

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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October 2010

Fall Van Tour

Our **Fall Van Tour** will leave the Amherst Administration Building **promptly** at **9:00 a.m.** on Saturday, **October 23**, so don't be late! We will travel Rt. 60 W to Forks of Buffalo to see Myers Mill and an old cannery; next to Buffalo Springs Turnpike passing Buffalo Springs Hotel and a Civil War muster ground. We will visit El Bethel Church, Pera, and the Ottie Cline Marker. At Pleasant View, we will have lunch at New Prospect Church and then visit St. Luke's Church in Pedlar Mills. On our way back to Amherst, we will stop by Morris Orchard. This trip goes through many rural areas and the fall leaves should be beautiful! Make your reservation now by calling the Museum, 946-9068 to reserve your seat. **Bring your lunch and drink.** We will accept donations to defray costs.

Art Exhibit

The Blue Ridge Parkway goes through western Amherst County and in recognition of its seventy-fifth anniversary the Museum is exhibiting the work of several local artists. See page 4 for more about this exhibit curated by Nancy McDearmon.

Amherst County's 250TH Birthday

A County Steering Committee is planning events for the whole county next year, so GET EXCITED! The Museum's Activities Committee is also planning special events for you on the third Sunday of each month during 2011, so save that day on your calendar. We plan to visit a church in January (plans are still being made), and, in February, Sandy Esposito will present slides from the recent county survey of historic structures which was sponsored by the state and county. We hope you will come and bring friends. Read your newsletters for later details.

American Civil War

150th Anniversary Commemoration

The Amherst County steering committee is seeking community participation for projects that will provide education about life and lessons from the American Civil War. This committee is part of the Virginia's recognition of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. A public meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 21, in the County Administration Building.

Van Tour on Saturday, October 23

9 a.m. at the County Administration Building in Amherst

Call 946-9068 to reserve your place on a van!

Thank You!

Benefactors

Leona Wilkins, VA

Sponsors

Mrs. Joseph Gleason, MO

Mary Frances Olinger, VA

Patrons

Margaret Cooper, VA

Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Hawkins, VA

Dr. and Mrs. Ed Hopkins, VA

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Blanche Mudry, VA

Alice Powell, VA

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Donors

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Mr. and Mrs. Steve Martin, VA

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Carroll Strickland, AL

Marita Taylor, VA

Gail Utley, TX

Mr. and Mrs. R.J. Welch, VA

Mary Wilhelm, VA

Additional donations by:

Eldon & Martha Cox, VA

Mr. and Mrs. William Fell, VA

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Elvira Morse, VA

Margaret Patterson, VA

Robert Sales, VA

Roselle Scales, SC

Marguerite Singleton, VA

Mary & Page Stinnett, VA

Jo Woods, VA

Memorials for Walter H. Morse

Mary Frances Olinger

Alice Powell

Memorials for Virginia Moses Babcock

Louise Cash

Memorials for Helen Cruise Feagans

Mary Brugh

Louise Cash

Gregory Curd

Betty Glass

Harman, Claytor, Corrigan & Wellman, PC.

The Larry Langhans family

Elvira Whitehead Morse

Mary Wilhelm

Bailey and BJ Wilkins

Leona Wilkins

Janice Woodard

The following volunteers have assisted at the Museum (on site) by helping with school visit programs, working on library projects, providing back-up support for the director and more!

Roger & Jackie Beidler

Rick Boothe

Ellen Craig

Midge Elliott

Judy Faris

Bill Hathaway

Juanita Henderson

Jean Higginbotham

Lynn Kable

Helen Lewis

Susan Mays

Kathryn Pixley

Ed Tinsley

Tom Wallace

Mary Wilhelm

Sharon Williamson

Teen Volunteers

Emily Craig

Andy Jordan

Nick Szobatura

Stories from From the Madison Heights 1961 scrapbook

The scrapbooks created by Amherst County Home Demonstration Clubs in 1961 provide a wealth of information about the communities in the county. The projects were undertaken to celebrate the county's 200th anniversary; the County is preparing for its 250th birthday and the scrapbooks are being brought out as county residents rediscover their community heritage. While many have clippings from newspapers and magazines that have information provided elsewhere, there are also stories that were written exclusively for the scrapbook. Most of the ghost stories are explained with natural phenomena.



About Quickmoor (shown above): There are ghost stories growing up about it—mostly fanciful. One, pure fiction, made up by Dr. Paxton to amuse a picnic party, concerns a ... slave girl. Miss Sally Tyler laid one ghost by sending her young brother, Fielden, up on the roof to saw off an overhanging limb that made a sighing sound.

About 1920, Edmonia Hill Peebles, daughter of Edmund Hill, sold the place to Mr. A.T. Quick. After his death Mrs. Quick lived on there alone for several years, saying she was not afraid, as she counted on Edmund Hill's ghost to protect her.



Miss Fannie

Above: "Miss Fannie" on the steps at Duckbill.

The house at Duckbill Farm was said to be haunted, probably by the man who was killed by a fall from a scaffold during construction. Miss Kate laid the ghost. She listened carefully to the moaning sigh in the upstairs bedroom, observed that the door was warped and let a draft in. A wooden button up at the top of the door ended the ghost forever.

[In February of 1842, George Shackelford purchased the place from Washington Apperson. In 1859, after Frances Shackelford's death, she freed her slaves and many went north (see the *Staunton Spectator*, October 18, 1859). The place was then sold to James McGehee whose family lived at Duckbill when the Civil War started.]

New in the Museum Collections



Above: Grey Brockman donated this moldboard plow in memory of his father, Frank G. Brockman. It was purchased about 1920 and used on the farm of Frank Brockman on the Buffalo River in the Sandidges area until the 1960s. This plow would have been pulled by two horses or mules to turn over the soil from the furrow. Mr. Brockman also donated a "double shovel" style cultivator that was also used on the farm.

Blue Ridge Birthday



One of the major projects of the Works Progress Administration in Virginia was the creation of the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Shenandoah National



Park. As these celebrate a 75th anniversary, the Amherst County Museum in conjunction with popular local artists presents an exhibit of views of this nationally acclaimed scenic park. Artists include Jean Beverly, Bill England, Marion Freerks, Nancy McDearmon, Andy Puttagio, Patty Turpin, and Rosalie Day White.

Many thanks to guest curator Nancy McDearmon

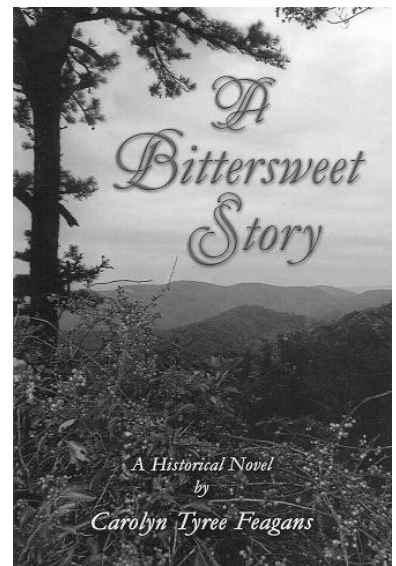
for her inspiration and for coordinating this exhibit. Showing only until the middle of November!



Scavenger Hunt winner, Kristin Lay, shows off her prize check with her grandfather, Rick Boothe. Rick is a volunteer at the Museum and arranged for her check to be a surprise at her birthday party. Kristin spent the day at the Town of Amherst Street Fair in June and participated in many of the activities around town including the scavenger hunt.

The *Amherst New Era-Progress* followed the construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway during the mid and late 1930s. For references to these articles one many consult the newspaper index at the Museum. This index covers only the period from 1931 to 1948 at this time, but we welcome volunteers who would like to help with the newspaper indexing project. Additionally, for those who have an interest in how the creation of these parks affected residents, the Museum Gift

Shop has copies of *A Bittersweet Story*, "a story of the human cost of creating The Shenandoah National Park." Available for \$10, each copy sold by the Museum is signed by the popular author, Carolyn Feagans.



Now in the Gift Shop!



Left to right: Holly Mills, Director; Susan Mays, Treasurer, Will Mays, guest speaker, Leona Wilkins, Board president and co-author of *Town of Amherst: 100 Years*, with Mary Frances Olinger, also co-author.

Annual Meeting

Many thanks to Will Mays who presented such an interesting talk about Robert Rose (1704-1751) at our annual meeting. We all came away with much more knowledge about Amherst County in its earliest days. It was truly a delightful day.



At right: Susan Mays looks on as Marjorie Selvage Stone and Will Mays review his copy of *The Diary of Robert Rose*. Mrs. Stone, an Amherst native, was able to attend the annual meeting while visiting from Ohio.

Yard Sale

The weather was cool enough for us to continue and finish our yard sale on September 18. We raised another \$135 for the Museum. Thanks to all who donated items and to all who helped.

In the Galleries

The Massie Gallery exhibit is the best way to get a quick overview of the history of Amherst County from its earliest settlement into the twentieth century. If you haven't seen Edwin's wooden leg then you must come by and check it out!

The Whitehead Gallery is the ever-popular interactive room that provides opportunities for voting practice, a push-button map, adventures in dressing in nineteenth century styles and railroad engineering.

The Singleton-Zinsser Gallery is currently exhibiting artifacts and memorabilia of the Town of Amherst from firefighting gear to town police badges.

Membership Committee

This committee has been hard at work, and they have been successful in getting memberships renewed and gaining donations to the Museum. **Thanks to Committee Members** for all your help! If each member would bring in one new member, that would really be a boost!

Volunteer Opportunities

We still need members for a Publicity Committee and an Exhibit Committee. Volunteer!

The Perfect Gift!

The Town of Amherst: Celebrating 100 Years

Published by the Amherst County Museum and Historical Society

Available now in our 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.

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 at right.

Categories for Donations

Operating Fund	_____
Endowment Fund	_____
Conservation Fund	_____
Programs	_____
Technology Fund	_____
Annex Fund	_____
Library & Genealogy Resources	_____

In Amherst County

Thursday, October 21 — The Amherst County Civil War Sesquicentennial Steering Committee will meet at the County Administration building at 6 p.m. This meeting is open to the public and the committee encourages interested citizens to attend.

Saturday, October 23 — **Fall Van Tour** This free tour of western Amherst County is sponsored by the Amherst County Museum. Call 946-9068 to reserve a seat on a van. The vans leave the County Administration building at 9 a.m.

Friday, December 3 — **Cookies and Cocoa** This year the Christmas Parade is on Friday evening, so we will be heating up hot cocoa and stringing popcorn before the parade to bring in the holiday season. We have the best parade viewing lawn in town!

New Calendar Item



To celebrate Amherst County's 250th birthday, this 2011 calendar was created especially to feature the many facets of Amherst County. It features photos of places and artifacts from Naola and Snowden, Galt's Mill, Coffeytown, Madison Heights and Court House. Each month includes three snippets of trivia from county history, from the momentous to routine. \$8

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Amherst County Museum & Historical Society

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