

# 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.

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### ANNUAL MEETING

**Saturday, September 10 at 11:30 a.m.**

The Amherst County Museum and Historical Society will have its Annual Meeting at Winton on Saturday, September 10 at 11:30 a.m. This is a great opportunity to hear about what the Museum has been doing this past year and some of our future plans.

Our guest speaker will be Mr. Patrick Schroeder, Historian at Appomattox National Park. He has written extensively about Civil War topics and will be portraying George Peers who was Appomattox County clerk in April of 1865. There are more details about Mr. Schroeder and his program on page 3 of this newsletter.

Luncheon menu: garden salad, chicken casserole, ham biscuit, red skin potatoes, broccoli with cheese sauce and a dessert choice of chocolate pie, coconut pie or lemon pie.

The luncheon will be provided by Winton Country Club and is \$15. To reserve your meal, please send your check to the Amherst County Museum, P.O. Box 741, Amherst, VA 24521. **Payment must be received by Friday, September 2, to guarantee your reservation.**

**Sunday, August 21, at 2:00 p.m.**

The Museum, Amherst Glebe Arts Response (AGAR) and the Clifford Ruritan Center (CRC) will present a free program open to the public about Clifford School. "Old" Clifford School was built in the late 19th century when public school came to Amherst County. The "new" Clifford School (now CRC at 755 Fletchers Level Rd.) replaced it in 1937 and closed in 1969-70. AGAR will show a film of oral histories with CS former teachers, students and staff. Former Students Frances Butler, Louise Cash, Alice Powell, Kitty Swanson, Morris Thomas and others will answer questions, and lead a tour. AGAR's *Three Amherst Schools* DVD is available at the Museum gift shop.

**Sunday, September 18 at 2:00 p.m.**

Join us at the Museum for a lecture on Amherst County's first courthouse community. Presented by Rosemary Dunn, this is a delightful and well researched program of appeal to all who have an interest in the old Amherst County in its days before Nelson County became a separate county. Rosemary Dunn has done extensive study and writing about early Amherst County and one of her articles can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.

This program is free and open to the public.

### 2011 Events

**Sunday, August 21 at the Clifford Ruritan Club, 2 p.m.**

**Saturday, September 10 at Winton Country Club, Annual Meeting at 11:30 a.m.**

**Sunday, September 18 at the Museum, 2 p.m.**



***Thank you, Bill & Claudia Tucker and  
Volunteers***

*At left:* Museum board members Tom Wallace and Bonnie Limbrick take a few moments to visit with hostess Claudia Tucker (at right) during the open house tour at *Forest Hill* in Temperance. Other volunteers included board members Kathryn Pixley and Bill McClenny and program chairman Judy Faris. Hosts Bill and Claudia Tucker provided lemonade and cookies and were generous with sharing their home's history and beautiful views.

***Thank You!***

***Benefactors***

*Will & Susan Mays  
Holcomb & Florence Nixon*

***Patrons***

*Jean Love Albert  
The Village Garden Club  
Margaret Cooper  
Barbara Hamble: memorial for Charles Hamble*

***Donors***

*Larry and Brenda Langhans*

***Friends***

*William Kramer*

***Welcome New Members!***

*Kathy Bedsworth, VA  
Mae Blanks, VA  
Sandi Castellanos, VA  
Emily Dieter, IN  
Mickie Freeman, VA  
Dr. and Mrs. T.C. Engelder, VA  
Susan Neall Murnane, MD  
Rev. and Mrs. Jeff Porter, VA  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Reed, VA  
Jean Springer, VA  
Glenn Stone, MO*

***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!*

*Ellen Craig  
Betty Elliott  
Midge Elliott  
Bill Hathaway  
Kathryn Pixley  
Tom Wallace*

*Mary Wilhelm  
Sharon Williamson  
Lyl Wray*

***Teen Volunteer***  
*Emily Craig*

***Thank you to our hosts at our June program at Speed the Plough!***—Hosts Rowland and Lorri Girling, program chairman Judy Faris, volunteers Jean Camm, Mickie Freeman and Marita Taylor, board volunteers included Cynthia Hicks, Bonnie Limbrick, Susan Mays, Holcomb Nixon, Kathryn Pixley and Tom Wallace. Special thanks to the Pedlar Valley Garden Club for their lovely floral arrangements!

*Below:* The Virginia Civil War HistoryMobile visited Amherst County the week following its Manassas debut. 1,148 visitors toured the traveling museum during its July 27-29 visit. Many thanks to our local volunteers for their time and hospitality—Mike Esposito and Fred Loving, event coordinators; Sharon and Ted Crockett, Pete Cunningham, Linda Drewry, Sandi Esposito, Brenda Langhans, Laurie and Michael Lenz, Steve Martin, Kathryn Pixley, Howard Puckett and Celia Richeson.



*Amherst County, Virginia ... 250 Years ... 1761-2011*  
*A Tale of Two Towns in Early Amherst County*  
*by Rosemary Dunne*

Since the first Amherst County Courthouse, with construction begun in 1761, was located in an area no longer a part of Amherst County after the courts moved to a location we know now as the Town of Amherst, oral traditions sometimes carry more legends than facts. However, information obtained directly from documents contemporary to early people, places, and events is as accurate today as it was on the day it was written.

Amherst County held two villages in its early years with names confusing because of their similarity. In 1785 The Virginia General Assembly in session in Richmond enacted a law changing the name of an area owned by Smythe Tandy “lying at the place called and known by the name of New Glasgow” to establish a “town by the name of Cabellsburg.” It is thought the new name was given to honor a distinguished, well-loved resident of the area, Joseph Cabell, whose home there called Winton was the favorite of the three dwellings he built for his family. Trustees for the new town were Hugh Rose, Gabriel Penn, Samuel Meredith, John Wyatt, Charles Rose, and Samuel Jordan Cabell. They, or a majority of their number, were to lay out the fifty acres devoted to the town’s streets and lots of one half acre each, then sell the lots at public auction. Purchasers were required to build a dwelling house at least 16 feet square with a brick or stone chimney, fit for habitation within three years.

However, on January 19, 1803, the General Assembly passed a new law affecting twenty eight lots laid off by David S. Garland “at a place called New Glasgow in the county of Amherst,” where there would “be established a town by the name of New Glasgow.” Trustees for the new New Glasgow were Samuel Meredith, William S. Crawford, James Franklin, Joseph Burrus, Joel Franklin, Robert Walker, William Moss, Spotswood Garland and Robert Coleman. Freeholders and inhabitants of the town were “hereby bound to keep the streets thereof in good repair, and in consideration

thereof shall be exempt from working on any public road or highway.”

Another town was formed by the General Assembly on that same day in 1803. “And be it further enacted, that twenty-five acres of land, the property of Samuel J. Cabell, at the courthouse in the county of Amherst, so soon as the same shall be laid off into lots with convenient streets, shall be established a town by the name of Cabellsville.”

Samuel Jordan Cabell was the son of William Cabell, the first chief magistrate for old Amherst County, and a nephew of Joseph Cabell, builder of Winton. Trustees for Cabellsville, the new town at the Amherst Courthouse were William Cabell, Robert Rives, Landon Cabell, James Dillard, John Dillard, Charles Watts and John Thompson. Purchasers of lots were ordered to build their dwellings equal to twelve feet square, with a brick or stone chimney.

Thanks to the wisdom of the General Assembly and its petitioners for the new towns, confusion should have been averted, but some residents of Cabellsville still liked the old name and kept using it. Later, when the railroad established a station for New Glasgow and a mail drop some distance away from the town holding the old Cabell and Garland mansions, the village was given the name *Clifford* — a name it still carries. One legend says local citizens put their selections on pieces of paper and tossed them into a hat from which Valerius McGinnis pulled out the name Clifford.

Cabellsville declined after Amherst’s courts moved away a few years after its formation. The little village there became today’s Colleen, a name old timers say was chosen by its postmaster.

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Rosemary Dunne will be presenting her research about the first Amherst County courthouse and nearby community at our September “Third Sundays” program on **Sunday, September 18, at 2 p.m. at the Amherst County Museum.** The program is free and open to the public.



## *For Our Annual Meeting—*

### *Patrick A. Schroeder Civil War Author/Historian*

Journey back in time with the former sheriff and county clerk of Appomattox Court House, Virginia, George T. Peers, in a visit to old Appomattox. Attendees will experience a first-person, living history program taking their imaginations to Appomattox Court House in the summer of 1867 with Mr. Peers, who was born and raised in the county. He perhaps knew more than anyone about the area from his clerking duties, and he became known as the “Ambassador of Appomattox” as he liked to show visitors and curiosity seekers the sites and tell of the events connected with the surrender.

Mr. Peers will tell some of the early history of Appomattox County, about some of its famous citizens, and the war years leading up to that fateful April 9, 1865, when General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia at the tiny hamlet of Appomattox Court House. Peers will give a recount of the arrival of the armies, the battles in and around the village on April 8 and 9, of Wilmer McLean and his house where the surrender took place, the surrender meeting between Lee and Grant, Grant and Lee’s meeting outside of his house on April 10, his visits with General Joshua Chamberlain and the surrender ceremony, and his thoughts about post-surrender Appomattox. Peers’ narration about the trying days of April 1865 as the towns people were surrounded by nearly 100,000 soldiers, North and South, will take you back to a time when the future of the country was in the hands of two men, and the generosity and respect from Americans to Americans at the end of the nations’ bloodiest conflict will speak volumes of the power of Appomattox. George Peers is portrayed by veteran, living history interpreter and Appomattox Court House National Historical Park Historian, Patrick Schroeder. The program will last approximately one hour.

Schroeder was born January 1, 1968, at Fort Belvoir, VA. Patrick attended Stuarts Draft High School in Augusta County, VA. In the spring of 1990, he graduated *Cum Laude* with a B.S. in Historical Park Administration from Shepherd College, Shepherdstown, WV. He has a M.A. in Civil War History from Virginia Tech. From the summer of 1986-1993, Patrick worked as a seasonal living history interpreter at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. In 1993, he wrote *Thirty Myths About Lee’s Surrender*, which is currently in its twelfth printing. From 1994–1999, he was employed at Red Hill, the Patrick Henry National Memorial. Patrick has written, edited and/or contributed to more than twenty Civil War titles including: *More Myths About Lee’s Surrender*, *The Confederate Cemetery at Appomattox*, *Recollections and Reminiscences of Old Appomattox*, *Tar Heels*, *Civil War Soldier Life: In Camp and Battle*, *A Duryee Zouave*, *We Came To Fight: A History of the 5th NY Veteran Vol. Inf.*, *Duryee’s Zouaves*, *Campaigns of the 146th Regiment New York State Volunteers*, *Pennsylvania Bucktails*, *The Bloody 85<sup>th</sup>*, and *The Life of General Ely S. Parker: Least Grand Sachem of the Iroquois and Grant’s Military Secretary*. Patrick resides in Lynchburg, VA. Patrick has worked as an independent researcher, historian, and author. He has been the Historian at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park since 2002. In an effort to protect sites relevant to the Appomattox Campaign, Patrick has set up the “Appomattox Fund” with the Civil War Preservation Trust, to save land important to the climatic events of April 1865.

**The Annual Meeting will be held at Winton on Saturday, September 10, at 11:30 a.m. The luncheon is \$15 and payment must be received by September 2 in order to have your meal reserved. Send check to the Amherst County Museum, P.O. Box 741, Amherst, VA 24521.**

## It's time to Renew Your Membership!

All memberships are annual beginning in September of each year. The Museum is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. Dues are tax deductible.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Category

Regular (Individual)	\$20.00	_____
Regular (Household)	\$25.00	_____
Senior 55+ (Individual)	\$15.00	_____
Senior (Household)	\$20.00	_____
Student	\$10.00	_____
Business	\$100.00	_____

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to receive the newsletter by email** \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this membership form to:  
Amherst County Museum,  
P.O. Box 741,  
Amherst, VA 24521

Make checks payable to: **Amherst County Museum**

### Notes about mailings...

The post office is making changes in bulk mailing procedures, some of which are still in flux and will probably affect how we send out the newsletter. If the cost of mailing increases, the Museum can reduce some postage costs by emailing newsletters to those who would like to receive it electronically. Please note that the renewal form above has a place for you to check if you would like to receive your newsletter by email in the future. — **Thank you!**

### Seeking Genealogy Stories

Blue Ridge Country magazine is working on a story for the November/December issue and looking for genealogy stories – amazing discoveries made by folks researching their families. A fascinating story or connection no one knew, or a mystery finally solved, famous or notorious roots or otherwise fascinating finds that were meaningful to them and to their relatives. Know of someone? Contact Cara Ellen Modisett, Editor at Large, Blue Ridge Country magazine at [cmodisett@leisurepublishing.com](mailto:cmodisett@leisurepublishing.com).



### 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.

### Special Contributions

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

### Categories for Donations

Operating Fund	_____
Endowment Fund	_____
Annex Fund	_____

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

## Museum Calendar

**Sunday, August 21**, at Clifford Ruritan Club, 2 p.m. -program about the old Clifford School. Free and open to the public

**Saturday, September 10**, at 11:30 a.m. Annual Meeting at the Winton Country Club. \$15 for luncheon must be received at the Museum by **September 2**. (Museum closed on September 3)

**Sunday, September 21**, program at the Amherst County Museum at 2 p.m. Free and open to the public. Speaker Rosemary Dunne will discuss the first Amherst County courthouse community.

**Sunday, October, 23**, 2 p.m. History and tour at Ft. Riverview

**Saturday, November 19**, Fundraiser for Annex improvements

**Sunday, November 20**, 2 p.m. History and tour at the Monacan Museum



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 Sesquibicentennial Events page at:

[www.amherstcountymuseum.org/county250events.html](http://www.amherstcountymuseum.org/county250events.html)

The Museum now has a **FaceBook** group. See our homepage at [www.amherstcountymuseum.org](http://www.amherstcountymuseum.org) for how to join!

### *Pieces of the Past*

**August 15, 1909** Dr. T. T. Hatcher of Richmond preached the dedication sermon for Emmanuel Baptist Church, Sandidges.

The **August 6, 1886**, edition of the *Shenandoah Herald* reported that Mr. William Buckley recently had an Amherst County amethyst cut and mounted in New York. In its rough state it was nearly an inch square.

Executive Board:  
Leona Wilkins, President  
Bonnie Limbrick, Vice President  
Kathryn Pixley, Secretary  
Tom Wallace, Treasurer  
Grady Davis  
Cynthia Hicks  
Bill McCleenny  
Holcomb Nixon  
Mary Frances Olinger  
Holly Mills, Director

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**Amherst County Museum & Historical Society**

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