

FLOYD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating Floyd County, Virginia

Spring 2011

P.O. Box 292

Floyd, VA 24091-0292

<http://www.floydhistoricalsociety.org>

Audio Tour 540-585-3070

Opening Day for 2011

March 24 was the Museum opening day for our 2011 season. We have a new exhibit on the Compton family. It includes a beautifully carved sewing machine, quilts, glassware, shoe lathe, single trees, genealogy and other items.

A few photos of the exhibit are below.



Beautiful carvings on sewing machine



Fiddle of William Ward Compton

Would you like to hear the mysterious story behind a piece of glassware from Tennessee and Virginia? What are single trees? Come visit the exhibit or listen to the audio tour.



Dutch Girl Quilt

The Compton family of Floyd County, Virginia emigrated from England to Virginia in the 1600s. They migrated westward in 1763, settling in the Halifax and Pittsylvania area. Benjamin "John" Compton (1805-1887) married Elizabeth J. Anderson in Halifax in 1827. John and Elizabeth moved to the Rock Castle region of Patrick County sometime soon after 1840. Their son William Anderson "Billy" Compton was born in Halifax but moved with the family to Patrick County. William Anderson "Billy" Compton married Lavinia Moran, daughter of Elijah Moran and Caroline Hall Moran, on October 22, 1861. They settled in the Tuggles Gap community along the Floyd/Patrick County line. The Comptons of Floyd, Virginia descend from this family line. The children of William Anderson "Billy" Compton and Lavinia Moran Compton are:

- Ira Milton Compton, born July 17, 1862 married Almenta DeHart
- James Monroe Compton, born August 3, 1864 married Lucy Laura DeHart
- Charlie Clayborn Compton, born September 7, 1866 married Annie Thomas
- Louisa (Lina) Adline Compton, born October 3, 1870 married John Lewis Worley

- Henry Tazwell Compton, born April 18, 1877 married Dora Florence Eliza DeHart
- Mintie Bell Compton, born March 26, 1880
- Alberta Compton, born June 9, 1884 married Burdine Cornelieus Reed
- Juanita Compton, born March 27, 1893

Many of these families lived near the Tuggles Gap community along the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains. They married into other early settler families of the area and made their living primarily as farmers, carpenters, millers and merchants. In the early 1900s quite a few Comptons got caught up in the “outward migration” and moved to the West Virginia coal regions and other cities to carve out a living. Several generations of the Compton family are buried in the Lee Cemetery at Tuggles Gap. There are many Compton family descendants living in Floyd County today.

We would like to extend an invitation to everyone who is attending the Compton Family reunion in June to come by and see your family history displayed. This exhibit will only be here until the end of June. Thank you Gerald Via and Lucy C. McAlexander for everything.

New Year Celebration

Floyd County Historical Society held the January meeting at Pine Tavern to celebrate our accomplishments in 2010. Jean Schaffer was the program speaker and she talked about Floyd County 100 years ago.

“Our country was a young country at that time, for it had only been 134 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Floyd County was a young county in 1910 too, having only been a county for 79 years. Still more recent in people’s memories in 1910 was the end of the Civil War 45 years before. In 1910, it would be 10 years before women would get the right to vote and it would be 50 years before Civil Rights laws would be passed and public schools racially integrated.”

Jean also talked about life before electricity, building of the Blue Ridge Parkway and the “coming of the roads”. The snow was falling as everyone enjoyed the buffet dinner and lovely memories. We have a great “family” group who enjoy time together.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

Please check and make sure you have paid your 2011 dues. All membership dues for 2011 are now due. \$15 individual \$25 family. We don’t want you to miss out on anything that is happening with the Floyd County Historical Society!

We have had several big expenses in the last few months that were needed to help keep our electric costs down. The electric bill almost tripled in December.

Mrs. Debbie Baum has installed archival shades on the windows which will protect our exhibits and help with heating and cooling.

We have new storm doors to prevent air coming in around the uneven antique wooden doors. They have been put on the front and side door.

We could use extra donations to cover the door costs which were not in the budget.

Photos Wanted of Civil War Veterans

The Floyd County Historical Society is putting together our 2012 calendar “Civil War in Floyd”. If you have photos or stories about any Civil War Veteran, please contact us. You do not need to give us the original photo. We just need a copy and your permission to use it in our calendar. Call Rhonda at the FCHS Museum 540-745-3247 or 540-392-5806.

Civil War Sesquicentennial

This is the 150th commemoration of the Civil War and the state of Virginia has events planned until 2015. The signature conference will be held at Virginia Tech May 21, 2011 and will feature Dr. James I. Robertson Jr. as one of the speakers.

There is a Legacy 150 program with the Library of Virginia that is trying to scan original Civil War period documents that are in private collections. Floyd County Historical Society is working on a date for the Legacy Project to visit Floyd. We will keep you posted on this event.

To find out more about any of the Virginia Civil War Sesquicentennial events visit the web site: www.virginiacivilwar.org

Floyd Christmas Parade

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped with our entry for the 2010 Floyd Christmas Parade. This year we decorated a rail road car. It was complete with the horn and whistle. "Preserving the Magic of the Past" was made possible by the use of the railroad car of Judy and Tom Rundell. If you have ideas for 2011 Veterans or Christmas parade let us know.



Julie Hancock, Sam Moore, Alex Moore, Rebecca Weeks, Bob Moser



Rebecca Weeks, Sam Moore, Bob Moser, Julie Hancock



2011 Calendar of Events

- May 14- Floyd County Historical Society meeting 11:00 am –Maurice Slusher speaker
- June 18- Floyd Town Jubilee
- July 9- Floyd County Historical Society meeting
- Sept 10- Floyd County Historical Society meeting
- Sept. 17- Harvest Festival
- Nov. 6 - Floyd Veterans Parade
- Nov. 12- Floyd County Historical Society meeting
- Dec. 2- Dickens of a Christmas
- Dec. 4- Floyd Christmas Parade

Donation to Library

Floyd County Historical Society has donated a copy of Volume 2 of Admiral Robley D. Evans book, An Admirals' Log; Being Continued Recollections of Naval Life, by Robley D. Evans to the Jessie Peterman Library in Floyd, VA.

Floyd County Historical Society 2011 Officers

Rebecca Weeks-President
Dick Giessler- Vice- President
Margaret Smith- 2nd Vice-President
Ann Shank-Treasurer
Julie Hancock-Secretary
Carolyn Shockley-Historian
Effie Brown-Parliamentarian

Jean Schaeffer-Past President
Kathleen Ingoldsby-Archivist
Rhonda Fleming Smith-Museum Manager

2011 Calendar

The historical calendar for 2011 featured early schools in Floyd County. **Floyd Schools 2011 Calendar** is still available while supply lasts. If you are out of the Floyd area and desire to purchase a new calendar, please send \$10.00 plus \$2.50 postage and handling to Floyd County Historical Society, P.O. Box 292, Floyd, VA 24091-0292

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.

Become a Member, renew your membership or donate to the Museum Fund.

You can help preserve the history of Floyd County. Our programs include lectures, publications, community outreach and exhibits. The Society maintains an archive of historic artifacts, documents and photographs.

Annual dues are \$15.00 single _____ \$25.00 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