



MONTGOMERY MUSEUM & LEWIS MILLER REGIONAL ART CENTER

Volume 30

Issue 1

NEWSLETTER

July 2014

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Heritage Day 2014

Heritage Day 2014 is just around the corner!

Join us on August 23rd for this special day of celebration of our past! Quilts will be featured this year as our new quilt exhibit will be on display as well as an art exhibit featuring "Quilts as Art" created by artists from Southwestern Virginia and the Shenandoah. Several activities for children will focus on quilting, and they will be creating an original quilt during the day.

Check out your favorite recipes as chocolate is the theme for the Cookoff and there will be a \$100 cash prize. Judges will be Mayor Mike Barber, Mayor Ron Rordan, and Tourism Director Lisa Bleakley. Doris Fleming, owner of Zeppoli's, will again coordinate the Cookoff.

TV RAFFLE AND SILENT AUCTION

Raffle tickets for the 42 inch flat screen TV are for sale in the museum office. They are \$10 each and there are 75 chances.

We are seeking items for the Silent Auction. Please consider creating a basket or bringing an item for the auction. The sooner we have items the more effectively we can plan for the auction. Your help is truly appreciated.

Volunteers are needed to help during the day. If you can give a few hours, especially to help with children's activities, please call the museum. Activities for children are ready to go... we just need someone to guide them.

**Your help will make this the most successful
Heritage Day ever!!**



*Photos from
Heritage Day 2013*



**Heritage Day 2014
August 23
10 am - 3 pm**

HERITAGE DAY SPONSORS

Sponsors for Heritage Day are:

\$500 -- Moog Components Group
Horne Funeral Home & Crematory
New River Bank
Montgomery County Regional Tourism Office

\$300 - JSW Financial
\$250 - McCoy Funeral Home
\$200 - Gay and Neel

OTHERS

\$100 - Graham & David Real Estate
\$100 - Rice Realty and Land Sales
\$100 - First Bank & Trust
\$50 - State Farm Insurance

IN KIND

Montgomery County Parks and Recreation
Town of Christiansburg Parks and Recreation RSVP
Shelor Motor Mile
WalMart

GARDEN

Thanks to Beth Umberger and her group of Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists, the garden is looking wonderful!! Take a moment to stroll through and notice the new plants and see how all plants are identified. Take note of the dogwood tree planted in honor of Mary Ann Hinshelwood, long term member who recently moved out of the area. Look for special activities to occur in the garden on Heritage Day.



Montgomery Museum Garden



Garden Shed

HELP NEEDED FOR THE GARDEN SHED

Have you noticed the unique structure behind the garden? With help from Habitat for Humanity at VA Tech, Jim Page has constructed an attractive and durable storage shed for our garden supplies. There will be opportunities soon to help with the completion of this shed. If you can hammer and paint your help would be greatly appreciated. Please let Sue know so that we can schedule work times. Help is always welcome with projects and needs for our grounds.



HERITAGE DAY

Food & Live Entertainment

10:00 - 3:00

FREE Admission

Saturday August 23, 2014

Montgomery Museum . 300 S. Pepper St. Christiansburg . 540-382-5644

Antique Engines and Machinery
Vintage Craft Demonstrations
Historical Re-enactments
Chocolate cook-off
Childrens activities
Museum Exhibits
Vintage Tools
Antique Cars
Book Sale
Fine Art

REGIONAL TOURISM OFFICE
MONTGOMERY
BLACKSBURG • CHRISTIANSBURG



TV Raffle
Silent Auction-HUGE
Chocolate Cook-Off

August 23, 2014

Chocolate Cook-Off

at

HERITAGE DAY

FREE ADMISSION

Bring your best recipe

\$100 Cash Prize

Samples will sell for \$1

Judging at 1:00

Montgomery Museum
300 S. Pepper Street Christiansburg
540-382-5644 montgomerymuseum.org



Highlighting our Docents

In this and future newsletters, we will be spotlighting docents who are “going the extra mile” for the museum.

BRENDA EANES

A native of Montgomery County, Brenda has been a most faithful docent for seven years. She was retired and wanted to use her time to help others and also be involved with research. She is concerned with preserving the history of the county. The museum seemed a good fit. In her time as a docent, she has completed an index of the Sunset Cemetery, created a document about the Sisters in Black and for five years has scheduled the docent calendar. In her free time she enjoys craft activities. Brenda and her husband Ronney have two children and two grandchildren.



Brenda Eanes

JANET SELBY

In her three years as a docent, Janet has made significant contributions to the museum. She is an excellent researcher for guests seeking genealogy information as she has a thorough knowledge of our resources. She is in the process of creating an information file in our library on a wide variety of topics under subject headings in a vertical file for specific research. Janet found the prospect of being a docent attractive because it rewards her interest in research, especially in the areas of quilts and slave owner ancestry. A native of Kansas, she came to Virginia from New York where she worked in a library. In her free time she enjoys snorkeling in Bonaire in the Caribbean. Janet and her husband Tom live in Blacksburg.



Janet Selby

LUNCH WITH A SPECIAL MEMBER

Lunch at Applebee's last month became an exciting event! As Sue was chatting with one of our members, she commented that the museum would be a beneficiary in her will! All of a sudden it was not just about lunch. What a wonderful and thoughtful gift from a long time member!

We have the opportunity to remember the museum in many ways. We can leave a gift in our will; we can designate memorial donations at our death; we can establish bequests and we can take out an insurance policy or designate a gift for an endowment.

Think of how you might leave a legacy to the museum to ensure the future of our valuable heritage.

ARE YOU RECEIVING OUR COMMUNICATIONS?

As you know, we have changed the newsletter format to two print copies and two emailed copies per year. We are aware that some members are not receiving the “Constant Contact” emailed version. Do we have your current e-mail address? If you have trouble downloading the electronic version, you may need to download or update Java software.

New Museum Docents

We are happy to welcome six new docents to the museum volunteer pool.

ERLENE BARBER

"I am an 'Army Brat'. My mother and father are WWII Vets. I was born at Ft. Lewis, Washington, and I have lived all over our great country before settling down here. I am very proud to call Christiansburg 'Home'. I am married to Mayor D. Michael Barber, and I have two amazing step-daughters: Lori and her husband Phillip Nolen and Lisa. We have 3 grandchildren: Emily and Maggie Nolen, and Lucas Barber. I look forward to working at the museum and sharing all of Montgomery County's history and knowing all of our incredible local artists."

TRACY CROSIER

"I am very excited to volunteer at the museum. I love everything about our local history and have spent many hours 'scouting out' the places I read about; places often off the beaten path.

I was born in Fairlawn, Pulaski County, and my father's side of the family are Oteys, mostly originating from Bedford County. I have lived in Montgomery County for 23 years and have very deep roots here. My great grandparents are Nyal and Nannie Spangler, who lived their entire lives in Montgomery County, most of it on their farm on Route 114, aka Peppers Ferry Road. My grandparents are Silas and Elsie Cox. They built a house on part of the Stanger farm and lived there for more than 60 years. The original Stanger property is still all family owned, with most of the adjoining properties belonging to the family. I am also descended from many other Montgomery County names, including Sheppard, Spencer, Keister, Linkous, Harless, and Price, just to name a few.

I really look forward to learning more about the people who make up the history of this area and hope to be of help with any knowledge I may have."

MONA DIGIULIAN

"I moved to Montgomery County in 1985 as a freshman at VA Tech and decided to make the area my home. I've always loved learning, so I decided to become a volunteer at the museum after attending Heritage Day last summer. I've totally enjoyed serving as a docent and learn something new every time I volunteer.

I work at NRV CARES, a local child abuse/neglect prevention agency, as their Grant Specialist/Finance Director. My interests include hiking and camping, spending time with friends and my husband, Tommy, and working with stained glass.

When I attended Heritage Day last year, I knew of the museum, but had never visited. The afternoon was so informative that I immediately wanted to be a part of this community. I have learned that the unassuming house on Pepper Street has more to offer than meets the eye. I

encourage each of you to support the Montgomery Museum and Lewis Miller Regional Art Center through frequent visiting, volunteering, and monetary donating. I am proud to be a part of the preservation of Montgomery County history and look forward to spending time at the museum as a docent. I hope to see you soon!"

DEBBIE LINKOUS

"I have been the receptionist at New River Community Action in the MCEAP office for sixteen years. I am a Christiansburg native and have lived here most of my life. I live in an historic neighborhood with my husband Gary. Our two daughters live in Salem and Floyd, and we enjoy our five grandchildren and seven step-grandchildren."

ANNA PATTY

"I was born in Atlanta, GA. My father was Norwegian descent from Minnesota, and my mother was from Knoxville TN. Because my father worked for the government, we moved a lot. I attended schools from Atlanta to Minnesota to Maryland to Florida. I graduated from the University of Georgia with a BS in mathematics and later received a Master of Arts from VA Tech with a major in curriculum and instruction. After teaching math and science for 15 years, I retired and moved to Christiansburg to be near my daughter who lives three blocks from me. I volunteer at RSVP, the museum, and Good Sam (hospice). I have two sons who live in Blacksburg and Murfreesboro, TN, one grandson who attends Christiansburg High School, and one beloved cat, Red, who lived with me."

WALTER R. PIRIE

"I took a faculty position in statistics at VA Tech in April, 1970, expecting to be here three to five years. After 44 years, I guess I'll stay. My wife Lynn and I live in Tom's Creek and find the life style of semi-rural but close to town to be ideal.

I've always been active in the outdoors as an avid backpacker, caver, and camper. I'm a big supporter of the Virginia State Parks and an active member of the Virginia Association for Parks. I also spent six years on the Board of Trustees of the Cave Conservancy of the Virginias including a two year presidency. Currently I maintain membership in the two small coal miners associations in Montgomery County.

I became interested in the museum when I attended Heritage Day in 2011 and saw what a valuable resource it was for the region. When I returned in 2013 and saw that the museum had grown and improved so much in only two years, I felt compelled to contribute to such a vibrant organization and signed up to be a docent. I'm still learning about the museum and enjoying my time there."

Crazy Quilts and Personal Finance

B. SCOTT CRAWFORD

Vice President of Professional Development and Training
Member One Federal Credit Union



It was 1876, and the United States had reached its 100th birthday! To celebrate, a grand exposition was held in Philadelphia. With the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution coming to life in the “city of brotherly love,” what could have been a better location to celebrate the Centennial? While a celebration of the American experiment, the Centennial in some ways also reflected a re-birth of America. In some ways dominating the Exposition were exhibitions focusing on technological and industrial advancements. A strange device created by Alexander Graham Bell allowing voices to be carried via wire over great distances was on display. The typewriter, or “typographic machine” wowed audiences. In regard to innovations in food and beverage, Heinz Ketchup and a commercial brand of root beer were introduced to consumers.

Tellingly, next in size to the largest building at the Exposition, the Main Exhibition Building, which enclosed over 21 acres, was Machinery Hall. Machinery Hall highlighted industrial advancements. It surpassed, in size, the third largest building, Agricultural Hall, which celebrated America’s agrarian roots, no pun intended. Through the size of these buildings a microcosm of America’s rebirth becomes evident as it was during this period in American history that society was clearly shifting away from an agrarian economy and toward an industrial economy. In less than a generation after the Exposition of 1876, more Americans would be living in urban areas than rural, and America would position itself as an industrial giant, poised to lead some to refer to the 20th century as “The American Century.”

Within this microcosm of American rebirth was an exhibition at the Japanese Pavilion that intrigued American audiences. The exhibition featured a style of aesthetics that appealed to many of the visitors’ sensibilities. Through pottery and silkscreen prints, Americans were introduced to a ceramic finish known as “crazing,” as in “crazed into splinters.” This asymmetrical pattern, with strong lines breaking planes, morphed into an aesthetic style that began to impact quilting for several

decades. The result was the crazy quilt, and over the course of America’s transformation into an industrial giant, American middle class women embraced crazy quilts as a way to relax and unleash their creative spirits.

Fortunately, the Montgomery Museum has a crazy quilt exhibition featuring some wonderful quilts from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This exhibition allows visitors to pause and reflect on an aesthetic fad tied to homespun at a time when increasingly industry was replacing the domestic manufacturing of textiles. With these quilts being tied to Montgomery County, a region that still has a strong rural footprint, visitors can get a perspective on how local inhabitants embraced and contributed to this national movement. Interestingly, one quilt on display has a Grover Cleveland campaign handkerchief worked into the overall composition. This is somewhat noteworthy as the choice to use this handkerchief allows for a direct intersection of the masculine, political, public sphere with the feminine, domestic, private, sphere.

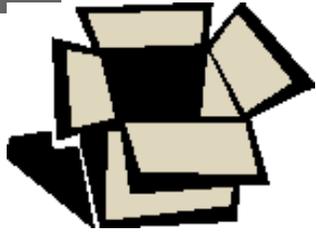
However, being in the financial world with Member One, I cannot help but think of a metaphor tied to the crazy quilts. Just as the crazy quilts piece together seemingly random pieces of fabric, allowing for multiple colors and themes to emerge, so too one’s personal finances tend to bring together vastly different products, all united through the common thread of one’s personal financial well-being. Checking fabric, debit card cloth, savings material, and a host of loan embroideries are pieced together in a manner that is hopefully fulfilling and pleasing. At Member One Federal Credit Union, we are committed to helping you find the right pieces of fabric to create a financial crazy quilt that will keep you warm and safe. Don’t delay. Visit the Montgomery Museum and view the beautiful, and fun, quilts on display, and then head over to a Member One branch and begin to create your own unique financial crazy quilt.

ART AT THE MUSEUM

Organized by Paula Golden, the art exhibit during July and August will feature “Quilts as Art” with the theme “Consequences.” The quilts are products of the Textile Artists of Virginia whose members are from Southwestern Virginia and the Shenandoah. There will be a brochure available to interpret the quilts. Join us at the opening reception on July 10 from 5-7 pm.

QUILT DOCUMENTATION DAY

In conjunction with the Blue Ridge Quilt Festival, the Virginia Consortium of Quilters is sponsoring a Quilt Documentation Day on July 12, 2014, from 9:30-4:30 at Blacksburg Middle School. This free event is an excellent opportunity for you to learn about quilts you may own. There is a three quilt limit per person. Volunteers are needed to staff our information table. Please contact the office if you can help.



Inside the Box: A Quilt and Its Many Connections

by Sherry Wyatt

Research often leads you in directions you never considered. In preparation for the new history exhibit (Opening July 1), we began researching the quilts in the museum's collection. One of these, an unfinished quilt top in the Pine Burr pattern was intriguing because it is a friendship quilt made by at least twelve women whose names or initials are on the quilt top. We wanted to learn something about the women who made the quilt top. I started with the genealogy of the donors the Stanger-Silvers family who donated the quilt and other items in 1988.

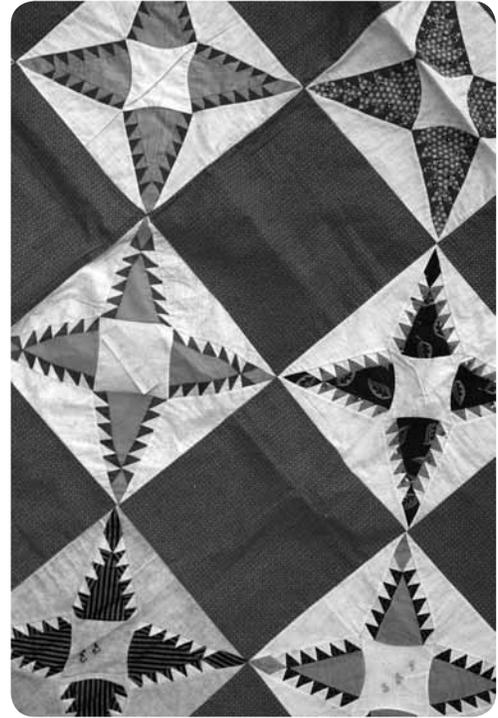
A color guide for historic fabrics provided an approximate late-nineteenth century date, guiding me to theorize who the quilt makers had been. I soon discovered that many of the women had lived in the Belmont community of Montgomery County. This was a good start, but what else could I learn?

Marriage records seemed to be a logical place to find out more. The marriage dates of the women could help me to discover a more accurate quilt date since friendship quilts were often done in honor of a marriage. In fact, I learned much more. By chance, I noticed that two of the women were married by the same minister: Reverend D. Bittle Groseclose. This was a new idea – what if the women were not only neighbors or relatives, but also attended the same church.

Three women who I believe were connected to the quilt were married in 1890, 1892, and 1896 by Rev. Groseclose. Rev. Groseclose served as chaplain at Virginia Polytechnic Institute from 1897-1902 and organized New St. Peter's Lutheran Church in the Glade community of Montgomery County in 1903 shortly before he moved to South Carolina. A search of all the marriage records for 1889-1903 revealed that Rev. Groseclose had married 98 couples. These couples ran the social gamut including African Americans and whites, miners and farmers, railroad workers and physicians. I also learned that an additional twelve couples related to the quilt makers were married by Rev. Groseclose. In the end, my study of Rev. Groseclose has brought me a richer history of the lives of these women.

In the end, I have been able to hypothesize that the quilt top was made for Amanda Linkous (1864-1906), probably upon her marriage to Sylvester Stanger (1866-1942) in 1890. The identified quilt makers are thought to include: Mattie Hawley, who may have been the daughter of James and Catherine Hawley; Mary Keister, who may have been the daughter of James Ballard and Nancy Hawley Keister; Hattie B. Long who is thought to have been the daughter of William and Rebecca Long; and Luvenie (or Louvenia) Sheppard who was married to James C. Stanger in 1896 by Rev. Groseclose. The fifth name on the quilt top is partially illegible: “___ Linkes” [sic, Linkous]. Are you able to identify this Miss Linkous?

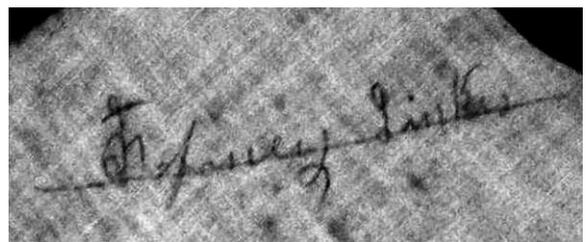
Join us to see the Pine Burr quilt top and many other quilts during the museum's new exhibit: A Pieced History: Quilts in Montgomery County.



Pine Burr friendship quilt top donated by Stanger-Silvers family in 1988, currently on exhibit.



Can you identify this Miss Linkous [spelled Linkes on quilt]?



Close up of Miss Linkous' name.



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

Branch at Meadowbrook (Shawsville) open Wed. & Sat., 10-12:00am

Executive Director: Sue Farrar

Calendar of Events

- July-Apr. 2015 Historic Quilt Exhibit
"A Pieced History"
- July-Aug. Art Exhibit, "Quilts as Art"
with the theme "Consequences"
- July 10 Reception for new exhibits
5 - 7 pm
- July 12 Quilt Documentation at Blacksburg
Middle School, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm
- Aug. 19-23 Silent Auction at the museum
- Aug. 23 Heritage Day 10 am - 3 pm
- Sept. 21 Big Band Concert with the "Old Pros
Orchestra", 3 - 5 pm
- Sept.-Oct. Art by Lois Stephens
- Nov.-Dec. Art by Christy Mackie

Address Service Requested

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. Your generosity will be appreciated. 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 _____

Individual Membership \$30 _____ Family Membership \$40 _____

Business Member \$100 _____ Patron \$250 _____

Gift Membership _____ From _____

Memorial donation _____ for _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Are you be interested in Volunteer Opportunities? _____

