



Sharpshurg Town Crier

The Wetterer Edition



Volume 29

July 2021

Number 6

Civil War Sharpsburg: The Kretzer House



Young Theresa Kretzer lived at the house at 128 E. Main Street during the Battle of Antietam and kept a careful diary. She had boldly flown the family's United States flag within

sight of the Confederates before the battle. She hid it in ashes behind the family's smokehouse, when they returned, in a less-happy mood, to seize it. The Confederates checked and were told it's in the ash pile. After the Confederate retreat, the Kretzers proudly displayed the flag again.

cellar, which had a good spring for water. Among them was Mrs. Henry Ward and her one-day-old baby girl. She became so uncomfortable that she was taken up to the kitchen for air, only to return after a shell flew through the room.

They were not completely safe there; an illustration by Frank H. Schell showed everyone cowering from a blast through a basement window. There were other infants too, and dogs who barked at the nearby explosions. A bandaged Confederate officer sheltered with them for a couple of hours

The Kretzer family owned this house from 1842 to 1939.

- Mr. Chris Vincent, President Sharpsburg Historical Society

Local Landmark Reopens

The Antietam National Battlefield's observation tower is opened for use after many months of interior restoration. "The Tower" has been a beloved destination to the townsfolk and visitors for generations. We are glad to have access once more.

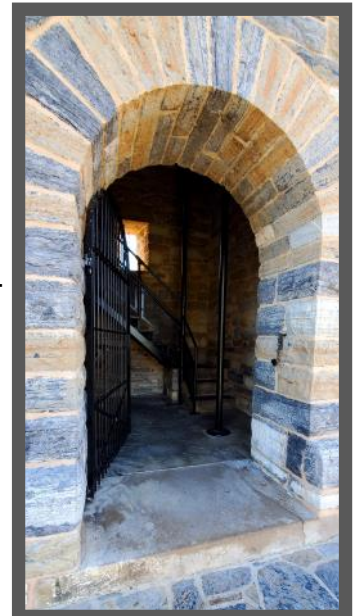


Illustration by F.H. Schell

During the Battle perhaps 100 townspeople packed themselves into the large four-room

- Editor

Meet Your Neighbor: Tim Valerio

“It’s everything to me.” That’s what Tim says when you ask him about his garden. A stroll past his home on Main Street is all it takes to see the honesty and love in that statement. The journey that brought him to this town and that cozy home beside St. Paul’s Episcopal Church reflects his lifelong love of plants and gardening.



His story begins over seven decades ago in East Baltimore where he and his twin Henry were born. It was during childhood visits to family in Wolfsville when he discovered the possibilities of country living and gardening in Western Maryland, “It was like another world.”, he said. It set him on his journey to our town, but a journey with many turns.

Tim shared a telling little story that revealed his future life’s direction. He said that as a young boy he would take his allowance, a quarter, and walk to the local florist shop in Baltimore to buy a single carnation. It took him a half hour to choose the most perfect one. Tim created and managed the Village Florist business for twenty-six years, first in Hagerstown and later in nearby Shepherdstown. He recently

retired from that endeavor but uses the contacts he made there in his current activities.

His journey was also one of faith. He chose St. Paul’s as his church even before moving to town, saying the congregation, “Really put out the welcome mat for me.” The adjacent church property, the Fisher House, became available and Tim moved in. His priority was, of course, converting the rocky lawn into the garden you see today.

In addition to all it takes to build, maintain, and improve the Fisher House Garden, Tim serves as St. Paul’s Sexton; grounds-keeping, gardening, and general “eyes-on” the church property. Tim along with St. Paul’s Altar Guild ensure that every week exquisite flowers celebrate and honor God’s Presence in the Sanctuary.



You are invited to stroll the garden any time. It makes for a perfect moment of contemplation in a noisy world. Enter by way of St. Paul’s front gate and go up the sidewalk to the right, then across the lawn into the garden. Most days you’ll see Tim there!

A photo-montage of Tim’s garden is continued on Page 6.

- Editor



The Sharpsburg Lions Club is looking for new members!



The Club meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:00pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

A Family Tradition

It's a joy and a reassuring thing to see a family tradition continue here in this small town. Again this year Miss Madilyn Bentley, on the right, manages "Emma's Lemonade" stand on South Mechanic Street. And Emma? Emma Dalton is Madilyn's mom who ran the stand when she was a girl. That's Emma in the insert on the left when she was a girl.



Lemonade is served with a sweet smile and the proceeds are donated to charities. When you see Madilyn, stop by for lemonade and thank her for working for others.

- Editor

Civil War Lecture Series ~ August 2021

Jacob Rohrbach Inn

Our Civil War Lecture Series continues in August with four great presentations and speakers. Come join leading historians and Antietam Battlefield Guides as they discuss intriguing topics of the Maryland Campaign of 1862 and the Civil War during our Civil War Summer Lecture Series.

These outdoors programs will be held at the Jacob Rohrbach Inn on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. We continue to follow local, state, and federal guidelines related to COVID 19. To ensure adequate seating, please bring a chair.

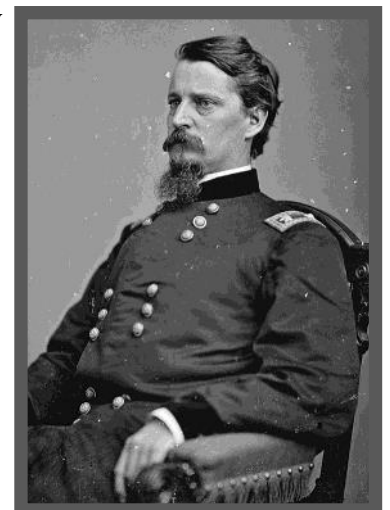
In case of inclement weather, lectures will be held at the Sharpsburg Christ Reformed UCC Church at 117 Main Street. Parking is available on Main and Hall Streets.

Everyone knows about Gettysburg. But how did the troops get there? This is an epic story of 175,000 men and all the equipment of war covering, in some cases, 200 miles in two weeks, from the Rappahannock River to the fields of Gettysburg. On Wednesday, August 4th, local historian, John W. Schildt will present his Summer Lecture Series talk "Roads to Gettysburg".

Winfield Scott Hancock is considered to be a hero of the Civil War.

Local historian, Perry Jamieson will discuss Hancock's actions at Gettysburg that earned that reputation. Join us on Wednesday, August 11th his talk - "Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock: The First Day at Gettysburg"

At least 20% of the



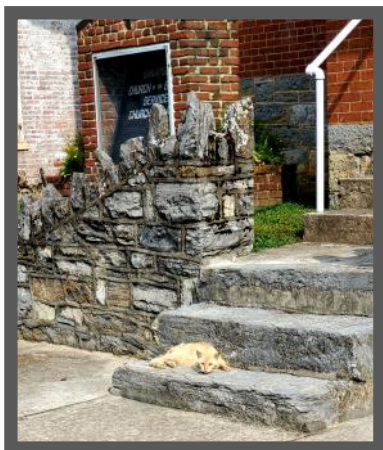
Army of the Potomac were green regiments, just a few weeks from home during the Maryland Campaign. The 35th Mass. Regt. was one of them. Find out more about there "Baptism of Fire" when historian, Darin Wipperman presents his Summer Lecture Series talk, “Such a Bloody Set of Men:’ The 35th Massachusetts in the Antietam Campaign” on Wednesday, August 18th.

One of the most often cited criticisms of the Bad General consensus regarding George B. McClellan centers around personality and has absolutely nothing to do with military ability.



On Wednesday, August 25th, Antietam Battlefield Guide and historian, Steven R. Stotemyer will talk to you about this command relationship and more when he presents his Summer Lecture Series talk: “The Insolence of Ep-aulets”.

- *Mr. Chris Vincent, Jacob Rohrbach Inn*



Cat on a Church Step



“This was a vision I had on the way home one day...” Ms. Victoria Baker, a local artist with an interesting style, allowed us to publish her painting. Oil on canvas.—*Editor*

Community Calendar

July 2021

July 28 at 7PM: **Kevin Pawlak and Joe Stahl – “Casualties and Chaos Command Attrition at Antietam”**

Jacob Rohrbach Inn

<https://www.facebook.com/JacobRohrbachInn>

JacobRohrbachInn

August 2021

August 2 at 6 pm: **Town Council Meeting**

Town Hall

<https://sharpsburgmd.com/>



August 4 at 7PM: **John W. Schildt - "Roads to Gettysburg"**
Jacob Rohrbach Inn
<https://www.facebook.com/JacobRohrbachInn>

August 7 from 9:30AM to 11:30AM:
Come All Who Are Thirsty Monthly Breakfast & Meeting
Come All Who Are Thirsty Veterans Group
3904 Mills Road, Sharpsburg
cawatveterans@gmail.com
www.comeallwhoarethirsty.org

August 7 from 12Noon to 4PM: **Tolson's Chapel and School Tours**
111 E. High Street
tolsons.chapel@gmail.com

August 11 at 7PM: **Perry Jamieson - "Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock: The First Day at Gettysburg"**
Jacob Rohrbach Inn
<https://www.facebook.com/JacobRohrbachInn>

August 14: **ROCK the Farm Festival - ROCK Cover Bands**
Green Hill Farms
<https://www.ghfarm.org/>

August 18 at 7PM: **Darin Wipperman - "Such a Bloody Set of Men: The 35th Massachusetts in the Antietam Campaign"**
Jacob Rohrbach Inn
<https://www.facebook.com/JacobRohrbachInn>

August 25 at 7PM: **Steven R. Stotelmyer - "The Insolence of Epaulets"**
Jacob Rohrbach Inn
<https://www.facebook.com/JacobRohrbachInn>

August 28 **Champagne and Chambray - Meritus Fundraiser**
Green Hill Farms
<https://www.ghfarm.org/>

September 2021

September 4 from 12Noon to 4PM:
Tolson's Chapel and School Tours

111 E. High Street
tolsons.chapel@gmail.com

October 2021

October 2 from 12Noon to 4PM:
Tolson's Chapel and School Tours
111 E. High Street
tolsons.chapel@gmail.com



Recurring Events 2021

1st Wednesday of the month 10AM
Adults: Come share your most recent or favorite read!
Sharpsburg Park Pavilion
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

Thursdays at 3:30PM: **Storytime**
Sharpsburg Park Pavilion
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

Fridays 3PM to 8PM and Saturdays/
Sundays: 12Noon to 6PM **Antietam Creek Vineyards**
4835 Branch Ave, Sharpsburg, MD 21782
(240) 490-2851

Second Thursdays every month, **Lion's Club** 7PM, St. Paul's Episcopal Church,
209 W. Main St, Sharpsburg, MD 21782



Mayor & Councilpersons

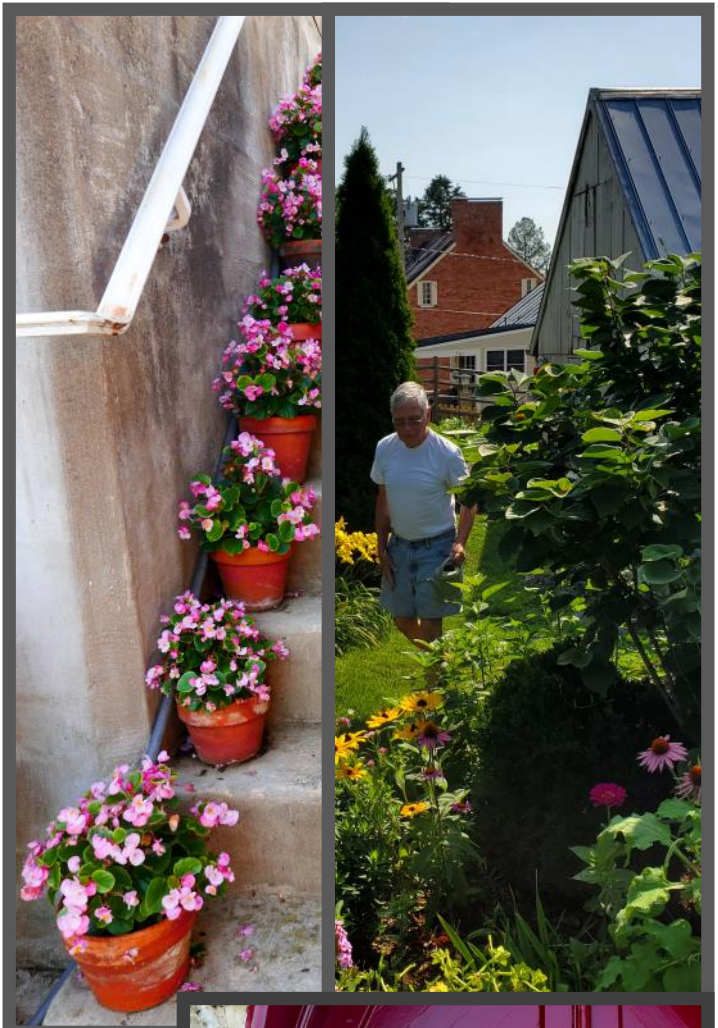
Russ Weaver – Mayor
Jacob Martz – Vice Mayor
Mia Parsons – Council
John Hammond – Council
Ed Beeler-Council
Robbie Waters – Council
Joe Kudla – Council
106 East Main Street
PO Box 368
Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782
Ms. Carrie Estell, Clerk
Phone: 301-432-4428
Fax: 301-432-8990

townofsharpsburg@comcast.net

Zoning Administrator-Tim Lung
Sharpsburg.md.zoning@gmail.com

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Meet Your Neighbor: Tim Valerio - *Continued from Page Two*



Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg-DRAFTED Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2021

- I. Call meeting to order at 6 pm and pledge started by Jacob Martz
- II. Meeting minutes from June 2021 to approve, Ed motioned, Robbie seconded and all were in favor. Approved meeting minutes will be available on the town's website.

In attendance: Russ Weaver, Jacob Martz, Ed Beeler, Robbie Waters, Mia Parsons, John Hammond, Tim Lung, Mike Arant, Carrie Estell, Randy Short, George Hambleton, Anne Johnikan, Eleanor Johnikan, Paul Cecil, Jen Bruni, Katie Nester, Aubrie Nester, and Gage Nester.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Girl Scout Troop #15024-Eleanor and Katie presented the public and council their beautification project/proposal. A power point was projected that highlighted their butterfly bush project. They shared results from their community survey with a dog park coming in first place and a butterfly bush coming in a close second. With cost the troop settled on the butterfly bush project for the park off High Street. Plants and the area for the butterfly bushes were discussed. Robbie offered donated lumber and mulch for the flower beds which will be close to the pavilion as this area will be ideal as it will be out of the way to mowing. Mia motioned to accept the troop's beautification project, Joe seconded the motion and all were in favor. Mia shared her phone number with the troop's leader to further discuss the troop's choice of flowers.

Mr. Cecil-commented on the speed bumps near his home and the flooding that occurs when it rains a lot, (109 W High Street). Rocks were placed to aid this issue; the rocks are still not doing an effective job. Russ briefly discussed the history behind the rocks, speed bump and water issues near Mr. Cecil's property. Joe Kudla will meet with the home owner to assist in any ways the town can assist with the water issue. Mr. Cecil also commented on the water tower's appearance, there are many antennas and wires. Unfortunately, there was a special exemption that allows for this; Tim will review the ordinance and the zoning for the water tower.

Mike Arant-Town Crier is going well; the council has first priority for article submissions. Mike is working with Jake on the next step of distribution. The electronic version is going well due to Microsoft Publisher.

Mayor's Report

- **Projects**-all council members who are part of the Project Open Space to concentrate efforts with this program.
- **Budget/QuickBooks, Financial Meeting**-Dee Snyder will continue with office assistance as there are many aspects of QuickBooks that need alignment. There will be an audit as soon as these issues are resolved.
- **Little League**-Town received a EDU letter/bill on commercial water/sewer which is close to 10K. The town will also have the LL be responsible for the electric and power this will start in September. Russ will meet with Matt concerning these changes. Russ motioned and John seconded, all were in favor.
- **This Friday, meeting with town's lawyer @ 9 am at Town Hall-lot purchase**-there are a number of projects that need legal attention, this meeting Russ urged any and all councilmembers to attend. Some of these projects: Wall off Main St., Big Spring fix, purchase of two lots for the Project Open Space.
- **Corderman visit**-the Senator's office has reached out and is interested in assisting with the wall project/fix.
- **Water rebate**-there are 316 residents who would be rebated, this cost is \$12,600 for a one-year rebate of \$35/household, a one-time deal of \$70/household was discussed. John suggested we vote on the rebate for

a one-time deal of 70\$, John motioned and Robbie seconded and all were in favor. Russ and John will contact the water department to ensure these rebates are credited to the households in the next couple of months.

Zoning with Tim

- Chicken Ordinance: Planning Commission completed its review. The amendment text has been posted and advertised. Public Hearing will be at the Aug M&C meeting. Citizens may also submit comments in writing by letter or email prior to the hearing. The public discussion was not able to be held this evening due to the public posting to Facebook, town's website and the post office would not have been within the required two week posting time. Any person can testify, all people who are going to speak will need to introduce themselves and their address. Council will allow each person a two-minute time frame. The reason for the chicken ordinance is that there is nothing in the town's ordinance/zoning documents. There have been inquiries about having chickens and the planning committee has worked on getting something drafted. Russ reiterated that the town does not want to police chickens and after the public comment session, an ordinance will be applied to the town.
- Reminder placed in tax bills regarding the town's regulations on trash, weeds and junk. It is not the intent to search out violations but to remind citizens of the regulations in an effort to beautify the town. The Town will not act on anonymous complaints. Tim will draft a complaint form where a resident can fill out and submit; this will provide a written record of complaints and avoid any neighbor arguments.
- Have received an application for Special Exception to establish a short-term rental at 110 S. Mechanic St. Need to schedule a hearing by the BZA.
- Continue to work with the agent for the new owners of the old Church at the corner of N. Church and E. Main St regarding possible uses for the building. Nothing has been formally accepted, Tim is still working with the potential residents. There were questions regarding an artisan's studio, however, at this time there is not enough information to move forward.
- Had a phone conversation with the Town's Attorney, Brian Kane to introduce myself and to go over some procedural matters and ongoing zoning related matters in the Town. Russ asked that Tim be the point person for the lawyer to make communication more streamlined.

Council comments

- Jacob Martz-Vice Mayor, communications, Memorial Day Parade, grants
 - Flags to come down this week
 - Town Crier is going well and paper distribution will be coming soon
 - Memorial Day parade committee to meet in September, Jake has reached out to reenactment soldiers to participate in next year's parade. A certificate of appreciation was ordered for the grand marshal.
 - Jake also commented on the Western Maryland Consortium's intern, Adam Oates, as he is helping out at the museum, with Robbie and in the office.
 - Jake motioned to nominate Randy Short to the Board of Zoning Appeals group. Mr. Short introduced himself to the council and public. Randy is a recent home owner who is a retired army veteran and lives with his wife and daughter. He assisted Jake in the parade booklet and enjoyed that project. Jake gave the motion to elect him to the BZA, Ed seconded the motion and all were in favor of the election.
- Robbie Waters-parks, railroad station, town operations
 - The park was mulched, painting the pavilion will be done by the end of the month.
 - Curb painting will start this month as well
 - Trees/bushes/shrubs need to be trimmed; some stop signs are obstructed and some trees are in the view of on-coming traffic. This is a safety issue. There was some discussion of the inmates from the jail to do this work, Russ will speak to the person that heads that program.
 - T-pole was removed from the outside of the parking lot of the bank.

- Took care of painting over the graffiti at the basketball court
- Camera and lights for the park were approved in a council meeting a couple years ago. Russ will be in touch with the owner/manager of Dynamark/Atlantic Security as when they came to do a security/alarm check they made the elevator inoperable. This company will also offer an estimate for updating the security and providing lights and/or a camera in the park. In the meantime, Robbie will lock the park at night.
- Robbie reviewed Officer Peyton's monthly report-10 checks of the park
 - 10 checks of Little League
 - 9 checks of school
 - traffic assignments at E and W Main St, S Mechanic St, S Potomac St, and High St at the Little League as requested. Seven warnings for parking and the stop sign
 - 4 1/2 hours foot patrol.
- Mia Parsons-Planning-(Streetscape), grants
 - Arborist has established the scope and parameters of the survey. This will be from Church to Potomac. This assessment will start this week and completed by the end of the month.
 - Russ requested a written policy on trees to assist council, streetscape and residents as to the appropriate responsibility of care/removal/maintenance of trees.
 - Streetscape update: lighting and decorative poles have been considered as viable options; next planning meeting these options will be discussed in greater detail.
- Joe Kudla-streets, roads, culverts
 - Verizon telephone poles-Joe made a formal complaint and hope that the bricks will be replaced soon.
 - Joe has been in contact with Tim Johnson regarding the widening of the scope of repair.
 - Tree removal on the backside of the spring is being coordinated with the owner, Mr. Hall.
 - Spoke with Brian Poffenberger and the portion of the Main Street wall that was damaged due to a car accident will start soon.
 - Mick Carr is working on the street signage.
 - The culvert off Main as overflowed due to the excessive rain this afternoon, hoping MDOT and Taylor's will finish the flush work to alleviate this issue.
- Ed Beeler-Historical Planning, town archives, communications, grants
 - Summer Intern:
 - Adam Oates
 - Training in different jobs throughout the museum
 - Likes artifact processing and exhibit construction
 - Jobs also with Carrie and Robbie
 - Cemetery Restoration Mgt. @ 6pm. With Robert Masko will be with us from Masko Cemetery Monument Service. There's a meeting tomorrow for the Lutheran Cemetery, Russ suggested that Ed ask the volunteers to assist in applying for a 501(c)3 to assist the museum in applying and receiving grant money. Possible Lutheran cemetery group. A possibility to check on any state or national Lutheran groups that would assist with this costly restoration.

- I found two ledgers of the Community Hall
- The Museum has received a grant from the Washington County Visitors Bureau for printing a brochure for the museum. (1000)
- Attendance: May 118, June 133 and so far, July is 55
- John Hammond-Building and Infrastructure
 - All issues discussed
- Chris Vincent-advisory board-, Mr. Vincent was not in attendance, but emailed a report that Carrie read: The Battlefield Advisory Board's next meeting is scheduled for July 21. The overlook area at the Burnside Bridge is open now, as is the observation tower. This week the park is transitioning to the temporary building and will be operating out of there by this coming weekend.

Old Business/ACTIONS

Light in the municipal parking lot

High Street signs-in process

Park Opened and pavilion will be painted this month

West Antietam Street issue will be discussed with town lawyer

Projects

Main Street Walls-lawyer to review letter/email that Trone's staff research efforts

POS project @ Main/Church Street purchase-POS # is needed before purchase, Russ praised all the hard work Suzanne did with the application.

Big Spring Repair-the repair will be made to the back of this structure; lawyer will also meet with Fred Frederick who is willing to sell.

Capital planning meeting; council to set aside a portion of money for future projects and improvements

New Business-none at this time

Meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm

Council met for a brief executive session