



SMYTH COUNTY

HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM SOCIETY

PRESERVING AND PROTECTING
LOCAL HISTORY

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What We've Been Up To!



Dr. Charles Sydnor talks about his time at the United States Department of Justice.

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a great holiday season! As we begin a new year, we want to again thank you for your support in being a member of the historical society.

Since the last update, we have had three speaking events at the museum. On August 26, local genealogist Margaret Linford gave a presentation about "family treasures," describing and telling stories about the unique items that she has encountered during her professional family history preservation work. On September 23, Dr. Charles Sydnor spoke about his work with the United States Department of Justice and its investigations into former SS concentration camp guards and Nazi death camp collaborators. On October 21, James Buchanan Ballard...

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What We've Been Up To! (continued...)

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...introduced us to his book and research on Confederate General William Edmonson "Grumble" Jones of Southwest Virginia. We hope you enjoyed the speaking events last year. If you have any suggestions for future speakers, we would greatly appreciate the input as we schedule these events for 2019.

We had another great Christmas Tree Decorating event this year during the Marion Christmas Market. Those who decorated trees include: The DAR Royal Oak Chapter, The Lincoln Theatre, Marion Kiwanis Club, Wilderness Road Garden Club, The Town of Marion, Past Time Antique Emporium, Gospel Armory Christian Academy, SWVMHI Food Services Department, Smyth County Chamber of Commerce, and Downtown Resale Boutique. Chosen for first place in the contest was the Wilderness Road Garden Club with the DAR and SWVMHI Food Services Department being second and third place. Photographs of the trees are on our Facebook page if anyone was unable to come see them in person.

Our annual membership meeting will be held later this spring on April 28th, 2019 and our opening day for the season will be the following Monday, April 29, 2018. During this time, those wishing to become members or renew their membership can do so. We will also send out a membership packet with appropriate forms to any current members who are unable to make this event should they wish to renew their membership. It is our hope to finally have our genealogy room open by this time. The room will be a wonderful space for those researching their family history to review the information in our collection. It will feature a computer, scanner, and printer for visitors to use as well as several table tops to spread out research materials. The plan to add a genealogy room to our facility was made at the beginning of last year after the passing of long-time member Brenda Gwyn. It will be dedicated in her memory.

Membership

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?

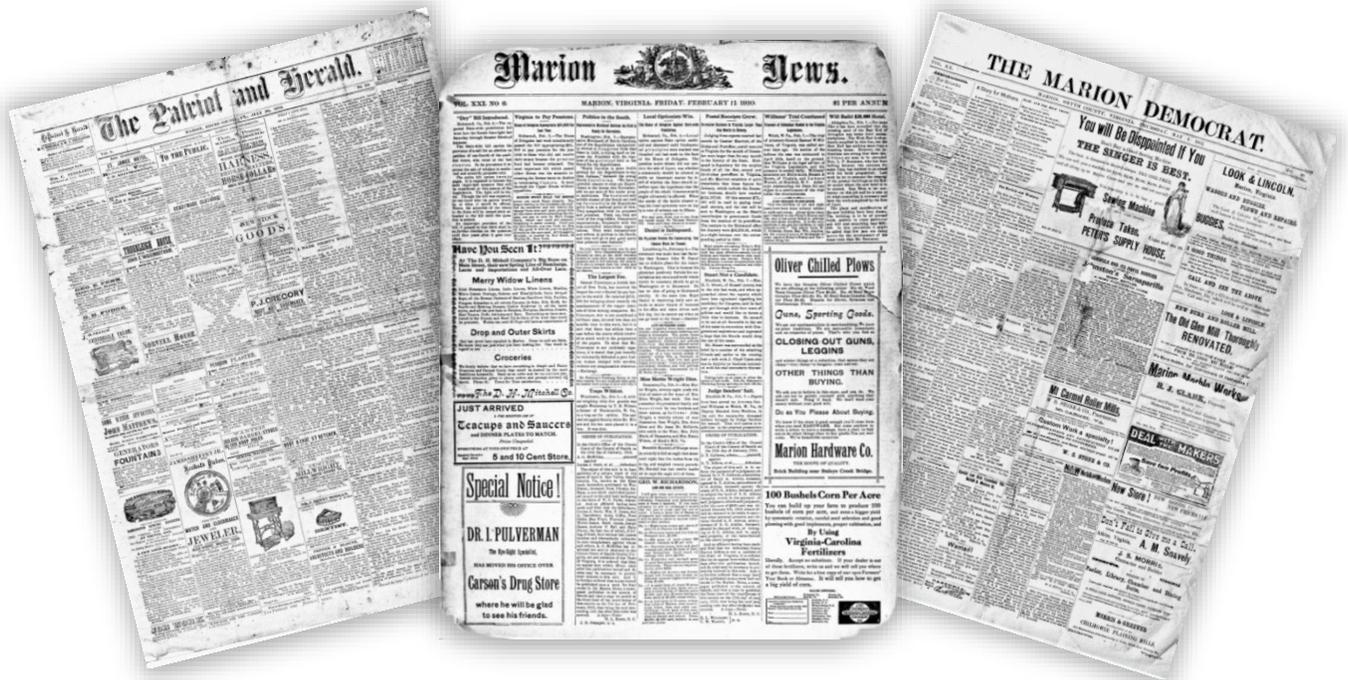
If you have a friend or family member who might be interested in becoming a member of the historical society, please encourage them to stop by and pick up a membership application or contact us for more information! Members wishing to do so can help **docent the museum**, assist in designing **window displays and inside exhibits**, assist in **organizing records**, or simply serve as a **greeter to welcome guests**. Membership annual dues remain at \$5 for students, \$20 for individuals, \$25 for family, and \$100 for business. Yearly membership renewals are due in March of each year and any membership dues paid after October of the previous year will carry over to the following year.

Newspaper Digitization Project Update

We have made significant progress on our Newspaper Digitization Project. In fact, over **372 issues** of our local newspaper collection have been digitized to this point with more on the way. In thinking of a method to make the results of this project available to the public, we have decided to distribute it via a **USB Flash Drive** that includes files of all the digitized issues. We are selling these flash drives for **\$15** each to help cover the cost of the flash drive itself and help support the project. Many of these issues are not available elsewhere and we think it is important to make them available to anyone who might have interest in them or who could benefit from them.

Each USB Flash Drive contains **PDF files** of every scanned and enhanced newspaper issue to make viewing easy. These files can be opened with any PDF viewing application such as Adobe Acrobat Reader. There is also a free installable PDF viewer included on the flash drive called "Nitro Reader." In addition, the fine people working on this project have created an index of many of the death and marriage references found within the issues (this has not been completed for the issues added completed as of spring 2019.) These files can be searched by name; an invaluable asset when conducting family research.

Those wishing to get one of these flash drives with all currently processed news issues can do so by mailing the payment (**\$15 + \$5 shipping**) with written request of item to our **P.O. Box 710, Marion, Virginia 24354**. They may also be purchased in person at the museum by appointment during the off season. As this is an ongoing project, we expect to have more issues available as time goes on although most of the collection has been completed to this point. When more issues are completed, those who have purchased a flash drive can return and get the additional issues added to their flash drive at no additional cost.



Getting to Know the Collection (Communion Table c. 1770s)



This table was donated to the museum collection in 1961, the same year as the formation of the Smyth County Historical Society and Smyth County Museum. It is handmade of walnut, fastened together with wooden nails, and is just short of being 250 years old.

Reportedly, this table was used as a communion table in one of the earliest churches in Smyth County. The original Royal Oak Presbyterian Church was a log structure built by and on land owned by John and Arthur Campbell in the late 1770s. It was located near the eastern side of Marion, just south of present-day Marion Baptist Church, and in the vicinity of the Royal Oak Cemetery.

At some point the land, and accompanying church meeting structure and graveyard, came into the possession of Abraham Goodpasture and his wife of Washington County. According to a record of deed dated June 18, 1796, the “land containing two acres and thirty-five poles....containing a meeting-house and graveyard” was sold to the “Virginia Trustees for upper Holstein Congregation” represented by Edward Crow of Wythe County and Samuel McReynolds of Washington County, both trustees of the congregation, for the “sum of ten Dollars”. This land was “for the use and benefit of the aforesaid upper Holstein Congregation forever and the aforesaid Abraham Goodpasture and Martha his wife “will forever warrant and defend the said tract of land with its appurtenances.”

After the log church was discontinued in the mid-1800s, the table was passed down through descendants of Abraham and Martha Goodpasture and eventually was donated to the historical society. The table measures across its top at 34 ½in. by 22 ½in and stands 29in. tall.



Item Donations August 2018 ---- December 2018

Survival Supplies Drum (Survival Supplies Furnished by Office of Civil Defense Department of Defense, c. 1960s)	Ken Heath, Marion, Virginia
Box of items relating to the Lincoln Hotel remodel including old room keys, door tags, match books, Lincoln Hotel branded stationary, brochures, and original door hardware. Marion, Virginia Post Cards.	Susie Fields, Atkins, Virginia
Vintage Black Parasol Black Walnut Stole Large Photograph of Robert Sanders Crazy Quilt, handmade by Katherine Sexton Sanders, c. 1880s	Mrs. Gerald C. Henninger, Newman, Georgia
Marion High School Year Book, "1941 Hurricane"	Betty Tate, Marion, Virginia
Collection of 10 Brass Buttons, c. 1870s-1900 Carved Wooden Sculpture, Circuit Riding Methodist Preacher carved by J.C. Poston of Smyth County.	Frank Detweiler, Marion, Virginia
Military Memorabilia of Earl M. Eller including medals, Purple Heart, Pocket Testament, Misc. Records, Flag, and Photograph.	Anonymous
1940s Doll/toy Furniture (9 items). Framed Confederate Bills from Smyth County Virginia, c. 1860s	Judy Warren, Marion, Virginia
Collection of Vintage Magazines and Newspapers (32 items), c. 1890s-1940s.	Luke Houchins, Marion, Virginia
Marion High School (Scarlet Hurricanes) #57 Letterman Jacket belonging to donor.	Charles Hutton, Vinton, Virginia
Washing Stick - "Rapid Washer, Made by C.T. Childers, Galesburg, Ill." c. 1890s	Hazel Harper & Louise Clark, Marion, Virginia
Vintage Santa Claus, c. 1960s-70s, used in the Dr. Pepper Company in Marion, Virginia.	Teresa Morgan, In Memory of Helen C. Dye
Mourning Dress - worn by Lillie Bell Chisenhall for her father William Judson Chisenhall (Blouse, Skirt, 2 Shalls). Photograph of Lille Bell Chisenhall Rutherford with info. Photograph of William Judson Chisenhall with info.	Pam Neate, Roanoke, Virginia
Collection of Currier and Ives and other prints. c. mid-late 1800s. (48 items)	Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Dumper Broadford, Virginia
Dress Form and Shoulder Pads	Diannah Pennington, Marion, Virginia



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VISIT OUR WEBSITE!
smythcountymuseum.org