

**Exhibit A**  
**What s in a Name;**  
**Shepherdstown**  
**Jack Davis**

## *What's* in a Name

### Shepherdstown

*Jack Davis*

Shepherdstown is one of a score of small villages that have come and gone along the old Gettysburg Road since the beginning of the 19th century. Like the others, it commenced chiefly as an overnight stop for travelers, then later grew modestly into a trading center for farmers of the vicinity. And like most of the others, the advent of the automobile gradually put an end to its commercial role, relegating it once more to being a sleepy residential hamlet.

The village took its name from William Shepherd, though if original settlers count for anything, it should have been called McFalltown, after a widow believed to be the first resident in the future village. Shepherd came in the 1820s, and in 1828 the village, though never incorporated, took its permanent name. In its first twenty years it grew slowly, reflecting the growing traffic along the Gettysburg Pike. By 1845 it had spread out for a quarter mile along the road, anchored on two hills and filling the small defile in between. On the southernmost hill stood Jacob Culp's tavern and hotel, which would remain under varying ownerships well on toward the end of the century. On the northern hill sat the 18 5' Union Church, a non-denominational house of worship open to all, and including within it a primary school. A general merchandise store appeared in 1822, serving not only the surrounding farmers, but also the inhabitants of the eighteen homes built on and between the hills, until it burned in 1873, to be replaced by another store, portions of which still stand as a private residence. The post office operated in this store well into the present century, until discontinued in the 1950s.

In the 1850s Allen Township built one of its eight identical brick one-room school houses immediately behind the Union Church, on what later became York Street, where it stood until torn down in the 1980s. Meanwhile, more business opened in the village. A substantial shoe store opened across from the general merchandise shop, a doctor became resident in the village, and another inn and tavern briefly operated.

In 1860 the focus of the village shifted to the northern hill when Abram Zook built what was then and still is the most imposing structure in Shepherdstown. At the summit of the hill, across York Street from the Union Church, he erected a huge three-story brick inn and tavern. Its original name is uncertain, but by the 1880s it was known as the Union Hotel, and thereafter as the Shepherdstown Hotel, and Hill Top Inn. Zook never operated the inn himself, but leased it to a tavern operator, as did most of its several subsequent owners. The inn also contained a two-level dry goods store, competing with the other stores in the village. Moreover, it became the focal point of village social functions, as well as for the surrounding area, thanks to its 1,500-square-foot third floor, a vast single room with an elevated stage at one end, that operators rented for public and civic functions,

Life in Shepherdstown differed little from that of other small villages along the pike. Visitors came and went constantly. Salesmen and drummers took up residence in the inns for a few nights to peddle wares to vicinity farmers. Telegraph lines running along the pike made the village a focal point for news, especially as the sectional crisis led to the Civil War. In 1861 townspeople gathered on the pike below the balcony of Zook's inn to hear the Declaration of Independence read, and for the next four years many an area planter walked into town from time to time to learn the latest, especially in June-July 1863 during the Gettysburg Campaign.

Following the war, life returned to normal for the village. Its commercial decline—such as it was—could be dated from Prohibition, when the Shepherdstown Hotel—the only remaining tavern—went out of business, and its store with it. The advent of automobiles and the proximity to Mechanicsburg just three miles away drove most of the remaining business from the other modest establishments in the village. By the 1920s the only businesses remaining were a small store and post office on the southern hill, and the Hill Top Inn, now a chicken and waffles restaurant. By the 1950s both were gone, though memories of the \$1 all you can eat Sunday meals at Hill Top linger still among both residents of the area, and a startling number of others even outside the state.

Today all that remains are the private residences, some twenty-five of them, most dating in whole or part from 1860 and earlier. The old Union Hotel is also a private dwelling now, while the Union Church—which ceased to be used for services early this century—is an artist's studio. In 1976 Shepherdstown was declared a township Historic District by the Upper Allen Heritage Committee, in addition to which the Union Hotel has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. But for the heavy volume of modern traffic on the old Gettysburg Pike passing through it, Shepherdstown has returned to being just as sleepy a village as it was when the widow McFall and William Shepherd first settled here nearly two centuries ago.