

The Shenandoah Germanic Heritage Museum

Presents

The 1st Annual GermanFest

Saturday, Sept. 25th, 2010

10:00 am to 6:00 pm

at the Hottel-Keller Homestead

11523 Back Road

Tom's Brook, VA 22660

The time has come to introduce our new trading name, The Shenandoah Germanic Heritage Museum (which encompasses the 392 acre homestead, historic buildings, and artifacts therein) to the general public. The Hottel-Keller Memorial, Inc. Board of Directors, last October, approved unanimously the idea and creation of a Germanic Heritage Festival (interpreting 200 years of Germanic heritage, 1750-1950).

The goals of the festival are to increase visibility in the community, educate students and the public about the old methods (blacksmith, weaving, farming, cooking, etc.) of our ancestor's way of life, recruit new members, recruit new volunteers, generate revenue, and promote tourism.

The three items that will appeal to the public are: 1) the front 200 acres of our property are a part of the core battlefield area (Gen. Armstrong Custer among others were there) of the Battle of Toms Brook, September 19th, 1864; 2) the Hottel and Keller families are maternal ancestors of world famous local (Winchester) singer Patsy Cline; 3) and, last but not least, more than half of all the Germanic surnames in the Shenandoah Valley (Pitman, Funkhouser, Snarr, Zirkle, Borden, Crabill, etc.) can trace some of their ancestral roots to the Hottel and Keller families.

The festival will have arts & crafts/tradesman (making & selling their wares), military re-enactors (French & Indian, Revolution, and Civil War), musical entertainment, food and beverage vendors (beer & local wineries too), kid's activities, farm animals, and antique cars. Most of the activities will be held around the Keller house. Some re-enactors/activities will also be over at the Hottel site, so that we highlight both homesteads.

We plan on having our Bake Oven up and running, our loom fixed and producing, and our museum open for tours. A logo for the museum as well as for the festival is currently being created. The festival committee is hard at work putting all the details together. **We can use all the volunteers we can get, so please consider getting involved.** If you have a craft, trade, or business and would like to be a vendor, please contact Chester Ramey (703) 297-5415 for details.

www.germanfestva.org