

# The



# Muse

## Amherst County Museum & Historical Society

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(434) 946-9068

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October 2007

### *From the Director*

Imagine my chagrin at opening the August 2007 newsletter and discovering a typo! And this was not just any typo—this typo killed off our guest speaker, Mr. Jefferson, ten years too soon!

As I made my apologies to Mr. Barker, the Jefferson interpreter, he immediately charmed me with his true jeffersonian wit and replied that the death date of 1816 was how Federalists wanted his obituary to read. Fortunately for Amherst County, Mr. Jefferson continued to live until July 4, 1826. This enabled him to speak on behalf of the Ruckers when a Patent Office fire jeopardized the Rucker claim to the patenting of the *batteau* design.

Many of you have passed on your remarks about the delightful program at this year's annual meeting. Board members Ed Hopkins and Cynthia Hicks deserve congratulations for this successful event!

Maintaining high standards for our events and publishing is important for the Museum. The Museum may be small in comparison with big city museums, but we can be proud that the Amherst County Museum can excel at what we do:

*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 and Historical Society shall exhibit, interpret and offer those collections to provide educational experiences for people of all ages.*

Thank you for the privilege of promoting Amherst County history.

Holly Mills, Director



*Mr. Bill Barker, portraying Thomas Jefferson, greets Dr. Ed Hopkins at Winton.*

### **LOCAL CIVIL WAR FORT**

#### *Know Your County Trip*

You have a rare opportunity to visit the Feagan's historic farm in Madison Heights to tour the Fort Riverview earthworks. The fort was built during the Civil War to protect the nearby Southside Railroad bridge (Six Mile Bridge) over the James River. It was to provide protection for the James River and Kanawha Canal system as well as serve as an outer defense for Lynchburg. There are few such structures still in existence, and it is considered the best preserved. We will also go into a Civil War era building.

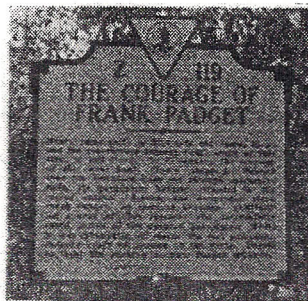
Meet in the parking lot of Amherst County Administration Building or Madison Heights Branch Library at 9:00 a.m. on November 3. You do not have to be a museum member to participate. You can drive your own car or car pool. Reservations must be made by calling the Museum at 946-9068; please make reservations by October 29 in order that our hostess may plan accordingly. Light refreshments will be served.

#### **FORT RIVERVIEW TRIP**

**NOVEMBER 3, 2007**

**9:00 a.m. - about noon**

Meet at Administration Building or Madison Heights Library  
Reservations by Oct. 29 at 946-9068



On Tuesday, October 9, 2007, Amherst County dedicated this new highway marker by the Amherst-Rockbridge county line on Route 130. Earlier this year the Museum and Library co-sponsored an educational event to tell the story of Frank Padget.



## Getting Ready for Santa and the Parade

Newcomers and old timers who'll gather along Main Street in Amherst for the Lion's Club Old Fashioned Christmas Parade are invited to the Amherst County Historical Museum for cookies and cocoa from **4:00 until 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 1, 2007.**

The parade starts at 6:30, but those who come early will find the best parking places, then have time to enjoy the Museum's latest exhibits and old fashioned, warm hospitality before they venture outdoors to wait for the parade to begin.

## Museum Holiday Open House Scheduled

Mark your calendars for another special event in December! The Museum will be decorated inside and outside for the Annual Holiday Open House scheduled for **Wednesday, December 12, from 3 until 6 p.m.**

Exhibits will feature "Christmas Past" in Amherst County. Refreshments will be served and there will be music.

## Time Capsule—Jamestown 2007

Amherst County's *Jamestown 2007* committee and Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring a time capsule!



Shown above are items to be included in the time capsule.

The time capsule will be placed in a brick encasement made by Amherst County High School masonry students at the library in the town of Amherst. It will contain items that reflect the County of Amherst in 2007. Several items have been selected, and the public is invited to participate in selecting additional items—by voting at the Museum on the historic voting booth!

Time Capsule artifacts will be on exhibit at the Museum in during the month of November. Voting will be closed on December 5.

Come join us on **Tuesday, December 11, at 4 p.m.** in front of the Amherst Library for the ceremony of capsule encasement. Reception to follow the ceremony.

We are still seeking a millstone for outdoor exhibit at the Museum. If you know of an Amherst County millstone in need of a home, please let us know! Call the Museum at (434) 946-9068.

## Introducing Jane Eyre!

On **Saturday, October 27, 2007, at 2 p.m.**, a one-woman show adapted from Charlotte Bronte's novel *Jane Eyre*, will be performed by actress-writer-director Lisa Hayes at the Amherst County Museum and Historical Society. Ms. Hayes has appeared professionally on stages from the Globe Theater in London and the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland to New York's off-Broadway and, on television, in *All My Children* and *One Life to Live*. The play is presented by Amherst Glebe Arts Response (AGAR) in association with the Amherst County Museum and Historical Society, and is free of charge and open to the public. In New York, the Village Voice said, "Hayes Plays *Eyre* with fiery virtuosity." Similar praise has come from others around the US and the world. Reservations are requested as seating is limited: 434-946-9068.

## New Exhibit: Resurrecting Dearborn

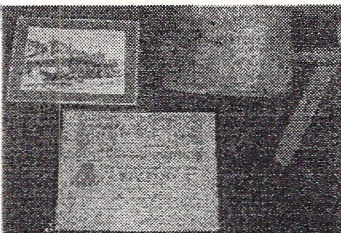
October 2 - November 17, 2007

Paintings by

Marion Freerks and Nancy McDearmon

If all the elements of a town exist, why would the town develop in another location? From this observation, the question was posed to Billy Wydner, owner of the Amherst Mill, "Why was this **not** Main St?" He replied, "It was Main St.....Main St, Dearborn, VA."

Dearborn's center, located at the lower end of Depot St. in Amherst, was an area encompassing the Amherst Mill and the railroad passenger station. Within that space were stores, a hotel, a power



Also on exhibit are several millers' tools, receipts and a postcard of the old train station.

plant, an ice house, a plaster mill, a saw mill and several homes. This recreation allows the viewer to visit a place. Use your imagination to envision the vital activity of an earlier time.

There will be a reception and opportunity to meet with the artists on **Tuesday, October 16, from 4 to 6 p.m.** - open to the public. All interested members of the community are invited to come and share their recollections of "Dearborn" and the Amherst Mill area with the Museum.



*A Note About Burning Bridges:  
Maidens Adventure Dam, March 18, 1865:*

*A Letter to the President and Director of the James River and Kanawha Company*

*What follows is a transcript of a letter the President and Directors of the James River and Kanawha Company, as written by E. Lorraine, Chief Engineer, describing damage to company property caused by the Union Army in March of 1865. This transcript, and a copy of the original, was provided to the Museum through the courtesy of Agnes Donnelly of Penn Laird, Virginia. It can be found on microfilm of Confederate Papers relating to Businesses at LVA.*

Maiden's Adventure Dam  
March 18, 1865

To the President and Directors  
of the James River and Kanawha Co.

Gentlemen,

A force of Yankee Cavalry, estimated at from 4000 to 8000 in number under the command of Lieut. General Sheridan and Major Generals Devin, Custer and Merritt, entered the town of Scottsville on Monday the 6th of March at 2 o'clock P.M. and proceeded immediately to injure and destroy the works of the Company. They went up the Canal on Tuesday and were joined by another column that came in at Tye River from which point they went up the canal as high as Lock 40. They returned to Scottsville on Wednesday and Thursday, and proceeded down the canal as far as Maiden's Adventure Dam where they arrived on Saturday night, they then returned and left the line of canal.

The following is a description of the damage done to the canal, commencing at the highest point and proceeding downwards.

Washington Matthews overseer's boat, with the provisions and tools burnt, and Matthews taken prisoner.

Lock 39, Balance beams of lower gate cut off; Hutchen's Dredge Boat burnt.

Lock 38, (at Bent Creek) Balance beams cut off and burnt, upper gates upset. Coping below lower gates thrown into the canal, and a few pieces from the chamber of the lock.

Lock 37, Gates upset, beams cut and burnt. Upper recess coping and coping of lower wings thrown into the lock and canal.

Lock 36, Balance beams destroyed and both gates upset. Coping of lower wings thrown down.

Lock 35, Balance beams cut and burnt. Masonry of lower wings torn down nearly to the water line.

Locks 33 and 34 (combined), Upper lock beams destroyed and gates upset. Cap sills pitched in and 5 or 6 pieces of coping thrown into the lock. Lower gates upset but not damaged.

Matthew's Dredge Boat set on fire but only slightly burnt.

Tye River Bridge burnt and broken down.

Tye River Guard Lock gates destroyed, lumber of lock \_\_\_\_ cut off \_\_\_\_ and chamber walls thrown down for about two feet in height. Water from the pond running through the lock into the canal, and out into Wm. D. Cabell's low grounds about ½ miles below the lock, and also at the head of Lock No. 32 where there is a large breach and much damage done to Dr. Gilmore's low grounds.

Gen'l. Sheridan in his report says the dam at "New Canton" (I presume he means New Market) was partially destroyed. I could not cross the lock to examine minutely but

saw no damage from the tow path side, and think there is none, as the water was so high as to render it almost impossible to injure the dam.

Lock 32, Upper gate standing, balance beams burnt, lower balance beams cut and gates upset, half the berm chamber coping and lower wing coping thrown in and cap timbers cut nearly in two. Ten feet of tow path coping and cap timber off.

1st Bridge below Tye River burnt.

2nd Bridge below Midway Mills burnt.

Lock 31, Upper balance beams cut off, gates standing, one lower gate upset, the other standing, but beam off, nearly all of the cap timbers and coping off.

Bridge at 18th Mile burnt.

Lock 30, Upper balance beams burnt, gates standing one lower gate upset, the other standing, but beam off, nearly all of the cap timbers and coping off.

Lock 29, Upper balance beams cut and burnt, but gates standing, lower balance beams destroyed, gates down and broken, cap timbers off. 40 feet of coping thrown in.

Bridge at 92nd mile burnt.

Large breach just above the Rockfish aqueduct, about 100 feet long, entirely across the bottom and berm bank of canal, and down to the surface of the river.

Rockfish aqueduct, Tow path timbers and plank burnt and top of one pier under the tow path thrown down. Berm cap timbers cut in two, coping off one pier and of both wings off. Side planking slightly burnt at one place.

Lock 28 (at Howardsville) Gates down, and balance beams cut and burnt, nearly all of the coping and cap timbers off.

Bridge at Howardsville burnt.

Lock 27, Upper gates upset, beams cut, lower gates standing but beams burnt. All the cap timbers and coping off and upper part of posts and plank cut off.

Bridge below Lock 27 broken down, and the next two bridges burnt.

Lock 26 Upper gates standing, balance beams and posts burnt, lower gates upset and balance beams cut off, cap timbers and a little of the coping off.

Bridge next above Warren burnt.

Lock 25 (at Warren), Upper gates upset and balance beams burnt. Lower gates standing, balance beams burnt. Cap timbers and 30 feet of coping off.

Five bridges between Warren and Scottsville burnt.

Lock 24, both gates upset, and balance beams cut, cap timbers off and 60 feet of coping thrown down.

Lock 23, Upper gates standing, balance beams off, lower gates down, one balance beam off. 20 feet of coping of chamber walls and coping of lower wings thrown off.

Enjoy the details even more by buying the *James River Bateau Festival Atlas* from the Museum Gift Shop!



Two bridges at Scottsville burnt.

Company's Shop at Scottsville burnt, with all the tools, forage for two horses, timbers for two lock houses, two dozen wheelbarrows, timber prepared for Lock 29, three new lock-gates, three gates not framed, timber dressed for right pair of gates, large lot of \_\_\_\_\_ timber, 200 lbs of Beef, two bushels corn, one barrel of flour, 1000 lbs spikes and nails (damaged).

Elias Mahoney's house boat burnt.

Lock 22, Gates standing, balance beams burnt and cut.

Lock 21, (at Hardware), Gates down, balance beams cut and burnt about one half the coping thrown off.

Lock 20, Gates upset, balance beams cut off, cap timbers off, a little of the coping thrown in.

Bridge below Lock 20 burnt.

Lock 19, Upper gates standing, beams cut lower gates upset, beams cut off, 30 feet of coping thrown in.

Lock 18, (at 7 Islands) Upper gates \_\_\_\_\_, beams slightly burnt, lower gates upset, and beams cut off, 40 feet of coping off.

Seven Islands River Lock, Lower gates down and slightly injured.

Bridge below Middleton Mills burnt.

Large Breach through berm bank and bottom of canal at Little Bremo culvert. When I passed this point the culvert was standing, but a gentleman who followed me the next day informed me that the culvert had sunk in.

Iron Bridge at Bremo-floor burnt, but arches standing.

Lock 17, Gates standing, beams burnt, berm chamber coping off.

Road Bridge at New Canton burnt.

Two Bridges next below New Canton burnt.

Lock 16, Gates standing, beams burnt, 30 feet of coping off.

Two Bridges between Locks 16 and 15 burnt.

Lock 15, Upper gates standing, beams burnt, lower gate upset, beams burnt.

Stratton's House boat burnt.

Dredge boat partially burnt, but can be repaired. The rope to the machine, one horse and 250 lbs. of Bacon taken.

Two Bridges on James Gall's farm burnt.

Breach 20 feet wide through berm bank below the Rivanna Aqueduct, with the prospect of it increasing.

At Colombia, Stable, Quarters and Blacksmith's shop burnt with all the tools, 150 barrels corn, all the forage, one barrel Molasses, 25 bushels meal, 2 horses and 2 mules taken.

Lock 14, Three gates thrown down, all the beams cut.

Lock 13, All the gates down, one balance beam cut.

Lock 12, Upper gates standing, lower gates down, one balance beam cut, one destroyed.

Dredge Boat No. 2 burnt.

Lock 11, All the gates down, three balance beams cut.

Lock 10, Gates down, beams cut, cap sills on the berm side and hollow \_\_\_\_\_ destroyed.

Boat No. 2 with all the provisions and tools destroyed.

Lock No. 9 Upper gates down, beams and posts burnt,

lower gates down, one beam cut.

Lock No. 8 (at Cedar Point) Gates down, two beams and posts destroyed, coping and part of \_\_\_\_\_ below on both sides thrown in the lock.

Sam Mahoney's Rock Boat burnt (with tools & c).

Lock No. 7 Gates down, balance beams destroyed. Coping thrown in the lock, and upper wing wall thrown down.

Mahoney's House boat loaded with corn, tools & c burnt, the corn and tools being included in the destruction at Columbia.

The enemy went as far down as Maiden's Adventure Dam but did no injury to the Company's works at that point.

The Bridges across James River at Hardwicksville and Bent Creek were burnt by our own people.

The damage extends over 89 miles of the canal and comprises 34 locks and one aqueduct injured, 1 tow path bridge and 28 farm bridges burnt, five breaches in the Canal, one culvert sunk in, 4 overseer's boats, 2 dredge boats, and 1 Rock boat burnt, 2 Dredge boats injured, workshops and other buildings, provisions, tools and timber at Scottsville and Columbia destroyed.

The following is a statement of the private property destroyed along the line of canal, that came under my own observation.

Frederick Cabell's Grist and Saw Mill burnt.

Warehouses at New Market with tobacco & c. burnt.

William H. Cabell's Grist and Saw Mill burnt.

Warehouses, Mill, Tobacco factory and row of brick houses containing Post Office and stores at Howardsville burnt.

Staples' mill at Warren burnt.

James Mason's brick barn, \_\_\_\_\_ saw mill, and Tobacco barn with about 100 hogsheads of tobacco burnt. At Scottsville there were 26 houses burnt including Mason & Lewis' large Flour Mill, the Woolen and Candle factories, Foundry, two warehouses and the row of brick buildings near the canal, the houses generally were sacked by the enemy and by the lower class of citizens, women and negroes.

Middleton Mills burnt.

Warehouses at New Canton on both sides of canal burnt.

At Columbia McRae's Mill, Grants Tobacco factory and Snidely's lumber house with 84 hogsheads of Tobacco burnt.

Hoburn's \_\_\_\_\_ and Grist Mill at Pemberton burnt.

Tobacco shed at Pemberton and 5 Hhds Tobacco and Mr. Powell's dwelling house burnt.

The warehouse at Cedar Point burnt.

Twelve freight boats belonging to private parties and to the government burnt.

Nearly all of the farmers along the line of the canal and for several miles back from the river were robbed of their horses and mules, their bacon, corn and other provisions, their plate gold, and silver and clothing, and the lock keepers generally were robbed of their provisions and clothing

Respectfully submitted,

/S/ E. Lorraine, Chief Engineer



*What's new in the library:*

- *Index to Marriages of Old Rappahannock County, Virginia: 1655-1900*, by Eva Eubank Wilkerson, published by the Southern Historical Press, 1998 reprint of a 1953 original.
- *Henry Howe: Historical Collection of Virginia-Southside*, originally published by W.R. Babcock, Charleston, SC: 1847. Reprinted by Mountain Press, Signal Mountain, TN. 85 pages, illustrated.
- *The Virginia Genealogist, Volume 5: 1961*. Reprinted bound collection of the 1961 issues of *The Virginia Genealogist*. This includes (among other articles) the 1800 tax list for Amherst Parish.
- *Bureau of Vital Statistics, Amherst County Births and Deaths: 1854-1896*. (CD)
- *The Carters of Blenheim: A Genealogy of Edward and Sarah Champe Carter of "Blenheim" Albemarle County, Virginia*, by George Seldon Wallace, 1955.

*Holiday Shopping to Everyone's Benefit!*

As we approach the close of the year many of us will be looking for that extra special gift—often for dear friends and loved ones for whom it is difficult to buy. There are several ways to give a special gift to your friends and to the Museum as well, in one fell swoop! Gift memberships are a thoughtful way to sparkle the eyes of those with fond memories of Amherst past. Products from the Museum gift shop, and especially our own publications, benefit the Museum, too. The *James River Batteau Festival Atlas* is a good way to enjoy more detail about this issues article. Even as you do your grocery shopping for those holiday dinners you can give a gift to the Museum—by registering your MVP card with Food Lion to benefit the Museum!

<http://members.aol.com/achmuseum/giftshop.html>  
<http://www.foodlion.com/IntheCommunity/ShopAndShare/>

The Amherst County Jamestown 2007 Art Contest is open to all fifth graders residing or attending school in Amherst County, whether public, private or home-school. Entries must be turned in by 2 p.m. on Friday, November 2. All participants will receive a Jamestown 2007 commemorative patch, and winners will receive awards and can participate in the Amherst Christmas Parade on December 1. Entries are limited to flat 18" x 12" in any medium and portray a young person's artistic impression telling the story of the first colonization at Jamestown. Details can be obtained from students' fifth grade teachers or from the Amherst County Museum.



Starting the holiday shopping early?  
 You can use the form below to give someone special  
 a gift membership!



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	_____

<b>Special Contributions</b>	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 \_\_\_\_\_
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- Library & Genealogy Resources \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

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### History Here in the County

**Resurrecting Dearborn** reception on Tuesday, October 16, from 4 to 6 p.m. See page 2 for details.

**Jane Eyre**, as presented by Lisa Hayes, on Saturday, October 20, at 2 p.m. Details on page 2.

**Jamestown 2007 Fifth Grade Art Contest** entries due Friday, November 2. See page 5 for more information.

**Get to Know Your County Tour** at Fort Riverview Saturday, November 3. For more information see page 1.

**Cookies and Cocoa** at the Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 1, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Museum.

**Time Capsule Encasement** on Tuesday, December 11, at 4 p.m. at the Amherst Library. See page 2 for details.

**Christmas Open House** at the Museum on Wednesday, December 12, from 3 to 6 p.m.

#### Exhibits:

**Resurrecting Dearborn**

October 2 - November 17, 2007 (See page 2.)

**Jamestown 2007 Amherst County Time Capsule Election**

November 1 - December 5, 2007 (See page 2.)

### History Happening Elsewhere

October 25-27, **Ota Benga and the Empowerment of the Pygmies**, an international conference at Lynchburg College. Call Pat Price at (434) 544-8576 for more information.

**Ghost Walk** October 25 to October 27, Diamond Hill Historic District in Lynchburg. Starting at Lewis-Clark Duplex, 416-418 Washington Street. For more information call (434) 528-5353. Tickets \$10.00 Adults; \$5.00 Children.

**Veterans Appreciation** October 27 and 28 at the Scottsville Museum.

November 11, at the Miller-Claytor House in Lynchburg, book signing. Authors S. Allen Chambers and Nancy Blackwell Marion will present **Lynchburg 100: An Illustrated Guide to Lynchburg Landmarks**.

**Christmas Candlelight Tour** in historic Diamond Hill. Sunday, December 2. Call (434) 847-0491, (434) 847-8409, or (434) 847-6289.

**Christmas Open House at Point of Honor**, Sunday, December 2, from noon to 4 p.m. (434) 455-6226.

Executive Board:  
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Amherst County Museum & Historical Society

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