



MUSEUM OF ASHE COUNTY HISTORY

www.ashehistory.org

234 EAST MAIN STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 1404
JEFFERSON, NORTH CAROLINA 28640

(336) 846-1904

FALL 2010 NEWSLETTER

The Museum of Ashe County History held a Grand Opening for its new home in the restored 1904 Courthouse building on the 10th of July, 2010. Judy Poe, Chairman of the Ashe County Board of Commissioners and long-time supporter of the restoration project, cut the ribbon, and Commissioner Richard Blackburn gave the address.

Our Grand Opening represents the culmination of ten years of hard work by volunteers and professionals to make the 1904 Courthouse building ready for public use again, and to prepare and install museum exhibits. Former office rooms are now display halls dedicated to illustrating the history of our County, early industries, our Armed Forces veterans, the "Virginia Creeper" railroad, the Courthouse building and the people who worked here. We also provide a Welcome Center with information about businesses and attractions in Ashe County.

We are now welcoming our hometown neighbors, visitors from out-of-town, tour groups and school groups, as well as guest scholars and researchers. The next phase of our project will be the restoration of the upstairs Courtroom. We want to return it to its former status as the community center for all kinds of activities.

Don Long, Curator

Dear Members:

What an exciting year we have enjoyed! We are able to "go about our business of preserving history" for the citizens of Ashe County. Thus far this year we have held a special reception for our members and then celebrated our grand opening on July 10, 2010. We have been privileged to host the dedication of the painting "The Ride of Martin Gambill" by Ron Adair, as well as honoring the Gambill family and their many contributions to Ashe County. We hosted the Ashe County Kickoff for the Blue Ridge Parkway's 75th anniversary. In addition, we have hosted the 26th NC Troops (Confederate Re-enactors) who presented a program of living history for the 3rd graders in Ashe County, as well as a group of homeschoolers and a full day of programs for the public on September 24th & 25th. As part of our mission play an integral part of the Ashe County school system, our curator, Don Long, has conducted classes in the elementary school classroom, and we look forward to welcoming all the 1st grades to the Museum during the first two weeks in November.

We Have been fortunate to have the Ashe County Historical Society take the responsibility for our Virginia Creeper exhibit. They, with a group of very dedicated volunteers, hope to have the exhibit completed by Christmas, 2010. It is a very exciting exhibit, which will attract visitors from across the area.

I want to thank each of you members who have consistently supported this organization with your annual memberships and your volunteering. With your continued support, we hope begin work on the 2nd phase as soon as funding is available.

Gwen Ashley, President

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

October 25, 2010

7:00 p.m.

West Jefferson United Methodist Church — Hensley Hall

At this annual meeting, members will enjoy a program of excerpts and insights from Jim Gambill's play "The Mountain in Us." This is a true story of Ashe County patriot Martin Gambill who rode a hundred miles to warn the residents of the New River Valley of impending British attack.

PUT THIS MEETING ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW !!

We are beginning our 2011 membership drive. This income helps us meet our preservation and education goals.

For more information, contact any Board member or call the MACH office.