

The Sargeant Museum of Louisa County History
Bringing Louisa History to Life

214 Fredericksburg Avenue, Louisa, Virginia & on the web at www.louisahistory.org

Louisa County Historical Society

2015 Issue 1



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Mark your Calendar for our **BIG SPRING EVENT!**

2nd Annual Heritage Day

Saturday, April 25th, 2015 9am -4pm

How much do YOU know about life between the Revolutionary and Civil Wars? If you're like most people, not nearly enough to explain 80 years of our young democracy's history. America was expanding by leaps and bounds-canals and railroads promised to transform transportation. The National Road (now US Rt. 40) was completed and hordes of people left Louisa County to follow it west. James Monroe, our neighbor from Albemarle, was president when the decade began and, in one of the great ironies of history, Presidents Jefferson and Adams died within hours of each other on July 4th, 1826 as the nation celebrated its 50th Anniversary.

The gentleman in the tall hat below will talk about how people lived and worked. The tobacconist will demonstrate and talk on all things with tobacco. His wife will be cooking and talking on the "domestic arts" of the time. The blacksmiths will be here, the broom maker, a spinner, a weaver, a woodworker, people working in the garden, and more. Children can make corn shuck dolls, try their hand at spinning wool, do needlework, telegraph a message, do a scavenger hunt and other activities just for them. Come hungry as vendors will provide food and period craftsmen will be at work.

Help us spread the word and plan to bring family and guests! The event is free to the public.



The W. S. Hancock Society from Pennsylvania (shown here) will be camping in and around the Michie House. Led by retired National Park Service staff member Bruce Stocking, the event will transport visitors to our heritage farm back to the 1820s in Virginia.





Our thanks to all those who supported our work in 2014

Annual Fund

Anna Lou Flynn,
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Grants and Major Gifts

Louisa Co. Library Foundation
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County of Louisa
Dominion Foundation
Virginia Vermiculite, LLC
W. Earle & Phyllis Collins Crank
Memorial Endowment

Welcome to our newest Life Members

Virginia Michie Culpepper
Edward Minor "Ted" Watson, Jr.
Christine Koppel

Do you know we count on our Annual Fund for 40% of our yearly budget?

Our thanks to the many donors who have already contributed to our Annual Fund for 2015. Without strong support from our friends and members we could not keep doing our work.

If you have not yet sent in your gift to support us this year,
we hope you will do so right away.

Support Our Future Through Our Endowment Fund

Can't give much now? Consider naming the Society through a bequest in your will or estate plans. Contact us for more information.



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear members and friends,

Now that the holidays are over and some of us are just getting around to writing our thank you notes, I thought it might be high time I write a few "thanks yous" on behalf of the Louisa County Historical Society Board. I have mentioned many times before how generous I have found people to be here in our county. But this year I feel especially grateful for the many gifts bestowed on the Historical Society and the Museum.

I wish to thank those who have been so generous with memberships and with donations to our fund raising efforts. Without your financial support we would not be able to keep the museum open and would not be able to offer programs like Christy Coleman's lecture to wrap up our "If It Takes a Hundred Years" project last fall.

I sincerely thank our volunteers who give their gifts of time and energy teaching classes like Hearth Cooking and arrow making, volunteer as docents, transcribe historical letters or vacuum the museum. Each and every thing you do makes a difference in how people view the museum and shows them that we have something important to offer them.

I wish to thank those who volunteer their talents in tangible ways...like crafting benches for the Michie House, creating the digital mapping program, taking photos at all of our events to be used in brochures and to document museum activities. What you have created makes the visitor experience special and people seem to know that as soon as they come in the front door.

As a Hearth Cook, I am especially grateful to a group of volunteers who have established the Herb Guild and who will be doing the designing, the planting, the weeding and the watering of the Michie House herb garden. Not only will the herb garden be a welcome addition to the interpretation of life around the Michie House in the 1800s, it will also provide fresh herbs for the Hearth Cooks to use in our cooking sessions!

Thanks go to our genealogy volunteers who show folks just how to find resources that are available to help them with research on their own families. It can be a daunting task to begin the research for family history. It is so helpful to have someone who knows where to begin that search.

And I would like to thank Executive Director, Elaine Taylor, and the Board members of the Historical Society for all the time and effort you put forth on the work of the museum. Attending monthly meetings and committee meetings, writing reports and dealing with finances, making repairs around the museum, giving talks to community groups, writing and editing the newsletter and magazine...these are just a few of the jobs our Board members take on and do so well.

And thanks to those who had the vision to create the Louisa County Historical Society and to turn the Sargeant-Pettit House into a museum in the first place. Next year we will celebrate our 50th anniversary as a Historical Society. I look forward to being a part of it and invite you to become a participant in the celebration, as well. There are so many ways for you to give your time and energy to tell the story of Louisa County. To volunteer, call Elaine Taylor at the museum (540-967-5975) or contact email her via (louisahistory@verizon.net).

Looking forward to another exciting year,

Maren Smith, President

Our thanks to Garry Johnson who made us four lovely primitive benches for our programs at the Michie House. His benches enabled us to seat all 24 people who came to hear Celtic Harpist Eve Watters just before Christmas!



PROGRAMS AND CLASSES AT THE HERITAGE FARM

Classes at the Michie House

Book now...they fill fast!

Call Louisa County Parks and Recreation at 967-4420 to register.

Heritage Baskets Saturday, March 21st 10-4

Under the guidance of award winning basket makers, Maren Smith and Pat Wilson, you will make and take home a beautiful heritage market basket. You'll learn the basics and also how to creatively embellish baskets with leather, shells, etc. Age 12 and up.

Bring your own flat bladed heavy shears and lunch. Cost \$35 per person.



Hearth Cooking

Tuesday, March 24th from 10-4

How did colonial Virginians cook with no electric ovens or microwaves? Learn for yourself as you cook and enjoy eating an entire meal prepared in the historic Michie House under the instruction of The Hearth Cooking Guild from the Louisa County Historical Society. Original period recipes and techniques are used. Cost \$20

Heritage Baskets (repeat) Tuesday, April 14th 10-4

Under the guidance of award winning basket makers, Maren Smith and Pat Wilson, you will make and take home a beautiful heritage market basket. You'll learn the basics and also how to creatively embellish baskets with leather, shells, etc. Age 12 and up. Bring your own flat bladed heavy shears and lunch. Cost \$35 per person.

Fun With History Kid's Camp day Thursday, July 9th 9-3

Step back in time on the Heritage Farm to the year 1800! You'll spend the day back in history playing games, making crafts and yummy treats, making dolls and toys, learning to play music on a colonial tin whistle, and much more. Sign up early for our first Fun With History Day through Louisa Parks and Rec. For rising 3rd-6th graders. We ask that children have an adult with them for the day (don't worry, you'll have as much fun as they do— at no charge!) Cost- \$15 per child (2 for \$25)



Don't miss out on events that are coming up more and more between newsletters. If we do not have your email address and you would like to receive email notices or reminders of these and more activities at the museum and Heritage Farm, please send it to us at louisahistory@verizon.net

We are looking for more volunteers as we grow! Call Elaine Taylor, our director, to discuss upcoming opportunities and needs you can help fill. 540-967-5975.

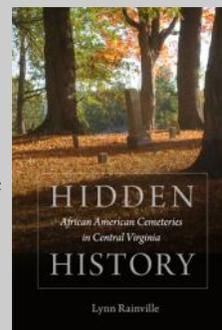
*Please register for classes thru Parks and Rec, 540-967-4420
Demonstrations and Heritage Day in April are free to the public. All ages welcome.*

MORE UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Events at the Sargeant Museum

Hidden History, African-American Cemeteries in Central Virginia Sunday, February 22nd 2:00 p.m.

Join Dr. Lynn Rainville as she takes us through the forgotten African American cemeteries of central Virginia to recover information crucial to the stories of the black families who lived and worked there for over two hundred years. Dr. Rainville's findings shed light on family genealogies, the rise and fall of segregation, and attitudes toward religion and death. Lynn Rainville earned her Ph.D. in Near Eastern anthropology and archaeology in 2001. In 2008 she was appointed a research professor in the humanities at Sweet Briar College where she is the founding director of the Tusculum Institute dedicated to local history and historic preservation.



World War I Flying Aces Saturday, Feb 28th 10-noon

A flying ace was described as a military aviator credited with shooting down five or more aircraft in combat. Deemed "Knights of the Air" by some, these young pilots were viewed as celebrities in their respective countries and their acts of bravery in their revolutionary machines were often the source of inspiration for the soldiers on the ground. Abby Whitlock returns to talk about this exciting chapter in the Great War. Free.

Celebrating the Silver Screen Sunday, March 1st 2:00

Join LaVahn Hoh as he discusses the Golden Age of the silver screen in America: the movie theaters in towns and cities, large and small, across the nation in the mid-20th Century. This companion discussion to the exhibit which will open the same day will feature Louisa's own Talley's Theater on Main Street. Bring your memories and a friend!

Family History Research (at the Louisa County Public Library) Saturday, March 14th 2-4 pm

Join Louisa County Historical Society director Elaine Taylor at the public library. We will learn how to discover ancestors and the context of their lives you have never explored before. This session will cover how to begin, where to look online, how to organize your information and even ideas for making small gifts from what you learn with other family members. Contact the library to register at 894-5853.

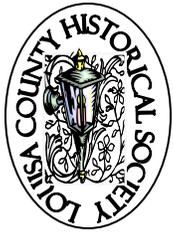
What's on display in the Purcell Exhibit Room?

Celebrating the Silver Screen Opens Sunday, March 1st (See Presentation above)

Professor LaVahn Hoh (known for his expertise on the American Circus) presents this exhibit about the Golden Age of the silver screen in America. His own memorabilia and hallmark anecdotes will tell the story of movies across the nation in the mid-20th Century and feature Louisa's own Talley's Theater on Main Street.

Sunday, June 7th, 2:00– The Ice Cream Social...See back page for details.

Monthly Programs are made possible by a grant from the W. Earle & Phyllis Collins Crank Memorial Endowment



214 Fredericksburg Avenue
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Louisa, VA 23093
(540) 967-5975
www.louisahistory.org

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Louisa Arts Center

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Invite a Friend to *Become a Member*

Every member makes the Society stronger.

Membership Categories

Annual Individual (Individual and family)	\$ 35
Annual Supporting	\$ 50
Annual Sustaining	\$ 200
Annual Corporate	\$ 100
Lifetime Benefactor (Including Engraved Brick)	1,500

*Mail check to Louisa County Historical Society,
PO Box 1172, Louisa, VA 23093
or renew online through PayPal at www.louisahistory.org*



Mark Your Calendar for the **2015 Ice Cream Social**

**at Prospect Hill Plantation in Historic Green Springs
Sunday, June 7th at 2:00**

*Exclusively for our donors, members and heir guests.
Look for your invitation with details in early May.*