

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 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

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*To our supporters:
Thank you for a wonderful 2011!*

Amherst County turned 250 this year and we are delighted to let you know how much we appreciate your support of Amherst County's history, as shown in how generous you have been to us. Our programs have been well-attended and our fundraisers quite successful.

Autumn has been a busy time — we had our ever-popular Election Day Cake Event in November and we raised over \$500! Thanks to those who canvassed the polls for voters who donated for a chance to win a cake. (See page 4 to see who volunteered.) Thanks also to our cake bakers who made it so tempting for voters wanting a chance!

Our first annual holiday fundraiser netted the Museum over \$1500 and set a high bar for future holiday parties! Local artists, craftsmen, businesses and private individuals all contributed to making this event a great success. On page 4 you'll find appreciations to these generous supporters, so please give them thanks as you conduct your business around the Amherst counties communities.

Because of you, the Museum will celebrate a joyous Christmas and look forward to a Happy New Year!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you!

*Virginia Blue Ridge Railway
Lecture & Slide Show
Sunday, January 15, 2012*

The Museum will start its 2012 schedule with a program about the Amherst-Nelson shortline railway, the Virginia Blue Ridge Railway. Skip Hansberry and Ed Fielding, from the Blue Ridge Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society will speak about its history accompanied by a slide show. Today this is a popular trail, but now you can find out more about how this railway came about, what engines ran along its track, the people whose lives revolved around it and how it came to be what it is today.

As an added bonus, Sam DeLaura, a collector of model trains and also a railroad historian, will be exhibiting some of his model trains at the Museum in January. This exhibit, along with some of the Virginia Blue Ridge Railway photograph collection (see photo at right), will be a treat that train lovers will not want to miss!



2012 Events

Sunday, January 15, 2012, at 2 p.m. - Virginia Blue Ridge Railway
(snow date: Sunday, February 19)

Saturday, February 11, at 2 p.m. - Annual Vintage Valentine Party for the Young at Heart

Sunday, March 18, at 2 p.m. - Samuel Garland & pre-Civil War Amherst County

Thank You!

Benefactor

Jane P. Gleason, MO

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and other gifts!

Helen & Mildred Edgemon, VA

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Robbie Howell, VA

George & Helen Lewis, VA

Elvira Morse, VA

Martha Stimpson, VA

Julia Warner, VA



On Sunday, October 23, twenty-five Museum members took advantage of a real treat—an onsite lecture and tour of Fort Riverview on the James River, courtesy of owners Jane and Bernard Proctor. Above, Bonnie Ferguson enjoys the wagon ride, seated between Jose and Carrie Davila. In the back, Andrew Proctor drives the wagon. Below, the historic bridge between Amherst and Appomattox counties can be seen just past the trees which have far fewer leaves in the fall, making the view from the heights more spectacular! Thank you, Jane & Bernie!



***In honor of Mrs. Elvira Morse & Miss Alice Morse
Phyllis Shrader, VA***

In memoriam: Bill Nine

Jack & Judy Faris, VA

In memoriam: Shirley Snead

Ernestine Brockman, VA

Jane P. Gleason, MO

Douglas & Dorothy Morcom, VA

In memoriam: Ann Whitley

David & Libby Fulton, VA

Welcome to our new members!

Carol Brooks, NH

Karen Douglas & family, VA

Robert & Bonita Ferguson & family, VA

Sally Glynn, VA

Scott Harris, FL

Lloyd & Elizabeth Lipscomb, VA

Francis & Sally Moravitz, VA

Nancy Wood, VA

November honors Native American heritage

On Sunday afternoon, November 20, 2011, one of the last events of the 250th anniversary celebrations of the founding of Amherst County was held at Bear Mountain in Amherst County. It was co-presented by the Amherst County Museum, the Monacan Ancestral Museum and Amherst Glebe Arts Response, Inc. (AGAR).

The program was introduced by Chief Sharon Bryant. The Monacan Youth Dancers performed before a showing of AGAR's oral history documentary film, "Bear Mountain Indian Mission School." After the film there was a panel of Monacans who spoke about their years as students at the Bear Mountain Indian Mission School. Panelists were former Chief Kenneth Branham, Betty Hicks, Herbert Hicks, Betty Branham, Brenda Garrison, RN, and Bertie Branham.

Also present were three non-Monacan residents of Amherst County whose mothers taught at Bear Mountain Indian Mission School: Helen Massie, daughter of Mrs. Smith, Elvira Morse, daughter of Mrs. Whitehead, and Thurman B. Davis, son of Mrs. Davis, who all spoke about how much their mothers had enjoyed teaching at the school. After the panel presentation, those in attendance were invited to tour the Monacan Ancestral Museum, led by Curator and Director Loraine "Littlewolf" Griffith. Two rooms of the Museum are restored school rooms of the Bear Mountain Indian Mission School. Both the school restoration and the AGAR film were funded in part by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.



Above, Chief Sharon Bryant was one of several speakers to share stories of Monacan history and culture at the November 20 program at Bear Mountain. The event was sponsored by the Monacan Ancestral Museum, the Amherst County Museum and the Amherst Glebe Arts Response.



Alison Hyler's portrayal of the Native American Nicketti is featured on a South Main Street ArtMeter: Nicketti was Pamunkey

County history featured on ArtMeters

Amherst County High School is pleased to participate in the creation of three ArtMeters that were recently installed in downtown Amherst. The artists, all sophomores from the studio of Maryellen Barron, were given the topic "250 Years of Amherst County" to come up with an original design for the meters. Taylyn Soult, Art Club co-President for 2011-12, designed a meter that highlights Celtic heritage and bears a message of goodwill in Gaelic. Alison Hyler, Art Club member, painted a portrait of a Native American woman. Guided by Holly Mills, Amherst County Museum Director, we learned that Chief Powhatan's niece Nicketti, also a cousin to Pocahontas, was a Pamunkey Indian who lived in this area. Though no portrait of Nicketti exists, Alison portrayed a natural beauty that symbolizes strength. The figure also pays tribute to the Monacan tribe of Amherst county. The meter painted by Kenna Dixon features the home Edgewood on Garland Avenue, built c. 1818. The scene shows the elegant facade and a blooming garden in the rear.



Above, Kenna Dixon's "Edgewood" ArtMeter, and at right, Taylyn Soult's ArtMeter highlights Celtic heritage .

Each student went through the process of research, surface preparation, drawing and painting the meters with assistance from Ms. Barron. The group put in many after-school hours to complete the project, and the result was exceptional. "I was glad to be given this opportunity; I want my artists to be involved in the community," Ms. Barron commented. The Art Meters were unveiled prior to the Christmas Parade on Friday, December 2.

**Thank You to our Holiday Party
Sponsors and Donors!**

Linwood Allen
Lynn Bowling
Briarpatch
Elkwood
Martin's Body Shop
Rucker Insurance

Silent Auction

Amherst Junior Womans Club:

Two sets of miniatures:
ACHS, Welcome Sign & Morris Orchard

Amherst Lawn & Garden: Hatchet and work gloves

Amherst Woman's Club:

All Around the Circle cookbook

Anonymous: Williamsburg vacation

Carolyn Tyree Feagans' series

Afghan: Isabelle Hundley

Mays Farm Service: Hummingbird Feeder

Julia Tucker Meeks: Amherst Depot, ca. 1923 (print)

Elvira Morse:

Poinsettia table accent and candle set

Ogden's: Virginia Tech flag

Kathryn Pixley: 1975 Norman Rockwell
Commemorative Christmas plate

The More Corner: Painted wineglass

Door prizes

Briarpatch: \$25 certificate
Brockman Subaru: oil change certificate
El Mariachi: \$15 certificate
Hair Gallery: free haircut certificate
Hill House: \$15 certificate
Lee's Deli: \$10 certificate
Schewels: \$50 certificate
Travelers: free dine-in lunch
Vito's Pizza: \$25 certificate
What A Blessing: \$20 certificate

Original Art Silent Auction

Jackie Beidler: Ascension Church
Marian Freerks: Amherst County River View
James Hicks: Tobacco Row Fall
Nancy McDearmon: James River Crossing
Julia Tucker Meeks: Amherst County Waterfall
Rosalie Day White: View from Smokey Hollow

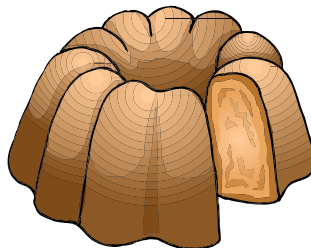
Chinese Raffle:

Amherst County Museum & Historical Society: Books

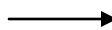
Englander: Englander Stove

Our Sponsors: Nook Tablet

These sponsors and donors have been most generous in their support. Please thank them with your own support.



**Thank You to Our
Cake Event
Volunteers**



**You helped us raise
over \$500 with
donations of your
time and baking
talents!**

Lucky winners included Marge Takas, Joe King, Dan McMillan, Paul Kilgore and Gertrude Esensee.

Thanks also to Bonnie Kestner, Angela Oliver and Dale Sparrow for donations that helped to put us over the top!

Ann Adams
Irene Allen
Jenny Ang
Jim & Vivian Bailey
Margaret Cooper
Martha Cox
Grady Davis
Caroline Emanley
Amanda Fielding
Lillian Ford
Bill Hathaway
Juanita Henderson
Cynthia Hicks
Betty Johnson
Becky Jones
Bonnie Limbrick
Vivian Lyons
Katherine Marshall
Elvira and Alice Morse
Florence & Holcomb Nixon
Mary Frances Olinger
Kathryn Pixley
Celia Richeson
Joyce Rumburg
Pat Sullivan
Marita Taylor
Darlene Terry
Tom Wallace
Lee Wilkins
Lyl Wray



At left, the crew puts on the finishing pieces of insulation. The first couple weeks in November were busy with work preparing the Hamble Center for our first Holiday Party fundraiser! At right, board member Cynthia Hicks begins decorating the tables.



At left, board members Jose Davila and Tom Wallace survey their work—arranging artifacts and setting up tables. At right, Bert Limbrick talks with new member Sonny Sundaramurthy after the party has started. Thank you, Bert, for a great job as Master of Ceremonies and Auctioneer! Bert was assisted by his wife, Bonnie (board vice-president) and board member Jose Davila.



At left, board member Grady Davis settles back to watch after a stint of ticket taking. At right, Bonnie Limbrick chats with members Jane and Bernie Proctor, who hosted the Museum's October event at Riverview.



When you start your new year,
be sure to 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

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 _____
- Annex Fund _____

Museum Calendar

- **Sunday, January 15**, at 2 p.m. - Virginia Blue Ridge Railway program at the Museum. See page 1 for details. Snow date: Sunday, February 19.
- **Saturday, February 11**, at 2 p.m. - Vintage Valentine party for the young at heart at the Museum.
- **Friday & Saturday, March 16 & 17** - The Civil War 150 Legacy Project will visit the Museum
- **Sunday, March 18**, at 2 p.m. VCU student Faith Hofma will present her research about David Shepherd Garland and antebellum politics in Amherst County.

Holiday Schedule

Closed Dec 23-27
Open Dec 28-29
Closed Dec 30-Jan 2
Regular Schedule resumes Jan 3

The Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission and the Library of Virginia are partnering to identify and locate original, family-owned manuscript materials concerning the Civil War. These materials will be scanned on-site at the Amherst County Museum and made accessible through the Commission and the Library of Virginia web sites for research purposes. Please call ahead to schedule an appointment for document scanning. Materials include:

- Daybooks / ledgers
- Diaries
- Letters
- Hand-drawn maps
- Military passes
- Claims for damages by the Confederate Army or Federal Army
- Other documentary materials not listed
- Original pension materials
- Photographs
- Reminiscences
- Hand-drawn sketches
- Discharge papers

This event is jointly sponsored by the Amherst County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee and the Amherst County Museum and Historical Society. For further information or to schedule an appointment for document scanning, call: (434) 946-9068 or visit www.amherstcountymuseum.org.

Please note: Scheduling of appointments will not begin until February.

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Grady Davis
Judy Farris
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Amherst County Museum & Historical Society

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