

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 3

June 2012



Annual Meeting On Saturday, September 22

Plan ahead, and make a note of **Saturday, September 22**, at 11:15 a.m. for the Museum's Annual Meeting and Luncheon at Winton Country Club. This year our featured speaker will be Mr. Keith Kaufelt, an interpreter of Edgar Allen Poe at the Poe Museum in Richmond.

The cost per person is \$15.25; there will be a cash wine bar and the Museum will have books for sale. Reservations must be made by Friday, September 7

The August issue of the Muse will provide more information about the program. This will be a treat you don't want to miss!

Events for this Fall

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 18, the museum will host a program of Civil War Music. As the country recognizes the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, you'll find this a memorable event. Free and open to the public.

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, the Museum will sponsor an event of **Cookies and Cocoa** with crafts before the *Lions Club Christmas Parade!* Free and open to the public.

Coming Events

Saturday, September 22, Annual Meeting at Winton. Reservations due by Friday, September 7

Sunday, October 21, Our first Cemetery Tour

Thank You!

Especially to those volunteers who have managed the Museum when the director is away or otherwise engaged:

*Steve Arthur
Midge Elliott
Bill Hathaway
Tom Wallace
Lyl Wray*

Patrons

Catherine Meacham Durgin, NY

Donors

Tom Wallace, VA

Friends

Deana Scott, NY

In honor of

Mrs. Elizabeth "Dolly" Payne's 95th Birthday!

*Judy Faris
Elvira Morse
Anne Payne*

In honor of the Amherst Womans Club

Mary Riely Pettyjohn

Thank you

***for the donation of
various materials for the Hamble Center***

*Hill Hardware
Poplar Methodist Church
Raymond Ramsey*

Welcome to our new members!

*Jill & Don Clark, VA
James & Margaret Gooch, MD
Marge & Geoff Steadman, VA
Melinda Tennis, VA*

For the Museum's Batteau Project

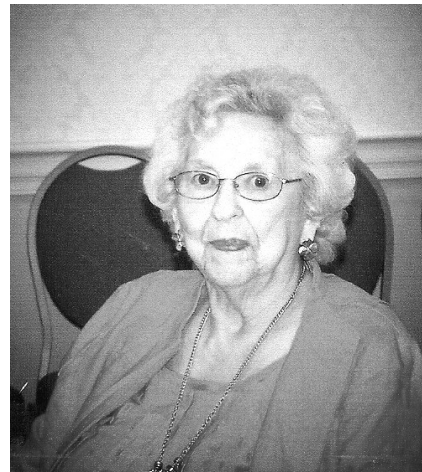
*Roger Huffman and the crew of the Maple Run
Robert Curd and Cecil Phillips
and all the Amherst Lancers*

This summer we look forward to having our local artists and high school artists working in the Hamble Center. The paintings for the windows of the Goodwin building will be painted at the Hamble Center. The subject of these paintings will be old familiar faces of Amherst. Coordinated by Suny Monk and Maryellen Barron, high school art teacher, this promises to be a fun project!

The Museum's Wish List

Do You Have...

- Copies of the July 21 or July 28, 2011 New Era—Progress? We would like to complete our 2011 series of the newspaper.
- The Museum is in need of several mannequins for our exhibit galleries.
- We would love to find a sponsor for our porch repairs. The cost is estimated to be about \$2000.
- The Hamble Center's HVAC system (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) needs a sponsorship of \$3000. Also, a sponsorship of another \$3000 will complete the kitchenette.



Former Museum Board Member Dolly Payne Turns 95!

Dolly Payne turned 95 on April 23, and her family gave her a memorable birthday party on April 22. Many friends gathered with her and her family to celebrate the momentous occasion!

The Museum was well-represented at the party. Some readers may remember Dolly from her years of service on the Museum board. She served as president, vice president, and secretary at various times. She became a member of the Museum's board in the spring of 1986 and served until the summer of 2002, serving again for six months in 2004. She was volunteer coordinator and worked tirelessly at fundraising efforts. She often worked at the Coolwell precinct at election times promoting the Museum's cake raffle. She helped out with volunteer teas and Christmas open house. Always a gracious and welcoming lady, Dolly has been one of the Museum's greatest treasures!

On Sunday, June 3, the Museum co presented with Amherst Glebe Arts Response (AGAR) the premier of three films focusing on African-American segregated education in the early and mid-twentieth century in Amherst County.

The program was funded in part by grants to AGAR from *The Virginia Foundation from the Humanities* and *The Greater Lynchburg Community Trust*. Copies of the films will be available for viewing later this summer at the Museum. Photos by Mia Magruder.



Above, from left: Roosevelt Christian (attended Scott Zion), Bev Jones (attended Madison Heights Colony Road and then graduated from Central High School; after college taught at Central Elementary and later several other schools), Rosa Brown (attended Mount Airy, then Amherst Training School, and graduated in the first class from Central High School) Eva Jones (attended St. Mary's on Indian Creek and Amherst Training School). Lynn Rainville, moderator of the panel.

Below, Annie Chambers Pinn, retired teacher, responds to an audience question as Martha Turner and Jean Higginbotham look on.



***Amherst County
Takes a Look at
One-Room & Small African-American Schools,
the High Schools,
and Integrating the Schools
in the mid-Twentieth Century***

At right, Dr. Lynn Rainville, Director of the Tusculum Institute at Sweet Briar College, facilitated the discussion with former students and teachers who appeared in the films.



AGAR produced five history films based on oral history interviews with former teachers and students. Three of the films were shown at the Museum. One relating to Northern Amherst County one-room and small schools, a second film recounted stories from small schools in the Southern half of the County. The third film related to Madison Heights Colony Road, a brick school opened in 1939 to serve Southern Amherst County African-American students in grades one through 11. Subjects explored in the films ranged from walking to school to fetching water for one-room school houses, to respected teachers and academic subjects, and to memorable lunches and recess experiences. Many of the former students spoke of their families placing a high priority on education, and of their efforts to expand educational possibilities for each generation. Two additional films and public presentations were premiered at the Amherst County Public Library / Madison Heights on Saturday, June 9, 2012, concerning Central High School, an African American Consolidated School built on Route 60 in Amherst in 1956 and Central Elementary School, built in 1964, also segregated, and the era of school integration, which began in Amherst County in 1962. Films were also screened at Amherst County Senior Programs, at Fairmont Crossing Rehabilitation Center and at Scott Zion Baptist Church.

The AGAR films were directed by Mia Magruder. Following the film premier, Lynn Rainville moderated a discussion between the audience and a panel of former students and teachers who appeared in the films. AGAR representatives assisting with the event included Jean Higginbotham, Lillian Burks, and Lynn and Ned Kable. Representing the Museum were Director Holly Mills, and board members Kathryn Pixley and Jose Davila.

Ohioan seeks his Amherst County roots, appeals to locals for help

By Scott Smith, HistoryTech, L.L.C.

More than a decade ago, Kenneth E. Jones of Blacklick, Ohio embarked on a quest to discover the story of his ancestors, who called Amherst County home for over a century. During this time, Ken has learned a great deal about his family, including the locations of four family farms in the county. However, a key piece of the puzzle has remained elusive: the locations of the graves of his Jones forebears. Ken is hopeful that perhaps an Amherst County resident who reads this story may know of one or more cemeteries that contain his ancestors.

In 1775, on the eve of the American Revolution, Ken's 4th great grandparents, Richard and Nanny Jones of Cumberland County, purchased 300 acres on Rutledge Creek (on the north side of what is now Waugh's Ferry Road in the Town of Amherst). Richard Jones had died by 1790, but the locations of the graves of Richard and Nannie are unknown.

In 1802, Ken's 3rd great grandparents, Richard Jones and Mary "Polly" McDaniel (daughter of John McDaniel) purchased over 600 acres on Partridge Creek (east of today's Izaak Walton and Kentmoor Farm Roads). In 1816, the family moved from Partridge Creek to "Tobacco Row Plantation" on the west side of Tobacco Row Mountain (south of today's Wagon Trail Road), which Richard purchased in partnership with his father-in-law John McDaniel from the heirs of William S. Crawford. Richard Jones died in 1823, and his wife Mary received 124 acres (which likely contained their home) around today's Rocky Bottom Road. Mary McDaniel Jones continued to live on this land through 1850. Graves for Richard and Mary Jones have not been located to date.

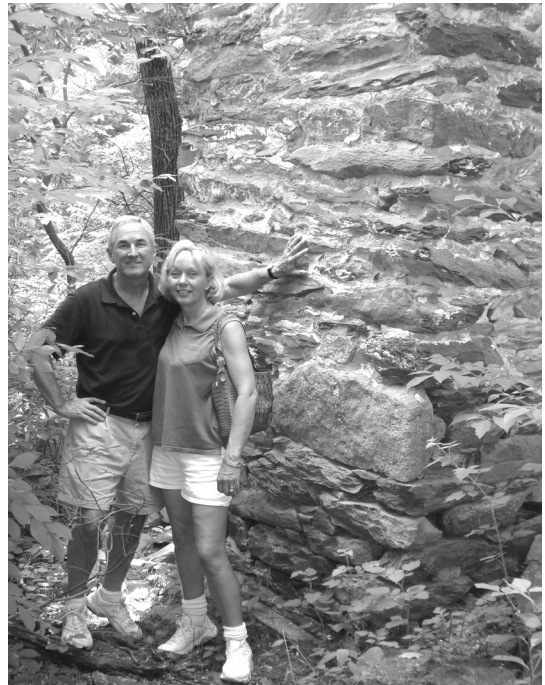
Lindsey M. Jones and Parthenia P. Simpson (daughter of Julius Simpson), Ken's great-great grandparents, were married at New Prospect Church in Pleasant View in 1844. Between 1859 and 1862, they assembled a 120-acre farm on Long Mountain, between Swapping Camp and Brown Mountain Creeks and north of what is now the Pedlar Reservoir. They lost the farm in 1890, and likely moved in with the family of one of their children.

Kenneth Jones' great grandparents, Richard J. Jones and Elmira (Ella) Ann Burks (daughter of Charles M. Burks & Nancy Flood), rented a house in the general area and attended Piney Mount Church (today's Piney

Hill Church is further east on Slapp Creek Road from its predecessor). Other siblings of Richard J. Jones (children of Lindsey and Parthenia) included Mary, who wed Marshall E. Sandidge, Laura, who married George D. Thornton, and Lucy, who married James Rhodes. In 1899, Lindsey M. Jones died of old age near Pedlar Mills, according to a statement by Parthenia, who was living with one of her daughters by 1902. Parthenia Simpson Jones died sometime after 1910, when she appeared on the census as living in the household of her daughter Mary and son-in-law Marshall Sandidge "along the Main Road through Amherst."

To-date, Ken, in partnership with local researchers with HistoryTech, has searched more than 20 cemeteries in western Amherst County in hopes of finding the graves of Richard Jones & Mary McDaniel and Lindsey Jones & Parthenia Simpson, but to no avail. If you have any information that may be helpful, please contact:

Scott Smith at 434-528-3995 or at www.historytech.com/contact-us.



Ken and Melanie Jones explore the farmstead site of Lindsey Jones in 2006. (The site is not within the Washington Jefferson National Forest.)

This story and additional resources may be found online at: <http://historytech.com/component/content/article/96-jones-cemetery-project-amherst-county>

Thank you, Amherst DAR!

Thursday, June 14, was Flag Day at the Museum, and what better way to recognize it than with a special dedication. The **Amherst Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution** presented the Museum with a new flag to replace the older, well-worn flag.

This particular flag had flown over the Pentagon and was a gift coordinated through the efforts of DAR member Eva Lee Shober, whose grandson works at the Pentagon. Below, Linda Lindsay tells about the history of this particular flag. A copy of its certificate is on file at the Museum.



The Maple Run, II, arrives at the Museum!

Above and at right, the Amherst Lancers lend their hands for a major project at the Museum. Roger Huffman donated the retired batteau, Maple Run, II, after eight years of the James River Batteau Festival. It arrived by trailer at the Museum on Wednesday, June 8. With coordination by Sports Director Robert Curd and Coach Cecil Phillips, the Lancers demonstrated their strength and teamwork by helping to move the 3000 pound batteau into position in the Museum's Hamble Center. **Thank you!**



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	_____
Building Fund	_____



Sheep and Shearing

Sheep shearers with hand crank—from Atwell Carpenter, Pleasant View. This was used by his grandfather. Amherst County had a significant amount of wool production until the latter part of the 20th century.



Above, hat donated by Monylene Wood, part of a set of 32nd degree Mason regalia, belonging to her father Ottie Bibb. He achieved this level in 1932. Below, fez belonging to Ottie Bibb's Shriner's regalia. The donation from Mrs. Wood also included the fez and jacket.



Hats and Headgear

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