Bethel Park area of Pittsburgh, was a civil engineer in the private sector and then the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The two met at a party in the late 1990s in Washington where Puglisi overheard Kendall mention Morgantown, where they had both attended West Virginia University.

Vision was needed to look beyond hanging wires, fallen plaster, mold, vines creeping through windows and a tree growing from the roof with roots protruding into the interior. DC preservation architect and Shepherdstown neighbor David Kemnitzer guided them through the work, which included wiring, plumbing, replastering, updated bathrooms and a two story rear side porch demolition to create a kitchen on the first floor and a study on the second. The house has heart-pine flooring, 9.5 foot ceilings, nine fireplaces and decorative moldings throughout.

Soon after they moved into the house, a man visiting from New York City with local family connections walked by and told Puglisi and Kendall that he had a photo of the neighborhood with an inscription that it was taken in 1868, undoubtedly from the stone tower (1798) of the Christ Reformed Church. The photo shows a Cape Cod style home on the property with several outbuildings. The foundational stone of their home indicates construction in 1869, so while we don’t know when the Cape Cod was constructed, it must have been demolished in the 1868/69 time period. We know from Sanborn maps that the outbuildings were demolished between 1915 and the early 1930s.

Dr. John Reynolds had graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1841, then served as town doctor into the 1880s. He purchased the property for \$490 in 1855, soon after his marriage to Katherine Withrow. Dr. Reynolds served as Mayor from 1860 through 1862; for context, the Battle of Antietam was on September 17, 1862, with the Battle of Shepherdstown in the days that followed.

Katherine Reynolds earned her own prominence, including leading a fundraising drive that culminated in a building erected in 1889 that was connected to the rear of McMurran Hall. The building, which contained an auditorium and stage, was used as the town hall from 1897 to 1912 when it was given to the college. Shepherd named it Reynolds Hall in her honor in 1929, twelve years after her death.

Puglisi and Kendall also created a lush landscape that has been featured many times on the Back Alley Garden tour, with Puglisi coordinating the town-wide event with the Community Club in recent years. To line the garden beds, Puglisi excavated stones remaining from the foundations of the demolished outbuildings. Near the rear is a large spruce tree whose spreading canopy has created an outdoor space for hiding from the world.

Jim “Pug” Puglisi and Jack Kendall deserve great credit for rescuing and restoring an important post Civil War era home built by one of the town’s most prominent residents – but also for providing the community with great pleasure through viewing the surrounding landscape and holiday decorations that town residents and visitors anticipate and enjoy each year.

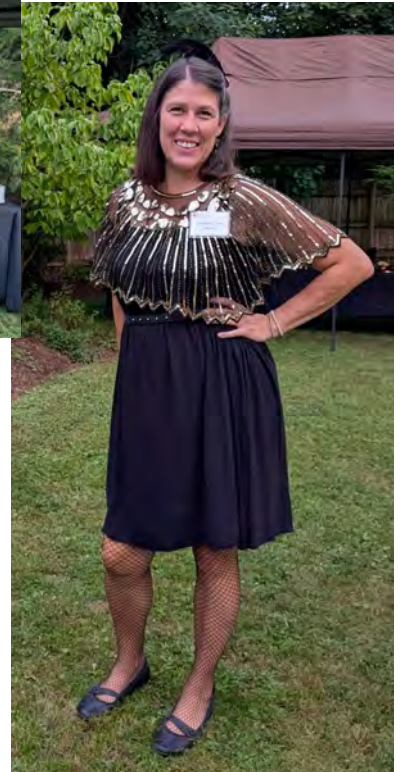
Roaring 20s Fall Fundraiser



Was it 1926 or 2026? It was a bit difficult to tell recently when Historic Shepherdstown held its annual Fall Fundraiser at the home of board member Marellen Aherne.

Many of the guests took advantage of the theme to dress up in their best Roaring Twenties outfits, from cigars and bowler hats to flapper dresses and tuxedos. A quartet of Jefferson High School students and alums played soft jazz music in the background, while the guests enjoyed refreshments from Hay-Mar catering and posed for pictures at the photo booth. They also bid on silent auction items provided by local businesses and board members.

In all, the event was a “roaring” success.



Historic Shepherdstown Speaker Series

The Speaker Series closed its spring 2026 season with two talks. On April 15, Dr. Ben Bankhurst of Shepherd University presented "The Historical Memory of Frontier War in Twentieth-Century Shenandoah Family Histories," examining how white families in the Shenandoah Valley and central West Virginia used genealogies anchored in the colonial and revolutionary periods to root themselves in the land and to push back against demeaning portrayals of the region and its people. In the process, they sometimes ended up also constructing demeaning Native American stereotypes.

On May 13, Erin Barnes, President and CEO of Main Street America, spoke on "Main Street: A Proven Strategy for Historic Small Towns" at the Byrd Center. Her talk was cosponsored by the Potomac Valley Audubon Society. Barnes traced 45 years of the Main Street movement and its combination of historic preservation, economic development, marketing, and business restructuring. Barnes also noted the overlap between the concerns of historic preservationists and advocates for nature protection.

The 2026–2027 season opened on Wednesday, September 2, with Melanie Garvey, archivist of the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education, presenting "The Legacy of Robert C. Byrd Through Ten Objects from His Congressional Archives." The objects were available to view after the talk, along with tours of the collections. The annual membership meeting of Historic Shepherdstown preceded her presentation.

Three more talks are upcoming. On October 21, Rachael Meads will discuss Appalachian music and its ties to Shepherdstown and Jefferson County. On April 14, 2027, Shannon Thomas, owner of the Shepherd Grist Mill, will present the history of the mill and her work restoring it. On May 12, 2027, Dr. Mark Madison, chief historian of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will cover the history of the land at the National Conservation Training Center and the story of bringing the NCTC to Shepherdstown.

Inside the Museum

The two rooms on the first floor of the Museum showcase some of the Museum's best furniture and other artifacts. The handmade furniture from the late 18th and early 19th centuries are attributed to or were owned by residents of Shepherdstown and Jefferson County.

James Shepherd Bureau

James Shepherd (1792 1829) was the youngest son of Thomas (2nd) and Susannah Shepherd and the grandson of Shepherdstown founder Thomas Shepherd and his wife Elizabeth. James Shepherd became a cabinetmaker, but the dates of his apprenticeship, the cabinetmaker he was bound to and the length of time he worked in Shepherdstown are all unknown. An August 1810 advertisement in the *Farmer's Repository*, a Charles Town, Va. newspaper, announced the Shepherd & Woods Cabinet Manufactory near the market house in Shepherdstown. Records show that James Shepherd was making coffins as late as 1829.



Donated to the Museum by John Allen, this mahogany five-drawer chest was made in Shepherdstown in the early nineteenth century. It has a slightly overhanging top with two small drawers over three large drawers, paneled sides and dovetailed bracket feet. The front stiles, drawer fronts and drawer edges are all faced with a thick mahogany veneer.

A paper label, attached to the inside of the upper right-hand drawer, reads:

James Shepherd Cabient [sic] Maker, Carries on the above business in all its various branches in Shepherdstown, Va. He constantly keeps on hand a general assortment of furniture, which he will dispose of on the most reasonable terms. He keeps Mahogany of the best quality and is always provided with well seasoned stuff of every description, so that he will be enabled to comply with any demands on the shortest of notice.



Bassist, Thaddeus Jackson
Pianist, Boston Smallwood
Tenor Saxophonist, Jonah Smith
Drummer, August Thompson

Thank You

Thank you to our businesses & others for their generous donations to our Fall Fundraiser: Admiral Analog Audio Assortments, German Street Coffee & Candlery, Mountaineer Pop-corn, O'Hurleys General Store, Rock Hill Creamery, Shepherds Blessing, Shepherdstown Sweet Shop, Shepherdstown Visitor Center, TD Nails & Spa, Martin Distributing, Sara Smith, Donna Bertazzoni, Suprena Mills

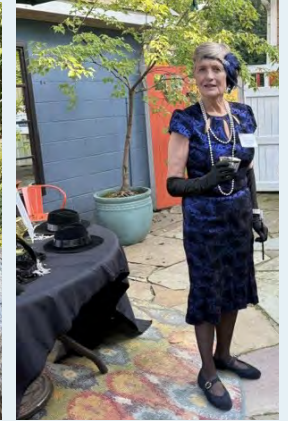
Our caterer Hay-Mar who provided food with our 1920s theme.

Our bartenders Mina Goodrich & Larry Dean; not only did we have beer and wine, we had two themed drinks, the French 75 & Gin Rickey.

The jazz band which did a great job .

Marellen Aherne for her wonderful garden.

To everyone who joined us or made a donation to our event.



BooFest at the Entler

Halloween is a special time at Historic Shepherdstown and at the Entler Hotel. Here, at the most haunted building in the most haunted town in America, we'll have several special events in which you can learn about some of our most prominent spirits — the lady in white, the amorous Frenchman, Civil War soldiers, and the unlucky duelist.

Check our website and Facebook page for more information.

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Napoleon Bonaparte dismissing Robert Fulton's steamship idea: *"You would make a ship sail against the winds and currents by lighting a bonfire under her deck? I have no time for such nonsense."*

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