



# The Guardian

Newsletter of the Burkittsville Preservation  
Association

Preserving the Shafer Farm

Summer 2023



*The Shafer house by Doris Keil Shamieh*

*Union General William B. Franklin's headquarters before the Battle of Crampton's Gap  
and longtime home of Mary Shafer Motherway*

## Dignitaries Visit the Shafer Farm

State and local officials requested a review of historic properties in and around South Mountain to look for historically significant sites that might contribute to the development of South Mountain Battlefield Park. Elizabeth Shatto, Director of the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, arranged for them to visit relevant sites.

Their first stop, on a beautiful June morning, was the Shafer Farm. Paul Gilligan gave a presentation about the history of the house and farm, BPA's goals for its continuing restoration, and its overall importance to the Burkittsville-South Mountain area. Ron Dustin conducted a tour of the house, including the bay window from which General Franklin viewed Crampton's Gap before the Battle of Crampton's Gap, the Battle of South Mountain. Our guests expressed their appreciation of both the significance and the beauty of the Shafer house, the farm, and their unspoiled rural surroundings, as well as their gratitude for all that BPA has already accomplished.

*See a photo of our guests with their names and organizations on page 2.*

## Visitors to the Shafer House and Farm



### **LEFT TO RIGHT:**

Catherine Cox, South Mountain Heritage Society Vice President, Burkittsville  
Gary Candelaria, Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area Treasurer  
Karen Koch, Burkittsville Preservation Association Board Member  
Jeremy Hulse, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Park Manager  
Kristen McMasters, HCWHA President (Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area)  
Shuan Butcher, HCWHA Vice President  
Dave Ziedelis, Executive Director of Visit Frederick and HCWHA Board member  
Delegate Christopher (Eric) Bouchat – Republican, District 5, Maryland General Assembly  
Delegate William Valentine – Republican, District 2A, Maryland General Assembly  
Josh Kurz, Maryland DNR Secretary  
Nick Redding, Preservation Maryland Executive Director  
Liz Shatto, HCWHA Executive Director, Maryland Heritage Areas Authority  
Ron Dustin, Burkittsville Preservation Association Board Member  
Dan Spedden, Hagerstown/Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau President  
Paul Gilligan, Burkittsville Preservation Association President/CEO  
Angela Crenshaw, Maryland Park Service Acting Superintendent  
Stephen McGee, Executive Assistant to the Maryland DNR Secretary  
Steve Robertson, Park Ranger  
Dennis Frye, HCWHA Director Emeritus

### **Volunteers:**

Need volunteers to mow grass once a month. Also volunteers to weedat. Call Paul Gilligan 301-693-8373.

**Walnut Trees!** In May, BPA invited children to plant walnut trees at the Shafer Farm, with assistance from parents or grandparents. We provided the trees, water, and tools, though some brought their own shovels. Here are some of the walnut planters with their trees:



L to R: Anna Dustin with her parents, Priscilla and Spencer, and her little sister, Zinnia; Aubree Shafer with her grandfather, Denny Shafer; Amelia Cummings with her father, Tyler



Tanner Wentz with his father, Steve; Atley Shafer with her grandfather, Denny Shafer



Knox Penn with his parents, Scott and Mary; Beau Penn with his parents; Caden Palmer with his parents, Kevin and Sarah; Benson Palmer with his parents

**Tree planters not pictured:** Nolan Kopp, Norah Kopp, Kiran Mahajan, Amelia Morée, Owen Dustin, Olivia Dustin, Caiden Smith

## Recent Accomplishments

**Firewood:** Almost all the fallen limbs and branches from the property have been cut up, split, and either sold or put in piles for use in future Civil War Reenactments.

**Windows:** The six windows on the Catholic Church Road side of the house have been rebuilt on-site by our contractor from Smithsburg, MMI Built LLC. We hope that all the windows, the exterior doors, and nine pairs of shutters on the front of the house will be totally refurbished by MMI Built this summer.

**Below, left and center:** The Engine Room and Summer Kitchen, before and after. **Right:** An April wind reaching 87 mph picked up the Meat House roof and set it back down eight inches off center.



♥ **Special Thanks:** We've held five workdays since last autumn's newsletter and we greatly appreciate all who came and helped. Some of you came three times or more: Carl Sears, Mike Littleton, Harry Lindquist, Steve Henderson, Alan McGregor, Ron Dustin, Mick Mizell, and Paul Gilligan. ♥

### Join us!

Take this opportunity to become part of the group that is bringing the Shafer Farm back to life, providing a facility where education, events, tours, and seeing into the past can take place. We are offering two types of non-voting membership:

\$35 – Annual individual/family membership  
\$100 – Annual business membership

When you become a member, you'll receive **BPA newsletters** like this one and word about events held at the farm. We'll offer you a **guided tour** of the house, barn, and 5-acre property! \$35

members will receive an unframed **8"x10" reproduction of the Shafer house watercolor**, \$100 members, a framed copy. **Most important, you'll know that you're joining other members of the community to support a really worthwhile project!**

You can become a member by filling out the form in this newsletter and sending it to us with your check, or by visiting our website and making your membership payment by credit card or through PayPal: <https://burkittsvillepreservation.org/membership> Membership fees are **not** tax deductible.



BPA's **senior member, Estella Belt**, 94, receiving her membership certificate from Ron Dustin. Estella has lived at Crown Rose, across from Othello Park, since 1964. She knew Mary Motherway well and occasionally worked for her. Her reflections: Mrs. Motherway always treated her nicely but definitely wanted things done her way – and was a terrible driver!

**New members: Welcome – and thank you for your support! We now number 79 members.**

Linda Fairfax	Kregg Reynolds	David Drury
Sandy Quick	Kevin & Adele Air	Kathy Drury
David & Allison Garman	Earl & Norma Wood	Steven Wentz
Paul & Shelby Beaver	Jane Hammond	Maple Tree Stables
Gary & Doris Keil-Shamieh	John Maley	Petersville Ruritan Club
Gary Hemp	Lyn Maley	Hemp Meats
William Hemp	Ron & Elaine Pitts	Burkittsville Union Cemetery
David Arnold	Steven & Janeil Henderson	

## Donations

Need we say that we are welcoming donations? We've accomplished a lot, but there's plenty more work to be done. If you'd like to help further, you can always send us a check at the address on the membership form in this newsletter, or go to this page on our website: <https://burkittsvillepreservation.org/donate>  
Donations **are** tax deductible; BPA will send you a tax form. Thank you!



This New Testament, inscribed *Mary S. Motherway 1932*, was donated to BPA by **Kevin Cahill of Yellow Springs**. The Bible was translated from the Latin Vulgate and printed in Belgium.



## Meet the Board: Ronald B. Dustin

Ron lives on Poffenberger Road. He studied engineering and architecture at the University of Maryland. In 2001 Ron retired as longtime President/CEO of Dustin Construction, Inc., but he remains as chairman of the board. Through the years he has taken leadership positions in many community organizations, including Jaycees and Lions Clubs in Montgomery County, the Frederick Rescue Mission Board, the University of Maryland University College Board of Visitors, Burkittsville Ruritan, and of course BPA. Ron was the organizer and coach of three baseball teams in the 1950s and is a charter member of Faith Baptist Church on Jefferson Pike, serving there in many capacities including Deacon, Elder, and President of the Trustees.

Ron was married for 59 years, until her death, to Shirley Dustin; he and Pat Dustin were married in 2018. He has five children, fourteen grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren. Ron says he “loves fishing, having breakfast with friends, supporting good causes, helping others, and serving the Lord.”

## Current Board Members

President: Paul Gilligan  
Treasurer: Karen Koch  
Secretary: Kevin Cromer  
Harry Lashley  
Ron Dustin  
Todd Remaley (on leave of absence)

## Volunteer Positions

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



Thank you to **Bob Young of Burkittsville**, who donated 16 period correct doorknobs. They will replace Shafer house hardware that was stolen a few years ago.

**Correction**

The corn shellar shown in the last issue was listed as selling for \$250 in circa 1890. It actually sold for \$22, weighed 300 lbs. and was purchased by Paul Gilligan for \$250.



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

- Individual/family membership
- Business/organization membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Membership fees are not tax deductible. Donations *are* tax deductible; BPA will send you a tax form. You can also pay online via PayPal at <https://burkittsvillepreservation.org/membership>.

Burkittsville Preservation Association  
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