



SHEPHERDSTOWN, WV
"SEMI-QUINCENTENNIAL"
250TH ANNIVERSARY AND CELEBRATION

Shepherdstown, WV
German Street 2005



Painting by Roxanne Shields-www.roxanneshields.com

The purpose of the SSQ 250 Organization is to plan and coordinate Shepherdstown, WV's 250 anniversary by gratefully acknowledging the people, groups and moments that have helped form, inspire, and enrich the town's history and community past, present and future.

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SHEPHERDSTOWN'S SEMI-QUINCENTENNIAL
1762-2012



Thank you for volunteering for Shepherdstown's Semi-quincentennial or more easily remembered as Shepherdstown's 250th Birthday Celebration. In the following pages you will find information that has been gathered so far by the first round of volunteers. As documents are produced we hope you will find this binder a convenient way to keep track of your paperwork.

All of us are so excited to be a part of this historic moment in the town we all love. It will be a pleasure to work with all of you.

Let's plan an event worthy of the achievement of 250 years for our small town.

Meredith Wait
Chairperson "SSQ 250"

Remember • Celebrate • Imagine

FINAL OUTLINE SSQ 250

ACTION REQUESTED OF TOWN COUNCIL

Approve project in principle so further refinements can be made and re-presented with greater detail to Council in October of 2010.

PROJECT NAME

Shepherdstown Semi-Quincentennial (SSQ) 250th anniversary.

LOGO/SEAL (To be developed by professional artist)

Shepherdstown WV / 250 Years • 1762-2012 / Remember • Celebrate • Imagine

PURPOSE

To celebrate Shepherdstown's 250th anniversary by gratefully acknowledging the people, groups and moments that formed, inspired and enriched the history and community while imagining promising possibilities for its future.

TIMELINE

A major inaugural event December 2011 followed by a series of programs and events throughout the commemorative year culminating with a big event November 10-12, 2012.

METHOD

All individuals, groups, clubs, and organizations (churches, historic societies, businesses, restaurants, artists, musicians, schools, etc) in the greater Shepherdstown area will be invited by the Coordinating Committee—in the name of and under the authority of the Mayor and Town Council—to offer a “birthday gift or gifts” during the commemorative year. The gift would typically be a special program befitting the group but it could also be some sort of commemorative item. It could be something novel or a typical annual program or event “reframed” for the commemoration. The various “gifts” will collectively recognize many notable facets of Shepherdstown's past and present, such as arts, theater and music; education; business and economic growth; churches and religion; nature, environment and agriculture; health and fitness; the role of war and peace; architecture and historic preservation and inventions, technology and transportation.

SCHEDULE

The Coordinating Committee will produce, coordinate and publish a master calendar of all organizations' 250th anniversary programs and events, with the understanding that certain dates (Men's Club Labor Day Picnic, etc) are prescribed by tradition. Approved programs and items may display the official SSQ logo (tbd).

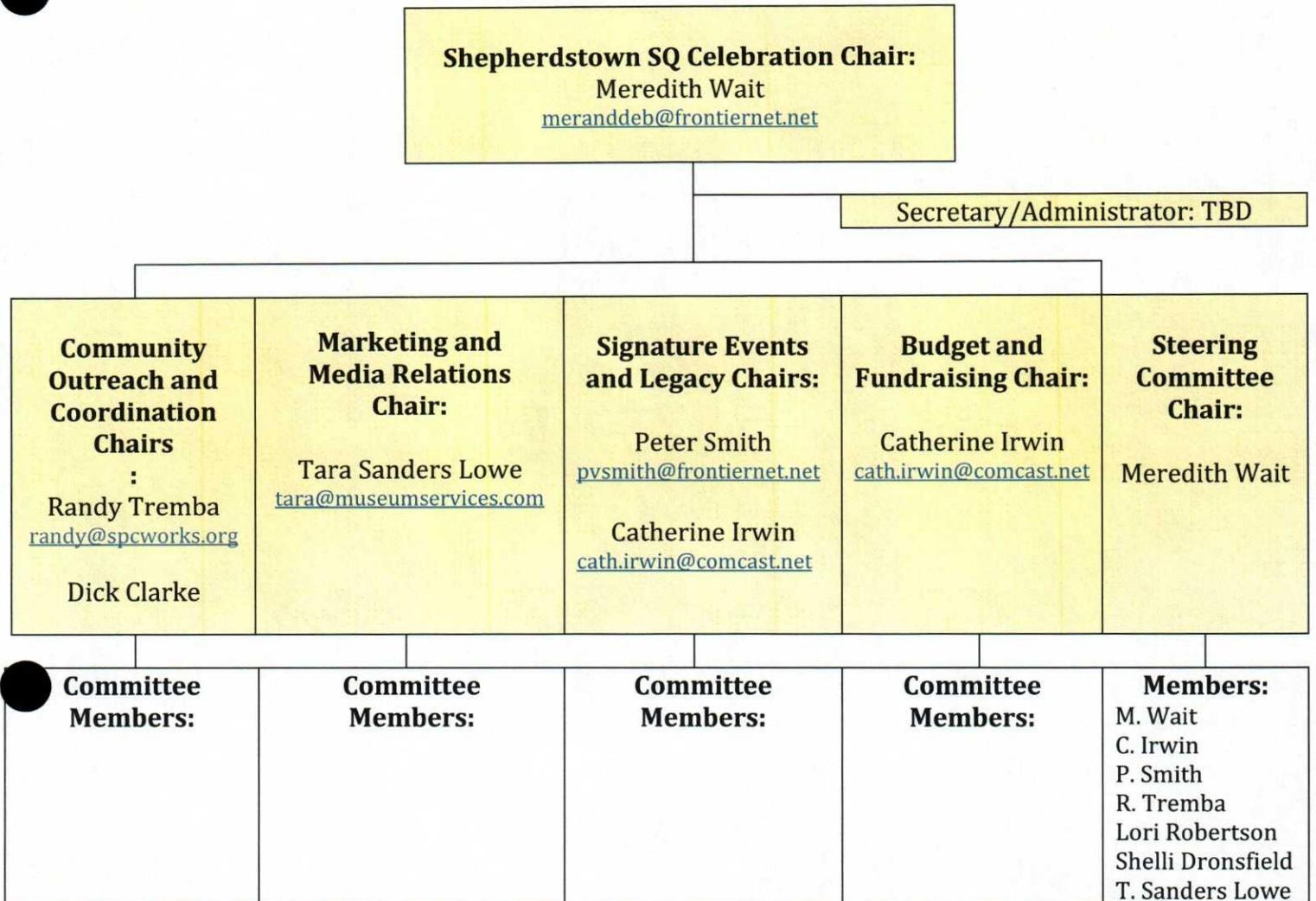
SPECIAL EVENTS ORGANIZED BY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ITSELF

1. Kick off ceremony in conjunction with 2011 Annual Christmas parade. Parade may include period modes of transportation and period costumes representing key eras in chronological order.
2. Culminating weekend event Nov. 10-12, 2012.
3. Small monthly celebrations at McMurrin (or Reynolds Hall) to focus and re-energize interest through the year.
4. Essay contest for school age students.
6. Creation of Time Capsule and other legacies.

BUDGET

To be determined. The intention is to hold costs to an absolute minimum by relying on volunteer time and donated services.

SSQ 250 COMMITTEE CHART



- **Community Outreach and Coordination Committee:** Interface with all community constituency groups – schools, non-profits, associations – to encourage programming by the individual groups around the Shepherdstown SQ Celebration. Maintain a database of all programming occurring during the course of the year-long celebration.
- **Marketing and Media Relations Committee:** Develop and implement a comprehensive marketing plan for promoting the Shepherdstown SQ Celebration to multiple target markets, each with appropriate messaging. Target markets would include Shepherdstown residents, Shepherdstown businesses, governmental officials and agencies, visitors to Shepherdstown, and the media. Coordinate all media requests.
- **Signature Events and Legacy Committee:** Create and execute Shepherdstown SQ-directed events of kick-off, mid-year, and capstone events for the community. Develop a series of programs and/or events that will provide a lasting record of the SQ celebration.
- **Budget and Fundraising Committee:** Develop a budget with input from the SQ Committee Chair and the SQ Coordinating Committee. Work with town leaders to secure funding from both governmental and private sources. Create and implement a fundraising plan in conjunction with both SQ signature events and constituency group activities.
- **Steering Committee:** Provide leadership and support to the SQ Coordinating Committee.

HISTORICAL THEMATIC IDEAS JUNE 2010

These themes were brought to SSQ 250 from Dr. Keith Alexander, coordinator of the Historic Preservation Program at Shepherd University and Director of Archives at the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies. Although the steering committee feel that monthly themes may stifle the creative process, we also recognize that these ideas are important and should not be lost. We offer these to you and encourage somehow incorporating these into the planning of SSQ 250.

January 2012 would be a logical time to focus on **inventions, technology, and transportation**. The first train arrived in Shepherdstown in January 1879. Other important events in this category are the Rumsey steamboat demonstration, the establishment of the grist mill, and the opening of the C&O Canal.

Let's take **February off**.

For **March**, I propose that we look at the role of **business and economic growth** in Shepherdstown. March seems to be a slow time, and it makes sense to use this time to remind ourselves of the role that business and economic growth have played in our town's history.

In **April**, we could focus on **churches and religion**. Easter falls on April 8, 2012. Churches and religion have historically played a key role in shaping Shepherdstown, both in terms of its built environment and in serving as important centers of identity.

May is a logical time to examine the roles of **nature, the environment, and agriculture**. This is the season of the garden tour, it's when spring really arrives, and when the farmer's market begins to overflow with produce.

June could be devoted to **health and fitness**. This is the time of year when the recreational opportunities of our town and region really become apparent, and there are some new initiatives involving a rediscovery of Shepherdstown's potential in this area that should be highlighted: Freedom's Run, the revitalization of the riverfront to focus on recreation, and the proximity of the biking and hiking opportunities afforded by the C&O Canal path are good examples.

July is a perfect time to focus on the **arts, theater, and music**. The Contemporary American Theater Festival and the Goose Route Dance Festival bring people here from across the country.

August is another month where it makes sense to **have a break** in the commemorative activities.

September should mark the role of **war and peace in shaping our community**. From the French and Indian War, the American Revolution, and the Battles of Antietam and Shepherdstown, Shepherdstown has been profoundly impacted by warfare. Two World Wars, as well as the Korean and Vietnam Wars, also impacted our community, as evidenced by the war memorials in town. More recently, conflicts in the Middle East have hit close to home, too. At the same time, a desire for peace has also shaped Shepherdstown. Shepherdstown hosted a Peace Conference in 2000, and is home to a significant pacifist community.

October is an ideal time to focus on **education and its role** in Shepherdstown's history. The town has hosted a college since 1871, and Shepherd University traditionally celebrates Homecoming in October. Shepherdstown also is the site of the Free School, and Shepherd College became the new home for many Storer College students when Storer closed in 1955.

November should examine the role of **architecture and historic preservation** for Shepherdstown. The Entler Hotel reopened after extensive restorations in November 2004- this historic preservation project played a large role in bringing the community together. McMurrin, originally built to be a town hall, then expanded in order to serve as a county courthouse, lost its function when the county seat returned to Charles Town in 1871. Town leaders looking for a use for their beautiful but now empty building proposed using it to house a college. Shepherd University therefore originated as an adaptive reuse project! McMurrin and the many other architectural gems of our town play a crucial role in giving our town its unique identity.

Finally, **December**, with its holiday celebrations and related family gatherings, is a perfect time to celebrate **community** as a theme in Shepherdstown's history. That shared history has contributed to a sense of belonging together, and by marking Shepherdstown's 250th anniversary, we are again re-creating those feelings of community.

These are just some early musings, and the events for the respective months will clearly have to be fleshed out and tied to additional historical events. But I hope it's a useful starting point.

SUGGESTED EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE PROGRAMS
OCTOBER 2010

1. *Examples of programs that could be "gifts" from groups as part of the Shepherdstown SQ250 Celebration*

- The Jefferson County Historical Society, Shepherdstown Men's' Club and Historic Shepherdstown could have their 2012 lecture series focus on Shepherdstown history.
- All lectures might be compiled into a book/booklet at the end;
- Shepherd University's Common Reading program could focus on the importance, or use, of history (or more narrowly, on Shepherdstown or West Virginia history);
- Individual churches could put on programs and/or a church choir festival could be held on Pentecost Saturday;
- Schools (elementary, middle, high school and university level) can promote written essays, photo and video essays and art contests based on criteria developed by SQ250; winner entries to be added to Time Capsule.
- Music groups, such as Two Rivers Orchestra or Friends of Music, could feature music from earlier eras.
- Artisans could craft a commemorative monument on McMurrin Yard (or children's play structure eventually to move to park); pieces could be added to structure month by month to indicate "building toward the future."

The Community Outreach and Coordination Committee will interface with community constituency groups to encourage programs like the examples above. The Committee will also develop and maintain a database of all programs occurring during the course of the yearlong celebration.

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2. *Examples of possible kick-off, mid-year and capstone events for the SQ250 Celebration*

- Kick-off parade or ceremony could be held in December 2011 with representatives of all groups and organizations, schools, churches, etc. that will be offering a "gift" during the year. Event could include period transportation and period costumes representing key eras in chronological order;
- Culmination event could be held the weekend of November 10-12, 2012; one activity could be placement of Time Capsule filled during the preceding year; other activities might include concerts, art show, plays throughout town and birthday cake at all restaurants. The weekend could also feature a parade with all former mayors, Shepherd Presidents, Shepherd championship teams; a street party; fireworks at Rams Stadium and church services on Sunday.

- Throughout the year, brief monthly celebrations could be held at McMurrin or Reynolds Hall at noon on the same Saturday each month ("SQ Saturday or "Birthday Saturday"). Activities might include:
 - Reading of "Sweet Tweets": Thoughts on Shepherdstown of 250 characters or less;
 - Concerts by musicians;
 - Art shows; and/or
 - Drawings for gift certificates
- To record the events of the year, all written, photographic, video and electronic mementos and research could be collected and preserved, such as a printed and electronic scrapbook of Shepherdstown.
- Either as kick-off or culminating event, we could have runner(s) carrying the "founding charter" from Richmond to Shepherdstown or a 25K run or walk could be held.

The Signature Events and Legacy Committee will create and execute kick-off, mid-year and capstone events like those described above as well as develop a lasting record of the SQ250 Celebration.

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3. Examples of marketing activities to promote the event to residents, businesses, agencies, visitors and the media.

- A consistent and attractive message could be developed by holding a competition for the design of a logo;
- Local businesses and Shepherdstown could participate in promotional activities, including the following:
 - Retailers: discounts on the 25th of each month?
 - Police: free parking one day a month?
 - Library: No fines the 25th of each month or book give away?
 - Restaurants: free birthday cake with every meal one particular day on once a month?

The Marketing and Media Relations Committee will develop marketing material for the SQ250 Celebration, including material that promotes the celebration to local businesses and government agencies.

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4. Example of fund-raising possibilities to support SQ250 Celebration event in particular and/or town in general

- Sale of newly designed Shepherdstown license plate;
- Sale of SQ250 Ale (Martinsburg Brewery);

- Sale of SQ250 chocolates or candy;
- Sale of posters or cards produced by local artists;
- Sale of commemorative coin

The Budget and Fundraising Committee will create and implement a fundraising plan, which might include the sale of merchandise like the items above.

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2012 Calendar of Major Shepherdstown/Area Holidays/Events

<p><u>January</u></p> <p>1—New Years Day</p> <p>3—Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday</p>	<p><u>February</u></p> <p>5—Super Bowl Sunday</p> <p>14—Valentine's Day</p> <p>20—Presidents Day</p>	<p><u>March</u></p> <p>17—St. Patrick's Day</p> <p>31 (?) Historic Shepherdstown Museum opens for season (through Oct.)</p>
<p><u>April</u></p> <p>7—Passover</p> <p>8—Easter</p> <p>21-22 (?)—Annual Jefferson/Berkeley Co. House & Garden tour</p> <p>22—Earth Day</p>	<p><u>May</u></p> <p>1—Annual May Day Festival (Shepherdstown Music and Dance)</p> <p>13—Mother's Day</p> <p>19 (?)—Shepherd Commencement</p> <p>28—Memorial Day, Sharpsburg Parade</p>	<p><u>June</u></p> <p>2-Confederate Memorial Day</p> <p>9-10 (?)—Spring Mountain Heritage Arts & Crafts Festival</p>
<p><u>July</u></p> <p>4—Annual Rotary Independence Day parade & picnic</p> <p>7-Aug. 4 (?)—CATF begins</p> <p>15?—Gone to the Dogs family picnic</p> <p>14-28 (?)—Annual Goose Route Dance festival?</p>	<p><u>August</u></p> <p>17-19 (?)—Annual Jefferson Co. African American Cultural & Heritage Festival</p> <p>20-26 (?) 27-Sept. 2 (?)—Annual Jefferson Co. Fair</p>	<p><u>September</u></p> <p>3—Annual Men's Club Labor Day picnic</p> <p>11—United Way Day of Caring</p> <p>17—Rosh HaShanah</p> <p>17 (?)—Annual Bavarian Inn Oktoberfest</p> <p>17—150th anniversary of the Battle of Antietam</p> <p>19-20—150th anniversary of Battle of Shepherdstown.</p> <p>22-23—Fall Mountain Heritage Arts & Crafts Festival</p> <p>26—Yom Kippur</p>
<p><u>October</u></p> <p>6 (?)—Freedom's Run Marathon</p> <p>31—Halloween</p> <p>?—Sotto Voce Poetry Festival</p> <p>?—Appalachian Heritage Festival (Shepherd U)</p> <p>?—Apple Butter Festival (Shepherdstown FD)</p>	<p><u>November</u></p> <p>?—American Conservation Film Festival</p> <p>6—Election Day</p> <p>11—Veteran's Day</p> <p>17-18 (?)—Annual Over the Mountain Studio Tour</p> <p>22—Thanksgiving</p> <p>23-25—Christmas in Shepherdstown</p>	<p><u>December</u></p> <p>1 (?)—Annual Shepherd U. Christmas Concert</p> <p>7 ?)—Annual Rotary Christmas Gala</p> <p>7 (?)—Historic Shepherdstown Holiday Social</p> <p>9—Hanukkah begins</p> <p>25—Christmas day</p>

OTHER ANNUALLY RECURRING AND PERIODIC EVENTS

- Shepherd U. homecoming (fall; date determined preceding spring)
- Spring and fall Masterworks Chorale concerts (usually May & October)
- Shepherd U. Department of Music concerts/performances
- Shepherd U. Friends of Music concerts and events
- Shepherd U. Performing Arts Series events
- O'Hurley's Open Jam sessions (Thursday evenings year round)
- Shepherdstown Music and Dance events
- Shepherd U. Rude Mechanicals performances
- Full Circle Theater Company performances (if still extant)
- Shepherdstown Film Society films
- Shepherdstown Farmers Market (Sundays April-December)
- Shepherdstown Fire Department Carnival July/August
- Annual Shepherdstown Back Alley Garden Tour (late May-early June)
- Shepherdstown Street Fest? (late June—cancelled in 2010 but supposedly back on for 2011)
- Annual spring FOSL book sale (April)
- Annual fall Men's Club book sale (October)
- Jefferson Co. Historical Society/Shepherdstown Men's Club/Historic Shepherdstown lecture series
(if still existing)
- Shepherdstown Men's Club dinner programs (third Wednesday of fall, winter, and spring months)

SHEPHERDSTOWN TIME LINE

07-06-10

1720s? The first Europeans settle in the vicinity of the place now known as Shepherdstown.

1732 October 3—Thomas Shepherd receives a grant of 222 acres on the south side of the Potomac River in the place now known as Shepherdstown. This site is well-chosen: it is on high ground above the river's flood plain; it includes a substantial stream (now known as the Town Run) that has a steady flow and never runs dry; and it is just up-river from the best Potomac River crossing-place for many miles around (now known as Pack Horse Ford).

1734 Thomas Shepherd begins constructing a gristmill beside the Town Run. (This is the first of many mills and factories of various kinds that eventually utilize the Run's waterpower, making Shepherdstown an important regional commercial center well into the 19th century. As the advent of steam power and railroads profoundly change the way goods are made and distributed, the mills and factories fade away.)

1743 The Presbyterian Church establishes the first congregation in the place now known as Shepherdstown.

1745 An English (Episcopal) Church is established.

1747 A German Reformed Church is established.

1754-1763 The French and Indian War threatens colonial expansion. During the initial stages of the conflict, most of the raids against settlers occur to the north and west of the Eastern Panhandle.

1755 In spite of the war, Thomas Shepherd goes ahead and lays out a town on 50 acres of his land, dividing it into 96 lots. He names the town Mecklenburg, in honor of Queen Charlotte of Mecklenburg, wife of England's King George III. To encourage settlement, Shepherd constructs a stone fort and advertises that those who build a house in his town and live there can do so rent-free for the duration of the current war and then purchase their lots afterwards for 40 shillings.

Also in this year, Thomas Swearingen establishes the first ferry across the Potomac at Mecklenburg, near the site of the current Belle Vue mansion. (Later, the ferry is moved to the bottom of Princess Street. The ferry continues to be operated by the Swearingen family until 1798, when it passes into the hands of a Swearingen daughter who has married into the Blackford family. The Blackfords operate the ferry until 1849, when it is sold to the Virginia and Maryland Bridge Company, which is building the first bridge across the Potomac at Shepherdstown.)

On May 1 or 2 of 1755, General Edward Braddock, traveling stylishly in a two-wheeled English carriage drawn by six horses, and accompanied by his staff, George Washington, and a Light Horse Guard, uses Swearingen's Ferry to cross the Potomac on his way to Fort Duquesne—and his demise. (Braddock's forces, which have been divided into two separate columns headed by colonels Peter Halkett and William Dunbar, have already taken different routes through the region. The general and his forces are reunited at widow Littler's tavern near present-day Brucetown, Virginia, on May 4 and travel on together from there.)

1756 Raids against settlers spread east and south. In August of that year, the settlement at Conococheague Creek (Williamsport, Maryland) is attacked and several residents are killed. On September 17, Fort Neally at Martinsburg is wiped out, with all inhabitants killed or captured. Robert Buckles' house about two miles south of Thomas Shepherd's town is attacked one night while Buckles is away, and a small girl is scalped and left for dead (but survives). A neighbor, Edward Lucas, loses four of his sons in an Indian attack, possibly the same raid.

1760 Two private schools, one English and one German, are established.

1762 December 23—Mecklenburg receives a charter from Colony of Virginia, to become the oldest town in what is now West Virginia. Thomas Shepherd is the sole trustee, meaning he owns the town and is responsible for its government.

1764 July 21—With the French and Indian War over, Thomas Shepherd transfers the first 35 lots in Mecklenburg to their new owners. The first deed recorded in the queue of lots is one to Benjamin Chapline for Lot 58.

1775 July 16—Answering General George Washington's call for "volunteer riflemen" after the battles of Lexington and Concord, a company of Mecklenburg militia leave for Massachusetts and arrive in Cambridge after covering 600 miles in just 24 days; the trek becomes famous as the "Beeline March." These are by no means the last local men to serve in the Revolutionary War. In all, at least seven companies of riflemen are raised in the area now known as Jefferson County, many of them from Mecklenburg (overall, it is said that Mecklenburg sends a greater percentage of its fathers and sons to fight in the war than another town in the Virginia colony). Mecklenburg contributes to the war effort in other ways as well. By 1776, the gunsmithing operation of brothers Henry and Philip Sheetz is providing the Colony of Virginia with "24 good and well-fired rifled guns per month."

1776 Thomas Shepherd dies. The trusteeship of his town passes to his son, Abraham, who is serving in the war. Thus, the town has no effective government. It has been recorded that the residents "just took care of one another" during this period.

1781 British prisoners of war are sent to Mecklenburg for imprisonment, Winchester being too full of them to take any more.

1787 December 3 and 11—James Rumsey successfully demonstrates a steamboat of his own design on the Potomac River at Mecklenburg.

1790 The first Federal Census shows that Mecklenburg is one of the largest towns in the region, with 1,000 residents.

1790 Nathaniel Willis of Massachusetts, who had participated in the 1771 Boston Tea Party, moves to Mecklenburg and establishes the *Potomack Guardian* newspaper—the first newspaper published in what is now West Virginia.

1790 Prominent local citizens write to President George Washington, proposing Mecklenburg as a site for the new U.S. capital. There is no known record that this proposal was ever considered.

1793 The first Post Office to be established in what is now West Virginia is located in Mecklenburg. The town approves a tax levy to raise funds to purchase a fire engine. However, the engine is not actually purchased until March 1803. A firehouse is completed the following year.

1794 The Virginia General Assembly grants Mecklenburg a second charter that allows the residents to form a government of their own and elect officers.

1797 A book, *The Christian Panoply*, is published in Mecklenburg. This is the first book published in what is now West Virginia.

1798 January 11—The Virginia General Assembly passes an act changing Mecklenburg's name to Shepherd's Town, in honor of the town's founder. The original town's boundaries are also expanded. In succeeding years, the town's name is eventually contracted to its present form.

1800 The Market House (now the Shepherdstown Library) is erected. In succeeding years, the building houses the fire department, the town offices, a butcher shop, a school, the town jail and finally, the town library. In 1845, the town agrees to allow the Independent Order of Odd Fellows to add a second story to the building, and the organization continuously uses the second floor as a meeting room until 1962.

Early 1800s After two Ohio brothers named Felix and George Renick gain national attention by organizing the first, long overland drives of cattle to eastern markets in 1804, cattle drives through Shepherdstown to Philadelphia and Baltimore became commonplace. By this time, Shepherdstown's two main streets are German Street, which defines the route to Pack Horse Ford, and Princess Street, which leads to the Shepherdstown ferry. The drovers use both the ford and the ferry to cross the Potomac

1812 Thomas Shepherd's old stone fort is demolished.

1825 June 15—A 50th re-union of the men who participated in the Beeline March is held. Out of five surviving participants, only two are well enough to attend.

1839 The third section of the C & O Canal, from Harper's Ferry to Hancock, is fully opened to barge traffic. The Canal includes a Shepherdstown lock that enables barges to leave the canal and cross the river to discharge and pick up cargoes at Shepherdstown. The Shepherdstown waterfront bustles with activity.

1847 Two free schools are established, the first such schools in what is now West Virginia.

1849 The *Shepherdstown Register* newspaper is established.

1850 The Virginia and Maryland Bridge Company completes the first bridge across the Potomac River at Shepherdstown, a covered wooden span resting on stone piers. The wooden span is burned by the Confederates in June 1861 and not replaced until 1871.

1859 Construction of an impressive Town Hall is begun, with funds donated by Rezin Davis Shepherd, grandson of the town's founder. Work on the project is halted by the Civil War, and the building is not fully completed until after the war. On October 17, The Hamtramck Guard (the Shepherdstown Light Infantry) is dispatched to Harpers Ferry to help subdue John Brown's raid on the arsenal there.

1860s With the Civil War bringing Methodist divisions over slavery to a head, members of Shepherdstown's Methodist Episcopal Church split into northern and southern factions. The 17 members of the northern faction keep the name and building of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The 204 members of the southern faction eventually join the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and build a building of their own at the southeast corner of German and King streets in 1868. The two congregations are not reunited until 1940.

1862 September 17—The battle of Antietam results in 23,000 casualties. After the Confederates retreat back across the Potomac the night of September 18, Shepherdstown is overwhelmed with 5,000-8,000 wounded and dying soldiers, and most homes and public buildings are pressed into service as makeshift hospitals. On September 19 & 20, the battle of Shepherdstown takes place in the vicinity of Pack Horse Ford, now known as Boteler's Ford. There is no known record of any centennial celebration being held in the town this year.

1863 January 19—The town council orders that property taxes shall be "collected in Confederate and Virginia money."

1864 July 19—A Union cavalry force led by General David Hunter loots and burns the Fountain Rock plantation house just south of town on the Kearneysville Road. The property is targeted because it is owned

by Alexander Boteler, who is a member of the Confederate Congress and a colonel in the Confederate Army, and who designed the Great Seal of the Confederate States. Hunter and his men then ride through Shepherdstown and out on the Duffields Road where they subject another property to the same treatment: Bedford, an old colonial home owned by a first cousin of Robert E. Lee. There have been troop movements and skirmishes of one kind or another in the vicinity of Shepherdstown at various times during the war, but the town's residents have never seen this kind of destruction and are shocked.

1865 In February, with the war still underway and Jefferson County under federal control, the county seat is moved from Charles Town to Shepherdstown and county officials occupy the building that had been originally intended to be Shepherdstown's Town Hall. After the war, reconstruction politics keep the county seat there until 1871, when Charles Town finally manages to wrest it back.

1867? The Old School, the first school for the town's black students, opens in a brick building on the west side of Brown's Alley. In 1883 this school is replaced by a new structure, the Shadyside School, located on the north side of west High Street. Instruction is limited to grades 1 through 8. This school is replaced in 1948 by a new elementary school for blacks, the Eastside School, which is located east of town on River Road. Until 1938, the only local option for black students in Shepherdstown (or anywhere else in the county) who want to attend high school is the Storer Normal School in Harpers Ferry, which had been chartered in 1868. In 1938, when Storer Normal School becomes Storer College and ceases high school instruction, a high school program is added to the existing Eagle Avenue Elementary School for blacks in Charles Town, and named the Page-Jackson High School. Black Shepherdstown high school students are bussed there. Among West Virginia counties, Jefferson County is one of the slowest to integrate, and its schools are not fully integrated until 1965.

1869 Elmwood Cemetery is chartered as the town's first public cemetery. It incorporates previously existing Methodist and Presbyterian cemeteries and the graves of more than 100 Confederate soldiers who had died at or after the battle of Antietam.

1871 January 12—Shepherd College is founded by local trustees to provide secondary education and occupies the old Town Hall building. The following year, the West Virginia Legislature establishes the college as part of the State Normal School system. The old Town Hall building is renamed McMurrin Hall, in honor of the college's first President, Joseph McMurrin. The town builds a new Town Hall just behind McMurrin Hall (the new building is now known as Reynolds Hall).

1879 January 1—Railroad service comes to Shepherdstown with the completion of a Shenandoah Valley Railroad (SVRR) line to the town. A bridge carrying this line over the Potomac and into Hagerstown is completed the following year, which provides rail access to all points north. The Norfolk and Western Railroad Company buys the SVRR in 1891 and greatly improves service on the Shepherdstown line.

1885 September 9 and 10—A fair is held on a property known as Morgan's Grove, which is the site of the old Alexander Boteler plantation south of town. The fair is deemed a great success and becomes an annual event. In 1889 a Morgan's Grove Agricultural Association is incorporated and purchases the property. Interest in the fair wanes in the late 1920s and the last fair of any consequence is held in 1931. In 1936, the property is sold.

1887 February 14—The Emmer Telephone Company completes the first telephone line to Shepherdstown, and the first call is made at 4:45 p.m. that day. The line connects the town with Charles Town by way of Duffields, and there are connections to other places in the county. There is only one telephone instrument on the line in Shepherdstown; it is placed in Baker & McMurrin's Drug Store, where it can be used by the public.

1889 June 1—The 1871 bridge across the Potomac at Shepherdstown is destroyed by a flood. A modern, iron bridge is constructed in its place.

1895 October 31—President Grover Cleveland visits Shepherdstown for a day of fishing on the Potomac, accompanied by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. The party travels to and from the town on a private rail car, which is parked at the Morgan's Grove Fairground.

1896 The *Shepherdstown Independent* newspaper begins publication.

Late 1800s During the 18th Century and well into the 19th Century, the principal cash crop in the Shenandoah Valley is wheat. But as the nation expands west and the rich farmlands of the Great Plains are opened up, Valley farmers can no longer compete in wheat and are forced to diversify any way they can. Around Shepherdstown, and in the northern Shenandoah Valley generally, apples become an increasingly popular crop at the end of the 19th century. By the middle of the 20th century, the growing and processing of apples has become such an important commercial enterprise that the *Shepherdstown Register* remarks in its December 4, 1949 centennial edition that "now the apple industry is the chief business of this community."

1900 September 6—Democratic presidential candidate William Jennings Bryant speaks to a crowd estimated at 15,000 at this year's Morgan's Grove Fair.

1901 May 4—Shepherdstown paves the way for its first electric lights by voting 159 to 21 to spend \$4,000 for an Electric Light Plant. The facility is completed the next year.

1912 November 8—The largest fire in Shepherdstown's history destroys one half of a town block on the north side of German Street, including a portion of the Entler Hotel complex.

1915 The State of West Virginia erects a monument to James Rumsey at the north end of Mill Street. The monument is set in a two-acre park overlooking the Potomac.

1920 The Entler Hotel ceases to operate as a hotel. Shepherd College acquires the building and uses it first as a men's dormitory, then as quarters for Navy and Air Force cadets taking training at Shepherd during World War II, then as faculty apartments, and finally as a storage warehouse.

1921 Women's suffrage comes to Shepherdstown as the Town Council determines that all of the town's qualified women shall be allowed to vote in the next town election. Also, the Shepherdstown Women's Club is established.

1922 As one of its first projects, the Women's Club establishes a town library in the old Market House building.

1924 The C&O Canal, which has been struggling economically for years, suffers heavy damage from a flood and ceases operations forever. The first West Virginia state highway route is established through Shepherdstown.

1927 March—Robert Gibson, the owner of Gibson's Drugstore, makes arrangements to have copies of the regular Sunday edition of the New York Times delivered to him Sunday mornings by an overnight train that arrives in Shepherdstown at 8:20 a.m. Subscribers can pick up their papers at his store.

1928-1929 The "Little House" and its barn are built on the Shepherd College campus as a home economics class project. Originally, the complex was operated as a kind of miniature farm.

1930 Shepherd College becomes a four-year college.

1936 March 18—The worst recorded Potomac River flood destroys the 1889 iron bridge across the Potomac at Shepherdstown. A replacement bridge is completed in 1939 and named in honor of James Rumsey; it is dedicated with great fanfare on July 5.

1945 The Shepherdstown Men's Club is established and its members begin negotiating with the trustees of the Southern Methodist Church to purchase the 1868 building the church had recently vacated. This transaction is finally completed in late 1947 and the Club renames the building the War Memorial Building.

1957 Passenger train service to Shepherdstown ends.

1960s As in many communities across the country, Shepherdstown's downtown begins to die. By the end of the decade many storefronts are empty.

1961 The Shepherdstown Men's Club buys the old Morgan's Grove fairgrounds for use as a public park and names it "Morgan's Grove Park."

1962 From October 20 to November 30, Shepherdstown celebrates the bicentennial of its chartering. As part of its observances, a series of sketches of prominent men of Shepherdstown, written by Shepherd Professor A.D. Kenamond, are published in a local newspaper and then assembled into a book.

1970s Shepherdstown is "discovered" by people from the Washington metropolitan area and becomes a popular weekend destination. City dwellers begin to buy homes here and retire here. This helps rejuvenate the town, and it gains the nickname "Georgetown West."

1971 The C&O Canal becomes a National Historic Park, and an important recreational resource for Shepherdstown residents. The Shepherdstown Women's Club turns its library over to the state, so it can be operated as a public library.

1972 A Historic Shepherdstown Commission is established to block Shepherd College from tearing down the old Entler Hotel building to make room for a parking lot. In 1978, the state finally deeds the building to the town of Shepherdstown for one dollar, and restorations begin. A town museum in the building is opened to the public in 1983.

1973 The area within Shepherdstown's original town boundaries (excluding the portion occupied by Shepherd College) is included on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district.

1990 November 28—The Shepherdstown Men's Club, which has struggled for years with the issue of admitting women (and losing membership over the issue), votes 46-7 to admit women. The Club's membership rebounds quickly. The Club elects its first woman president (Maura Brackett) in 1998.

1991 The Contemporary American Theater Festival, located at Shepherd College, opens its first season.

1997 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's new National Conservation Training Center opens. Located on a 538-acre campus just north of Shepherdstown, the Center offers continuing-education training for personnel from the Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies involved in conservation.

1998 The U.S. Office of Personnel Management moves its Eastern Management Development Center from Lancaster PA to Shepherdstown. Part of a new building complex that includes a 168-room Clarion Hotel, the Center provides management training to government executives.

2000 This year, for the first time, Shepherdstown is included in the Washington metropolitan area. From January 3-10, a peace conference between Israel and Syria is held at the new Eastern Management Development Center, and reporters from around the world converge on Shepherdstown.

2003 A nonprofit organization called the Friends of the Shepherdstown Riverfront is formed to coordinate a long-standing effort to rehabilitate an old, 18th century Tobacco Warehouse at the bottom of Princess Street. Over the next several years, the Friends organization secures several major grants and succeeds in stabilizing the warehouse building. Also, construction begins on a new bridge across the Potomac at Shepherdstown, to replace the 1939 Rumsey bridge which has deteriorated badly.

2005 Shepherd College becomes Shepherd University. Also, the new Rumsey bridge is completed on September 8. On October 4—with many citizens of the town turning out to watch—the old bridge is demolished by explosives. There is talk of a dedication ceremony for the new bridge but for some reason this never happens.

2009 The Shepherdstown Rotary Club volunteers to help the town revitalize the Rumsey monument park, which has fallen into disuse. Improvements to the park are made but after further discussions with town officials, the Friends of the Shepherdstown Riverfront and others, this project quickly evolves into a larger effort to revitalize all of the town-owned land along the Potomac River. The goal is to preserve and improve those resources in ways that will tie them together and maximize their scenic, recreational and historical potential. The National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program is recruited to provide technical assistance for this effort, which is expected to be a multi-year effort.