

FLOYD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating Floyd County, Virginia

Winter 2014

P.O. Box 292

Floyd, VA 24091-0292

<http://www.floydhistoricalsociety.org>

Telephone-540-745-FCHS (3247)

Audio Tour 540-585-3070

Society Meeting March 8

On the porch of the Historical Society Museum you may have noticed the richly honey colored stone block. The plaque informs us that it is soap stone originally believed to be a headstone but now identified as a cornerstone. Soapstone, also described as talc-schist, is a metamorphic rock. Soapstone has been quarried around the world for many hundreds of years. And still is. Though not in the US, except purportedly at the Alberene Soapstone Company in Schuyler, Virginia. Most is mined in Brazil, India and Finland. Soapstone's complex mix of talc and other minerals make it suitable for a variety of applications from construction, carving and electrical boxes. If anybody can remember a custom suit, chances are that your tailor used a soapstone chalk to mark the alterations.

Vikings produced cooking utensils, ancient civilizations carved statues and jewelry and early settlers constructed slot and tab tombs.

Soapstone was quarried and carved in this area as recently as 1917. Among structures in Floyd utilizing the material is the former bank building at the center of town now housing Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Attorney James Shortt's office, formerly the Floyd Press Building and the elegant home on the old Christiansburg Pike, now doing business as the Soapstone Bed & Breakfast.

Hungry for more? Then please join us on Saturday March 8 on the second floor of the Jacksonville Center at 11AM following the regular bi-monthly 10AM membership meeting. The Jax is on Route 8 south of town, 220 Parkway Lane. Ample parking is convenient to the building.

The speaker will be Tom Klatka of the Virginia Division of Historic Resources. His topic is entitled, "Soapstone in the Prehistoric Blue Ridge: A Review of Archaeological Survey in Floyd County and the Southern Blue Ridge of Virginia." Dr. Klatka is the regional archaeologist in Salem and professor at Roanoke College. His work at Native American sites has been chronicled in various publications. Perhaps many of you read the Floyd Press series by our Jean Schaeffer last year where Dr. Klatka provided invaluable expertise.

The Society is looking for photographs of the soapstone quarry in Floyd.

2014 Officers for the Society

Officers for The Floyd County Historical Society include: Rebecca Weeks, President, Gerald Via ,1st vice president, Connie Harris Mitchell, secretary, Reeves Pogue, 2nd vice president, Ann Shank, treasurer, Margaret Smith, parliamentarian, Carolyn Shockley, Historian and Julie Hancock, liaison to the Floyd County Preservation Trust.



left to right: Julie Hancock, Margaret Smith, Connie Mitchell, Reeves Pogue, Rebecca Weeks, Gerald Via



Rhonda Fleming Smith is Museum Manager. She keeps the Museum open Thursday and Friday from Noon to 5:00 pm. Volunteers help out on Saturday.

Museum Opening Day March 27

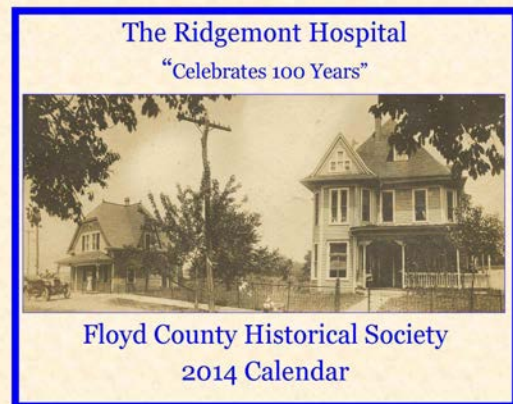
Exhibits and information about World War II in Floyd County will be the theme in the family room in 2014. Opening day will be March 27. Our opening reception will be held on Friday, March 28, from 4-6 pm. Special guests being honored are the living Floyd County veterans from World War II.



Do you remember: ration books, scrap metal collections, Rosie the Riveter, fallout shelters, Civil Air Patrol, recruiting posters, code breakers, war bonds and Radford Arsenal? We can still use items for the exhibit. Contact Rhonda 540-392-5806.

Civil War Living History Day

The Floyd County Historical Society, Floyd County Sesquicentennial Committee, and Floyd County Historic Preservation Trust will again join together for the 3rd Annual Living History Day at Phlegar Farm. This event will be held May 10 from 10 am to 3 pm. The guest speaker will be Tom Perry "Stuarts Horse Artillery". Reenactment groups have also committed to the event. Booths include: Sons of Confederate Veterans, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Order of Confederate Rose, and Floyd County Historical Society Museum. Food for sale will also be available at the event. Plan on joining everyone for a fun filled educational day remembering the past. More info will be posted in April.



2014 Historical Calendar

Have you seen the 2014 Calendar "The Ridgemont Hospital Celebrates 100 Years"? Calendars are still available for sale at the Museum, Floyd Pharmacy, Slaughter Super Market and Floyd Chamber of Commerce. Price is \$10.00 each plus \$2.50 shipping and handling, if mailed. Check can be mailed to FCHS, P.O. Box 292, Floyd, VA 24091-0292.

Ridgemont 100th Birthday Celebration

Mark your calendar for August 16, 2014. We are holding the Ridgemont 100 Year

Birthday Celebration from 1-4 pm at the Museum. Gino Williams will be the featured speaker. We would like to extend a special invitation to all the Floyd doctors, the builders of Ridgemont and their descendants to attend. We welcome anyone interested in helping plan this special occasion to let us know.

Book Committee

Work is in progress by the Book Committee on our next book "World War II Military of Floyd". If you have photographs or information on Floyd soldiers, during World War II, please contact us. Next committee meeting will be March 17 at 6 pm at the Museum. Projected publication date is fall 2014.

New Items Donated

Andrea Grater donated Sarah Spangler's wooden handmade trunk along with negatives, photographs and toys. Sarah was the daughter of Ira Spangler.



Stewart Shank loaned his father and grandfather's negatives to the Society to scan and place in our archives. Over 400 photographs from the early 1900's and 1950's.

Daniel Spangler loaned us original deeds, paperwork and photographs from his family. One deed is from 1828, before Floyd became a county.

Thelma Shank Hildebrand donated copies of Peter Shank family photos, bible and documents.

We have received a CD with 104 digital books for Virginia research which includes: Pioneers and their coat of arms of Floyd County - genealogies of prominent early settlers of the Blue Ridge Plateau of Virginia (1961 by Sue Jefferson Shelor)



Nadine and Maurice Slusher are standing in front of the John Dennis Harman postal carrier buggy. The restored buggy, used by John Dennis Harman's father to carry the mail, was received from the John Dennis Harman estate.

Hotel Floyd

The Society will be helping to decorate room 114 in the new addition of Hotel Floyd. Furnishings chosen by the Museum will include: 2 queen size oak finish poster beds, solid oak dressers, gold and red fabric for chairs and window coverings, oak stained desk, several photographs depicting the area, an original colored Floyd County

map and original painting by Margaret A. Smith, wormy chestnut frames made locally and a booklet with Floyd History and points of interest.

Nov. 8 Floyd County Historical Society Meeting at Eco Village- 10 am business meeting-11 am program with Ricky Cox "Appalachian Music and Stories"

Calendar of Events 2014

- March 8 Floyd County Historical Society Meeting at Jacksonville Center - 10 am business meeting-11 am program- Tom Klatka "Soapstone in Floyd County"
- March 27 Museum Opening Day for the 2014 season.
- March 28 Museum Opening Reception 4-6 pm
- May 10 Living History Day 10-4 at Phlegar House Tom Perry will be guest speaker "Stuart's Horse Artillery"
- July 12 Floyd County Historical Society Meeting at Jacksonville Center - 10 am business meeting-11 am program- Jean Schaeffer and Ann Shank "Early Education in Floyd County"
- August 16 Ridgemont's 100th Birthday Celebration 1-4 pm, 217 North Locust St. at the Museum
- Sept. 13 Floyd County Historical Society Meeting

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 _____
How do you want to receive your newsletter? _____ email _____ regular mail

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.