



The Guardian

Newsletter of the Burkittsville Preservation Association
Preserving the Shafer Farm

Autumn 2022



The Shafer house by Doris Keil-Shamich

It's the season for giving, and we are giving thanks for all our members and our supporters, donors, grantors, and volunteers. Our heartfelt gratitude to all of you!

A BIT OF HISTORY

Martin Shafer, born in the Burkittsville district in 1826, married Mary Catharine Rice in 1858. He was 31 or 32 years old. Dr. John D. Garrott, who lived in Burkittsville, rented the Shafer house to the young couple. Martin was a farmer and a wagon builder. He and Mary would have three children, although only one, Edward C. Shafer, would reach adulthood. Martin died in 1897. Edward attended Gettysburg College and established Brunswick's newspaper, *The Herald*. He was twice mayor of Brunswick and was chief marshal of the first Brunswick fire company.



Help fund our \$10,000 goal of electricity for the Barn.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The barn: Repairs have been made to the interior structure and the barn has been totally painted.

The summer kitchen: Rotted sills, studs, siding, fascia, and window trim have been replaced; window sashes and the exterior door are being refurbished offsite. Old vines and loose paint have been scraped ready for painting.

The house: The exterior walls have been painted. We've had to find a new contractor to refurbish the windows, exterior doors, and shutters, thus causing a delay.

Brochures: Thanks to a grant from the Americana Corner Foundation, our BPA brochures are ready. You can pick one up from the box by the farm driveway or, on Saturdays & Sundays (10am-7pm), at 2 West Main Street in Burkittsville.



The barn a year ago and the barn now:



The paint for the barn was donated and Donald Young provided the labor.
Thank you, Donnie!



NEW GOAL – HELP WITH HISTORY

We are undertaking research on the history of persons who were enslaved on the Shafer Farm in the 19th century, and their descendants. If you have any relevant information, or if you know someone who might be willing to talk with us, please contact Ron Dustin at (301) 401-5502 or rondustin1@gmail.com.

CORN SHELLE DONATION

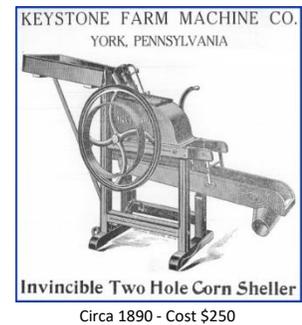
This splendid corn sheller was donated to BPA recently. Our thanks to its donor, Virginia Cook Taylor, who sent this account:



“This corn sheller was always at the farm on Ballenger Creek Pike where I grew up. I was born in 1955. As my brothers and I grew older we were expected to help turn the sheller to make corn for our chickens; the cobs were fed to our hogs. Eventually my father, Arthur Cook, connected a gasoline engine to the sheller. This created a much more productive piece of equipment. It is unclear who actually purchased the sheller or where it was purchased; our family has been on this farm since 1880.”

“The sheller was not in good condition when my father quit farming in 1980. Much of the wood was rotten and any sign of its manufacturer or date of manufacture were gone. He gave the sheller to my husband, Lloyd Taylor. His father, Kenneth Taylor, took an interest in the sheller and replaced all [its] wood. . . Lloyd repaired/replaced the teeth that knocked the corn off the cob and painted the sheller. It works now as it did when it was new.”

Do you have any objects or documents that might be relevant to Shafer Farm’s history? Would you be willing to donate or to lend them to us? Contact Paul Gilligan at (301) 693-8373.



MRS. MOTHERWAYISMS

Mary Shafer Motherway was born in the Shafer house in 1900 and left in 2001. She also lived in New York City and Panama. Locally, folks still refer to it as the Motherway house. Mrs. Motherway was a very independent – some would say domineering – and feisty woman, 5 feet tall and 90 pounds, and a nurse. She had no children. Her friends and neighbors have shared with us the usually acerbic, often entertaining things she said to them over the years. In a spirit of respect for Mrs. Motherway’s forthrightness and wit, we plan to share some of these in this and future newsletters. If **you** have some Motherwayisms to share, please contact Catherine Cox, newsletter editor, at blycox@comcast.net or (301) 471-5330.

From Jimmy Gaither of Brunswick, from the late 1980s: Mrs. Motherway was driving her two-tone brown Plymouth down Catholic Church Road with her dog in the passenger seat. Her license had been suspended. When it was pointed out that perhaps she shouldn’t be driving, Mrs. M. responded, “I don’t need any license!” She continued driving for years and into her 90’s.

NEEDED HELP!

- An **architect** to provide drawings for all mechanical systems and architectural drawings to obtain a building permit for the caretaker’s suite on the second floor of the house.
- A **stump grinder** to grind 3 stumps (maybe more). Phone Ron Dustin at (301) 401-5502.

MEET THE BOARD



Kevin Cromer, Secretary: A native of Washington County, MD, Kevin moved to Burkittsville in 2013 when he purchased the eponymously named Peabody House, once owned by the 62nd governor of Massachusetts.

He joined the Burkittsville Planning and Zoning Commission in 2020. A graduate of the University of Virginia, Kevin has worked in the public and private sectors in various fields such as physics, genetics, finance, software, and hospitality. He is currently an engineer at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). A member of the National Ski Patrol since 2009, Kevin is a volunteer first responder at nearby Whitetail Resort. His hobbies include songwriting, music composition, and renovating his historic Burkittsville home.

MEMBERSHIP

We offer two types of annual non-voting memberships.

\$35 – Individual/family

\$100 – Business/organization membership

(Membership fees not tax deductible; donations are.)

Your membership not only brings you into our community, it helps us obtain grants to meet the \$450,000 budget we need to refurbish the interior of the Shafer house. Charitable foundations want tangible evidence of community support – and your membership helps provide that. It's a great and inexpensive way to help us. **Thank you!**

Welcome our new members:

- Agu Ets
- Alan & Harriet McGregor
- Steven & Lois Hatleberg
- Nancy Hawker & Wayne Haupt
- Margorie Pittinger
- Sandy & Margaret Milliken
- Perry & Terry Ifert
- Georgia Zirkle
- Paul Stull
- Kenneth & Judy Eagle
- Tara Wallace
- Nelson & Patricia Tyler
- Scott & Lisa Grant
- Christopher & Pamela Oves
- Kenny & Debbie McClain
- Jayme Marshall & Mark Carroll
- Joseph Donovan
- Richard McQuillen
- Diane McQuillen
- Todd & Rebecca Remaley & Family
- Jody Brumage
- Garnetta Webber
- Judith Smith, Barbara Meely & Jeff Cosgrove
- Tod & Barry Salisbury
- John McDermott
- Narisara Murray
- Estella Belt
- Timothy Pry
- Gail Pry
- Patricia Pry
- Richard Lee Pry
- Castle Hill Farm (business member)

Currently 56 Members

JOIN BPA!

Your membership will come with the following benefits:

- Receipt of BPA newsletters like this one.
- Special consideration for BPA events held at the site.
- A guided tour of the house, barn, and 5-acre property.

- \$35 members receive an unframed 8"x10" reproduction of the Shafer house watercolor at the head of this newsletter.
- \$100 members receive a framed copy.

Fill out the form in this newsletter and send it to us with your check, or visit our website and pay by credit card or through PayPal:

<https://burkittsvillepreservation.org/membership>

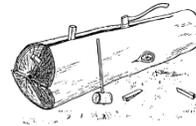
CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Paul Gilligan - President
Karen Koch - Treasurer
Kevin Cromer - Secretary
Ron Dustin – Chair of Fundraising
Harry Lashley
Todd Remaley (On leave of absence)

VOLUNTEERS

Bob Blumenthal – Fundraising Secretary
Jody Brumage – Historian
Catherine Cox – Editor of *The Guardian*
Tommy Scaggs – Grant writing

FIREWOOD FOR SALE



Firewood for sale! (mixed quality):

- Heaping full-size pickup load: Members \$70
- Heaping short-bed pickup load: Members \$60
- Non-members \$110/\$100
- (Become a member for \$35 and save \$5!)

3 ways to pay:

- Visit Paul Gilligan's store, 2 East Main Street, Burkittsville, on Sat./Sun. to pay by cash or check.
- Mail your check to BPA: P.O. Box 243, Burkittsville, MD 21718
- Pay online at burkittsvillepreservation.org

Load your own after paying.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mail with your check to P.O. Box 243, Burkittsville, MD 21718

_____ Individual/Family \$35 membership
_____ Business/Organization \$100 membership
_____ Donation

Name _____ Email _____
Address _____
Phone _____

Membership fees are not tax deductible. Donations are tax deductible; BPA will send a donation receipt.

Burkittsville Preservation Association – Upcoming Projects

Side Porch



Replace porch flooring, scrape and paint walls.



Paint walls and roof of Summer Kitchen.

Brick Engine Room and Summer Kitchen



Install roof on engine room and paint walls.

Burkittsville Preservation Association
P.O. Box 243
Burkittsville, MD 21718