

One Story... A Thousand Voices



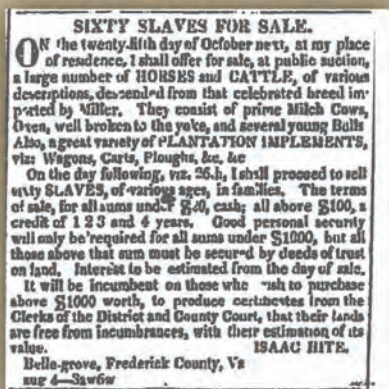
"I Am Shot"

Heyward Shepherd, a free black man from Winchester, was the first casualty of John Brown's 1859 Raid on Harper's Ferry, a raid meant to liberate enslaved African-Americans by inciting a slave revolt. Shepherd was shot in the back by one of the panicked raiders.



Josephine City

Josephine City was originally comprised of lots bought at auction in 1870 by a group of former slaves. By 1900, the city had become an oasis for Clarke County's African-Americans. In 1882, the community built the Josephine City School, which today houses the Josephine School Community Museum.



Enslaved at Belle Grove

The Hite Family at Belle Grove Plantation owned hundreds of enslaved men, women, and children between 1783 and 1851. In 1824, Isaac Hite Jr. placed this ad. Today, Belle Grove works to document and tell the story of the persons who were enslaved at the plantation.



Fighting Segregation

In the 1950s, 13-year-old Betty Ann Kilby was a plaintiff in the case of Betty Ann Kilby v. Warren County Board of Education, one of the desegregation cases that followed the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision by the U.S. Supreme Court that ruled that racial segregation in schools was unconstitutional.



Refugees of War

African-Americans in the Valley were often forced to flee the ravages of the Civil War, including the destruction during "The Burning." Such refugees faced the added risk of being sent into slavery if they were captured by Confederate troops.



Zenda Community

Zenda was a post-Civil War community formed by free blacks and formerly enslaved people. By 1900, Zenda had over 80 residents, a post office, a chapel, a schoolhouse, and a cemetery. Today, Long's Chapel (pictured) stands as a symbol of the community's heyday.



Sandy Hollow

In the mid-19th century, Fairview Cemetery was located outside of Staunton in the heart of an African-American community named Sandy Hollow. The cemetery is one of the few vestiges remaining of the once-vibrant community.



Impressed Labor

African-Americans were pressed into labor by both armies during the Civil War. After the battle of Piedmont, residents of Staunton (like the man at left) were ordered by Union officials to tear up the railroad - knowing they would later have to repair the damage once Confederates regained control of the city.

Making Those Voices Heard

The Long Road to Freedom initiative will bring to light - like never before - the experiences and contributions of African-Americans in the Shenandoah Valley over the last 2 centuries



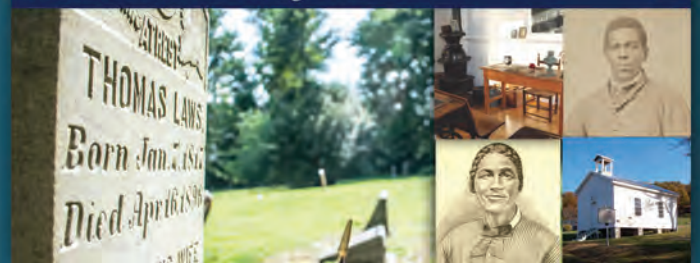
On-Site Interpretation

Over 30 interpretive markers will tell the stories of African-Americans in the Shenandoah Valley – remarkable accounts of resilience, perseverance, and strength – at the places where history happened. The signs will highlight partner sites and their outstanding work; bring attention to new sites and stories; and tie them all together in a Valley-wide trail that will engage and inform visitors. All of this will be incorporated into the National Historic District's existing efforts - part of the 1,000 Voices that make up the Valley's Civil War-era story. The project will also include orientation and directional signs to help guide visitors through Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, promoting heritage tourism and increasing tourism revenue.

Print and Digital Materials

Visitor and marketing materials for the initiative will include a Valley-wide unigrid brochure for the African-American Heritage Trail, individual printed tours, rack cards, audio tours, an online exhibit, website resources, and web and digital marketing. The materials will promote and foster visitation to existing partner sites as well as newer and lesser-known locations.

The Shenandoah Valley African-American Heritage Trail



The Shenandoah Valley African-American History Center

The Shenandoah Valley African-American History Center, housed in the preserved and restored Woodworth Cottage (a Freedman's school for African-American children after the Civil War) in New Market, will be at the center of the trail. It will feature standing exhibits, an artifact collection, archives and rotating exhibits that highlight and promote visitation to partner sites throughout the Valley. It will also be the orientation hub for the trail, providing information, inspiration, and tools to visit partner and other trail sites throughout the 8-county National Historic District.