



PRESERVE PORT

Newsletter of The Society of Port Republic Preservationists, Inc. October 2005

8691 Water Street P.O. Box 82

Port Republic VA 24471

www.heritagecenter.com/SPRP

Artifacts Identification Day

Ever wondered what that strange little shaped rock is...perhaps the one you dug up in your grandparents' yard? Here's your chance to find out.

On October 16, 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the Museum, we will host an "Artifacts Identification Day". Archaeologists from James Madison University and the Massanutten Chapter of the Archeological Society of Virginia will be here to identify stone spearpoints and other tools.

The Port Republic area has been the focus of archaeological studies since the mid-1800's when researchers from the Smithsonian Institution came to the County in search of Native American sites. Many local families continue to hold collections of artifacts from significant sites that are not yet documented.

This event is part of a state-wide celebration of Virginia Archaeology Month. The general public is invited to join SPRP members whether to bring in artifacts for identification, or just to watch and learn about the process. Either way, it should be fun!

-----Byway Request-----

The Society has sought the support of the Board of Supervisors as the first step in requesting that a circuit of roads in our area be designated a "Virginia Byway" by VDOT and the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

The proposed route passes through the town of Port Republic, Lynnwood, and Goods Mill. The Virginia Byway designation (and inclusion on the Byway map) would be one more assurance of retaining the scenic, rural, agricultural character of the area.

A decision on our request was tabled by the Supervisors pending obtaining more information about a byway's possible limitation on "placement of outdoor advertising signs."

-----Funds needed for New Project-----

The early 1800's barn of Harrison Bateman was later converted to the Alexander Cannery. Now, a major wind or snow storm could reduce it to a salvage project. It is our intent to preserve the history of a deteriorating historic barn, while providing an additional exhibit building on the Museum grounds.

We were unable to secure SVBF funds for this purpose so we must find alternative means to raise the money. There will be more about this in future newsletters. In the meantime, if you know about available funding or grants, please contact us!

Wanted Workers with mowers or weed-eaters!

A fall workday is set for October 22 (rain-date, Oct. 29) to mow and trim Riverside Graveyard. Anyone who enjoys this "green area" in the village should show up to work.

Local Mining Operation

In August a Public Hearing was held by our Board of Supervisors to consider a request by Dennis Morris, of Natural Sand and Stone, to amend a number of conditions set by the Board when they first issued the special use permit for the mining operation in 1994.

Granting this request would allow a sales yard on the site and unlimited trucking; the entire 19 acres could be surface mined and with no requirement for any buffer or screening to reduce sight, noise, or dust from neighboring properties nor from Jackson's Way (Rte. 955); and it would allow on-site crushing.

The operation is located in a residential area, one-half mile from the village, in the core area of Port Republic Battlefield, and on Madison Run, 250 yards from the Shenandoah River. The permit is for "special use" of the land...and would be transferred to subsequent landowners.

The SPRP Board of Directors responded with vigorous opposition, both as a group and as individuals, writing the Supervisors and speaking at the hearing. We made every effort to contact local and state agencies and influential individuals who might offer opinions to help the Supervisors reach the decision to deny the request.

At the Public Hearing, the request was tabled, pending the Supervisors' visit to the site on September 14. The Board has not yet taken action. It may not be too late for your input to have an impact.

-----In the Works!-----

The Museum: Ah, the joys of "house-ownership"! At the moment, we're having several maintenance projects attended: replacing a section of gutter, replacing rotten boards, and painting three exterior sections and the roof.

Exciting News: Carol Nash of J.M.U. CISAT, and her students, have begun a major research project on the Port Republic area, beginning with New Haven this fall.

Shenandoah Blueway: Through cooperative efforts, the Shenandoah River has been designated a "Blueway" from Port Republic to the town of Shenandoah. The result is an elegant navigation map and regular maintenance and improvements on riverbanks and at boat ramps. The next big clean-up day will be September 24. For more information, contact Sandy Greene: greenes104@aol.com.

Mayor Race coming up: It's not too early to look at candidates for next spring's Mayor race, when the Honorable Peggy Richardson will step down. Fees for nominating a candidate (\$25) will be accepted beginning in January, after our next newsletter.

Remember the Past--Preserve for the Future

Board of Directors: Tom Aycock, Anita Cummins, Kevin Gabel, Tamara Gibson, Sherry Gordon, Ellen Kaylor, James Oppy, Carol Poulson, Peggy Richardson, Joe Solometo, Jeff Stockberger, and Frances Wilkerson.



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 8691 Water Street
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SPRP Board meets the 3rd Monday each month, 7:00 p.m. at the Museum. Members are welcome to attend.

The Museum is open from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. on Sundays, or for groups by appointment. If you can't make it on Sundays, call Carol Poulson at 249-3156.

Mark your calendar...Join us on October 16 at the Museum for Artifacts Identification Day!

A Bit of Port History-A Local Victim of Identity Theft

(This summer we had inquiries about the Port Republic Crawford family from parties in four different sections of the country. This story was related by one of them, Mae Cleveland, of Tallahassee Florida, who is doing extensive research of the family.)

As a veteran of the War of 1812, Zachariah Crawford, a local citizen, became eligible for bounty land under the Act of 1850. His discharge paper was stolen as he was returning home to Rockingham County after his discharge in 1815. When he applied for bounty land, 1854, he was informed that a bounty land warrant had already been issued to a Zachariah Crawford in North Carolina. The imposter had sent Zachariah Crawford's original discharge paper with the application.

Crawford's attorney, Charles Lewis of Port Republic, replied to the Department of Interior: "My client is the identical individual who performed the service for which he claims compensation...and he has ever since resided in Rockingham County and was not out of the county during the period at which the forged application was made". Lewis submitted sworn statements from prominent local residents who came to the aid of Crawford in establishing his identity.

Zachariah Raines, known as the Commodore of the Shenandoah River was about age 45 in 1856. He attested he "had known Zachariah Crawford ever since he can remember and Crawford had always lived in Port Republic or the immediate neighborhood". Raines stated that Crawford had worked at John Lewis' sawmill (at Lynnwood) in 1854, having sawed lumber for him and for Robert Burke that same year.

John F. Lewis had known Crawford since boyhood and confirmed Raines's statement that Crawford "has frequently attended my saw mill."

Harrison Bateman, (New Haven) a longtime friend of the Crawford family, stated that he had known Zachariah all his life and they lived in the same neighborhood. "In referring to my account book, I find that Crawford worked for me in the months of July, August and September, 1854" He states that items we charged to Zachariah at various times during those months.

Dr. George W. Kemper declared that he had known Zachariah for the last 40 years and stated, "for the last 4 years said Crawford has lived within a mile of my residence." (Dr. Kemper served in the War of 1812 as a physician at Fort Norfolk where Zachariah served his tour of duty.)

Zachariah Crawford did receive a bounty land warrant for eighty acres of land, but as a result of the identity theft he did not receive a warrant for all the land to which he was entitled.

I enclose \$25 for membership 2005 through 2007. _____ I enclose \$10 for family membership for 2005. _____
 (Members receive free admission to the Museum and our periodic newsletter.)

I enclose a tax-exempt gift of \$ _____.

I want to be called on to work. _____ I have artifacts I would be willing to donate. Call me. _____

Name _____ Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(Make checks payable to SPRP and mail to SPRP, P.O. Box 82, Port Republic, VA 24471)