

# The Muse

## Amherst County Museum & Historical Society

staff@amherstcountymuseum.org

www.amherstcountymuseum.org

(434) 946-9068

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

VOLUME 37, NUMBER 4

August 2012

### *Annual Meeting 2012*

Our Annual Membership Meeting will be at Winton Country Club on Saturday, September 22, 2012, and YOU ARE INVITED! A short business meeting starts at 11:15 a.m. and will be followed by buffet lunch. Please call the Museum to make your reservations by Friday, September 14; mail your check made to Amherst County Museum to P.O. Box 741, Amherst, VA 24521

The cost of the buffet is \$15.25, and the wine will be available for purchase. The menu is tossed salad, chicken casserole, ham biscuits, red potatoes, green beans, rolls, and pie.

This year the meeting's featured guest will be Edgar Allan Poe, as portrayed by Mr. Keith Kaufelt of the Poe Museum in Richmond. Poe was born in 1809 and orphaned young. His foster father, John Allan, and Allan's partner, Charles Ellis, were Richmond businessmen. Red Hill in Pedlar Mills, was an Ellis home and Poe was known to have visited there as a youth. John Allan would later inherit Galt's Mill on the James River in 1825, making both of these Amherst County Historic Register properties associated with Poe.

### *Cemetery Tour*

On Sunday afternoon, October 21, starting at 2:00, you are invited to our first **Cemetery Tour**. It will start at the Christian Aid Cemetery (across from Brockman Subaru on S. Main Street, Amherst), and then move to Amherst Cemetery (N. Main Street). This event is open to the public and there is no charge.

Some of Amherst's more interesting characters will be portrayed by students from Amherst County High School, and there will be guides to tell you more! Family names like Jordan, Rose, Higginbotham, Campbell, Strode, Voorhies, Dearborn, and more will interest you, so come to learn about our county.

In case of rain, the event will be canceled.

### *Civil War Music*

On Sunday, November 4 at 2:00, Amherst Glebe Arts Response and the Museum will sponsor a program of Civil War music and readings at the Museum. Robert Maxham and company will present a program using period instruments and songs. Actual letters from the time will be read, and it is hoped part of the program can be outside (weather permitting) around a campfire. Come for a unique presentation.

The program is free but seating is limited, so reservations will be required

**Saturday, September 22 - Annual Meeting at Winton (at 11:15 a.m.; luncheon is \$15.25)**

**Sunday afternoon, October 21 - Cemetery Tour (Free; reservations required)**

**Sunday afternoon, November 4 - Civil War Music & Readings (Free; reservations required)**

**Tuesday, November 6 - Election Day Cake Event (Donations appreciated)**

**Saturday evening, November 10 - Holiday Gala (Ticketed event)**

## **Thank you!**

### **Benefactors**

Mrs. Marguerite Singleton, VA  
Mr. and Mrs. Holcomb Nixon, VA  
Town of Amherst, VA

### **Donors**

Mr. and Mrs. Ned Kable, VA  
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Tinsley, VA

### **Friends**

Mr. Bill Kramer, VA  
Mrs. Martha Ware Welch, VA

Have you renewed your membership yet? This is the time to do it! If you haven't received your renewal notice, please call (434) 946-9068 or email [staff@amherstcountymuseum.org](mailto:staff@amherstcountymuseum.org) to let us know.

Tuesday, November 6, is Election Day. The Museum's Election Day Cake Event is one of our big fundraisers and this coming year we have many improvements and repairs to make for the Hamble Center and also the Kearfott-Wood House. If you would like to make a difference and volunteer some time or donate a winner's cake, call the Museum and let us know.



*Sheila Pleasants was one of our cake winners in 2009.*

### **New Officers on the Museum Board**

Our new officers serving for July 2012 through June 2014 are:

- President: Bonnie Limbrick, who has served as Board Vice President for the last two years. Bonnie is a hard worker and has chaired the Fundraising Committee, spearheading the new (now annual) Holiday Gala.
- Vice President: Jose Davila, who has been instrumental in overseeing much of the work on the Hamble Center since coming on the board last year. He's done a fair amount of it himself!
- Secretary: Kathryn Pixley, who is also a tireless worker. She's been very much involved with programs, newsletters, and much, much more.
- Treasurer: Tom Wallace will continue to serve as Treasurer. When you get a good one, you keep him! He's worked hard to maximize the Museum's financial resources and it shows.

Ignacia Casorzo-Covington (center) was born in Chile and lives in Amherst Co. with husband Joey Covington (at left) and children Jose and Elijah (front row). Her mother, Mercedes Gutierrez (far right), is visiting from Chile for the summer. Jose and Elijah enjoyed trying on the eighteenth century style hats and vests, completing their look with their hobby horses. They persuaded their parents and grandmother to don caps and hats for this photo. Welcome to Amherst, Mercedes!



### **Progress on the Museum's Hamble Center**

On page 5 you can read about more goings-on in the Hamble Center. There's still more work to be done, but that doesn't stop our students from taking already advantage of this center. This year we are looking to install a hard surface approach to the Center. Future plans include a heating and air conditioning system and a kitchen. With your help, we can make this a wonderful meeting place!

### **New in the Collections**

Pleasant Vistas Garden Club, 43 years of records in five scrapbooks, primarily in the Allwood community. Donated by Roberta Peters, the last president of the club



Sword and scabbard, Mason's regalia, belonged to Perry R. Ramsey, Sr., donated by grandson, Jeffrey L. Adams (donation facilitated by his mother, Anne Adams)



**In the research library:** Jennings family genealogical information, notebook compiled by Logan Jennings; blue binder of 653 pages with index; includes DVD with photos

## *August in Amherst County — Many years ago*

*From our local newspapers*

*Preface: Mr. C.J. Campbell served Amherst County in a number of capacities—lawyer, judge, owner of the newspaper **The New Era**, organizer of the County Fair, and all-around politician. O.L. Evans also practiced law and later served the Town of Amherst as mayor. The community of Dearborn was where the railway depot was located and briefly had its own post office. The Mountain View school was located near where the Amherst Food Lion parking lot is located today. Narseal was a community near Indian Creek.*

From the Friday, August 26, 1921, edition of the **Amherst Progress**

Mr. Estes Hunt is building a new house on the macadam road just opposite the one that was burned last year. Better luck, Mr. Hunt!

An informal but delightful dance was recently given at “Wildwood,” the home of Mr. and Mrs. P.P. Garland, at Amherst which was well attended and enjoyed by the young folks.

The revival meeting at Ebenezer begins the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in September.

Judge C.J. Campbell was quite sick last week. He got better middle of week, when he and Mrs. Campbell, with little Sarah Virginia left on a boat trip as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. O.A. Danzenbaker, on Mr. Danzenbaker’s yacht down the Potomac where they enjoyed bathing, fishing and a delightful time, Friday, Saturday and Sunday of last week.

The Board of Supervisors at Amherst County will, at a meeting to be held at the Courthouse on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of September 1921, consider the matter of making appropriations for a public School Nurse, a Farm Demonstrator, and a Home Demonstrator for the next year. All citizens interested are invited to be present and express the views. – W.B. Moore, Chairman

Miss Louisa D. Hubbard, who was the weekend guest of friends here, returned Tuesday to her home at Forest. During her stay in Amherst, she was much entertained and nearly every moment of her time had someplace on the social calendar. Among those entertaining Miss Hubbard were Miss Marion Dearborn, Miss Corrinne Watts, Mrs. W.E. Sandidge and Miss Margaret Voorheis, who gave a luncheon and party Monday morning in compliment to Miss Hubbard, Miss Jennie Seay and Miss Louise Cabell.

A few days ago while alighting from a buggy at the residence of O.L. Evans, Miss Mary Whitehead fell and fractured her knee cap. Her injuries are not considered serious, but she will be confined to the house for several weeks. She is now at her home, “Mountain View.”

The County Sunday School Convention at Sardis, Friday 26<sup>th</sup>, promises to be the best held in years. All the pastors and superintendents are expected to be present.

The Sunday School picnic of the Amherst Sunday Schools on Tuesday at the Fair Grounds was a great success. All the schools were represented. The superintendents were all there and so were the Pastors.

Auction Sale: At “Ravenscroft”, Amherst, Va. Saturday, Aug 27, 3 p.m., selling Household furniture, including a Piano; 3 Horses; a Cow; Buggy; Wagon; Saddles; Harness; Farming implements; a lot of Vinegar and Barrels and various other personal effects. Terms Cash, up to and under \$10; notes at 90 days with approved security accepted for larger amounts. – O.L. Evans

Judge C.J. Campbell will not permit his two daughters, Miss Annie Campbell and Mrs. Bland McCreary, to ride in ladies Riding Class at the coming Fair, as he desires to encourage the younger set of girls in the ladies Riding Class, so all girls who can equip themselves with a good riding horse and outfit get ready and enter this class. Miss Annie Campbell took first prize in the class for five successive County Fairs, and Miss Bland took 2nd prize, then they swapped horses and Miss Bland took first prize for five successive Fairs, and Miss Annie Campbell took second prize. Now their father, who is a member of the Board of Directors of the County Fair, has ruled them out of this contest so that the younger class of girls can come in and compete in this class of prizes. So let all girls prepare to get in this contest on the 2nd day of County Fair. See catalogue of Amherst Co. Fair as to required ages, etc.

Mr. W. A. Baldock has about completed his electric light plant at Amherst, and he is to be congratulated on the good lights he is giving. Mr. Baldock carries a full line of electrical fixtures and is prepared to wire our house complete and furnish all accessories, at a moderate cost. Everybody wanted lights, and as we now have them, give Mr. Baldock your support in every way.

From the August 31, 1899, edition of the *New Era*

Allwood, VA, Aug. 29

Dear Era:

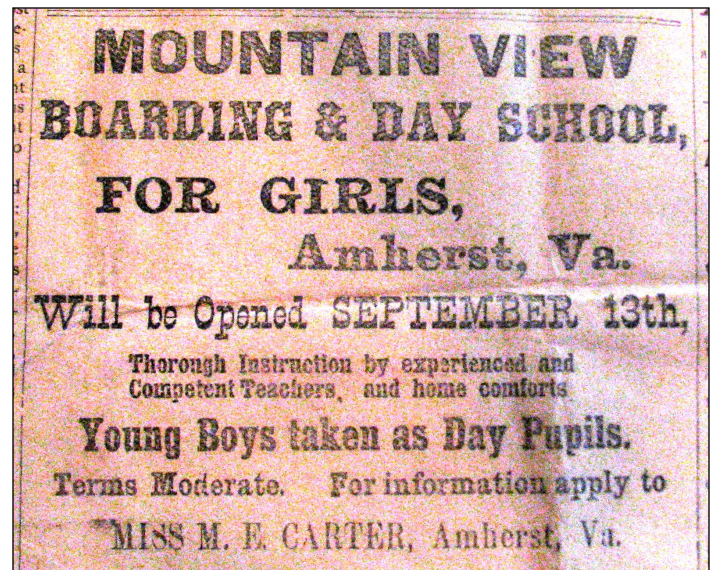
As our people have been so quiet for a while I have failed to put in my appearance. Please excuse me for Amherst people well know how hard it is for a bachelor to keep things to mind.

I think as politics are on such a boom now that we single folks should stroke while the iron is hot. Suppose we recommend a man for the Legislature that will use his influence to pass a law imposing a fine upon, I will not say who, for if I did I might be whitecapped. Sometimes when a I lose a button from my vest or need a tie fixed upon me I am almost persuaded to use the language expressed in reply to the old owl's "who."

Well as I write this I see a candidate in the act of bowing. No, it is not a candidate, but it is Hon. C.J. I know it is him for he is so polite. Mr. C. has been in so many campaigns with his grey pony that it almost bows to say "come this way" when meeting folks. I think when this pony falls by the wayside that Mr. C. should erect a monument over his remains and place the inscription thereon, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Dear readers, I am thankful to say that the people of Allwood have been blessed with a good revival of late. We rejoice to see some of our brightest young people come into the church, and others return to the fold of God.

I feel before I close this note that I should thank the good people of Allwood for their kindness and liberal patronage since I have been in their midst. Please accept my heartfelt thanks for same. Your patronage has been greatly appreciated and I hope I shall have the pleasure of seeing you again often after I move to Pleasant View. -- A New Comer



### *Good Walking*

At 5:30 on Friday morning, whilst the earth was still cool with the morning dews, ere old Sol has risen with his torrid rays, and the ...of air was the elixir of life, a young couple lithe of limb and fleet of foot, each perfect specimens of physical man and womanhood, left our town for an early mornings walk to Lynchburg, reaching there promptly at ten o'clock. The lady was Mrs. J.G. Holcomb, and gentleman Captain Thomas Voorheis. Mrs. Holcomb belongs to the Alpine Walking Club of the Pacific coast. She wore the regulation costume short dress, heavy boots and light cap and carried an Alpine stock, decorated with the colors of her club. Captain Voorheis wore knickerbrockers. Mrs. Holcomb paid several calls and did some shopping whilst Captain Voorheis lounged around as men usually do. They returned on the evening train to Amherst and walked from the Station to the village and 4:20, to the surprise and delight of their many friends, for there were many who doubted their ability to make the trip. They are both fine walkers. Capt. Voorheis has the military training of the V.M.I.

### *Narseal Items:*

Dear Era, I will write you a few lines hoping as this is my first attempt, that my letter will not find its way to the waste basket.

We have had a long dry spell and crops have suffered greatly but we are now having good showers of rain and farmers are rejoicing.

Messrs. JV, PM, and ES Ware and WS Gill have a very fair crop of Winter apples. Peaches very scarce indeed.

Mr TJ Gill and daughter of Roanoke are visiting relatives on Indian Creek, also Mrs. JW McCoy, nee Miss Maggie Gill and baby, of Roanoke are here.

Protracted meeting will begin at Ivy Hill next Monday night.

Mr. Camm Ware in Roanoke on Business. Politics running high, little Indian Creek will go almost solid for Dr. Ware. — Trixie




***The Museum’s Hamble Center is already making a difference in Amherst!***


The Museum’s Hamble has been popular with high school students this summer. In the June issue of the Muse we featured Lancer athletes moving the Maple Run batteau into the Hamble Center. In July and August, Lancer artists came to the Hamble Center to work on the downtown artwork project depicting many Amherst County characters to be displayed on Second Street’s Goodwin Building. The unveiling will be on Thursday, September 20, in downtown Amherst. Pictured above are the artists with some of the county’s local artists who are assisting with the project

The characters are listed below, with their artists:

- Robert Rose, *by Bryan Taylor.*
- Indiana Fletcher Williams and her daughter, Daisy, *by Sienna Barron.*
- Reuben Barnes Ware, MD, *by Sarah McCafferty.*
- [Arthur] Gates Ware, *by Ryan Mattox.*
- Queena Stovall, *by Lauren Huffman*
- Henry Myers, *by Taylyn Soult*
- Florence “Sis” Yancey, *Alison Tyler.*
- Eddie Rodwell and Willard Douglas, *by Zach Mays and Tiffany Foster*



Check out what’s new  
in the Museum’s 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](http://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 below.*

**Categories for Donations**

- Operating Fund \_\_\_\_\_
- Endowment Fund \_\_\_\_\_
- Building Fund \_\_\_\_\_

## Museum Events for this Fall

This year's Annual Meeting on **Saturday, September 22**, at 11:15 a.m., is a program you won't want to miss! Join us at Winton to meet Edgar Allan Poe. Luncheon reservations required, and the cost of the meal is \$15.25.

A cemetery tour is planned for **Sunday afternoon, October 21**. This tour will be at the Christian Aid Cemetery and the Amherst Cemetery. You'll hear stories that are old-time favorites and stories you hadn't heard before! Free and open to the public.

**Sunday afternoon, November 4, (note change of date)** the museum will host a program of Civil War music and readings co-sponsored by *Amherst Glebe Arts Response*. Free and open to the public.

**Tuesday, November 6**, is Election Day! The Museum will sponsor its traditional Election Day Cake Event so be sure to visit us when you go to vote. Your donation may win you a cake. Please let us know if you can help with this event.

A gala is planned for **Saturday evening, November 10**. If you attended last year's gala, you'll remember we all had a wonderful time and this fundraiser helped to bring in funds to do more work on the Hamble Center. We still have more to do for the Center, so be sure to watch for when the tickets go on sale. You won't want to miss it this year! Ticketed event.

And of course, we will have our annual Cookies and Cocoa before the Lions' Club Ray Puckett Christmas Parade on the first weekend in December. This is always lots of fun—cookies, cocoa and crafts for the whole family!

-----

**Executive Board:**  
Bonnie Limbrick, President  
Jose Davila, Vice President  
Kathryn Pixley, Secretary  
Tom Wallace, Treasurer  
Grady Davis  
Judy Farris  
Cynthia Hicks  
Bill McClenny  
Mary Frances Olinger  
Leona Wilkins  
Holly Mills, Director

Address Service Requested

Amherst, VA 24521  
PO Box 741

**Amherst County Museum & Historical Society**

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
AMHERST, VA  
PERMIT NO. 24