

Heinrick Frey Family Association Reunion

June 2026—Virginia

By Peggy and Gene Hughes



Frye Fort circa 2011

As America celebrates its 250 years of independence, Heinrich Frey ancestors will be celebrating the 340th year of Heinrich's arrival in the New World and the contributions of his children and their families to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

The HFFA Reunion gathers in Winchester, Virginia, at the Hilton Garden Inn on Wednesday, June 17, 2026. Attendees will find registration open at 4:00 p.m. in the hotel lobby. Socializing will occur in the hotel lobby throughout the evening. Attendees staying at the Hilton Garden Inn will enjoy a breakfast buffet that has been included with their room rate. Lunches Thursday-Saturday will also be provided with paid reunion registrations.

Thursday will be devoted to HFFA business, highlights of the 2025 Fry/Frey/Frye/Frei tour of the Swiss and German homeland, updates on Swiss ancestry discoveries, stories of the early Frey/Fryes in the Shenandoah Valley and more. Registrants will enjoy a lunch buffet and time to renew acquaintances and meet new "cousins." Thursday evening is open with time to enjoy dinner at one of the many restaurants near the hotel.

Friday morning, we will board buses promptly at 8:00 a.m. for a short ride to Capon Springs Resort, West Virginia (originally Virginia). Also known as Frye's Springs and Watson Town, it is a national historic district. The area grew around a

mineral spring discovered by Henry Frye (1724-1812, son of Old Ben) in the 1760's during a hunting expedition. When the therapeutic powers of the warm springs were realized, Henry and his wife, Frances Littler (*Fannie*), moved to the area hoping the springs would be beneficial to her rheumatism. We will hear more about the history of the area from the resort historian.



Leaving the Springs, we will traverse the countryside where our ancestors lived, worked, hunted, and raised future generations. Frye families continue to live in the area today.



Arriving at St. John's Lutheran Church, we will hear the history of the church that many Fry/Frey/Frye have attended over the generations and will tour the cemetery where many ancestors are buried. Following a picnic lunch there will be time to explore the church grounds and cemetery.

Friday afternoon we will tour the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, a regional cultural center that includes galleries, seven acres of gardens, the Glen Burnie House, a Museum Store, and a Makerspace Studio. Galleries display changing exhibitions and Shenandoah Valley decorative arts, 18th and 19th century European and American fine art, and a fascinating collection of miniature houses and rooms. The landscape surrounding the Glen Burnie House includes rose, statue, vegetable, Asian, and perennial gardens. Inside the house, we can explore the stories of those who lived there from 1796 to 1992.

Upon leaving the museum, we will have a bus tour of the many historical sites in Winchester before returning to the hotel. Friday evening is on your own.



Veatch's Gleann Arboretum

Our Saturday morning tour departs for the historic Frye Fort at 8:00 a.m. The current owners and stewards of the Fort, Chuck and Beverly Veatch, will welcome us to their home, Veatch's Gleann

Arboretum and the Frye cemetery. We will have several hours to enjoy the house and grounds before taking a group photo in front of the home.

The 500 acres on which Frye Fort was built were purchased in 1744 by Benjamin Frey (1696-1753, *Old Ben Frey*), his wife Chistina, and their children. Situated between two mountains and a few roads from the creek, the land



Frye Fort circa 1920

was used by Indian tribes in the area for hunting and traversing the countryside. It was built with Indian attacks in mind and became a "fortress" to family members and neighbors when the need arose. It was a civilian fort on the frontier during the French and Indian War. Your tour guides will share stories and point out interesting features of the house and grounds. (Note that the cemetery is up a steep hill and may not be accessible for all attendees.)



Frye Fort Fireplace



Frye Fort Diningroom

Saturday's picnic lunch will be enjoyed before our visit to Tom's Brook Civil War Battlefield. This was a decisive Union Calvary victory during the Shenandoah campaign in 1864. Joseph Fry (1831-1864) died in the battle and is buried at the Frye Fort Cemetery. A local civil war historian

will share the story of the battle including Fry family involvement.

The reunion concludes Saturday evening with a banquet at the Hilton Garden Inn (included with registration). Special entertainment is planned for the evening, and each attendee is asked to bring a gift bag depictive of their home area (valued at \$10-\$20) as part of the gift exchange.



For those planning to come early or stay late there are many things to do in Winchester as compiled by Joyce McKay.

Shenandoah University is near the Visitor's Center on Pleasant Valley Road, and the play *Guys and Dolls* is on Sunday June 21, at 2:30 p.m. If you are interested in tickets, call asap because they usually sell out. Call 540-665-4569 Tuesday to Friday from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

Museums from Winchester-Frederick County Historic Society

1340 S. Pleasant Valley Road is open 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily and Sunday noon to 4:00 p.m. <http://winchesterhistory.org> 540-662-6550

The following are nearby as well as the visitor's center:

- Abram's Delight is the oldest house in Winchester (1754) \$6
- 18th Century Valley Cabin, Hollingsworth Mill
- George Washington's Office (1748) \$6
- 32W. Cork Street 540-662-4412
- Stonewall Jackson's Headquarters (1854)
- 415 N. Braddock Street 540-773-1604 \$10, \$8 seniors, \$4 students in K-12

Other Winchester Sites

Patsy Cline House and Park
608 S. Kent Street 540-662-5555 (<https://celebrating-patsy-cline-inc.square.site/about>).

Open 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (closed Monday), Sunday noon to 4:00 p.m. (last tour at 3:30) \$10, \$9 for seniors. The park is free.

Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum (1840) is the old Frederick County Court House (on the Loudoun Street walking mall), 20 N. Loudoun Street 540-327-4277, open Monday-Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., \$12

Other free walking mall history and architectural sites

Taylor Hotel (1836), 121-125 N. Loudoun Street

Farmers and Merchants Bank (1902), 100 N. Loudoun Street

Union Bank Building (1870), 101 N. Loudoun Street

Miller's Drug Store (1820), 107 N. Loudoun Street

James Dowdall Residence (1792), 21 S. Loudoun Street

Godfrey Miller House (1785), 28 S. Loudoun Street

First Presbyterian Church (1841), 116 S. Loudoun Street

Hill's Keep (1810) moved 2004, 126 S. Loudoun Street

Handley Regional Library is free (<http://handley-regional.org/>)

100 W Piccadilly Street, 540-662-9041, extension 17

Archives open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday 10:00 to 8:00 p.m. and Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. They are closed for lunch from noon to 1:00 p.m. They are closed Sunday.

Mount Hebron Cemetery is free (<http://mthebron-cemetery.org/>).

305 E. Boscawen Street, closes at 5:00 p.m.

It includes Stonewall Confederate Cemetery.

There is another national cemetery across the road on National Avenue.

John Handley High School (1923)
425 Handley Boulevard
(better viewed from Valley Avenue)

It was voted one of the most beautiful high schools in America.

It is a publicly-endowed high school given by John Handley of Pennsylvania.

James R. Wilkins Winchester Battlefield Visitor Center is free
541 Redbud Road, 540-327-4277
(email: info@svbf.net)

Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday open 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
(closed Tuesday and Wednesday). Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Trails are open from dawn to dusk. *There are also other battlefields in the area.*

Apple Blossom Mall 540-665-0201
1850 Apple Blossom Drive

It has a restaurant, food court, and anchor stores Belk and JC Penney as well as the Alamo Theater.

There are also food markets in the area.

Marker-Miller Orchard,
3035 Cedar Creek Grade, 540-662-1391

West Oaks Farm Market,
4305 Middle Road, 650-539-8175

Richard's Farm Market,
6410 Middle Road, 540-8681455

Woodbine Farm Market,
5199 Marshall Hwy., 540-465-2729

Middletown, VA 22645

Belle Grove Plantation (<http://www.bellegrove.org/>) 540-869-2028

336 Belle Grove Road, \$15 adults; \$14 seniors; \$6 AAA, park pass, and ages 6-16

There is also a museum and visitor's center on Route 11 across the road from Belle Grove (email: info@ccbf.us).