



THE MUSE NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER of the LYNCHBURG MUSEUM SYSTEM

Museum Hosts Forum on Exhibit Plans for The Old Courthouse



On March 29th, 65 people attended the exhibit design forum at the Old Court House. Thayer Design, Inc. of Amherst, Virginia, was selected to design the exhibits in 2006 and conceptual plans were shared with the public and their input requested.

The plans call for a large exhibit gallery in the main court room with four smaller galleries to the rear. The exhibits will cover the history of the City from prehistory to present day. Galleries will interpret a variety of topics that include Lynchburg people, sports, military service, education, decorative arts, items made in Lynchburg, river and canal transportation, the tobacco trade, and more.

The Old Court House was built in 1855 and is one of Lynchburg's architectural treasures, standing at the top of Monument Terrace. The building



Pictured are concepts for the main courtroom gallery—interpreting the history of Lynchburg leaving room for groups and small events

operated as the City Museum from 1979 until 2000 when a near catastrophic ceiling failure took place on the second floor, necessitating a full restoration that was completed in 2006. Next steps will include finalizing the design and contracting for the exhibit components to be built and installed later this year.

IMPORTANT REQUEST *call for artifacts*

If anyone has or knows of artifacts that should be considered for the exhibit, please contact the Museum soon as we will be sizing cases and selecting artifacts in the coming weeks.

We are especially interested in items made or used by people in and around Lynchburg—furniture, quilts, portraits, military items, clothing, tobacco, railroad, or canal-related, to name some of the categories. Please call Greg Krueger, Curator, at 455-4423 or email greg.krueger@lynchburgva.gov if you have any items you want to discuss.

Special thanks to these artifact donors thus far in 2007: Frank Craddock, Helen Harvey, Dabney Jackson, Lynchburg 2007 Committee, Lynchburg Police Department, Doug MacLeod, Langhorne McCarthy, Carl and Margaret Oosterman, Riversviews Artspace, Inc., Root-Lowell Manufacturing Company, Robert Ware, Shirley Woodward.

Point Of Honor Update

Point of Honor has been approved for inclusion on Virginia's Civil War Trails.

During the Civil War, Colonel Robert Owen and his wife Narcissa lived in the home. Robert was president of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad and Narcissa was active in the Soldiers Aid Society which provided food, clothing, and other assistance to the troops. During the Battle of Lynchburg in 1864, Union spies visited Point of Honor and Narcissa told the story in her *Memoirs* published after the war. Point of Honor will be included on the Civil War Trails website and maps; an interpretive marker will be placed in the coming months.

A Virginia Historic Highway Marker for Point of Honor has been created and will be erected at the corner of Rivermont and Victoria Avenues in the coming weeks. Along with the marker comes inclusion on the Department of Historic Resources website and print materials.

A recreated kitchen orchard was recently completed at Point of Honor through a partnership of the Garden Club of Virginia, POH, Inc., the City of Lynchburg, and Tom Burford, one of the foremost scholars on historic apple trees today. In 1996, Tom Burford worked with

Point of Honor on the first plantings of early apple species near the kitchen. Over the years, several fell prey to deer and blight and with the planting of eleven new specimens by the Urban Forester Klaus Schreiber in January 2007, the kitchen orchard has a full complement of trees, each with their own deer protection.

Elizabeth Dabney Langhorne lived at Point of Honor in 1857 and recorded in her memoirs that behind the house stood: "...some delightful old gnarled fruit trees bending low beneath the weight of fruit and years..." Kitchen orchards were commonly found near the rear of the house with varieties that were early ripening (Summer Rambo), decorative (Lady Apple) or uncommon (Calville Blanc d'Hiver), The Point of Honor recreated orchard contains these and other historically appropriate varieties: Golden Pearmain, Winesap, Roxbury Russet, Albemarle Pippin, and Ralls, a seedling that appeared on Tobacco Row Mountain in Amherst County in the 1780s. The Japanese crossed the Ralls with the Red Delicious in the 1960s to make the internationally popular Fuji apple.



Apples provided not only a readily portable fresh fruit, but cider, dried slices, vinegar, apple butter and sauce—even livestock food. With proper storage the season of use in the 19th century extended from June until March. Point of Honor will interpret the orchard as part of life in Lynchburg in its early years and in the future will offer programs with orchard lectures and tastings, cider making, and other apple-related events.

Historically appropriate apple varieties in The Point of Honor orchard include:

*Summer Rambo
Lady Apple
Calville Blanc d'Hiver
Golden Pearmain
Winesap
Roxbury Russet
Albemarle Pippin
Ralls*



2007 Lynchburg Commemorative Medal

As part of the celebration marking the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown and the 250th anniversary of the establishment of Lynch's Ferry, the Lynchburg 2007 Committee created a medal by local artist Kenneth Wright to commemorate Lynchburg's founding. The obverse design is a ferryman crossing the James River and bears the legend "Sesqui-Bicentennial—Lynch's Ferry" and the dates 1757–2007. The reverse is a rendition of Monument Terrace.

Struck by OPUS, a mint in Providence, Rhode Island, the medals are done in antique bronze and sell for \$15.00 plus tax. Only 2,000 medals were struck and they can be purchased at the Lynchburg Visitor Center located at the corner of 12th & Church Streets and at Point of Honor Gift Shop, 107 Norwood Street. The Museum System was given the proof copy medal by the Lynchburg 2007 Committee to hold as part of our City's legacy.

SOLICITATIONS

Lynchburg Museum Foundation Annual Solicitation Fund Since December 1, 2006

\$1,000 AND OVER

Dr. & Mrs. Robert D. Gardner

\$500-\$999

Mr. & Mrs. Henry H. Dennis
Mrs. Sarah P. McBratney
Old Dominion Box Company

\$100-\$499

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Gifts to Point of Honor
Since December 1, 2006

\$1,000 AND OVER

The Community Foundation,
John and Susan Mullin Fund
McKinnon & Harris, Inc.

\$500-\$999

Mr. Lamar Cecil
Mr. & Mrs. C.L. Christian, III
Mrs. Patricia Harrington
KVA Foundation

\$100-\$499

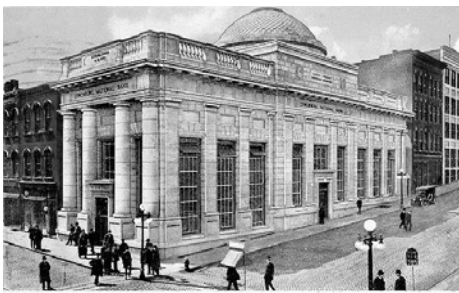
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\$1-\$99

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Mr. & Mrs. John Richards
Hon. and Mrs. Paul Whitehead

IF THERE ARE ERRORS OR
OMISSIONS, PLEASE NOTIFY
THE MUSEUM AT 455-6226

*It is never too late to help—please send your contribution to Lynchburg Museum Foundation, Box 529, Lynchburg, VA 24505
The Foundation is a 501-c-3 organization dedicated to the advancement of the Lynchburg Museum System.*



Historic Photographs To Be Made Available On Website

Through a partnership with Mrs. Nancy Marion and Blackwell Press, the Museum's photographic collection will be scanned into a database that can be accessed via the Museum website in the future. The collection totals some 8,000 images.

Categories of images include street scenes, businesses, military units, parades and special events, parks and recreation, schools, Lynchburg residents, postcards, Civil War soldiers, and many others. The project will take some time to complete as each image has to be individually scanned, edited, captioned, and added to the data base.

We are delighted to have Nancy's help in bringing this resource to the community and we will keep the public informed on when the collection will be available.



German Sister City Program

Lynchburg added Glauchau, a city in Saxony, Germany, as a Sister City in a ceremony at the Old Court House on April 30. Andreas Weber, Deputy Mayor of Glauchau and Mayor Joan Foster of Lynchburg (pictured above) signed the agreement. Glauchau joins the French city of Rueil Malmaison in international partnership with Lynchburg.

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Box 529
Lynchburg, VA 24505
Phone (434) 455-6226
Email: ann.scalf@lynchburgva.gov



Museum Staff:

Doug Harvey, Museum Director
Greg Krueger, Curator
Ann Scalf, Office Manager

LYNCHBURG MUSEUM SYSTEM

BOX 529
LYNCHBURG, VA 24505



EVENTS & TOURS

Eggstravaganza was held on March 31st at Point of Honor with 450 people attending this event that benefits KidsHaven, Inc. Lynchburg's Garden Day was on April 24th and about 150 visitors toured Point of Honor including people from Hampton, Charlottesville, and several states including Minnesota.

The Museum System has recently hosted tours or done outreach programs for the Red Hat Society, Danville Museum Volunteers, Hillside Garden Club, Williams Home, Lynchburg Retired Teachers, Westminster Canterbury, APVA & DAR, Sons of Confederate Veterans, and Friends of New London. School groups served to date in 2007 include Appomattox County, Amherst County, Holy Cross, and Lynchburg's Payne Elementary, Dunbar Middle School, and E.C. Glass High School.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

The Volunteers held their annual luncheon at Winton Country Club in March and we welcomed new volunteers and thanked our veterans for their continued commitment. Awards were given to the three volunteers who had given the most time in 2006: Laura Crumbley, Dorothea Fuller, and Brenda Langhans. These retiring volunteers were also honored: Jean Camm, Anna Elcan, Doris and Bill Ewing, Helen Feagans, and Brenda Langhans. Thirty volunteers came to Point of Honor later in March for training and to receive the new volunteer manuals. *Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Ann Scalf at 455-6226. or email us at museum@lynchburgva.gov.*

Lynchburg Police Department

The history of law enforcement in Lynchburg covers a span of over 200 years as the first officers were sworn in on January 10, 1805. In recent months, the Department transferred numerous historic images, accoutrements, badges, and a Harley Davidson motorcycle that served the department in the 1970s to the Museum.

We are grateful to our law enforcement colleagues and want to share one of the images in this newsletter. Here are members of the department on the rear steps of the Old Court House, soon to reopen as the Lynchburg Museum. It is not an everyday occurrence to receive an artifact that also shows the building where it will be preserved.

