

The Muse

Amherst County Museum & Historical Society

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(434) 946-9068

Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

VOLUME 36, NUMBER 2

April 2011

****MEMBERS ONLY special event: ****

Sunday, April 17, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

GEDDES will be open for tour, the first opportunity to see this beautifully restored historic home in many years. It is one of the oldest structures left in Amherst County today.

Directions to Geddes: Rt. 29 north of Amherst; left on Rt. 151 through Clifford; right on Geddes Mountain Road (Rt. 662), left on Jefferson Trail (Rt. 700), about a mile and a half to the entrance gate. The house is visible from the road.

New members are welcome that day! This is a great time to bring friends who can become members and see this special home. Please note: in the event of extreme inclement weather, event must be cancelled.

****PUBLIC special event: ****

Sunday, May 14, at 2:00 p.m.

On Saturday, **May 14**, the third Sunday programs return to the Museum, featuring a panel of **Batteau Adventurers**, among them, Bob Wimer and Ralph Smith. We welcome them to bring stories of life on the James River. The program begins at 2 p.m. and is **free and open to the public**.

****MEMBERS ONLY special event: ****

Sunday, June 19, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

SPEED THE PLOUGH — This beautiful and historic home is Greek Revival style, originally a three-story, six-room brick house built shortly after 1850. The bricks were made on the property, and it has a hipped roof, two chimneys, and six fireplaces. The rooms are two-over-two with a large central staircase hall.

Colonel Charles Ellis of Richmond bought this property in 1835. Jane Eastham married William Alexander Dearing of Rappahannock County, and Mr. Dearing bought the property in 1850 from Margaret Ellis, widow of Col. Ellis.

In 1925, Rowland Lea purchased the farm and added more acreage to it. The Girlings came to Speed the Plough in 1938 to manage the orchards. Their son and his wife live there now and operate the mansion house as a bed and breakfast.

Directions: Drive Rt. 130 W through Elon, turn right on Ambrose Rucker Road (Route 653), sign on the right in less than a mile.

2011 Events

Sunday, April 17—Members event at *Geddes* from 2-4 p.m.*

Saturday, April 30—Amherst County 250th Birthday Festival at the High School

Saturday, May 14—Batteau Adventurers at the Museum at 2 p.m.

Sunday, June 19—Members event at *Speed the Plow* from 2-4*

***In the event of heavy rain, house tours will be cancelled or postponed**

Thank You!

Patrons

*Mr. and Mrs. Preston Hundley, Jr., VA
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Donors

*Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burks, VA
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*Mike Clarke, VA
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...And especially for the Annex Fund

*Amherst Farm Bureau
El Mariachi Restaurant*

Additional donations:

Martha Stimpson, VA

Welcome New Members!

*David & Nancy Blackwell Marion, VA
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Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Coleman, VA
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Sonny & Angela Sundaramurthy & family, VA
Penny Swisher, VA
Mr. & Mrs. John Turner, VA
Marie Wilkerson, VA
Yolan Williams & Edward Wright, VA*

Thank you to Sandi Esposito, History Tech!

We had a full house for our Sunday, February 20, program, and everyone enjoyed the presentation made by Sandi Esposito of History Tech, LLC. This provided a wonderful opportunity for interested people to see the results of the survey of Amherst County's historic resources.

Thank you to our Volunteers!

The following volunteers have assisted at the Museum (on site) working on library projects, providing back-up support for the director and more!

<i>Jackie Beidler</i>	<i>Helen Lewis</i>
<i>Roger Beidler</i>	<i>Susan Mays</i>
<i>Mary Brugh</i>	<i>Kathryn Pixley</i>
<i>Midge Elliott</i>	<i>Alice Powell</i>
<i>Jerry Elliott</i>	<i>Tom Wallace</i>
<i>Judy Faris</i>	<i>Mary Wilhelm</i>
<i>Bill Hathaway</i>	

Thank You to The William Cage Library Trust

For their grant to our research library

The William Cage Library Trust has given the Museum a grant of \$350 for library resources. This allows us to purchase many items that would not normally be possible. We have used this grant for purchase of reference books, and more recently, DVDs and microfilm. The Amherst County indexes to the Agricultural Censuses for 1870 and 1880 were made possible by the purchase of microfilm from the National Archives. These indexes are now on the Museum's website.

New in the Library

- *Hill-Woody House: Historic Structures Investigation Report, Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest Restoration Field School, 2008*
- *Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia, 1763-1800, compiled by William Montgomery Sweeny*
- *Bedford Virginia Cemeteries, 2 volumes plus separate index, 2009*
- *Bedford County Mill Book, Volume II, 2009 (yes, we already have Volume I)*
- *Amherst County Highway maps, 1932-2005, on CD*

About the Old Stage Road Map: Several in the audience were interested in the Old Stage Road mentioned by Sandi in her presentation. There is a copy of this in the research library, hanging on the door in front of the Director's desk. To make a photocopy, use the master in the pocket on the back of the map. There are ten pages to copy for the full map; at fifteen cents a page, this is \$1.50 to make a complete copy of the map.

Stories of Geddes

Architecturally, Geddes is an example of typical piedmont Virginia when it was first built about 1762 for Hugh Rose, the third son of Rev. Robert Rose who patented lands in Amherst County in the 1740s. Hugh Rose serviced as a militia colonel for Amherst County and also represented the county in Virginia's General Assembly during the American Revolution. A passage and two west rooms were added in the early nineteenth century.



In January of 1961, Joan Withers Ambler began research in the Alderman Library at the University of Virginia. In her notes is recorded the following from page 261 of volume 4, *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson* [on Thursday, January 11, 1781, Jefferson wrote]:

“I now sent off my family, to secure them from danger and was myself still at Monticello, making arrangements for my own departure, when St. Christoph. Hudson arrived there at half speed and informed me the enemy were ascending the hill of Monticello. I departed immediately, and knowing that I should be pursued if I followed the public road, in which too my family would be found, I took my course thru the woods along the mountains and overtook my family at Col. Cole's, dined there, and harried them on to Rockfish after dinner, and the next day to Col. Hugh Rose's in Amherst. I left them there on the 7th and returned to Monticello. Tarleton had retired after 18 hours stay in Charlottesville. I then rejoined my family at Col. Rose's and proceeded with them to Poplar Forest in Bedford 80 miles s.w. from Monticello.”

Today, the story of Jefferson's escape from the British to Poplar Forest by way of Geddes, the

home of Hugh Rose near New Glasgow (now Clifford) is still often repeated in Amherst County.

Hugh Rose also served as a vestryman for Lexington Parish, and in May, 1786, he and Roderick McCulloch (of the Pedlar church) represented Amherst County in the second convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Virginia; Amherst was not represented at the first convention.

In May, 1808, Hugh Rose's niece, Jane Marie, married Sterling Clairborne and in 1809, Clairborne acquired Geddes from Gustavus Rose. Jane and Sterling's three children were all born at Geddes: William Sterling (b. 1809), Charles Buller (b. 1811) and Martha Ann (b. 1813). Charles Buller Clairborne raised his family at Geddes. His son George Mason Clairborne has a daughter Nannie Mason Clairborne Hudson whose daughter, Mrs. R.W. Adams, was the last of the Clairbornes to be born at Geddes.



Geddes played a significant part of New Glasgow's social life, hosting the first jousting tournament in its section of Amherst County. In 1961, Fannie Clairborne wrote that the family had musical talents and many dances were held at Geddes. At left is one of Jane Clairborne Calkins' dresses donated to the Museum in 1994.

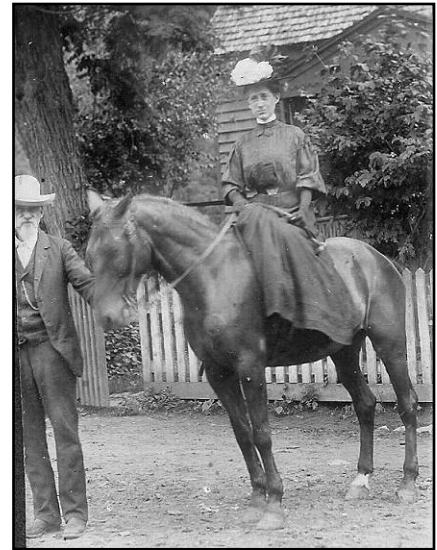
In the Clifford 1961 scrapbook, Fannie Clairborne compiled a short series of photographs taken at Geddes. (See next page.)



Left: "Starting to Mr. Payne's in Bobbie Hylton's wagon"

Above: Bill Claiborne, Jim Redd, and Sallie in hat behind horse at right. "Ora" is in the buggie

Below left: Sallie Claiborne with her car



Above right: Captain Robert Eubank and his daughter Rose. Fannie refers to her uncle Bob Eubank when she talks about the first jousting tournament at Geddes which was also the first one in the community. *Although the document is signed "Fannie W. Claiborne" and refers to "my Uncle Bob Eubank," Kitty Swanson states that Bob Eubank was actually her grandfather.*

Left: Tom Massie and his son James at a cabin on Geddes Farm.

Photos from Scrapbook of Home Demonstration Club, Clifford, VA, 1961, located in the Museum's archives.



AAFCE Donates Technology to Museum

The Amherst Association for Family and Community Education, Inc. (formerly Extension Homemakers) has donated a 32" LCD screen (shown above) and DVD player to the Museum. A past president Frances Butler recognized the need for this in 2010 as the Museum began showing more DVD programs of historical interest. Current president Gracie Johnson followed through on the suggestion and now the Museum is set for easier viewing of the oral history projects and other imaging projects for the public to see. Many, many thanks, AAFCE!



Above, museum director Holly Mills (left) receives the donation of a large LCD screen and DVD player from AAFCE representatives, Carolyn Crump, treasurer and on the right is Cordelia Greene, vice president for programs.

Treasures from the Frank Cash Collection



Above, Dorothy Kent Harvey reviews some of the digitized photographs from her uncle Frank Cash's collection. The March 20 event at the Museum provided opportunity for about thirty five to gather and help with some identifications of photographs from this collection. Of course, only a small percentage of the collection could be shown. With over 350 images, there's already been requests to have more showings with different pictures to do more identification!

Helping the Museum While You Shop Online!

The Museum can benefit from your online shopping without costing you anything! Start your shopping at www.shopformuseums.com and select "Amherst County Museum and Historical Society" to benefit. Registration is free.



The Perfect Gift!
The Town of Amherst: Celebrating 100 Years
Published by the Amherst County Museum and Historical Society
Available now in our Gift Shop



The Mission of the Amherst County Museum & Historical Society is to discover, collect and preserve objects related to the history and genealogy of Amherst County. The Museum & Historical Society shall exhibit, interpret and offer those collections to provide educational experiences for people of all ages.

Memberships are annual from September to September; for details, see www.amherstcountymuseum.org/membership.html

Special Contributions

Friend	\$25 to \$49
Donor	\$50 to \$99
Patron	\$100 to \$499
Sponsor	\$500 to \$999
Benefactor	\$1000 and up

If you would like your donation to go to a certain purpose, please check one of the funds at right.

Categories for Donations

Operating Fund	_____
Endowment Fund	_____
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Programs	_____
Technology Fund	_____
Annex Fund	_____
Library & Genealogy Resources	_____

Museum Calendar

Sunday, April 17, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. History and tour of the historic Clifford home, *Geddes*. This event is a special **Members Privilege** event. For directions to Geddes, see page 1.

Saturday, May 14, at 2 p.m. at the Museum. *Adventures on the River*; Bob Wimer, Ralph Smith and others share their batteau stories. **Open to the public.**

Sunday, June 19, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. History and tour of the historic Elon home, *Speed the Plow*. This event is a special **Members Privilege** event.

The Museum plans to have a special event on the third Sunday afternoon of each month during 2011. Programs at the Museum are open to the public; programs offsite are *members-only* events. Encourage your friends and family to join the Museum so they can enjoy all of these opportunities!



Saturday, April 30, starting at 11 a.m. at the Amherst County High School. Amherst County 250th Birthday Festival. **Public Program.**

Many organizations in Amherst County are celebrating this 250th birthday with regular and special events. To keep up with these programs, monitor the Museum's Sesquicentennial Events page at:

www.amherstcountymuseum.org/county250events.html

Pieces of the Past

April 18, 1903: Senator Halsey secured the passage of his amendment to the dog law, designed to protect fine dogs in cities by listing them as personal property. His bill allowing Lynchburg to secure right of way through Amherst county for a gravity system of water supply, to cost \$700,000, was also passed. *Alexandria Gazette, April 18, 1903.*

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Amherst County Museum & Historical Society

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