

Folkways book published

Make sure you have a copy of the society's newest publishing venture: *Portals to Shenandoah Valley Folkways*. The book, published jointly with the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society, is the result of a symposium organized by well-known folklorist John Heatwole, who wrote the book's introduction. The 150-page volume consists of four essays by experts on Shenandoah Valley folkways: Heatwole, Nancy Sorrells, Scott Suter, and Danielle Torisky. James Madison University professor Dorothy Boyd-Bragg edited the volume.

Heatwole's essay considers many fascinating aspects of local folklore including witches and hexing. Sorrells brings a view of the role of cattle in Shenandoah Valley life including cattle drives and Valley cowboys. The importance of crafts, especially pottery and basket making and the craftsperson's response to factory mass production in the early 20th century is the theme Scott Suter, authority on material culture of the Valley, pursues in his essay. Torisky follows foodways of the Civil War days, including local recipes that were comfort foods to Valley folk.

The book is available for \$15 (plus 75 cents tax) at the Bookstack in Staunton, the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society in Dayton, or through the Augusta County Historical Society at P.O. Box 686, Staunton, VA 24402. If you order through the society, please include \$3 for shipping and handling.