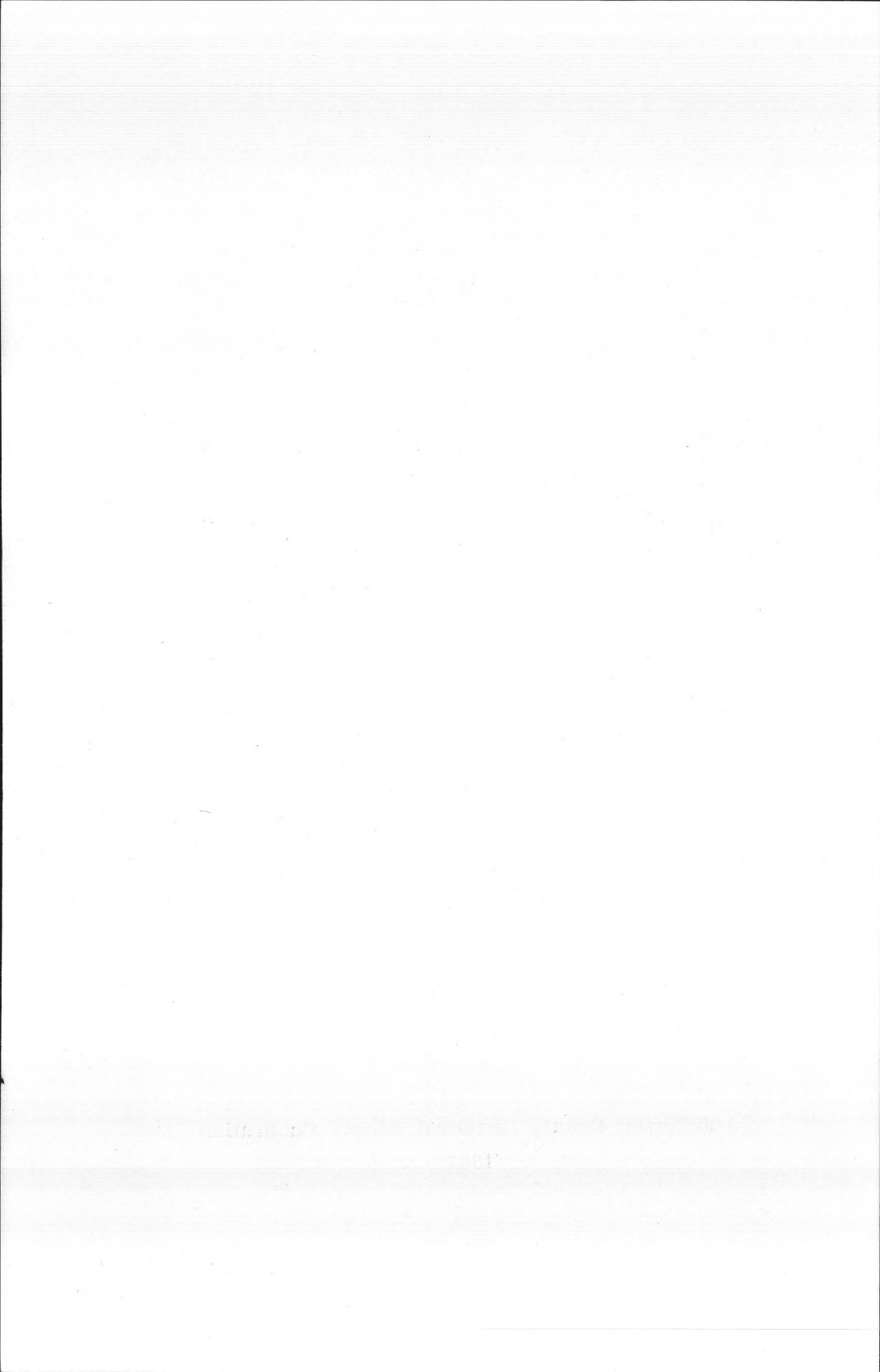


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PROMINENT MEN OF SHEPHERDSTOWN  
DURING ITS FIRST 200 YEARS

**By A. D. Kenamond**

**A Jefferson County Historical Society Publication**  
**1963**



## **JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Organized May 21, 1927**

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## FOREWORD

Early in September of 1912 a young couple arrived in Shepherdstown to make their home. More than fifty years later they are still living here and no two people are better informed about the history and traditions of this old town than Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Kenamond. They have been such useful and beloved citizens that we like to think of them as honorary natives.

On the first Christmas Mr. Kenamond gave his wife a copy of "Historic Shepherdstown" by Danske Dandridge, and something began that comes to fruition in this book. Mr. Kenamond's interest in local history as researcher, writer and editor and his extensive collection of materials are surpassed only by the information he carries in his memory and which he has used to assist countless others. His fifty years of painstaking research and assembling of facts attest that he is a reliable and accurate historian. With him, Mrs. Kenamond has devoted much time to studying local history.

This book is divided into 50 sketches but there is in it the history of the town told through the lives of the men whose business ventures filled the needs of their times, the early churches and schools, the fashionable parties, the dashing soldier who ventured far and came back laden with victory and a rose bush in his saddlebag. Many colorful stories are here. Most of the men rest in the five old cemeteries within the town. Their descendants are scattered in all the States but here old houses still stand; inscriptions on mossy stones, old deeds and church records show the blood lines that had their American beginning here by the Potomac.

The Jefferson County Historical Society has the honor of publishing Mr. Kenamond's distinguished contribution to the historical literature of the early American scene.

Linnie Schley  
For the Society

## THE WRITER

A. D. Kenamond chose teaching as a career. He taught four years in public elementary and high schools, was first assistant at West Liberty State Normal School for five years and then on the faculty of Shepherd College for thirty-six, serving as assistant to the president from 1919 to 1924 and, as the position came to be known, dean from 1924 to 1948.



He was a judge on the State Court of Claims, 1950 to 1953; president of the Shepherdstown Fire Company seven years; on the town council three times, two of them as recorder; secretary of the Rumseyan Society since December, 1936; and in a few months will have been a Presbyterian elder for fifty years.

The picture shown here was snapped while he was attending the dedication of a third Fairfax Stone (the first was placed in 1746) at the head spring of the North Branch of the Potomac River.

Mr. Kenamond was president of the Jefferson County Historical Society from its organization in 1927 to 1950 and again from 1954 to 1960. His interest in the State's history has gone beyond Shepherdstown and Jefferson County; he served a term as president of the West Virginia Historical Society.

## CONTENTS

	Page
Thomas Shepherd, founder of Shepherdstown .....	11
Col. John James Abert, 1788-1863 .....	15
Charles W. Andrews, D.D., 1807-1875 .....	18
Elias Baker, 1811-1867 .....	21
John Baker, 1769-1823 .....	23
Dr. G. W. Banks, 1855-1935 .....	26
Samuel D. Barnhart, 1798-1882 .....	28
Henry Bedinger, 1729-1772 .....	30
Major Henry Bedinger, 1753-1834 .....	32
Henry Bedinger, 1812-1858 .....	35
George M. Beltzhoover, Sr., 1844-1935 .....	37
Henry Berry, 1792-1867 .....	39
David Billmyer, 1811-1897 .....	40
Alexander R. Boteler, 1815-1892 .....	43
Robert Cockburn, 173?-1822 .....	44
Henry Cookus, 17??-1777 .....	46
Jacob Craft, 17??-1825 .....	49
Philip Adam Entler, 1716-1799 .....	52
E. Lee Goldsborough, 1869-1935 .....	55
Major Henry Hagan, 1821-1895 .....	57
Dr. Thomas Hammond, 1799-1850 .....	58
Col. J. F. Hamtramck, 1798-1858 .....	59
Charles Harper, 1795-1863 .....	62
George T. Hodges, 1850-1903 .....	64
Moses Hoge, D.D., 1752-1820 .....	65
Thomas Hopkins, 1803-1877 .....	68

John Kearsley, 1745-1819 .....	69
Edmund Jennings Lee II, 1797-1877 .....	71
Willoughby Newton Lemen, 1845-1913 .....	74
John Mark, 175?-182? .....	76
Joseph McMurrin, 1829-1902 .....	78
Eleazer Hutchinson Miller, 1831-1921 .....	80
John Morrow, 174?-1819 .....	81
Henry W. Potts, 1846-1931 .....	84
Dr. John Reynolds, 1817-1891 .....	86
Michael Rickard, 17??-1811 .....	88
William Rightstine, 1808-1892 .....	91
James Rumsey, 1743-1792 .....	94
Dr. Nicholas Schell, 1746-1803 .....	96
Conrad Schindler, 1778-1852 .....	105
Philip Sheetz, 1738-1793 .....	97
Abraham Shepherd, 1754-1822 .....	99
Rezin D. Shepherd, 1784-1865 .....	103
Harry L. Snyder, 1861-1935 .....	108
Thomas Van Swearingen, 1784-1822 .....	110
Dr. Alexander Tinsley, 1832-1911 .....	112
George Weis, 1782-1857 .....	113
Joseph Welshans, 1805-1898 .....	115
Michael Yeasley, 1730-1808 .....	117
John H. Zittle, 1832-1900 .....	119
Epilogue and Apologia .....	121
Shepherdstown Bicentennial Observance .....	125

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

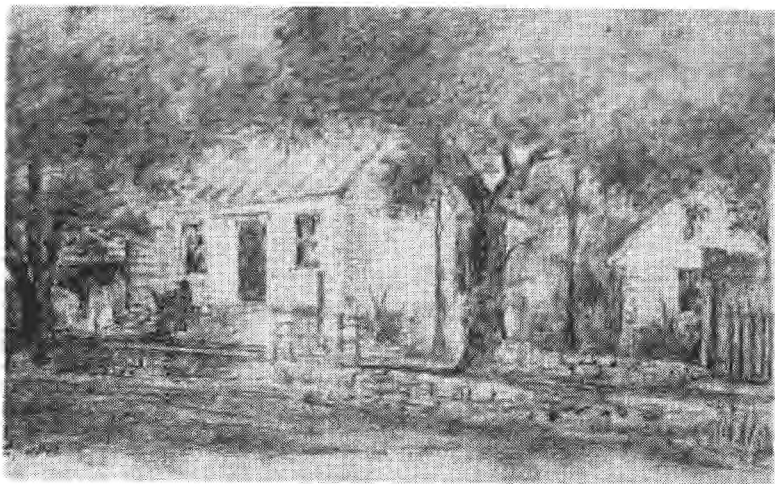
	Page
Colonel John James Abert .....	14
Charles W. Andrews, D.D. ....	19
John Baker .....	25
Henry Bedinger, Minister to Denmark .....	34
Bell in 1798 German Reformed Church .....	117
Alexander R. Boteler .....	42
Charlotte of Mecklenburg .....	124
Craft Clock .....	50
Henry Kyd Douglas in Confederate uniform .....	122
Escutcheon, Lutheran church door .....	89
Hallway in Presbyterian Manse .....	70
Colonel John Francis Hamtramck .....	61
Moses Hoge .....	67
Early Mecklenburg house, still standing .....	9
Edmund Jennings Lee, 1797-1877 .....	73
Grist Mill, Thomas Shepherd's .....	10
Rectory, Trinity Episcopal .....	17
James Rumsey .....	93
Rezin D. Shepherd, 1784-1865 .....	102
Thomas Van Swearingen, a miniature .....	110
Town Hall, Rezin D. Shepherd's .....	101



**MECKLENBURG, SHEPHERD'S TOWN  
AND SHEPHERDSTOWN**

Thomas Shepherd had the bill chartering his town as Mecklenberg introduced in the Virginia Assembly on November 12, 1762. The bill was approved by Council on November 30, 1762, and signed by Governor Francis Fauquier on December 23, 1762.

Charter changes made it Shepherd's Town in 1798 and Shepherdstown in 1820.



**Early Mecklenburg House, still standing.**



A corner of Thomas Shepherd's Grist Mill, off lower High Street, two stories of stone, 60 by 45 feet, showing water wheel 40 feet in diameter. Photo by Bodine.

## THOMAS SHEPHERD

Thomas Shepherd, 1705-1776, takes first place among the prominent men of Shepherdstown by virtue of having been its founder.

According to Samuel Gordon Smythe, the Shepherd genealogist, his ancestry and the early location of his forebears have never been fully established. The most plausible view is that his ancestors came from Devonshire, England, a view supported by the similarity of the crest used by the Shepherds of Devonshire and one engraved on a piece of ancestral plate handed down through his descendants here. A favored view is that his earlier years were spent in Washington County, Maryland, and he was probably there when he married Elizabeth VanMetre, who in 1745 was willed the "Pell Mell" tract on the Maryland side of the Potomac by her father, John VanMetre, "the Indian trader."

Thomas Shepherd may have arrived in 1732, but at any rate he secured a grant of 222 acres here on October 3, 1734, and on June 12, 1751, acquired from Lord Fairfax a tract of 457 acres cornering on his original purchase. He also bought other lands, so that he had nearly a thousand acres near the ford, later called Pack Horse Ford, on the "Wagon Road to Philadelphia," shown on the Wm. Mayo map of 1737. The May 3, 1742, deed from Isaac Garrison to Moses Teague, on record at Orange Court House, called it "the Wagon Road Foard."

Thomas Shepherd's first 222 acres, on the northeast quarter of which he laid out his town, were traversed by the Falling Spring branch of the Potomac, so that he had power for his mills. The first of these is mentioned in Book 1 of the Frederick Co., Va., Court Journals in 1739. There must have been a good many settlers in the vicinity to call for the service of a grist mill.

Further evidence of the early development of this region was the appointment, on March 1, 1757, of Thomas Shepherd, by the Frederick County Court, to be overseer of the road from Swearingen's Ferry to Jacob Hite's (Shepherdstown to Leetown). By that time, beginning with Thomas Hart, who in 1730 tomahawked 1,300 acres on Elk Branch and on May 9, 1735, made final settlement with Joist Hite, a considerable number of settlers had become established on rather large grants in the more immediate Shepherdstown area — Robert Buckles on 2,090 acres, Thomas Boidstone, Peter Burr, Josiah Cart,

William Chapline, Joseph Darke, Melchoir Engle, William Forester, Isaac Garrison, Jacob Hite on 3,042 acres, Josiah Jones, Judith Lafferty, John Lemen, Nicholas Lemen, Henry Lloyd, James Lloyd, Edward Lucas, Richard Morgan, Joseph Mounts, Richard Poulson, Thomas Swearingen, Van Swearingen on 1,760 acres, Samuel Taylor, Edward Teague, and Anthony Turner, Jr.

Thomas Shepherd had laid out his town before the outbreak of the French and Indian War in 1754, and when hostilities began covenanted with settlers on 20 of his lots that they might have them free from rent and pay for them at the end of "the then Indian war."

About 60 years ago an aged descendant wrote that Thomas Shepherd had erected a stone house or fort on the northeast corner of German and King streets when the Indians became troublesome, and that one of his sons was born there. That, of course, could only have been his youngest son, Abraham, born November 10, 1754.

The question arises as to where he lived before building the stone house or fort. The plausible answer is that it was on the northwest corner of German and King, the old Sheetz corner now occupied by the Old Town Restaurant. In laying out his town he had given No. 1 to this corner lot, and it would seem natural for him to begin numbering his lots with the one where he lived. Philip Sheetz didn't get a Shepherd deed till 1788 for this lot, which then had a house on it, but may have secured a lease on the place shortly after December 18, 1771, on which date he was living on a lot owned by Henry Bedinger, as shown by the latter's will.

By 1762 the many lot owners expressed a desire to live in an incorporated town. Accordingly, on November 12, 1762, Thomas Shepherd had a bill introduced in the Virginia House of Burgesses, which, on passage, incorporated the town as Mecklenburg.

He left no documentary record to show why he chose the name, but it is now widely accepted that it was in honor of Charlotte of Mecklenburg, whose marriage to King George III of England had occurred late in 1761. Charlottesville and Mecklenburg (now called Shepherdstown) were chartered on the same day, when it was popular to name towns and counties for the new English queen. Both were in the English colony of Virginia. In naming his streets Thomas Shepherd also showed English influence, in the choice of King Street, and Queen,

High, Duke and Princess. He also had a Mill Street, on the west side of which were two mills, and a Church Street, on which the English church stood.

King George III and his queen, Charlotte of Mecklenburg, had lost favor by the beginning of the Revolutionary War, so the name Shepherd's Town had supplanted Mecklenburg in popular usage, though it was not till 1798 that Thomas Shepherd was honored by having his town officially named for him. Unfortunately, that honor was later dimmed a bit when the name of his town was changed from Shepherd's Town to Shepherdstown.

Thomas and Elizabeth VanMetre Shepherd had five sons and five daughters — David, Sarah, Elizabeth, William, Thomas, John, Mary, Martha, Abraham, and Susannah — the first born in 1734 and the last in 1758.

The will of Thomas Shepherd, on record in Martinsburg, proved August 20, 1776, makes bequests to all his sons and daughters and to his wife, who outlived him by a little more than 16 years.

In it his business as a miller is brought out. There was his old stone grist mill, still standing today, off lower High Street; his saw mill south of Rocky Street and between Princess and Mill; and a "new mill" farther down the town run or "mill branch."

But Thomas Shepherd, with his large land holdings, had other work besides that of being a miller. An appraisal of his personal estate showed that at the time of his death, aged 71 years, he was farming those lands. The appraisal listed 7 horses, 15 cattle, 18 sheep, wheat, barley, rye, hay, and a lot of farm equipment.

His will left Lot No. 40 "on which the English Church stands" for the use of the Parish of Norborne. The church had been built on the north end of his lot some years earlier. The oldest surviving Vestry Book of Frederick Parish, from which Norborne was taken, mentions a chapel at Mecklenburg in 1764. The lot about the church became the old Episcopal graveyard.

Lot No. 115, which is just east of the present Episcopal Rectory on New Street west of King, was set aside for a Shepherd Burial Ground, either by him or his son Abraham, who inherited all his father's unsold or unwilling lots. There near the middle of the lot, according to his descendants, is the grave of Thomas Shepherd, founder of the town now called Shepherdstown.



**Colonel John James Abert**  
From an 1839 portrait by Thomas Sully, in West Point Museum  
Collections.

## COLONEL JOHN JAMES ABERT

John James Abert, 1788-1863, was the first Shepherdstown man to enter West Point, then only six years after the United States Military Academy was established there.

John Abert had come to America with General Rochambeau in 1780 and settled in this town, where his son John James Abert was born on September 17, 1788. Since the name has appeared as Ebert as well as Abert, it may have been Ebert originally. The accent has been placed on the first syllable, Ay-bert.

On April 15, 1799, John Abert, Shepherd's Town, placed the following advertisement with the Potomak Guardian:

"The subscriber begs leave to acquaint his friends in Particular, and the public at large, that he has opened again, A House of Entertainment in this healthy and flourishing place, in that noted and commodious Brick House, formerly Mr. Wynkoop's and lately occupied by Mr. Gilchrist, where he shall be glad, as usual to accommodate them in a substantial and comfortable manner."

So, as a ten-year old boy, John James Abert, the future Colonel, was living in the Wynkoop-Morgan-Selby-Hamtramck-Shepherd-Billmyer house on lower German Street.

Margaretta Meng Abert, wife of John, died February 28, 1806, "Dr. Boteler attending," ten days after the birth of her ninth child. The Dr. Boteler was, of course, Col. Alexander R. Boteler's father Henry, who began practicing medicine in Shepherdstown in 1801. Reported, by Mrs. G. Roger Harvey, as found among the papers of Colonel John James Abert is the statement that his "mother's bones lye in the old Episcopal Churchyard in Shepherdstown."

When twenty years old John James entered West Point and was graduated on April 1, 1811. He at once resigned, and was then employed in the War office, Shepherdstown remaining his legal residence. In the War of 1812 he volunteered as a private soldier for defense of the Capitol City.

In 1814 he was reappointed to the Army as topographical engineer with the rank of Major. In 1820 he was

placed in charge of the topographical bureau at Washington, and in 1838 became Colonel in command of the U. S. Corps of Topographical Engineers. He was retired in 1861 after "long and faithful service." He died September 27, 1863.

On January 25, 1813, he married Ellen Matlack Stretch, a granddaughter of Timothy Matlack, "the fighting Quaker" who, as clerk, engrossed the Declaration of Independence.

Colonel John James Abert's sons, James William, Silvanus Thayer, and William Stretch, served with distinction in the U. S. Army during the Civil War. James William Abert, a graduate of West Point in 1838, was with Patterson at Falling Waters in June, 1861, as a Captain of engineers.

Another son of Colonel John James Abert, the second in order of birth, was Charles Abert (1822-1897), a D. C. attorney who practiced in the Court of Claims. A great-granddaughter of Charles Abert, Mrs. G. Roger Harvey, is now living in Falls Church, Va. Her mother's maiden name was Abert. Mrs. Harvey has accumulated a vast store of documentary material on the Aberts, some of which is used in this sketch. Abert descendants may well hope that she will publish a family history. Indicative of the detail in her valuable documents, one of them states that a brother and four sisters of Colonel John James Abert were born in Shepherdstown: James William, October 3, 1790; Eliza, December 4, 1792; Louisa Pinckney, October 22, 1800; Juliet, June 7, 1803; and Matilda, February 18, 1806. General Charles Coatesworth Pinckney has been credited with living in the Wynkoop house during the first six months of the year in which Louisa Pinckney Abert was born, suggesting that the Abert parents were honoring him in naming their child.

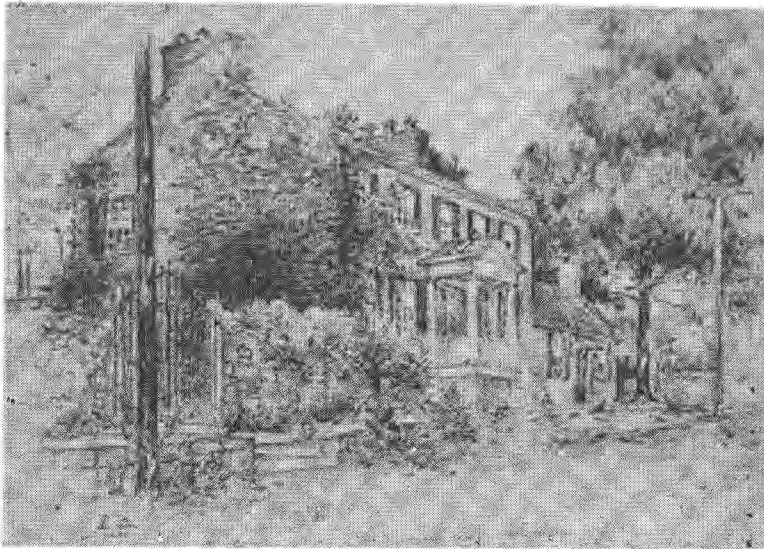
Seemingly, at this time the only Shepherdstown records of the Abert family are to be found in the membership rolls of the Presbyterian Church. Louisa and Sophia Abert were members, the latter becoming the second wife, in 1834, of John T. Cookus, a Presbyterian elder. Also, in the Jefferson County record of marriages performed by Moses Hoge, Presbyterian pastor, is that of Major Swann and Elizabeth Ebert or Abert on August 18, 1806; Elizabeth was probably a sister of Colonel John James Abert. From the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati is had the statement that Caleb Swan, a line officer in



the Revolution, married Maria Henrietta Abert, daughter of John Abert, in 1806.

On August 27, 1834, Sophia Abert had been living for some years at "Hazelfield" with Ann Stephen Dandridge Hunter, from whom she had a handsome legacy. John T. and Sophia Abert Cookus had one daughter, Margaret Abert Cookus, who married Captain Johnson Orrick.

No tombstone has been found in the old Presbyterian graveyard for Colonel John James Abert, and information is lacking as to his burial place. His death occurred a year too soon for his body to rest in the Arlington National Cemetery.



Episcopal Rectory, from drawing by John C. Dodd. Erected in 1814; purchased by Trinity Episcopal Church in 1846 while Dr. Andrews was its rector.

### C. W. ANDREWS, D.D.

Charles Wesley Andrews, 1807-1875, was rector of Trinity Episcopal Church during the period in which the present beautiful stone church and nearby chapel were erected and its historic Rectory was acquired. He was honored with the D.D. degree in 1860.

C. W. Andrews was born at Pittsfield, Rutland County, Vermont, on July 27, 1807. Left fatherless when only six years old, he took over from his devoted mother the responsibility for his own maintenance nine years later. In some way or other he managed to support himself while continuing preparation for entrance to Middlebury College, which took him some 25 miles from home.

After three year at Middlebury, the condition of his health was such that, in June, 1827, he decided to seek its restoration in a more southern clime, that of Virginia. Leaving Alexandria in October, he went to present Clarke County and was engaged as a teacher in the family of the junior Richard Kidder Meade, where he became acquainted with the brother William Meade, elected assistant bishop in 1829. The engagement with the Meade family was terminated in May 1829 and Mr. Andrews became a teacher in the family of Wm. S. Jones, of Vaucluse.

On April 20, 1832, he removed to Bishop Meade's to continue his studies in preparation for ordination. He was ordained by Bishop Moore at the Diocesan Convention in Alexandria on May 20, 1832. He had been confirmed by Bishop Meade on April 10, 1830, his earlier ecclesiastical connections, in New England, having been with the Congregational Church.

After ordination, he was for some time in charge of the Millwood church in Clarke County, and on February 28, 1833, married Sarah W. Page, daughter of Matthew Page, of nearby "Annfield." In 1838 he became the first rector of St. Andrews Church in Pittsburgh, resigning in the spring of 1841 to spend a year abroad for his health. This was due to a recurrence of the threatened tuberculosis that had caused him to leave Vermont for Virginia.

In September, 1842, he came here, for the remaining 33 years of his life and labors, as rector of Trinity Episcopal Church. Until the Church bought its Rectory in 1846, his home was on High Street, just east of what was



**C. W. Andrews, D.D.**

**From an 1855 sepia by John A. Gray, New York.**

then the Episcopal church. His wife, Sarah Page Andrews, died on January 30, 1863, at the Rectory. On March 12, 1865, Dr. Andrews married the widow of Charles Boteler and moved across the street to her dwelling, presently the home of Miss Julia Reinhart.

In addition to his parish work, Dr. Andrews in his time had many interests and activities. He was one of the seven incorporators of Shepherd College and a trustee of the Theological Seminary of Virginia. In 1861 he ended a long term as editor of the Parish Visitor. In the 1830's he was General Agent of the Virginia Colonization Society, through which the slaves of Mrs. Andrews and her mother, Bishop Meade's sister Anne, were freed and settled in Africa. His friendship toward their race was shown in Shepherdstown; when the new Episcopal church was completed in 1859 and the old church, without surrounding land, was deeded to the African M. E. Church eight years later, Dr. Andrews by his personal efforts outside his parish had raised a large portion of the money needed to make the transfer.

Trinity Episcopal Church had 36 members at the beginning of his rectorship and 90 at its close. Peak enrollment for the Sunday School was 55. In the schools of thought of the Church and his conduct of worship services Dr. Andrews was always "Low-Church."

In Elmwood Cemetery, near the top of the hill, are the old gravestones of Rev. C. W. Andrews, D.D., and Sarah W. Andrews, his wife, and those of their only son, M. Page Andrews, 1834-1878, and his wife, Anna Robinson Andrews, 1837-1908. The latter were the parents of the historian Matthew Page Andrews and Sallie Page Andrews, of "Fruit Hill," both of whom are now deceased. Dr. Andrews died in Fredericksburg, Va., on May 24, 1875, while on his way to a Richmond convention of the Episcopal Church.

A rather full account of the life and works of Dr. Andrews may be found in the "Memoir of C. W. Andrews" by Cornelius Walker, D.D., New York, 1877.

## ELIAS BAKER

Elias Baker, 1811-1867, came to Shepherdstown by a round about way from his native Washington County, Maryland. He was the son of Elias Baker. His grandfather Elias, or Charles Elias, Baker had settled about 1770 near the later site of the Battle of Antietam, married a little later, and started a family, giving rise to the present Bakersville, not far from Tilghmanton and off the highway toward Sharpsburg.

In 1856 a court record has the local Elias designated as Elias Baker, Jr., and his father, still living in Washington County, as Elias Baker, Sr. Reference to the father of Elias Baker, Sr., may be found in Cramer's Biography of his great-great-grandson, Newton D. Baker, the Secretary of War.

On November 4, 1849, Elias Baker, who had nine brothers and five sisters, married Mary Ann Billmyer, 1816-1896, youngest of the thirteen children reared by Martin and Susan Billmyer on their mill farm, in the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Morrow.

To Elias and Mary A. Baker, on October 6, 1841, at Bakersville, was born their first child, whom they named Newton Diehl, the Newton for one of the Lemen brothers-in-law of Mrs. Baker, and the Diehl for a Maryland minister, doubtless a Lutheran. In order of birth the other children of Elias and Mary A. Baker were Ann Katherine, Cora Louise, Martin Billmyer, Solomon Elmer, William Elias Fink, Alban Howard, and Henry Seaton.

Leaving Bakersville Elias Baker and family lived in Appomattox County, Virginia, for a few years. By March 1850 they were settled on a farm near Vanclevesville. In March 1857 they came to Shepherdstown, to the Staley house, buying out the store David Billmyer had there. In March 1858, Mrs. Baker having acquired the house now owned and occupied by Professor and Mrs. Guy Frank, the Elias Baker family moved there, "next door" to the Staley house.

Elias Baker was the Shepherdstown postmaster from 1862 till his death in May 1867. Appointed by President Lincoln, he was a northern sympathizer and was not pleased to have son Newton Diehl serving the Confederacy with twenty of his cousins. Father Elias spoke to his son only once during the war. When the son was

wounded in the leg and was held prisoner at Fort McHenry, Baltimore, the father went to see him. As a sequel to this period of strained relationship, at the close of the war Newton Diehl Baker was sent to the University of Maryland to study medicine; before the war he had attended Wittenberg College, a Lutheran school in Ohio.

Dr. Newton Diehl Baker, after graduation from the University of Maryland in 1868, practiced medicine in Shepherdstown for one year before moving to Martinsburg. There his son, Newton Diehl Baker, Secretary of War in Wilson's cabinet, was born in 1871, four years after the death of Elias Baker. Young "Newtie" Baker frequently came down from Martinsburg to visit his grandmother.

In the war years of his postmastership Elias Baker had to be a little cautious, adopting the plan, at critical times, of sending his older daughter Kate out on the streets to learn whether the Federals or Confederates held the town before he would open up his postoffice.

On May 17, 1867, Mrs. Mary A. Baker became postmistress, succeeding her husband and holding the office till April 1869. Mrs. Baker continued to live in the old brick dwelling till her death, when she lacked two days of being eighty years old. Remembered for her devotion to the Lutheran church, her sweet and unselfish nature, her exemplary life has been a precious heritage to her children and her children's children. Two of her granddaughters, Josephine (Mrs. Eugene) Whitmore and Mrs. Mary Burness, are now living in Washington, D. C. They spent their childhood in the home of their grandmother, when their father, the late Henry S. Baker, lived there with her.

## JOHN BAKER

John Baker, 1769-1823, gained many honors and considerable distinction during thirty-three years as a Shepherdstown lawyer.

When Aaron Burr was brought to trial in 1807, the dazzling battery of defense lawyers, six in all and headed by Edmund Randolph, attorney general under Washington, included "Jack Baker, a younger but experienced defense lawyer."

When Jefferson County was formed in 1801 John Baker was made assistant commonwealth's attorney. He served four terms as president of Shepherdstown's Court of Trustees and was for a time its attorney.

He was nominated by the Federal party and elected to Congress from the district embracing Jefferson, Berkeley and Hampshire counties, serving from 1811 to 1813. His forceful speech in favor of pensioning soldiers who had served in the Revolutionary War does not appear in the Annals of Congress, since it was made in the Committee of the Whole. Farmers of the upper part of Jefferson County were greatly pleased when he sought to have Congress make certain improvements near Georgetown that would give them a choice between Georgetown and Alexandria as a market for their flour. As a Federalist he voted steadily against a war with Great Britain and all other measures in aid of that belligerent movement.

Presumably John Baker was born in Maryland. His father, "John Baker of Montgomery County, Maryland," in 1779, bought 250 acres, bordering on Peter Burr lands and Walter Baker's 400 acre tract, with its Gap View mansion. At that time life for a Tory was more comfortable in this section of Virginia than in Maryland. That the senior John Baker later erected a dwelling on those 250 acres has been a matter of inference. Anyway, he sold them to Joseph Wilson, of Montgomery County, Maryland, in December 1785, for 1,000 pounds. On August 17, 1784 he had bought of Humphrey Gwyn, for 1,450 pounds, 341 acres, part of the Worthington lands Gwyn had lately bought of James Nourse. This was some distance toward Charles Town, and across the highway, from Harewood. In 1798 the will of John Baker left his "dwelling house and plantation," then said to contain 334 acres, to his son John. This tract was held in the

Baker name till 1831, when the executor of the junior John Baker sold it to Samuel Engle.

So, this must have been the home of John Baker when he was ready to open a law office. Passing up the nearer Charles Town, at that time only a rising village, he located in Shepherdstown, then the largest town in this county. He had entered Liberty Hall Academy, the later Washington and Lee University, in 1783 and continued his studies until prepared for the law.

No one seems to know where his first law office was located. On April 4, 1799, he married Ann Mark, from whose father he took over the property on the northwest corner of Princess and New, five months later. On December 22, 1800, he bought of John Mark, for \$1,800, part of Lot 7, on which there was a "large and convenient brick house." It is a matter of record that he was living there in the present Guy Frank dwelling in 1809, and presumably he continued to live there till he bought the present Episcopal Rectory on New Street on May 5, 1817, paying \$2,500. A little later he built the wing on the west side of the Rectory for his law office and library.

John and Ann Mark Baker had five sons and three daughters. He was the only son of John Baker and had seven sisters. His mother, born Judith Howard Wood, was a granddaughter of the Duke of Norfolk.

John Baker died on August 18, 1823. His wife Ann continued to live in the present Rectory till her death in 1845.

An Episcopalian, John Baker had buried his mother in the old Episcopal graveyard here on Church Street in December 1803. In 1939 Juliet Hite Gallaher stated that the J B stone in that burial ground marked the graves of both her ancestors, the senior John Baker and Judith Wood Baker. No descendant has been found who knows where, in Shepherdstown or Charles Town or other graveyard, the lawyer John Baker and his wife Ann are buried.





**John Baker**

From a portrait, oil on wood, owned by Miss Louisa T. Hall,  
Charles Town.

## DR. G. W. BANKS

George Washington Banks, 1855-1935, rendered service as a school principal, physician, or school board president over a period of fifty years.

He was born at Moler's Cross Roads on June 5, 1855, the son of Washington and Martha James Banks. Young George escaped injury when once caught between skirmish lines during the Civil War, while driving the cows home from pasture, but his parents fared worse by the war; they lost their home place. As a result father and son worked as farm laborers. In those days walking was good from Moler's Cross Roads to Shepherdstown, and the 1878 graduating class of Shepherd College included George Washington Banks.

After several years teaching at the Reinhart School at Moler's, interspersed with farm work and surveying, he took over the principalship of the Shepherdstown Graded School for eight years.

In 1889 he had married Imogene Tanner, daughter of Dr. I. S. Tanner. By 1893 their two children had been born: Horace McMurrin, now retired head of the pathological department, Butler University, living in Indianapolis; and Elizabeth Tanner, a talented vocalist, who married Walter Timberlake ("Snow") Fredeking, of Hinton.

So, by 1893 it seemed time for George W. Banks to quit school teaching, no doubt encouraged to do so by his father-in-law, who financed the first year of his preparation for the medical profession. He attended the University of Virginia from 1893 to 1895, and was graduated from the University of Maryland medical college in 1897, and that had required borrowed money.

Dr. Banks became a popular physician here. He was always moderate in his charges (often \$1.00 for a five mile call in the country), and especially good to the poor. The Doctor had a way of forgetting to enter many charges on his books. His span of service began with a horse and saddle bags, then buggy and horse, and finally an automobile, with his famous horn "for the deaf." He practiced medicine during "the little black bag era," but **did not** enter the "ambulance to hospital" period. He delivered an inestimable number of babies in the Shepherdstown community, some of whom were given his name.

Dr. Banks was an active member of the local Fire Department as late as 1910; a member of the Town Council for four terms; head of the local Board of Health for a decade or more; and commandant of the local Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans at the time of his death, having then served about fifteen years.

As president, he last presided over a meeting of the district Board of Education on June 13, 1931. He had first been elected some time before the fall of 1919, for it was then that he had the children from the one-room school on Shepherd Grade transported to the graded school in town. However, the last of the rural schools was not closed till 1928. Before 1915, rural schools could be brought into a consolidated center only upon a written request of 75% of the voters in the district, but after that the district boards could act on their own advisement. Dr. Banks was able to begin and complete consolidation here with no repercussions. Also, in the year 1919-1920 he restored to Shepherd College the privilege of using the graded school as a laboratory for practice teachers, after the arrangement had been disrupted for several months.

Dr. Banks was with his daughter in Hinton at the time of his death on February 26, 1935. He was buried in Elmwood Cemetery with full Masonic honors, following a funeral service in the local Presbyterian Church. Late in life he had been received as a Presbyterian member. After the death of Mrs. Banks in 1931, he frequently worshipped with the Presbyterians here.

Each fall when the maple trees about the old graded school building, now owned by Shepherd College, are resplendent in red and gold, they are looked upon by older residents as a glowing memorial of the man who planted them there more than seventy years ago, George Washington Banks.

## SAMUEL D. BARNHART

Samuel D. Barnhart, 1798-1882, was a skilled carpenter and building contractor. Under his tutelage two of his sons, Henry and Samuel, became known as "boss carpenters."

Having bought the northern end of Lot 32, 62 by 103 feet, he proceeded to build his home thereon about 1832. It is now the home of J. R. Show and his daughter, Mrs. Josephine Miller. Special marks of his skill may be seen in its hand-made walnut staircase, a hand-carved mantel in the living room, and a leaf and scroll design on the front doorway.

The dwelling houses built by him in this community have not been listed. The beautiful porch, with its fluted pillars, added to the front of the Selby-Hamtramck-Shepherd-Billmyer mansion on lower German Street by Colonel J. F. Hamtramck about 1850, has the marks of such skilled hands as those of Samuel D. Barnhart, though no records are produced to show that Mr. Barnhart is more than suspect as the builder.

An enduring example of his carpentry is found in the woodwork of the Episcopal church, and its steeple, completed in 1859. The beautiful stone work is that of another master craftsman, Joseph Randall, among other monuments to his skill being the foundation of the Old Shepherd College building, the handsome portico and its approaches, and the massive wall enclosing the grounds; the splendid stonework on Rezin D. Shepherd's "Wild Goose" farm; and the "Allendale" mansion across the Berkeley county line. In fact, Joseph Randall's contribution to the community was such as to entitle him to a place among these sketches, had he only lived in Shepherdstown.

Samuel D. Barnhart's marriage to Mary Ann Entler on February 8, 1831, brought together two of the town's oldest families, both of them Lutheran. She was the daughter of Daniel Entler, whose grandfather Philip Adam Entler (1717-1799) came to Shepherdstown about 1782. Samuel Barnhart was the eldest son and the first of nine children of Henry and Mary Maria Shunk Barnhart. Between 1727 and 1767 eighteen Barnhart men had come to America from the Palatinate, Lorraine and Wurtemberg. Hans Heinrich Barnhart headed the list of

Palatinates, but it has not been fully established that he was the ancestor of Henry Barnhart, father of Samuel D.

To Samuel D. and Mary Ann Entler Barnhart were born, at their home on Princess Street; Mary Catherine (1834-1891), who married John S. Fayman; Henry Frank (1837-1915), who married Mary S. Huffman; Daniel Entler (1839-1862), killed in battle and buried at Lynchburg; George William (1842-1862), who died from battle wounds and was buried here; James Edward (1846-1926), who married Mary E. Cease; and Samuel Dark (1850-1929), who married Annie E. Walters.

James E. Barnhart, after having a book shop for many years where Carlton Collis now sells jewelry, came to be remembered as the town's obliging and unfailing expressman. His office was in the back part of the Sheetz house, with entrance from King Street. Surviving patrons have a nostalgic memory of the good old days before it became necessary to go to Shenandoah Junction to pick up railway express.

On lower New Street, just east of the old "stone row" where Philip Shutt, a staunch Lutheran, prospered as a brewer for several decades prior to 1833, Eugene and Miss Hattie Barnhart now live in the old home of their father, James Edward, son of Samuel D. Barnhart.

## HENRY BEDINGER

Henry Bedinger, 1729-1772, was on hand here to acquire four of the thirty-five lots for which Thomas Shepherd gave deeds on July 21, 1764.

Born in the village of Dorschen in Alsace, he arrived at Philadelphia on August 30, 1737, with his parents, Hans Adam and Anna Margaretha Bedinger, and three brothers. The family first lived in Lancaster County, later moving to York County, where the father acquired lands. By the time Henry reached his majority, Adam Bedinger, his father, had been granted a considerable tract in Adams County, Pa.

Two of Henry Bedinger's first lots were on the north side of German Street east of Princess, and two others on the south side of High Street between Princess and Mill. His brother Peter also bought four of those first deeded lots, but he and his wife Catherine sold them off by 1773, two of them to Henry. Peter Bedinger then disappeared from the records here and seemingly never became so prosperous as his brother Henry. Appraisal of Peter Bedinger's estate, July 27, 1801, is on record in Martinsburg.

When Henry Bedinger wrote his will on December 18, 1771, he could remember his wife, three daughters and five sons with bequests of four town lots and several tracts of land totaling 722 acres. His will does not show how many of these acres were productive farm lands or how many were timber tracts. No record is available to show that he had any occupation here in town, where he was living in December, 1771, other than dealing in real estate, building on his properties and renting. He probably got his start by inheriting Pennsylvania lands from his father.

Arriving here, Henry Bedinger put his three oldest children in the English school, but they did not entirely abandon the German language; at least the oldest son retained a fluency in its use for many years.

In 1765 the nine German families here united to hold divine service, some of them Reformed and others Lutheran. Henry Bedinger was the head of one of the Lutheran families. The Bedinger family, however, later became Episcopalian. He was buried in the old Episcopal graveyard, where, in 1796, his wife, born Magdalene von

Schlegel, whom he married in 1752 in Pennsylvania, was also buried.

No small measure of the importance attached to Henry Bedinger was due to his sons and daughters.

His daughter Elizabeth, 1755-1829, married Abel Morgan, who inherited the Falling Spring farm, his father Richard Morgan having bought it from John Melton on June 22, 1738. Daughter Sarah married Benoni Swearingen, who inherited the ferry from his father, Thomas. And Mary married Abraham Morgan, nephew of Abel.

Son Henry, 1753-1843, who married Rachel, daughter of Captain James Strode, was a town trustee, treasurer, and postmaster, and a member of the Virginia Assembly before moving to "Protumna," near Martinsburg.

Son George Michael, 1756-1843, for many years in Kentucky, in 1786 married Nancy Keene, who died a year later. In 1793 he married Henrietta Clay, aunt of U. S. Senator Henry Clay. George Michael served two terms as a Congressman from Kentucky.

Son Daniel, 1761-1818, married Sarah, daughter of Robert Rutherford of Flowing Springs. Among his distinguished descendants was son Henry, the first U. S. Minister to Denmark, born at "Bedford," the beautiful mansion Daniel had built southeast of town.

Younger sons were Jacob, 1766-1833, and Solomon, 1770-1823.

The three older sons, tall, broad-shouldered and athletic, served in the Revolution, George Michael for a lesser period than his brothers. Henry, in for the duration, advanced to the rank of Captain; on May 16, 1793, he became Major of the 55th Regiment of Virginia Militia. Daniel, too young for service, ran away from home in 1776, was accepted by the army, and, in spite of inaction due to imprisonment and a long period of illness, was on duty at the close of the war with the rank of Lieutenant.

## MAJOR HENRY BEDINGER

Henry Bedinger, 1753-1843, after his years as an officer in the Revolutionary War, rendered many services to this town, not the least of which was supplying much of its early recorded history through his diary and many letters.

Born the son of Henry and Magdalene VonSchlegel Bedinger in York County, Pa., on October 16, 1753, he was brought here at an early age. During his married life, till 1799, his home was on the Jefferson Security Bank corner.

On December 22, 1784, he married Rachel Strode, daughter of Captain James Strode of the Martinsburg area. To them were born six daughters, only three of whom married. The fourth daughter, Elizabeth, became the wife of Braxton Davenport; the fifth, Maria, married Col. Samuel W. Miller.

The first daughter, Nancy, married Col. James Strode Swearingen, founder of Chicago, who was born at the present Dr. N. B. Hendrix place, north of Shepherdstown. Their burial place is the Grand View Cemetery, Chillicothe, Ohio. For many years they held the large tract of land, between Chillicothe and Circleville, which her father had been given for service in the Revolutionary War. They had a son Henry Bedinger Swearingen, and he in turn had a son Henry Bedinger Swearingen, who held a portion, near Circleville, of the original Bedinger military grant when he died about twelve years ago, in his early 90's.

In June, 1775, Henry Bedinger joined Capt. Hugh Stephenson's Company of Volunteer Riflemen, being appointed a Sergeant, and on July 17 of that year set out from "Morgan's Spring" on the "Bee Line" march to Boston. In a reorganization of the troops he was commissioned Lieutenant in Capt. Abraham Shepherd's Company. He was captured, along with many of his regiment, at the Battle of Fort Washington on Nov. 16, 1776, and held a prisoner for nearly four years. In the spring of 1781 he recruited a company at Winchester. Captain Bedinger continued in the service until the troops were disbanded on Nov. 3, 1783. His later membership in the Society of the Cincinnati recognized his military rank as an officer. His title of Major was acquired on May 16,



1793, that being his rank in the 55th Regiment of Virginia Militia.

Returning here after the Revolution, he was on hand to witness James Rumsey's successful demonstration of his steamboat on December 3, 1787, and later wrote the most detailed and reliable account of that memorable occasion that has ever been given.

On December 1, 1790, he joined Wm. Good in a letter to the President of the United States offering land on both sides of the Potomac at Shepherdstown for the location of the National Capitol.

He served from 1794 to 1798 as one of the seven members of the Court of Trustees under the town's second charter, dated December 3, 1793. He was a member of the Virginia Assembly in 1794, but declined a second term. As the town's postmaster he served from Jan. 1, 1796 to Oct. 1, 1798.

References to his engaging in the mercantile business here are found in Aler's History of Martinsburg, and in Historic Shepherdstown by Danske Dandridge, who drew heavily on the Bedinger papers, the scope of her volume extending through 1825.

In August, 1798, Henry Bedinger was elected Clerk of the County Court of Berkeley. He continued in that office till December, 1803. In the meantime the eastern part of Berkeley had become Jefferson County.

In 1799 he removed to "Protumna, my mansion estate of 640 acres," five miles south of Martinsburg. He continued to live there after the death of Mrs. Bedinger in 1839, with his unmarried daughter Sarah. When Sarah Bedinger died late in 1840, he went to live with his daughter Elizabeth (Mrs. Braxton Davenport) at "Altona" near Charles Town. He died there on May 14, 1843, and was laid to rest near his wife Rachel and their daughter Sarah Bedinger in the old Episcopal graveyard here.



**Henry Bedinger, Minister to Denmark.**

**From a portrait owned by Miss Nina Mitchell at "Rosebrake."**

## HENRY BEDINGER

Henry Bedinger, 1812-1858, gave a certain distinction to Shepherdstown by his appointment and service as U. S. Minister to Denmark.

He shared the name Henry Bedinger with at least three other members of the distinguished family: his grandfather, one of the town's earliest settlers; his uncle, an officer in the Revolutionary army; and his son, the Rev. Henry Bedinger, who died in California in 1935.

Born at "Bedford," southeast of town, the son of Sarah Rutherford and Lieut. Daniel Bedinger, he had unusual advantages as a boy. His father was a scholar and had a considerable library, which included the Encyclopedia Britannica, one of the first ever brought to Jefferson County. The date 1778 in the first volume indicates that it was the second edition, which had only four volumes. Unfortunately, young Henry was only a little more than six years old when the death of his father removed a guiding hand in his education.

After a few years in the Clerk's office in Romney, Henry Bedinger was mature enough to read law with his brother-in-law, William Lucas, of "Rion Hall." He opened a law office in Shepherdstown in 1838.

He served two terms as a Democrat in the U. S. House of Representatives, from 1845 to 1849. From 1850 to 1853, according to a newspaper notice, he had a law office "one door from John N. McEndree's," an office between the house until recently owned and occupied by George R. McKee and the McQuilkin House just recently sold.

He was appointed Charge de Affaires to Denmark by President Pierce in 1853 and became the first U. S. Minister to Denmark in 1854.

As early as 1841 he was a contributor of poetry to the Southern Literary Magazine and later was with "Porte Crayon" on his famous visit to the Virginian Canaan.

Henry Bedinger was twice married, first in 1839 to Margaret Elizabeth Rust, daughter of General Rust, then superintendent of the U. S. Armory at Harpers Ferry. She died in 1843, leaving two children: George Rust Bedinger, who was killed in the Battle of Gettysburg; and Virginia, who became Mrs. Michie, the Michie

family being long prominent as publishers in Charlottesville.

His second marriage was in 1847, to Caroline Lawrence, daughter of the Congressman from Flushing, Long Island. To this union were born Henry, the clergyman previously mentioned; Mary, born at "Bedford" in 1850, who married J. S. B. Mitchell, of Flushing, and became the mother of Miss Nina Mitchell, now living at "Rosebrake," where she has the 1855 portrait of Henry Bedinger; and Caroline Dane, born in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1854.

Caroline Dane Bedinger liked her nickname "Danske," meaning the little Dane. Living at "Rosebrake" as Mrs. Stephen Dandridge, she wrote as Danske Dandridge. While she had her "Historic Shepherdstown" published by the Michie Company in 1910 and wrote several other historical books, drawing heavily on the Bedinger papers, the literary talents inherited from her father more particularly appear in the lyric poetry in her "Joy and Other Poems."

Caroline Lawrence Bedinger and the children came back here from Denmark some time before the Minister. Her husband having sold "Bedford" to Edmund J. Lee, the Bedinger home was in the large brick building, held by the Reinhart family for three generations, the Line house, later known as the Hodges place, on the southwest corner of German and Princess streets. It was to this home Henry Bedinger came on his return from Denmark, and near which there was a bonfire and barbecue in connection with a large reception given by his Jefferson County friends on November 5, 1858. He died in Shepherdstown, of pneumonia, just three weeks later.

Except for minor bequests to his children by his first wife, he had left "all he had on earth," including deposits in the House of Baring Brothers in London and with Riggs & Co., in Washington, to his surviving wife, who bought the "Rosebrake" place, there to rear her children. On September 1, 1858, Henry Bedinger had prepared his holographic will in Liverpool, "Being about to embark for America and mindful of the perils of the sea."

## GEORGE M. BELTZHOOVER, SR.

George M. Beltzhoover, Sr., 1844-1935, spent his last 69 years here as a lawyer, banker, churchman and college patron.

Born on February 8, 1844, at Boiling Springs, near Carlisle, Pa., he was the son of Jacob and Agnes Eckles Beltzhoover.

He prepared for college at Cumberland Valley Institute, Mechanicsburg, Pa., and was graduated from Pennsylvania College (Gettysburg) with the class of 1864. When General Lee invaded Pennsylvania in the Gettysburg campaign, young Beltzhoover enlisted as a volunteer in Company A, 26th Pennsylvania Regiment, serving as a courier. It was his privilege to hear Lincoln deliver the Gettysburg Address. Eligible for a military pension, Mr. Beltzhoover always refused to make application for such.

In February 1866 he came to Shepherdstown and opened a law office. He had been admitted to the bar of Carlisle the preceding January, after "reading" law in an attorney's office there. The only lawyer in active practice here for many years, he was wont to discourage litigation in disputes between neighbors and by his wise counsel and friendly advice kept many cases out of court. He served as attorney for the Jefferson Security Bank for 66 years, and was for many years attorney for the Town Council, the Hodges-Lemen Company, and the Potomac Building Association, which he founded and served as secretary-treasurer.

Though a Northerner, his affiliation with the Democratic party enabled him to win political office. A member of the West Virginia House of Delegates in 1870, he ardently supported the Flick amendment, which restored civil and political rights to those who had been disfranchised following the Civil War. He was the county's prosecuting attorney from 1871 to 1876.

Mr. Beltzhoover was a real pillar of the Lutheran Church, serving on its council and as superintendent of its Sunday School for 35 years. He frequently represented the church in the meetings of Synod and was on the board of several church institutions. For more than 60 years he was president of the Shepherdstown Branch of the American Bible Society.

In 1869 he was one of the incorporators of the Jeffer-

son Savings Bank, now the Jefferson Security Bank, and on its board of directors till his death, being its president from 1928 to 1934.

Mr. Beltzhoover was active in establishing the graded school, which replaced or combined the Potomac and Shepherd district schools in 1881. He was one of the founders of a "collegiate and scientific school" which opened in the abandoned courthouse in 1871 and became a state institution known as Shepherd College in February 1872. From its beginning in 1871 he had been secretary-treasurer of its board of trustees, and from its inception as a state institution secretary-treasurer of its executive committee, a local board in charge of fiscal affairs until the West Virginia Board of Control was set up in 1909. From 1891, when a deed for the old college building was secured from Shepherd Brooks, until his death in 1935 he was one of the three members of a self-perpetuating board of "Trustees of Old College Building." Thus Mr. Beltzhoover was a continuing agent on changing boards and the guiding hand in making Rezin D. Shepherd's "town hall" available for the use of Shepherd College through the years. A bronze tablet in this "hall" commemorates Mr. Beltzhoover's long and valuable service to the College. In a larger field of educational activity he served for some time on the University Board of Governors during the presidency of Dr. D. B. Purinton.

On September 24, 1873, Mr. Beltzhoover married Lucy McElroy Entler, descended from a long line of Shepherdstown Entler ancestors, and to them were born two sons and four daughters. As to church affiliation the family divided evenly, one son and two daughters joining their father in the Lutheran Church and the others becoming members of the Presbyterian Church with their mother. Surviving members of the family are two daughters, Mrs. Lucie B. Dille, of Morgantown, and Mrs. Kathryn Hess, of Fairmont, W. Va.

## HENRY BERRY

Henry Rose Berry, 1792-1867, son of Lawrence Washington Berry, was born at "Berry Plaines," King George County, Virginia. His great-grandfather, Joseph Berry, had come from England and settled in that area.

Henry Berry studied law with his brother-in-law Robert Taylor in Alexandria, Va., came to Jefferson County and entered on the practice of law in Shepherdstown in June, 1820. His legal advice was frequently sought by the town authorities. He was a councilman in 1829 and mayor in 1840.

In July, 1832, with Henry Boteler and B. F. Towner he sought bids for building an academy on the west side of Church Street and south of Church Alley on the half-acre lot given the Academy Trustees by Abraham Shepherd on July 20, 1820. It seems, however, that the academy never owned a building. The trustees gave up their efforts in 1850, after an unsuccessful attempt to secure financial aid from the Virginia Assembly to enable them to erect one.

Serving as a Whig in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1831 to 1836, his 1832 speech advocating the abolition of slavery was a powerful appeal, coming from a holder of a considerable number of slaves.

On July 4, 1822, he married Mrs. Sallie Helen Van-Swearingen, a young widow, and had four sons and four daughters.

Son Lawrence died in June, 1852, in his 24th year. Son Henry, Jr., has gone down in the annals of the town with H. Shepherd, Dr. J. Reynolds, Dr. V. M. Butler, T. H. Towner, Col. J. F. Hamtramck, R. A. Lucas, J. E. Schley and others as throwing a big "Cotillion Party" at Mr. Daniel Entler's Hotel on the evening of February 20, 1855. The senior Henry Berry, still active in many phases of community life, was a sponsor of the famous Cotillion.

Daughter Helen married John G. Lane; Rosalie married John C. VanWyck; and Matilda married Vincent M. Butler. Rosalie Taylor Butler, daughter of Matilda and Vincent M., married Joseph Schindler Bragonier, a long-time Shepherdstown lawyer, and their son, the late Taylor Bragonier, inherited the Henry Berry family papers, from which some of the data herein was drawn.

Henry Berry died in December, 1867, aged 75 years, and was buried in the family lot of his son-in-law Dr. Vincent Moore Butler, in the old Presbyterian graveyard, now a part of Elmwood Cemetery.

## DAVID BILLMYER

David Billmyer, 1811-1897, in the course of his long life, was engaged in many activities, such as those of grain dealer, merchant, councilman, legislator, farm owner, bank president, toll bridge owner, and railway board director.

The tenth or eleventh of thirteen children of Martin and Susan Nichodemus Billmyer, he was born at the family homestead, the old stone house on the farm at Billmyer's Mill.

He was first married to Eliza C. Shepherd, 1817-1847, and to this union were born David, 1841-1855, who lost his life by drowning in the Potomac, and James M., 1842-1845. On July 17, 1849, he married Sarah Ellen Spong, of Shepherd descent, who had been reared in the home of Dr. Thomas and Ann Shepherd Hammond. By this marriage he became the father of six sons and two daughters who reached maturity or even old age: Wm. H., Edward E., Frank L., George W., J. Davis, John R., Sallie, who married Willoughby Newton Lemen, and Ellen, who married Dr. Robert Grove. Henry Unsel and Freddy Koontz were sons by the second marriage who died when mere infants.

His obituary published the day after his death on January 20, 1897, said he was "one of our wealthiest citizens and one of the largest land owners in the county." He owned some 1,200 or 1,400 acres in the vicinity and some of the most valuable town property. His land holdings had included the "Shadyside" farm, now owned by Fred Gates, and a considerable tract on the left side of the road from Shepherdstown to Scrabble.

On April 1, 1854, he bought of Ann Hammond, the widow of Dr. Thomas Hammond, the front half of the lot at the northeast corner of German and Church streets. This included the Dr. Hammond house, now occupied by Mrs. Vaughn Link, and what had been the Kearsley store and warehouse on the corner. This must have been the location of his first store, since the 1840's. There from 1862 to 1867 Elias Baker doubled as his assistant storekeeper and postmaster.

In 1873 he completed the three-story brick building on the corner, with quarters for the Jefferson Savings Bank and a store room on the first floor. When the bank



was chartered in 1869, he had been elected president, serving till 1892.

Between 1859 and 1882 he served at least eleven terms on the Town Council, six of them as treasurer. In 1866 he, with six others, had bought ten acres for a public cemetery, and in 1869 he was one of the incorporators of Elmwood Cemetery. He was also one of the incorporators of Shepherd College in 1872, a director of the Shenandoah Valley Railroad when its bridge over the Potomac here was first crossed in 1880, and a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates from 1867 to 1869.

David Billmyer was not exactly a family conformist, being a Northern sympathizer during the Civil War, a Republican, and a member of the Episcopal Church.

He was the largest stockholder in the Virginia and Maryland Bridge Company, which had bought the ferry at the foot of Princess Street, with landings on both sides of the Potomac, from Henry V. S. Blackford in 1849, paying \$15,000. This was hardly a money maker for him; the bridge had to be built anew twice — first after it was burned by the Confederates in 1861 and again after the destructive flood of 1889. The real profits from increased tolls, with the coming of the automobile, were had by his descendants.

Before the coming of the railroad David Billmyer controlled the wheat and corn trade here almost exclusively. He shipped by the C. & O. Canal to Georgetown and made a great deal of money. For twenty years he had a grain warehouse in the stone building now used by the town's water works. While he didn't get a deed for the building till several years later, he had taken it over from William Short, who died in 1850. He sold the building, and the eight acres on which it was situated, on April 1, 1870, to Joseph Ashton and others, who began operating the New Dominion Paper Mill there on December 1, 1870.

David Billmyer's funeral service in the Episcopal church was attended by a large number of his relatives, business associates and other friends, and his remains were fittingly interred in Elmwood Cemetery, which he had helped to establish thirty years earlier.



**Alexander R. Boteler**

**Photo supplied by Miss Helen Goldsborough.**

## ALEXANDER ROBINSON BOTELE

Alexander Robinson Boteler, 1815-1892, artist, civic leader, congressman, farmer, lecturer, manufacturer, soldier and writer, has been called Shepherdstown's most colorful figure during the latter half of the nineteenth century.

Born in Shepherdstown on May 16, 1815, he was the son of Dr. Henry and Priscilla Robinson Boteler, and on his mother's side a great-grandson of Charles Willson Peale.

He was not quite five years old when his mother died. Until his father remarried in 1825 he lived in Baltimore with his grandparents. There his practical grandfather, Alexander Robinson, took a dim view of the boy's inclination toward drawing and painting. But his natural or inherited genius for art would not die. A high value is now placed on his four pencil sketches of John Brown made in 1858 and 1859, and his oil paintings of Jeff Davis and six Confederate generals, including one of Robert E. Lee, made in April 1865.

Back in Shepherdstown some time after his father's second marriage, he prepared for entrance to Princeton, being graduated there in 1835. While at Princeton he met Helen Macomb Stockton, whom he married in April 1836.

During the summer of 1836 his father died, leaving him the Fountain Rock farm, on which there was a new stone mansion. There he engaged in farming, experimenting with new agricultural enterprises and introducing the new in farm machinery, such as a "wheat cutter." His study of farm problems, and ability as a speaker, accounted for the addresses he made at the Ohio State Agricultural Fair and before agricultural associations in Maryland and throughout the Shenandoah Valley.

Also inherited by Alexander R. Boteler was the mill down near Pack Horse Ford, first operated as a flour mill, then as a cement mill until it was burned by the Federals in the early morning of August 19, 1861.

Mr. Boteler was elected a county school commissioner in 1850; was one of the incorporators of Shepherd College in 1871; and for a time served on the governing boards of the Virginia Military Institute and the University of Virginia.

Getting a telegraph at Shepherdstown and having the Shenandoah Valley Railroad, now the Norfolk and Western, routed through town and in operation in July 1880, were among the community's interests in which he was the leader.

He wrote only one book, "My Ride to the Barbecue," published in 1860 and of particular value for his drawings of historic homes. His "Recollection of the John Brown Raid" was published in the Century Magazine for July 1883.

As "The Young Wheel Horse of Whiggery" he was named a Winfield Scott presidential elector in 1852. In 1858, with the break-up of the Whig party, he was elected to Congress on the Know-Nothing ticket.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, he cast his lot with the Confederacy, and served as a Volunteer Aide on the personal staffs of Generals "Stonewall" Jackson and J. E. B. Stuart. After the war, his Fountain Rock mansion having been burned by the Federals in 1864, he returned to Shepherdstown to live.

From 1881 to 1889 he served first on the U. S. Tariff Commission and then in the Department of Justice.

He was long remembered after his death in 1892. When Virgil A. Lewis' History and Government of West Virginia was published in 1896, it contained a biographical sketch and picture of Alexander R. Boteler, the only Shepherdstown man to be thus honored.

### **ROBERT COCKBURN**

Robert Cockburn (name pronounced Co-burn), a Scotchman, was a schoolmaster here in the early 1760's. His English school and a German school in those years shared in the education of the youth of the town.

College bred, with a fine classical education, he had some training in the art of surveying. From the papers of George Michael Bedinger is had the statement that he and the Swearingen brothers received their first knowledge of surveying from Cockburn.

Appointed county surveyor in 1774 for the newly formed Berkeley County, which then included Jefferson, Robert Cockburn did not allow this work to dim his interest in classical education. When the old Charles Town Academy was erected in 1795 and opened for the purpose of teaching the Greek and Latin languages and English "in all its branches," he was a liberal contributor to the cause.

A continuing reminder of his part in the development of Martinsburg is the old "Boarman House" on the southeast corner of the public square. He had bought the lot during Adam Stephen's early lot sales and had built the house by 1792. Years later it was sold to Commodore Boarman. Seemingly, Robert Cockburn did not live in the house, but used it for rental purposes. It was encumbered when he made his will and ordered it to be sold after his death, which occurred in the late summer of 1822. When he made his will he was living on a 30 acre tract east of Martinsburg. He had bought the tract in 1780 and probably moved there soon after building on it. His last years were spent there on "Cockburn Hill," across from Greenhill Cemetery. He was survived by a stepdaughter, Martha Williams, and two sons, Robert and Adam.

When Robert Cockburn was well past 80, he still bore distinctive marks of a Scotchman, and was a man of striking appearance, with long, flowing white hair and a downy beard sweeping to his waist.

Available sources do not reveal his location in Shepherdstown. The last trace of him here was in 1776, still a friend of Thomas Shepherd, the town's founder, though it can reasonably be inferred that he was here about five years longer. His last real estate transaction in Jefferson County was in 1809, when he sold 14 acres along the Potomac some distance below town. No record has been found to show that he ever held title to the lot on the northeast corner of King and New streets in Shepherdstown. An unauthenticated story that he built the little brick dwelling that stood so long on that corner lot is no longer of any moment. It was torn down a few years ago and replaced by an attractive modern house, quite different from any ever known even in the dreams of Robert Cockburn.

## HENRY COOKUS

Henry Cookus, who died in 1777, was one of the earliest settlers here, and progenitor of a long line of Cookuses who left their mark in the history of the town.

The tradition is that he came here with the first Henry Bedinger. Henry Cookus had married a Catherine von Schlegel, while Henry Bedinger had married Magdalene von Schlegel, and Bedinger and Cookus descendants have said Catherine and Magdalene were sisters. Records of the Bedinger-Cookus friendship appears in the will of the second Henry Cookus, when he names as executor his "good friend Henry Bedinger," the second.

That Henry Cookus and Henry Bedinger came in together is based on their deeds from Thomas Shepherd recorded in 1764. Each of them got two choice lots on the north side of German Street, with Princess Street separating them.

Unfortunately, old recorded deeds have undecipherable writing, further complicated by variations in the spelling of proper names. So, what was meant for Henry Cocus was read as Henry Comes, and later appeared as such in a valuable publication. Several subsequent deeds show this, but one may suffice here. On January 2, 1786 (Deed Book 7, page 43, Martinsburg) Christian Cookus and Elizabeth his wife deeded  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre Lot 33 (old Entler Hotel corner) to Philip Entler, "said lot having been conveyed to Henry Cookus in 1764 and devised to Christian Cookus."

Henry Cookus dealt both in town lots and farm lands. On August 3, 1765, he acquired 105 acres of a Richard Morgan tract east of town. It was from these acres that, on May 16, 1774, he gave, out of his "good regard and affection" for them, one acre each to the Lutheran and Reformed congregations, who located their churches and graveyards thereon.

The largest of several farm tracts, 370 acres, including the Fruit Hill farm, was acquired by Henry "Cocus" on August 5, 1766, then sold by him on Nov. 12, 1767. Altogether, he bought nine town lots between July, 1764, and March, 1775. His mill, left to his son Henry, seems to have been on the lot which he owned on the southwest corner of Princess and High, and his home was

either on Lot 33 or 34, on the north side of German Street above Princess.

His will, dated and proved in 1777, names wife Catherine, sons Henry and Christian, and daughters Catherine Haines, Hannah Seever, and Elizabeth Welsh. Two of his sons-in-law were Henry Haines and Peter Seever, the latter a Revolutionary soldier.

Michael Cookus, who saved the life of Colonel William Washington, a "kinsman" of General Washington, at the Battle of Cowpens, and was living, when he made his will in 1813, in the house on the south side of upper Washington Street long occupied by his granddaughter, Miss Amanda Miller, was of the right age to be a son of the first Henry Cookus. He may have been a nephew. There has been no trace of any son of Michael Cookus; only a daughter, Sophia.

The will of the second Henry Cookus names wife Catherine, sons Henry and Jacob, and daughters Catherine and Mary. His tombstone in the Reformed Graveyard bears the name Hennerich Cookus and says he died in 1786 at the age of 35.

The third Henry Cookus married Maria (Polly) Yeasley, born in 1775. There is no recorded will for him or others of his or later generation, and old Bibles have lost family record pages, so that relationships are hard to establish.

The Cookuses adhered to the Reformed Church, except John T., who first married Susan, daughter of John Morrow, in 1813, and second, in 1834, Sophia, a sister of Colonel John James Abert. John T. Cookus was a Presbyterian trustee and elder when the present church was erected in 1836, town postmaster from 1823 to 1853, administrator of many estates, and store partner of his brother-in-law, Robert Worthington.

The names Henry and Jacob and John and William Cookus have persisted. A John Cookus has a granddaughter, Fannie K., living in Romney. A Henry Cookus, 1830-1908, had daughter Ida, who married William Chapline, one-time postmaster, and son John W., caretaker of Elmwood Cemetery in the 1890's, father of Harry A. Cookus and his brothers in Martinsburg.

Jacob Cookus, 1804-1857, a town councilman, had daughter Mary, who married John H. Keesecker. Mrs.

John W. Link and Mrs. A. S. Lucas, of Shepherdstown, are granddaughters of John H. and Mary Cookus Kee-secker. Geo. Wm. Cookus, Co. B., 2nd Va. Regt., who died on Oct. 5, 1863, was a son of Jacob Cookus. Jacob Henry, 1839-1911, another son, was also in that Regiment. It seems reasonable to believe, as has been stated or suggested, that Jacob Cookus, 1804-1857, was a great-grandson of the pioneer Henry Cookus.

Joseph Lambright Cookus, 1849-1922, son of the 1804-1857 Jacob, married Rachel Louise Snyder, served 13 years on the Town Council, had a meat shop where Donald Smith is now located, and for many years owned the land on which the College has a new gymnasium, men's residence hall, and "Cookus Hollow" football field. He had a son John William, who served in World War I. John William and his brothers Albert and Joe and three sisters are no longer living. Louise Cookus (Mrs. Warren) White, of Hagerstown, Md., is a daughter of the junior Joe.

This account, lacking in completeness and exactness, may serve as a challenge to the clan to establish the relationship of the many Shepherdstown Cookuses to the pioneer Henry Cookus, who came here about 200 years ago.



## JACOB CRAFT

Jacob Craft, originally Kraft, was one of those German artisans who settled here during the latter part of the 18th century. His name has been perpetuated by the many hall or grandfather clocks he made.

Coming from the Marburg region in southwest Germany, he brought with him a 1771 Marburg Hymnal, containing Luther hymns, which Miss Lucy Schoppert gave to St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Shepherdstown, on July 31, 1962. It is inscribed "Jacob and Catherine Kraft their Book," and was held by them as sacred as a Bible. In fact it was used as a family Bible to enter a record of births and deaths in the family.

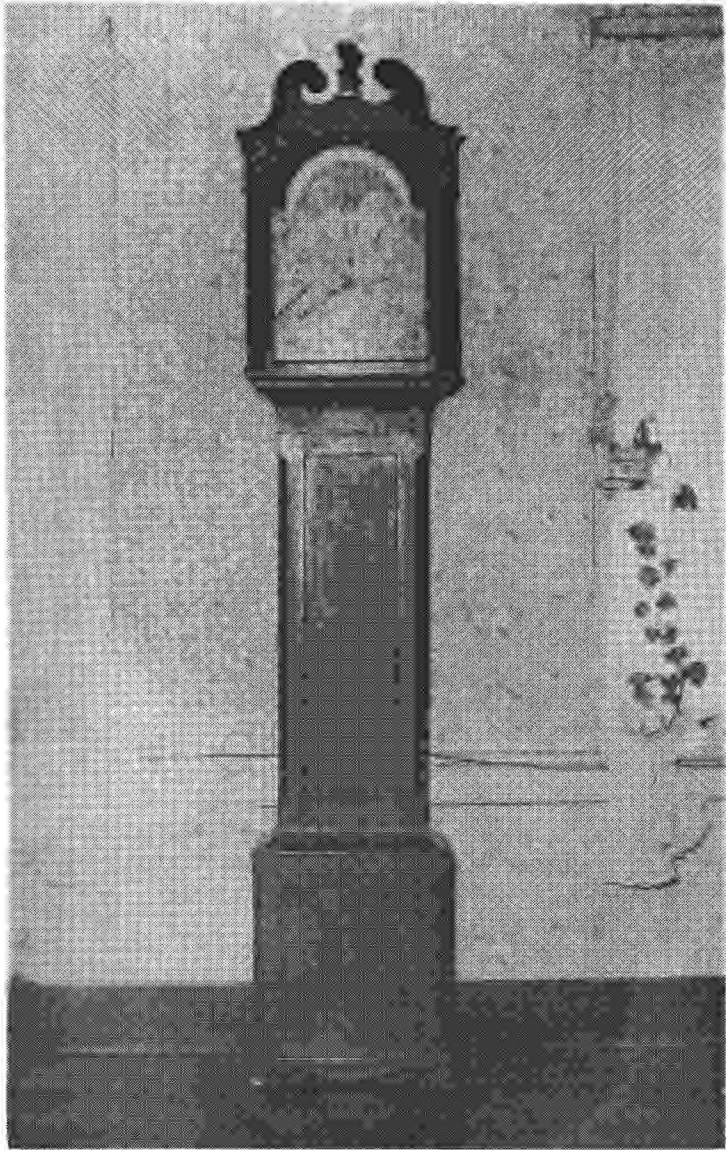
Jacob and Catherine Kraft had three daughters and six sons, the first born in 1788 and the last in 1804. In order of birth they were Murey, Margrate, Catharine, David, Joseph, William, Isaac, Jacob Philip and Adam.

Jacob and Catharine must have acquired early facility in the use of the English language, since their family record is in English script and the name Kraft had become Craft. For their first two children they were not content to give merely the date of birth. With exactness they recorded "January 29th 1788 Our Daughter Murey was born in the Morning at 9 O'Clock 2 minnet." Since the record shows that Jacob's mother died the 13th of September 1821, she must have come from Germany with her son or at a later date, and was probably about 90 years old at the time of her death.

Jacob Craft died May 22, 1825, and his his wife Catharine on September 3, 1832.

Jacob Craft was regarded as a substantial citizen, serving on the town's Court of Trustees in 1805, 1811 and 1816.

The house now owned and occupied by Mrs. Herbert Miller is the second successor of one occupied by Jacob Craft. His two-story shop was on the now vacant space



**Craft Clock owned by Miss Marguerite Billmyer, a third generation Billmyer owner.**

between that house and the apartment building owned by Miss Virginia White. He had bought the lot, No. 25, on December 19, 1812. Forty-five years ago there was a still habitable house, an old weatherboarded log structure, on the southeast corner of Church and Washington streets. It was then said that he lived there during his earlier years here, before he bought the place on German Street.

Jacob Craft made beautiful cases, mostly of walnut, but some of cherry, for what Wallace Nutting has designated as a scroll top grandfather clock.

He made both 8-day clocks and 30-hour clocks. A good many of these have been located among descendants of their original Shepherdstown owners. A 30-hour Craft clock, now in Indianapolis, has wooden works, doubtless made in the Craft shop. The 8-day clocks have metal mechanisms bearing the "Birmingham, England" stamp.

One of the latter is held here by a third or fourth generation owner. It is eight feet tall, surmounted by a knob and scrolls. On a substantial base about two feet high is a smaller column of some three feet for the pendulum and weights, and above that a sizeable rectangular box for the mechanism proper. The dial has, besides the hour and minute hands, one hand to show the day of the week and another the day of the month. There is a floral decoration in each corner about the circular dial, above which a moon between two planets shows its particular phases. The clock has all the elements of a calendar, though falling short of giving the details in Gruber's Hagerstown Almanac in those early years of its publication.

A Maryland dealer who was lecturing on antiques about fifteen years ago is held responsible for the statement that Jacob Craft traversed the South Branch Valley selling his clocks. The lecturer doubtless knew the best place to pick up clocks for his antique shop. Shepherdstown is not a good place to find a bargain in a Craft clock.

## PHILIP ADAM ENTLER

Philip Adam Entler, 1716-1799, was the progenitor of a long line of Shepherdstown Entlers. Among his most prominent descendants here have been his grandsons, Daniel (1785-1866) and Joseph (1791-1875), each of whom had a hotel for many years.

Philip Adam Entler, usually called Philip Entler, Sr., was the son of Michel Endler, a carpenter in Ettlingen, Germany. He arrived in this country, September 10, 1737, equipped with a precious parchment certificate — owned 200 years later by a great-great-grandson, the late George M. Beltzhoover, Jr. — a certificate headed Philipus Adam Endler, Metzger, stating that in 1736 he had completed his full three years as an apprentice to Johannes Endler, butcher.

In York, Pa., on April 10, 1739, he married Margaret Gaeiss. They had five sons and three daughters, for all of whom except the first two, Michael and Adam, there is a record of baptism in Christ Lutheran Church of York.

Margaret Entler died November 21, 1762, and by May, 1767, Philip Entler had married Magdalena Peter. By this marriage the only child, born in 1768, died in infancy. The will of Philip Entler, Sr., on record in Martinsburg, written February 4, 1799, and probated June 24, 1799, named wife Magdalena; deceased sons Adam and Philip, Jr.; and the living sons, (John) Martin and Michael. In the Revolution Philip, Jr., the youngest son, was a private in Capt. Rudolph Spangler's York County Militia, and Michael, the eldest son, was chief farrier in a cavalry regiment.

His will left the house and lot in Shepherd's Town where he lived and household furnishing, excepting several brass water buckets but including a corner cupboard, a desk, and a ten plate stove, to his wife Magdalena during her natural life. That was for only a short time; she died July 13, 1799, only two or three months after her husband.

The last record of the senior Philip Entler in York, Pa. was on September 20, 1781, when he sold the last of his properties there to Michael Welsch. During his years in York he was a butcher and for some five years was listed as an innkeeper. It seems quite a coincidence that his

great-grandson J. P. A. Entler (1818-1900) should have a hotel here in the 1870's and be credited as the town's best judge of meat.

It is also a coincidence that a Michael Welsh, possibly a son of the Michael Welsch of York, had a brick yard in Shepherdstown in the early 1790's, when apparently Philip Entler, Jr. (1754-1793) built the older part of a hotel on the northwest corner of German and Princess streets, having bought the lot from Christian Cookus in 1786. The hotel was later operated by his son Daniel Entler and still later by his grandson J. P. A. Entler. The building is now called Rumsey Hall by Shepherd College, its owner, though Entler Hall has been suggested as a more appropriate name.

The Entler and Welsh families in York County, Pa., seem to have been closely associated. Descendants of Philip Entler, Jr. (1754-1793) have been in agreement that he married a Catherine Welsh. Also, John Welsh of York Borough, in his will probated in 1818, mentioned his daughter Sarah, wife of Philip Entler. By 1818 both Philip Entlers of Shepherdstown were dead, but evidently the Entler-Welsh association in York continued.

The "Pennsylvania Republican," 28 July 1847, had this item on Philip Entler, who married Sarah Welsh: 19 July 1847, Died — Philip Entler, formerly of York, in Baltimore, in his 72d year.

The senior Philip was not the first Entler to settle in Shepherdstown. That distinction belongs to his son Martin Endler (1742-1811), who in 1765 united with a small group of Lutherans to hold divine services. In 1769 he bought a lot on German Street. In 1768 his brother Adam Andler (1741-1777) bought a lot on Rocky Street. When the eldest brother, Michael (1740-1802), bought a part of the Knutti Hall lot has not yet been found, but on October 22, 1796, he and his wife Abigail sold it. By that time two of their sons and a daughter had married here in Shepherdstown.

Mention has been made of the hotels of Daniel and Joseph Entler. Daniel's was located on the northwest corner of German and Princess streets. Early accounts of the duel fought by Peyton Smith and Joseph Holmes across the Potomac River in 1809 have had the wounded Peyton Smith brought to "Mr. Entler's hotel" and dying in Room 1 on the third floor just above the lower of two German Street entrances to the present Rumsey Hall.

Joseph Entler had his hotel on Lot 14 on the south side of German Street near Duke. He also bought Lot 15, so that he owned the middle half of the square between Church and Duke, Lot 15 serving at different times through the years as a drill ground for military companies and a place for circuses. Back of his large hotel building, remembered by older residents before it was stuccoed, he had a large stone stable to accommodate the teams that hauled Conestoga wagons on their way to and from the eastern markets.

The two Entler hotels had somewhat different patronage. Wagoners and traders stopped at Joseph's, while professional men — young lawyers, doctors, engineers and writers — were at the Daniel Entler place for both short and extended periods.

Descendants of the senior Philip Entler's grandson Daniel living in Shepherdstown today include Eugene and Hattie Barnhart, whose grandfather Samuel Barnhart married Daniel Entler's daughter Anna Mary; and Freel G. Welshans, whose great-grandfather Joseph Welshans married Margaret B. Entler, daughter of Daniel. Using the old Joseph Entler hotel as a residence are four Licklider sisters, whose father, Edward T., of a prominent Methodist family, married Ellen Entler, granddaughter of Joseph; Mrs. Ruthven Morrow is their sister; their niece, Mrs. Lynwood Wiltshire, has a daughter, Shirley, a junior in Shepherd College, who may rightly say she is a great-great-great-great-great-granddaughter of the senior Philip Entler, whose tombstone may be seen in the old Lutheran graveyard, where many of his descendants are also buried. That tombstone reads: 1799 ist Philip Endler begraben war 82 Jahr alt und 12 Tag.

## E. LEE GOLDSBOROUGH

E. Lee Goldsborough, 1869-1953, was a man of broad interests and made a wide range of contributions, not only to this town but to the whole eastern panhandle.

For a number of years he had his office on German Street, west of Kenneth Knode's place, while maintaining his residence at the ancestral home, Leeland.

He was the son of Dr. Charles Goldsborough, a native of Frederick County, Maryland, whose marriage on November 7, 1865, to Miss Henrietta Lee, descended from the early Lees of Virginia, was the first performed in the new Episcopal church here.

His boyhood was spent in the Gerrardstown section of adjoining Berkeley County, where his father practiced medicine for about a decade.

He taught school for ten years at Frederick, Md., his education being acquired at Millersville, Pa., Normal School, the University of Maryland and then three years in the University of Virginia.

In 1900 he went with the Federal Bureau of Fisheries, for research and writing. He had the rare privilege of being associated intimately with the distinguished biologist and president of Stanford University, David Starr Jordan, an authority on the fishes of North America.

After ten years with the Bureau of Fisheries, he came to Leeland, renting it in 1910, and buying the place in 1915. He had married Isabel McCalla, of Washington, D. C., who died in 1912, leaving two children, Lee and Helen. Son Lee, who had many of his father's lovable qualities, was a professor in Drexel Institute at the time of his death in May, 1961. The daughter, Miss Helen, active in community affairs, is at Leeland with Mr. Goldsborough's widow. He had married Charlotte Pendleton in 1915.

Coming here at a time when the apple industry in the county was rapidly developing, he purchased an orchard of 20 acres on the edge of town. In time his producing orchards covered 600 acres. In his later years he had partially converted from apple to cherry growing.

His business as an orchardist led him into many activities and brought him quite a few responsibilities and honors. He helped form the Shepherdstown Fruit Growers organization, which provided for its own packing and refrigeration. He was one of the organizers, and in 1934 the president, of the East Central Credit Association, with headquarters in Hagerstown, and joined in organizing the Federal Farm Bank in Baltimore. He belonged to the Appalachian Apple Service, Inc., a four-state promotional agency, with offices in Martinsburg, and was on its board in 1938.

Also in 1938, he was crowned "Apple King" at the fourth annual Eastern Panhandle Apple Harvest Festival, held at Martinsburg. From 1942 to 1944 he was president of the West Virginia Horticultural Society.

Here, within the town, he was president of the Shepherdstown Light and Water Company until it was sold to an area utility and renamed; a charter member of the Men's Club and active in its acquisition of the War Memorial Building; a Mason for many years and a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans; and a vestryman and trustee of Trinity Episcopal Church.

He was also a long-time member of the Kiwanis Club in Martinsburg and of the Cosmos Club in Washington, D. C.

It would require more space to portray the many qualities that endeared him to a multitude of friends and made him so highly respected by all with whom he had business dealings than to list most of the accomplishments of E. Lee Goldsborough during the time he lived here.



## MAJOR HENRY HAGAN

Henry Hagan, 1821-1895, came to Shepherdstown from Braddock Heights, Maryland, and in 1847 married Hester Ann Lemen, 1827-1916.

Some time prior to the Civil War they had moved to Cumberland, Maryland. Returning, he enlisted from Jefferson County as a corporal in Company F, first Virginia Cavalry. Due to the courage he showed at the First Battle of Bull Run, General J. E. B. Stuart had him detailed to serve on his headquarters staff and saw him promoted to the rank of major. After General Stuart's death in May, 1864, Major Hagan served on the staff of General Wade Hampton until the close of the war. In the later years of his life, his friends here in Shepherdstown often heard him tell of the exploits of General Stuart and the honor of having been intimately associated with so great a man.

After the war Major Hagan served as superintendent of the Potomac Cement Mills down by Pack Horse Ford, but after a number of years his health declined somewhat. He then became proprietor of the Entler Hotel on German Street at Princess, continuing until April, 1882, when the hotel was taken over by Benjamin F. Graves. When the lecturer George W. Bagby visited Shepherdstown in April, 1881, staying at the Entler Hotel, he wrote thus of the proprietor: "Maj. Henry Hagan, immortalized in (John Esten) Cooke's Surry of Eagle's Nest, keeps the hotel — a man of most amiable parts and valuable beard."

Later he had a boarding house next to what is now Betty's Restaurant, and was there succeeded by Elizabeth Lemen (Mrs. R. C.) Criswell, with whom Hester Lemen Hagan lived out the twenty-one years of her widowhood. To that home on German Street Mrs. Criswell brought her only child, a son born a few years earlier at "Bellevue" and named Stuart. Today Stuart Criswell treasures a letter from the Widow Stuart thanking Mrs. Criswell for naming her son for the General, so dear to Major Hagan.

The Major and Mrs. Hagan left no descendants, but there are many relatives of Mrs. Hagan now living in Jefferson and Berkeley counties.

## DR. THOMAS HAMMOND

Thomas Hammond, 1799-1850, was having a good practice in medicine in Sharpsburg, Maryland, when he married Ann Shepherd, 1796-1866, daughter of Abraham and Eleanor Strode Shepherd, on January 17, 1827.

A little later they moved to Shepherdstown and lived in the house long occupied by Edward E. Billmyer and now owned by Mrs. Harwood Link. Dr. Hammond has been credited with building the house. Before Edward E. Billmyer it had been owned by his father, David Billmyer, who married as second wife Sarah Ellen Spong, of Shepherd descent and a ward of Dr. and Mrs. Hammond, in 1849.

Dr. Hammond was a successful and beloved physician in the town for many years. It was he who interested John Reynolds in becoming a physician, and after the latter's graduation in medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in 1841 formed a partnership with him. The Doctor's office was the little square building, still standing in good condition, on the north side of German Street below the Jefferson Security Bank.

The good Doctor was a member of the Episcopal Vestry, which frequently met at his office.

Dr. Thomas Hammond is buried beside his wife Ann in the Shepherd Burial Ground on New Street.

## COLONEL J. F. HAMTRAMCK

John Francis Hamtramck, 1798-1858, has been ranked as Shepherdstown's greatest military figure.

The Third Annual Report of the Department of Archives and History, Charleston, 1911, featuring the Soldiery of West Virginia, carried a picture and an eight-line sketch of Colonel John Francis Hamtramck, an honor shared only by Generals William Darke, Horatio Gates, and Daniel Morgan. At that time, of course, General Keller Rocky had not become the hero of Iwo Jima. Yet Keller Rockey spent only a portion of his boyhood here, living in the present home of Dr. Halvard Wanger on German Street at Duke.

When J. F. Hamtramck was born on April 17, 1798, at Fort Wayne, Indiana, his father, Col. John Francis Hamtramck, was in command there, having previously distinguished himself by the capture of Detroit during the Revolution. When the father died in 1803, young John Francis was left under the guardianship of General William Henry Harrison. That relationship may account for his ardent support of Harrison and Tyler, the famous "Tippecanoe and Tyler too" ticket in 1840, a support which inspired his local Whig friends to give him the sobriquet of "Son of Old Tip."

Through the influence of General Harrison and Senator Jesse B. Thomas of Illinois, he obtained an appointment in 1815 to the U. S. Military Academy at West Point. Upon graduation in 1819, the young officer served with the artillery and was stationed at Fort McHenry until March 1822, when he resigned his commission. In 1826 he was appointed U. S. Indian Agent for the Osage Nation with the rank of major, remaining in that position until 1831. When war with Mexico began and volunteers were sought, Governor William Smith placed him in command of the Virginia Regiment with the rank of colonel. From March 8 to July 20, 1848, he was Military Governor of Saltillo, Mexico, in command of about 4,000 troops.

In Shepherdstown J. F. Hamtramck was Captain of the Potomac Rifle Company from 1835 to 1841 and of the Shepherdstown Light Infantry from March 1857 till his death on April 21, 1858. Six days later the name of the company was changed to the Hamtramck Guards, in his honor.

Shortly after the Odd Fellows Caledonia Lodge No. 4 was chartered, he entered into an agreement with the Town Council under which the Odd Fellows built a second story on the present Public Library and acquired the famous 999 year lease on their building, making the year of its expiration 2844.

From 1850 to 1854 he served as mayor of Shepherds-town.

About the year 1825, as a young widower, he came to a ball in the Selby (now the Billmyer) house and there fell in love with Eliza Clagett Selby, oldest daughter of Walter Bowie Selby. They were married on December 27, 1825, and lived for about six years in St. Louis, while Major Hamtramck served as U. S. Indian Agent. There two children were born and there apparently the first died and was buried. In the field beyond the spring at "Bellevue" are gravestones for John Francis Hamtramck, son of J. F. and E. C. Hamtramck, born January 19, 1830, and died Feb. 1, 1832, and also for Louisa Hunter Hamtramck, 1832-1835, and Walter Bowie Hamtramck, 1834-1836. Of their children only two grew to maturity: Florence, who married James H. Shepherd and inherited the Selby house; and Eliza, who married Luke T. Williamson, of Baltimore. After the death of Colonel Hamtramck's wife Eliza, he married her younger sister, Sarah Ellen Selby.

Colonel Hamtramck's being a Catholic is traceable to his French Canadian grandmother, of Quebec, though his grandfather Hamtramck came from Luxembourg.

He owned considerable property here. He and Mrs. Hamtramck lived in his house now owned and occupied by Mrs. Homer Malone, until they moved one square down street, after the death of Walter Bowie Selby. Today that splendid old Selby dwelling is the home of Colonel Hamtramck's granddaughter, Mrs. George W. Billmyer, and his great-granddaughter, Elise Selby Billmyer.



**Colonel John Francis Hamtramck**

From a portrait by Jones, a Richmond artist, which now hangs in the Wynkoop-Morgan-Selby-Hamtramck-Shepherd-Billmyer house. Near the house still grows the Black Rose he brought from St. Louis in 1848.

## COL. CHARLES HARPER

Charles Harper, 1795-1863, came to Shepherdstown from Alexandria, Va., and advertised as an apothecary in a late July, 1816, issue of "The American Eagle," a Shepherdstown newspaper which started publication in that year. He was still advertising his medicines in the "Shepherdstown Register" till its publication was suspended during the Civil War.

There were other Harpers in this vicinity during his era, but by 1847 they had taken their church letters back to the Second Presbyterian Church in Alexandria. They were probably his cousins, of whom he doubtless had many, since his grandfather Harper had 29 children.

The Harpers here bore names carried down in the family of that grandfather, Sea Captain John Harper, a Quaker born in Philadelphia in 1728, though buried in 1804 in the cemetery of the old Presbyterian meeting house in Alexandria. One of them was named Wells. The Captain's first wife, by whom he had 20 children, was Sara Wells. Captain Harper's house is still standing, on Prince Street in Alexandria.

Aside from being an apothecary, Charles Harper had something of a military career, though records are lacking to show that the "Colonel" was more than an honorary title. In the 1820's he was Captain of a Shepherdstown Company of Mounted Artillery, which in 1822 escorted the remains of Col. Jacinth Laval on the way from Harpers Ferry to the Episcopal graveyard in Shepherdstown, and in 1825, "with colors flying and music playing," paid honors to the 50th Anniversary of the Bee Line March, just after the elegant dinner given by Daniel Morgan at "The Grove," later christened "Rosebrake" by Danske Dandridge. He was 1st Sergt. in Capt. J. F. Hamtramck's Potomac Rifles when organized in 1835. At the cornerstone laying of the Methodist Episcopal Church on June 4, 1854, he was an assistant marshal in the preliminary "Procession," wearing a red sash suspended from the right shoulder and meeting at the hip on the left side.

Charles Harper was a Justice of the Peace at various times or continuously from 1841 to 1860, and a member of the Town Council in 1848.

His apothecary shop and dwelling, which he bought on June 3, 1818, for \$2,500 (which seems like an exorbi-

tant price for that time), was the later well-known B. S. Pendleton property just east of the Old Shepherd College lot, called Abraham Shepherd's mill lot in the deed to Harper.

On April 6, 1830, he married Eliza Buckles, and to the union were born three sons and four daughters, most of whom died in infancy or early youth. One daughter, Hannah Frances, had a private school in Shepherdstown for a few years before going to relatives in Fulton, Missouri, in 1858. A little later she returned to Shepherdstown, but in 1878 she took her letter of dismissal to the Presbyterian Church in Fulton, where, as the beloved "Miss Fannie," she had a long teaching record, including that of instructor of French in the Seminary for Young Women and the Synodical Female College.

His son, Robert Goodloe Harper, served the Confederacy in the Otey Battery, and Robert's son, Lewis F. Harper, had long service as a Presbyterian minister in Berkeley County.

Charles Harper, as the reader may have surmised, belonged to a clan of Presbyterians, but when John T. Hargrave, pastor of his Shepherdstown Church, joined the New School Presbytery in 1839, Charles Harper held with the Old School Presbyterians and was commissioner to their Presbytery in April, 1845. Mrs. Charles Harper was the daughter of Daniel Buckles, a Shepherdstown Elder, and a granddaughter of Elder William Buckles, who represented the Shepherdstown Church in the formation of Winchester Presbytery in 1794. Lewis F. Harper's aged widow, now living with a Presbyterian son in Winchester, Va., was, before marriage, the Presbyterian Mary L. Silver, of Martinsburg.

Charles Harper's grave in the old Presbyterian graveyard, now a part of Elmwood Cemetery, is on or adjacent to the Buckles lot and is marked by a fairly massive shaft.

## GEORGE T. HODGES

George T. Hodges, 1850-1903, spent the last half of his life in Shepherdstown, where he prospered as a dealer in coal, grain, and general merchandise.

He married Josephine Jarboe in October, 1874, and a year later arrived here from his native Montgomery County, Maryland.

For the first ten years he dealt in general merchandise in a store where The Independent printing establishment is now located, having bought its stock from G. T. Licklider. The latter's son, W. P. Licklider, served Mr. Hodges as a clerk.

On April 1, 1885, George T. Hodges bought the property on the southwest corner of German and Princess streets, occupying the main part of the large house as a residence, and using the side on Princess Street to continue the general merchandise business formerly conducted in the G. T. Licklider place. He had previously lived in the Entler or Licklider house on upper German Street, and then in the stone house on the south side of German Street between King and Church.

In 1881 he had purchased two adjoining small tracts in the triangle between the old Charles Town Pike and the railroad tracks, erecting a large elevator and warehouse. On September 30, 1882, he advertised that he was prepared to furnish coal of all kinds, orders to be left at his store or at the warehouse. He soon built up a large trade, later expanding it by equipping an elevator at Kearneysville to handle the grain and coal business of that section. A few years before his death he bought a similar stand at Duffields. Mr. Hodges also dealt in live stock and bought almost anything a farmer had to sell.

He was a director of the Jefferson Savings Bank (now the Jefferson Security) for several years and served on the Town Council continuously from 1895 to 1902.

Mr. Hodges overworked, and, when typhoid fever developed, he died on July 19, 1903. He was survived by his wife, and six sons and two daughters: Samuel J., who succeeded him in business; Howard; Louise, who married D. B. Lucas; Frances, who married L. R. Kramer; Walter B. (Dick); Ross; Willis; and George T., Jr.



One of his grandsons, S. Brooks Lucas, is now cashier of the Jefferson Security Bank.

Another grandson is the Most Reverend Joseph Howard Hodges, Bishop of Wheeling, son of the late Dr. Howard Hodges, of Martinsburg.

Here in the Shepherdstown community, as students in Shepherd College, are two great-granddaughters, Ida Elizabeth and Mary Hodges.

As evidence of the esteem in which he was held, his friends attended his funeral in such numbers that the Catholic church could not accommodate all of them. The town had lost one of its most useful and influential citizens.

### MOSES HOGE

Moses Hoge, 1752-1820, of the Presbyterian Church, was a distinguished resident minister here in 1787, and for a time had an academy or classical school.

Moses Hoge was born on February 15, 1752, near Middletown, Va., son of the Cedar Creek elder, James Hoge, and grandson of William Hoge, who emigrated from Scotland and settled near the head of Opequon Creek in 1735.

His earlier education was acquired in a school at Culpeper and in the fields with a book before him on the plow handles. He completed his secular and ecclesiastical studies under William Graham, D.D., at Liberty Hall Academy, now Washington and Lee University, and under the Rev. James Waddell.

He was licensed to preach in November 1781, and in 1782 was ordained pastor of Concrete Church in Hardy County, now the Moorefield Church. In the fall of 1787 he came to the Shepherdstown Church, a congregation in the new Presbytery of Carlisle, while he retained membership in the Presbytery of Lexington. This caused some complications. One elder over in Pennsylvania charged Mr. Hoge with "irregular rites in celebrating marriages." Nevertheless, and probably due to a scarcity of ministers, most of the marriages in old Berkeley County from 1787 to 1801 were performed by Moses Hoge.

In 1792 he opened a classical school, partly to supplement a meager salary, but more particularly to educate his own sons, since Robert Stubbs no longer had an academy. At that time Moses Hoge's residence was on the lot now occupied by Mrs. Lottie Schneider's brick dwelling of recent date.

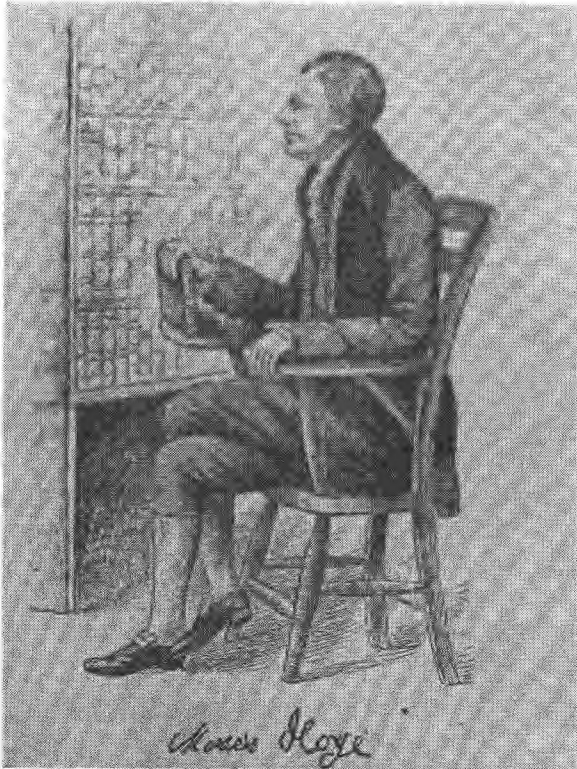
In September, 1794, while the Synod of Virginia was in session at Harrisonburg, Moses Hoge preached to the soldiers encamped there before they marched to suppress the Whiskey Rebellion in western Pennsylvania, though some of his fellow ministers protested, probably feeling that the tax which caused the rebellion was unjust. In December, 1794, when Winchester Presbytery was organized, he was elected moderator.

Mr. Hoge's first wife, Elizabeth Poage, whom he married on August 23, 1783, died June 18, 1802, at Sweet Springs, Virginia, leaving her devoted husband a very lonely man. On October 25, 1803, he married Mrs. Susannah Hunt, of Charlotte County, Virginia.

In June, 1807, Moses Hoge was unanimously chosen president of Hampden-Sydney College, and in October he took up his work as president and professor of Bible. He was honored with a doctor of divinity degree, in 1810, by the College of New Jersey.

As professor of Bible at Hampden-Sydney Moses Hoge began training men for the Presbyterian ministry. And on October 2, 1812, the Synod of Virginia, "taking knowledge of the theological library and professorship at Hampden-Sydney, unanimously resolved on the establishment of a theological seminary" and elected as the professor in charge Dr. Moses Hoge, then president of the college. So, 1812 marks the actual beginning of Union Theological Seminary, now located in Richmond, Va. In a sense, then, Dr. Moses Hoge may be regarded as the founder of Union Theological Seminary.

Dr. Hoge died in Philadelphia on July 5, 1820, while attending a meeting of the General Assembly. A memorial service was held in the Shepherdstown Church, which he had served as pastor from 1787 to 1807.



From a print given to the Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church by its long-time pastor, Charles Ghiselin, D.D.

## THOMAS HOPKINS

Thomas Hopkins, affectionately called Tommy, was a skilled cabinet maker.

His death notice published here was as follows: "In Baltimore, on Monday last, the 28th of May, 1877, at the Aged Men's Home, Mr. Thomas Hopkins, formerly of this town, in the 74th year of his age." There is reason to believe, however, that he was more likely in his 84th year.

In Baltimore today a great-great-granddaughter of Henry Barnhart of this town has a walnut secretaire that is a valuable and treasured heirloom. It bears the original inscription, "Hopkins Maker Shepherdstown 1820."

A home near the site of the Hopkins shop still has a walnut cabinet made by him, and there are other homes having white walnut bedsteads, a specialty of Tommy Hopkins. It is not known how many he made of black walnut. The tooling at the top of the bedposts was one of the characteristics of this piece of furniture.

In 1937 during the Northwest Territory Sesquicentennial a local woman found among exhibits in Ironton, Ohio, a counterpart of his bedsteads here that bore the label "Made in Shepherdstown, Virginia." It is probable that many such bedsteads could have been seen at Chillicothe, since that was the mecca of people from this county settling in Ohio during the earlier decades of its statehood.

Tommy Hopkins may have been an apprentice of Jacob Craft, the clock maker. His only known shop, seemingly the successor to Craft's, was located on the present vacant lot between Mrs. Herbert Miller's and the Virginia White Apartments.

He also made black walnut coffins, but doubtless they have all been under ground for many years. He was for years in the undertaking business and during the late 1840's he had Jacob Smurr as an assistant. In those days a hearse was horse drawn and had a high driver's seat. Tommy Hopkins drove his own hearse, and on the occasion of a funeral wore a long streamer of black cloth wound around his hat and hanging down over his shoulders.

It is a matter of regret that more is not known, particularly the parentage and dwelling place here, of a man so interesting and useful as Tommy Hopkins.

## JOHN KEARSLEY

John Kearsley, 1745-1819, was for more than forty years a prominent merchant, churchman, and dealer in real estate, and for some time president of the town's Court of Trustees.

Born in Carlisle, Pa., the son of Jonathan and Jane Kearsley, who came from Scotland, he was here on August 5, 1776, when "John Kearsley, of Shepherd's Town, Berkeley County, Virginia, shopkeeper," deeded a tract of 300 acres in Cumberland County, Pa., to his brother-in-law. His store, warehouse, and also his dwelling, were on the northeast corner of Church and German streets. During his last five years he lived in the present Presbyterian Manse, having added its large front section to the part completed by John and Mary Line by April, 1795.

As a churchman, he was a trustee of the Presbyterian Church in 1780, one of its ruling elders till his death, and a commissioner to the General Assembly in 1799.

John Kearsley acquired considerable real estate, more than 800 acres in different parts of the county and at least sixteen town lots, on which he had eight insured buildings in 1796. Three of the lots were used for his tannery.

For eleven of the years from 1796 to 1811 he was a member of the town's Court of Trustees, and its president for nine years.

His military service was of short duration, three months as a private in Captain William Morgan's Company in the fall of 1776. In this he was less distinguished than his brother, Captain Samuel Kearsley, to whom George Washington presented the sword the General had used at Princeton.

John Kearsley was twice married. His first wife was Nancy Morrow, who died October 16, 1801, in her 54th year. Within the next four years he married Margaret, his junior by 26 years, the widow of Charles Stewart, of Centre County, Pa., from whom she had a substantial inheritance.

By his first wife John Kearsley had the following children: Jonathan, to whom he willed the Rider farm of 285 acres, near Halltown; Sarah Morrow, who married Joseph Riddle in 1789; Elizabeth, who married Dr. Alexander Mitchell in 1790; Jane, who married John Sander-

son; Margaret, who married John Mines, the Presbyterian minister, in 1799; and Eleanor Mark, who married Dr. Samuel Cramer, of Charles Town, in 1803.

For many years some of John Kearsley's descendants thought he was buried in an unmarked grave near the marked graves of his two wives in the old Presbyterian graveyard, now a part of Elmwood Cemetery. Later they found that when he died on June 26, 1819, he was in Philadelphia, probably attending some church council and visiting his grandson, Dr. John Kearsley Mitchell, father of the even more distinguished Dr. S. Weir Mitchell. John Kearsley was buried in the graveyard at Fourth and Vine streets in Philadelphia.



Hallway in present Presbyterian Manse, main part of which was built by John Kearsley.

## EDMUND JENNINGS LEE II

Edmund Jennings Lee, 1797-1877, had a large and lucrative law practice here for nearly fifty years. While he came of a distinguished family, was a nephew of "Light Horse Harry" Lee and a cousin of General Robert E. Lee, he won esteem in his own right as a man of fine abilities, a genial and charitable disposition, and exalted moral character.

Born at Alexandria, the son of Edmund Jennings Lee and Sara Lee, daughter of Richard Henry Lee, he attended the Rev. Mr. Moffett's School in Fairfax County, graduated at Princeton College, as his father had done before him, then studied law with his father in Alexandria, and was there admitted to the bar.

He chose Wheeling as a promising place to practice law; he also had some land claims to investigate there. Not long before he set out upon the journey, Captain Abraham Shepherd had met the Lees while attending an Episcopal convention in Alexandria, and invited young Edmund to stop on the way west and visit him in his farm mansion at the north end of Shepherd Grade. There Edmund Jennings Lee met and fell in love with Eliza, the charming daughter of Abraham and Eleanor Strode Shepherd. They were married on October 10, 1823, and lived in Wheeling for the next four years.

There two of their children were born: in September 1824, daughter Ellen, who married John Simms Powell in 1844; and son Charles Shepherd Lee, in 1826.

Returning to Shepherdstown in 1827, Edmund J. and Eliza Shepherd Lee lived, according to Major Henry Bedinger, a diarist and letter writer, in "Mr. Lane's fine large house." Long known as the Markell house, it is now owned by Arthur Prather, of the Potomac Light and Power Company.

On September 27, 1831, Mr. Lee got a deed from Rezin D. and James Shepherd for the ten acres on which he built his first "Leeland" home.

A cholera epidemic which had spread from workers on the C. and O. Canal claimed Eliza Shepherd Lee, wife of Edmund J., as a victim in 1833. In the same year their son Edm. J. died at age five; Eliza at age three; and James D., when eight months old.

A little more than a year later Mr. Lee married Henrietta Bedinger, of "Bedford," southeast of town. Born at "Leeland" were their three sons and two daughters: Edwin Gray, who became a Confederate General in the Civil War, before which he had practiced law, and after which he wrote a number of beautiful poems during his vain quest for health, terminated in 1870; Edmund, father of the Reverend Dr. Edmund J. Lee, 1877-1962; Henry; Ida, who married Colonel Rust; and Henrietta, who married Dr. Charles Goldsborough. The latter were the parents of the late E. Lee Goldsborough, of "Leeland."

On April 12, 1856, the first "Leeland," a frame structure of some magnitude and considerable beauty, was destroyed by fire. Mr. Lee then moved with his family to "Bedford," his wife's old home, which he had bought from her brother, Henry Bedinger. There they lived till the Federals burned "Bedford" on July 19, 1864.

Twice burned out, the Lee family stayed with relatives in Clarke County, except for a short time in the Episcopal Rectory, until a new "Leeland" could be built. This time their dwelling was built of brick as an addition to what had been a separate law office for Mr. Lee.

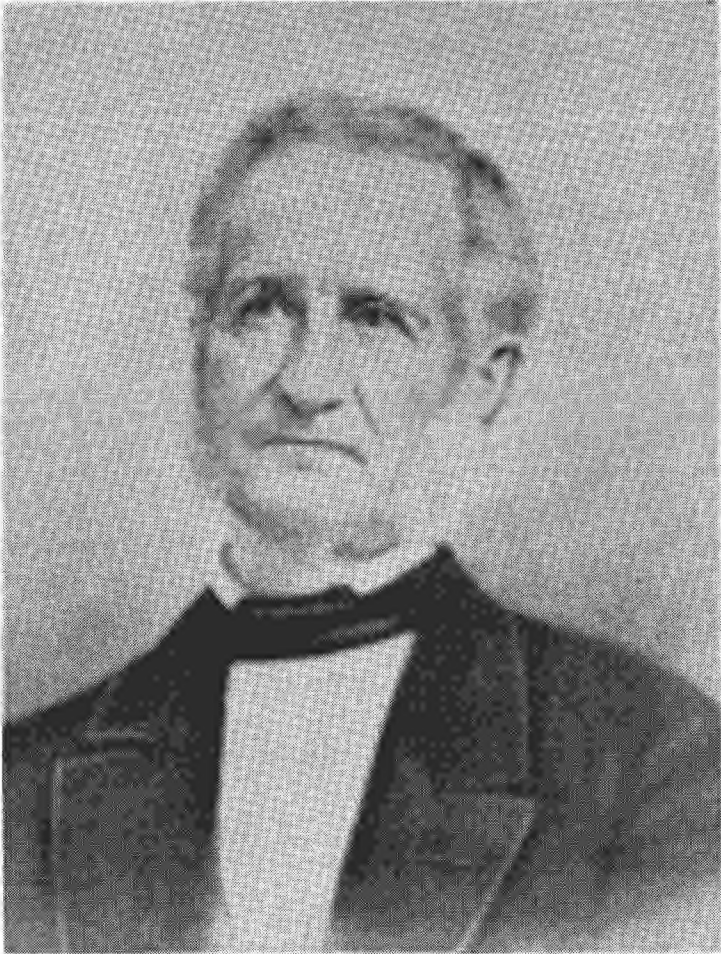
Court records have frequent mention of Edmund J. Lee as a trustee, estate administrator, and special commissioner in pursuance of court decrees in chancery suits.

Mr. Lee was for many years senior warden in Trinity Episcopal Church and in 1870 was a lay delegate to the Diocesan Convention.

Though frequently solicited to do so, he never sought political office. However, on August 7, 1847, he accepted election to a public but non-political office, that of school commissioner for District No. 2, on the inauguration of the free school system in Jefferson County. The school for which he had primary oversight was located scarcely more than a stone's throw from "Leeland" — on Washington Street back of Duke.

His descendants now living in the Shepherdstown community are Llewellyn Potts, his sisters Eleanor and Margaret (Mrs. H. H. Williams), and his son Henry, at Popodicon; and Miss Helen Goldsborough at "Leeland."





**Edmund Jennings Lee II**

**From a picture owned by Miss Helen Goldsborough at "Leeland."**

## WILLOUGHBY NEWTON LEMEN

Willoughby Lemen, 1845-1913, was a man of prominence here for forty years, both in his own right and due to the number of his ancestral lines reaching back to the early history of the town and surrounding community.

Born the son of Willoughby Newton and Esther Billmyer Lemen in the old "Stone House" near Billmyer's Mill, his ancestral lines ran back to Capt. William Lemen, who was born in the county in 1756 and served in the Revolutionary War under Lt. Col. James Hendricks; to Thomas Shepherd, founder of the town, who was here in 1734; and to the Billmyers, who were in the county by 1771.

A lad of 16 years, when the Civil War began, he enlisted as one of the "twenty cousins" in Company F, First Va. Cavalry, and was in the thick of the fight from First Manassas to Appomattox, participating in Stuart's raid on Chambersburg. One of his comrades speaking of him as a cavalryman said Lieutenant Lemen somehow always managed to have a good horse.

After the war Mr. Lemen attended school at Berryville until prepared for college. Graduating from Hampden-Sydney College in civil engineering, he had a part in extending the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad lines into Ohio and Indiana. At the solicitation of his aged father he returned to Jefferson County to do farming, but a few years later he came to Shepherdstown and engaged in the grain and coal business.

In 1878 he married David Billmyer's daughter Sallie, who died in 1882, leaving a two-year-old son, David.

Mr. Lemen was prepared to use the Shenandoah Valley Railroad (later called the Norfolk and Western), which was nine years in developing before its extension across the Potomac into Maryland in 1880, by having built a warehouse along its tracks near the eastern end of New Street. When he built the warehouse, his father-in-law was advanced in years and had given up use of the C. and O. Canal for shipping wheat from its storage in the stone building now used by the town's water works. Joseph Ashton and others had bought the lot down by the ferry from David Billmyer on April 1, 1870.

From 1892 till his death in 1913 Mr. Lemen was president of the Jefferson Security Bank. He was mayor of the town for two terms and a councilman for three. He served for a long time as secretary-treasurer of the Elmwood Cemetery Association. One of the incorporators of the Rumseyan Society in 1906, he was its treasurer for the remainder of his life. His long service as a Shepherd College Trustee began in 1892, and for some eight years he was chairman of its Executive Committee. At the time of his death he was one of the three "Trustees of Old College Building," a self-perpetuating board that still holds title to the building.

Still remembered as a tribute to Mr. Lemen was his generous attitude toward the community; it was said that he made a point of never locking his coal bins.

Mr. Lemen's residence on lower German Street, now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Trump, Jr., was the girlhood home of his granddaughter Barbara Lemen (Mrs. Henry W.) Morrow. She and her son, Henry Walton Morrow, Jr., are his only descendants now living in Jefferson County.

His funeral service in August 1913 was attended by the directors of the Jefferson Security Bank and the Sons of Confederate Veterans. At that time his pastor spoke of Mr. Lemen's having been an elder in the Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church for 37 years and its Sunday School superintendent for 16 years. He had joined the Presbyterian Church when he was a student at Hampden-Sydney College.

Willoughby Newton Lemen had prospered as a dealer in grain and coal, and had taken a large part in the important activities of the community.

## JOHN MARK

John Mark was one of three prominent Scotch Presbyterian merchants here during the last quarter of the 18th century who became wealthy land owners.

Coming to America from Ulster as a young man, he was employed as an instructor of youth during his first year in the Valley of Virginia, after which he "engaged in honorable traffic." It is a matter of record that he was here in 1777, and purchased his first lot, No. 9, in March 1778.

Later in 1778 he bought three lots from Jacob Hart, who had then been a Shepherdstown merchant for at least five years — half of Lot 23, the old Cookus property now held by Donald L. Smith; and back of that Lots 128 and 129, the Alice Billmyer Freeman place and the adjoining lot on the west. He owned the New Street lots for nearly 35 years, but sold Lot 23 in 1799, for 900 pounds, to Philip Shutt.

In the meantime he had acquired half of Lot 7, where Dr. Guy Frank now lives. A later deed identifies this lot as the one he advertised in the Potowmack Guardian, December 1798, as having a "large and convenient brick house formerly owned by Mr. Spaulding, 4 rooms on 1st floor, 3 on 2nd — also storehouse and counting room with fireplace. Stable and smoke house." In 1800 he sold it to his son-in-law John Baker for \$1,800.

In 1788 when Charles and Mildred Washington sold Lot 16 in Charles Town, they very precisely named "John Mark, Merchant, of Shepherdstown" as the buyer. By 1790 John Mark had vast land holdings in the county, at least five tracts totaling 1,400 acres.

In 1787 when James Rumsey made a successful demonstration of his steamboat on the Potomac at Shepherdstown, John Mark was among the elite of the town present for the occasion. Mrs. Mark and her little daughter Ann were on the boat with Mrs. Henry Bedinger, Mrs. Abraham Shepherd, Mrs. Rumsey and Mrs. Charles Morrow when it moved up stream.

One daughter of John Mark died in infancy. Daughter Sarah married Van Rutherford in 1798; Ann married the attorney John Baker in 1799; Martha married John Lyle in 1802; Mary married James Brown in 1803; Elizabeth

married the attorney Aaron Jewett. Then there was Samuel, who married Ann S. North in 1808.

John Mark, Jr., was the only one of the Marks not married by a Presbyterian minister, and then at a maturer age than the others. A great granddaughter, in Richmond, Va., writing to the president of the Jefferson County Historical Society in 1941, had him settled there and cited some John Mark, Sr., papers she possessed.

When John Mark bought Traveller's Rest in 1790, Horatio Gates agreed to take a deed of trust on slaves to the value of 2,700 pounds in part payment, but within two weeks John Mark raised the full purchase price of 3,200 pounds and kept his slaves.

In 1806, after spending a year in Richmond, John Mark was continuing his business activities in Fredericksburg, Virginia, having taken with him the religion he had cherished in Shephersdowntown, where he was a Presbyterian trustee in 1780. One of the first "bench elders" in the Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church, he and Mrs. Mark in 1806 welcomed the first pastor there, Samuel B. Wilson.

Eleanor, wife of John Mark, died in 1809 and was buried in the old Presbyterian graveyard, now a part of Elmwood Cemetery, beside their daughter Nancy, who died in 1798, aged 8 years and 10 months.

It would be necessary to search the records in Fredericksburg to ascertain the final disposition of all the property of John Mark. Three daughters probably had received their share, when, "out of love and affection," he deeded Sarah Mark Rutherford, in 1805, the 200 acre Fountain Rock tract, which he had bought of John and Mary Bull in 1789; the western part of Traveller's Rest, 215 acres, to Ann Mark Baker in 1809; and the eastern part of Traveller's Rest, 215 acres, to Elizabeth Mark Jewett in 1814.

John Mark was still living in Fredericksburg on August 13, 1818, when he sold to John Boley the remaining or central part of Traveller's Rest, the 339 acres on which the stone house stood, and still stands.

Records are not readily available to show when John Mark died, but the late Dr. R. B. Woodworth, in his History of Winchester Presbytery, stated that John Mark was buried in the Third Church graveyard, in Philadelphia.

## JOSEPH McMURRAN

Joseph McMurren, 1829-1902, has gone down in the town's history as the first head of Shepherd College, often called its founder because he laid its foundations deep and strong.

The McMurrans were of sturdy Scotch-Irish stock and emigrated to this country about 1775, settling in present Jefferson County. The first in the line, whose wife was named Margaret, was the Joseph McMurren who died in 1814. Next came Joseph and Elizabeth Snodgrass McMurren, parents of the subject of this sketch.

Living as they did on a farm near Moler's Cross Roads, it is needless to say they were members of the Shepherds-town Presbyterian Church. The second Joseph was in his 59th year when he died in 1853, terminating 35 years as a Shepherdstown elder.

The third Joseph was the fourth of eight children of Joseph and Elizabeth Snodgrass McMurren and the eldest of those who lived beyond childhood. When ten years of age he was sent to a school taught by John Hess, who became county school superintendent for three terms, after a long teaching record at the Elk Branch Academy.

At the age of nineteen Joseph McMurren was ready for college. He went first to Delaware College, then to Union College, New York, and finally to Hampden-Sydney College, from which he received his degree in 1852.

Entering his chosen profession of teaching, he was for four years successively principal of Greene Academy, Huntsville, Alabama; Chatham Academy, Pittsylvania County, Va.; Bellfield Academy, Hicksford, Va.; and a private school in Prince Edward County, Va. After that he was principal of the Montgomery Male Academy in Christiansburg, Va., for three years, and another year was spent as principal of Lowndesboro Academy, Alabama. Then the War between the States broke out.

He enlisted in Company G, 4th Regiment Virginia Infantry, Stonewall Brigade, and was in active service throughout the war, except for six months in prison at Fort Delaware after being captured at Kernstown. He was twice wounded, a shot through the lung at Gettysburg giving him trouble ever afterward. He won promotion to sergeant-major and later was acting adjutant of his regiment. After the war he remained a staunch Con-

federate, frequently taking part in Memorial Day exercises here. He wrote the inscription on the monument to Southern soldiers in Elmwood Cemetery. His interesting story of "The Stonewall Brigade" appeared in "Camp Fires of the Confederacy," published in Louisville in 1898.

After the war he had an academy in Shepherdstown until 1869, then taught a year in a private school in Sumter County, South Carolina, and another as principal of the academy at Duffields, or Elk Branch.

When the court house was moved to Charles Town in 1871, and a group of seven leading citizens decided to open a classical and scientific school, which became a state institution called Shepherd College in February, 1872, Joseph McMurrin was appointed principal. A letter from Shepherd Brooks, of Boston, who inherited the abandoned court house, granted its use for a year. And on July 1, 1872, trustee George M. Beltzhoover secured a long term lease on the building, for a token payment of five dollars per year.

In 1882, Professor McMurrin resigned as head of Shepherd College. Having studied materia medica, physiology and anatomy, he had a drug store here for the next twenty years. For some time he was on the Board of Trustees of Shepherd College, which may not have been a situation entirely relished by his successors.

Joseph McMurrin and his sister Louisa Payson McMurrin, who outlived him by four years, lived on upper German Street near Shoe Lane in the brick dwelling recently bought by Corella (Mrs. H. L.) Snyder.

When Joseph McMurrin, known as Dr. McMurrin during his twenty years as a druggist, died on February 14, 1902, his pastor spoke of the 25 years Dr. McMurrin had been superintendent of the Presbyterian Sunday School and his 29 years as ruling elder and clerk of the session. An imposing shaft marks his grave in the old Presbyterian graveyard, now a part of Elmwood Cemetery, where a considerable number of McMurrin graves may be found.

## ELEAZER HUTCHINSON MILLER

Eleazer Hutchinson Miller, 1831-1921, added luster to the name of Shepherdstown by his work as an artist.

People now living in this historic town should look with admiration upon a picture he painted from the river bridge here. It is a water color entitled "Moonrise and Twilight" and is to be found in the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D. C.

Most of his art work was done in the District of Columbia. Before he was 25 years old, he opened his own studio there and devoted his attention to oil paintings, making portraits of many of the prominent men of that time. However, oil paint was not his favorite or only medium. He also did water colors and crayon drawings and etchings. At the revival of etching he took up that branch of fine arts and made such a success in dry point and acid etching that he was considered in the front rank of American etchers. His work frequently appeared at art exhibits, particularly in Washington, D. C., and New York City. He also illustrated several books, one of them an edition of Burns' "Tam O Shanter" in the 1860's.

Some of his paintings and etchings, including landscape scenes in New England and his native Virginia, have been handed down to his descendants through two daughters and a son who lived in Washington. He married Mary Farnham on May 17, 1859.

He was the first president of the Society of Washington Artists, and vice president, later chairman of the executive committee, of the old Washington Art Club.

He was born here on Washington Street, the oldest son of Solomon and Sophia Cookus Miller. His father was a skilled artisan and weaver, and the son of a weaver. His great-grandfather Miller was a Lutheran minister. His father, a member of the Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church in 1831, honored his pastor, Eleazer C. Hutchinson, in choosing a name for his son.

Both his grandfathers, Michael Cookus and John Miller, were Revolutionary soldiers.

The house in which Eleazer Hutchinson Miller was born was sold to Miss Jessie Trotter in 1924, the deed being signed by his youngest sister, Miss Amanda Miller, then 91, and many other heirs of Solomon Miller. The



house, considerably remodeled, is now owned and occupied by Mrs. C. F. Lyne.

It seems a marvel that a boy in a weaver's family of eight children could rise to such high rank among American artists. But he began drawing before he was old enough to be of help in weaving. His career as an artist really began when he was only six years old. Dr. John Reynolds became his patron saint and supplied him with oils, after seeing the picture of a Scotch game-keeper the boy had made when fifteen years old. He also had some encouragement and helpful suggestions from Alexander R. Boteler.

A few years later he determinedly set out for Washington to study art. Fortunately, he secured work on the famous newspaper, "The National Intelligencer," and thus found the means to enter Gibson's school of art, then the only such school in Washington. His progress must have been rapid, for in 1855 he opened his own studio and soon acquired considerable reputation as an artist.

It is quite a success story, that of a boy born into a weaver's family here on Washington Street and christened Eleazer Hutchinson Miller.

## JOHN MORROW

John Morrow is one of several Scotch Presbyterian merchants who came here about 1775 and during a period of forty years engaged in many real estate transactions.

The deed books in Martinsburg and Charles Town are heavy with records of his many land purchases and a lesser number of sales. When he bought the lot on the northeast corner of German and Church streets on March 20, 1776, the deed was to John Morrow. On April 21, 1778, a deed for a lot on Rocky Street was made to Colonel John Morrow. On May 1, 1792, when he bought 650 acres, including mill and farmhouse, from Captain Thomas Rutherford, the deed was made to John Morrow, merchant.

In 1796 he had three buildings here in town insured for \$2,500, and by that time had acquired about 1,100 acres of farm lands. From one tract southeast of town came what was known as Morrow's Addition in 1798.

His first store must have been on Lot 4, which he sold to John Kearsley in 1781. On June 26, 1811, he bought the part of Lot 2 now occupied by John P. Tabler's store from Henry Fiser, who got it on Sept. 12, 1793, from Mary Fay (Feay), to whom the lot had been willed by her father, Thomas Shepherd. On March 3, 1804, John Morrow and James Brown had leased this lot for a term of eight years, there to conduct a store. The lease mentioned the brick house on the place and a back shed used by Fiser for a "waggon maker's shop."

The 1778 deed to "Colonel" John Morrow was by virtue of his having been Colonel of the 2nd Battalion, Berkeley Militia. He was elected to the town's Court of Trustees in 1793 and again in 1796, was postmaster from 1798 to 1802, a trustee of the Presbyterian Church in 1780 and a ruling elder till his death in 1819.

That he had the confidence of the people in this county is shown by his having frequently served as an estate administrator, though as far as known he never refused to accept his 5% on estate settlements. From December, 1801, through 1805 he was the guardian of the orphaned daughter of John Darke, Elizabeth, who got 534 acres at Duffields in the January 1802 division of the Jefferson County lands of her grandfather, General William Darke.

There was really quite a Morrow settlement here, just as there had been at Masque Manor, south of Carlisle and near Gettysburg, described as a settlement "as Scotch and Presbyterian as any parish in Scotland." On the Morrow lot in the old Presbyterian Graveyard, now a part of Elmwood Cemetery, there is a tombstone for Sara Morrow, who died Oct. 4, 1793, aged 68 years. She had probably come here as the widowed mother of John Morrow. Two of his sisters were Nancy, the wife of John Kearsley, and Mary, the wife (believed to be the second) of James Rumsey. His two brothers, Charles and Thomas, were Revolutionary soldiers, as he was. Captain Thomas Morrow died in 1778, his health having been impaired during imprisonment. Then there was a Jeremiah Morrow who came to this county from near Gettysburg in 1794 and remained about nine months before going to Ohio, where he served as Governor from 1823 to 1827. The late

Dr. Roy Bird Cook, a historian of considerable repute, writing in 1926 on James Rumsey, stated that Charles Morrow was a brother of Jeremiah.

The support given James Rumsey by the Morrrows has often been recorded, as well as their presence and help when he made the successful public demonstration of his jet propulsion steamboat here on the Potomac on December 3, 1787.

John Morrow married Mary Rutherford Peyton, who became the widow of Col. Henry Peyton in 1781 when she was only 25 years old. To this union were born Eleanor Peyton Morrow, who died in 1812 when 12 years old; Sara B., who married Robert Worthington on October 24, 1805; and Susana, who became the first wife of John T. Cookus on April 13, 1813. Worthington and Cookus, sons-in-law of John Morrow, had a store here as early as 1813.

The Morrrows now in the Shepherdstown community have no idea how they are related to the three Morrow brothers, Captain Charles, Colonel John, and Captain Thomas, all of the Revolution. Little wonder. The name of Morrow was legion in Pennsylvania, in the area south of Carlisle, and later in Fayette County.

John Morrow 2nd, who succeeded John Morrow as town postmaster here on April 1, 1802, wouldn't have been old enough for the post had he been a son of Col. John and Mary Rutherford Peyton Morrow. He could have been a son of Col. John Morrow by an earlier marriage, and may have been the father of John Morrow, Jr., 1795-1878, a captain in the War of 1812.

Col. John Morrow, of Shepherdstown, Berkeley County, Va., purchased a lot from John Hopwood in the town of Woodstock (now Hopwood, Fayette County, Pa.) on Feb. 5, 1793. Thomas Morrow was listed as a taxpayer in nearby Wharton Township in 1785, and a John Morrow, in his early majority years, was listed in the 1820 census of Fayette County.

Mrs. Harry E. Fiscel, of Bridgeville, Pa., a great-granddaughter of John Morrow, 1795-1878, has been working on the Morrow genealogy and may come up with the answers.

This, however, is not intended as a genealogical record, but only as a sketch of Colonel John Morrow, who gave prominence to the Morrow name in the early history of Shepherdstown.

## HENRY W. POTTS

Henry W. Potts, a civil engineer by profession, came to Shepherdstown about 1878 as engineer in charge of work on the Hagerstown to Shenandoah Junction section of the Shenandoah Valley Railroad (later a branch of the Norfolk and Western Railway), surveying a line for the proposed railroad between those points.

He was born in Pennsylvania, the son of Joseph Potts and his wife, Ann Clay, born in Hagerstown while her father, the Rev. John Curtis Clay, was rector of the Episcopal Church there.

Young Henry Potts attended the Hill School, in Pottstown, Pa., and later studied engineering at Chester Military College, Chester, Pa.

His headquarters for his work with the Shenandoah Valley Railroad were in Shepherdstown, in the old Entler Hotel, and he employed a number of local young men on his surveying corps; among these were John Schoppert and Alexander Shepherd. One day each week he walked the line between Hagerstown and Shepherdstown, and back, the same day, a distance of over thirty miles.

His orders were to survey a road with the easiest possible grades, because of the very small, hand-fired locomotives of that day, and with the cheapest possible rights of way. As a consequence, the line wound around hills and missed going down Sharpsburg's main street, which caused much resentment among the Sharpsburg townsmen. To compensate for this necessary omission, Mr. Potts had a well-paved macadam road built between the station and the town, and lined it on each side with Norway maples, most of which still survive and are a glorious yellow in the autumn.

While stationed in Shepherdstown he met many of its people, including young ladies, and became much interested in Miss Eleanor Strode Powell, one of four daughters of Captain (C.S.A.) John Simms Powell and his wife, Ellen Lee, eldest child of Edmund J. and Eliza Shepherd Lee.

When Mr. Potts finished his work here in August, 1880, he reluctantly went to Mexico, where he was in charge of laying out a railroad on that country's west coast. As soon as his work there was finished, he returned to Shepherdstown, and on September 27, 1881, he and Eleanor Powell were married in Trinity Episcopal Church.

At that time the Powell family was living on the northern outskirts of Shepherdstown, in a rented house then called the "Bank house," because it was owned at the time by the old Jefferson Savings Bank. (It is now known as Wingert Cottage and owned by Mr. and Mrs. John Miller.)

After his marriage Mr. Potts built a house on New Street (directly opposite the Episcopal Rectory and now owned by Mr. and Mrs. William R. Thacher); and he bought a small house next door and rebuilt it for his wife's mother and two sisters, Misses Kate and Sally Powell. This house, remodeled since then, is now owned by Mrs. A. S. Lucas.

For some time after his marriage he carried on his engineering work. He laid out the street railways and Schenley Park, in Pittsburgh, Pa., taking with him for this work several young men from Shepherdstown. One of them, Alexander Shepherd, stayed on in Pittsburgh and became a vice-president of the Jones and Laughlin Steel Company.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Potts. The first died at birth and the third, Joseph Henry, was killed in 1915 in an automobile accident in Wyoming, where he was at that time the manager of a timber company.

When the children were young and it became difficult for Mrs. Potts to move around to be with her husband, he decided to retire to Shepherdstown. Mr. Potts then bought a farm at Duffields, known as the old Hess place, and each day drove his horse and carriage there to see about the work. At that time apple orchards were coming into favor in the vicinity, and he planted a fifteen-acre orchard on his farm. This became quite profitable, as it was then necessary to spray only once a year and apples, which were packed in barrels right beside the trees, brought excellent prices.

Some years after he had settled in Shepherdstown he was asked to come back to his old home in Pottstown, Pa., to become manager of the Potts Brothers Iron Works, a very old and formerly profitable concern, but then in poor shape. He decided against this, however, and the firm was later sold to a subsidiary of the Bethlehem Steel Company.

Although he had given up the practice of his profession, he was asked to draw up plans for enlarging Elm-

wood Cemetery, by then becoming crowded; and he spent much time on this project.

As he and his wife liked the country and thought country life would be good for their children, he gradually acquired a number of lots, some of them fronting on "Shepherd Grade," just north of Shepherdstown, and on this land he built another house, named "Popodicon," after an old family home near Pottstown. The two houses in Shepherdstown were sold to the Rev. J. E. Triplett, former pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Duffields, and in August, 1908, Mr. and Mrs. Potts, their four living children and the Misses Kate and Sally Powell moved into their new home. (Mrs. Powell had died in 1898.)

Mr. Potts was a man of high principles and, though retiring by nature, would stand up and be counted for any cause he thought right. Although he never sought public office, he was intensely civic-minded and very generous. For a number of years he was a vestryman of Trinity Episcopal Church and represented his Church as a delegate on many occasions.

He was president of the Rumseyan Society from March 28, 1910, until his death on December 10, 1931, just a few weeks before his eighty-fifth birthday. It was during his incumbency as president that the Rumsey Monument was erected, and it was under his direction that Rumsey Park was laid out.

"Popodicon," his former home, is now owned by his three living children, Miss Eleanor Lee Potts, Mrs. H. H. (Margaret Potts) Williams, and Llewellyn Potts.

### **DR. JOHN REYNOLDS**

Dr. John Reynolds, 1817-1891, had the distinction of having performed the first operation in this section with the use of chloroform as an anaesthetic.

An injury to an Irish workman at the Virginia Ore Bank, near Bakerton, made it necessary to amputate the man's leg. Dr. J. H. Taylor obtained the chloroform from Baltimore, and Dr. Reynolds, with his help and that of Dr. Vincent M. Butler, successfully performed the operation on March 1, 1848.

A native of Shepherdstown, John Reynolds had studied with Dr. Thomas Hammond and continued his medical education in the University of Pennsylvania, being graduated in April, 1841. Dr. Reynolds was then associated with Dr. Hammond till the latter's death in 1850, after which he continued to minister to the sick and suffering for nearly forty years.

On June 21, 1854, Dr. John Reynolds married Kate Witherow, and in 1855 bought Lot 30 on the north side of lower German Street. Ten years later he had built thereon the large brick dwelling now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Randolph Colston.

Kate Witherow Reynolds was active among the women of the community and took the leadership in raising funds for the erection of a "town hall," attached to the rear of the Old College Building, in 1899. The building is now appropriately called Reynolds Hall. Mrs. Reynolds outlived her husband by more than twenty years.

Dr. and Mrs. John Reynolds had a son, Allen S., who followed his father's profession and continued practice here till 1909, when he moved to Hancock. They also had a daughter Nellie, who married J. F. Legge. The latter were the parents of Witherow Legge, the popular athletic coach and agriculture instructor at Shepherd College from 1921 to 1925.

Dr. Reynolds served on the Town Council in 1859 and as Mayor from 1860 to 1862. Not the most pleasant experience during his mayoralty was the threat of having his town shelled, on December 29, 1861. At that time the 12th Regiment Indiana Volunteers had pickets stationed along the Maryland side of the Potomac from Williamsport to Harpers Ferry. There were those in Shepherdstown who had been firing at the pickets on the Maryland shore. This drew a protest and threat from Col. W. H. Link in charge of the pickets. Fortunately, Dr. Reynolds was able to put an end to a situation that threatened vengeance upon the innocent and unprotected citizens, including many widows and children, of his town.

It was possibly from this episode that Ethel Lynn Beers drew the opening lines of her poem "All Quiet Along the Potomac," as follows:

"All quiet along the Potomac," they say,  
"Except now and then a stray picket  
Is shot as he walks on his beat to and fro,  
By a rifleman hid in the thicket."

## MICHAEL RICKARD

Michael Rickard was one of a considerable number of German artisans who settled here during the last half of the 18th century, and lived on what has often been called Main Street. In fact they came in such numbers that the street was soon called "the German street," which some local historians have suggested was the street first called Queen Street by Thomas Shepherd. Mention of a bridge over the Town Run on Queen Street appearing in later records would indicate this. Council minutes also refer to repairs on upper Queen Street.

In recent years no one seems to have discovered when Michael Rickard was born or where he is buried. He lived in the house, a log structure later cased with brick, now owned and occupied by Miss Sallie Jones. Conrad Boyer bought the lot in 1785 for 20 pounds, erected a house thereon, built a workshop nearby, and lived there until his death about twenty years later.

Michael Rickard was a whitesmith by trade, a whitesmith being one who made locks, hardware, guns and small implements of unforged metal, while a blacksmith used a forge, shod horses and made ironwork for wagons and such. He succeeded Conrad Boyer as a whitesmith, and in 1810 got a deed for the dwelling from the widow Boyer for 285 pounds. He had probably taken over the shop of Conrad Boyer by 1795, the date he put on the escutcheon now protecting the keyhole of the tower door of the third, or "new," Lutheran church. The escutcheon has a German inscription, "In Jahr Unsrem Herrn 1795 Bewahre Deinen Fuss Wan du in Das Haus des Herrn gehest," by which he meant to say "In the Year of our Lord 1795 Guard thy foot when thou goest into the House of the Lord." The Rickards were Lutherans.

Michael Rickard invented the famous screw lock, a peculiar caliper-shaped lock which can be opened only by screwing a key into place. Thousands of them were made in the Rickard shop, but for some years they have been a collector's item. The first bore the stamp M R, then E R for Elijah Rickard (1795-1879), and later J R for James Rickard (1828-1909). For many years they were used by the B. & O. Railroad for switch-locks. J. H. Zittle's "Correct Account of the John Brown Invasion at Harpers Ferry" states that the handcuffs put on John Brown had been made by James Rickard.



Escutcheon made for the 1795 Lutheran church by Michael Richard. It is now on the tower door of the present church, which has

**ST. PETER'S**

**LUTHERAN CHURCH**

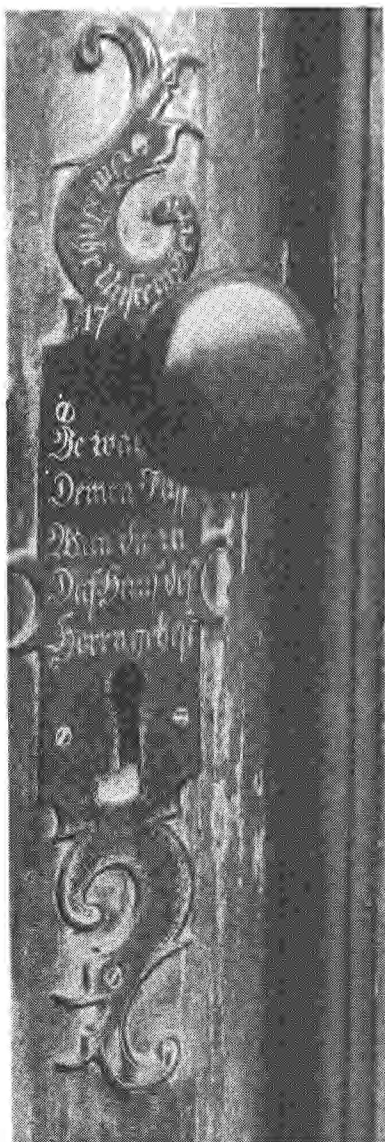
**FIRST CHURCH ERECTED 1795**

**REMODELED 1869**

**NEW CHURCH ERECTED 1906** on its cornerstone. The earlier cornerstones are laid beside the new one.

The escutcheon by Rickard followed along with the cornerstones and has been on a door of three churches.

**Photo by Fitzpatrick.**



An account of Elijah Rickard's use of one of his locks is of special interest to those who remember Grant's pump at the outer edge of the sidewalk about a hundred feet east of the Rickard dwelling. In September, 1862, many tired and thirsty soldiers fell back from Antietam and found their way to Grant's well. In time they exhausted its supply, so that the pump drew up only muddy water. Then Elijah Rickard brought forth a chain and one of his dependable locks and calmly proceeded to lock the pump handle close to the wooden stock, so that the soldiers could use the well no more. There was some exasperation, but the sight of a quaint old gentleman defying an army was too much for the boys in gray, and they could only laugh and cheer him as he manfully held his ground. When the well had renewed its supply of water, Mr. Rickard removed the lock and the pump functioned once more.

The will of Michael Rickard was probated on October 28, 1821, but it was dated July 31, 1809. It shows he had married the widow Elizabeth Jackman, and provided for his wife Elizabeth, his daughters Polly, Nancy and Eliza, and for his wife's son, Elijah Jackman. That the Widow Jackman had resumed her maiden name before remarriage is shown by the marriage license issued to "Michael Rickhart and Elizabeth Schindler" on June 2, 1797. Elijah Rickard, born Jackman, was the adopted son of Michael Rickard.

Michael's daughter Polly in the will was Mary Rickard, born in 1798, who married Joseph Entler, for many years proprietor of the Great Western Hotel across the street from the Rickards. The Nancy of the will was Ann Rickard, born in 1803. Eliza of the will was born in 1808.

In Shepherdstown today there are several descendants of Edward T. Lickliger, who married a granddaughter of Joseph and Mary Rickard Entler. Also, living on German Street west of Duke is Miss Elizabeth Levick Spohn, a great-granddaughter of Elijah and Elizabeth Levick Rickard.

## WILLIAM RIGHTSTINE

William Rightstine, 1808-1892, was the first of a line bearing a family name well-known here over a period of 125 years. But the only living descendant bearing the name is a great-grandson, William Rightstine, now in Washington, D. C.

Of German descent he came in from Pennsylvania. It could be that his forebears spelled the name Richtstine. As late as forty years ago one frequently heard the family name given the German pronunciation, Rickt-stine.

In 1837 he married Catherine Stevens, whose family lived in "the old mill house," since replaced by the present residence of Mrs. Katharine T. Rexrode. It was there that the Stevens furniture shop made bedroom suites and rockers. Within a stone's throw of that old shop one home on High Street has a Stevens dresser and washstand more than a hundred years old. Another family on High Street sold a Stevens rocker to an antique dealer about thirty years ago.

In 1838 William Rightstine built the house, on the south side of German Street above King, now the home of the E. G. Moreland family. The house was occupied by a Rightstine until the death of the revered teacher, Miss Julia Louise Rightstine, in February, 1960. There William Rightstine had the first known men's clothing store in town, employing a tailor to fit men out in suits according to their individual measures. He also had a cigar factory that used wooden molds. Interested in farming too, he acquired two farms out along Shepherd Grade, now the Ralph Headlee and William Tabler places.

Himself a Lutheran, his oldest daughter, Nannie Virginia, married a Lutheran minister, William L. McClanahan, who founded the Orphans Home for Girls in Roanoke. Son James, who succeeded him as proprietor of the Rightstine house, married Julia Kyne, a Catholic, and their children were reared as Catholics.

Beginning in 1842 William Rightstine served intermittently as a member of the Town Council for a total of sixteen years, one year as Town Recorder. As an Odd Fellow he was one of the petitioners granted the privilege, in 1845, of erecting a second story on the present Public Library and a 999 year lease on their building. (The lease, for its remaining years, was bought by the

Shepherdstown Public Library, Incorporated, within the past year.) William Rightstine was one of the incorporators of the Jefferson Savings Bank in 1869.

That he kept exact "Minutes" is shown by a record book, still held as a treasure here, of five military companies — Potomac Rifle Company, 1835-1841; Jefferson Rifle Corps, 1851-1852; Shepherdstown Light Infantry, 1857-1858; Hamtramck Guards, 1858-1861; and the Light Infantry, from July 23, 1878 to September 28, 1878.

William Rightstine was on the jury that rendered the verdict of guilty in the trial of John Brown in 1859. Some Brown followers predicted that all those jurors would die a violent death, but he held out for 33 years and then died of a jaundice.

The only William Rightstine descendant living in Shepherdstown today is Mrs. David Stanley, a great-granddaughter, but near town there are Genevieve Rightstine (Mrs. Butler) Jones, a granddaughter, and Mrs. Wesley C. Whitmer, a great-granddaughter.



**James Rumsey**

**From a portrait painted in London by Benjamin West in 1790.  
Now in the Art Division of the Smithsonian Institution.**

## JAMES RUMSEY

James Rumsey, 1743-1792, inventor of the steamboat, gave more than a little fame to Shepherdstown when he made a successful public demonstration of his invention, here on the Potomac, on December 3, 1787. His genius has been recognized, and honor accorded him, in England as well as in America.

In order to assist him in perfecting his steamboat for commercial use on inland waters, the Rumseian Society was formed in Philadelphia on May 9, 1788, with Benjamin Franklin as organizing chairman until William Bingham was elected as its president. The purpose of this Society was to help finance Rumsey to go to London and there to perfect a new and larger boat. Unfortunately, a few weeks before that boat, the *Columbian Maid*, made a successful trip on the Thames, James Rumsey had died, on December 21, 1792, from a stroke of apoplexy while addressing a committee of the society of arts in the Adelphi.

James Rumsey lies in an unmarked grave in St. Margaret's churchyard, London. On May 18, 1955, a tablet was unveiled in St. Margaret's on which appears "in memory of James Rumsey - - - ."

On May 1, 1937, the Historical Society of Cecil County, Maryland, raised a marker at the head of the Bohemia River near the site "where James Rumsey, the inventor of the steamboat, conducted an Ordinary." He had been born at Bohemia Manor in March, 1743, and lived in Maryland before locating in Berkeley Springs, where he was in the mercantile business in 1783, was conducting a boarding house in 1784, built a house for George Washington, and made experiments with a boat before coming to Shepherdstown in 1785.

On July 15, 1939, State officials of Maryland and West Virginia joined in the dedication of the James Rumsey Bridge, which crosses that portion of the Potomac traversed by Rumsey's steamboat in 1787.

On May 17, 1960, a bronze tablet on the house at the northwest corner of Duke and New Streets was dedicated. It reads "James Rumsey Inventor of the Steamboat Lived Here From 1785 to 1788. Placed by George A. Rumsey 1960." During most of the first year here James Rumsey, at the solicitation of George Washington, was employed

by the Potomac Navigation Company to supervise construction of canals and removal of obstructions in the river near Harpers Ferry. When not working on his steamboat he had mechanics making parts for it.

The aged George A. Rumsey, now deceased, was a distant cousin of the steamboat inventor. His brother Carroll Rumsey, also deceased, willed to the Library of Congress the portrait of James Rumsey by Benjamin West, the American painter who had a studio in London during the time Rumsey was there.

What should be the pride of everyone in Shepherds-town, both young and old, is the Rumsey Park off the north end of Mill Street with the Rumsey Monument overlooking the Potomac. On March 1, 1905, the West Virginia Legislature made appropriation for the Monument, with the provision that the site should be designated by the Governor (which was done by Governor Glasscock in 1910) and that the Monument should be erected under the auspices of a society chartered for the purpose. Accordingly, a new Rumseyan Society was organized and chartered on February 26, 1906, three adjoining parcels totaling 2.6 acres purchased from the Norfolk and Western Railway, and the Monument erected in 1915. The West Virginia Legislature continues to honor James Rumsey by making an annual appropriation for the care of the park and monument, with the secretary-treasurer of the Rumseyan Society supervising the care.

James Rumsey had an afflicted son who never married, but there are living descendants of one or both of his daughters. One of them came here from Brooklyn in September, 1957, for Keenan Hanley's demonstration of his adaptation of James Rumsey's water jet propulsion boat of 1787, and letters were then received from a descendant in Staunton, Va., and another in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. At the demonstration, and 170th anniversary program, the State Historian and Archivist was present from Charleston, and the Congressman from this district spoke on "West Virginian's Pride in James Rumsey."

## DR. NICHOLAS SCHELL

Dr. Nicholas Schell, 1746-1804, was for two decades a prominent member of the German Reformed Church in Shepherdstown. Born John Nicholas Schell in Germany, he settled at Reading, Pa., and there joined the Revolutionary troops of Berks County, serving as a surgeon for six years.

Dr. Schell "was a gentleman of fine classical education and was considered deeply learned in his profession." His will gave specific directions for the education of his seven-year-old son, John Nicholas.

At the close of the War for Independence he came to Shepherdstown. On June 21, 1785, he bought from Abraham Shepherd Lot 43 on High Street, just east of the present Lutheran parsonage, and there built the house held by his descendants till the death of Miss Sarah Shaner in 1936. The property is now owned by Mrs. Ben Hartzell. Handed down through the descendants of Dr. Schell has been the story that he first thought of locating on German Street, but finally decided on High Street because it was then the main street of town.

Dr. Schell's wife was Rebecca, being thus named in his will on record in Charles Town. Their children in order of birth were Rebecca, who married a Hively; Catherine, born October 23, 1792, and baptized in the Reformed Church on November 8, 1792, who married Abram Schue on April 5, 1812; Elizabeth, who married David Moyer in March, 1822; and John Nicholas, born May 31, 1796, who married Rebecca VanMetre in 1818.

The junior John Nicholas Schell chose to be known as John N. Shell, and as such served on the Town Council in 1843.

Living in Shepherdstown today are Mrs. John W. Alder, Irvin and Roy Myers, and the senior and junior Kenneth Waldecks, descendants of Dr. Nicholas Schell through his son John N.

Dr. Schell was buried in the Reformed Cemetery near the famous "Harina Schel" tombstone with its German inscription, which Danske Dandridge read as "Harina Schel begraben 1728 war alt 85." Mrs. Dandridge missed the "Kat" at the end of the preceding line. So, the name was Katharina Schell. And 40 years ago area historians who had made a study of tombstones in the lower Shen-



andoah Valley said the date must have been 1798 originally, and this aside from any consideration that the Reformed Church did not get the cemetery lot till 1774, a deed of gift from Heinrich Cuckus (Cookus) from the tract he bought from the junior Richard Morgan in 1765.

Not now provable but plausible would be a statement that Katharina Schell was the aged mother of Dr. Nicholas Schell, who named his second daughter Catherine, having christened his first daughter Rebecca, as his wife was named.

### PHILIP SHEETZ

Philip Sheetz, 1738-1793, was in the forefront of those German artisans who settled here during the early life of the town. Few, if any, names from those early years, other than that of the family of Thomas Shepherd, the town's founder, have been so widely known as that of Sheetz. The Sheetz guns and Sheetz tavern have perpetuated his name.

Carey's "American Firearms Makers" may have had proof that Adam, Henry and Philip Sheetz, brothers, were making flintlock muskets for the Virginia Militia and doing general gunsmithing here in 1768. In a recently discovered original document dated May 28, 1776, Thos. Worley, Philip Sheetz and Henry Sheetz subscribed themselves as gunsmiths of Mecklenburg in the County of Berkeley and agreed to make, and deliver, at their shop twenty-four good and well fixt Rifle guns per month. Adam Sheetz was not a party to the agreement, having joined Captain Hugh Stephenson's company of riflemen in the summer of 1775.

No records have been found that would locate either a 1768 or 1776 gunshop. Both Philip and Henry Sheetz bought lots in and out of town, holding them for short periods, but it has long been assumed that the gun shop was on Lot 1 at the northwest corner of King and German streets, where Mr. Palmer now has a restaurant. Possibly it was there in 1776.

However, the will of Henry Bedinger dated December 18, 1771, has Philip Sheetz then living on one of his lots. And it was not till May 17, 1788, that Philip Sheetz got a deed to Lot 1 from Abraham Shepherd, who said it was left to him by his father, Thomas Shepherd, the town's founder. The deed doesn't say that Philip Sheetz should "erect" a building there, but only "keep one Dwelling House" on the lot. So, Philip Sheetz may have held the place under a lease and been operating a gun shop on the lot in 1776.

After his death son Jacob Sheetz bought out the other heirs and son John P. Sheetz was "tempering steel and making varnish for gun stocks." Jacob Sheetz was succeeded by his son William M. as owner of the lot. W. M. Sheetz in 1830 was advertising that he made "guns with any type of lock."

In the county there are a few owners of Sheetz guns, one stamped J. Sheetz and another W. M. Sheetz.

Philip Sheetz had a German Bible in which were entered in German script the birth and death dates of Philip Sheetz and his wife, Juliana Eckhart, and the birth dates of their five daughters and five sons, the first born in 1770 and the last in 1790. Wife Juliana was Philip's junior by twelve years, and a little more than three years after his death married Henry Eckhart, whom she also outlived, dying on May 16, 1809.

That a tavern was operated on Lot 1 by Henry Eckhart, then by his widow Juliana Sheetz Eckhart, and later by her son Jacob Sheetz is well authenticated. When Jonathan Edwards VIII called on his distant relatives, the daughters of William M. Sheetz, Misses Bettie and Katie, then about 85 years old, to receive the gift of a well-preserved Sheetz gunstock, the thin partition between the brick part and the adjoining stuccoed part was noted. The explanation was that the tavern guests dined in the stuccoed structure, which they entered from the brick part.

Recorded deeds have the name as Philip Sheetz, but his tombstone here in the Lutheran graveyard bears the name Philip Shiz, with a German inscription showing that he was buried December 30, 1793, aged 55 years, 2 months and 2 days.

## ABRAHAM SHEPHERD

Abraham Shepherd, 1754-1822, fifth and youngest son of Thomas Shepherd, the town's founder, was the "feudal lord" of Shepherdstown from his father's death in 1776 until its government was taken over by a Court of Trustees elected by the people, as provided by an act of the Virginia Assembly on December 2, 1793. Then for four successive years he was elected to the Court of Trustees, and served as its president for the first year.

Nearly 21 years old, Abraham Shepherd became a lieutenant in Hugh Stephenson's company, which set out from Morgan's Spring, near Shepherdstown, on the famous "Bee Line March" to Boston on July 17, 1775. At the battle of Kingsbridge in November 1776, he took over command of the regiment when his superior officers were wounded, after which Congress gave him a captain's commission. He was with General Daniel Morgan in the fall of 1777 and saw the surrender of Burgoyne. Taken prisoner by the British, he was paroled in May 1778, later released, and then saw service for about three months before returning here permanently in August, 1779.

In 1780 Captain Shepherd was joined in marriage with Eleanor Strode, daughter of Captain James Strode. For many years they were devoted members and generous supporters of the local Episcopal Church. When Mrs. Shepherd died in 1853, her rector's eulogy stressed her saintly qualities, and a plaque to her memory may be seen in Trinity Episcopal church. Many Shepherd descendants have been members of the Episcopal Vestry.

To Abraham and Eleanor Strode Shepherd were born six sons and two daughters: James Strode, 1782-1789; Rezin Davis, 1784-1865, named for Captain Shepherd's friend, Rezin Davis, the Hagerstown Captain of Horse Artillery; Abraham, Jr., 1787-1853; James Hervey, 1790-1837; Henry, 1793-1870; Ann, 1796-1866, who married the Shepherdstown physician, Dr. Thomas Hammond; Eliza, 1799-1833, who married the Shepherdstown lawyer, Edmund J. Lee; and Charles Moses, 1800-1851.

Apparently no attempt has ever been made to list all the real estate and other property held at some time by Abraham Shepherd. No records are readily available to show what became of some 9,000 acres granted him in the original Ohio County, then embracing six counties in the extreme northwestern part of present West Virginia and a portion of present southwestern Pennsyl-

vania. At least 5,000 of them were on Virginia warrants for his military service. In Martinsburg are recorded the deeds he gave for many unsold and unwilled lots left him by his father, but they were only a contribution to the development of Shepherdstown; he was not greatly enriched by the small ground rents received from them.

Abraham Shepherd's will on record in Charles Town is revealing. The notes appearing here after each of the real estate bequests were gathered from several authoritative sources.

To son Rezin, the lower merchant mill and land adjoining deeded to me by my brother John. Abraham bought this in 1790 from John, to whom Thomas Shepherd bequeathed what he called "my new mill," in 1776.

To son James, my saw mill and warehouse and land adjoining. This warehouse, now used by the town's water works, had been erected in 1788 for Abraham Shepherd's "tobacco warehouse." according to Hening's Statutes.

To sons Rezin and James jointly, all the outlots and my grist mill on German Street. Rezin Shepherd later traded his interest in the outlots for James' interest in the mill lot. Michael Cookus and Daniel Staley each served a term as operator of the mill for Abraham Shepherd. It was torn down in 1856, having fallen into disuse; at that time Rezin Shepherd was planning to erect on the lot a town hall, now the central part of the Old College Building. According to a Shepherd descendant still living sixty years ago, the stone house, or "fort," in which Abraham Shepherd and his children were born, was torn down in 1812, after which the place was known as "Abraham Shepherd's mill lot."

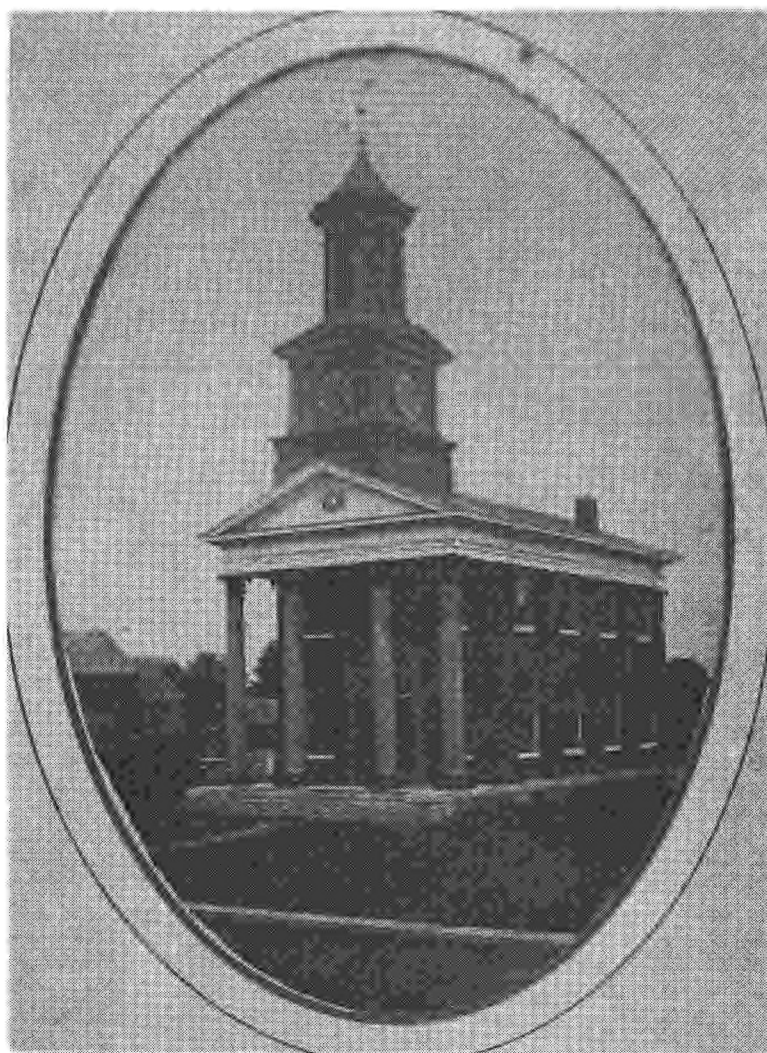
To son Abram, the "Neck place" and the 100 acres where he now lives, known as Boidstone's place. The "Neck place," all or part of which is now owned by Dr. and Mrs. John P. Goulding, was in Abraham Shepherd's 1803 purchase of 1,200 acres, embracing most of Terrapin Neck, from the Brownings and Keatings.

To son Henry, the farm on which I now live, 321 acres formerly owned by Col. Van Swearingen. The latter had built the main part of the stone mansion. This property, at the north end of Shepherd Grade, is now owned by Dr. N. B. Hendrix. Abraham Shepherd had bought it in 1803 and lived there for the remainder of his life.

Son Moses and the daughters were given rather large money bequests. Among the items relating to his widow

Eleanor mention is made of the Captain James Strode place, which she had inherited.

Abraham and Eleanor Strode Shepherd lie buried in a specially enclosed lot in the old Shepherd Burial Ground next the Episcopal Rectory.



Rezin D. Shepherd's Town Hall before wings were added for use of the building as the county court house from 1865 to 1871.



**Rezin D. Shepherd**

**From a portrait by Gilbert Stuart, owned by the Saltonstall family.**

## REZIN D. SHEPHERD

Rezin Davis Shepherd, 1784-1865, will be long remembered for erecting on his place of birth a town hall that later made possible the founding of Shepherd College and today attracts at once the interest of visitors as one of West Virginia's most beautiful buildings.

The son of Captain Abraham and Eleanor Strode Shepherd, he was born on August 1, 1784, in a stone house on the northeast corner of King and German streets. Abraham Shepherd, in choosing a name for his son, honored his friend Rezin Davis, Captain of the Light Horse Brigade, Hagerstown. For years this origin of his name was only a suggestion, but it was finally authenticated by Senator Leverett Saltonstall's mother, a great-granddaughter of Rezin Davis Shepherd. His portrait by Gilbert Stuart, a copy of which was given to Shepherd College, was to be seen in her living room for many years.

When about sixteen years old he was placed in the store and counting house of William Taylor, of Baltimore, a large importer and ship owner. In September 1802 the Baltimore house sent him to New Orleans, where he worked with John D. McDonough in disposing of a large consignment of goods from England. The following winter Rezin D. Shepehrd returned to Baltimore with the accounts all balanced and a large remittance in specie. His reputation with William Taylor was made.

Singularly, it was the purchase of Louisiana that opened his pathway to wealth. His employer saw the neat profits to be made by bringing sugar into "the States" without having to pay a heavy import duty. So, Shepherd again set out for New Orleans with secret orders to buy all the sugar possible, and succeeded in getting 1,800 of the 2,100 hogsheads then produced in Louisiana. He was rewarded with a handsome share of the profits, sufficient in fact to enable him to start as a merchant and importer on his own account.

In 1808 Mr. Shepherd married the niece of his former employer, Lucy Taylor Gorham, of Barnstable, Massachusetts, who died in 1814, leaving one child, a five-year-old daughter, Ellen, who married Gorham Brooks in 1829.

Mr. Shepherd was in New Orleans during the War of 1812, and was a volunteer in an elite troop of horse, being

later transferred to the staff of Commodore Patterson. Credited with saving the life of Judah Truro, the wealthy New Orleans merchant and philanthropist, he was remembered forty years later in the will of Mr. Truro, who left the residue of his estate, after bequeathing over a half million dollars to charities, to his "dear old friend, Rezin D. Shepherd."

By 1841 Mr. Shepherd had found it possible to come to Shepherdstown frequently to gather up several tracts, totaling 468 acres, for his "Wild Goose" estate, enlarging his house in 1842. It was not till 1849 that he could settle with some degree of permanence at "Wild Goose," his nephew, Henry Shepherd, having then acquired sufficient experience in the counting room to be entrusted with the management of his large interests in New Orleans.

According to the New Orleans **Picayune**, Mr. Shepherd had accumulated an estate variously estimated from two to three million. His native town received many of his benevolences, his church seemingly having first call. Remodeling the old Episcopal church in 1841 was done largely at his expense, and he added the tower at the front to support a "town clock" he had purchased. Fourteen years later he had made an initial contribution of \$3,000 toward the erection of the present Episcopal church. He would advance money to the Town Council for special needs and provided funds for relief of the poor.

His most enduring contribution to the town was the central part of the Old College Building, which he erected in 1859-1860, when there had been considerable agitation for a hall to serve as a meeting place of town officials and community groups. He had acquired his brother's half interest in this "Shepherd's Fort" lot in exchange for his own half interest in "out lots." He regarded it as an ideal location for a town hall, which he visioned with one story for a library and another for group meetings; the hall could support a tower for the Town Clock, the treatment the Episcopal Vestry was giving it not being exactly to his satisfaction; and, moreover, he could by erecting a hall at his own expense be assured of a building with architectural beauty to mark the place of his birth.

Before his death on November 10, 1865, he let his heirs know that he wished this hall used by the town to be offered as a courthouse in case the county seat should



be moved to Shepherdstown. It was thus used from 1866 to 1871, and two wings were added to the part built by Mr. Shepherd.

In September 1871 Shepherd Brooks, of Boston, a grandson who had come into sole possession of the building, in a letter granted its use for a classical and scientific school, which became a state institution called Shepherd College a few months later. On July 1, 1872, Shepherd Brooks gave the College Board a written lease on the building, which continued till April 21, 1891, when he deeded it to a self-perpetuating board of trustees "to be used, at their discretion, for whatever purpose they deem best for the interest of the said town of Shepherdstown, and community, with full power in the said trustees to lease but not to sell . . ."

Since then the building has been leased for successive terms to Shepherd College. Mr. Shepherd might well have been honored by having his building named the Rezin D. Shepherd Hall, but, nevertheless, for the erection of this architectural beauty and numerous other benefactions, Shepherdstown owes continued gratitude to a grandson of the town's founder, and a native son, Rezin D. Shepherd.

### **CONRAD SHINDLER, JR.**

Conrad Shindler, Jr., 1778-1852, is known as the coppersmith, and farmer, who built the present Reformed Parsonage.

A daguerrotype owned by Miss Lucette Sharp, of Austin, Texas, shows that Conrad Shindler was a large-framed man. And the Episcopal cotta of her great-grandfather, Rev. Robert Doyme Shindler, shows that he must have been of the same size as his father, Conrad Shindler, Jr.

A German Bible, printed in 1760, still in the possession of a Shepherdstown resident is inscribed "Conrad Schindler His holy Bible. This the 16th of March 1792." Inside the front cover is the statement that George Conrad Schindler came to America from Wurtemberg province in 1752, agreeing with Daniel Rupp's list, which has Conrad Schindler among the immigrants to Philadelphia on November 8, 1752. Miss Sharp's extensive research on

the senior Conrad Schindler while still in Pennsylvania shows that he had 100 acres in Chester County in 1770 and 169 acres in York County in 1777. He first appears in the old Berkeley County records on April 17, 1792, when he bought 68 acres of the original Nicholas Lemen grant near Kearneysville. So, the junior Conrad Schindler must have been born in York County, Pa.

The senior Conrad Shindler (the c in Schindler having been dropped) sold the Kearneysville tract to Nicholas Shell on April 28, 1795, and on the same day bought of the latter Lot 112 (the present Methodist Church lot). The deed of sale for this lot, showing that the senior Conrad Shindler was deceased by August 18, 1812, supplies the names of his heirs. Besides the junior Conrad Shindler, who had married Elizabeth Richardson, there were Richard Shindler; Mary (Mrs. Peter Crim); Elizabeth (Mrs. Rickart); George, who had gone to Shelby County, Kentucky; and Nancy, who had married John Kohe and gone to Hardin County, Kentucky.

Conrad Shindler, Jr., first located on the eastern half of Lot 3, just above the mid-point of the northern side of German, between King and Church streets. The old hardware on some doors of Miss Rose VanMetre's dwelling has likely been there since the days of Shindler, who bought the lot on April 27, 1801.

He sold this property for \$800 on April 25, 1814, to James Shepherd, having bought the upper part of the lot on the southeastern corner of German and Church on April 16, 1814, paying \$340. Shortly thereafter he built his brick dwelling, now the Reformed Parsonage. There in the basement of the house, with an entrance under the east end of the porch, he made copper kettles, only a few of which remain in the community and are highly prized.

Coppersmithing however, was not his only means of support. His two farms, a smaller one southwest of town bordering on Daniel Morgan's Poplar Grove, or Rosebrake, and a larger tract out toward Moler's Cross Roads this side of Linden Spring, may have provided his principal occupation.

Two identical copper kettles here in town, somewhat larger than the aluminum teakettles of more recent date, have a body flaring outward toward the top and a gracefully curved spout that tapers to a narrow tip. The copper handle has C SHINDLER stamped on its top.

A counterpart of these kettles was recently found in the kitchen of the early Schindler home, occupied by George and Martha Washington while at Valley Forge. It bears the stamp M W. Apparently the senior Conrad Schindler, a Revolutionary soldier, also made copper kettles and provided one for the use of Martha Washington. Visitors to Valley Forge may now view this kettle only by looking through the glass of a locked case.

Elizabeth Richardson and Conrad Schindler, Jr., had the following issue: John C., 1804-1883; Nancy, 1809-1831; George W., 1812-1869; Robert Doyme, born in 1814, who went to Nacogdoches, Texas, after the close of the Civil War and is buried in the Oak Grove Cemetery there; Joseph T., 1816-1859; Mary E., who married Daniel G. Bragonier, the Reformed Church minister; and Eliza, who married E. J. Hebb.

On the Schindler lot in Elmwood Cemetery here are tombstones for Elizabeth and Conrad Schindler, Jr., three of their sons and one daughter.

The Shepherdstown Schindlers had diverse church connections. Conrad Schindler, Sr., was a member of the local Lutheran Church. Conrad Schindler, Jr., was an Episcopal vestryman and trustee; his daughter Mary married the local Reformed minister; the funeral service of his son John was in the Methodist church; and son Robert Doyme became an Episcopal rector.

April 1, 1869, marked the end of Schindler's copper-smith shop, when attorney Joseph Schindler Bragonier, acting for the heirs of his grandfather Conrad Schindler, Jr., sold the property to the Reformed Church for a parsonage.

## HARRY L. SNYDER

Harry Lambright Snyder, 1861-1935, bears the distinction of having had Shepherdstown as his birthplace and lifetime residence.

He was born on October 11, 1861, the son of John Snyder, a native of Saarbrucken in the German Rhineland, and of Rachel Lambright (Snyder) who was born at Frederick, Md. At that time his father was with the "Stonewall Brigade," losing his life in the Battle of the Wilderness in 1864 after surviving fourteen major engagements.

When twelve years of age Harry Snyder began work for John H. Zittle's Shepherdstown Register as an apprentice printer. Six years later he was employed as a type compositor in the government printing office in Washington. In 1882 he and his brother Will bought the Register and printing plant from Mr. Zittle. Two years later Harry Snyder became the sole proprietor of the Shepherdstown Register.

Mr. Snyder was an editor of unusual ability, a perfect paragrapher, one who loved his home town and won recognition for his paper as one of the best edited in the state. His "Notes by Observer," dealing with a variety of subjects, local traditions and historical events, have left his surviving readers with a nostalgic regret that they have not been published in book form. His one book, "A Country Editor Abroad," published in 1931, tells of an extended trip to the Holy Land, Egypt, Algeria, and European countries. His fellow editors honored him once as president of the W. Va. Newspaper Council and for several years as secretary of the W. Va. Editorial Association. After 1935 they elected him to their "Hall of Fame."

He was on the Board of the Lutheran Home for the Aged in Washington, D. C., and the Board of Trustees of Roanoke College. For 17 years he was on the Board of American Missions of the United Lutheran Church in America.

For a time he was on the State Board of Children's Guardians, and from 1889 to 1892 and again from 1901 to 1904 a member of the Board of Regents of the State Normal Schools. He took great pride in his work as chairman of the building committee which planned the "new" college building (Knutti Hall) in 1903. He was a great

friend of the college, giving a treasured welcome to a new faculty member and frequently entertaining students in his home, so that in his day there was an intimate relation between "town and gown." The College honored him in 1942 by naming its new science hall for him.

Locally, he regularly attended meetings of the Shepherdstown Fire Department, though not an active fire fighter. He was secretary of the Rumseyan Society from its organization in 1906 till his death on May 17, 1935, and supervised the upkeep of the Park during his last 15 years. He was on the Board of the Jefferson County Historical Society from its beginning in 1927 and its secretary for six years.

Mr. Snyder built his home just west of the Episcopal Church in 1884, and remodeled it in 1904. He erected the Register Building in 1894. He gave a great deal of time and effort to the building of the third, or present, Lutheran church.

On April 20, 1884, he married Ida Baldwin, of Philadelphia, who died July 28, 1907. To them were born two sons and three daughters. In Shepherdstown today are a daughter, Mrs. C. F. Lyne; a granddaughter, Rosemary Lyne; and a grandson, William B. Snyder, Jr., who has the Register Printing establishment. A daughter, Rachel Snyder, is in Charles Town. Two other grandsons and five granddaughters are now far removed from the town to which so much was contributed by Harry L. Snyder.

## THOMAS VAN SWEARINGEN



From a miniature owned by his great-great-great-grandson, Henry Shepherd V at "Bellevue."

Thomas Van Swearingen, 1784-1822, has the distinction of having been twice elected to the U. S. House of Representatives from this congressional district.

He was born at "Bellevue," the son of Col. Joseph and Hannah Rutherford Swearingen, and the grandson of Thomas Swearingen of the Ferry. The "Bellevue" mansion, since remodeled, was built by Col. Joseph Swearingen.

The ferry, established in 1755, was not inherited by Congressman Swearingen. It was left to his Uncle Benoni Swearingen, who had an income of \$1,500 from it one year. It passed to the latter's daughter Sarah, who had married John Blackford, and finally to Henry Van Swearingen Blackford, who sold it to the Virginia and Maryland Bridge Company in 1849. Some provision must have been made by the original owner in behalf of his other heirs. In February, 1828, Col. John Blackford settled ferry accounts with the estate of Thos. V. Swearingen by paying \$308.13 ½.

On March 18, 1815, Mr. Swearingen and Julia Lane, whom he had married in 1807, bought the present Episcopal Rectory, built only a year earlier. They lived there till May 8, 1817, when they sold it John Baker. Only four of their children were there with them. Daughter Virginia, who married Charles T. Butler, was not born till 1819. Their other children were Joseph, 1808-1831; Mary, who married Dr. John Quigley; Hannah, who married the Rev. Henry Matthews; and Thomas, who first mar-

ried Almira Warner. (His second wife had been widowed, first by Dr. Richard Parran and later by Thomas H. Towner.)

Except for summer months at "Bellevue," Thomas Van Swearingen thereafter lived on Princess Street next to Henry Bedinger's place, now occupied by the Jefferson Security Bank.

He always maintained his law office where he lived, at "Bellevue," or on New Street, or on Princess.

From 1814 to 1816 he was a member of the Virginia Assembly. His letters home mostly expressed concern for the health, safety and education of his children, though he once wrote of a big fire on the site of the great theatre fire in Richmond on December 26, 1811, when seventy-two persons lost their lives. One letter written on arrival at Georgetown said he had not yet determined whether to go on to Richmond "in the stage or steamboat."

In a letter from Richmond, dated Nov. 30", 1814, addressed to Mr. Abraham Shepherd, Junr. and signed by Thos. Van Swearingen, he reported that the Assembly was unwilling to legislate to permit slaves to be brought into the commonwealth, on certain terms, especially if it were to accommodate people west of the ridge; that he was visionary enough to believe that the Assembly would be Federal the session after the next. The letter was at least a veiled suggestion that Mr. Shepherd might help the Federalists against the "Jacobins of the south," particularly in the choice of alternatives to prevent Virginia from becoming bankrupt.

Immediately following his last legislative session in Richmond he was elected to the town's Court of Trustees and served for one term.

The Federalist party was in the ascendancy in this county from 1809 to 1835, and it was as a Federalist that Thomas Van Swearingen represented this congressional district from 1819 till his death on August 9, 1822, from a bilious fever.

He was first buried on his "Bellevue" estate, but his remains and those of his father, Col. Joseph Swearingen, were removed to Elmwood Cemetery after it was established in 1867.

Miss Julia Reinhart and Mrs. Ghiselin, in the old Reinhart home, and Henry Shepherd and his children, of "Bellevue," are the descendants of Thomas Van Swearingen now living in the Shepherdstown community.

## DR. ALEXANDER TINSLEY

Alexander Tinsley, 1832-1911, was born in York County, Virginia. While he did not live many years in Shepherdstown, it is hardly conceivable that anyone could perform more public service in the same length of time.

After graduation from William and Mary College, he taught for a few years and then completed his medical education at the New York University Medical College. Upon graduation in medicine he was appointed acting surgeon in the U. S. Coast Survey, and when the war broke out became assistant surgeon in the Confederate army.

He was with Lee's army at the Battle of Antietam and was ordered to prepare Shepherdstown for the reception of the Confederate wounded. After the battle he remained here for four or more months. When the junior Dr. Parran was fatally wounded at Sharpsburg, Dr. Tinsley may have attended him, but at any rate he became acquainted with the beautiful Parran girls and married one of them, Miss Mary Dare, on January 22, 1863. The large brick dwelling at the corner of German and Mill streets, now owned by Mrs. E. St. Clair Clayton, is still remembered as the home of the Parran girls.

While here Dr. Tinsley was made a prisoner of war and transported to Baltimore. Upon exchange, he resumed his position with the Confederate army until the close of the war. When peace was declared, he lived on a plantation on the York River till 1872, when disturbed racial conditions and the health of his family made it necessary to move to Shepherdstown.

Shortly thereafter he was elected president of the Board of Education in Shepherdstown District. He resigned this position when William Lyne Wilson resigned as superintendent of the county schools in September 1874. On October 2, 1874, after twenty ballots by the district boards, Dr. Tinsley was declared elected County Superintendent to fill out the unexpired term. Thus Dr. Tinsley has the distinction of having been the only man living in Shepherdstown to serve as superintendent of the Jefferson County schools.

He later moved to Baltimore, where he practiced medicine till his death on November 16, 1911. His marked grave is near the northwest corner of Elmwood Cemetery, where there are some Parran graves.



## GEORGE WEIS

George Weis, 1782-1857, left a legacy to Shepherdstown in the form of pottery, specimens of which have appeared in local antique exhibits during the past thirty or forty years.

Some of the examples came from collectors, chiefly from the late Nellie Hendricks (Mrs. M. S. R.) Moler. Others were supplied by Weis descendants: Miss Lucy Schoppert, whose grandmother Schoppert was a Weis; Miss Blanche Yontz, whose mother, Bertha Weis, married George Yontz; and Miss Mary Lickliger, whose great-grandfather, Albert Humrickhouse, married Elizabeth Weis.

The Weis pottery ware included crocks, dough trays, jars, pitchers, cake molds, bowls, pie-plates, and even spittoons (particularly for non-users of tobacco). Some of these were glazed, brown, mottled with yellow; others were reddish brown, unglazed. One of the most interesting pieces exhibited was a large fluted brown and yellow cake mold, glazed, with a central tube. The shaping of these wares required skillful hands; the choicest clay used was found in a cliff side on the "Bellevue" farm.

Family tradition would have George Weis here before the death of his father, John George Weis, a Hagerstown, Maryland, potter, which occurred in 1804. Yet George Weis's deed for Lot 9, on the northwest corner of German and Duke, was dated September 4, 1809, John Boyers being paid \$700 for the property. He may have established residence there some years earlier. This is strongly indicated by the fact that he was elected to the Court of Trustees (Town Council) on April 3, 1810.

The Weises were a family of potters, three generations of them. On the death of John George Weis in 1804, George Weis took over the Hagerstown shop and was later assisted there by sons Henry and John. In time he had the help of sons William and James in Shepherdstown. A brother Samuel sold an interest he had in the property here.

The northern portion of the lot was used to grind the clay, do the mixing, and burning in kilns. To the west of the corner dwelling there was a building where the finished products were offered for sale. The wares were also hauled to nearby towns, where the people would

gather about the pottery wagon as in the olden days of the huckster or the new day of the bookmobile.

In 1820 George Cressinger advertised a large assortment of pottery ware at his place nearly opposite Jacob Craft's on the main street (German) and next door to Thomas V. Swearingen, but he seems not to have held out long as a competitor to Weis. However about fifty years later a new type of pottery, grey colored, and then grey with a dash of blue, gradually put an end to the trade enjoyed by the Weises for three generations.

There was a bit of tragedy in 1815, when the Weis residence, a frame building, was destroyed by fire. While George Weis was in Hagerstown one evening, young James Weis and his comrades went to sleep on duty and allowed fire from the kilns to ignite the fence which ran to the frame dwelling. Shortly thereafter the large brick dwelling now on the corner was erected.

On April 23, 1901, the County Court entered the report of sale of real estate of William Weis (1825-1901), the "house and lot known as the Potter Shop property," to George M. Beltzhoover. So, the northwest corner of German and Duke streets, known for nearly a century as Weis's Corner, became legitimately known as Beltzhoover's Corner, until it was purchased by Sam Skinner, the present occupant, in December 1945.

George Weis lies buried in the old Lutheran Cemetery here, his grave being in the Weis lot with that of his wife Elizabeth.

## JOSEPH WELSHANS

Joseph Welshans, 1805-1898, played the roles of company fireman, militia man, farmer, blacksmith, councilman, town treasurer, mayor, postmaster, and churchman.

The son of Jacob and Sarah Yeasley Welshans, he was born in a log house that stood on the corner of King and New streets, a house replaced about a decade later by the older part of the brick dwelling now owned and occupied by his great-grandson, Freel G. Welshans.

An inference that Jacob Welshans got the place from his father-in-law, Michael Yeasley, would not be supported by the deed books. Instead, he got a deed to the half lot along King Street in 1802 (Deed Book 1, pages 404 - 6, Charles Town) from William Dellia (Delyea), to whom it had been deeded on Feb. 28, 1797, by William Darke, who got it on June 16, 1789, from Henry Sheetz. The western half of the lot also came down from Henry Sheetz, by way of Smith Slaughter in 1803 (Deed Book 2, page 45).

According to his descendants, Jacob Welshans was a personal friend of General William Darke, and in the Welshans house today may be seen a picture of the General, raising aloft a sword, very like the Darke sword which has long been held there as an heirloom of the Welshans family.

Before coming to town Jacob Welshans lived on the "Clifton" farm, on the farther side of Teague's Run. When Joseph Welshans wrote his will in 1882, he had sold the "Clifton" farm, but held a sizeable mortgage on it; he also then had twenty acres, remnant of a larger tract, on this side of Teague's Run, where he had milch cows and other cattle.

Joseph Welshans had his blacksmith shop on the back part of his King Street lot near Back Alley. He made some of the wrought iron fittings for lock gates on the C. and O. Canal. During his active life as a farmer and blacksmith he lived in his ancestral town home; in fact, he never lived anywhere else.

When seventeen years of age he was a member of the Shepherdstown Fire Company. A powerful, tall man, he was chosen color bearer of the "Long Greens," a military organization of "six-footers" only, active in the late 1820's and early 1830's. They wore a uniform of pea green —

coat and pants —, a black stock, and a black velvet cap with black ostrich plumes. Minutes of the Shepherdstown Light Infantry record the presence of members of the old "Greens" at the funeral of Col. John F. Hamtramck on April 23, 1858, but fail to state whether they were wearing their old colorful uniforms.

Between 1841 and 1871, Joseph Welshans served at least thirteen terms on the Town Council, five of them as Mayor, and one as Treasurer. It was during his 1857-1859 mayoralty that Rezin D. Shepherd, of "Wild Goose," broke a record of making his benefactions without benefit of signature or seal, and wrote a letter to Mr. Welshans consenting to nominate three men to distribute the money he proposed to give to the Council for relief of the poor.

When appointed town postmaster on March 16, 1872, the other activities of Joseph Welshans came to an end, except for general oversight of his farm holdings. On Jan. 16, 1885, he was succeeded as postmaster by his daughter Ellen, who never married.

For more than 75 years he was a confirmed member of the Reformed Church. Rather widely known as a great Bible student, he was a long-time superintendent of the Sunday School.

On May 16, 1838, he married Margaret Bennett Entler, who died in 1888. He was survived by his son, John Henry Frelinghuysen (Freel, for short), then in the merchandise business in Chicago, and his three daughters: Emma (Mrs. George W.) Port, of Beloit, Kansas; Sara R. (Mrs. T. Ham) Davis, of "Wingert Cottage," Shepherdstown; and Ellen, at home.

His grandson, J. Lewis Welshans, had from him a delightful story of the days during which Indians passed through town eastward from Berkeley Springs where they were wont to "take the waters" for their rheumatism, when boys would place big copper pennies in the cracks at the tops of hitching posts along Main Street. If the Indian's arrow hit the penny, as it usually did, he would stoop to pick up the copper, but in any event kept silently on his way. Those to whom such stories were related have all passed away; unfortunately, there is no preserved record of the many old-age reminiscences of Joseph Welshans.

## MICHAEL YEASLEY

Michael Yeasley, 1730-1808, is remembered and revered here as the elder in the Reformed Church who procured four French bells for their church tower, erected in 1798.

During the French Revolution many churches were dismantled in an attempt to destroy them bell, book and candle. Some of the bells thrown down found their way into Germany, where Michael Yeasley had his roots. Three of the four bells are still in the old tower to peal forth the call to worship. On the larger bell, weighing hundreds of pounds, is a French inscription, which translated means "The year 1732 Gabriel Buret of Rouen made me." The smallest of the bells, which is elaborately decorated, also has a French inscription, translated as "Made in Paris by Claude Bernard, Founder."



*All these in Berks  
p. 77 - Page at  
Oct. 27, 1947  
Bicentennial*

**One of the French bells pro-  
cured for the German Reformed  
Church in 1798.**

Born in Germany, Michael Yeasley had come to Berks County, Pa., married and had one or two children when he joined Captain Weiser's Company of the German Battalion on August 9, 1776, serving till March 7, 1778.

His name first appears in the old Berkeley County court records on June 15, 1789, when he was deeded Lot 19 in Shepherdstown for \$60. This is the lot on which he has been credited with building the stone house, Kenneth Knode's, just west of Byron's hardware store, and engaged in the mercantile business. This handsome old stone house probably antedates the town's earliest brick dwellings.

His farm lands included 102½ acres on the eastern edge of town, bought on September 15, 1789, from Christian Cookus, son of the first Henry Cookus; 15 acres bought on December 17, 1793, from Henry Sevier, son-in-law of the first Henry Cookus; and 91 acres west of town, this side of "Keplinger's corner," bought on December 20, 1799, but held for only a little more than a year.

For some years he owned the lower third of Lot 18; the part of Lot 25 back of Virginia White's apartments; Lot 174 on Washington Street where Charles and Blanche Knott Unseld live; and the back part of the old Sheetz lot, between the Town Council building and the alley. He bought the last lot, then with a dwelling on it, on September 21, 1801, paying \$400.

Michael Yeasley was twice married. Some time before December 19, 1796, he married Catherine Entler, the widow of Philip Entler, Jr., who had died on August 23, 1793.

Michael Yeasley's daughters, all by his first wife, were: Elizabeth, who married Christopher Brotemarkle, locating in Cumberland, Md., by 1796; Catherine, born 1774, who married Christian Hill in 1794; Barbara, who married Daniel Staley about 1795; Sarah, born 1778, who married Jacob Welshans on September 30, 1798; Eva, who married Martin Sheetz on January 20, 1799; Maria (Polly), who married the third Henry Cookus; and Magdalena Yeasley, who married Solomon Ropp.

Most of these daughters married within the membership of their father's church, and it is a matter of record that five of them had one or more children baptized in the Reformed Church.

Since their father Michael had no sons, the name Yeasley disappeared with him, but few of the town's early settlers have so many descendants living here today.

Michael Yeasley in his will, proved September 13, 1808, made bequests to all his seven daughters. To daughter Catherine (Mrs. Christian Hill) he left the "house and part of lot where I now live," and to his wife Catherine, for the remainder of her life, a house and part of lot, elsewhere identified as the back part of the old Sheetz lot, the house doubtless facing on King Street.

A gravestone in the old Reformed Graveyard, the old stone house on the south side of German between King and Church streets, and the bells in the Reformed Church tower are present day reminders of Michael Yeasley.

## JOHN H. ZITTLE

John H. Zittle, 1832-1900, had a long record as a newspaper editor, military man, town councilman and mayor.

Coming here in 1853 from Middletown, Maryland, he bought the Shepherdstown Register in October of that year from J. T. H. Bringham, its third owner in less than four years of its existence.

His home was the small house that stood between the present residences of Capt. A. T. Clay and Dr. Guy Frank. Shortly before his death on December 8, 1900, he rented the place to George C. Link, and his widow extended the lease for more than twenty years. For a long time the Zittle family also held the old Lane house now owned by Arthur Prather, of the Potomac Light and Power Company, buying it from the heirs of James S. Markell and selling it to Dr. Hopkins Gibson in 1934.

Mr. Zittle was orderly sergeant in the Shepherdstown Light Infantry under Col. John F. Hamtramck, Commander, and then under Capt. V. M. Butler, when the name of the company was changed to the Hamtramck Guards in honor of their recent deceased commander. He had advanced in rank when the company was one of the first to reach Harpers Ferry to repulse the raid of John Brown. He was mustered into service at Harpers Ferry on May 11, 1861, as 2nd Lieutenant in Company B, 2nd Virginia Infantry, Stonewall Brigade.

In some way or other he managed to continue his newspaper for several weeks, putting out the last issue on June 15, 1861, and not resuming publication till July 15, 1865.

His military service must have terminated by 1863, when he began the first of seven terms, not continuous, on the Town Council. He was Mayor in 1874, 1885, and 1888.

In 1882 he sold the Register printing equipment and subscription list to Harry L. and William Snyder.

For a few years in the 1890's Shepherdstown had a newspaper called The Independent, first edited by John H. Zittle and then by Edward Spohn. This paper was absorbed by the Shepherdstown Register in 1899. It was not till 1906 that the present newspaper called The Independent was begun by Clifford S. Musser, who is still its owner and editor.

Mr. Zittle was a man of impressive appearance and had a place in the company of intellectual and highly respected citizens with Alexander R. Boteler and George M. Beltzhoover. He was one of the three members of the self-perpetuating board of trustees to whom Shepherd Brooks deeded the old Shepherd College property in 1891.

About a year before his death he returned to his native Middletown, Maryland, which is said to be his burial place.

In 1905 his widow, Mrs. H. Minnie Zittle, published what is now a rare and valued book, *A Correct Account of the John Brown Invasion at Harpers Ferry*, "compiled by the late Capt. John H. Zittle, of Shepherdstown, W. Va."



## EPILOGUE AND APOLOGIA

Footnotes were omitted from the sketches of prominent men which appeared in *The Independent* each week throughout 1962 in observance of Shepherdstown's Bicentennial. This omission made for easier printing and kept the sketches from being too cumbersome.

The sketches, however, carry a minimum of tradition, as a wide variety of source material was used: deeds and wills at Orange Court House, Winchester, Martinsburg, and Charles Town; copies of the *Potowmack Guardian* in the Department of Archives and History, Charleston, W. Va., and the files of the *Shepherdstown Register*; local histories, and county and State (1901-1905) historical magazines; old diaries, family Bibles, church records and family papers.

Sketches were only of men who in their lifetime had a residence or place of business within the corporation. While the fifty planned were being readied Dr. Edmund Jennings Lee IV passed away. A native of the Shepherdstown community, he had a distinguished record as a missionary to China for 25 years and as headmaster of Chatham Hall, an Episcopal Church school for girls, for 22 years. During his residence in retirement on Washington Street for his last eight years, he was interested in working toward a better race relationship and raising the cultural level. A large collection of his books is now in the "Dr. Edmund J. Lee Memorial Reading Room" in the "community building" on upper High Street.

Reaching back through the years there are many others deserving a sketch and place among the town's "Prominent Men." Without considerable research the roster would be incomplete or only fractional.

There was Cornelius Wynkoop with his famous tavern in the late 1770's; Nathaniel Willis publishing the *Potowmack Guardian* in the 1790's; Cato Moore, honored after the Revolution with the title of "King Moore" and later by having many namesakes; and Michael Welsh, whose brickyard is credited with supplying the material for the town's first brick dwellings in the early 1790's.

A long line of merchants included Walter Bowie Selby, James Brown, James S. Lane, James L. Towner, Daniel W. Cameron, John McEndree, Baker Tapscott, Presley Marmaduke, G. T. Licklider, and William Moulder; and

not so long ago, Jacob Wintermoyer, W. P. Licklider, John H. Schoppert, H. C. Marten, J. L. Welshans, T. B. Line, "B" Baker, and H. P. Schley.

There were the medical doctors John Quigley, Henry Boteler, Richard Parran, R. P. Magruder, C. T. V. S. Butler, Robert Grove, Nathaniel Burwell, and John L. Meyers.

There was Captain John Criswell with his Silver Cornet Band a hundred years ago; and Albert Humrickhouse, the mail coach man, with whom rode such distinguished men as U. S. Senator Henry Clay.

Daniel Rentch is still remembered as a 90-year-old justice of the peace, who had been a partner in a woolen factory at the time of the Civil War, and with Stonebraker, a relative, owned a barge shipping heavy loads of grain on the C. & O. Canal in the late 1850's.

B. F. Harrison was the town's pioneer banker; and Henry Kyd Douglas of I Rode With Stonewall fame was born on lower High Street and spent his earlier years here.

**Henry Kyd Douglas  
in Confederate uniform  
with Florence Hamtramck,  
the picture causing his  
federal imprisonment from  
May through August 1865.**



Dr. Charles Ghiselin, with his classic sermons and prayers, was pastor of the Presbyterian Church for 44 years, topping the 33-year record of Dr. Charles W. Andrews as rector of the Episcopal Church. The Reverend J. W. Ware was forced by illness to retire after only nine years as rector of Trinity Episcopal. D. F. Eutsler and Absalom Knox are affectionately remembered Methodist ministers here, and there are those who still recall the years when the Methodist parsonage on New Street was occupied by the Reverend C. C. Sydenstricker, called "Uncle Chris" by Pearl Buck, who still owned him though he was not of her Presbyterian persuasion.

Thomas C. Miller, president of Shepherd College from 1909 to 1920, had just previously served eight years as State Superintendent of Free Schools. He was succeeded by W. H. S. White, on the town council for 15 years and prominent in Masonry, who served 27 years, the longest term of any president thus far.

John Boroff and John R. Ray were two colorful and highly regarded men, each serving many years as town mayor. U. S. Martin, the county's delegate in the State Legislature for three terms, was town mayor for six years; it was he, who in 1911 arranged with the State Board of Control, acting for Shepherd College, to build the town's first sewer, a 15-inch line up Princess Street. J. Strider Moler also served a term in the W. Va. House of Delegates and was county sheriff at the time of his death, a heart attack while chasing a bootlegger one night proving fatal.

E. Hess Reinhart, town councilman for several terms, was president of the district board of education when the new graded school building was erected on King Street at High. Armistead S. Lucas, orchardist, and postmaster and school board member at different times, continued as town recorder too late for Musser's (1931) Two Hundred Years' History of Shepherdstown to be brightened up with his most colorful accounts of what transpired at the council meetings, even with the sedate Mayor Lester Waldeck presiding.

This, as previously stated, is only a partial list, but it may serve as a backlog of choices for the writer of prominent men sketches for publication in observance of Shepherdstown's Tricentennial.



Charlotte of Mecklenburg

By Allan Ramsay, court painter to King George III, in National Portrait Gallery.

## SHEPHERDSTOWN BICENTENNIAL

Observance of the Bicentennial of the Shepherdstown Charter was planned by the Historic Shepherdstown Commission to present a glimpse into the history of the old town through the years — the people, their churches, homes, craftsmanship, schools and customs. Its program extended from October 20 through November 30, 1962.

However, the Independent, now the town's only newspaper, independently began the observance by publishing, on the first Wednesday in January, the first of a series of sketches of Prominent Men of Shepherdstown During Its First 200 Years. Each week throughout the year, the paper had a sketch of some prominent man no longer living.

Also antedating the October 20 to November 30 observance was a telephone call on August 31 from Mayor Louis Scribner, of Charlottesville, Va., to Mayor Walter Knott, of Shepherdstown, extending felicitations and referring to the chartering of the two towns in the English colony of Virginia on the same day and their both being named for Charlotte of Mecklenburg, who became the wife of King George III of England late in 1761. Charlottesville and Mecklenburg (later called Shepherd's Town and finally Shepherdstown) were chartered at a time when it was popular to name towns and counties for the new Queen.

The planned bicentennial observance, skillfully publicized throughout, began, for most of the visitors, with the appearance of the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps of the U. S. Army during the interval between halves of the homecoming football game at Shepherd College. In their colorful uniforms, they presented "A Day in the Life of a Revolutionary Soldier," featuring the tunes and drumbeats which regulated the life of the Revolutionary soldier, and demonstrations to illustrate the calls.

On the same day the Woman's Club opened a Museum, exhibiting many and varied articles treasured as heirlooms by descendants of the town's early settlers. The Museum had an almost constant stream of visitors during the eight days it was open.

Tours of Old Homes were held on Sunday, October 21, and Sunday, November 11. More than 250 visitors representing ten states, the District of Columbia, and nearby counties in West Virginia, attended the tours. Twelve

houses were open and many prized possessions, handed down from early days of the town, were on display.

A Walking Tour on the afternoon of October 21 made the rounds of fourteen historic spots, at each of which there were two girls of the Rumsey Climbers 4-H Club, in period costumes, who related the history of the place.

On November 17 the local A. A. U. W. had a display of early arts and crafts, an account of their history, and a lecture by Curator G. Carroll Lindsay, Museum Service, Smithsonian Institution.

The churches of the town and immediate area had at different times commemorative services and hymn sings. Mention of an exhibit by the Lutheran Church of parish records in German, a 1774 Marburg Hymnal and an old Bible in German, and handicraft made by German Lutheran artisans of Mecklenburg, is indicative of the total display of ancient treasures of the several churches. A rather unusual service called the Lighted Lamps was held at the New Street Methodist Church, when its pastor revived the Circuit Rider days by appearing on horseback, later meeting his congregation in the church lighted only by lanterns.

There were other events in which the people of the town cooperated to recall its past 200 years, such as an old-fashioned square dance, a parade of old fire fighting engines and conveyances, apple butter boiling, an old-time soup, and concerts by German bands.

The whole observance was home-planned and non-commercial. Old homes had been restored, residential and business buildings on the main street had been freshly painted and brightened by "window box" plantings, and the old town in general was readied for the very special anniversary celebration.

It is worthy of note that this very successful observance was carried out by citizens of the town without paid assistance and that just about every organization in the town participated. Remarkable indeed is the fact that, although most of the events were free, the Bicentennial wound up with a cash balance.

The Drama Department of Shepherd College closed the bicentennial observance on November 29 and 30 by presenting Royall Tyler's *The Contrast*, the first American comedy and first presented in New York in 1787. This was a revival of its performance in Shepherdstown on July 12, 1791, by McGrath's Company of Comedians.

