



Diamond Hill News N

Published by the Diamond Hill Historical Society, Lynchburg, VA

May 2011

www.diamondhill.org

Vol. 33, No. 5

Traveling with the ghosts of conflict virginia civil war trails

The Setting

Civil War sites abound in history-rich Virginia. But finding them and interpreting them was a job left to the visitor. Many war-related places were unknown outside their vicinities and others faced possible destruction by commercial and residential development. Wasn't there some way to save the sites at risk, capitalize on the vast untapped tourism potential, and make the tourists experience more pleasant and informative?

What Happened Next

The Virginia Civil War Trails (VCWT) initiative was launched in 1997 to develop and market Civil War trails in Virginia. VCWT efforts to date include: developing and installing trail-blazer signs producing engaging, user-friendly brochures developing and installing interpretive signs hosting a toll-free number for visitor inquiries sending out visitor information placing print and media advertisements producing a VCWT website at www.civilwar-va.com maintaining trails

Results

Visitors can now experience the story of the Civil War in Virginia, and the program brings visitors to previously unvisited parts of the state. Visits to Virginia's Civil War sites increased from 500,000 in 1996 to 580,000 in 1997. 50 new waysides have been created to provide vantage points for Civil War sites. The VCWT program has grown to include trails in MD, NC, SC, WV, TN and parts of PA. VCWT served as the model for a new Civil War Trails organization in Georgia. The trails build community pride and grassroots support for Civil War preservation. As of November 2009, the program included 1009 trail sites (908 of which have been interpreted for the first time, and 100 of which are accessible to the public for the first time).

Lynchburg Museum to Open New Exhibit: Lynchburg at War: 1861-1865

When Virginia seceded from the Union in April 1861, life for the 6,800 people who lived in Lynchburg was about to change forever. For the next four years, the city became a military training camp and supply base, a Confederate hospital center second only to Richmond, a target of the United States army, and a city of mourners.

At times, the number of soldiers in Lynchburg exceeded civilians. Trains delivered hundreds of sick and wounded with no one to care for them. Lynchburg's women became leaders by nursing the sick, making war material and managing homes and businesses. At the end of four years of war, Lynchburg's 2,700 slaves were free, the city was occupied by a hostile army, and no one knew what the future might hold.

From April 16, 2011 to June 15, 2012, the Lynchburg Museum, located at 901 Court Street, will present Lynchburg at War: 1861-1865. The exhibit, created as part of the Civil War Sesquicentennial, looks at the impact of the war on the people of the city. Rare artifacts with a Lynchburg connection have been loaned by the Virginia Historical Society, VMI Museum, Museum of the Confederacy, South Carolina Relic Room, Jones Memorial Library, Stonewall Brigade Band and private lenders.

Included is a letter to Gen. Wade Hampton, III, signed by Jefferson Davis, swords of Generals Munford and Dearing, a Confederate surgeon's chest and epaulettes worn by Gen. Rodes. The exhibit also displays a wedding dress converted to mourning attire, mourning jewelry worn by local women, soldiers' bibles, weapons, flags and more.

Junius Tinsley was a bugler for the Stonewall Brigade, killed during the Battle of Lynchburg by a cannon shell that hit the bugle. The Stonewall Brigade Band of Staunton loaned the rare bugle to the exhibit. Also featured are images and artifacts of Dr. John Terrell, Mary Forsberg, Gaston Otey, Augustus Forsberg, Dr. Edley Craighill, DeWitt Guy, Augustine Leftwich, Jr., Jenny Stabler, Martha Payne, Narcissa Owen and many others.

Museum Director Doug Harvey noted "Many of the artifacts and images in the exhibit have never been displayed in Lynchburg before and may never be again."

The Museum, as well as Point of Honor, located at 112 Cabell Street, are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and Sunday from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. For more information, call (434) 455-6226, visit www.lyncburgmuseum.org and www.pointofhonor.org, or visit the Lynchburg Mu-

Real Estate Tax Installment #4 Due May 16, 2011

Real estate property owners are reminded that the fourth installment for real estate taxes is due by Monday, May 16, 2011. NOTE: A 10% penalty will be assessed if the May 16 deadline is not met.

If you have not received a real estate tax bill or have questions concerning your bill, please contact the Billings and Collections Division at 455-3850. For questions regarding real estate assessments, please call the Assessor's Office at 455-3830.

2012 Diamond Hill Calendar

We are looking for vintage photos of Diamond Hill. Vintage can be 100 years or can be 40-50 years. We can also use pictures from Books, but likely will have to get permission from author/publisher and cite the source. Please send your pictures earlier rather than later to Jeff Schneider by mail at 307 Washington St., Lynchburg VA 24504 or e-mail at: jeffandsally@ntelos.net

Poplar Forest May Events

May 7

Conversations with Thomas Jefferson, featuring King George III
Join the conversation as President Jefferson hosts King George III at his Poplar Forest retreat. Tickets available for matinee and evening performances.

May 7

Saturdays in May: Craftsman Demonstrations in the House *
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Each Saturday in May, Poplar Forest master craftsmen will be demonstrating their skills in the house. Stop by and watch, ask questions and learn more about how Jefferson's retreat is being meticulously restored. Recurring May 14, 21, and 28.

May 10

Stargazing at Poplar Forest *
Talk and stargazing with Dr. Neal Sumerlin, Director of the Belk Astronomical Observatory, Claytor Nature Study Center, Lynchburg College. Rain date: Saturday, May 14. Free, reservations required. 8:00 p.m.

May 14

National Preservation Month: Architectural Restoration Talk and Tour *
11:00 am and 2:00 p.m. Guided tour of Jefferson's retreat with Director of Architectural Restoration, Travis McDonald. Followed by slide lecture. Free with regular admission charge. Reservations recommended by calling the Museum Shop (434) 534-8120.

National Preservation Conference

Buffalo, NY October 19-22

May Events

Old City Cemetery

May 7

16th Annual Antique Rose Festival
Enjoy the Cemetery's famous antique rose collection at the beginning of its peak of bloom. Many old-fashioned varieties will be available for sale, May 1-8. Special free Mother's Day Rose Walk on Sunday, May 8.

May 20

150th Anniversary of First Civil War Burial in Lynchburg
On this day in 1861 Pvt. Thomas Plunkett of Mississippi was buried in the Cemetery.

Botanical Illustration Course \$

Five Wednesdays, May 18-June 15
Students will learn to draw and paint accurate representations of plants using a variety of botanical specimens found in the Cemetery. Instructors: Tica Sydnor and Emily Smith. Students may choose one or more sessions.

May 29

Confederate Memorial Day Service
Sponsored by Garland-Rodes Camp, SCV Period dress encouraged.

May 30

Annual Memorial Day Bird Walk & Count
Join members of the Lynchburg Bird Club as they continue their tally of species sightings. Bring binoculars. Rain or shine.

Jones Memorial Library

May 18

Lynchburg Composers
by Ted Delaney
The program will offer a brief survey of 19th century Lynchburg composers, musicians, and bands, with special focus on three local composers, Gennaro Bozzaotra, Charles de Nordendorf, and Louis Schehlmann, whose works were published and distributed nationally.

Lynchburg Museum System

May 6 First Friday:

Basball in the Hill City Lynchburg has loved the national pastime for many years...early uniforms, balls, bats, and more will be shown. How about those Lynchburg Mohawks and Redbirds? 5 pm - 8 pm FREE

Diamond Hill News

Published Sept. through May by
Diamond Hill Historical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 803, Lynchburg, VA 24505
Website: www.diamondhill.org
Email: dhhscontact@yahoo.com
Newsletter articles:
diamondhill_news@yahoo.com

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Neighborhood Watch: L. Robert Halpin
Children's Activities: Mari Smallshaw
Auditor: Todd Leap
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Parliamentarian: Julie Kibby

Meetings

Business meetings are usually held at 7:30 p.m. on first Tuesdays of each month except June, July and August. Owners of properties in the Diamond Hill Historic District and others interested in supporting historic preservation are welcome to attend.

Membership

Annual dues for Active Members are \$10.00 per person and the initiation fee is \$5.00 (first year). Active Membership is limited to adult members of households owning Diamond Hill property. Annual dues for Associate Members are \$10 per person (no initiation fee). All members receive this newsletter at no charge. Newsletter subscriptions for non-members are \$5.00 per year.

Publisher's Statement

The Diamond Hill Historical Society (DHS) is a nonprofit historic preservation organization approved under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. Its purpose is to preserve and encourage—through the fostering of education, research and restoration—the historical and architectural integrity of the Diamond Hill Historic District. DHS was incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia February 22, 1979. Views expressed in the *Diamond Hill News* do not necessarily reflect the position of DHS or its officers and directors.

May is National Preservation Month and this year's theme is "Celebrating America's Treasures."

Throughout our nation's communities there are significant places that have contributed to our American experience – whether it is a battlefield, a ship, church or house museum. Through the support of programs like Save America's Treasures, thousands of preservation projects in cities and towns from coast to coast have worked to preserve these irreplaceable and tangible reminders of our roots.

By declaring National Preservation Month's theme as "Celebrating America's Treasures," we hope that communities and organizations across the country will help spread the word that programs like Save America's Treasures not only protect the places that tell our nation's story, but also create jobs and spur economic development in our Main Streets. Get involved today!

Volunteer to assist a community preservation project Host an educational history event Include historic sites or hotels on your next vacation to learn about our country's past Become a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation or your local preservation organization. By taking action, you're acknowledging that saving our heritage isn't someone else's job. Ensure that our nation's treasures will be protected for future generations and spread the word this May by celebrating your community's treasures!

Check out this list of sample activities to help you celebrate National Preservation Month in your community:

- Host an open house to showcase a historic building that has been recently restored or retrofitted. Organize a work project to clean up a historic town square, park or cemetery. [Share](#) your stories and pictures.
- Conduct a walking tour or candlelight house tour through a historic district. Don't forget to take pictures or video.
- Organize a visit to your statehouse or Congressional home office and explain why preservation and sustainability matter to you.
- Organize a volunteer group to work on painting or restoring a local landmark or home. Hold workshops and demonstrations for owners of older and historic homes and buildings. For ideas, check out [Weatherizing for Winter](#).
- Present green or preservation awards to those who are working to make your community sustainable. Encourage historic home and business owners to get an energy audit, the first step in achieving energy efficiency at home. Learn more [here](#). You could even get your community to come together to donate funds for an energy audit for a local historic landmark.

Historic windows are often replaced in an effort to achieve energy efficiency, but can, instead, be adapted in ways that both help the environment and maintain the historic integrity of the building. Hold a photo scavenger hunt encouraging citizens to capture some of the best historic windows in your town. [Share your finds](#).

- Do you have any buildings that are LEED certified? Host a tour of a LEED-certified building. If possible, ask the developer or owner to guide it.
- Hold a "Buy Local" fair or event along your main street. Encourage restaurants, shops and local farmers to participate.

(Information for this article has been extracted from "The National Trust for Historic Preservation".)

Tracking the elusive egg

The afternoon of April 23rd about 4:00 pm, neighborhood children began turning out—Easter baskets in hand—on the lawn at the corner of Harrison and Washington Streets. Almost 20 children with their parents and friends were eagerly anticipating the hunt for sweet treasures.

Divided into age groups, the children lined up both sides of the table, anxiously waiting for colorful eggs that had been carefully arranged on the table. There were plenty of eggs—and smiles—to be found and, by the end of the hunt, each child's basket was full. The kids were even courteous enough to pose for a few pictures before devouring their treats.

Afterward, everyone strolled over to the Smallshaw's home for refreshments. Many thanks to children's activities chairperson Mari Smallshaw for her efforts that gave neighborhood children so much joy. Thanks for the photo, Pat.



Possible cut to the City Budget

As Diamond Residents we are aware the community market is listed as a possible cut to the city budget for 2012. Mark Little, DHHS vice-president has composed a statement that was submitted to city council meeting on April 5th. The statement was on behalf of the Board of Directors of DHHS.

Statement to City Council

Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to speak to council regarding the importance of the community market.

Firstly, we would like to acknowledge that council has a very daunting task ahead, a task that many private citizens are faced with today: tightening our belts, deciding what we can live without, what is beyond the basics needs.

Unfortunately, the community market and armory are on City Council's list of possible cuts to the operating budget for fiscal year 2012. We, the board of directors of the Diamond Hill Historical Society, believe this is a grave mistake.

Lynchburg's historic community market is an integral component in the viability of downtown. We are very pleased with the strides the revitalization has made, all the more reason we are disturbed to see the market on this list.

Lynchburg's historic community market has been for centuries, and should continue to be, the center of commerce in downtown. What other draw exists in downtown? We believe that it is this draw that has greatly benefited the revitalization of businesses in this district. Over the past two decades many business including, but not limited to, restaurants, art galleries and retail shops have opened in part due to the draw the market makes to individuals to discover the downtown area. Not only have businesses benefited, so have city residents. The market provides access to locally grown produce and goods that would otherwise be unavailable. Council should realize the stability the market offers to other businesses and the service to the residents of the downtown area many of whom purchase goods at the market on a regular basis.

We feel it would not be prudent or fiscally responsible to discontinue support of the market. So much time, energy and money has been spent on revitalizing the market as well downtown. The city has committed itself to this project and should see it through to fruition.

In closing - Would it behoove the city to continue to subsidize the market? We believe yes. Does the market add value to our community? Again, we believe yes. The one thing we know for certain is that it would be detrimental to downtown Lynchburg for the market to close.

June Social Scheduled

Our annual June Social will be held the evening of Tuesday, June 7th, at the home of Ted and Jean Hannon, 708 Pearl Street. On behalf of our membership, we would like to thank the Hannons for hosting the Social this year. Invitations will be mailed during May to all members in good standing.



Happy Spring!

May Meeting

**Tues., May 3
7:30 p.m.**

at the

**John M Moore House
(c.1910)
1420 Madison St**

Hosts: Julie and Louis Kibby

