

FLOYD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating Floyd County, Virginia

December 2015

P.O. Box 292

Floyd, VA 24091-0292

<http://www.floydhistoricalsociety.org>

Telephone-540-745-FCHS (3247)

Audio Tour 540-585-3070

Montgomery White Sulfur Springs

Join us January 9, 2016 at Jacksonville Arts Center 10:00 am for our first meeting of 2016. Lynn Reed will be telling us about the history of Montgomery White Sulfur Springs Confederate Cemetery. Lynn is the president of Hamilton Wade Chapter United Daughters of the Confederacy which now owns the cemetery and monument located off of Den Hill Road. This 1000 acre resort was converted to a Civil War Hospital because it was close to the railroad. Several Floyd County men were sent to Montgomery White Sulfur Springs Hospital during the War Between the States. Some died there and are buried in the cemetery. Hamilton Wade Chapter has started recording the entire history of the resort, hospital and cemetery.



Lynn Reed

Vest Grant

As you know from the last newsletter, we are educating the 6th graders on early Floyd County Education. During 2016, the Museum will feature a school exhibit starting in April. With the help from the Larry Woodrow Vest Fund of Foundation For Roanoke Valley, \$3,010.00 was provided for field trips to Double Springs School in Check and the Museum, maps for the schools and prizes for essay writings. Due to the school schedules at Willis, Check, Floyd and Indian Valley we have already held one trip for Willis to visit Double Springs School. Photographs of the children enjoying the day are shown.

Land was deeded for a school in 1870. Double Springs School was built about 1920 as a one room school. It is equipped with everything to represent school life at that time.

Jean Thomas Schaeffer is donating copies of her book, Raised on Songs and Stories A Memoir of Place in the Blue Ridge to each school. All classes were visited to explain the essay project.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to this project and exhibit, especially Jean Schaeffer, Ann Shank, Janet Keith, Alice Slusher and Connie Mitchell. Special thank you to the teachers who are encouraging their students to learn Floyd history.

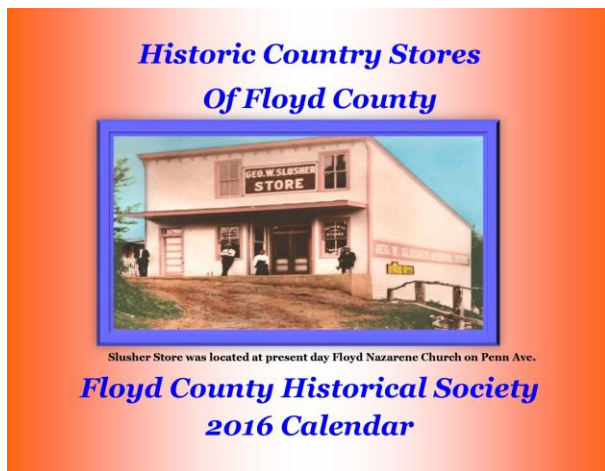


Children from Willis Elementary School arriving at Double Springs School.



Willis Elementary at Double Springs School

**2016 Calendars for Sale
\$10.00 each**



Floyd County Historical Society 2016 Historical Calendar is still on sale. After the Museum's closing, December 12, calendars can be purchased at Floyd Pharmacy, Slaughter's Supermarket, Chamber of

Commerce, Smith's Grocery, Wildwood/Midway, Willis Village Mart and Pine Tavern Restaurant. This years' calendar is Historic Country Stores of Floyd County.

We're planning our 2017 calendar to commemorate more of the county stores of the past. In order to remember and celebrate the historic Floyd County stores, we need your continued help. Does anyone know of a Floyd County general store which is no longer in service? We will appreciate a picture and information about location, owners, interesting facts and approximate dates of operation.

THANK YOU for your support in making this historical keepsake possible. Calendars are \$10.00 each, \$3.50 postage will be added if mailed.

Curtis Turner Celebration

Many fans turned out for the November 14 celebration at Eco Village. Pictured is Barry Sweeney beside a collection of Curtis Turner Memorabilia. Barry, his brothers and father, Major, worked with Curtis and have been involved with racing for many years. Thank you to Gerald and Vicky Via for putting this event together for the Society.



Barry Sweeney

Floyd Christmas Parade 2015



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

New Hours for Museum

The Museum will be changing operating hours starting in April 2016. New Museum hours will be: Thursday and Friday Noon til 4 pm, Saturday 11 am til 3 pm.

Rhonda can be reached at 540-392-5806 or floydhistoricalsociety@gmail.com for private tours.

Calendar of Events 2015-2016

Dec. 12 Museum closing for winter

Dec. 14 WWII Book Committee Meeting
7 :00 pm at Museum

January 9, 2016 FCH Society Meeting 10:00
am Jacksonville Arts Center.
Program will be Lynn Reed
"Montgomery White Sulfur Springs
Cemetery"

March 12, 2016 FCH Society Meeting 10:00
am Jacksonville Arts Center Program
will be Sandra Warren author of "We
Bought a WWII Bomber: The Untold
Story of a Michigan High School, a
B-17 Bomber & The Blue Ridge
Parkway!"

April 9, 2016 Museum opens for 2016 season

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

ALL DUES ARE PAYABLE YEARLY ON JANUARY 1.

Floyd County Historical Society, Inc.
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Floyd, VA 24091-0292
540-745-3247 (FCHS)
<http://floydhistoricalsociety.org>

December 7, 2015

Dear Members and Friends,

This is the time of year we reflect on our Floyd County Historical Society's past year, plan for the future and enjoy the wonders of nature in Floyd. What does the Historical Society do to be visible, active and informative, besides operate the Museum? We are happy to summarize some of our activities, projects and future plans.

Installed special World War II Exhibits, postal memorabilia and other Floyd County artifacts.

Held reception for living Floyd World War II Veterans; gave gifts of a World War II cap to each veteran whether present or not; taped interviews and collected memories.

Presented programs at bi-monthly meetings: Ed and Lizzie Mabry, Rosehill-Helms Genealogy, Box Car Nurses in World War II, "By Ear and By Heart"-Music, Curtis Turner Celebration.

Joined with Floyd County Historical Preservation Trust and Floyd County Sesquicentennial Committee to hold the 4th Civil War Living History Day at the Phlegar House.

Joined with Floyd County Tourism and sent brochures to I-77 rest area for Floyd Promotion.

Created signs, ads and calendar events to send to regional newspapers, TV and radio on regular basis to advertise our events and projects.

Kept the Museum open March through December, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 12 until 5 pm.

Participated with the New River Heritage Coalition, Virginia Association of Museums and Floyd Chamber of Commerce to promote the Society, Museum and Floyd.

Provided genealogy and cemetery help to visitors and callers.

Created and printed 4 newsletters.

Updated OnCell Audio tour with each new exhibit. By calling 540-585-3070, listeners can hear information about the different components of the current exhibits.

Worked with Citizens Telephone to place programs on public service TV/

Participated in Floyd Christmas parade with float featuring John Dennis Harman's restored buggy which was used by his father to deliver mail.

Archived photos, documents and historical items for future use.

Provided directions and tourist help to visitors calling or coming to the Museum.

Sold books, historical calendars, Floyd post cards, county prints.

Sponsored bus tours in June for Crooked Road Mountain of Music events, Floyd County Standing Water Powered Mills and Area Rock Churches built by Rev. Bob Childress.

Sent CD to Floyd Press with historical photos for future use in paper when needed.

Continue to plan and research for World War II book about Floyd's involvement.

Awarded a \$500.00 Art Scholarship to a Floyd High School senior winner depicting World War II Veteran Roy Jackson Williams Jr. sponsored by Jim and Mary Hannah Dalton.

Researched and published 2016 Calendar "Historic Country Stores of Floyd County"

Working on Civil War Trails sign wordage

Sponsored essay writing contest for 5th graders in Floyd's 4 elementary schools on "World War II's Impact Upon Floyd County's Families"

Added new volunteers, docents and memberships.

Approximately 1070 visitors have come to meetings or Museum from November 2014-November 2015

Continue to receive, document and store or exhibit archival materials.

Converted meeting program tapes to CD and will soon be ready to edit for future sale.

Received \$3,010.00 Grant from Larry Woodrow Vest Fund of Foundation For Roanoke Valley. This will be used for an educational exhibit, field trips to the Museum and Double Springs School and essay contest for all Floyd County 6th graders.

Continue to update website.

Researched and prepared written and pictorial handout for Laurel Branch-Topeco Community and did trial run van tour.

Entertained Museum tours for 3 high school groups, 5 elementary classes, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and family reunions.

Our Museum and historical heritage truly belong to not only the membership, but future generations. If we are to have enduring success, we need to meet financial responsibilities. The Museum services, including keeping the Museum open to the public and fulfilling requests have been reduced. We functioned during 2015 with paying the Museum manager for only one day of work, instead of two days. We are humbled to seek your financial help to sustain our immediate goals and mission.

Later in the month we will be finalizing our proposed Floyd County Historical Society Budget for 2016. Your financial support and commitment is needed to maintain and further the dreams, plans and future of our organization. We hope you will be a part of our continued success and allow us to collect, preserve, share, and celebrate our Floyd County History.

We are mindful and grateful of all those who have given generously in the past and we trust you will be financially resourceful at this time. Thanks for your consideration.

Thankfully,
Floyd County Historical Society
Board of Directors