



Whether you have an hour or a day, Dayton is your destination!

Start at the Rocktown History Historic Dayton Welcome Center to learn more about the area from friendly greeters or through a self-guided tour of the museum. If you'd rather stretch your legs, consider picking up a Walking Tour brochure and exploring Dayton's history as you enjoy the charm of the historic district.

In downtown Dayton, just a few blocks from Rocktown History, you will find unique and locally-owned shops and restaurants. Cooks Creek Park, next to Rocktown History, is a pleasant picnic and play location. From the park, the entrance to the Greenway leads you to the scenic Silver Lake and Mill.

*Don't miss your photo op at the LOVEwork
next to the Rocktown History white barn!*



Dayton History Highlights

Fort Harrison:

Daniel Harrison (c. 1702-1770) came into the Shenandoah Valley from Delaware in 1737 with his entire family. After settling initially in what is now the northeastern part of Rockingham County, Harrison moved in 1745 to the area of Cooks Creek and established a distillery, a mill, and an ordinary (tavern). His stone house still stands on the rise above the creek.

Silver Lake & Mill

In 1822, John J. Rife, grandson of Daniel Rife, received *ad quod damnum* permission to build a dam to serve a mill. The ensuing creation of Silver Lake and Rife's gristmill and sawmill introduced 60 years of Brethren ownership of those properties and established a community around the lake. 200 years later, the lake and mill offer a postcard-worthy view of Mole Hill, bird watching, fishing, and ice skating.

Shenandoah University

Rev. A. P. Funkhouser, with the help of J. M. Fries, organized a primary school in 1875. From an initial enrollment of 20 students of various ages, the school became known as Shenandoah Institute in 1879 and then developed into the Shenandoah College and Conservatory of Music (now Shenandoah University). This institution influenced the life and growth of Dayton until 1960 when it moved to Winchester. College Street earned its name from the school and many of the buildings along this avenue served as part of the campus.