

FLOYD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Celebrating Floyd County, Virginia

Newsletter, April 2018

2018 MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE

APRIL 28, 2-4PM

2018 Feature "Things Made of Wood" Exhibit Opening

Please join us for our 2018 Museum Open House and enjoy a historic look at Floyd's furniture makers and craftsmen. Featured works have been provided by many Floyd makers, including Christopher Slusher, "Dinky" Harris, Ferdinand Winston, Alvin Harman, Taz W. Williams, Milton A. Williams, Charlie Williams, Ashby "Ash" Compton, Floyd P. Smith, Winston Spencer, Ananias Thomas, Carmon Hylton, Lance Lyerly and Alden Wood.

The "Things Made of Wood" exhibit has old and newer items of the unique and common variety. Items on

display include a walking spinning wheel, smaller flax spinning wheel, yarn weasel, blanket chest, bookcase, wash stand, cellerat, desk, settee, fern stands, stools, carved animals, candle boxes, book ends, cabinet, corner cupboard, tools, miniature furniture and a 5-string fiddle made by Arthur Conner.



Washstand by Winston Spencer, Stool by a Williams, Lamp by Ashby Compton



Bookshelf by Florence Graham

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

FLOYD CARPENTER ON DISPLAY IN WINSTON-SALEM MUSEUM

Robert Leath, curator at the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA) in Winston Salem, NC, says that Christopher Slusher, Sr., was "absolutely one of western Virginia's most important cabinetmakers." Born in Lancaster County, PA, Christopher migrated with his family to



Cupboard by Christopher Slusher

western Maryland and then to Frederick County, Virginia, before settling in Floyd County around 1800. The corner cupboard, purchased from an antique dealer by the MESDA for \$18,000, presents clear evidence of the Slusher family's migration to Floyd County.

MESDA first recorded Christopher's father, Peter Slusher/Schlosser, as a carpenter in 1769 Frederick County, Maryland, deeds. Christopher's Floyd County probate records list a work bench and carpenter's tools, a glue pot, paint, turpentine, and walnut, cherry and pine plank. The

family's reputation for woodworking continued, as the 1860 Floyd County census lists Christopher's grandson, Jeremiah H. Slusher, as a 40-year-old cabinetmaker living one household above Hattie Dickerson's (the cupboard's last owner) great-grandfather, Jacob S. Harmon, a well-to-do farmer.

WWI SHOWCASE

A showcase will also be on display at the museum this year sharing artifacts donated by the families of Floyd County men serving in WWI, on this the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War. Items included come from the families of Isaac Roberson, Bruster Shelor, Harmon Shelor, Charles Judson Wood, Jessie Peterman, Richard M. Williams, Sr., J.W. Brammer, E.L. Lawrence, G.W. Agnew, A.G. Blackwell, William Lewis Phillips, Noah E. Martin, Elva Cole, Dock Dickerson, and Everette Sowers. Gino Williams will be the feature presenter at the August 11 meeting at the Floyd Center for the Arts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 18

GiveBigNRV

April 21

Curtis Turner Highway
Landmark Unveiling
2:00pm
229 Smartview Road

April 25

Volunteer Meeting @
Museum
11:00am

April 28

Museum Opening Reception
2:00pm-4:00pm

May 10

2019 Calendar Planning
Meeting @ Museum
1:00pm

May 12

Thomas Klatka, "Nickel,
Arsenic, Copper and
Iron: Floyd County's part in
America's Industrial
Revolution."
Floyd Center for the Arts
Presentation,
10:00am-12:00pm

June 9, 16

"Tracing our Roots" bus tours
for Laurel Branch/Topeco
Community with Janet Keith

August 11

Gino Williams, "World War I,
Floyd Heroes"
Floyd Center for the Arts
Presentation
10:00am-12:00pm



Don't forget to support all your favorite local non-profit organizations
on April 18th at www.cfnrv.givebig.org

“TRACING OUR ROOTS” BUS TOUR OF LAUREL BRANCH ROAD

2 Saturdays, June 9 & 16, 1-4pm

\$20 per person, pre-registration required

Exploring the scenic loop of Laurel Branch Road and Floyd Highway South, this tour explores the history of the Topeco and Laurel Branch communities and the history of their homes, farms, families, churches and schools. The Civil War still marks the tour in the cemeteries and Janet will retell stories of the raids and epidemics, the deserters, and the encroaching Union army. Contact Janet Keith at (540) 789-7552 or happyhills23312@gmail.com to register or for more information. Please register early as space is limited.

MAY PRESENTATION WITH TOM KLATKA

Thomas Klatka presents *“Nickel, Arsenic, Copper and Iron: Floyd County's part in America's Industrial Revolution.”*

At the May 12th meeting of the Floyd County Historical Society, Klatka will provide snapshot views of three important explorations of metal deposits in Floyd County: the Lick Creek Nickel Mine, the Brinton Arsenic Mine and the Toncray Iron and Nickel Mine. Klatka is Regional Archaeologist at the Western Virginia Regional Office of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in Salem.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend. This is an interactive presentation; attendees are welcome to just “listen in” or join a discussion of these mines and other mining pursuits in Floyd County. Share your family memories, stories and pictures!



THOMAS KLATKA, REGIONAL ARCHEOLOGIST, ON A DIG

CURTIS TURNER HIGHWAY MARKER UNVEILING

April 21, 2pm @ 229 Smartview Road

Curtis Turner (April 12, 1924 – October 4, 1970) was an American stock car racer. He was born in Floyd, Virginia to Morton and Minnie Turner. From a very early age, long before he was old enough for a driver's license, Curtis developed his driving talents by running moonshine through the mountains. In addition to his success in racing, he made a fortune, lost it, and remade it buying and selling timberlands. In 1999, he was inducted into the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame. Join us for the unveiling of the new highway marker at his family homestead on Smartview Road.



Directions to unveiling: From the Stoplight in town, take East Main Street/US 221 about 1.2 miles, turn right on Franklin Pike and follow 6 miles, turn right on Smartview Road/VA 661, Birthplace and Highway Marker is approximately ¼ mile on left.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We always need additional help assisting with research, finding and writing grants, helping with displaying exhibits, museum housekeeping, yard beautification, preparing newsletters, assisting with correspondence, and serving as docents. Please help us continue our momentum to share and celebrate our history.

Please call Becky Weeks at 745-4250 or Connie Mitchell at 745-2316 for more details.

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 \$20.00 single _____ \$30.00 family _____

Renewal _____ New _____ Museum Fund amount enclosed _____

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Send checks 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.

Have you sent your 2018 Membership dues?

Thank you to everyone who has already renewed their membership!