

The Blue Ridge Heritage Project

Update – May, 2018

Greetings!

A lot has been going on since the last BRHP update; but first, a quick recap of our progress in 2017.

- In May of last year the Rappahannock County committee dedicated their monument. It is located on the grounds of the Thornton River Orchard and Market on the north side of Rt. 211 between Sperryville and the Shenandoah National Park boundary.
- On a sunny September day the Page County BRHP committee dedicated their monument. It is located in the Ed Goode Memorial Park on Main St. in Stanley, where Main St. crosses the railroad tracks. Drive around behind the picnic pavilion.
- A cold and rainy October day didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the crowd that turned out for the Greene County BRHP monument dedication. The monument is next to the Greene County administration building at the corner of Main Street and Celt Rd.
- In 2017 the Warren County BRHP committee began monthly meetings to start the planning for their monument that will be located off of Critzer Rd., adjacent to the Happy Creek Trail, in the Town of Front Royal.
- The Albemarle County BRHP committee completed construction on their pavilion, located by the chimney monument. Children of Shenandoah used the pavilion for their Annual Homecoming in August.



Events and Activities Coming Up

May 17 - The Page County Heritage Association is sponsoring an **Educational and Fun Day Trip**. Leaving from Luray, the bus tour will visit the Rappahannock, Madison, and Greene County BRHP monuments. In addition, there will be stops at Plow and Hearth, Yoder's, and Horton Winery. The cost is \$20 per person. Reserve your seat on the bus by contacting Nancy Cotter at 540-743-3629.

May 20 - Rockingham County Dedication: The Rockingham County BRHP committee will dedicate their monument on Sunday the 20th at 2 pm. The site is located next to the Elkton Area Community Center, 20593 Blue and Gold Drive, near the Dairy Queen and Pizza Hut in Elkton. Please plan to attend the unveiling of the sixth of eight Blue Ridge Heritage Project memorials.

The Rockingham memorial awaits the installation of its plaque of family names.



June 2 - The Page County BRHP committee is sponsoring a **Mountain Families Celebration** from 7-10 pm at the Page County BRHP monument in Ed Goode Memorial Park, Main St, Stanley. Beginning at 7:00 there will be a community pot luck supper followed by music and clogging, then open mic singing around the campfire.

September 15 - Children of Shenandoah's Annual Homecoming will be held on Saturday, September 15th, 2018 beginning at 1:00 pm at the Page County BRHP Monument in the Ed Good Memorial Park, 332 E. Main St, Stanley, VA 22851. The park is located at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains with a sweeping view of Shenandoah National Park. Please bring a covered dish, something to drink, old photos and stories, along with your own lawn chair or blanket for seating. The public is invited, feel free to invite and share with your family and other descendants. (Children of Shenandoah is a part of the Blue Ridge Heritage Project and is dedicated to the preservation of the heritage and culture of the people who once lived in what is now Shenandoah National Park)

County News

Warren County/Front Royal - The Warren County BRHP committee is meeting monthly to plan the monument to be built in Front Royal. Target date for completion is fall, 2018. If you would like to be a part of the process of bringing this memorial to life please contact Darryl Merchant for more information (540-683-6878 or heritage@measure-map.com).

Page County – To raise money for phase II of their project the Page County committee is holding a raffle for two nights at either Skyland or Big Meadows Lodges in Shenandoah National Park. The drawing will be held at the June 2 Mountain Families Celebration.

Page County's Stacy Montgomery has created another attractive display on the mountain families. This display includes ten boards with family photos and a model stone chimney with the plaque in place. The display is located in the Page Public Library at the corner of Zerkel St. and Campbell St. in Luray.

Madison County - The Madison County BRHP committee and the Madison County Historical Society are working to develop a museum for Blue Ridge mountain culture. The museum will be housed in a small cottage adjacent to the BRHP monument on the grounds of the Criglersville School. Donations to support this project can be made to the Madison County Historical Society (P.O. Box 467, Madison, VA 22727).

Augusta County/Waynesboro - Efforts are under way in the Waynesboro area to organize a committee of people to plan and develop the Augusta County BRHP monument. Descendants of displaced families, people interested in local history, and anyone who has an interest in Shenandoah National Park are invited to become involved. If you know anyone in the Augusta County/Waynesboro area who might be interested, please have them contact Bill Henry at 434-985-7905.

BRHP website – BlueRidgeHeritageProject.com

At the time I am writing this, our website is down. We are hoping to have it up and running quickly, but we have some major problems. We are making some exciting improvements and changes, including more references for those seeking genealogical information and pages where photos and family stories, from Life in the Blue Ridge to The Displacement may be submitted and posted. Keep checking back! We will have it fixed soon.

Donate!

Support the Blue Ridge Heritage Project by making a donation! Even the counties with completed monuments continue to need funds for landscaping and putting finishing touches on their sites. The second phase of the memorial construction is the creation and placement of historical information displays. These interpretive kiosks or panels will provide a look at the lives of the people who once lived in the mountains in that county, and each county's displays will be unique.

Even though the website is down and cannot accept online donations you can make a tax deductible contribution by sending a check to BRHP, P.O. Box 1172, Stanardsville, VA 22973. Designate which county you are supporting, or you may make a donation to provide support to the overall Blue Ridge Heritage Project.

Thank you for your interest in the Blue Ridge Heritage Project. To join us, to support the Blue Ridge Heritage Project, or to get more information, please contact me (onarock01@yahoo.com or 434-985-7905)

Bill Henry

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The Blue Ridge Heritage Project is a 501(c)3 non-profit,
and your contributions are tax deductible.