

FLOYD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating Floyd County, Virginia

April 2017

P.O. Box 292

217 North Locust St. (Museum)

Floyd, Virginia 24091-0292

<http://www.floydhistoricalsociety.org>

Telephone-540-745-FCHS (3247)

Audio Tour 540-585-3070

Celebrating Floyd's Sports and Recreational History

Why is a moonshine still in the middle of a Sports and Recreational History Exhibit? (see still picture on page 4) Come to the Museum and see our new exhibit to find the answer. Opening reception April 22 10 am to 2 pm. Admission is free but donations are always welcome.

Some exhibits on display during 2017 include: Celebrating Floyd Sports and Recreational History, Honoring Floyd's Medical History, Floyd's Military History, Mapping of Floyd's Early School Houses, Tribute to Mamie Phillips Vest, Maurice Slusher's Postal Exhibit, Civil War Trails Sign "Stoneman's Raid" and Photographic Display of Floyd Mills.

Dedication of Civil War Trails Sign

The Civil War Trails Sign dedication was held, April 1, 2017. The guest speaker, Chris J. Hartley, author of the definitive history of "Stoneman's Raid 1865," gave an excellent program.

According to Mr. Hartley, Stoneman's raid lasted over two months and was the longest

raid. The raid went from Virginia to North Carolina and South Carolina before ending in Alabama. The raid has been featured in songs, poems and a Walt Disney movie.

The purpose of the Civil War Trail signs is to promote awareness of the Civil War history.

Many thanks to all who helped with this event.



FCHS Board members, Gerald Via, John Graham, Frances Helms, Rebecca Weeks, Margaret Smith, Connie Mitchell and Ann Shank, ready to unveil sign



Chris J. Hartley

He acknowledged Gino Williams, Gerald Via and John Graham for their collaboration and research as he wrote his book. Copies of his book are on sale at the Museum.



Community Treasures Tour
Saturday, April 22, 2017

- **Glenanna** (Starts at 9:00am)
- **The Ridgemont Museum**
- **The Oxford Academy**
- **The Old Church Gallery**

History, Architecture, Crafts, and so much more...

Sponsored by:
THE OLD CHURCH GALLERY
THE FLOYD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
THE FLOYD COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST

Tickets \$10.00 (Can be purchased at any stop on the tour.)



Floyd County is the home of three organizations that honor and document different aspects of the history and culture of Floyd County. **The Floyd County Historical Preservation Trust** protects and returns to public use buildings of historic significance. **The Floyd County Historical Society** preserves and shares Floyd County’s history through its archive of documents, photographs and artifacts. **The Old Church Gallery/Floyd Story Center** collects oral histories and handcrafted items that show Floyd County’s creative spirit, past and present. While all three groups pursue different missions, they share core values and complement one another’s efforts.

On Saturday, April 22, 2017, The Floyd County Historical Preservation Trust, The Floyd County Historical Society, and The Old Church Gallery are inviting community members to visit and learn more about their programs with a “**Community Treasures Tour.**” Four sites within the Town of Floyd will open for this self-guided tour which can be done as a walking or driving tour. Tickets may be purchased at any stop and are \$10.00 per adult. Tickets will also be available at *The Republic of Floyd* beginning April 10.

Glenanna, the private residence of Sam and Dolly Moore, will be open for one tour beginning at 9 AM. The remaining sites will be open from 10 AM through 2 PM. Visitors will enjoy the new Historical Society exhibit “The History of Sports and Recreation in Floyd County” opening for the year at the **Ridgemont. Old Church Gallery House** will hold special screenings of student-created films based upon interviews with WWII veterans and other county residents. At **Oxford Academy**, visitors will tour a “work in progress” and learn the history behind three Preservation Trust properties.

Give Big NRV



GiveBigNRV is a day of giving sponsored by **The Community Foundation of the New River Valley**. This program was started to encourage charitable giving in the New River Valley and

to promote the dozens of nonprofit organizations serving our region.

This year’s GiveBigNRV Day will take place on Wednesday, April 26, 2017. To learn more about the participating organizations or to donate to a community organization, please see <https://cfnrv.givebig.org/c/NRV>

Can anyone identify this photo?



Danny Compton sent this photo to us to see if anyone can identify the gentleman. Back of photo says "Floyd High School". Contact Rhonda if you have any information. 540-745-3247 (FCHS) floydhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Floyd Race Track



In the mid 1950s, P.L. Shelor and Deward Rakes brought stock car racing to Floyd County. The Floyd Speedway, advertised as a fast half mile, opened to a huge crowd in May

of 1954. People traveled from all around to see the new track.

Floyd's Still



This finely handcrafted copper still was most likely fabricated in a local blacksmith shop. It produced approximately three gallons per run. When confiscated in 1983, law enforcement officers estimated the still to be about 150 years old. Our exhibit of the still shows how it's been preserved through the years.

**Museum is open Thursday and
Friday Noon to 4:00 pm
Saturday 11:00 am to 3:00 pm**

Calendar of Events 2017

- April 22 Museum opens for 2017 season
Opening Reception 10:00- 2:00
Special Exhibit "Celebrating
Floyd's Sports and Recreational
History"
- May 13 10:00 am- Floyd Center for the Arts
FCHS General Meeting Program:
"Blue Ridge Parkway Heritage"
- June 10 & June 17 Two bus tours of Laurel
Branch-Topeco Community led by
Janet Keith. This is part of the
Crooked Road's Mountain of Music
Homecoming. Email Janet for price
and availability.
happyhills23312@gmail.com
- Sept. 9 10:00 am- Floyd Center for the Arts
FCHS General Meeting
Program: "Show and Tell of Floyd's
Relics/Keepsakes"
- Floyd's Veterans Day Parade
Floyd's Christmas Parade

Donations/In Honor of/In Memory of

A donation to the Floyd County Historical Society in Honor or in Memory of a loved one is a meaningful gift that can make a lasting difference. Every dollar you donate goes directly to support the Floyd County Historical Society Museum. Your gift will be acknowledged and a card will be mailed to the recipient or the recipient's family to let them know of your kindness.

I would like to donate _____ in honor
of _____ in memory of _____

Name of person you want honored or
remembered _____

Address for acknowledgement

Phone _____

Mail to Floyd County Historical Society, P.O.
Box 292, Floyd, VA 24091-0292

FLOYD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

You can help preserve, share and celebrate the history of Floyd County. Become a member, renew your membership or donate to the Museum Fund. Our programs include lectures, publications, community outreach and exhibits. The Society maintains an archive of historic artifacts, documents and photographs.

Annual dues are \$20.00 single _____ \$30.00 family _____ Renewal ___ New ___

Museum Fund Amount enclosed _____

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE & EMAIL _____

Send to Floyd County Historical Society, P.O. Box 292, Floyd, VA 24091-0292
This is a 501(c) 3 organization and your donation may be tax deductible.

Many thanks to those who have paid membership dues.

2017 MEMBERSHIPS WERE DUE JANUARY 1, 2017