

Bus Tours Reflect on Civil War



Belle Grove, an elegant manor house built of quarried limestone rock, contains rich Civil War history.

Forty seven persons enjoyed the October 22 bus tour that visited the Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek Battlefields and the Belle Grove Plantation, all located in the Strasburg-Middletown area of Virginia. After enjoying lunch in the 1797 Wayside Inn, the group watched a video of "The Burning" en route to Dayton and a stop at Meigs Lane, the memorial site of John Rogers Meigs, a promising young lieutenant in Gen. Philip Sheridan's Army who was killed there. The group then split for either a tour of downtown Dayton or a visit to the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Heritage Center.

The April 30 bus tour visited the Breneman-Turner Mill, the Elder John Kline house, downtown Harrisonburg and the Widow Pence House. Because 2011 marks 150 years since the start of the Civil War, both tours made connections to this tragic bit of U.S. history. ❖

CrossRoads Needs

Please call (540) 438-1275 if you can volunteer or donate these needs:

- Donate 8' x 10' tent for field trip use.
- Plow the driveway when it snows.
- Help assemble mailings.

Children and Adults Enjoy Harvest Day



The eighth annual Harvest Day festival enabled children to enjoy old time fun on a farmstead. Some took to crosscut log sawing, others to woodworking with hand tools and still others to pressing cider, or trying a hand at checkers, doll making or making butter and pancakes. Adults enjoyed learning about Mennonite and Brethren beginnings from

Gerald Brunk who appeared as Menno Simons or Larry Glick as Alexander Mack. Special foods this year were beans and ham from the Thomas House, beef and turkey sandwiches from Red Front and fresh ice cream by the Fred Rodes family of Mt. Crawford. Visitors could again observe molasses being boiled down from sorghum syrup. ❖

Vespers Continue as a Summer Favorite



Ervie Glick and Phil Kniss discuss a Limmat River scene at a recent vesper service.

Vesper services were held Sundays at 7 p.m. during July and August. Nine services in all offered a variety of music styles, including harp, cello and a quartet. Each week brought a different meditation speaker, giving new insights to those who took the time to enjoy the quiet and stillness of an evening woodland setting. Average attendance throughout the summer was 55 persons, making vespers a summer favorite. ❖

Open House Attracts Mill Visitors



Ken Weaver, chair of the mill's Preservation Committee, sells a bag of cornmeal to a guest.

Some 450 adults and several children toured the Breneman-Turner Mill during nine Saturdays from June 4 – October 8 and learned how the mill survived Gen. Philip Sheridan's burning of the Valley in 1864. The mill was built by pioneer Mennonite Abraham Breneman (ca. 1800) and saved as a historic grist mill by Church of the Brethren member J. Howard Turner (1933-88), who operated it until he died. ❖

Lectures Address Civil War Issues



Steve Longenecker speaks in April on Shenandoah Valley Anabaptists and the Secession.

The two lectures this year treated Civil War subjects and drew good attendance. The April 10 lecture by Steve Longenecker at Weavers Mennonite Church focused on how the secession crisis affected Anabaptists in the Shenandoah Valley. A re-enactment of soldiers breaking into the service at Weavers in June 1861 added a bit of drama to the event. The November 13 lecture at Mt. Pleasant Church of the Brethren focused on stories of bravery, cunning, sorrow and small victories by women during the Civil War (www.vbmhc.org/lectures). ♦

Warm Easter Means Big Crowd



Sarah Ellen Slabaugh photo

Ron Wyrick shares an Easter meditation this past April at Cross Roads.

The sunrise service on the hilltop at CrossRoads drew a crowd of 110 on April 24 to celebrate Christ's resurrection. Because Easter fell later than usual, the weather was appealing. Ron Wyrick, interim District Executive for the Shenandoah District of the Church of the Brethren, spoke on "What the Angels asked Mary Magdalene." A men's quartet from Weavers Mennonite Church sang resurrection music and Marvin Slabaugh led the group in singing Easter hymns. ♦

CrossRoads Campus a School Destination

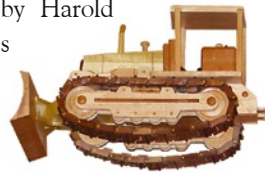
Field Trips brought hundreds of students, teachers and parents to the campus to learn how life used to be lived in the Valley. Four elementary schools visited the campus in the spring and eleven schools were scheduled for field trips this fall. ♦



Plains and Pleasant Valley Elementary School students learn about gardening.

Benefit Auction Supports CrossRoads

The second annual benefit auction brought together items new and old, including a pen by Larry Martin made from a chip of wood rescued from the log house and an intricately crafted wood dozer by Harold Martin. With Harold's recent passing, it will no doubt gain in value. ♦



Significant Changes to the Campus



Brunk trailer opens its doors to the museum inside.

Other changes on the campus this year include: the Weaver-Brunk Log House received a roof and the chinking was completed on the outside of it. Ervie Glick finished the stone walls for the nearby David Heatwole Cobbler Shop and the Brunk Revivals trailer was opened for the first time during Harvest Day. ♦

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Pictured above are the recently constructed Weaver-Brunk Log House and the David Heatwole Cobbler Shop foundation to be completed in the near future.

Check Out These Christmas Events:

Old-fashioned Christmas Tours on December 9 and 10 from 7–9 p.m. will feature hundreds of luminaries along pathways and buildings decked out for the holiday with 1850s style candles, wreaths and hollies. A variety of musicians will perform, and other artists will re-enact scenes from yesteryear. (Cost: \$10 each. Call to buy tickets ahead of time.)

Candlelight Dinners on December 16 & 17 will feature a full-course feast prepared by the Rhodes Sisters and served in the Burkholder-Myers House. (Cost: \$50 each. Space is limited so register early (540) 438-1275.)

Upcoming Events

- ▶ Dec. 9 – 10. Old-Fashioned Christmas tour at CrossRoads. 7 – 9 p.m.
- ▶ Dec. 16 – 17. Candlelight Dinner at CrossRoads. 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ Feb. 3. Annual Dinner & Meeting. 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ March 30. Benefit auction. Shady Oak. 4 p.m.

See www.vbmhc.org for event details.

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