



# BATH COUNTY HERITAGE

Preserving the Past for Generations to Come

Bath County Historical Society  
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## RENOVATIONS PROMISE "NEW" SOCIETY

Our first major renovation project in 10 years is underway at the Society. We've been promising it for a while now, and it is fulfilling to know that our hopes and plans are being built into reality.

What's happening?

First of all, the basement has been "finished" and will now serve as our genealogical research center and library (see photos on page two). All our research books are now shelved down there, along with many other documents, related to both history and genealogy. "Kin hunters" will soon find computers for use, with internet connection that will aid in their search. Our microfilm files and reader are also located in the new downstairs center as well. The research library is equipped with its own restroom, and there is a small room on the west side that we can use for storage.



There shouldn't be much to store, since now, our entire upstairs will become a museum! We will expand from our two small rooms in the original cottage law office, into the great space originally built as a research library in 1995.

Director and past-president Selby Schwend and his wife Kathie have designed a new museum that promises to delight visitors no matter what their age or interest.

We took a look at our collection, and realized that it is built around fantastic pieces of mid- to late-19<sup>th</sup> Century furniture. To that end, the new museum will be a series of rooms, such as in a home, with appropriate furniture, accessories, art, clothing, and such. Each room will be able to be cordoned off, should we desire, to prevent further wear and tear on our collection.



The entire place will have fresh paint, inside and out, upstairs and down. This will give a badly needed facelift to our great old building, and bring a cohesiveness to its appearance.

We hope to be re-open to the public by May first. Please plan to come see our exciting "new" Bath County Historical Society museum and research center!

## SPRING MEETING APRIL 30 AT THE HOMESTEAD!

Our annual Spring Meeting is slated for 2 p.m. Sunday, April 30 in the Dominion Room at The Homestead hotel.

The speaker is Dr. Philip Hirsh, a descendant of Allan and Ellen Reid Hirsh of Meadow Lane Farm. Hirsh will read from and sign his new book, "Voices from the Hollow: What happened when the Blue Bloods met the Blue Ridge."

The book is delightful, insightful and, sometimes, downright frightful! Chapters include "Feelin' Juberous," "Granny Cleek," "Moonshine," "Two Gorillas and a Bunch of Snakes," and "Skunk in the Lobby." It is Hirsh's recollection of childhood summers in Hot and Warm Springs, where he far preferred keeping company with "the locals," rather than his proper, oft-stuffy, family.

In addition to the stories, the book features some fabulous, heretofore unseen, photographs. Consider June Buzzard, pictured with two of his 14 children, and every one of his 211 guns. There's the legendary Whit Bogan, playing at a square dance at Jack Williams's cabin. If you'd like to see some photographs of the late Frank Williams during his rodeo-champ days, or with his lovely wife Mickie shortly after their 1935 elopement, here's where you'll find them. Hirsh's talk will also include a power-point presentation of photographs from the book. Dr. Hirsh's pleasant manner and sense of humor is sure to entertain us, and we're hoping some of those mentioned in his book will be able to join us.

Please mark the date and do the same!

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## 2006 DUES ARE DUE!

If you haven't sent your dues for 2006, please take a minute and do so now. Annual membership is just \$25 per family. Your donation makes it possible for us to keep the lights and the heat (or air conditioning) on, replace an ailing old copier, buy new books for our research library, make repairs and maintenance, and pay for the postage to mail this newsletter!

Mail to: Bath County Historical Society, PO Box 212, Warm Springs VA 24484-0212. And thank you!



### DO YOU HAVE WHAT WE NEED?

Will you give it to us?



Now that renovations are underway, we've discovered a few things that we need in order to complete a vignette or two in our museum. We're prepared to purchase these things at an antique store, but we'd really rather have something with a true connection to Bath. Should you have any of these items, but no longer need them, we'd certainly appreciate the donation! The only requirement is that they be antique.

Our kitchen vignette needs a **table** – round, square, rectangular – but one that is smaller, rather than larger. We have four chairs to place around the table, and a collection of lovely lace and woven cloths from the Madlener estate. We also have plenty of lovely period china and glassware.

Our parlor vignette needs a **tea table**, and a small, round **piano stool**. The Terrill sofa and the Warwick secretary will go in this room, as will the Stephenson piano.

Our child's room needs a **rocking chair**. We already have a cradle, a potty chair, a child's chair, a stuffed dog, and three beautiful dolls.

It would be ideal if these things had a history in Bath, but that is not absolutely necessary.

Janice McWilliams has graciously donated an antique spindle bed for our bedroom scene. **Thank you Janice!** If you have something to donate, or know where we can find one to purchase ourselves, please let us know by calling 540-839-2543, or emailing us at bathcountyhistory@tds.net.

**THANK YOU!**

**LOOK FOR OUR GRAND RE-OPENING OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM AND RE-SEARCH CENTER IN MAY, 2006**

### 2005 FUND DRIVE RESULTS

Our 2005 Annual Fund Drive was an astounding success!

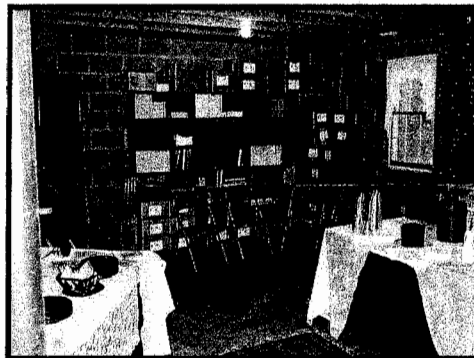
Society members and others in the community contributed more than \$35,000 this year. Thank you, all!

For only the second time in our history, we actually made enough to fully fund our annual operating costs. In addition, some of that money, as well as some in our savings, will be used for the renovation project.

We celebrated our successful fund drive with a gala Patrons' Party at Quarry Hill, the magnificent Hot Springs home of members Ruth and Peter Worthy. The Worthys charged us nothing to use their nine-bedroom French Provincial mansion. An anonymous donor provided the floral arrangements, and several board members donated the funds to bring the William Penn Quartet up from Roanoke. It was a magical, special evening, dining and dancing under the stars of a perfect early-autumn night.

Our 2006 fund drive gets underway in late July, with the Patrons' Party slated for the second Friday in September. We're still pondering how in the world we're going to "top" 2005!

### BEFORE AND AFTER



### HERE'S A SHOT OF OUR BASEMENT IN 2004



**AND HERE WE ARE IN MARCH 2006, ALMOST READY FOR RESEARCHERS!**

**A HEARTFELT THANKS TO ALL OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!**

### NEW MEMBERS CONTINUED

- Michael & Lori Skeens  
Hot Springs, VA
- George & Susan Stokiasa  
Hot Springs VA
- Peter Steinhauer  
Chicago, IL
- Joseph and Joan Seuffer  
Collegeville, PA
- Clifford O. Turner  
Middleburg, VA
- Dane and Lou Ann Vincent  
Warm Springs, VA
- Peter D. Wertz  
Bacova, VA
- Philip and Ellen Wilhite  
Millboro, VA
- Orme Wilson III  
Louisville, KY
- Jacob and Debbie Yarrow  
Warm Springs VA

### New LIFE Members

- Brian D. Everist  
Mission Hills, KS
- Don Morin  
Charlottesville, VA
- Jay and Claudia Trinca  
Bacova, VA

### Honor Those Departed

- Estelle Bowler
- Betty Culotta
- Clara Dufour
- Frederick Farnsworth
- Millie Neff
- Edward Rodgers



PART 2 OF RICHARD ARMSTRONG'S TENNESSEE TROOPS MARCH THROUGH BATH

After remaining at Warm Springs for several days to allow the men disable by remaining too long in the baths to regain their strength, the 14<sup>th</sup> Tennessee continued their westward march. Sergeant R. T. Mockbee described this portion of the journey: "The march led through a comparatively unsettled wooded country though we were glad to find it well watered. We camped for a day or so at "Gatewoods" large farm one of the finest in all that section and the owner Col. Gatewood was an ardent southern man and manifested it in his kind treatment of our officers and men something that could not be said of every man to be met in this section of Virginia at that time and which became a separate state during the war on account of the Union sentiment that prevailed."<sup>(1)</sup>

Other Tennessee Regiments which followed also camped at or near Gatewood's (Mountain Grove), had little good to say about Samuel V. Gatewood. Phonax, in one of his letters to the *Clarksville Jeffersonian* had this to say: "Extortion seems to be the rage in this part, and to give you an instance of how we are imposed upon, I will state, for the benefit of our friends at home, a perfect Yankee trick that was practiced upon our boys while on their route from the Warm Springs to this place, by one Col. Gatewood, a man of wealth, but perfectly destitute of that warmth of heart, which is one of the many attributes of a true Virginia gentleman. He prepared for one of the Regiments of this Brigade a sumptuous feast, as he stated, for which he charged the moderate price of 50 cents. The boys were rather hungry and "eager for the shay" of good things, rushed in at *quick time*, but lo and behold they found nothing but boiled beef and corn bread. They were disposed to take it good naturedly, until they found that the good things, such as turkeys, chickens, biscuit &c., were being disposed of through the cellar windows, on back porches and at the kitchen doors at enormous prices. Such curses as were called down on the head of Col. Gatewood, were never heard before nor read of even mid the covers of "Tristram Shandy," and I suppose they had as little effect upon him as his rascally tricks had upon his scared and stoney [sic] conscience -- if he has any at all."<sup>(2)</sup>

On the march between Warm Springs and Mountain Grove, Phonax recounted an amusing incident which occurred while crossing the Jackson River. "The most amusing scene I ever witnessed, occurred yesterday while crossing Jackson's River. We had to cross on horseback, in wagons and ox-carts, as the river was much swollen. Two boys from Company A took cabin passage on the hurricane deck of a steer. On this side of the river there is a little hill, though rather steep, as we emerged from the water. When the two boys, one of pleasant temper, the other always sighing for home, and the steer reached this hill, they, the boys, began to take rather a retrograde motion. The sighing man seized the horn of the gentleman cow, while the man of the pleasant temper seized hold of the seat of the sighing man's unmentionables; but alas the unmentionables gave way and our pleasant friend rolled into the creek, just missing the heels of the ox. The ox took fright and ran a distance of fifty yards, the sighing man clinging tightly to the horns of his oxship, and bouncing as though he was made of India rubber."<sup>(3)</sup>

After the five Tennessee Regiments passed through Bath County to Huntersville, Bath County was the scene of a great deal of activity. During the months of August and September, 1861, the road from Millboro to Huntersville was kept busy by numerous wagon trains. These trains conveying supplies to Western Virginia and sick soldiers back to the Springs and the hospitals established there. The next great influx of soldiers in Bath County came in October and November, 1861, when several of the Tennessee Regiments made the trip from Western Virginia to the Virginia Central Railroad at Millboro. This will be the subject of my next paper.

<sup>1</sup> *Historical Sketch of the 14<sup>th</sup> Tenn. Regt. of Infantry, C. S. A., 1861-1865*

<sup>2</sup> *Clarksville Jeffersonian*, Clarksville, Tennessee, August 23, 1861, Phonax Letter.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*

MANY THANKS GO TO RICHARD ARMSTRONG FOR SHARING THIS BIT OF BATH HISTORY WITH OUR READERS!!

## GRANTS MAKE RENOVATIONS POSSIBLE

We are elated to announce the receipt of three grants for our renovation project. We thank the Alleghany Foundation for its generous donation of \$30,000, and also The Virginia Hot Springs Preservation Trust for a very welcome pair of \$10,000 grants. While the Lettie Pate Evans Foundation turned us down this time around, we have asked the County of Bath for a \$10,000 capital improvement appropriation, and should be hearing about that decision soon.

And we certainly appreciate our very generous members, especially those who contributed to our annual fund drive in late 2005 highlighted by our fabulous Quarry Hill party. Those donations gave us a nice "nest egg" to use for this purpose. As with any major project at a non-profit organization, we are expected to make monetary and in-kind contributions. In addition to our fund raising reserves, our in-kind contributions include administrative costs – the work of executive director Margo Oxendine throughout the process – and the donated design and graphic services of director Selby Schwend and wife Kathie, who are spearheading the renovation project.

## Welcome New Members!

Keith and Joyce Barnish  
Mendham, NJ  
Horton and Mary Ann Beirne  
Covington, VA  
James Burns Bowry  
Williamsburg, VA  
Pam and Lucius Bracey  
Millboro, VA  
Michael and Ellen Collins  
Hot Springs, VA  
Frank and Dyan Connelly  
Hot Springs, VA  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Creekmore  
Roanoke, VA  
Jennifer M. Cubitt  
Troutville, VA  
Ursula DelVecchio  
Hot Springs, VA  
Amy and Louis Dennis  
Millboro, VA  
James Dorson  
Warm Springs, VA  
Bill & Prudence Fields  
Warm Springs, VA  
Ramona Garcia  
Warm Springs, VA  
Terry and Laurie Gibbons  
Roanoke, VA  
Cindy & Richard Given  
Woodstock, IL  
Stuart W. Given  
Woodstock, IL  
Dixie and Jack Halber  
Evansville, IN  
Stephanie Hiner  
Hot Springs, VA  
Dana and Marc Huffer  
Warsaw, IN  
Jefferson County Historical Society  
Charles Town, W. VA  
David and Eileen Judah  
Hot Springs, VA  
Harold and Leslie King  
Burnsville, VA  
Tom and Delores Koogler  
Hot Springs, VA  
Leslie D. McBee  
Atlanta, GA  
Jane and Marvin Moreland Jr.  
Hot Springs, VA  
Joseph and Pamela Moskal  
Roanoke, VA  
Dr. and Mrs. Mark Neale  
West Point, VA  
Suzanne Osborne  
Roanoke, VA  
Thomas & Haifleigh Pritchard  
Hot Springs, VA  
Mr. and Mrs. Terry Raab  
Charleston, W. VA  
Bill and Dianne Ray  
Hot Springs, VA  
Lavinia Reid  
Chambersburg, PA  
Donnie & Christie Shires  
Richmond, VA

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2  
We are proud to have 45 new members since summer 2005.



**FROM THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOOK CELLAR**

- Abstracts of Bath Co.Va. Will Books 5 & 6 1843-1875. H. W. Cochran \$25, postage \$3      Index to The Valley Road. (Fay Ingalls), Sam Hileman, \$2.50 (0)
- Alexander Hamilton 1725-1796 of Augusta and Bath Counties Virginia: His Descendants.. Vol II. Thomas Bird Hamilton, W Clay Hamilton, Jr.,\$46.80 (\$4)
- Annals of Bath County, Virginia. Oren Morton \$25, (\$3)      Bath Co. Marriage Bonds & Ministers Returns-1791-1853 \$25 (\$3)
- Bath Co. Personal Property Tax List Vol. 1. 1791-1801. D.R. Jones \$20, (\$3)      Snapshot before the War-Census of 1860. Bath Co., Holly W. Cochran \$26 (\$3)
- Bath County Va. 1850 Census. Patricia & Ashley Viellenave, \$13 (\$3)      Bath County, Va. Death Records. 1853-1867.P.G. and A.R. Viellenave, \$25 (\$3)
- Bath County, Va. Deaths. 1868-1895. Patricia and Ashley. Viellenave, \$32 (\$3)      Bath Co. Wills & Inventories. 1791-1842 Jean Bruns, \$25 (\$3)
- The Bicentennial History of Bath Co. Virginia 1791-1991 \$50 (\$5)      Henry Wise Hoover of Carlover. Bath Co. Va., Hoover B. Lide \$15 (\$3)
- French Harding: Civil War Memoirs. Dr. Victor Thacker, \$16 (\$3)      Highland Co., Va. 1860 Census and Marriages 1853-1860. Holly Cochran, \$19 (\$3)
- Historically Speaking: True Tales of Bath County, Virginia Hugh S. Gwin \$27.50 (\$5)      Bath County in the Civil War Richard L. Armstrong, \$6 (\$1)
- Alleg. Highlands VA Manuscripts: A Guide to US Collections C.A.Bodie, Ed. \$22.50 (\$3)      Early Western Augusta Pioneers. George W. Cleek, \$40 (\$5)
- Parkway Byways: 5,000 Miles of Scenic Drives, James R. Hinkle \$19 (\$4)      First Resorts: An 1804 Visit to Virginia's Springs \$6 (\$1)
- Images of America: Bath County, Virginia by Margo Oxendine \$20 (\$4)      Healing Waters. Tranquil Valleys Anne McClung, Ellen Martin, \$30 (\$5)
- Sunsets Over the Gap: Stories about the Family of Charles and Jennie Hodge from Bath County, Virginia by Jimmy Hicks \$75 (\$5)
- Traveling Through Time: An Illustrated Guide to the Historic Mountains of Virginia and West Virginia. written and illustrated by Porte Crayon (David Hunter Strother 1816-1888) \$8 (\$1)

**NEW! NEW! NEW!**

Voices from the Hollow: What Happened when the Blue Bloods Met the Blue Ridge. Dr. Philip Hirsh \$20 (\$4)

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*Where History Keeps  
on Happening!*