

Smyth County Historical & Museum Society, INC

P.O. Box 710 ~ Marion, Virginia 24354
276-783-7286 ~ smythcountymuseum@gmail.com

July 6, 2018

ADDRESS
ADDRESS
ADDRESS

Dear NAME:

I want to apologize for being late in having the normal newsletter mailed out. Hopefully, it will be out by the end of July. Nevertheless, I want to keep everyone updated on what is going on in the Historical Society and Museum until then.

Firstly, we want to welcome any new members that have joined the Historical Society this year as well as welcome back returning members. We are so grateful for your support and hope you have enjoyed the improvements we made to the museum over our winter break. It is with your support, and only with your support, that we are able to continue our mission of preserving and protecting our local history and heritage.

We have had over 600 visitors so far this year since opening in April. There have been so many compliments on our exhibits and windows displays as well! People have been very generous in donating items to our ever-growing collection. A detailed list of those contributions will be attached to the "official" newsletter.

We have begun work on preparing one of the rooms in the back of the museum for the addition of a genealogical research center. We feel as though this center will be a great addition to our facility and hopefully make it easier for people to conduct research using our family records. The center will consist of two computers and a scanner/printer/copier area dedicated to the use of genealogical research. The center will be dedicated as the Brenda A. Gwyn Genealogical Research Center in memory of the longtime member, board member, and friend of the Historical Society and Smyth County Museum. We are very thankful for all the donations that have been made to the society in her name and feel as though the center will be a good use of those contributions. Information on the dedication ceremony and presentation on genealogical research will be announced at a later date.

For a fundraiser this year we are raffling off a bundle that includes a DNA Testing Kit from Ancestry.com! The bundle will also include several books on Smyth County History including: "History of Smyth County, Volume II -Antebellum Years Through the Civil War," "The History of Marion Bottling Company," Thomas Preston's "Historical Sketches and Reminiscences of an Octogenarian," Images of America - Marion and Hungry Mother State Park," and Soldier of Southwestern Virginia - The Civil War Letters of John Preston Sheffey." Tickets for the raffle can be purchased for \$5 each at the museum. The drawing will be held on July 21, 2018 during Marion Downtown's Chili Cookoff where we will also have tickets for sale at our organization's table in front of the museum.

Again, thank you so much for your support. We are very glad to have you join us in not only preserving and protecting our local history and heritage, but celebrating it as well. We are looking forward to the rest of the year!

Sincerely,



Max Wyatt, Director
Smyth County Museum