

The



Muse

Amherst County Museum & Historical Society

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October 2005

From the Director

Already it's been a busy year!

The Museum sponsored Mr. Charles Hamble's *Amherst Road History* lecture in the spring, the first part of which was included in the last newsletter; family fun got into the act at the Valentine's Day event; an incredible Home Tour in the Father Judge and High Peak area; and a Super Saturday Sale that netted double what the Museum's ever done before!

And that's not all!

The research library has been expanding its collection of genealogical resources. Thanks to the William Cage Foundation and generous donors, we've been able to add even more to the collection. The number of gallery visitors has doubled and the number of researchers has quadrupled since I first came here almost two years ago. We can now do digital photography of court records that are too fragile for photocopying, and we are building a microfilm collection!

And we are looking better than ever!

The garden club has created a gorgeous garden. The Greater Lynchburg Community Trust has enabled us to complete the brilliant brickwork project done by Lynchburg Restoration.

And our membership is growing!

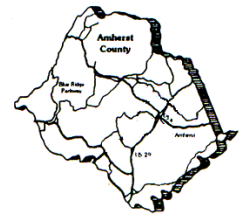
Mount Olive Baptist Church hosted this year's Annual Meeting and luncheon, and another van tour is already in the works. With elections and holiday events to come it's going to be a year to remember!

I would like to say Thank You to all of our generous supporters and membership!

—Holly Mills, Director



Van Tour
October 29



Bring your lunch!

Enjoy a trip through the fall foliage in beautiful Amherst County!

We will leave the Amherst Administration Building on Washington Street, Amherst, at 9:00 a.m. Our first stop will be the old Elon Library to hear history of that area. We will proceed to Windy Hill Stables, a working horse farm. Historic home, Red Hill, will be next. We'll drive to Cornerstone Baptist Church in Naola to hear its history and more about that area; we'll lunch there. Two other possibilities are "in the works" at publication time: viewing a vineyard, Pearch Ferry site and iron mines. We'll be back in Amherst in early afternoon.

To make reservations please call the Museum by Oct. 21 at 946-9068.

Our **Election Day Cake Event** will be held (surprise!) on Election Day, November 8. Donations to the Museum will be accepted at polling locations all over Amherst County. We'll be giving away cakes at the end of the day!

Local Artists, Local Places is a great opportunity to see our local artists' talent and also the beautiful landscapes and homes of Amherst County. The exhibit will open Saturday, October 15. The Museum will serve punch and cookies between 2 and 4 p.m. so you can have an opportunity to meet the artists!

Do you know a teen interested in volunteer opportunities? Beginning in October, the second Saturday morning of each month will be set aside for teen volunteers. Each teen who volunteers at least two hours will be invited to stay for pizza and soda at lunchtime. Whether it's typing, breaking down empty boxes, or pushing a broom, opportunities abound!

What's new in the library:

- *Ancestor Roster, 1915-2005, National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century*



At left, Betty Jennings, West of the Falls Chapter President, presents the newly published Ancestor Roster, Colonial Dames XVII Century, to Museum Director Holly Mills

- *The Peytons of Virginia II*, a two volume set published by the Peyton Society of Virginia, 2004, including color plates, genealogical charts & index.
- *Index to Registers of the Methodist Churches in Amherst County, 1850—1900*, compiled and indexed by Bill Nine and Charles Hamble. This index accompanies a photocopy of the registers that Randy Harlow had donated to the Museum but had been difficult to use until volunteers Bill Nine and Charles Hamble decided that an index was in order and took the project upon themselves. After the initial indexing was completed, the Museum's "at home" project volunteers entered the data into computers and now the registers are a breeze to use!

And coming soon! Now that the Museum's microfilm reader is up and going, we have ordered microfilm of the census information for Amherst County from the National Archives.



What's new in the galleries:

• *In the voting booth...* If you've been wondering about the favorite flowers election at the Museum's voting booth, wonder no more! The polls closed at 5 p.m. on August 27. There is now an election of favorite school subjects. Think back on you favorite school activities—arithmetic, spelling, reading, art, science, recess, music—and drop by the Museum to vote! Unlike traditional elections, there are no age or residence requirements, nor are there any restrictions on how many times you can vote! *Results of the Favorite Flowers Election:* 157 total votes cast. Rose 94; Dogwood 94; Tulip 74; Lily 71; Iris 69; Peony & Daisy 68 votes each. Many thanks to all who voted!

• *Academic Amherst* includes a variety of primers from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries as well as children's music and art books. The little girls' popular pastime of playing can be seen in an eight-

Annual General Membership Meeting, September 17

The meeting was held at Mr. Olice Baptist Church in Amherst with Alice Powell, Vice President, presiding. About 45 to 50 members were present.

Mrs. Gloria Higginbotham gave a brief history of the church and welcomed everyone.

Mrs. Powell gave an overview of things accomplished during the past year and upcoming events. She recognized volunteers who made all this possible. Director Holly Mills gave a short report on membership growth. Treasurer Ruth McBride gave a financial report which was positive.

Mrs. Marlene Fitzgerald gave an interesting audio-visual presentation about the planning stages and events of the Jamestown 2007 Celebration.

Mrs. Powell closed the meeting and asked Gloria Higginbotham to return thanks after which a delicious lunch was served by the ladies of the church.



At left, at the 2005 ACM&HS annual membership meeting, Gloria Higginbotham talks to the membership about the history of the Mount Olive Baptist Church.

At right, Marlene Mays Fitzgerald tells the ACM&HS membership about the Jamestown 2007 initiative and what it means for promoting Virginia's history.



Call for Volunteers!

Volunteering at the Museum can involve a variety of activities and interests—at the general membership meeting a request for special projects was introduced. Let us know if you'd like to help with watering plants, hanging picture rail, building a base for the interactive county map, picking up the Museum's recycling, taking home a typing project, or hiking out to old cemetery sites!



Early Roads of Virginia and Amherst County, Part 2

from a lecture by Charles Hamble, delivered March 17, 2005

(Please note that dates prior to 1750 are identified as "O.S." or Old Style)

Continuing from the ALBEMARLE COUNTY ORDER BOOK
12 Sept. 1746 O.S., p. 172

Ordered a Road be Cleared from Buffaloe Island to Harveys Road and the Second falls on Tye River by the Hands that are now on Harveys Road and that James Christian be Overseer of the same in the room of John Graves. & c

12 Feb. 1746 O.S., 215

Ordered a Road be Cleared from the mouth of Tye River to the Tobacco Row Mountains and that all the Inhabitants between Buffaloe River Ridge and on the south River above the mouth of Harris's Creek do Clear the same. John Harvey Overseer.

12 March 1747 O.S., p 358

Ordinary Licence & ferry Bond

On the motion of William Cabell leave is given him to keep an Ordinary at his Ferry in this county on his giving Bond & c who together with Benjamin Harris his Security Enter into and Acknowledged their Bond & c for the said Cabell's keeping an Ordinary according to Law and the said Cabell also acknowledges a Ferry Bond & c.

13 March 1747 O.S., p 358

Ordinary Licence & ferry Bond.

On the motion of William Cabell leave is given him to keep an Ordinary at his Ferry in this County on his giving Bond &c who together with Benjamin Harris his Security Enter into and Acknowledged their Bond &c for the said Cabell's keeping an Ordinary according to Law and the said Cabell also acknowledges a Ferry Bond & c.

AMHERST COUNTY COURT ORDER BOOK 1766-1769

2 June 1766

Report of a road from John Cabells ferry to the rolling road near FENNY'S GAP returned, to wit: We the subscribers being first sworn have reviewed and find that the most convenient way for a road from the Ferry is to cross at the middle ford of the Tye River and to keep up Joes Creek about a mile and from thence up into Keys path and so along the said path into the road at Finleys Gap.

(Signed) Wm Walton, John Matlock, Geo Murrell. The said road is established according to the report and it is ordered that Peter Henderson be surveyor of the said road with the following gang, to wit: Col John Smith, Thomas Loin, Wm Loin, Peter Henderson, Gorrard? Hendrix, Robert Robinson, Akillis? Wright, Menos Wright, Jhos. Wilshire, Thomas Wright, John Loin, Jacob Webb, John Edmunds, and their male labouring tithables to work thereon and keep the same in order.

Same count ordered that Patrick Rose be surveyor of the road from Tye River ford to Fenleys Gap with the usual gang.

2 June 1766

Ordered Samuel Murphy, John Sales, and Duncan Cameron or any two of them being first sworn, do view the

way for a road from Thomas Crawleys to a road leading through Mr. Henry Roses low ground and return a report.

7 Jul 1766 p. 14

Ordered that the tithables of Jacob Smith, Cottiells estate & Edumand Powell be taken off the road from Samuel Ayers to the main road to work on Charles Tolivers Road.

p. 20

Ordered that James Higginbotham, John Higginbotham, and John Warner review that part of the way for a road from Stovall's Ford to this courthouse which goes through or around John Phillips Plantation & report to court.

Ordered from John Spiers, Henry Bell, and John Christian do view the road from Buffaloe Island ford or Pattersons ford into Stovalls new road & report.

4 Aug 1766

Ordered that David Crawford be surveyor of the road from Pedlar River to the head of Puppies Creek in the room of Wm Floyd with the usual gang.

Ordered that John Sandidge, Moses Higginbotham, and James Higginbotham do view the best way for a road to go around George Penn's Plantation.

Ordered Thomas Bell, Joell Crawford, & James Martin view the way for a road from the county line near Roger Kaseys to the great road near Thomas Bells.

Petition of Carter Braxton, he has leave to build a mill on Buffaloe river just above where Harries road crosses it.

Sheriff to summon a jury to report value of one acre land of George Penn for erection of mill, report any damage of said mill to any other person.

Report of a road from Mr. Henry Rose's plantation on Piney River to Thomas Crawleys was this day returned. The road leading from the ford on Piney River just above Henry Rose's plantation and find the road now used prejudicial to the said Henry Rose, the way shown us by him equally advantageous to the publick.

Signed Murphy/Richeson/Ballinger

Sept 1768, p 411

Report of a new way for a road from Joseph Cabells Ferry landing thru the lands of Wm Cabell into the river road - commisson viewed the said road - goes thru some valuable land of said Cabell. .So ordered also Dr Wm Cabell will be the surveyor of the new road and ordered to open it - to Swan Creek with his own male tithables.

7 Aug 1769, p 521

Ordered Ambrose Rucker, gent, B. Harrison, Joshua Fowler & John Rucker view a new way for a road from Lynch's Ferry road to the Fluvanna River adjacent to Posom Island & report.

ORDER BOOK 1773-1782

May 1774, p 50

Ordered the male tithables of Gabriel Penn, Robert Horsley, Richmond Bennett, Icabod Camp, & Lawrence

Campbell be added to the gang under the direction of Dudley Gatewood - surveyor of Hwy.

(DISPUTES)

p. 51

Report of a new way around the west side of Tom Lucas's plantation. In obedience to an order of the worshipful court of Amherst County, we viewed the former road running thru Lucas's plantation and find the distance on the west side to be 1309 yards and thru the plantation 1290 yards. The most difficult hill in the present road is steep and 276 yards from the foot to the summitt, the way thru the plantation is tolerably level but extremely pernicious to Lucas' plantation. We also viewed a new way shewn by Capt Rucker which makes the aforesaid hill very moderate and only passes thru a small corner of Lucas's and thence falling into the said road which we conceive will be no more detriment to Lucas' plantation than the present way.

Signed Chas Talioferro, Samuel Shackelford, Peter Carter. Count ordered road so established.

Tom Lucas appealed - Count allowed till fall.

(It appears Tom Lucas moved the road around west side of his plantation without court approval because of steep hill, perhaps people evading the hill and going across his land.)

The Diary of Robert Rose includes a number of entries that describe road construction and repair. Several entries from January 1748 read as follows:

30th - Cloudy, went with Mr. Harvie and my people on the Buffalow Road, moved a heap of Stones...

31st - Returned to ye Road, laid a Bridge over Naked Creek and part of another over a fine Spring Branch...

In February Rev. Rose continues the road work:

1st - Finished the Bridge over the Spring Branch, cut down the Bank at Buffalow, levelled part of ye Hill by Naked Creek & got Home at Night, these 3 days has cost Me 36 Men's labour, to do my Neighbours a pleasure before I have got Necessarys for myself

2nd - Went with John Blyre and cleared a Road thro Cap. Wilcox's land towards the Mill, very Cold, returned Home to Dinner

3rd - Went & finished the above road being two Miles from one Rolling Road to the other...

Order Books also provide information about the appointment of road surveyors. Leona Sweeney's *Amherst County, Virginia, in the Revolution* contain the following extracts from the 1773-1782 "Lost Order Book:"

6 December 1773 - Michael McNeely appointed Surveyor of the road from the top of Dokes Gap to the upper end of Nathaniel Barnet's plantation.

March 1774 - James Higginbotham appointed Surveyor of the road from Gabriel Penns to Bufaloe River in the room of James Page

February 1776 - William Camden appointed Surveyor of the Road from Gabriel Penn's upper Quarter to Tribulation Creek. Henry Landon Davies appointed Surveyor of the Road from Pedlar Tract to Harries Road.... Mordecai Brown is appointed Surveyor of the Road from Thomas Lumpkins to Rose's Road and it is ordered that he with his and the Male Labouring Tithables of the Estate of Baylor Walker, decd., Thomas Lumpkins, George Gilbert, James Lively, John Livingston & John Davis keep the Road in repair according to Law. Ordered that the Male Labouring Tithables of Henry gilbert and John West do keep the Road in repair from the fork of Braxtons and Harvies Road to the forks of Higginbotham's Road under Henry Gilbert Gent. Overseer.

August 1776 - Nathaniel Mantiply is appointed Overseer of the Road from Capt. Gabriel Penn's to Saint Marks Church, in the Room of John Wright.

7 October 1776 - James Hill appointed Overseer of Harris Creek Road in Room of Henry Franklin Jr.

In February of 1777 one finds in the Order Book an unusual entry:

Ordered that the Road leading by the House kept by Charles Ashley be Discontinued, for the present, till the Court shall be satisfied that there is no infection of the Small pox to be taken from his family, and It's ordered that Richard Murrow and Charles Statham run a strong fence across said Road at Each end of the Lane and open a new way through the plantation up the Branch on the South Side of the said Ashley's Dwelling House, and that the necessary expenses be paid by the public.

An entry for March of 1777 provides insight into determining the path which a road would take:

A Report of a way from Perrion Giles on Indian Creek into the Road that Leads by maple Run Church was returned as followeth: To wit 1 Feb. 1777, Beginning at the said Giles thence down Indian Creek, as the way now is to a plantation of Gilbert Hay's, where Francis Satterwhite now lives, turning round the lower end of his fence then Rising a hill to the Top, from then down said Ridge to a Branch running through a plantation of Mr. Patrick Rose where William Williams formerly lived thence through the woods to a School house where William Hay now keeps School from thence into a patch that leads to the Church, and are of the opinion that it is the nearest and best way that can be -- John Sale, Nicholas Wren, Bartholomew Ramsey.

End of Part 2

Part 3 will begin by discussing commerce along the roadways.

Welcome to our new members...

- Kristen Caldwell, Chester, VA
 - Cheryl Ferguson, Silver Spring, MD
 - Brian Glass, Clarkston, GA
 - David Glass, Amherst, VA
 - Gloria Higginbotham, Amherst, VA
 - Betty Howell, Amherst, VA
 - Leroy Jennings, Lynchburg, VA
 - Linwood Jennings, Lynchburg, VA
 - Mary Catherine Kerr, Washington, IL
 - Sandra Marsh, Denton, TX
 - Billie Lee Alcott-Rammelsbert, Blairstown, IA
 - Rebec Vineyards, Clifford, VA
 - Lida Jane Reeder, Quincy, IL
 - Douglas Richardson, Madison Heights, VA
 - James S. Williams, Bordentown, NJ
- And a special welcome to **Kendra Borden**,
Sweet Briar intern


Just a Couple of the New Acquisitions...




Creating a mosaic of the Amherst story can be daunting—a curator wants to create an inviting and balanced story with interest and variety. Elegant dresses abound with oohs and ahs! But it's all too easy to leave out the everyday. The young boy's outfit at left is a playtime outfit of the World War I era.

At right is a pamphlet of milling equipment found at Sandidges post office, discovered with some of the stationery from Sandidges mill. Milling plays a significant part of the history of Amherst County, which has an incredible amount of water power among its natural resources.





With gift giving season ahead, you will want to consider a gift membership for special Amherst friends!
You can use the form below to give the gift of history!



Share Amherst's history and the Museum's special events for members only. Invite your friends to become members of the Amherst County Museum and Historical Society. All memberships are annual.

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 _____
- Annex Fund _____
- Roof Fund _____
- Collections Conservation _____
- Programs _____
- Library & Genealogy Resources _____

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone _____

Spring Historic House Tour 2006

On Saturday, April 29, 2006, the Amherst County Museum & Historical Society will host a tour of a number of historic sites and homes in the Lowesville area of Amherst County.

Lowesville, shown on county maps as early as 1864, was settled in the first part of the 19th century; its economy enhanced toward 1900 by the timber industry until its decline when the chestnut blight reached central Virginia in 1918.

One of the home on the tour will be Rockmill Farm, a plantation manor house built in 1824 for William Macon Waller. Its present owners, John and Susie Shimp, have renovated the stately old home and have opened a new bed and breakfast inn on the property.

Look for further details about this and other homes on the Spring Historic House Tour in future issues of *The Muse*.

Battle Flag of the 58th Virginia Infantry

The Museum has been contacted by a non-profit organization of re-enactors, historians, and Civil War enthusiasts. They have discovered an original battle flag of the 58th Virginia Infantry Regiment; the flag is in need of restoration, and they need donors. For more information, their web site is: www.58va.com

Mark Your Calendar for These Events!

October 15

Exhibit Opens

Artwork of Amherst County

October 29

Van Tour "Elon and Beyond"

October 2005

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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30	31					

November 2005

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30			

November 8

Election Day Cake Event
At the Polls

December 2005

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

December 6

Holiday Open House
3-6 p.m.

For more information about these or any other Museum sponsored events, call the Museum at 946-9068

For that special holiday gift, consider a gift of family and history. The gift shop has county history, Civil War history, local landmarks in "Open Window" collectibles, fan style "fill in" genealogy charts and more! Come by and see!

Executive Board:
Mary Frances Olinger, President
Alice Powell, Vice-President
Kathryn Pixley, Secretary
Ruth McBride, Treasurer
Betty Glass
Charles Hamble
Ed Hopkins
Susan Mays
Holcomb Nixon
Leona Wilkins
Ann Whiteley, ex-officio
Holly Mills, Director

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