

The



Muse

Amherst County Museum & Historical Society

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www.amherstcountymuseum.org

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

VOLUME 37, NUMBER 6

December 2012

And I thought 2011 was a busy year!

In 2012, the Museum has had another busy year—the Hamble Center has had restrooms and kitchen cabinetry installed (Thank you, Marguerite Singleton!), furnished the kitchen with appliances (Thank you, Beth and Dick Pierce), a heat pump installed (Thank you, Susan and Will Mays!), a driveway put in place (Thank you, Greater Lynchburg Community Trust), a bateau donated (Thank you, Roger Huffman and crew of the *Maple Run!*), and put in place (Thank you, *Amherst Lancers!*), and begun its function for serving the community as a workspace — for the *ArtWindows* project. To top it off, Scott England handcrafted and donated a bench that highlights Amherst County's heritage!

And if that weren't enough, we've had roof repairs done on the Kearfott-Wood House (Thank you, Beirne Carter Foundation!) Even now, we are preparing for some work being done on the porches and doors. The library has continued to grow (Thanks to many of you who have contributed to the research library!), and will grow even more (Thanks to a grant from the William Cage Foundation!).

And we haven't stopped our programming—students from Amherst County High have helped with our first cemetery tour and the Civil War Music & Readings along with other cast members recruited by co-sponsor AGAR. Thanks to AGAR

The Museum can now accept

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also for preparing the African-American Schools program this spring.

Other programs included a tour of Mary Snow's house just west of the town of Amherst, Faith Hofma's lecture on the Garland family and nineteenth century politics in Amherst County, a theatrical presentation by *EndStation*, and a visit from Edgar Allen Poe.

I'm ready to call it a year!

Many, many thanks to all of you for your support and donations; we couldn't do it without you!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

—Holly

Holiday Vacation & Museum Closings

Please note that the Museum will close on Saturday, December 22, 2012, and re-open on Wednesday, January 2, 2013, for the Christmas holiday.

In July, the Museum will close for the week of July 4.

Sunday, January 20, 2013, Program on the Restoration of Brightwell's Mills—2 p.m. at the Museum
(Snow date: Sunday, February 17)

Saturday, February 9, 2013, at 2 p.m.—Make Vintage Valentines at the Museum (family program)

Sunday, March 17, 2013, at 2 p.m. — Program and Book Signing for *Sunday Drives* at the Museum

Thank you!

Patrons

Anonymous

Donors

Jo Hill Dobbins, NC

Friends

Mr. and Mrs. Mason Brugh, VA

Mr. and Mrs. George Dooley, VA

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Lloyd, VA

and Other Gifts

Scott England, VA

Betty Friest, AK

Beth and Dick Pierce, VA

Memorials

In memoriam: Betty & Reed Malone

Brenda & Larry Langhans

In memoriam: Dorothy Kent Harvey

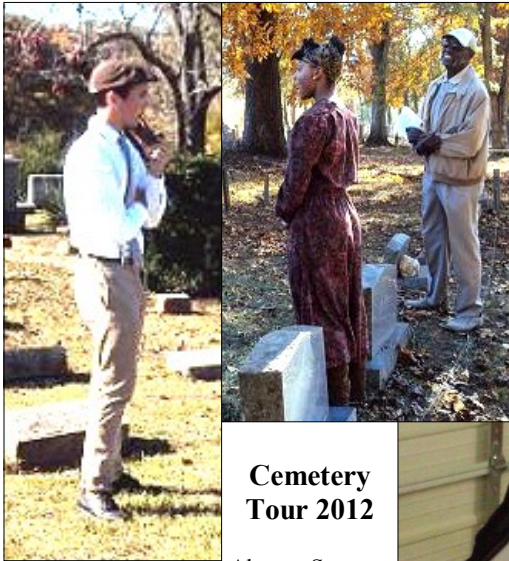
Barbara Donelson, VA

Aubrey and Emily Watts, VA

In memoriam: David Mudry

Blanche Mudry, VA

And many thanks to the William Cage Foundation for a grant of \$450 for our library! We look forward to getting more resources for our researchers!



Cemetery Tour 2012

Above: Samone Sparrow portrays Olden Style Higginbotham at the Christian Aid Cemetery. Above left: Jesse Best portrays Aubrey Strode at the Amherst Cemetery. The Amherst County High drama students contributed to the great success to our first—ever Cemetery Tour!



Second Annual Gala

Above: Cynthia Hicks sells tickets for the raffle.



At left: Secretary Kathryn Pixley and Celia Richeson take the new walkway to the Gala. Above: President Bonnie Limbrick takes the mike to announce Silent Auction winners

Our Wish List update!

For the Hamble Center: We'll need a 10' x 12' storage building for storage of tables and chairs. We estimate a cost of \$10,000 for clearing and preparing the lot next to the Hamble Center for parking. The Building Committee is seeking volunteers to assist with maintenance.

For the research library: We need a September 20, 2012, issue of the *Amherst New Era-Progress*, also issues for November 12, 19, and 26 of 2009, December 24 and 31 of 2009, as well as issues between 1972 and 1982.

Welcome to our New Members!

Martha Cousins, VA

Jerry Fenzel, MD

Eleanor Jones, NC

Anna Marie Whitaker, OR



Civil War Music and Readings

Above: Members of SCV # 2179

At right: Robert Maxham and Royal Shiree

Below: Wendy Edwards and Martha Cox



Christmas in the New Era

1883, December 6 *New Era*

W.E. Middleton, Local editor and business manager

A tournament will be held here next Thursday. A meeting will be held Saturday to arrange for it. A ball will be held at night and a nice time will be had.

In our next issue we will publish a Christmas directory under the head of "Christmas Goods and Where to Buy them." All the village merchants who are not represented in our columns in some way should come in at once as we must, of course, discriminate in favor of our advertisers.

Mr. P.M. Christian has the handsomest stock of Christmas goods we have ever seen in this place and his windows and showcases attract much attention. His stock was evidently selected with great care and contains many very handsome pieces. The plush hand painted toilet cases and workboxes which he displays are something entirely new to this place. His stock of vases, images, perfume bottles, card receivers, jewelry stands, etc., are very pretty and the gentleman who cannot find a present for his lady friend in Mr. Christian's stock will be very hard to please indeed.

[Notes on P.M. Christian's drug store: The Museum owns a copy of *Practical Arithmetic*, by Charles Venable, University Publishing Company, New York, 1880. This textbook has the owner's signature on front flyleaf "John C. Rucker" and has the bookseller's stamp on front paste-down, "From P.M. Christian, Druggist, Amherst C. H., Va." In January, 1886, an advertisement for the January 15 program at the Opera House, Amherst Courthouse, included advertisements from the merchants Ellis, Brown, Christian, Taylor, Harrison and Rogers.]

Holiday Goods and Christmas Presents at B. Brown's

Never before have I found so large and varied a stock. Novelties for home adornment in Gilt and bronze stationery, beautiful toilet sets, handsome vases, of all sizes, colors and prices. Something entirely new. Handsome china sets, water sets, in different colors, beautiful sets of glassware, endless variety of mugs, for shaving and drinking, handsome mustache cups and saucers, so useful a present for the father and sweetheart. Toys, dolls, fireworks of every description for the little people, and to the lovers of good things you cannot fail to be pleased. Malagar grapes, raisins, figs, Florida oranges, prunes, dates, candies of every variety, from the one pound stick to the purest French. All kinds of canned goods, oysters, salmon, lunch tongue, corned beef, mustard sardines, to-



Jane Claiborne Calkins' crocheted purse with white plastic handle, dates from the 1920s. 1870s merchants advertised purses and bags as popular gift items.

matoes corn, and peaches. And to those who wish to combine the useful with the ornamental, we cannot fail to please you and those pure gold scarf pins, ear rings, gents' studs and cuff buttons, gold chains, silver watches, and clocks, which we have introduced so successfully here. Beautiful

bags in plush and leather for shopping, silk handkerchiefs in all sizes, colors and prices, nice perfumeries and other fancy articles. You will find a suitable present in those handsome alligator and embroidered slippers in every variety of gents' and ladies shoes, dress goods of every color and quality, lace fichues and collars, handsome kid and jersey gloves, comfortable cloaks and jersey jackets, handsome lap robes for a comfortable ride in your buggy with your girl, for what is nicer than one of those plush seated side saddles for your wife, sister, cousin, or your aunts. B. Brown.

Lowesville—**You'll find just the goods you want at Bennett M. Davidsons Cheap Cash Store, at Lowesville, Amherst County, Virginia. He has just returned from New York with a large and handsome stock of fall and winter goods** of every description kept in a first class variety store, consisting of hardware, queensware, tinware, pocket and table cutlery, groceries, medicines, drugs, men and boy hats, ready made clothing, boots and shoes, and a complete assortment of dry goods millinery and fancy articles, including a rich selection of jewelry for both gents and ladies wear, jet celluloid and gold, and five hundred other articles too numerous to mention, See Mr. D.S. Woodson when you want to look at ready made clothing, boots and shoes, and he will show you just what you want. Ask for his daughter, Miss Emma, when you want anything millinery and ladies wear and she will study your interest, and show you exactly what you

want. Be sure before purchasing elsewhere to first examine that splendid stock of goods which was purchased with the almighty dollar down at zero prices in the best dry goods market in the United States and you will be convinced for yourselves.



Elaborate ladies clothing, such as this piece from the Kate Wallace collection, would be found on many holiday gift lists. B. Brown of Amherst and Bennett M. Davidson of Lowesville both advertised women's clothing in their stores.



From the 1883, December 20, *New Era* Pork is coming in slowly. It is selling at \$6.50. A slight snow – the first of the winter, fell here Sunday evening.

Robert Whitehead has returned home from Lehigh University to spend the Christmas holidays.

The Episcopal Sunday School will have no Christmas tree this year. The church is being decorated for Christmas as usual however.

The Methodist and Presbyterian Sunday schools will unite and have a Christmas tree at the Methodist church Wednesday night of Christmas week.

There was a good crowd at court Monday, any of them being attracted here by the display of Christmas goods. As a matter of course a full supply for the little ones was laid in.



Postcard from the Alice Carpenter Collection

Numbers of persons have remarked on the quality of the Christmas goods our merchants are showing this years. We have never seen as nice goods displayed here and take it as one of the indications that the village is improving.

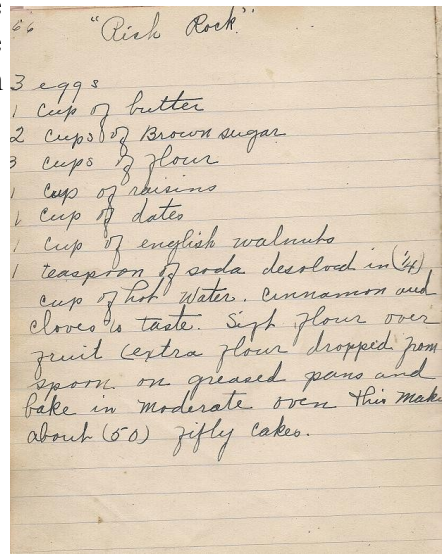
Mr. P.M. Christian has shown us this week some very handsome triple plated silverware which he has for sale. Mr. C. has sold a good deal of this ware as Christmas presents and

certainly no one could make a handsomer present. He has also shown us some elegant plush hand painted Christmas cards of great beauty.

Cookbook with handwritten recipes, name in front, Miss Sarah Robertson. The date in back of the notebook is 1926. The following recipe can be found on page 66.

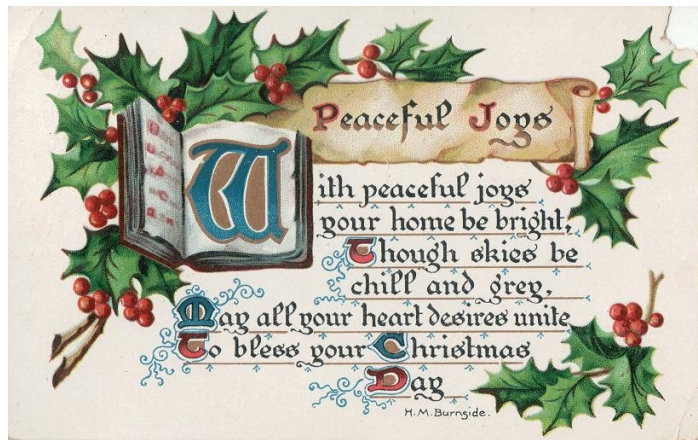
“Rick-Rock”

- 3 eggs
- 1 cup of butter
- 2 cups brown sugar
- 3 cups of flour
- 1 cup of raisins
- 1 cup of dates
- 1 cup of English walnuts
- 1 teaspoon of soda dissolved in ¼ cup of hot water
- Cinnamon and cloves to taste.



Stir flour over fruit, extra flour dropped from spoon on greased pans and bake in moderate oven. This makes about fifty cakes.

Holiday baking often required special ingredients, which accounts for the advertising of such items as dates and figs. The *Rick-Rock* recipe above is one that would likely have been used for making fancy holiday sweet treats.



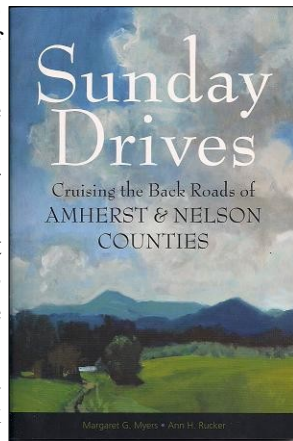
Postcard mailed from SCF in Agricola, December 23, 1907, to Mrs. H. Musselman, James River Post Office (now Madison Heights). The card reads:

Peaceful Joys

With peaceful joys your home be bright, though skies be chill and grey, May all your heart desires unite to bless your Christmas Day.

New in our Gift Shop!

We are delighted to announce a new book now available in the Museum's Gift Shop: *Sunday Drives*, by Margaret Myers and Ann Rucker, with contributions by Leah Gibbs, is a guide to "cruising the back roads of Amherst and Nelson counties." The reader can use the guide to navigate the counties' scenic byways and other picturesque roadways. Lavishly illustrated by local artist Gray Dodson and photographer Thomasina Metts, the book is an enchanting compilation of sights, history, and leisurely activity. The book includes directions for fifteen tours, with optional tops and detours to allow for flexibility of touring time and interests. This book will be standard equipment for your glove compartment as well as your personal library!



On March 7, 2012 Sweet College staff and student assistants opened a new, year-long exhibition in the Whitley Gallery, *Tusculum: The History of a House*, on view through March 1, 2013.

Programs and Activities for 2013

The Activities Committee has been filling in the calendar with a variety of programs for the coming year. Here are just a few to fill in January, February and March:

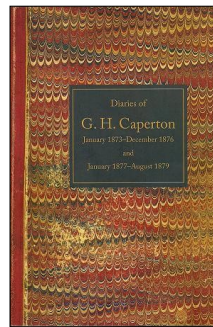
Sunday, January 20, at 2 p.m. at the Museum: Ricky Brightwell will present a program about the restoration of Brightwell's Mill. The multimedia program will be in the Hamble Center behind the Museum's main building. **Snow date is Sunday, February 17.**

Saturday, February 9, at 2 p.m. The Museum will provide refreshments and craft materials — for all ages — to make old fashioned vintage style valentines. You can make some modern styled valentines, too!


Sunday, March 17, at 2 p.m. Margaret Myers and Ann Rucker will talk about their new book, *Sunday Drives*, with an opportunity for you to buy one and have it signed by the authors.

Later in the spring we plan to offer one of the tours featured in *Sunday Drives*. Watch your newsletter for more information!


A Recent Acquisition for our Library



Mr. Paul Wailes has donated a limited edition copy of the diaries of George H. Caperton, covering the years 1873 to 1879. An Amherst County resident living near Faulconerville, this book is chock full of life in Amherst County in the 1870s!



New in the Museum's Gift Shop!
Sunday Drives—Just in time for the holidays!



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	_____
Building Fund	_____

A Charitable Season

With the Christmas season at hand, many of us are also remembering the tax season that will be upon us soon. With this in mind, the Museum has established several opportunities for members' support.

[Shop for Museums.com](http://www.shopformuseums.com) was created for those who shop online. You simply register at www.shopformuseums.com, select a museum to benefit from your shopping, then shop! It costs you nothing extra, and the Museum will benefit. The more people who shop after selecting *Amherst County Museum & Historical Society*, the more *Shop for Museums.com* will send to the Museum. Introduce your friends and family to shopformuseums.com.

If you are making a gift to the Museum, you can now donate online. On our homepage, www.amherstcountymuseum.org, you can find out more about our different funds and different ways to contribute to the Museum. The *Donate* tab on the top of our home page will take you to page that describes different ways to contribute!



The Museum can benefit from your online shopping without costing you anything! Start your shopping at www.shopformuseums.com and select *Amherst County Museum & Historical Society* to benefit. **Registration is free.** (Please note that there is a listing for "Amherst Museum" in New York; This is not the same organization as the Amherst County Museum.)



For those who are accustomed to managing finances online, the Museum now offers the opportunity to make [donations online](#). Just click on the button on the Museum's homepage!

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