

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 36, NUMBER 5

October 2011

October program

Sunday, October 23, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Fort Riverview
This Civil War fort's earthworks will be open for Museum members. The fort is on private property, so this is a rare opportunity to see it. Only **30** people can be accommodated, so you must **register** by calling the Museum, **946-9068**. The tour requires some walking. **Meet** at the Madison Heights Library or the Amherst County Administration Building promptly at **1:30 p.m.** to be led to the site. **In case of rain, event will be cancelled.** If you register and later become unable to attend, please call the Museum so someone else can have the opportunity to go. →



← **A new book for sale: Miss Christine's Monroe**, a new book of old information saved by Christine McIvor Smith about 50 years ago. It contains articles and pictures that she collected about the railroad and the town of Monroe, Virginia. Costs: \$10 (includes tax).

November program

On Sunday, November 20, from 2 to 4 p.m. the Amherst County Museum in collaboration with the Monacan Ancestral Museum and the Amherst Glebe Arts Response (AGAR) will present a program about the history of the Bear Mountain Indian Mission School at the Monacan Ancestral Museum, *Three Amherst Schools: The Bear Mountain Indian Mission School*. will be screened. Monacans who attended the school prior to its closing in 1963 will lead a tour of the restored school (now part of the Museum) and will speak about their school days. The program will begin in the tribal arts hall. Free and open to the general public for this event only.

At right: The schoolhouse at Bear Mountain is on the National Register of Historic Places. The Monacan Ancestral Museum will also be open on November 20.



2011 Events

Sunday, October 23, from 2 to 4 p.m. — Fort Riverview Tour*

Saturday, November 19, from 5 to 7 p.m. — Pre-Holiday Celebration! **

Sunday, November 20, from 2 to 4 p.m. — Monacan Nation program and Tour***

* Members only; reservations required

**Tickets \$25 per person

***Free & open to the public

Thank You!

Benefactors

Kathryn Pixley, VA

Patrons

Alice Powell

Donors

Betty Curl, VA

Charles & Frances Midkiff, MD

Esther Tracy, IL

Friends

Mrs. Lawrence Massie, VA

In memoriam: Shirley Snead

Jack & Judy Faris, VA

Thank you to Amherst Glebe Arts Response/AGAR and to the Clifford Ruritans for their co-sponsorship of the August program about the old Clifford school. All enjoyed the opportunity to recount stories of the school and neighborhood and tour the building with its school history!

Many thanks also to Rosemary Dunne for her delightful and informative talk about the early Amherst courthouses! The popularity of Rosemary's research always shows when she offers to take questions from the audience.

First Annual Pre-Holiday Celebration
 Sponsored by
Amherst County Museum & Historical Society
Saturday, November 19, 2011
5:00 pm -7:00 pm
Hors d'oeuvres and one drink ticket
included
for \$25/person
Wine and beer available

Silent Auction *Chinese Auction* *Door Prizes*

Save this date in your calendar now!



← The officers of the Amherst County Museum & Historical Society gather at the Annual Meeting at Winton. Seated: Bonnie Limbrick, Vice President; Standing, from left, Tom Wallace, Treasurer; Lee Wilkins, President; Kathryn Pixley, Secretary. Director Holly Mills at back.

Richard Glass won a copy of *Virginia: A Commonwealth Comes of Age*, as a door prize, presented by Director Holly Mills. →



Patrick Schroeder (standing) portrayed George Peers, Appomattox County Clerk, at the Annual Meeting. His conversations were enjoyable to hear and were well received. Mr. Schroeder has published several titles relating to Appomattox and the Civil War and these may be found in the Museum's Gift Shop. (See page 5.)

Autumn Apples

The 1870 Agricultural Census lists 139 growers of orchard products but does not separate apples from peaches. The majority of the orchardists worked them on a small scale, as a sideline, producing between 10 and 50 dollars worth of fruit, but several produced amounts much larger: in the Pedlar district (Coolwell post office) Samuel Irvine produced 500, George W. Dodd, 400, Joseph Massie 360 and Robert Wilmore 350; in the Temperance district (New Glasgow post office) John S. Tucker 300, Wilkerson Ware 250 and Samuel Watts also 250; and in the Temperance district (Temperance post office) Robert Henley produced 750, Daniel Miller 500 and Charles Smith 250.



At left, Tom Burford, the Smithsonian's apple expert, donates a Ralls Genet apple tree sapling to the Museum in November, 2009. This sapling was planted a bit to the front and side of the Museum's "Tyler Schoolhouse," it being deemed a good place to grow apples for the teacher.

At right: Thomas Tucker and son Bill, of Amherst, prepare apples for market. ca. 1975.



Below: Demonstrating the making of apple butter.



The Museum's newest publication, *Miss Christine's Monroe*, is based on a scrapbook kept by Christine McIvor Smith (1898-1988), in which she kept articles and photographs about Monroe. She added her own notes and comments in the margins. The book itself in the property of her sister, Mary McIvor Andrews, was graciously loaned to the Museum for publication in order for it to be shared more broadly.

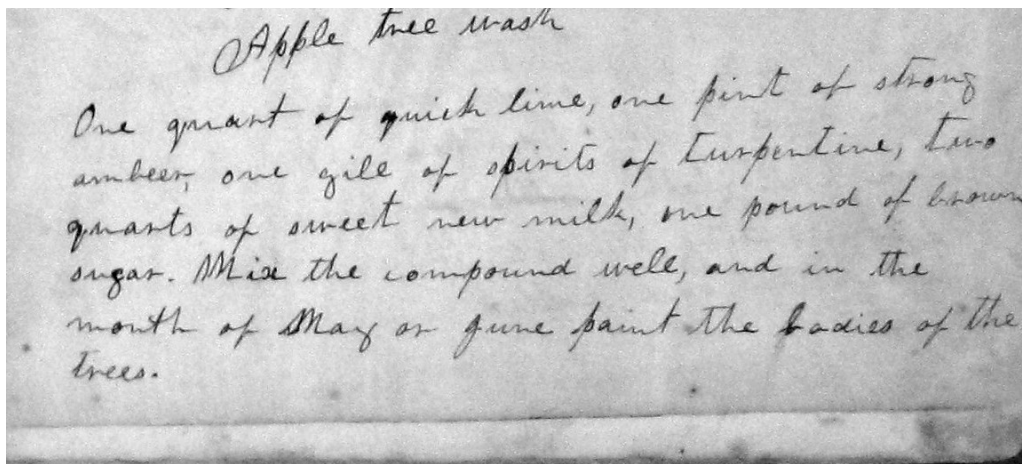
The first page of *Miss Christine's Monroe* describes how Burford's station's name was changed to Winesap because of the great number of winesap apples shipped from there.

Apple Peeling Jelly, contributed by Arleen Jennings — Select good tart apple peelings, cover with water and cook until tender. Let stand a short time, pour off water and save. Measure 17 cups of juice and add 1 large can pineapple juice and 3 boxes Sure-Jell; bring to a boil and boil 1 minute add 21 cups sugar. Bring to a boil and boil 1 minute or until it sheets off spoon. Pour in hot glasses and seal.

From page 95 of *Country Cooking*, compiled by members of Elon Extension Homemakers [1985].

Miss Christine's Monroe

Now available in the Museum's Gift Shop — \$10 (includes tax)



Apple tree wash—
One quart of quick lime, one pint of strong amber, one gill of spirits of turpentine, two quarts of sweet new milk, one pound of brown sugar. Mix the compound well, and in the month of May or June paint the bodies of the trees.

Quoted from *Meehan's Monthly*, July, 1896, page 136: Apple, Rawle's Janet or Ralls' Genet.—In your May issue you state: "It has always been understood that one of the apples indicated was raised by Mr. Caleb Rawls, in Amherst Co., Virginia, and that he named it for his daughter, Janet." In the report of Dr. Howsley... we find the following: "Rawle' Genet is th proper spelling of the name of this apple, and not Janet, as it is usually spelled." ... Briefly stated, Thos. Jefferson became acquainted with this apple during the administration of General Washington. M. Genet was sent to this country as Minister of the French Government.

M. Genet had apples of the variety in question sent him from France for his own use. Mr. Jefferson so admired this apple that he procured scions and gave them to a Mr. Rawles (Ralls), a nurseryman and fruit grower, of Virginia, for propagation....

A letter from Chas. L. Ellis, Clerk of Amherst County Court, Va., ...February 14, 1892, in reply to an inquiry as to the spelling of Caleb Rawles' name, stated that it was spelled R-a-l-l-s. ... Mr. Wm. Sandidge, the present Clerk of Amherst County Court, Va., states: "I find the name "Rawles" of record in this office in several instances, but no "Caleb Rawles." The name "Caleb Ralls" appears several times. We believe these are "good and sufficient" reasons for the name Ralls Genet, as used by the division of Pomology.

Above from the daybook of Mary Virginia Goode McGinnis, in the possession of Susan Neall Murnane, who donated the digital images to the Museum.

Below: From the Bettie Fletcher postcard collection, donated by Rebecca Jones. Addressed to Mrs. Frank Fletcher, Madison Heights, VA, postmarked, Oct 26 6:30 p.m., 1912, Richmond, VA. *Dear Bettie, The Bbl of Apples received OK and perfectly sound words can't express how much we appreciate them. Hope all are well. Will write later. With love, Ida*



New in the Library

- *Remembering Tinbridge Hill in Lynchburg, Virginia, 1920-1970*, Blackwell Press, 2011. Black & white photographs, charts, index; 102 pages.
- *Hansard family descendants*—this 400 page book was loaned to the Museum by Diana E. Hansard, and has been completely photographed. DVD.

Shopping online?

It doesn't cost a cent extra to benefit the Museum!

Start your online shopping at *Shop for Museums*. You can register at www.shopformuseums.com and select the Amherst County Museum & Historical Society as your “beneficiary” museum. (Please be aware that the Amherst Museum is in New York. We are the Amherst **County** Museum!) Encourage your friends to adopt the Amherst County Museum as the “beneficiary” for their online shopping.

You can shop from hundreds of online stores and services—Amazon.com, Sears, Target, Snapfish photography, Delta Airlines and Carnival Cruiselines are just a few of the possibilities. Check out this site when you shop online, and select Amherst County Museum to be your favorite museum!

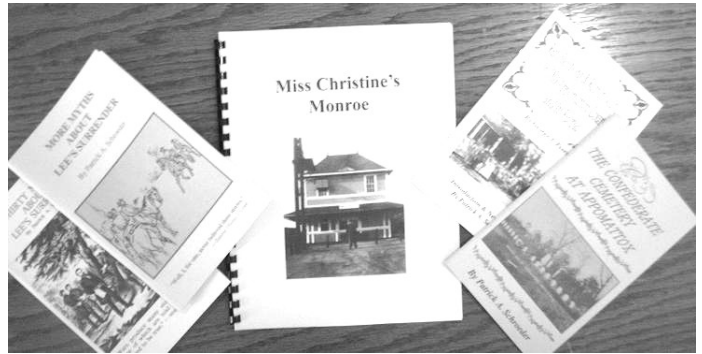
An easy way to get money for your Museum!

New in the Gift Shop

- *Miss Christine's Monroe*, compiled from Christine McIvor Smith's book of articles, notes and pictures about the history of Monroe—its station, churches, schools, stores, homes and more! 43 pages with black and white photographs. \$10 includes tax.

And if you enjoyed our speaker, Patrick Schroeder, at the Annual Meeting, you may want to consider some of these (\$5 each):

- *Thirty Myths About Lee's Surrender*, by Patrick Schroeder, 32 pages, black and white photographs
- *More Myths About Lee's Surrender*, by Patrick Schroeder, 32 pages, black and white photographs
- *The Confederate Cemetery at Appomattox*, by Patrick Schroeder, 40 pages, black and white photographs
- *Recollections & Reminiscences of Old Appomattox County and Its People*, by George T. Peers, with an introduction by Patrick Schroeder, 40 pages, black and white photographs



When you do your Christmas shopping,
be sure to 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	_____
Annex Fund	_____

Museum Calendar

- **Sunday, October 23**, from 2 to 4 p.m. — Fort Riverview Tour — Members only; reservations required; call the Museum at 946-9068 to reserve your space!
- **Saturday, November 19**, from 5 to 7 p.m. — Pre-Holiday Celebration! Tickets \$25 per person.
- **Sunday, November 20**, from 2 to 4 p.m. — Monacan Nation program and Tour. Free & open to the public.
- **Friday, December 2**, starting at 4 p.m. — Cookies & Cocoa before the Parade. Crafts, music, refreshments, and comfortable viewing for the Christmas Parade.

Come out to the Museum to see gift ideas for that “difficult to buy for” person!



Many organizations in Amherst County are celebrating this 250th birthday with regular and special events. To keep up with these programs, monitor the Museum's Sesquicentennial Events page at:

www.amherstcountymuseum.org/county250events.html

The page also includes links to short history articles that have appeared in the Amherst New-Era Progress.

Volunteers wanted: To break down and remove boxes to the recycling center. This is a great opportunity for a scout troop with an available pickup truck. Can be done easily in one afternoon!

Executive Board:
Leona Wilkins, President
Bonnie Limbrick, Vice President
Kathryn Pixley, Secretary
Tom Wallace, Treasurer
Grady Davis
Cynthia Hicks
Bill McClenny
Holcomb Nixon
Mary Frances Olinger
Holly Mills, Director

Address Service Requested

PO Box 741
Amherst, VA 24521

Amherst County Museum & Historical Society

NON-PROFIT ORG.
BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AMHERST, VA
PERMIT NO. 24