

2021 Committee

George Darnell
President

Doc Holladay
Vice President

Pam Toliver
Secretary

Gary McDowell
Treasurer

Chris Oxford
Membership Coordinator

Peggy Sabato
Newsletter Coordinator

TBD
Website Manager

Judy Bogner
Member at Large

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting
Monday, September 13
Rachel's Kitchen
11:00 a.m.

Potluck
Please Bring a Dish to Share!

SEPTEMBER 2021 ISSUE

Belle Grove Trip

by Gary McDowell

August 6, 2021

Ten members of the Lake Frederick Travel Club gathered at the Shenandoah Clubhouse on August 6, 2021, for a 9:30 a.m. trip departure. The first destination was Bell Grove Plantation in Middletown, Virginia. It was a hot day, but our tour guide, Rich Coyle, gave us an in-depth account of the 1864 "Battle of Grove" later called the "Battle of Cedar Creek" in the shade of trees on the peaceful fields of what became the epicenter of a pivotal battle of the Civil War.



He later gave us a tour and shared the history of the Belle Grove Manor house. Construction on the house began in 1794 and was completed in 1797. It was built by Isaac Hite, Jr., the grandson of the original German immigrant, Jost Hite. The original 483 acres on which the mansion was built was given to Isaac and his wife, Nelly Madison, sister of a future President of the United States, in 1783 by Isaac's father.

He also spoke about slavery on the plantation and the ongoing work being done to learn more about the slaves that lived and died there. Surviving records indicate that the Hites at Belle Grove owned 276 men, women, and children between 1783 and 1851. Isaac Hite, Jr., and his first wife, Nelly Madison Hite, received 15 slaves from her father James Madison, Sr., in 1783. The Hites acquired other individuals through purchase, inheritance, and by birth. The Hite family kept lists of the enslaved, and some of their personal information and some family trees



have been constructed based on this information.

Sometime between 12 and 12:30 p.m., we left Belle Grove and stopped at Shaffer's Barbeque for lunch. Shaffer's is located just down the road from Bell Grove, at 8140 Valley Pike, (route 11) Middletown, VA. Not a fancy place, but great barbeque at reasonable prices.

After lunch, we boarded the bus and headed to Stonewall Jackson's Headquarters in Winchester.



Our guide, Brian Daily, gave us a very detailed and entertaining review of Thomas Jackson's life, focusing mostly on his Civil War experiences and his time living in the house in Winchester.

Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson (January 21, 1824 – May 10, 1863) served as a Confederate general (1861–1863) during the Civil War and became one of the best-known Confederate commanders after General Robert E. Lee.

Born in what was then part of Virginia (in present-day West Virginia), Jackson received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point and graduated in the class of 1846. From 1851 to 1861 he taught at the Virginia Military Institute, where he was, apparently, not a very good teacher and was unpopular with his students. During this time, he married twice. His first wife died giving birth, but his second wife, Mary Anna Morrison, lived until 1915. When Virginia seceded from the Union in May 1861 after the attack on Fort Sumter, Jackson joined the Confederate Army. He distinguished himself, commanding a brigade at the First Battle of Bull Run in July, providing crucial reinforcements and beating back a fierce Union assault. In this context Barnard Elliott Bee, Jr. compared him to a "stone wall", hence his enduring nickname, which he apparently disliked.



The home that we visited is a Hudson River Gothic Revival style house, a Virginia and National Historic Landmark, and was used as headquarters by General "Stonewall" Thomas Jackson during the winter of 1861-1862.

Jackson performed exceptionally well in the campaigns in the Shenandoah Valley in 1862. During this time, Jackson was able to defeat three separate Union armies and prevent any of them from reinforcing General George B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac in its campaign against Richmond. Many historians believe that this action prolonged the war. If Jackson had not prevailed the war might have ended in as little as three months.

General "Stonewall" Jackson was accidentally shot in the arm by his own men at the battle of Chancellorsville, and had his arm amputated. Jackson initially appeared to be healing, but he died from pneumonia on May 10, 1863.

His headquarters in Winchester was built in 1854 by William Fuller, and was sold to Lewis T. Moore, who was a Lt. Colonel in the fourth Virginia Volunteers. Lt. Colonel Moore invited Jackson to use his home. The house contains the largest collection of Jackson memorabilia and personal objects from members of his staff. The museum has on display Jackson's personal prayer table, initialed prayer book, and many other Jackson family artifacts. One interesting item of note is the wallpaper in the lower room or office. The walls are papered with elegant gilt paper. Jackson wrote to his wife, "I don't remember to have seen more beautiful papering." A remnant of the wallpaper was found and today a reproduction is on the walls in Jackson's office, courtesy of Lt. Colonel Moore's great-granddaughter, the actress Mary Tyler Moore.

At approximately 3:30 p.m. we once again boarded the bus for a stop at Winchester Ciderworks where we were able to enjoy a sampling of their hard cider. Winchester Ciderworks is located at 2504 N. Frederick Pike, Winchester, Va.

At approximately 5:00 p.m. We boarded the bus for our trip back home, arriving at approximately 5:30 p.m.



Calendar of Trips for 2021

- Sep 16—Antietam National Battlefield and Shepherdstown Tour: \$55 for transportation includes admission to the park and onsite guided tour. Lunch at the Bavarian Inn before tour of Shepherdstown not included (minimum of 8; maximum of 14). John Toliver is leading this trip: 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Oct 7—Little Washington and Sperryville for wine, beer, spirits, shops, and dinner at Griffin Tavern in Flint Hill: \$30 for transportation. Shopping, tastings, and dinner not included (minimum of 8; maximum of 14) by George
- Oct 28—Western, MD, Frostburg Flyer 4.5 Hour Train Ride: \$100 for transportation & train ride (minimum of 8; maximum of 26) by George
- Nov 12-13—Queen Esther & Miracle on 34th Street in Lancaster, PA, by motor coach: 2 days/1 night/3 meals; \$389 pp double/ \$469 single; filling fast. Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Nov 26-29—A Country Christmas at Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN, by motor coach: 4 days/3 nights/2 meals; \$1089 pp double/\$1429 single; Deposit \$150 pp. Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Nov 30-Dec 1—Candlelight Christmas at Biltmore Estate & Grove Park Inn by motor coach; 2 days/1 night/2 meals \$479 pp double/\$549 single; deposit \$100 pp. Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Dec 10-11—Pennsylvania's Christmas Treasures (incl. Longwood Gardens) by motor coach; 2 days/1 night/2 meals. \$329 pp double/\$389 single; deposit \$100 pp. Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Dec 13-18—Christmas in New Orleans by Train; 2 days on train r/t; 2 days & 3 nights in New Orleans; 1 meal. \$1720 per couple; single pricing available. Upgrade to sleeper on train available. Call Amneris Delgado of Avoya Travel at 866-588-9088 for Lake Frederick Travel Club trip. (R/T shuttle to train station will be arranged by George.)
- Apr 9-26, 2022—Panama Canal Cruise on Holland America; 18 days/17 nights; from \$2799 per person plus R/T airfare TBA. Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>

For Shenandoah motor coach tours we need a minimum of 8 people for pick up in Lake Frederick. Otherwise, pick up is at Routes 522 & 50 in the Red Roof Inn parking lot.

For one-day trips write a check to "Lake Frederick Travel Club" with the date of the trip and your contact information. Leave the check with the Lodge Concierge. You will receive a confirmation of check receipt and a confirmation of the trip by email.

George Darnell, darnellqd50@verizon.net

**Queen Esther &
Miracle on 34th Street
Lancaster, PA
November 12-13, 2021**

**2 Days / 1 Night
3 Meals**

Price per person:
Twin/Double \$389
Single \$469

Deposit: \$100.00 Per Person

Final Payment is due on or before October 13, 2021.

Optional Trip Cancellation/Interruption Protection \$47 per person.

Tour #21009



Queen Esther ... a brand-new original stage production at Sight & Sound's Millennium Theatre in 2020! Experience one of the most riveting Bible stories of the Old Testament as it comes to life with magnificent sets, special effects, and live animals. Witness how Esther's life changed, and how she found the courage to trust in God's plan. In addition, enjoy *Miracle on 34th Street* at Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre.

Day 1 - Friday - November 12

Arrive in Lancaster / *Queen Esther*

Today we travel to the heart of Pennsylvania's Amish Country - Lancaster. Flowing meadows, patchwork farmlands, and quiet countrysides where local farmers still plow the fields with teams of horses. This afternoon we're off to Sight & Sound's Millennium Theatre to enjoy the brand-new stage production, *Queen Esther*. Set in the opulent, perilous Persian Empire, *Queen Esther* is a captivating tale of beauty and bravery. Her ordinary life changed forever when she was taken through the palace doors, entering a new world of royalty and risk. With a crown on her head and a secret in her heart, can she find the courage to trust in God's plan and believe that she was made for such a time as this? Following this amazing show, we'll enjoy dinner at one of our favorite Amish restaurants, and our overnight stay at the Country Inn of Lancaster. (D)

Day 2 - Saturday - November 13

***Miracle on 34th Street* at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre / Travel Home**

Explore Lancaster's backroads, stopping at a local quilt shop, pretzel bakery, or bake shop. On to Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre for lunch followed by *Miracle on 34th Street*, a heartwarming musical set in New York City and recounts the story of a little girl's belief in Santa Claus. You don't want to miss this one! Following the show, we'll board our coach for the trip home. (B,L)

TOUR INCLUDES:

- Reserved seats for *Queen Esther*
- Dinner at Miller's Smorgasbord
- *Miracle on 34th Street* at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre
- Also included: Accommodations, Motorcoach Transportation, Shenandoah Tours Escort, & Luggage Handling.
- 3 Meals = 1B, 1L, 1D
-

A Country Christmas at Opryland Hotel November 26-29, 2021

**4 Days / 3 Nights
2 Meals**

Price per person:

Twin/Double \$1089

Single \$1429

Traditional Rooms

Deposit: \$150.00 Per Person

Final Payment is due on or before September 21, 2021.

Optional Trip Cancellation/Interruption Protection \$112 per person. (Twin/Double), \$138 Single

Tour #21041



Get in the spirit of the holiday season at the fabulous Opryland Hotel in Nashville. Stroll through acres of lush indoor gardens and along winding pathways and waterfalls. See brilliant displays of holiday ornaments and huge, sparkling trees. It's truly a sight to behold as everywhere we look, Christmas is coming to life! Our days and evenings will be filled with wondrous holiday festivities. Highlights include a spectacular Christmas Dinner and Show, General Jackson luncheon cruise, Delta River Flatboat ride, ICE Exhibit, and the legendary Grand Ole Opry. This tour is one you don't want to miss!

Day 1 - Friday - November 26

Travel to Nashville

All aboard!! We're on our way to Nashville for a three-night stay at the fantastic Opryland Hotel. We arrive at the hotel all decked out in its finest array just as dusk settles over the city. What a spectacular sight as over two million Christmas lights sparkle in the night. A free evening to enjoy the amenities of the hotel.

Day 2 - Saturday - November 27

ICE / General Jackson Showboat / Grand Ole Opry

A special day filled with wonder and amazement. Visit "ICE!," the awe-inspiring experience where more than 2 million pounds of ice come to life under the skillful hands of talented artisans. We'll watch ice sculptures being carved before our very eyes at the live carving zone. Next, we enjoy a wonderful luncheon cruise and holiday musical revue aboard the General Jackson Showboat. This evening, we attend the legendary Grand Ole Opry, a great opportunity to see and hear our favorite country music entertainers. (L)

Day 3 - Sunday - November 28

Delta River Flatboat Ride / Christmas Dinner & Show

Our morning is free to enjoy the amenities of the hotel and to take a ride aboard the Delta River Flatboat, surrounded by the lush indoor gardens of this beautiful resort. See the 85 foot fountain, three waterfalls and, hopefully, "Danny," the 80 plus pound catfish that lives in the river! A special evening of dining and entertainment awaits at the Christmas Dinner and Show. Enjoy a traditional holiday meal including all the trimmings, followed by a spectacular Christmas show. (D)

Day 4 - Monday - November 29

Travel Home

Filled with good tidings and holiday cheer, we bid farewell to Nashville and return home with wonderful memories of "A Country Christmas at Opryland Hotel." Please note: The tour itinerary is established by the Opryland Hotel and is subject to change.

TOUR INCLUDES:

- 3 Nights at Opryland Hotel
- Admission to ICE
- Lunch on the General Jackson Showboat
- Grand Ole Opry
- Services of a Shenandoah Tours Escort
- Delta River Flatboat Ride
- Christmas Dinner & Show

Candlelight Christmas at Biltmore Estate & Gingerbread Houses at Grove Park Inn Nov. 30 - Dec. 1, 2021

2 Days / 1 Night
2 Meals

Price per person:
Twin/Double \$479
Single \$549

Deposit: \$100.00 Per Person

Final Payment is due on or before October 21, 2021.

Optional Trip Cancellation/Interruption Protection \$47 per
person (Twin), \$70 Single.

Tour #21027



Sugar and spice and everything nice! Come along and enjoy the most wonderful time of the year... the Biltmore Estate celebrates Christmas in grand style! Visit America's largest home all dressed in its finest array for the holiday season ... decorated trees, wreaths, bows, and poinsettias. An additional treasure is a visit to the Grove Park Inn to see the amazing display of gingerbread houses, and delight in these sugar-and-spice creations. Enjoy a special dinner at Biltmore Estate and a holiday buffet breakfast at historic Grove Park Inn. This is a one-of-a-kind holiday experience we'll never forget!

Day 1 - Tuesday - November 30

Travel to Asheville / Candlelight Tour - Biltmore Estate

Welcome to this Winter Wonderland Tour! Journey south to Asheville, North Carolina, and experience the finest of the holiday season! Accommodations await us in Asheville. As dusk settles over the city we're off to the magnificent Biltmore Estate for a fine holiday dinner and their annual Christmas Candlelight Tour. Enter the grounds where over 500 luminaries cast a warm glow. The best is yet to come ... a candlelight tour of this incredible estate, the 225-room French Renaissance chalet, home of George Vanderbilt. Crackling fires, glittering trees, and hundreds of candles glow throughout rooms richly decorated for an old-fashioned Victorian Christmas. This is an experience we'll long remember! (D)

Day 2 - Wednesday - December 1

Grove Park Inn / Gingerbread Houses / Travel Home

Today we'll visit the fabulous Grove Park Inn to see the amazing display of gingerbread houses. People from across the country create these culinary sugar and spice masterpieces for competition in this annual event. Enjoy an included breakfast in the Blue Ridge Dining Room and warm by the giant fireplaces in the grand lobby. Afterwards, return to the Biltmore Estate to visit the gardens, the winery, and Antler Hill Village filled with dining and shopping opportunities. By mid-afternoon we'll board our coach for the trip home, bringing with us cherished memories of this special holiday tour. (B)

TOUR INCLUDES:

- Candlelight Tour of the Biltmore Estate
- Dinner at Deer Park Restaurant
- Gingerbread House display at the Grove Park Inn
- Breakfast at the Grove Park Inn
- Visit the Biltmore Winery
- Also included: Accommodations, Motorcoach Transportation, Shenandoah Tours Escort, & Luggage Handling.
- 2 Meals = 1B, 1D.

Pennsylvania's Christmas Treasures December 10-11, 2021

**2 Days / 1 Night
2 Meals**

Price per person:

Twin/Double \$329

Single \$389

Deposit: \$100.00 Per Person

Final Payment is due on or before November 10, 2021.

Optional Trip Cancellation/Interruption Protection is \$47 per person.

Tour #21040



It's the most wonderful season of the year! Visit Lancaster and enjoy The Christmas Tree Ship, an inspirational, heartwarming musical at Bird-in-Hand Theatre. And see the amazing beauty at spectacular Longwood Gardens, a holiday experience that is sure to make your season merry and bright! Join Shenandoah Tours for this two-day getaway and make holiday memories to last a lifetime.

Day 1 - Friday - December 10

Travel to Lancaster / Bird-in-Hand Theatre

Join fellow travelers and we're off to Lancaster in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch Country. Upon arrival we'll visit one of the local farmers' markets...so special during the holiday season...and always brimming over with delightful foods, pastries and specialty items. Afterwards travel along backroads with flowing meadows, patchwork farmlands, and quiet countryside where local farmers still plow their fields with teams of horses. Stop by a local quilt shop, pretzel bakery, or bake shop. Check into our local hotel before enjoying the evening at Bird-in-Hand for our included dinner followed by a delightful evening featuring The Christmas Tree Ship...one family's unsinkable mission to save Christmas. This heartwarming inspirational musical is based on the true story of Herman Schuenemann known as Captain Santa who goes down with his ship in a storm on Lake Michigan. This, unfortunately, leaves his widow to raise their daughters, run the family business and continue her husband's mission of giving away thousands of Christmas trees to the less fortunate. Enjoy this Christmas tale of heroic proportions, filled with the importance of kindness and the joys of Christmas. (D)

Day 2 - Saturday - December 11

Longwood Gardens / Home

This morning we travel a short distance to enjoy the Beauty of the Holidays at Longwood Gardens. This is truly a sight to behold and will make our holiday oh so merry and bright! In the conservatory stroll among beautifully adorned trees and plant palettes ranging from delicate winter white to rich reds to the greenest of evergreens. From poinsettias to living wreaths to floral trees, the warmth and cheer of the holiday is ours to enjoy this special season. By mid-afternoon we'll board our coach for the trip home, bringing with us treasured memories of this special holiday tour. (B)

TOUR INCLUDES:

- Reserved seats for The Christmas Tree Ship - Bird-in-Hand Theatre
- Visit a Local Farmers Market
- Admission to Longwood Gardens
- Also included: Overnight Accommodations, Motorcoach Transportation, Shenandoah Tours Escort, & Luggage Handling.
- 2 Meals = 1B, 1D.

**Panama Canal
Cruise
Holland America's
ms Amsterdam
April 9-26, 2022**

**18 Days / 17 Nights
All Meals onboard Ship**

Price per person:
Category E \$2799
Ocean-view Stateroom
Plus Airfare TBA

Deposit: \$700.00 Per Person

Final Payment is due on or before January 4, 2022

Optional Trip Cancellation/Interruption Protection, please call
for details.

Tour #22002



Today we embark on an amazing cruise aboard Holland America's ms Amsterdam bound for the fascinating Panama Canal, one of the world's engineering masterpieces. We'll sail along the Florida coast, transit the Panama Canal, and discover the color, culture and sunny disposition of Mexico.

The Panama Canal has always inspired wonder. Now the "Big Ditch" is even bigger, with yet another set of locks and wider shipping lanes to accommodate today's super-size ships. Experience history in the re-making as our luxurious ship navigates the locks, its illustrious story brought to life by an onboard Canal commentator. See the sunny beaches and lush rain forests on either side.

CARTAGENA, COLUMBIA

In this land of tropical wonders, there's nothing like Half Moon Cay, Holland America Line's 2,400-acre private paradise. Miles of unspoiled white-sand beaches await!

PANAMA CANAL

The wonders of this 51-mile engineering feat continue as the Panama Canal celebrates its 106th anniversary.

PUERTO CALDERA, COSTA RICA

This small town makes an ideal base from which to explore the country's multiple national parks. Activities include snapping photos of gushing waterfalls, sightseeing near active volcanoes, and bird-watching in nature reserves and sanctuaries. Enjoy shopping as well as sampling traditional Tico cuisine, especially gallo pinto, a combination of rice and beans eaten any time, day or night.

CORINTO, NICARAGUA

Nicaragua is the next great spot for cultural and culinary tourism. The port town of Carinto boasts colonial-era architecture, and is close to Leon, the beautiful city established by Spanish conquistadores in 1524. Be sure to sample the traditional dish called vigoron, a hearty plate heaped with pork, boiled yuca and cabbage salad.

PUERTO QUETZAL, GUATEMALA

In the cultured little country of Guatemala, modern Maya still weave their stories on backstrap looms, and the great stone temples of Tikal stand in silent testament to ancient Mayan ingenuity.

PUERTO CHIAPAS, MEXICO

The Pacific gateway to the Mayan world, this port offers excursions to coffee plantations and botanical gardens, as well as the Izapa River.

HUATULCO, MEXICO

Warm sun, sandy beaches and nine beautiful bays in every shade of blue await. Jungles teem with birds and are the nesting grounds of endangered sea turtles.

MANZANILLO, MEXICO

The busiest seaport in Mexico is home to peaceful bays, a tropical climate, and is the sailfish capital of the world.

PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO

"PV" (as it is affectionately known) retains the essence of the fishing village it once was. Viejo Vallarta, the old town, is a mix of red-tiled buildings, cobble streets, chic shops and busy open markets.

CABO SAN LUCAS, MEXICO

Stunning historic sites, beautiful beaches, and famous rock formations at Land's End make this a popular vacation destination.

[Additional Cabin Options - Villa Suites](#)

U.S. citizens must carry a valid passport for this cruise.

TOUR INCLUDES:

- Round trip transportation to/from and pier
- Variety of Ship Board Activities
- All port taxes
- Accident insurance
- 17 nights cruising on the ms Amsterdam
- Use of the ship as our hotel
- All Meals while onboard ship
- NOT INCLUDED: Ship Personnel Gratuities

Trip Ideas for 2022

- Jan 20—Shenandoah Caverns – Woodstock – Route 11 Chips
- Feb 14—Couples Wine and Cheese Party at Fox Meadow Winery
- Mar 17—St. Patrick's Pub Crawl
- Mar 23—Battle of Kernstown with lunch
- Apr 9-26—Panama Canal Cruise on Holland America; 18 days/ 17 nights; from \$2799 per person plus R/T airfare TBA. Contact <https://www.shenandoahtours.com/>
- Apr 28—Apple Blossom Parade
- May—Vint Hills Farm for Cold War Museum, Brewery, Winery, and Lunch
- June—National Parks by Amtrak Train: Yellowstone; Yosemite; and Grand Canyon
- July—Exploring the Northern Neck: Lee Family Estate, Tangier Island, Steamboat Museum, Wineries, Tides Inn for two nights
- Aug—Niagara Falls by motorcoach or Amtrak
- Aug—Gettysburg & Wine tours
- Sep—WV Panhandle Tour with overnight at the Bavarian Inn, Shepherdstown
- Sep 29—Oktoberfest Tour
- Oct --Hudson River Fall Foliage Cruise
- Oct 20-22—Fall Colors Pittsburgh Tour by Amtrak train
- Nov --Chesapeake Bay American Revolution Steamboat Cruise
- Nov-Dec—A Country Christmas at Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN, by motor coach
- Nov- Dec—Candlelight Christmas at Biltmore Estate & Grove Park Inn by motor coach
- Dec 5 or 9—Christmas at Union Station in DC by MARC train R/T from Charlestown
- Dec—Christmas at the Greenbrier by Amtrak train

For Shenandoah motor coach tours we need a minimum of 8 people for pick up in Lake Frederick. Otherwise, pick up is at Routes 522 & 50 in the Red Roof Inn parking lot.

For one-day trips write a check to "Lake Frederick Travel Club" with the date of the trip and your contact information. Leave the check with the Lodge Concierge. You will receive a confirmation of check receipt and a confirmation of the trip by email.

George Darnell, darnellgd50@verizon.net