

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 2012

Cemetery Tour

On Sunday afternoon, **October 21, starting at 2:00**, you are invited to our first **Cemetery Tour**. It will start at the Christian Aid Cemetery (next to the Subaru on S. Main Street, Amherst, where you may park), and then move to Amherst Cemetery (N. Main Street). This event is open to the public and there is no charge.



At left, the entrance to the Christian Aid Society Cemetery on South Main. At right, the entrance to the Amherst Cemetery on North Main, both in the Town of Amherst



Some of Amherst's interesting residents will be portrayed by students from Amherst County High School, and there will be guides to tell you more! Family names like Jordan, Rose, Higginbotham, Campbell, Strode, Voorhies, Dearborn, and more will interest you, so come to learn about our county. In order to help us prepare, **please make reservations by calling the Museum, 946-9068, by October 17.**

Wear comfortable shoes! If there is a gentle rain, bring your umbrella. If there is heavier rain, an abbreviated program will be presented in the Hamble Center directly behind the Amherst County Museum.

The SECOND ANNUAL GALA FUNDRAISER

will be from **5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 10, at the Hamble Center** directly behind the Museum. It was so much fun last year that there is bound to be a crowd, so make your reservations early and purchase your tickets by October 31. Call the Museum, 946-9068. Tickets are \$25, and that includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and one wine or beer. There will be a cash bar. Bring money, since there will be a silent auction and a Chinese Raffle you'll want to have a chance to win. Come to enjoy a night of fun and help the Museum at the same time!

Civil War Music & Readings

On Sunday, **November 4 at 2:00**, Amherst Glebe Arts Response and the Museum will sponsor a program of Civil War music and readings at the Museum. Robert Maxham and company will present a program using period instruments and songs. Actual letters from the time will be read, and it is hoped part of the program can be outside (weather permitting) around a campfire. Come for a unique presentation.

The program is free but seating is limited, so reservations will be required. **Please call the Museum at 946-9068 to make your reservations!**

Sunday, October 21, at 2 p.m. Cemetery Tour, free & open to the public—Make reservations
Sunday, November 4 at 2 p.m. Civil War Music & Readings, free & open to the public—Make reservations

Tuesday, November 6, when you vote—Election Day Cake Event (See page 5)

Saturday, November 10, from 5 to 7 p.m. Second Annual Gala Fundraiser—Tickets \$25

RESERVATIONS and/or tickets: call 946-9068

Thank you!

Benefactors

*Susan Mays, VA
Kathryn Pixley, VA*

Patrons

*Mr. and Mrs. Robert Chope, PA
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Faris, VA
Mrs. Leah Settle Gibbs, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Preston Hundley, VA
Randy Parr, VA
Mrs. Alice Powell, VA
Mr. and Mrs. William Tucker, VA
Mr. Aubrey V. Watts, Jr., VA
Libby Whitley and Dave Fulton, VA*

Donors

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Mr. R. Wayne Ogden, VA
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Mr. and Mrs. C. Manly Rucker, III, VA
Mary Ann Stinnett, VA
Mr. Carroll Strickland, AL
Jean Svoboda, VA
Mr. and Mrs. John Swift, VA
Mr. Ed Tinsley, VA
Mazie Wilson, VA*

Friends

*Mrs. Lynn K. Brugh, VA
Alice Burnett, VA.
Samantha Embrey, VA
Max Guggenheimer, VA
William Kramer, VA
Mr. and Mrs. George Lewis, VA
Joyce Maddox, VA
Helen Massie, VA
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Barbara Jennings Olson, PA
Lynn Rainville, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ramsey, VA
Martha Welch, VA
Mr. and Mrs. Chester Whitten, Jr., MD
Mary Wilhelm, VA*

Our Wish List update!

Many thanks to Marguerite Singleton for the cabinetry (not yet installed) for the Hamble Center's kitchen, and also generous thanks to Susan Mays for the Heat Pump (also be be installed) for the Hamble Center!

Funding for repairs to some of the porches are still needed along with someone to help paint 138 porch floor boards, and for the Hamble Center: a stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave and a video and speaker projection system (\$3200.00). Also needed are funds for archival storage supplies, and updating some of our technology.

Welcome to our New Members!

Mr. C. Tucker Battle, DC

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Brightwell, VA

Richard Garbee, VA

Mrs. Iris King, PA

Ms. Sandy Liebler, VA

Mr. James Massie, VA

Mrs. Dolores Thompson Redwood, PA

Memorials

In memoriam: Ann Aagard

Mary Brugh

Leah Settle Gibbs

Alice Powell

In memoriam: Harold Higgins

Leah Settle Gibbs

In memoriam: Ernestine Brockman

Holly Mills



Guest speaker Mr. Keith Kaufelt, from the Poe Museum in Richmond, greets Mrs. Marguerite Singleton before the Annual Meeting.

Edgar Allen Poe comes to Amherst County

All had a delightful time at the Annual Meeting—Keith Kaufelt captivated everyone with his recitations of *The Tell Tale Heart* and *The Raven*. Afterwards we were treated to an opportunity for questions and answers and he again impressed us with his knowledge of Edgar Allen Poe.

An Outdoor Gallery of Historical Art on Second Street in Downtown Amherst

Fourth in a series of ArtMeters town enhancement projects, this activity beautifies the downtown area of Amherst by enlivening the exterior wall of the prominent ca.1921 Goodwin Building at the corner of Main and 2nd Streets. The mural project was completed by National Art Honor Society high school students during the summer of 2012, under the supervision of the Amherst County High School art teacher, Maryellen Barron, and volunteers from the local artists organization. The eight windows on the 2nd Street side of the Goodwin Building are covered with painted panels depicting ten people of historical interest.



Robert Rose, by Bryan Taylor. Robert Rose was born on February 12, 1704, in Wester Alves, Scotland, and died on June 30, 1751 near Richmond, Virginia. Shortly after his ordination in the Anglican Church in 1724, he immigrated to Virginia and came first to Spotsylvania County, then to Essex County.

In 1748, he came to Albemarle County to serve as the first Anglican minister for the newly formed St. Anne's Parish. He is generally credited with establishing St. Mark's, in present day Clifford, Amherst County. For more about Rev Rose, see *The Diary of Robert Rose*.

Indiana Fletcher Williams and her daughter, Daisy, by Sienna Barron. Indiana Fletcher Williams (March 1828 – October 29, 1900), was the daughter of Elijah Fletcher, a schoolmaster from Vermont who eventually came to be a wealthy landowner and served as mayor of Lynchburg. Indiana and



her brothers and sister were raised at Sweetbriar plantation. After Indiana's marriage to James Henry Williams of New York, she spent much time there also. Their daughter, Maria Georgianna "Daisy" Williams

(September 10, 1867 – January 22, 1884) spent her life between Sweetbriar and New York, dying at the young age of sixteen. Sweet Briar College was established according to the terms of Indiana's will, in memory of her daughter, Daisy. (For more about Indiana and Daisy, see *Indiana Fletcher Williams* and *Daisy Williams*, both by Ann Whitley)

Reuben Barnes Ware, MD, by Sarah McCafferty. Dr. R. B. Ware, 1873-1964, received his medical degree from Medical College of Virginia in 1895. He began his practice at a time when doctors made house calls on horseback and in all kinds of weather.



In practice more than fifty years, he delivered more than three thousand babies, many being honored with names such as Reuben, Barnes, and Ware. After moving into the town in 1912 he practiced out of his home near what would later be the traffic circle. Dr. Ware owned one of the first three cars in Amherst and was noted for his "imaginative" driving and parking skills. A skilled story-teller, he taught many, by example, the values of humor, generosity, and courtesy. (For more about Dr. Ware, see "House Calls on Horseback," by Patty Walton Turpin, pages 32-33 of *Amherst: from Taverns to a Town*, by Robert C. Wimer and Leah Settle Gibbs)

[Arthur] Gates Ware, by Ryan Mattox. Postmaster Gates Ware (October 11, 1911 - December 18, 1990) was known for his avid sports interests—golf, croquet, horseshoes, as well as the school sports of baseball, basketball, football



and more. He would participate, coach, or simply watch, always placing *how to play the game* over and above *winning the game*. Well endowed with a sense of humor, his smile lightened the hearts of many youngsters. (From page 108 of *Amherst: from Taverns to a Town*, by Robert C. Wimer and Leah Settle Gibbs)

Queena Stovall, by Lauren Huffman. Emma Serena “Queena” Dillard Stovall (December 21, 1887 – June 27, 1980) began her career as a dedicated artist late in life—in late 1949, focusing her subjects on rural country life in Amherst County.



By 1972, her work had attracted the attention of the New York State Historical Association and the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Collection in Williamsburg. Her achievements as a nationally acclaimed American folk artist continue to be a source of pride in cultural circles of Amherst County. (from *The Art of Queena Stovall: Images of Country Life*, by Claudine Weatherford)



Henry Myers, by Taylyn Soult. Sheriff Henry S. Myers, Sr. (January 28, 1900 - August 12, 1970) served Amherst County from January 1, 1940 until December 31, 1967, twenty-eight years. (from *Amherst New Era-Progress*, August 14, 1970, obituary)

Florence “Sis” Yancey, Alison Tyler. Florence Yancey (September 15, 1870 - June 26, 1978) lived to age 107 and delivered generations of babies as a certified midwife for fifty years—over five hundred babies. She answered calls from all over, some in places by candlelight and no running water. (For more about “Sis,” see page 131 of *Amherst: from Taverns to a Town*, by Robert C. Wimer and Leah Settle Gibbs)



Eddie Rodwell and Willard Douglas, by Zach Mays and Tiffany Foster. Eddie Rodwell (1922-2005) was a local barber. His concern for lack of indoor plumbing for many in town led him to run and win his first term on the Amherst Town Council in 1976. Except for a couple years in the late 1980s, he served until 1992. In 1991, the Council appointed him to complete Mayor Joseph Siegrist’s unexpired term, thus becoming the town’s first African-American mayor. After that he served on the Planning Commission until he retired for health reasons.



For more about Eddie, see page 71 of *Amherst: from Taverns to a Town*, by Robert C. Wimer and Leah Settle Gibbs)

In the barber’s chair is Willard Douglas (b. 1932). He graduated from Amherst County Training School in 1949, served in the military, and graduated from Virginia Union University and Howard Law School. In 1974, Willard H. Douglas Jr., was sworn in as the first black judge in Virginia since Reconstruction. Now retired, he lives in Richmond, where he serves on the board of Southeastern Action in Rural Communities and is active on the Virginia Council of Churches.

On the afternoon of Thursday, September 20, 2012, these paintings were unveiled before a crowd gathered across the street from the Goodwin Building. Each of the artists were recognized in addition to Art teacher, Maryellen Barron and Project Director Sunny Monk.



Thank you for a beautiful downtown!



Our Election Day Cake Event

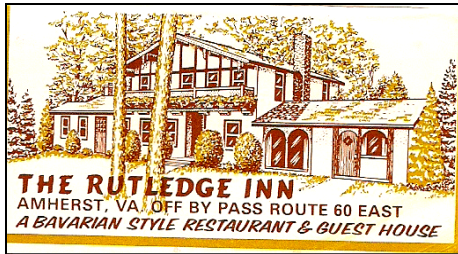
Join us at the polls on Election Day! Each dollar donation that you make gives you a chance to win a delicious cake. Past cake winners will attest to the scrumptious opportunity this can be!

Also, we continue to welcome those who would like to help us with this event. If you can volunteer an hour or two at your precinct, please let us know by calling the Museum at 946-9068.



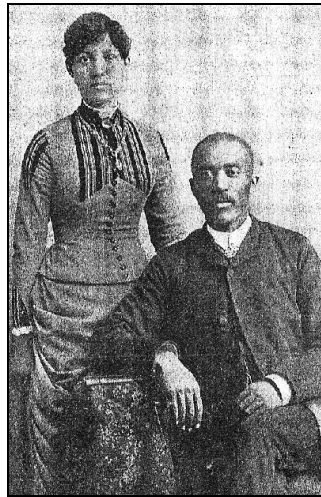
At Elon Presbyterian: 1st row: Donnie Simmons, Donnie Wall, Bernard Blanks; 2nd: Dorothy Blanks, Jeane Peters, Barbara Ogden, Patsy Wall, Katemes Wallace; 3rd: Nancy Wills, Jackie Miller, Nancy Morris, Connie Stinnette, Betty Simmons; 4th: Charles Wills, Stealing Wooldridge, Wade Talbert, Rat Wills, Withers Whitehead, Back: Floyd Whitehead, Nell Wills; Donated by Ann Leyden

At right, The Rutledge Inn, from a matchbook donated by R.B. Ware.



Some of our Recent Acquisitions

In the library we have added a number of donations, including *Tombstone Inscriptions of Orange County, Virginia*, by Margaret C. Klein; *History of the Women's Christian Temperance Union of Virginia and A Glimpse of Seventy-Five Years: 1883-1958*, by Elizabeth Hogg Ironmonger and Pauline Landrum Phillips; *Tombstone Inscriptions of King George County, Virginia*, by Margaret C. Klein, and many other books still being cataloged. Of particular interest is *School Life and Other Incidents*, by Silas Nashby Berry. Born in 1864, Berry was an African-American teacher and was married to Lelia Alice Berry, and was also active in First Baptist Church of Amherst County.



This small volume provides much information about Amherst County. It also includes a school reunion at First Baptist on July 14, 1915, with a list of 437 students. Published by J. P. Bell Co. This has been digitized as a pdf file on the Museum's website at: www.amherstcountymuseum.org/collections/2012-20.html

Left, Silas and Alice Berry



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

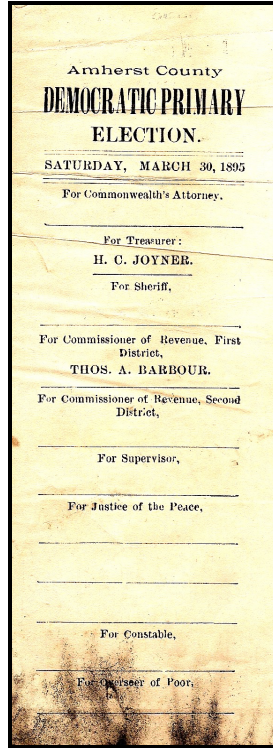
Operating Fund	_____
Endowment Fund	_____
Building Fund	_____

Museum 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. Call 946-9068 for reservations.

Sunday afternoon, November 4, (note change of date) the museum will host a program of Civil War music and readings co-sponsored by *Amherst Glebe Arts Response*. Free and open to the public. Call 946-9068 for reservations.

And of course, we will have our annual **Cookies and Cocoa** beginning at 4 p.m., before the the Lions' Club Ray Puckett Christmas Parade on **Friday, December 7**. This is always lots of fun—cookies, cocoa and crafts for the whole family!



Above, a newly acquired ballot from an 1895 election in Amherst County.

Tuesday, November 6, is Election Day! The Museum will sponsor its traditional Election Day Cake Event so be sure to visit us when you go to vote. Your donation may win you a cake. Please let us know if you can help with this event.

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 have done so much more for the Center, so be sure to watch for when the tickets go on sale. You'll want to see the progress we've made this year! Ticketed event.

Executive Board:
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 Judy Farris
 Cynthia Hicks
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 Mary Frances Olinger
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Amherst County Museum & Historical Society

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