



MUSEUM OF ASHE COUNTY HISTORY

www.ashehistory.org

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

(336) 846-1904

FALL 2011 NEWSLETTER

The Museum of Ashe County History has enjoyed a busy summer, with an increasing number of visitors as people discover that we are here and we are open. In addition to individuals and families, we have been hosts to groups from the 4H Club, local elementary and high schools, home-school, Wilkes Community College, and Appalachian State University students. We have also provided in-classroom presentations for 5th Grade students at Westwood Elementary.

We have shared a living history day with Civil War re-enactors from the 26th and 37th NC Troops camped on our lawn. The Museum has mounted a Civil War exhibit as well, in remembrance of this year as the 150th anniversary of the start of the War Between the States.

Ashe County artist Lenore De Pree donated her beautiful painting of the 1904 Courthouse/Museum of Ashe County History as the basis for our major fund-raising effort this season. The original hangs in the hallway of the Museum, and we are selling signed and numbered first run giclée prints. We also have signed posters and note cards.

Our collections continue to expand, with donations coming in almost every day. Fortunately, we enjoy the services of a new volunteer, Ramona Renfro. She comes to us with 14 years of museum background and has helped greatly with our work. Among our new accessions are rare photographs of the Will Banks execution in 1907, N&W "Virginia Creeper" railroad artifacts, WWII and Viet Nam items and historic documents from Ashe County's past.

Linda Payne has set up a fine display of Beaver Creek High School memorabilia as part of an on-going series recognizing Ashe County Schools. Her display presents nostalgic items loaned or donated by generous Ashe County alumni.

We look forward to participating in "Thunder in the Park," a cruise-in sponsored by the Heritage Iron classic car club and the City of West Jefferson. On the 8th of October, the club has arranged for a drive-in showing of the 1958 vintage movie, "Thunder Road," at the West Jefferson Park, plus displays of classic cars and performances by the Fleet-Foot Cloggers and the Steve Lewis Bluegrass Band. More information is at ThunderinthePark@skybest.com.

Dear Members:

In just a little over a month, from now, on October 25th, our annual meeting of the Museum of Ashe County will be held. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Museum, I hope all of you will make an effort to be there. We are indebted to Katrina Waiker and the Membership Committee for the organization of this meeting and for arranging to have Lee Smith as our guest speaker. This promises to be a very special time to top off another good year for the Board and the Museum.

The number of visitors to the Museum has been great this year and we appreciate the hard work of all the volunteers and both Linda Payne and Don Long for a busy summer's effort. The Gift Shop has been doing well financially and changes planned in the Museum exhibits will continue to draw visitors.

The Train Room is exceptional and we plan a special event early in December to highlight that coordinated effort between the Museum, the Historical Society and a very talented, dedicated group of volunteers.

All the fundraising efforts, especially the raffle for the outstanding painting donated by Lenore De Pree, have been a great success, and we have sold all but one large window downstairs and the three small ones upstairs.

The computers have been networked in the Museum and shortly we will have all items moved from the old temporary Museum site. Committees have been meeting and work is moving forward in most areas, I thank the Board for all your hard work.

We need to keep working and concentrate on several items in the next few months. They are listed here not in any particular order: 1. Inventory of exhibit items and Gift Shop items; 2. continued work on self-guided tours; 3. a use policy for items owned by the Museum; 4. transition to nonstatic exhibits in 2-3 rooms; 5. cabin construction; 6. Law Office use; 7. veterans' name lists updated and used; 8. main Museum sign; 9. moving all items from Temporary Museum site; 10. building/gutters maintenance. We will be giving these priority during the next several months. Come and help us!

Thanks to all who have contributed to this good year.

LONNIE JONES, PRESIDENT

DON LONG, CURATOR