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Henry King: Actor and Film Director

by Bob Shelton



Henry King

Henry King was born on a farm a few miles east of Christiansburg, in 1886. He was schooled in Lafayette, Virginia, where he excelled in recitations and one act plays. At age 20, his proclivity for acting propelled him to join a traveling "medicine" show that played small towns up and down the eastern seaboard.

After a performance in New York, he was convinced to try his hand in the fledging motion picture business. He arrived in Hollywood in

1912, where he played the leading role in many silent pictures. During 1915, he began directing, and for the next 45 years, he worked with most of Hollywood's leading film stars. He is credited with directing more than one hundred sixty motion pictures.

The few that I have seen are: *State Fair* with Will Rogers and Janet Gaynor; *The Country Doctor* with Jean Hershold and featured the Dionne Quintuplets; *Alexander's Ragtime Band* with Tyrone Power and Alice Faye; *Jesse James* with Tyrone Power and Henry Fonda; *Twelve O'Clock High* with Gregory Peck and Dean Jagger; and *Love Is a Many Splendored Thing* with Jennifer Jones and William Holden. His last picture was *Tender Is the Night* (1961) with Jennifer Jones, Joan Fontaine and Jason Robards, Jr.

Henry King was a pioneer and moving force in the motion picture industry. Many of his films and actors won Academy Awards. During his work with Twentieth Century Fox from 1931 to 1964, he was known as "The Director".

Henry married Gypsy Abbott in 1915. They had two sons and a daughter. Gypsy died in 1952 of heart failure. His second wife was Ida King Davis. Henry remained an active man, always planning to do one more picture. He died June 29, 1982, at his home in Toluca Lake, California, at the age of 96, being the oldest licensed pilot in the United States.

Henry and Gregory Peck made six pictures together and were great friends. Peck gave the eulogy at Henry's funeral.

Henry King was surely a hometown boy of whom we can be proud!



Art at the Museum

HANDWOVEN FIBER ARTIST JOANNA SUNSHINE

More than 50 years ago I acquired my first loom, or rather pieces of a loom discovered in a junk yard. Since then there have been floor looms, table looms, back strap looms, inkle looms, barn looms, tapestry looms and even a two-story tall frame loom.

Bypassing the craft of traditional weaving, I am passionate about experimentation and discovery. I not only use fiber in my art but also handmade papers, objects from nature, and found objects. I seek to transform unlikely materials into art.

Numerous commissioned works have been done for residences, and commercial and religious buildings, including Mountain Lake Hotel, Roanoke Memorial Hospital, and Nutri Systems Corporate Offices. My work has been selected for many juried exhibits including The Virginia Museum of Fine Art, The Chrysler Museum, Savannah College of Art and Design, University of Illinois, the Perspective, Armory, and Holtzman Alumni Center Art Gallery at Virginia Tech.

For me the satisfaction of the work results from the doing ... the interest is in the search and experimentation of technique, media, and spatial elements ... spontaneity ... investigation ... intuition ... surprise ... and doing, always doing.

Her current pieces of art can be viewed online at Molokai Art Gallery: www.molokaiartgallery.com.



Joanna Sunshine stands in front one of her art wall hangings.

Joanna Sunshine's artwork will be on display at the museum beginning on May 3rd.

UPCOMING ART EVENTS

Please take advantage of the unique and colorful exhibit of work by Charlotte Chan. She is well known in the New River Valley for her bold colors and shapes in "larger than life" watercolor images. The current exhibit will be in place through February.

Coming in March is the annual show of work by Christiansburg High School art students which is always creative and very well presented. Please plan to attend the opening reception on March 1 to lend support to these talented students.

Be prepared in April to see the museum in a very new light! Radford University art students in Halide Salam's contemporary art class will visit the museum, explore its history and design and then interpret their reaction through their painting. This exhibit will be in place in April, and the opening reception is April 5.

MUSEUM WISH LIST

Artifacts at the museum are often carefully wrapped in 100% cotton fabric to protect them in storage. Our current supply of these materials is low, and we would appreciate donations of cotton sheets, pillowcases, tablecloths or unbleached muslin. It can be used or new. Thanks!



Art at the Museum



Robin Poteet

ARTIST INFORMATION

Robin Poteet is an award winning watercolorist and a popular instructor at The Studio School in Roanoke. She has enjoyed a successful career as a freelance graphic designer, working for nationally known companies such as Martha Stewart Living, JC Penney, and Rowe Furniture Corp.

She was selected as one of 10 national "Ones to Watch" in the Dec. 2010 issue of Watercolor Artist Magazine. She appeared again in the magazine's June 2011 issue. She was also featured in Art Journaling Magazine and Palette Magazine.

WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

DATE: APRIL 17, 19, 20

TIME: 9 AM TO 3 PM

PLACE: CHRISTIANSBURG

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

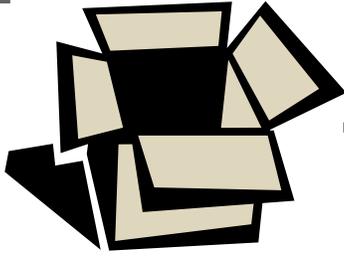
Guest instructor Robin Poteet will conduct a special three-day watercolor painting workshop. Jump-start your creativity and take your painting skills to the next level in this comfortable, yet focused, three-day workshop. Still life, landscape and figure will be subjects as the class practices tips and techniques to bring new vibrancy and atmosphere to their work!

Robin will unravel the mystery of design, edge control, water/paint ratio, lively shadows and more. The class will have demos, critiques, and one-on-one attention. Basic watercolor experience is needed.

Please contact the Montgomery Museum to register for the workshop, and the \$150 fee is required in advance. The classes will be held at the Christiansburg Presbyterian Church, located at 107 West Main Street, Christiansburg. Please contact the museum at 382-5644 for more information.



Examples of Robin's watercolor paintings



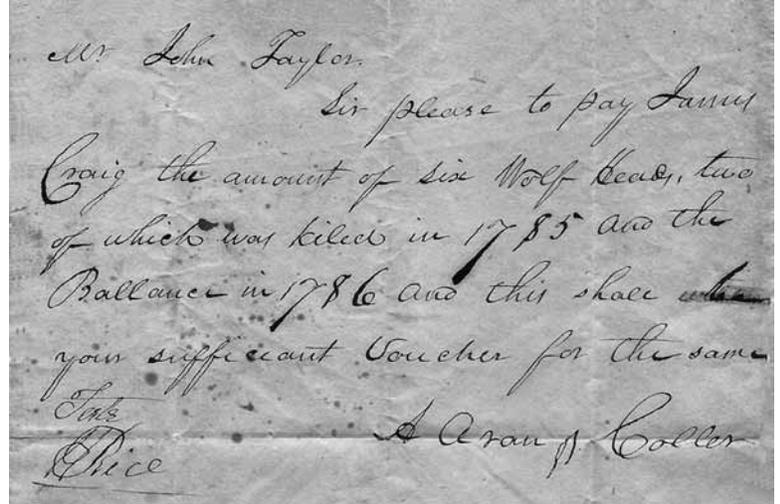
Inside the Box: The Montgomery Museum Collection

by Sherry Wyatt, Collections Manager

It is the nature of museums that a large part of their collections never see the light of day. In some ways, this is good – the object in a box is protected from damage by light and handling. Yet, it also denies us the joy and educational opportunity of viewing objects that are of interest to Montgomery County history. With this new column, I will open up the carefully packed boxes that protect our collections and give you a peek at some of our most interesting treasures.

We have recently updated and expanded our exhibit on the important Craig Family of Hans Meadow. Scottish immigrant, John Craig (1731-1805) settled on Crab Creek near present-day Christiansburg about 1754. His son, Captain James Craig (1762-1834) served in the Continental Army and later practiced law, was postmaster, road reviewer, and operated a tavern at his home. Montgomery County Court was held at Hans Meadow in 1790 after the division of Wythe County from the western portion of Montgomery County in 1789. James Craig owned more the 5,000 acres in the area and donated land for the construction of permanent county buildings in the new county seat of Christiansburg.

One of the oldest objects in the museum's collection is this letter to Montgomery County Justice John Taylor requesting that Taylor remit payment to James Craig in the "amount of six wolf head;" two killed in 1785 and four killed in 1786. Montgomery County encouraged the hunting of wolves by paying a bounty on



Letter to John Taylor requesting payment for James Craig

their heads or scalps. The wolf was systematically eliminated in Virginia by the mid-nineteenth century because they preyed on farmers' livestock. This document gives a glimpse into the concerns and attitudes of early Montgomery County as well as offering detail to our understanding of the life of one of the county's prominent early citizens.

To view more objects related to the Craig Family and learn about their connection to Lewis Miller, plan a visit to the museum soon.

A PUBLIC PLACE: THE HISTORY OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The Montgomery Museum and Lewis Miller Regional Art Center is planning an exhibit beginning in July to celebrate the opening of the new Montgomery County Courthouse in 2012. The exhibit will touch on several themes including the history of the courthouse building, the history of the public offices and courts, the history of the county's legal community and the "life" of the courthouse in the public realm. If you have stories, photographs, or objects relevant to this exhibit please contact Sherry or Sue to learn more (382-5644 or collections@montgomerymuseum.org.)



*Montgomery County Courthouse built in 1833
(D. D. Lester Collection)*

LEWIS MILLER'S DEPICTIONS OF MISHAPS AND WHAT WE SHOULD LEARN!



by B. Scott Crawford

Director/VP of Professional Development, Member One Federal Credit Union

Arguably at the center of the Montgomery Museum is a 19th c. folk artist by the name of Lewis Miller. If you have not gone to the museum to explore some of his works on display, or to view the book they have showcasing some of his pieces, you are truly missing out. Miller, while not formally trained as an artist, has a recognizable style and a terrific eye for detail, particularly in relation to architectural renderings. Also noteworthy is his sense of humor; he added text to many of his images that add humor to what he depicts.

However, what is quite striking in his sketches and commentary are reflections of just how dangerous life was in the 19th century. One graphic sketch shows a Mr. Grove falling to his death in 1839 after he climbed a tree to retrieve honey. Lewis notes this was not his first time “to risk his life to get the Honey.” Sadly, it was one time too many.

Whether he died or not is not known, but Lewis recorded a similar event that struck Joseph Updegraff in 1819 or 1820. It was a Sunday when Updegraff climbed a shagbark tree and tumbled to the ground. Two friends were present that may have given aid, and if the fall did not kill him, he was surely hurt. The fall may have not allowed him to work for sometime.

Anthony Ritz, apparently, made a very poor decision when he found himself on the wrong side of the branch he was sawing off a cherry tree in 1807! Miller depicts him seated comfortably on a branch as he saws away – but rather than sitting on the branch where it emerges from the tree, he is positioned on the edge of the branch. Miller notes that as he sawed “down he came Roaring most terribly.” He survived, but his arm and leg were hurt.

So what can we learn from Miller’s depictions about life in the 19th century? Well, for one thing, life is dangerous and accidents can happen at any time, 19th century or 21st century. As such, I encourage you to protect your loans with life and disability insurance. So often when we get loans, we just picture the day the loan will be paid off, not thinking



A Lewis Miller Sketch

of the things that can go wrong. As Miller reminds us, we are always a heartbeat away from an accident that could bring death or could put us out of work for some time.

With loan protection, those loans will be taken care of, in whole or in part, should something unexpected happen. Imagine the hardship an unprotected loan might bring your loved ones should an accident strike. Even if you survive the accident, statistically more likely, you may find yourself out of work for a period of time, which could result in an inability to make payments on the loan; this could cause serious problems.

So I encourage you to come into Member One Federal Credit Union as you find solutions to your loan needs and then, as you take out those loans, make sure you protect them with life and disability insurance.



Lewis Miller

New Local History Book: 19th-century Brick Architecture in the Roanoke Valley and Beyond: Discovering the True Legacies of the Deyerle Builders

by Mike Pulice, Architectural Historian & Author

The legend of Benjamin Deyerle (1806-1883), which names him as the leading builder in the Roanoke Valley during much of the 19th century, is well known to local history and architecture enthusiasts. The basis of the legend can be traced back to letters written in 1934 by Peyton M. Lewis, who grew up as a slave on Deyerle's plantation in Roanoke County. Lewis wrote that his father, Charles, helped Deyerle build the family home, known as Lone Oak, as well as houses for a number of patrons in Roanoke and surrounding counties.

Since 1934, however, perhaps 30 landmark buildings, including a number of churches, have been attributed to Benjamin Deyerle as the architect, brickmaker and builder. On the other hand, research detailed in a new book reveals that the attributions were based strictly on oral tradition and often conflict with solid evidence. Benjamin's kinsmen, namely his brother David, half-brother Joseph, and Joseph's son J. C. Deyerle, were also accomplished brickmakers and builders, yet more than a century after their deaths,



Mike Pulice

Benjamin alone has been remembered as a significant historical figure.

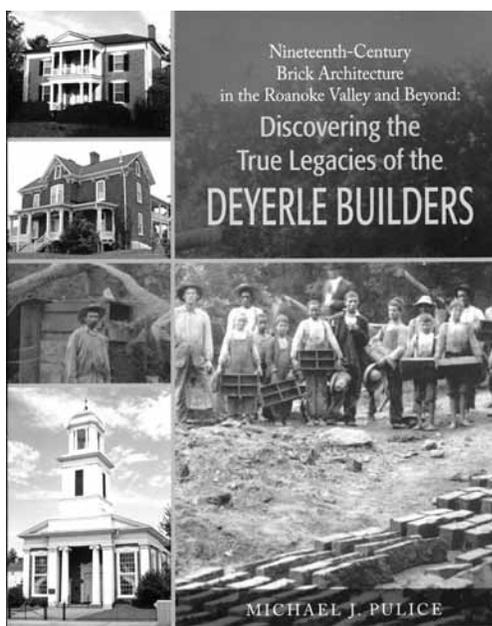
In the book, however, David and J.C. are assigned credit for buildings that survive today in Roanoke and Franklin counties, Christiansburg, Blacksburg, elsewhere in Montgomery County, and Pulaski County. In fact, David Deyerle is accredited with the brickwork of the Christiansburg Presbyterian Church, completed in 1853, as well as the church manse, which later became the Pepper House and now serves as the Montgomery Museum and Lewis Miller Regional Art Center.

The book, *19th-century Brick Architecture in the Roanoke Valley and Beyond: Discovering the True Legacies of the Deyerle Builders*, was published by the Historical Society of Western Virginia in December, 2011. The narrative is based on a lengthy study that sought to determine precisely which buildings were built by the Deyerles, and by whom among them, as well as to provide an accurate account of each Deyerle builder's career. The study employed traditional methods of historical research, but in tandem with a novel approach that focused on bricks—how they were made, their physical properties, and how they were laid—in the construction of some of southwestern Virginia's finest works of architecture.

The study was largely successful at both supporting and debunking pieces of common lore, thus the remarkable legacies of the Deyerle builders are now better understood. Also effectively explained and illustrated in the book are the era's brickmaking, building construction, and architectural design, using more than 180 images and maps. The handsome, colorful, hard-cover book is (or will soon be) available at local museum gift shops for only \$35 (plus tax).

Information about the Author

Mike Pulice lives in Roanoke. He graduated from Radford University and worked as an archaeologist for nearly a decade before earning a Master of Architecture degree from Virginia Tech in 2000. He has held the position of architectural historian for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources' Western Regional Office, in Salem, since 2001.



The Book Cover

Museum Board Changes

Special thanks to Emma Jackson for her excellent leadership over the past two years as President of the Board of Directors. Her involvement in the details of the working of the museum powered by her incredible energy has moved the museum forward to a place of action. We are grateful for her commitment to the legacy of our heritage as preserved in the museum.

NEW BOARD PRESIDENT

Kim Harich was born and raised in St. Albans, WV, where he attended parochial schools. He studied chemistry at Virginia Tech, and then worked as an analytical biochemist on the staff of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Kim specializes in mass spectrometry. His interest in old houses and antiques led him to volunteer work at the Montgomery Museum.



Kim Harich

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Marie “Annette” Graham David

Annette was born in New Altamont Hospital in Christiansburg, to two very loving, responsible parents of the Elliston community of Montgomery County. Her parents, Roy and Mildred Graham, owned and operated a small grocery store and a beef cattle farm. Their main focus for their daughter’s life was education, religion, and a good value system.

After graduation from Alleghany Springs High School (now known as Eastern Montgomery High School), Annette went on to receive a BS degree in Business Education from Radford University. Her first teaching job was at Christiansburg High School. Annette taught business education and 7th grade math in the public school system for 17 years.

In 1996, she went into a real estate career with McNeil Real Estate in Christiansburg. In 2010, she started her own real estate agency, Graham and David Real Estate, Inc.

Annette has three children—a daughter in West Point, VA, a son in Philadelphia, PA, and a son in Nashville, TN.



Annette David

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Marjorie Modlin was born in the Bronx borough, New York City, NY. She is a retired teacher from the Christiansburg Primary School. She taught the first grade for a number of years.

Marjorie is married to Charlie Modlin, a Virginia Tech English professor. His grandparents, Hubert and Hattie Sumner, owned the oldest house in the Cambria community.



Marjorie Modlin



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

Address Service Requested

Calendar of Events

- Feb. Ongoing Art Exhibit by Charlotte Chan
- Mar. 1 Artist reception for CHS Art students
5 - 7 pm at the museum
- Mar. 10 History Chat at museum, 10 am
Scott Crawford on the Civil War
- Apr. 5 Artist reception for Radford University
Art students, 5 - 7 pm
- Apr. 17,19,20 Watercolor workshop with Robin Poteet
9 am - 3 pm at C'burg Presbyterian Ch.
- May 3 Artist reception for Joanna Sunshine
5 - 7 pm at the museum
- May 19 History Chat with Erica Williams
Presentation on the courthouse
- July Opening of courthouse exhibit
- July 12 Artist reception for Danie Janov and
Sara Lane, 5 - 7 pm at the museum

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 _____

Individual Membership \$20 _____ Family Membership \$30 _____

Business Member \$ _____ Patron \$ _____

Gift Membership _____ From _____

Memorial donation _____ for _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Are you be interested in Volunteer Opportunities? _____

Are you interested in volunteering?

