

## The Shenandoah Valley

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Another month, another adventure!! This month, John & Barbara invited us to join them for a week in Virginia, using a time share in The Shenandoah Valley. We drove from home, and they drove from PA. For us the drive itself was very scenic, which we really enjoyed. The time share was called *Massanutten*, which is a very large mountain resort, located in a valley, between mountains. We had a second floor suite with a nice view of the mountains. After living in the low lands of South Carolina for the last few years, it was a real treat being in the mountains again! The weather was comfortable for touring, so we did some local touring of historical sites and the Shenandoah National Park. Before leaving, we were able to watch a local reenactment of the Battle of New Market, which we thoroughly enjoyed.

The *Frontier Culture Museum* was a whole day adventure and most interesting. The original settlers in the Valley, were mostly Native Americans, German, and of Scots-Irish heritage. This Museum has described how these people blended together in a new land to make a better life for themselves and their children. The first thing was to demonstrate the real life situations from the home lands. This was done by moving actual farm houses, barns, etc from Germany and Ireland, and bringing them here, *board by board, stone by stone*, with the help of Foundations, founded for this purpose. At the Museum, these homesteads are complete with livestock typical of the time. Museum people were present to explain the life style and to demonstrate period skills. The next section of the Museum, has great examples of the homesteads built in the Valley and how life improved as a result. The valley was very productive in farming which made it very appealing. In addition the valley played a very important role in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, even though these people were peace loving and did not want to fight. During the Civil War, the valley was considered 'the Bread Basket of the Confederacy.' Many of the people, in particular the Germans, were Mennonite from PA. The Museum seems to be currently working on developing the history of the Native Americans in the valley. There is still archeological work being done regarding the Native Americans and the wars, but it is believed that the Cherokees were known to be in this area. I could go on but I might not get to the reenactment story.



Some of these pictures are self explanatory. The one of us sitting in the living room of the condo is the 'Marciano/Smith computer club'! A couple of times we lost our internet connection which caused a 'panic' reaction! The picture on the left was taken on the Skyline Drive.

## The Battle of New Market

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This was really a bonus on this trip! Bob & I had been to a Civil War Re-enactment in TN some years ago, thanks to Henry and Ann Goldman. John & Barbara had never been to one so we didn't want to miss this. This is considered to be, *The oldest Continual Reenactment In The Nation Held On The Original Ground!* This was the 151st anniversary, with the Civil War Battle held May 15-17th 1864. The battle was held on Bushong's Hill, property of a local farmer. The Confederates were severely outnumbered by the Union Army, so Cadets from the local military school, The Virginia Military Institute, joined Major General Breckenridge in making a successful charge against the Union soldiers. The average age of these students was 18 years. The battle field, where the charge took place is also called 'The Field of Lost Shoes', which is also the name of the movie made by Hollywood about the battle.

The weather was almost perfect on the day of the reenactment, but it did start to rain near the end. Many people were in period dress, which enriched the whole experience. We found a good spot to watch the event and take pictures.

