

The Muse

Amherst County Museum & Historical Society

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www.amherstcountymuseum.org

(434) 946-9068

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

VOLUME 34, NUMBER 6

December 2009

From the Director—

It's been a busy year, and we hope you have enjoyed the activities we have offered in 2009. Thanks to everyone who made them successful!

We had Winter lectures in January, February and March; Yard Sale in June; Antiques Day in July; Annual Meeting in September with guest Abigail Adams; Van Tour in October; Election Day Cake Event and Apple Tree Planting in November; and many children's programs on the second Saturday of each month.

Help us grow and present programs you enjoy. We love suggestions!

We received a grant from the Greater Lynchburg Community Trust for new outdoor exhibit signage which will be installed this spring. We have replaced much of our older hardware and software on the computer to help keep the Museum more efficient. A community summer employment program provided us with a high school student who processed the Cash glass negative collection (about 400 slides from 1900-1915). We have begun working with the town of Amherst centennial, the county sesqui-bicentennial, and the Civil War sesquicentennial, and the many meetings that go with them.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all! — *Holly Mills, Director*

Winter Programs Coming Up!

Your museum has some exciting activities in the works to fill those winter days when your spirits may need a lift! Plans are still being made. See our website www.amherstcountymuseum.org and watch the newspaper for specific times and dates. Invite a friend and come join us for a cup of coffee and good fellowship.

- A opportunity to learn more about the county's historic resources, ask questions and hear answers as to what it's all about! See more on page 4 of this newsletter
- A panel discussion about the last one hundred years of the Town of Amherst—a great opportunity to prepare for the town's centennial next year!

Be sure to watch our website and local newspapers for details as the times and places are scheduled.

Coming in April!

The Museum's new book about the first hundred years of the town of Amherst!

This book will have many pictures and history at an affordable price and is scheduled for release in April for the town's centennial. You will want to put your name on the list to have one reserved for you! Call the Museum at 946-9068.

Coming Up!

Saturday, December 12, Bookfair at Barnes and Noble (see page 5)

Watch for details for our Winter Programs Series!

New in the Library

- *Pittsylvania County Virginia Inventories & Accounts Current, 1770-1797*, compiled by Lucille C. Payne.
- *The Marriage License Bonds of Lancaster County, Virginia from 1701 to 1848*, by Stratton Hottingham, published by Clearfield, 2002 (originally published 1927).
- *Virginia: A Commonwealth Comes of Age*, an illustrated history by Lisa Antonelli Bacon, American Historical Press, 2004.



At left, the frontispiece from the Monelison Volunteer Fire Department's fiftieth Anniversary keepsake edition, presented to the County and placed in the Amherst County Museum's archives.



Dianne Gardner of West Virginia visited the Museum before the Fall Van Tour of Coffeytown. Here she displays her newly published book about Coffeytown families.



Election Day Cake Event

At left, Sheila Pleasants shows off the cake she won at our Election Day Cake Event! Thank you to everyone who supported the Museum on Election Day! This event raised over \$800 for the Museum. Some of our other winners were George Wingfield, Joan Wayne-Horsley and Brenda Bryant.

Amherst County Apple Expert Tom Burford visits the Museum

Tom Burford, well-known apple expert, came to the Museum on Saturday, November 21, to speak to us about the Amherst County heritage apple. The Ralls apple dates back to the 1790s in Amherst County. We planted a Ralls apple tree by the schoolhouse.



Kids' Corner

Christmas is coming to the Museum and the children have been quick to find it! At left, children decorated their tree with hand made ornaments and strings of popcorn. Some candy-filled ornaments were taken home but some have been left on the tree as a gift for those who will not have their own candy tree. At right, more children take a moment to visit with Lisa of WAMV radio, before she begins broadcasting the Lions Club Christmas Parade from the Museum. Behind them you can see the Museum tree with angel tree gifts donated by the Amherst Woman's Club. Thank you, **Food Lion** and **WalMart** for your support for the Cookies and Cocoa party!



The Census is Coming! The Census is Coming!

By Midge Elliott

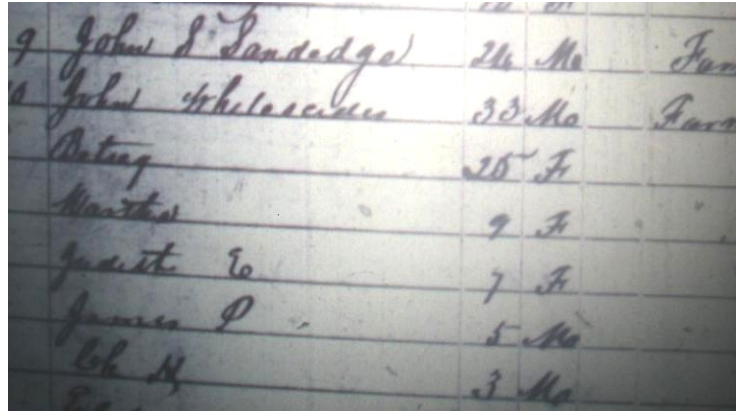
Next year, 2010, is a census year for the US. The government is already gearing up to take on this massive project that started almost two hundred and twenty years ago. Over the decades census records have played a major factor in genealogy research and are one of the first records many turn to when they start to trace their family tree.

The Amherst Museum and Historical Society has many census research materials available. They include printed indexes, indexes on CD and images on microfilm. We are also in the process of adding and indexing agricultural census records.

The earliest available federal census is 1790 and the most current available year is 1930. The records for the 1890 census year were about ninety percent destroyed by fire in 1921, making it the only census year that is absent. By law census records must be 72 years old before they can be released to the public. The next release will be the 1940 census in the year 2012. From 1790 through 1840 only the heads of the households were enumerated by name. The remainder of the household was broken down by sex and age groupings.

Beginning in 1850 all members of the household were enumerated, but it wasn't until 1880 that their relationship to the head of the household was added.

The 1850 census year also saw the addition of questions that were required to be asked of the household members. Although some of the questions asked over the decades remained pretty much the same, others changed from census year to census year.



From the Amherst County Census, 1850; note that names and ages of all the members of a household were being included in 1850.

Some of the questions asked over various census years were: where they were born, immigration information, where their parents were born, how long a couple had been married and even how many children a woman had had and how many were still living. All these questions add up to a wealth of family information that makes the census records a valuable tool in genealogy research. (Below, 1880 census)



At left, a portion of a sample form used for the 1860 census, Note that names, ages and occupations are listed, but relationships would not be recorded until 1880.

The Muse, December 2009
Page 3

SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in
State of _____ enumerated by me, on the _____
Post Office _____

Dwelling Houses— numbered in the order of visitation.	Families numbered in the order of visitation.	The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.
			Age.	Sex.	Color, Race, or Ethnicity.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Query:

Do You Know These Men?

Not too long ago, I went through a box of photos that belonged to my great-great grandmother. She was originally from Bedford County, but had relatives living in the Lynchburg area and Amherst County. There was one photo in the box which featured two men (*see below*), but there were no names listed. I've tried a few places already hoping somebody might recognize them, but so far haven't had any luck. But I haven't tried Amherst County yet, so I thought I'd give it a try. Contact Heather at hh4111@gmail.com



Query:

I am looking for images of BARNETT, William, (1761-1832) congressman, born in Amherst County, Virginia, to be included in a book to be published next year. I will greatly appreciate any help that you can give on this project.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation,

Rene Rodriguez, M.D.
Chief Orthopedic Section
Miami VA Medical Center
Tel 305 753 2228
e-mail: rene.rodriquez2@va.gov

Amherst County Historic Survey Launched

A local firm is undertaking a countywide survey of historic resources, in cooperation with Amherst County, Sweet Briar College, and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Officials of Amherst County and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources held a public meeting on Tuesday, November 17 to discuss plans for an architectural survey of more than 275 historic properties in Amherst County that will be conducted by a local firm during the coming six months.

The meeting was held in the Amherst County Administration Building, Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, and provided an opportunity for public comment and for raising greater public awareness of the survey throughout the community. 20 Amherst residents attended.

The project is being funded jointly by the state and the county through the Department of Historic Resources' "Survey and Planning Cost Share Program." Sweet Briar College's Tusculum Institute serves as fiscal agent for the project.

The countywide survey is already underway and is being conducted under the supervision of the Department of Historic Resources by W. Scott Smith, Sandi Esposito, and Jesse Adams Doolittle of *The Antiquaries* of Lynchburg, with assistance from Dan Pezzoni of Landmark Preservation Associates of Lexington.

The local consultants attended the November 17 meeting to explain the focus of the survey, how it is being conducted, and how interested citizens can participate.

Scott Smith, a native of Amherst County and principal of *The Antiquaries*, stressed that the survey is an important Amherst County history project to explore and document the spirit of Amherst County as it is expressed in Amherst's historic buildings and places. It will lay a strong foundation for the County's commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of its founding in 2011.

Smith stressed that at this early stage of the project he and his team are looking for county residents to help with two primary things:

- To permit the team to document the historic resources on their property, and;
- To serve as neighborhood contacts to help them meet others in the area who may be willing to let the team visit their properties.

Smith and his team are looking to survey 275 "new" properties that have not already been recorded. If residents would like to see if a property has already been recorded, they can visit www.amhersthistoricsurvey.org and search the list. If a property has already been recorded, the team may elect to do a more intensive recording of the property, with owner permission. More information about intensive level survey can also be found on the web site.

Smith will be principally responsible for surveying the area south of Route 60 and west of Route 29. Esposito will focus on the area north of Route 60 from east to west. Jesse Doolittle will take the lead in surveying the area south of Route 60 and east of Route 29.

DHR has asked the survey team to locate about a dozen resources that have survey files, but were never mapped. Photographs of these properties may be viewed at www.amhersthistoricsurvey.org, and the local survey team invites people to contact them if they know the location of any of these properties.

Interested residents of Amherst can learn more about the Amherst Historic Survey project by visiting www.amhersthistoricsurvey.org or by calling the project Hotline at 434-946-0432.

Wanted: DVD player (preferably one that does not record) for watching Museum-produced DVDs!

Wanted: a volunteer administrative assistant to help with typing, answering phones, filing, etc.

Welcome New Members!

- Ellen Craig, Amherst, VA*
- Stanley Dawson, Alexandria, VA*
- Mary Jefferson, Juneau, AK*
- Phil Kline family, Amherst, VA*
- James Leffert family, Amherst, VA*
- Mr. and Mrs. David McGarry, Amherst, VA*
- Courtney Montgomery, Valley Springs, CA*
- Richard Montgomery, Herndon, VA*
- Marjorie Selvage Stone, Athens, OH*
- Jean Svboda, Amherst, VA*
- George L. Tomlin, Evington, VA*

**A Christmas Present
for the Museum—
and it doesn't cost you anything extra!**

1. When you buy delightful books for the kids to go under the tree, start by bringing your coupon (at right) to the **Barnes & Noble Book Fair** on **Saturday, December 12!** A percentage of the profit will go to the Amherst County Museum. You can use the coupon at **any** Barnes and Noble in the country! *Please note: other discounts and gift cards do not apply*
2. You can “donate” to the Museum without spending an extra cent more than you usually would by shopping at **Food Lion** for your holiday treats. Just register your MVP card at www.foodlion.com/Community-Connections/Lion-Shop-And-Share
3. Start your online shopping at Shop for Museums. You can register at www.shopformuseums.com and pick the Amherst County Museum & Historical Society as your selected museum. (Please be aware that the Amherst Museum is in New York. We are the Amherst **COUNTY** Museum!)

**Barnes & Noble
BOOKFAIR**

Supporting
**Amherst County
Museum**

Saturday, December 12


Barnes & Noble


4024C Wards Rd, Lynchburg

Bookfair # 10046365


Please present this voucher prior to making your purchase. A percentage of the net sale will be donated to your school/organization.*

*The purchase of gift cards, Barnes & Noble memberships, text books and magazine subscriptions are not included in bookfair totals. Our discount purchasing program may not be applied to bookfair purchases.





Looking for the perfect gift?
Give the gift of history—a museum membership!
Our gift shop has even more ideas!



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.

Membership Category	
Regular (Individual)	\$15.00 _____
Regular (Household)	\$20.00 _____
Senior 55+ (Individual)	\$10.00 _____
Senior (Household)	\$15.00 _____
Student	\$5.00 _____
Business	\$100.00 _____

Special Contributions	Friend \$25 to \$50
Donor	\$50 to \$100
Patron	\$100 to \$500
Sponsor	\$500 to 1000
Benefactor	\$1000 and up

- Categories for Donations**
- Operating Fund _____
 - Endowment Fund _____
 - Conservation Fund _____
 - Programs _____
 - Technology Fund _____
 - Annex Fund _____
 - Roof Fund _____
 - Library & Genealogy Resources _____

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone _____



This stereopticon was recently received from the Amherst Presbyterian Church where it had been in storage for a number of years. It was brought to the Amherst County Museum when it was determined that the church would not be using it anymore!



The Langhans family has donated several items to the Museum's collections. Above are a small china doll, a laced metal reticule and a paper parasol. Not pictured are the hoop dress (with hoops) and stockings. Most definitely a lady's dress collection!

Center: the Amherst Woman's Club has been generous with bringing angel tree gifts to the Museum every year so that our Christmas tree is always dressed with lovely presents for a community holiday!



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Amherst County Museum & Historical Society

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