



MONTGOMERY MUSEUM & LEWIS MILLER REGIONAL ART CENTER

Volume 27 Issue 2

NEWSLETTER

June 2011

HERITAGE DAY

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MUSEUM SPONSORS ANNUAL HERITAGE DAY EVENT



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD AND FREE ADMISSION

Come experience the past on Saturday, August 20th, at Montgomery County Heritage Day. This popular annual event will feature colonial dancers, antique cars, and arts and crafts for sale. There will be live music and storytelling all day in the gazebo. Re-enactments and entertainment for children will occur periodically throughout the day. Visit with some fine artists who have art for sale, and enjoy delicious food. Entrance to the museum is free for the day.



*Events from last year's Heritage Day
(photos by Kim Johnston)*

- Will you help? Check the website for updated information.
- Please help spread the word. We would love to have a great turnout for this year's Heritage Day. There will be flyers and cards at the museum for you to give out, or send e-mails to your contacts or Facebook friends.
 - Bring your kids, as there will be special activities for them.
 - Recruit someone to demonstrate a heritage type skill.
 - Recruit an artist to show his/her work.
 - Volunteer to work during the festival.
 - Make a donation to support the festival.

It is a wonderful day to bring the family and meet with old friends and enjoy the grounds of the museum. We hope to see you there.

Where

*Montgomery Museum
300 S. Pepper St.
Christiansburg*

When

*August 20th
10 am - 3 pm*

MUSEUM MOURNS LOSS OF FOUNDING MEMBER

SARA LUCAS BROWN (1931-2011)

The museum community is deeply saddened by the loss of our dear friend, Sara Brown. Sara passed away on May 11, 2011, in her home. She was a founding member of the Montgomery Museum and continued supporting the museum throughout her life.

Sara was an avid lover of nature and science and infused that love into all of her work as a Girl Scout leader, church camp leader and grower of her beloved blackberries. She was a fifth grade teacher at Christiansburg Elementary School for over 25 years. Loved by all who knew her, she will be sorely missed. The museum community extends sincere condolences to her daughter, Susan.

A generous donation has been made to the museum in the memory of Sara.



Sara Lucas Brown

ARTIST FEATURED IN JULY!

Linda Bostic Smith



*Artist Linda Bostic Smith
and one of her paintings*



Painting and drawing in a variety of mediums has been a life-long passion for Linda. Whether it be charcoal, pastel, acrylic or oil, she is inspired by the medium's challenges, and allows the medium to take her work in a variety of directions. This results in a body of work that, without reading her signature, one might be convinced was done by separate individuals.

The exception to this is Smith's "Appalachian Awareness" series, where she combines media to create montages that are clearly identifiable and uniquely hers. In these works, Linda draws from her rural southwestern Virginia background to portray the characters and personalities that were the tapestry of her childhood. She describes herself as having one foot in the past and one foot in the present. These art works have won Peoples Choice awards, First, and Second Place at New River Community College in Dublin, Va.

In 1990, she partnered with Principal Lois Hinkle of Elliston-Lafayette Elementary School and IBM and painted a "Writing to Read" mural with her son Luke. Film crews from IBM came to the school and shot a documentary entitled, "Virginia and IBM-Partners in Education".

Linda also enjoys portrait work with pastels and charcoals. Her art can be found in corporate and private collections in the U.S. and Canada.

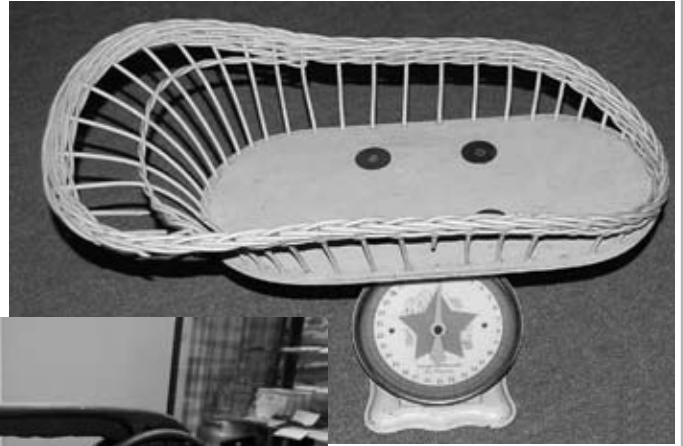
Meadowbrook Branch News by Fran & Don Poole

Members of the Belmont Christian Church toured the Meadowbrook Center's library, museum, art gallery, and YMCA. Several new artifacts are now on display, thanks to citizens who are interested in sharing with the community.

A history of Eastern Montgomery County is still under development. Some of the writers are now attempting to locate as many old photographs as possible. Betty Norwood, Ann Harless, and Herb Harless are helping with the proofreading, and editors are looking at publishing options.

The museum staff presented a slide show program at the Montgomery Museum History Chat in Christiansburg on May 14th. Becky Smith gave the narration for the slide show entitled "Eastern Montgomery County by Auto."

We have received many interesting artifacts in the past few weeks. The infant baby scales and tobacco leaf stem cutter are shown here.



*Baby Scale on loan from
T. Teichter*



Tobacco Cutter on loan from G. Gray

Museum Garden by Beth Umberger

A few years ago, I started looking for a place to start a public native plant garden in Christiansburg. I remembered that Mr. Trout, a very active volunteer in the Montgomery Museum garden, had wanted to start a shade garden at the Museum, but it was never developed. The space was perfect for a native plant garden. The museum agreed that I could establish a garden. As I worked in the lower part, Gwen Ewing let me know that she was retiring from the upper garden. Gwen is very persuasive, and I realized that I could further my goals by accepting the management of the upper garden as well.

Loss of habitat for native birds, insects, mammals, fungi could be mitigated somewhat by incorporating natives into our home landscapes and not including plants that become invasive in native habitats. The upper garden will reflect our home landscape; the lower garden will reflect native habitat for our surrounding area. The goal in both gardens will be to remove invasive plants and add plants that add seasonal interest, require minimal maintenance and blend well with neighboring plants.

With the help of Joe Powers, Phyllis Eshenmann, Fred Umberger, Virginia Tech students during the Big Event, Gwen Ewing, Jim Page, and a community service worker, we have started to get control of the weeds with the use of mulch. Some plants have been



Montgomery Museum Garden

moved from the shade to the sun. Annuals, perennials and tender summer bulbs have been added to extend the bloom. The Montgomery Museum garden has existed due to the effort of dedicated volunteers over the years. With the current enthusiastic community support, the garden beauty will continue to develop.

Mary Ann Hinshelwood Receives Leading Lights Award

Montgomery Museum & Lewis Miller Regional Art Center Vice President Mary Ann Hinshelwood received the Leading Lights award in April. Sponsored by the German Club Foundation at Virginia Tech, this award was initiated after the tragic shootings at Virginia Tech in 2007 and honors Montgomery County volunteers who have given extraordinarily of their time and talents to serve the community. The award brings a \$1,000 gift to the museum! We are so proud of Mary Ann, and we are so fortunate to have her as our volunteer. Congratulations, Mary Ann!



Mary Ann Hinshelwood

ARTIST FEATURED IN SEPTEMBER!

Jennifer Martin



A Sculpture by Jennifer



A Painting from the Evaporation Series

Jennifer Martin is a professional artist who grew up in Newport, VA, lived and worked in Montgomery County for much of her life, and graduated from both Virginia Tech and Radford University. She now has art studios in Newport, VA and Big Pine Key, FL.

Jennifer is influenced by the chemical and physical reactions of materials in nature. She explained, "I work to reveal these phenomena in my painting and sculpture processes. My goal is to bring new appreciation for the beauty and essence of nature to the viewer."

When discussing her Evaporation series of paintings, Jennifer said, "Combining the materials of my science work and painting processes led to the development of my Evaporation paintings. Abstract

expressionistic pouring produces organic forms that develop themselves in these paintings. When on the wall for study, the forms seem to come alive and jump out of the canvas into three-dimensional space. The resulting series of complementary sculptures have a sense of passionate play, erotica, as well as the possibility of violence. They convey a total sense of joy and a celebration of life in its most basic attitudes."

HISTORIC BUILDING IN DANGER!

The Old Clerk's Office

[This is a synopsis of a program presented to the Museum Board of Directors by Mary Ann Hinselwood and Roy Kanode]

On Page 8 of the 1995 *Virginia's Historic Courthouses*, authors John O. and Margaret T. Peters write "Before the Revolution, county records sometimes were kept in the jury room, but they were just as likely to be found at the clerk's home or even at the local tavern." Henry Jablonski writes in Chapter Six of *Virginia's Montgomery County* that the first Clerk's Office in Montgomery County, after the county seat was moved from Ft. Chiswell to Hans Meadow, "was a log house on Mr. Craig's property (on Roanoke Street, one mile east of the present courthouse); this building was occasionally used as a courtroom." Roy Kanode writes in *Christiansburg Virginia, Small Town America at Its Finest*, "A new county clerk's office was built at 4 South Franklin St. in 1812-1813 by Walker Crump, William Pepper, and Jesse Pepper." That "new" county clerk's office, later called the "Phlegar Building", today labeled the "Courthouse Annex", will celebrate its 200th Birthday next year.

Even though the Old Clerk's Office appears in the Virginia Landmark Register and in the National Register of Historic Places, we cannot be certain today of its future and fate after completion of the Courthouse under construction at the intersection of East Main and South Pepper Streets. We can be certain that our efforts and influence exerted for the building's preservation, as board members of the county's history museum, may well be crucial in determining its fate.

In a September 15, 2010, memo to Montgomery Museum director emeritus Bob Poff and director Kathy Calvert, regarding Preservation of the Old County Clerk's Office, our Collections Manager Sherry Wyatt (by profession an historic preservationist and architectural historian), speaks of the importance of the building historically and from a community/cultural perspective. She notes that its listing on the National Register of Historic Places acknowledges the building's importance. Sherry writes that preservation of the building can be encouraged with the use of 40% (state and federal) tax credits for rehabilitation work, and that even non-tax paying entities can benefit from those credits by selling them.

In the June 1988 registration form seeking placement on the National Register of Historic Places for The Old Clerk's Office, architect Gibson Worsham points out that "the Phlegar Building is significant . . . as the county's best example of a late nineteenth-century law office." He adds, "In addition, the building incorporates recognizable, formal, and material elements of the early nineteenth-century county clerk's office."



The Old Clerk's Office in 1908

The goal of the directors and members of the Montgomery Museum and Lewis Miller Regional Art Center is to influence our county's governing bodies to preserve this 200 year old gem. When we are successful in that endeavour, we will have performed a great service to the community.

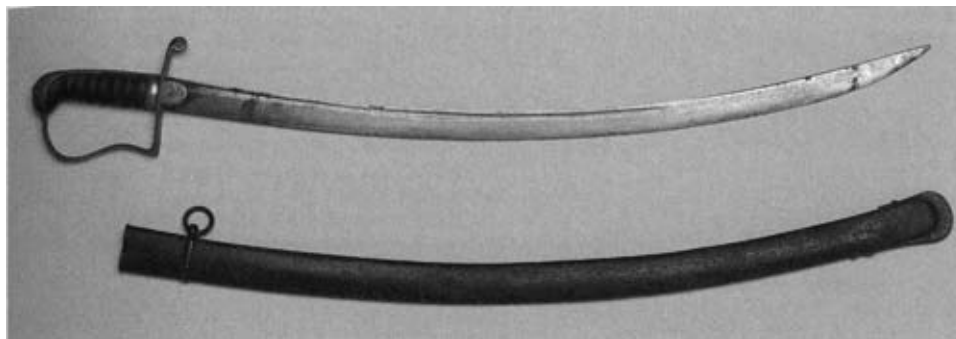
THANK YOU!

Many people support our board and staff on an ongoing basis. Our sincere thanks go to the following people who have made significant contributions to the museum:

- **Alvis Electric** provided labor at no cost to the museum.
- An anonymous donor donated a new computer and new printer.
- **Tom and Becky Dunkenberger** loaned their beautiful cranberry glass collection for display.
- **Brenda Eanes** schedules the docent calendar each month. This involves many hours of networking with docents and often filling in when schedule vacancies develop.
- **Mick Gregory** made numerous repairs and donated cases for the Radford Arsenal models. Many hours of labor were involved.
- **Joe Powers** handled the mailings of the book *Virginia's Montgomery County*. He set up numerous craft shows, and he provided several truckloads of mulch for the museum garden.
- **Janet Shelburne** contributed extraordinary floral arrangements for our receptions.
- **Marvi Stine** provided a survey of the museum property at no cost.
- **Beth Umberger** managed, landscaped, and redesigned the garden. It's beautiful!

Lest We Forget, War is Hell: 1861 – 1865

The Civil War in Montgomery County



*Confederate Cavalry Saber manufactured by Crush & Wade of Christiansburg
(owned by Bob Poff and photo by Bill Poff)*

The Montgomery Museum joins other museums and historical societies across Virginia to commemorate the Civil War Sesquicentennial over the next four years. Although the great battles of the war were fought many miles from Montgomery County, the war inevitably had a significant impact on the county's people. The scope and character of the war in Montgomery County will be examined in an upcoming exhibit running from September 30, 2011 – June 2012. The exhibit will include local troops, local and nearby battles, the effects of the war on the local population, the role of Montgomery White Sulphur Springs as a hospital during the war, the two brief oc-

cupations of Christiansburg by Union troops in 1865, and the war's local aftermath. On display will be a rare Confederate Cavalry Saber manufactured in Christiansburg by Crush & Wade and other military memorabilia, Confederate Reunion Ribbons, items associated with Montgomery White Sulphur Springs, and images of pertinent period sketches by Lewis Miller.

If you have objects or photographs associated with the Civil War in Montgomery County that you would like to loan for the exhibit, please contact Sherry Wyatt at collections@montgomerymuseum.org or call Sue Farrar at 382-5644.

UPCOMING WINETASTING EVENTS

Combine winetasting, art discussion and a dynamic presenter, and you have a good time!! That's just what we are going to do when we have our next art discussions by Scott Crawford, Vice President of Member Relations with Member One Federal Credit Union. The dates for the future events are September 2 and December 2. Please mark your calendars and watch for more information on the "Save the Date" cards.



ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL ESTABLISHED

The newly formed Arts Advisory Council is designed to give guidance to the Museum Director on issues related to the arts and to help design programs and activities for the community. Members are: Leslye Bloom, Marie Collier, Gene and Vanessa Gourley, Danie Janov, and Nancy Norton. An initial project will be to focus on the Virginia Commission for the Arts "Year of the Child" in 2012 by offering a series of monthly classes for children starting in August which will lead to an exhibit at the museum from March – June (which is the celebration timeframe). We will offer to artists an opportunity to market original design cards at Heritage Day and other events. This is a very enthusiastic group, and we can look for exciting things to happen relative to arts and the museum.

Access to Credit: Reaching your Dreams!

by B. Scott Crawford

It was December 1781. One can only imagine the thoughts going through Henry Vigall's mind. "How have I landed along the Virginia backcountry, near the New River, thousands of miles away from home?" "How has fighting another king's war brought me to this rustic environment?" "How" was irrelevant, though, as all that mattered was that there he sat, facing James Craig, a local landowner. He was about to sign over one year of his life to Craig, but considering numerous alternatives, this really was not all that bad.

Henry Vigall was a Hessian. He, along with roughly 30,000 others, had been conscripted to serve as auxiliary troops for Britain as they tried to put down upstart colonists living in North America. As Jefferson notes, referring to the Hessians, in the Declaration of Independence, King George III was guilty of "transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat [sic] the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation." Henry Vigall was part of this force of foreign mercenaries bringing "death, desolation, and tyranny" to what was becoming America.

When he arrived is uncertain, but Henry was in North America by 1777. He was not stationed at Trenton, where Washington crossed the Delaware to take the Hessians by surprise, as he was serving under General von Riedesel who accompanied General Burgoyne as he advanced from Canada during the fall of 1777. During one of the two battles resulting in Burgoyne's defeat, Henry must have found himself at the wrong end of a bayonet, resulting in his having to surrender. As a prisoner of war, Henry landed, presumably, in Charlottesville where the Hessian prisoners from the battle were held until 1781; they were then moved to Reading, Pennsylvania. However, Henry did not accompany his comrades in arms to Pennsylvania as it was in late 1781 that he entered into an agreement with James Craig. This makes one wonder if he had at some point been moved to Fort Chiswell, and thus closer to Craig, which was also a prisoner of war camp. Yes, considering alternatives, including being killed in action, dying in a prison camp of disease, or being forced to march to Pennsylvania, his entering into an agreement with Craig was not all that bad.

According to the agreement, beginning January 15, 1782, for a period of one year, Henry was to run a grist mill and still for Craig. Craig was to provide Henry with a female slave "or such other labor as the said James



B. Scott Crawford

Craig shall find necessary." For his work, Henry received one acre of land on which to live and to grow corn. He also received fifteen pounds and twelve shillings in gold or silver. Yes, considering the alternatives, this arrangement was not all that bad.

In the end, it is not known what happened to Henry after the war officially ended in 1783. Did he return to his homeland? Or did he, like roughly 4,900 of his fellow soldiers settle in North America? While the answers to these questions are unknown, what is known is that this prisoner of war found a fairly good living and working arrangement along the Virginia backcountry for at least one year.

However, the very true story that happened so long ago also has a thought upon which to reflect. How did James Craig find himself in a position to enter into such an agreement with Henry? The answer is simple: James Craig had access to capital and to credit. Craig, like so many other landowners along the Virginia backcountry, had complex ties to Eastern merchants. These ties, often involving the extension of credit, allowed these individuals to expand on their landholdings and build capital. Credit is important as, if used properly, it can help you reach your dreams - of course, one never wants to fall into the trappings of borrowing too much! One must always live within his or her means, not like so many of those 18th century tobacco planters in Eastern Virginia who found themselves consumed by debt!

As you look at your dreams and how you plan to reach them, I hope you will turn to Member One Federal Credit Union and talk to a representative about how you can reach your financial goals. Member One will help you find the means to best reach those dreams - I am sure had Member One been in western Virginia in the 1780s, James Craig would have been a member, and if Henry stayed in North America, he most assuredly would have turned to Member One to meet his financial needs.

B. Scott Crawford serves as vice president, member relationship development for Member One Federal Credit Union. He holds an MA in history from Old Dominion University, and his research has focused heavily on the Virginia Backcountry, 1740-1790.

SEPTEMBER EVENT

We are planning a bus trip to the Greenbriar for lunch and a tour of the World War II bunker. Details will be available at a later date.



MONTGOMERY MUSEUM

& LEWIS MILLER REGIONAL ART CENTER

300 S. Pepper Street Christiansburg, VA 24073

540.382.5644 www.montgomerymuseum.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #141
Christiansburg, VA
24073

Museum Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10:30-4:30

Executive Director: Sue Farrar

Branch at Meadowbrook (Shawsville)

Open Wed. & Sat. 10:00-12:00

**ADDRESS
SERVICE
REQUESTED**

Calendar of Events

- Thru Aug. History Exhibit - "Leading Ladies of Montgomery County: Opening Doors into a Man's World"
- July 7 Artist Reception for Linda Bostic Smith, 5-7 pm
- Aug. 20 Heritage Day 10-3 pm
- Sept. 1 Artist Reception for Jennifer Martin, 5-7 pm
- Sept. 2 A Taste of Wine and Art with Scott Crawford, 5:30 pm
- Sept. 30 Opening of Civil War Sesquicentennial Exhibit
- September Bus trip to the Greenbriar
- Oct. 2 Annual Meeting
- Oct. 12 History Chat

Your memberships and donations make it possible for the museum to continue to collect, preserve, interpret and exhibit Montgomery County history and to encourage and showcase regional art and artists.

Please be generous. The museum needs your support.

The Museum is a non-profit 501(c)3 tax exempt organization.

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by tax regulations.

Join the Museum and/or Make a Donation

Name _____ Spouse or company _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Phone 1. _____ 2. _____ e-mail _____

Membership Levels- Check one

Student \$10 _____ Individual \$20+ _____ Family \$30+ _____

Associate/ Business \$75+ _____ Friend \$150 + _____ Patron \$500 + _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____ Are you an artist? _____

Circle branch preferred: Christiansburg Meadowbrook Riner

Are you be interested in volunteering? _____

