

*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

Volume Year 2017

Issue 2



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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE— MAY 2017

Spring is a time for growth and regeneration. That has certainly been true for the Historical Society. Everywhere you look around the Sargeant Museum and the Heritage Farm grounds there is something new and different. We used the GoFundMe online fund raising process for the 1st time to raise money to prepare the Trevilians One-Room schoolhouse to move to the Heritage Farm; to excavate and build the new foundation for the schoolhouse; and to pay for the move from Mineral's Walton Park to the new home for the schoolhouse at the Heritage Farm. Although we didn't totally reach our goal, we collected sufficient funds, and received some donated services, to start the foundation and make the move. Those people who attended the 4th Annual Heritage Days festivities on April 29th were able to see a nice description of our plans for the schoolhouse. Now that the move has been done, come on by and take a look at what the schoolhouse looks like at its new location.



Not quite as visible, but just as significant for the long term, is the conclusion of the transfer of the artifacts and holdings of the Mineral Historical Foundation to the Louisa County Historical Society. All the legal requirements and the Final Agreement for the transfer were completed on April 29th. The historical records and artifacts were physically moved from the storage room in the Mineral Baptist Church to a new room in the Sargeant Museum archives. The Archival Team has a daunting task to integrate all these assets into our system, but the potential for in-depth research, displays, and presentations is very exciting. **Please consider joining the team of volunteers** working on this challenge or any other of the other deserving Society's efforts!!

The 2017 Heritage Day was another magnificent event. Warmer and drier than the last couple of years, there were new activities for the children, new vendors, new displays, and new re-enactors. We especially thank the many commercial supporters that sponsored the day. See this newsletter's photos to recap the day's highlights.

We used the Heritage Day to kick off our long-term **Capital Fund Campaign** to raise funds to continue the expansion and improvement of our Heritage Farm area. We wish to finish the interior renovation of the one-room schoolhouse for use as a meeting and display venue and to add an old barn to the farm with some sheds that can be used for demonstrating some colonial crafts and farmstead skills – woodworking, metal working, pottery making, sheep shearing, flax production- the list is almost endless. But this goal is also expensive. So, over the next few years, we will be exploring ways to collect the money and build our dream. Please give some thought to ways you can help us on this journey. The children of the next generation will thank you.

There are many fun and informative activities coming up throughout the summer. We look forward to seeing you at them all.

Jim Marstall

GROWING AT THE HERITAGE FARM



Some special thank-yous are in order!

The 1880 Trevilians Schoolhouse is here!

Our thanks to Craig Jacobs and his crew from Salvagewrights of Orange, the Towns of Mineral and Louisa, the Virginia Custom Buildings (with the shed moving trailer), and all the people who donated the funding to make it possible to move the schoolhouse to the Heritage Farm. Rain cancelled our plans just before Heritage Day, as the roof had to be removed to allow the schoolhouse to pass under the power lines along the road. We had two good days May 18th and 19th and the move went off without a hitch. You can see more photos on our Facebook page but here are just a few from the day.

Major funding from John Jerl Purcell, Harold A. Purcell, and Dominion Foundation along with dozens of local residents who gave generously has allowed us to bring the schoolhouse here where we will restore it this summer. Be brushing up on your geography and multiplication tables for your visit with one of our schoolmams starting this fall.

Plans Developing for Expansion of the Heritage Farm

We continue to fulfill our goals of bringing Louisa County history alive and telling the stories of past Louisa residents. A committee was formed to explore possible development options and in January 2017, the Committee proposed and the Board approved a list of three major improvements that would be accomplished over the next two years. They are:

- The full restoration and re-purposing of the one-room Trevilians Schoolhouse to be completed by the Fall 2017.
- The construction of a restored or replica 18th Century barn building to complement the existing Michie House and to be completed by the end of 2018.
- The addition of several tradesmen sheds to the new barn structure providing exhibition and teaching space for the many local artisans in Louisa County skilled in historical trades. The sheds are to be operational by the Spring of 2019.

We will continue to give you news of our Capital Campaign and grant application efforts to fund this exciting set of improvements.

HERITAGE DAY 2017 — ANOTHER GREAT DAY OF FUN!

The 4th annual Louisa County Heritage Day celebration was held on Saturday, April 29th from 10:00 to 4:00pm on the grounds of the Sargeant Museum. Heritage Day spotlighted dozens of skilled craftsmen from Central Virginia, many performing their trades with the tools that were used in the early 19th Century. The W. S. Hancock Society returned along with the mounted Buffalo Soldier, and the Palas Athena Ladies. We hope you enjoy a few photos of this year's events. Our big thanks to all the willing volunteers who helped make this such a special day!



Hands on fun for all ages and first rate interpreters at their crafts.



Want to see these pictures and more in color?

Check out our Facebook page for these and many more!



UPCOMING LECTURES AND PROGRAMS



***Prisoners of History:
Pocahontas and American Indian Women
in Cultural Context***

**Sunday, November 5th at 2:00 p.m.
at the Louisa Arts Center.**

The Louisa County Historical Society is pleased to welcome Dr. Karenne Wood, who will give the first lecture at our 2017 Annual Meeting. In March of this year, Karenne Wood, director of Virginia Indian programs at Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, delivered the keynote lecture at a conference in London marking the 400th anniversary of the death of Pocahontas. The conference was organized by the Institute for Historical Research at the University of London and was supported by the Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture, The British Library, and The University of Warwick.

Her lecture, *Prisoners of History: Pocahontas and American Indian Women in Cultural Context*, explores two very different stories of American women, Pocahontas and Mary Jemison. We are pleased to welcome her to Louisa. Her presentation November 5th will include readings from her poetry. Light refreshments to follow the presentation.

***Will the Stones Whisper Their Names?
Documenting African-American burial sites
The work continues this summer***

Our thanks to many of you who let us know about a place where you believe enslaved people or their descendants are buried in our county. We visited dozens of sites this spring before the undergrowth made it prohibitive and will continue again in the fall. In the meanwhile, we will hold two meetings this summer at the public library (881 Davis Hwy) and we invite you join us. Please also mention it to friends or neighbors who may be interested.

***June 19th, 2-4 p.m. at the Louisa County Public Library
Preserving and Protecting African-American Burial Sites— How and Why***

This session provides an overview of the need, slides from our fieldwork, the laws protecting the sites and family access, and how to actually record the sites with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources through our work.

***July 17, 2-4 p.m. at the Louisa County Public Library
Basic Genealogy Research with special focus on African-American Records***

One of the most frequent questions we had during our site visits this spring was, "Who were the people who lived on this land, slave or free, who might be buried here?" The answer to that question comes from the same resources used to do all genealogy— plus a few extra ones. This session will guide you through the process of finding all family roots but will also feature sources and types of records for research on enslaved people before emancipation in 1865.

Do you like Genealogy work? Would you consider volunteering at the museum to help our visitors there or through email?



PROGRAMS AND CLASSES AT THE HERITAGE FARM



Family Days at the Heritage Farm for all ages 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.

Free to the public. No reservations are required.

Saturday, June 3 - Fibers and Fabric (Repeated Friday the 16th) Spend the day learning from the Frugal Farmwife. Life on the farm involved raising sheep, cotton, and flax to make clothing and other fabric items needed on the farm such as bedcovers, sacks, etc. This program has visitors involved hands on in harvesting, preparing, spinning, weaving and sewing. (Repeated Friday, June 16th)

Saturday, July 8 - Keeping Cool! (Repeated Friday, July 21st) The Frugal Farmwife makes a very special occasion! This day follows the theme of an old fashioned picnic, complete with fun—watermelon spitting contest, making ice cream, water relays and more.

Saturday, August 12 - A Late Summer Day on the Farm (Repeated Friday August 18th) Late summer was the time to start putting up the harvest and preparing for the coming winter. We'll be stringing vegetables, drying fruit, doing laundry, and making some crafts.



Offerings at the Heritage Farm in partnership with Louisa County Parks and Rec. Register at 540-967-4420

Pampered Pioneers Saturday, July 22 from 10 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

Join us as we learn how to make natural products that helped keep our pioneer ancestors soft and clean, including lip balm, body butter and lotion, and bath salts and scrubs. Led by Sharon Heard, long time living history interpreter who is also leading our Frugal Farmstead programs. Participants will take home some of each product you make. \$19 materials fee.



Colonial Feasts at the Hearth

The warmth of the fire, smells of roasting tenderloin, the tastes you may remember from grandmother's kitchen described by her as "an old family recipe". Those are just the sensory rewards of joining the Louisa County Hearth Cooking Guild for an adventure in hearth cooking at the Heritage Farm. Participants have the satisfaction of preparing the entire meal as our forefathers did over an open hearth. Seasonal meats and vegetables whet the appetite for scrumptious desserts. Class size is limited to 10 so everyone has plenty to do and plenty to eat! Registration for each of the following events is through Louisa County Parks and Recreation 540-967-4420 or online. Age 18 and up. Wear long pants and good shoes and come anticipating a memorable day with friends, old and new. \$25 per person.

Thursday, October 26th 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The First Feast of Fall

Saturday, November 11th 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Harvest is in and the Meat's in the Smokehouse!

Tuesday, December 5th 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. "A Colonial Christmas Feast (extra desserts, of course!)"

Docent Review and New Volunteer Training! Thursday, June 15th from 1-3 p.m.

We need more history lovers to help us staff the museum. If you are interested, please call us at 967-5975. This session is our training on how to provide visitor services and direct researchers to our basic genealogical resources. If you are already a volunteer but need a good review in what to do, please plan to join us, too. One of the nice perks is that we go on a field trip together once each year and it is coming up early this fall!

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



214 Fredericksburg Avenue
 (Mailing: P.O. Box 1172)
 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

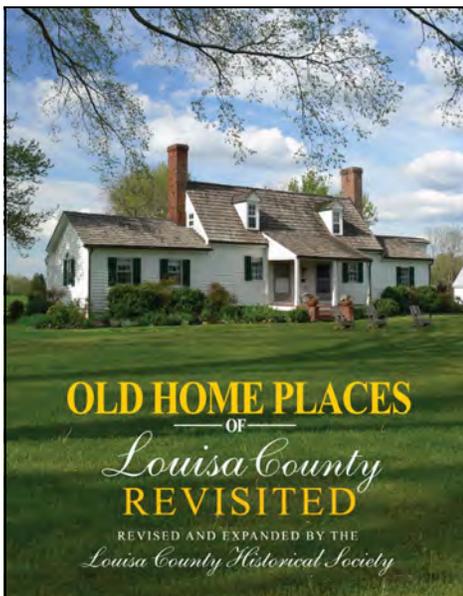
*Mail check to Louisa County Historical Society,
 PO Box 1172, Louisa, VA 23093
 or renew online through PayPal at www.louisahistory.org*

*Want email reminders of programs? Email us at
louisahistory@verizon.net to be added to the list.*

*Sunday, September 17th 2:00 p.m.
 (Sept 24th rain date)*

The Annual Membership Ice Cream Social

The Society is welcomed to Westend, one of the premiere properties in the Historic Green Springs Landmark District, for our favorite activity of the year...eating ice cream while we enjoy each other's company! There will be a short presentation on the history of the property and lots of ice cream. Bring your own lawn chair. This is a members only event...so if you have a friend you've been encouraging to join the Society, now is the perfect time! Mark your calendars. Details to follow in our summer issue of the newsletter.



There are now fewer than a hundred copies of the book remaining for sale. If you would like to own a copy, please contact us soon. They are \$49.95 on our website or you can receive a 10% discount if purchased in the museum and at special events while they last.