

Support Henderson Hall

Become a friend of Henderson Hall! The gifts we receive go to the support and preservation of Henderson Hall Plantation and to help us continue to expand programs and restoration of the house, buildings and grounds. For more information contact us at 304.375.2129 or 304-481-5178 or message us on Facebook.



HENDERSON TROLLEY

Ride the Valley Gem Sternwheeler to Harbor Point and board the trolley to “One of a kind historical treasure”, Henderson Hall. After a tour of the mansion, you will return to Marietta on the Henderson Trolley.

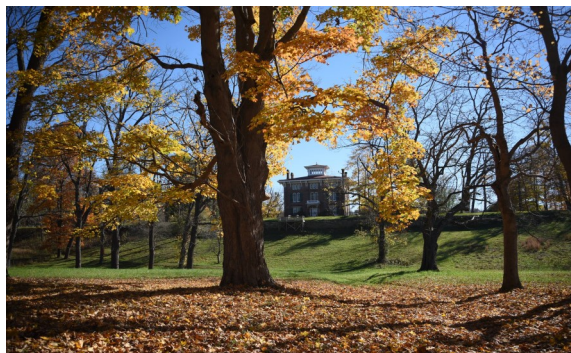
Dinner cruises involving the Valley Gem and the Henderson trolley are available for certain special events as well. For more information regarding the dinner cruises, or to book a reservation, contact the Valley Gem at 740-373-7862 or visit the web site at www.valleygemsternwheeler.com

The trolley is also available for rental for weddings, proms, and special events. For more information regarding trolley rental please call 304-481-5178.



2020 Event Schedule

- April 17—Henderson Scottish Evening
- May 16—Henderson Ladies Tea
- June 6—Antique Auto Show
- June 20 –21—Civil War Reenactment
- July 18—Flea Market
- August 1—Antique Engine Show
- August 29— Mid Ohio Valley History Expo
- October 4—Henderson Heritage Festival
- December 5—Henderson Christmas Evening.
- December 12— Plantation Christmas



Open Tuesday—Sunday

12:00—5:00

Phone: 304-375-2129

Adults 10.00—Students 5.00

www.hendersonhallwv.com

Visit us on FaceBook



Historic Henderson Hall



Henderson Hall is a living legacy to the pioneers and patriots who walked its halls through an unbroken chain of five generations.

Clan progenitor, Scottish-born Alexander Henderson Sr. arrived in Virginia in the 1700s serving in the House of Burgesses and as a member of the committee appointed to decide boundary lines that still exist today between Maryland and Virginia. Henderson counted such historic icons as Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Mason and George Washington among his acquaintances. It was on advice of his friend George Washington, that Henderson bought several thousand acres in western Virginia, and sent three of his sons to the then wilderness that was the Mid-Ohio Valley.

Henderson brothers Alexander and John played a key role in thwarting the treasonous exploits of Aaron Burr. The brothers turned in Harman Blennerhassett and Burr when Blennerhassett tried to recruit the Henderson's to become part of Burr's scheme. The Henderson's reported the plot to family friends President Jefferson and Secretary of State Madison and alerted local militia. In the archives of Henderson Hall is a letter from Dumfries native John Graham, who was dispatched by Jefferson to

investigate Burr's activities, thanking the Henderson's for the integral part they played in foiling Burr's plot.

G.W. Henderson married Elizabeth Ann Tomlinson. Educated at Ohio University, G.W. studied law at Marietta College and served at the 1861 Wheeling Convention. G.W. remained loyal to the Union during the Civil War even though the family had slaves and the family in Virginia joined the Confederacy. G.W. built what is today Henderson Hall.

The perfectly preserved Victorian-era Italianate style River Road Henderson mansion which stands on a terrace overlooking the Ohio River was completed in 1859 using brick, stone and timber from the Henderson property.

The house, grounds and Henderson family cemetery is designated the Henderson Hall Historic District and is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Following in the footsteps of his Scottish forebears whose clan motto was "Virtue alone ennobles," family member Brevet Brigadier General Archibald Henderson served as the fifth Commandant of the Marine Corps, one of the longest serving Marine Corps commandants and technically the first American-born commandant. He served a stint on the U.S.S. Constitution during the War of 1812. The U.S.S. Henderson was named for him as is Henderson Hall Barracks in Arlington, Va. His long tenure earned him the nickname "Grand Old Man of the Marine Corps." He commanded the military escort for the burial of William Henry Harrison and was a pallbearer at the funeral of longtime friend Dolly Madison.

Another family member, Thomas Henderson was a well-known military doctor and minister in the Episcopal Church. He penned the first written manual on medicine for the Department of the Army in 1820-1830, and was instrumental in the founding of the US Naval Academy. The last living Henderson ancestor, Michael Rolston died in 2007 bequeathing Henderson Hall to the Oil, Gas and Industrial Historical Association which is overseen by a board of directors to assure its preservation.

The home contains priceless artifacts, antiques and furnishings right down to handmade linens, books dating back to the 1600s, documents signed by the likes of Patrick Henry, then governor of Virginia; local ballots from the Lincoln-Douglas presidential election, diaries, a letter written by Robert E. Lee to Elizabeth Henderson. Some of the documents may literally rewrite history.

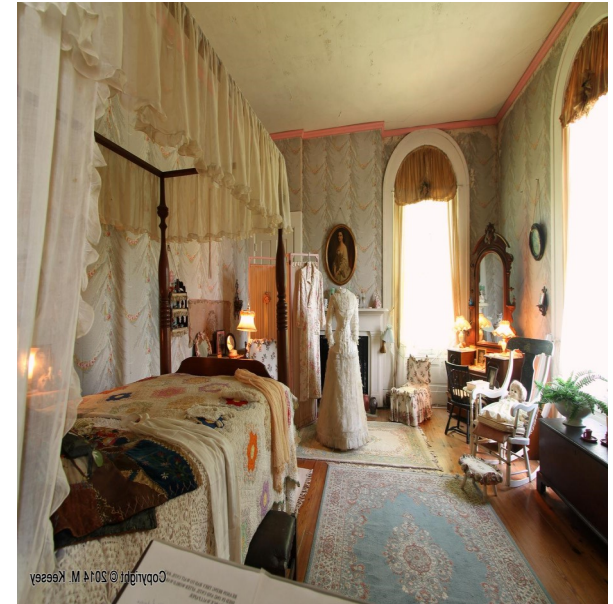
Family records describe a duel between one of the family members and another local pioneer, making it the only duel ever recorded north of the Ohio River.

Brothers Jock Bedell; Henry Clay, who served both in the House of Delegates and State Senate, and Arthur Taylor Henderson operated the family farm, which included cows, sheep, chickens, turkeys, peafowl, and a multitude of crops. In addition, doing business as the Henderson



Brothers they ran a nationally known Standard Trotting horse breeding and boarding business for about 30 years. Horses with the bloodlines from two of their prize studs, Sacramento and Nutguard can still be found today in trotters. The Henderson's received requests for their stock catalogue from as far away as Canada and Paris, France.

Buildings on the estate grounds include what is believed to be the first schoolhouse in Wood County, possibly the oldest in the state; an 1826 carriage, and a 100-year-old still which the



Henderson brothers used to make homebrew.

There are three Adena pre-historic Indian mounds on site.

John James Audubon and John Chapman, better known as Johnny Appleseed, the legendary frontier missionary/nurseryman were among many of the well-known visitors to the plantation. A direct descendant of Chief Justice John Marshall who presided over Burr's treason trial also enjoyed tea during a visit to Henderson Hall.

Henderson Hall, occupied by 5 generations of the Henderson family, is a national treasure. It is one of the most complete family collections of artifacts, furniture, and documents in the United States.

The family knew of greatness and must have felt a sense of destiny. Today, the legacy of the Henderson family lives on at Henderson Hall.

