

Oh, Shenandoah

Landscapes of Diversity



A. KUSHNIR

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF
HISTORY & CULTURE



Across a spectacular natural setting that extends some 200 miles from the Potomac to the James River, the story of our country's multi-cultural nature can be seen in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. For three centuries, settlers of English, German, Scots-Irish, French, and African descent moved into the Valley in waves of settlement. They carried with them varied beliefs and enjoyed the religious freedom—and solitude—the region offered.

Oh, Shenandoah: Landscapes of Diversity is an exhibition of 48 plein air paintings by contemporary artist Andrei Kushnir representing the communities, farmlands, waterways, and historical sites of the Shenandoah Valley. A full-time painter since 1980, Kushnir captures the extraordinary beauty and richness of the Valley as well as the qualities that enticed pioneers—and those that followed—to settle and remain there.

About Andrei Kushnir

After experimenting with various media, Kushnir started painting in oils in 1980, and quickly discovered the joys of painting landscapes outdoors, en plein air. Essentially self-taught, Kushnir developed a naturalistic, realist style that focuses on the American landscape. Along with painting the Shenandoah Valley, he has also painted along the shores of Maine, New York, Cape Hatteras and Florida's Gulf Coast, as well as in the Western U.S. states, particularly Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. His work has been exhibited across the United States.

An oil painting of a bridge over a river. The bridge is a truss bridge with a dark, arched structure. In the foreground, there's a grassy bank with some small plants. In the middle ground, across the river, there's a red building with a dark roof. The water is calm, reflecting the bridge and the building. The sky is a mix of blue and purple tones. The overall style is impressionistic with visible brushstrokes.

Content

48 framed original paintings, didactic panels, and labels

Size

Up to 1,700 square feet

Rental period

4 months

Display Period

3 months

Rental Fee

Contact VMHC

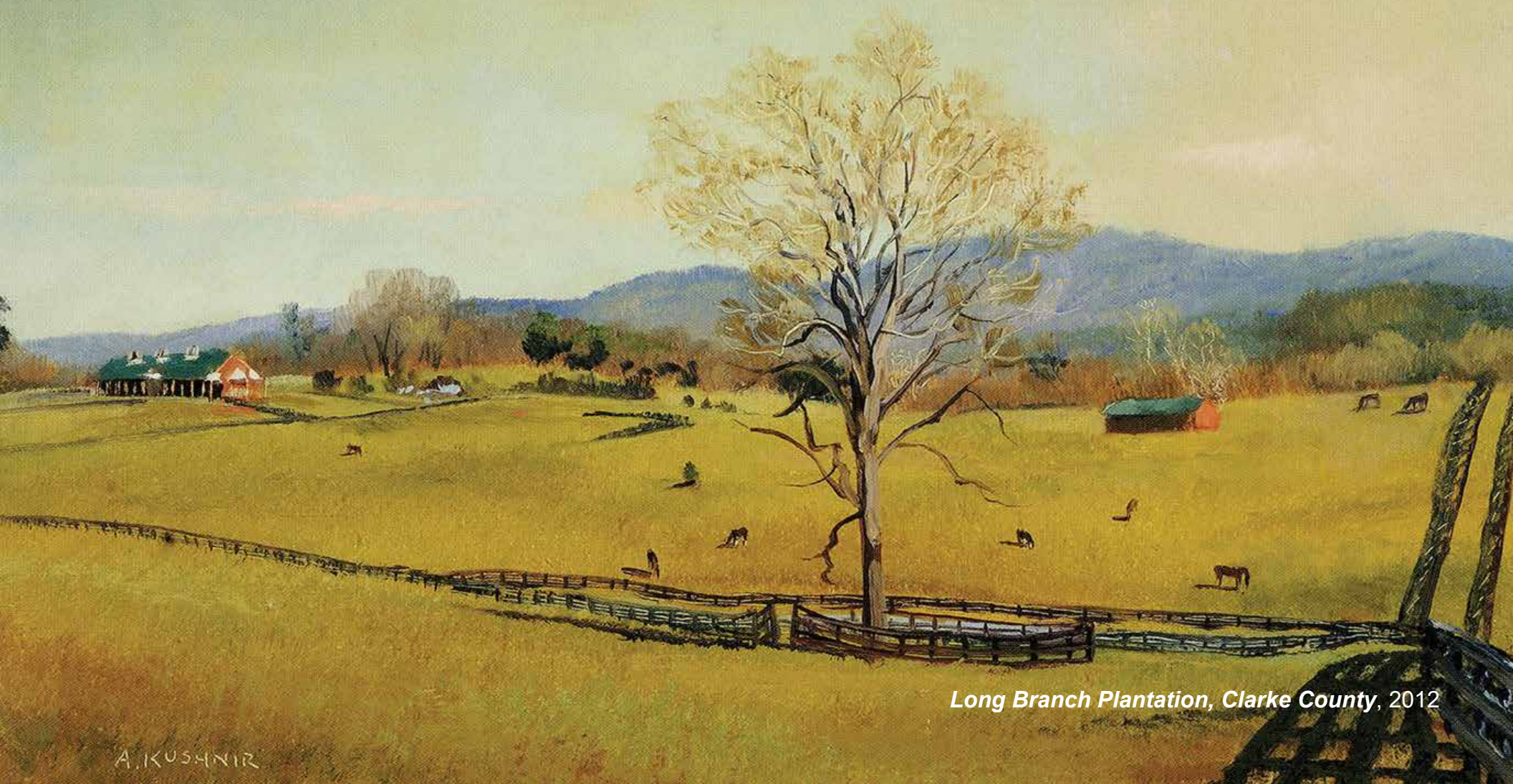
Availability

Contact Andrei Kushnir

Town of Shenandoah, South Fork, 2011

The Lower Valley

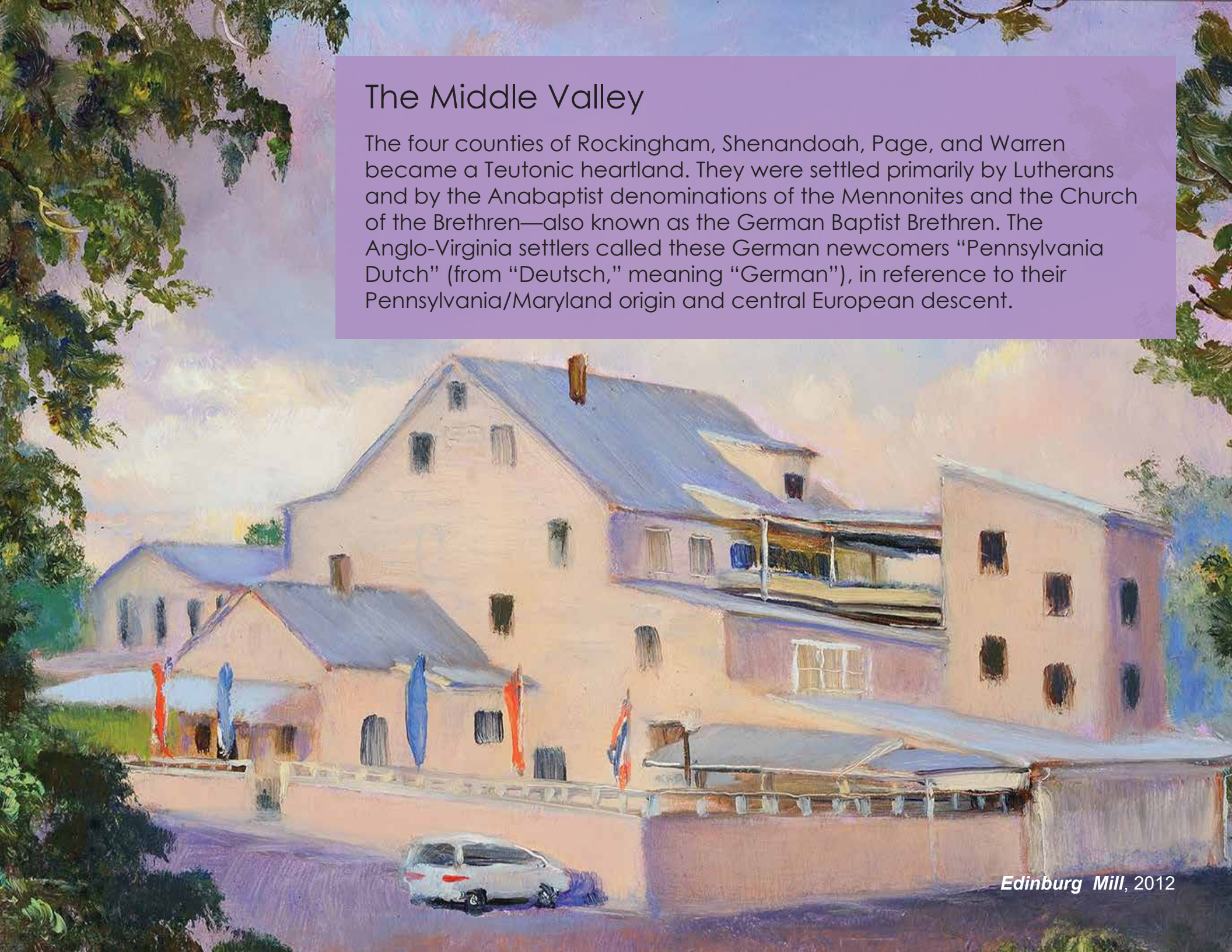
To escape religious persecution, Germans of multiple Protestant faiths fled to Pennsylvania and, in time, to the four counties of the Lower Shenandoah Valley—Frederick, Clarke, Berkeley, and Jefferson. Concurrently, and in greater numbers, Anglo-Irish settlers moved westward and predominated in the settlements there.



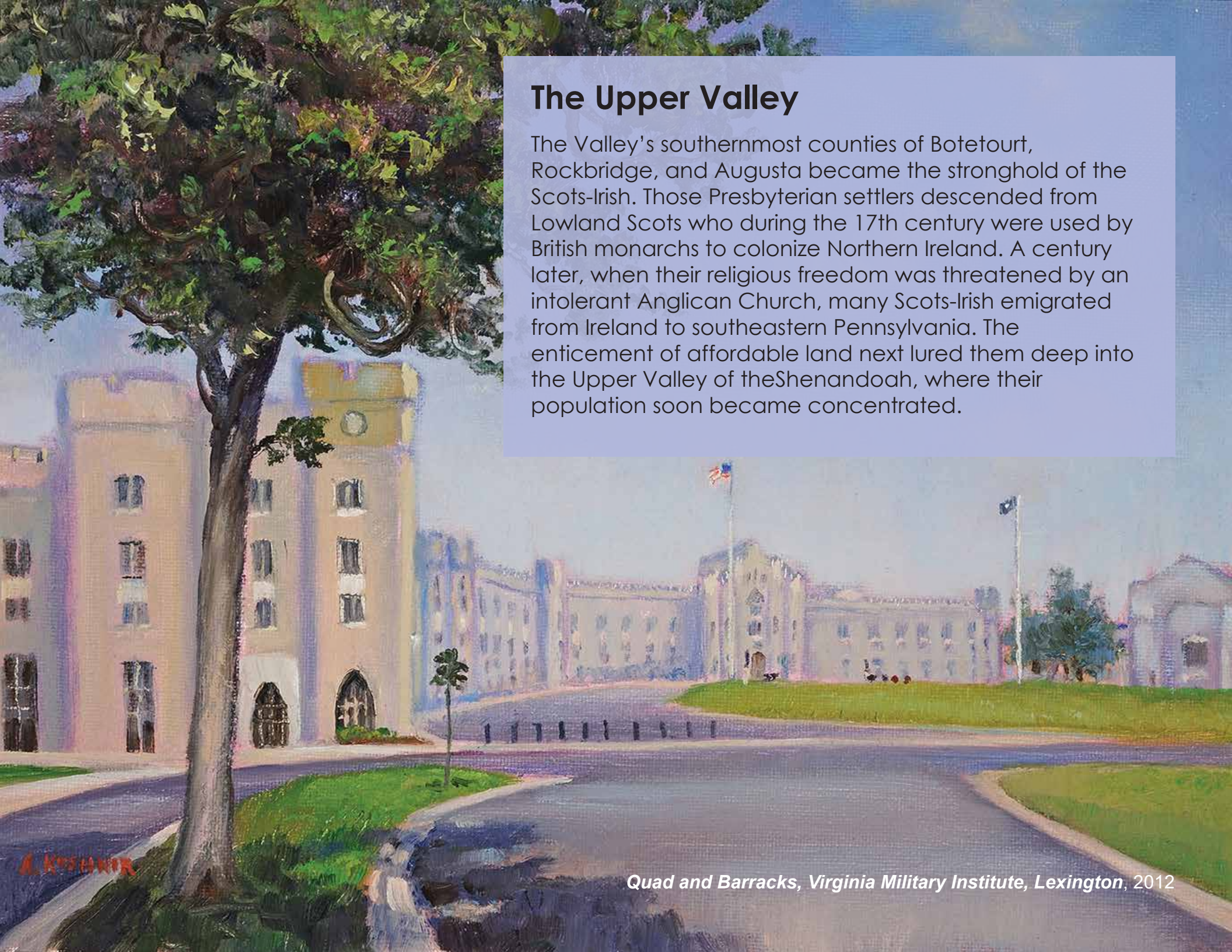
Long Branch Plantation, Clarke County, 2012

The Middle Valley

The four counties of Rockingham, Shenandoah, Page, and Warren became a Teutonic heartland. They were settled primarily by Lutherans and by the Anabaptist denominations of the Mennonites and the Church of the Brethren—also known as the German Baptist Brethren. The Anglo-Virginia settlers called these German newcomers “Pennsylvania Dutch” (from “Deutsch,” meaning “German”), in reference to their Pennsylvania/Maryland origin and central European descent.



Edinburg Mill, 2012



The Upper Valley

The Valley's southernmost counties of Botetourt, Rockbridge, and Augusta became the stronghold of the Scots-Irish. Those Presbyterian settlers descended from Lowland Scots who during the 17th century were used by British monarchs to colonize Northern Ireland. A century later, when their religious freedom was threatened by an intolerant Anglican Church, many Scots-Irish emigrated from Ireland to southeastern Pennsylvania. The enticement of affordable land next lured them deep into the Upper Valley of the Shenandoah, where their population soon became concentrated.

Quad and Barracks, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, 2012



For more information, call or write:

Artist:

Andrei Kushir, Plein Air Painter
info@andrekushnir.com
202.244.3244

VMHC:

Veronica Blanco, Exhibition Technician
vblanco@VirginiaHistory.org
804.342.9648

A. KUSHNIR

Henry Miller Farm, Augusta County, 2015