

Beloved Art Teacher Remembered in Exhibit

ACHS is proud to announce the upcoming art exhibition honoring the legacy of artist Ray Yoder. “Waynesboro’s Ray Abraham Yoder: Art Educator with a Mission” will open in mid-January and run through Memorial Day. A reduced version of the exhibit will then be open at the Wayne Theatre gallery throughout the summer.

This amazing man, who taught art and oversaw the art curriculum in the Waynesboro schools for 30 years (1945-1975), made art education his life-long mission. Even after retirement, his passion for bringing art to people of all ages continued for the rest of his life through painting workshops and his famous “painting vacations” where he took students into the woods and fields and showed them how to capture on canvas what they saw around them. Although he was best known for his watercolors of outside scenes, he dabbled in other media and found a unique niche with his “Whistlin’ Critters” – small ceramic animals that doubled as whistles when put to one’s lips.

In addition to more than 30 pieces of Yoder’s art, there will be interpretive panels about this man from Indiana, who arrived in Waynesboro just after WWII and stayed in the community for the rest of his life. There will be several exhibit cases that will include the art he created for his college yearbooks as well as other memorabilia. We will have several “Whistlin’ Critters” on display.

The exhibit will be in the ACHS History Gallery at the R.R. Smith Center for History and Art at 20 S. New Street, downtown Staunton. The gallery hours are Wednesday-Friday 1-4 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The galleries are closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

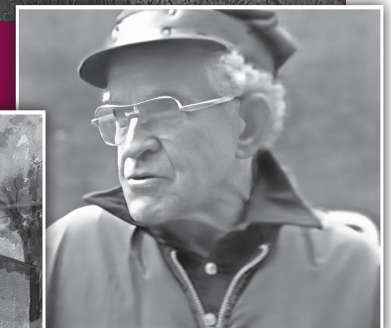
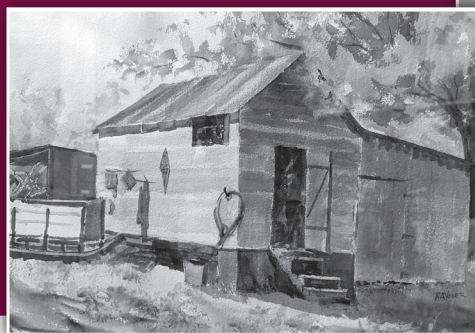
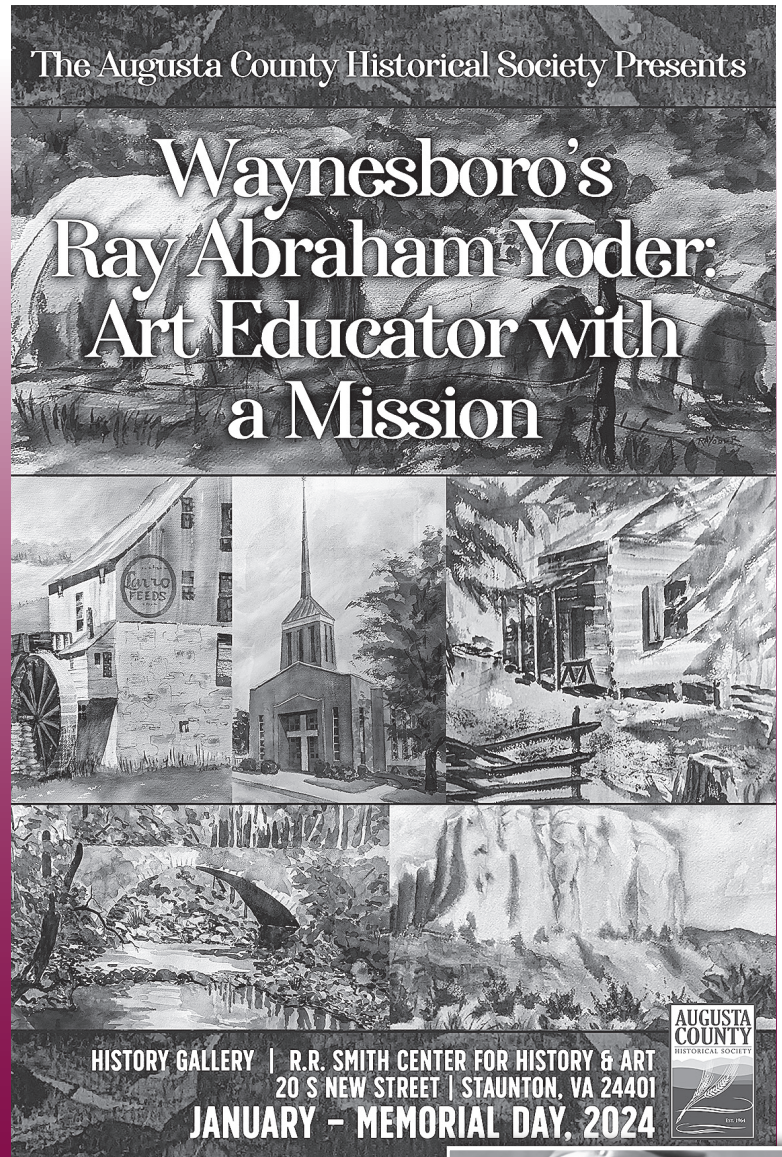
An exhibit reception is tentatively planned for Friday February 2 from 5-7. This will be in conjunction with the Staunton Downtown Development Association’s First Fridays event that occurs on the first Friday of every month and highlights local art, food, music and shopping in downtown Staunton.

If you have any Yoder memorabilia, particularly a Whistlin’ Critter, which you could lend for the exhibit please contact Nancy Sorrells at lotswife@comcast.net.
Nancy Sorrells, ACHS Past President

ABOVE: Poster for Yoder exhibit that begins later this month.

FAR RIGHT: Ray Abraham Yoder, who taught art in Waynesboro schools from 1945-1975.

RIGHT: Watercolor titled “Dad’s Shed.”



PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

Dear History Lovers,

Happy New Year!

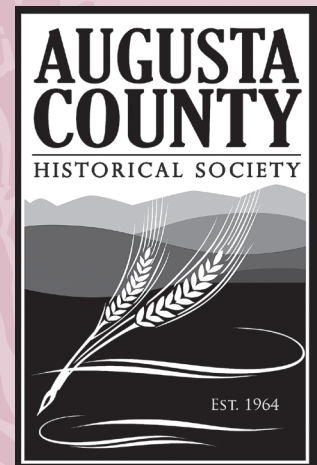
And . . . Happy Anniversary! This year marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Augusta County Historical Society, and we are glad that you are here to celebrate with us. In 1964, a small group of forward-looking, history-loving men and women recognized the need to preserve the documents and artifacts significant to the rich history of Augusta County. After meeting in members' homes and government offices, and storing artifacts and archives in members' businesses and basements, the Augusta County Historical Society and its collections now reside in the historic R. R. Smith Center for History and Art.

Because of your membership and support, look how far we have come since those humble beginnings. We now boast hundreds of members from all over the United States. On any given day, any Society member can access any issue of the Augusta Historical *Bulletin* or any item of our growing body of digitized archival material through Augusta Community Portal, which is found on our website. We can now livestream our numerous programs and lectures to our membership and a larger audience far beyond those attending in person.

You can celebrate the 60 years of the Augusta County Historical Society serving our community by visiting each of the exhibits that will be housed in the R. R. Smith Center's History Gallery this year. You can attend, either live or virtually, any of the Spring and Fall Meeting programs and other Society-sponsored lectures. Or, you can simply indulge yourself by exploring our fascinating online archives.

So, here's to another 60 years!

*Yours in History,
Ray Wright, ACHS President*



ACHS UPCOMING CALENDAR

**Mid-Jan. through
May 27, 2024**

ACHS will present "Waynesboro's Ray Abraham Yoder: Art Educator with a Mission," an exhibition honoring the legacy of this talented artist and educator. Between 1945-1975, Yoder oversaw the art curriculum in Waynesboro schools and shared his passion for art with people of all ages throughout his life. The exhibit will be displayed in the History Gallery, R.R. Smith Center for History and Art, 20 S. New Street, Staunton, Va. Hours: Wed.-Fri. 1-4 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Mon-Tues. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

**Friday, Feb. 2
5-7 p.m.**

A reception is planned for the ACHS History Gallery's newest exhibition, "Waynesboro's Ray Abraham Yoder: Art Educator with a Mission." This will be in conjunction with Staunton Downtown Development Association's "First Fridays" event that occurs on the first Friday each month, highlighting local art, food, music, and shopping in downtown Staunton. The reception is free and open to the public.

**Sunday, Apr. 28
3 p.m.**

The Spring Meeting will feature a fascinating program by Glenn Hanger who decided his retirement project would be the restoration of the cemetery across from his home. "Silent Stories: Preserving the Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery," describes Hanger's multi-year effort to research and rehabilitate the overgrown remains of an almost forgotten burial ground. Because of his work to bring the old cemetery "back to life," and re-erect more than 70 stones, the Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery is on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. The meeting will be held at Old Providence ARP Church in Spottswood. A pre-meeting field trip will take place anytime from 12-2 p.m. at the cemetery. Glenn Hanger and others will be on hand to answer questions and show people around. Read the Spring Meeting article in this issue of the newsletter for addresses to the church and cemetery.

For more information, e-mail the ACHS office augustachs@ntelos.net or call 540-248-4151.



Bringing Historic Cemetery Back to Life Topic of Spring Meeting

ACHS Spring Meeting: Sunday, April 28, 3 p.m.

Program: “Silent Stories: Preserving the Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery” by Glenn Hanger

Where: Old Providence ARP Church, 1005 Spottswood Rd, 24476, followed by program in the sanctuary, and refreshments in the fellowship hall.

Pre-meeting field trip: Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery, 12-2 p.m. For those who wish to visit the cemetery before the program, Glenn Hanger and others will be available at the cemetery to show people around and answer questions. 913 Wagon Shop Road, 24459.

Upon arrival follow the signs to the cemetery parking lot.

Program is free and open to the public.

In 2021, Glenn Hanger, who was newly retired, decided to begin the task of restoring the historic cemetery across from his house. He knew some of those buried in the cemetery were his ancestors, but many others were not. He also knew that the cemetery was very old. The task was a daunting one. Only a couple of stones were standing and the entire cemetery was enveloped in invasive vines, bushes, and trees. Livestock had damaged many stones and others were simply buried many inches deep as soil on the hillside cemetery had slowly worked its way downhill.

Three years later, the cemetery tract is cleared, fenced in, and over 70 stones stand to mark the burial site of Augusta’s earliest settlers. The work has taken both brawn and brains. The brawn has come in clearing the invasive vegetation, finding and re-erecting stone markers long buried under the soil on the southern Augusta County hillside, and building a fence. But Hanger has done so much more than tidy up the land. He has meticulously researched the stories of those buried at the Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery and untangled the complicated family trees. His research has even uncovered the stories of some of the men who carved the stone markers.

Recently, because of his work, the cemetery has been listed by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR), on the Virginia Landmarks Register and will soon be on the National

Register of Historic Places.

The DHR website describes the cemetery as containing “the graves of some of the first German immigrant settlers to inhabit the community known as Dutch Hollow and the surrounding area in the early to mid-1700s. The earliest known burial dates to 1798, with the last known burial dating to 1919. Collectively, the cemetery’s grave markers are a significant display of funerary art, with headstones that include improved fieldstones, fashioned limestone, local sandstone, shaped markers inscribed in Germanic script, and marble markers made by known artisan marble-cutters....The work of these artisans included motifs such as foliated carving, folk symbols, including the seven-pointed star and five petal blossoms associated with Germanic folk culture.”

And, even though there are now more than 70 stones standing in the cemetery, in the 18th and 19th centuries, many grave markers were wooden or simple stones that have long vanished. Suspecting that there were many more graves at the cemetery than there were stones, Hanger contacted James Madison University professor Carole Nash who has had her students map the cemetery using ground penetrating radar. Complementing that work has been veterinarian Dr. Kathleen Connor whose trained cadaver dogs help locate burials from the distant past. The results have been exciting and both Connor and Nash will share some of their discoveries as part of the program.

Those who would like to learn more about the Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery before the meeting can visit the website that Hanger has created at www.dhhcemetry.org.

Watch for more information on the meeting on Facebook and through the Society’s eblasts. We hope to see you out in southern Augusta County on Sunday, April 28. As always, the ACHS Spring Meeting and the visit to the cemetery are free and open to the public.

Nancy Sorrells, ACHS Past President



TOP: The restored and fenced in Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery. INSET: One of the older stones in the cemetery has a German inscription and carving on it.

Rare Bound Copy Book Now in ACHS Archives!

Thanks to a heads-up from past president Rick Chittum about a rare bound copy book once belonging to the Staunton law firm of Echols, Bell & Catlett, the Society was able to purchase at auction this volume for the Augusta County archives.

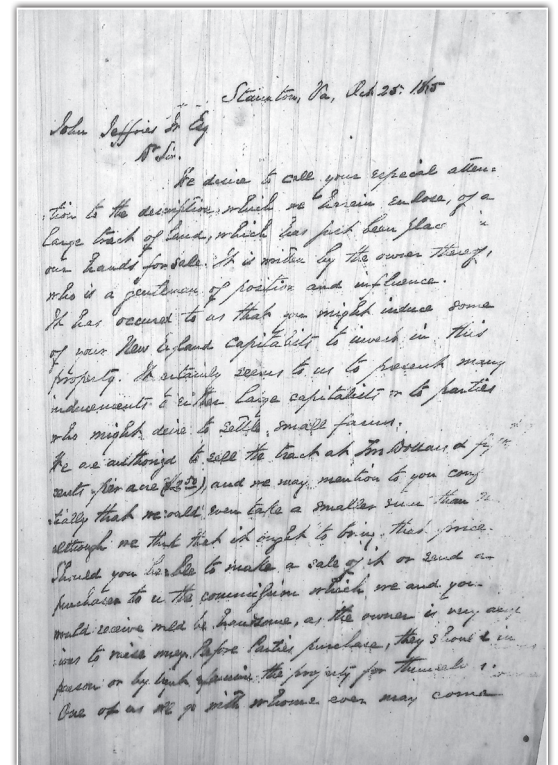
The 12x10 inch leather bound volume consists of 896 tissue paper pages that are the firm's copies of its legal correspondence. The papers (that span the time period from October 1865, when the law firm was formed, to 1867) offer an amazing snapshot into the economic chaos of Reconstruction and the rebuilding of the South after the Civil War. Topics include mineral speculation, farm foreclosures, investment capitalists from New England, railroad expansion, and canals.

The three attorneys who founded the firm were John Echols, Henderson Moffett Bell, and Richard Catlett. The trio practiced in the state and federal courts at Staunton, and the circuit and county courts of Rockbridge, Rockingham, and Alleghany counties. Echols became heavily involved in the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad and was the president of the National Valley Bank in Staunton. Bell served as an Augusta County representative in the Virginia General Assembly.

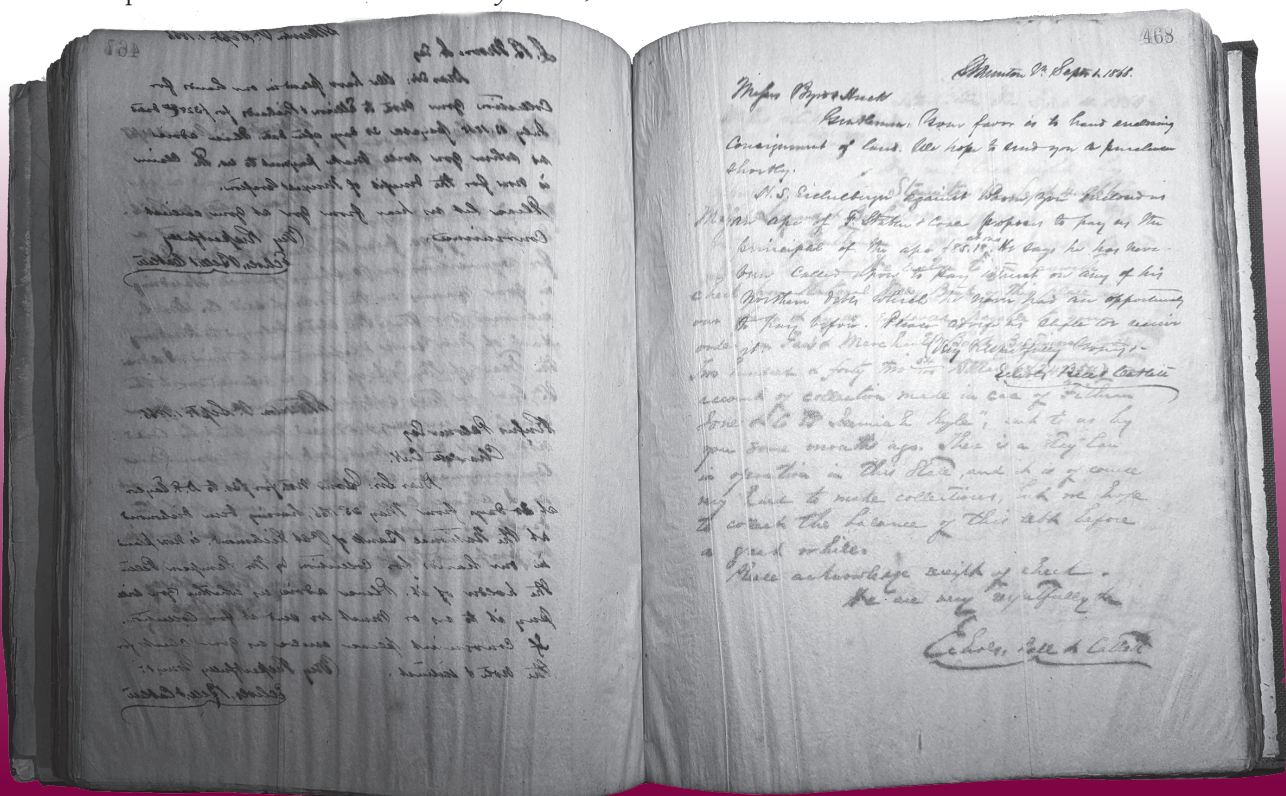
Our goal with this volume will be to scan it using our overhead scanner and make available the document pages on our **Augusta Community Portal**, while enlisting a team of volunteers/student interns to begin transcribing the letters. This will be a long but very worthwhile process. The delicate tissue paper of the pages will make this challenging, but we have had early success scanning a few sample pages.

The total cost to the Society for this purchase was more than \$1,500. We have received donations of approximately \$1,100 to help offset that purchase. The rest will have to come out of Society funds. If you would like to make a donation to help with this important purchase, please contact our office manager Mary Gooden at adminachs@augustacountyhs.org or 540-248-4151. Any funds received over and above the amount that we paid for this ledger, will go toward the next purchase that we have to make to ensure that another local historical treasure can be preserved in our collections for public access.

Nancy Sorrells, ACHS Past President



Sample pages from a rare bound copy book that once belonged to the Staunton law firm of Echols, Bell & Catlett, a prominent firm that formed in 1865.





Bulletin *Packed with Local History*

For a solid year the ACHS *Bulletin* editorial staff of Katharine Brown, Daniel Metraux, and Nancy Sorrells, have been gathering, editing, and assembling our annual journal. Within a few weeks the 2023 *Augusta Historical Bulletin* will be printed and winging its way to your mailbox.

Here's a sampling of the treat that you will find. For starters, there's an article on the historic Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery that has just earned listing on the Virginia Landmarks and National Historic Registers. Glenn Hanger, who has literally brought this graveyard back to life, has written an article about the cemetery and many of its "residents." The cemetery, located in southern Augusta County where the Beverley Manor and Borden Land grants meet, will be the subject of the Spring Meeting.

In addition to her usual roundup of donations to the Society, ACHS Archivist Donna Huffer has written short articles on an historic house on East Beverley Street and a 19th-century revenge killing near Mt. Solon.

If you like sports-related essays, then you will enjoy Terry Howard's remembrances of Thomas "Snap" Johnson and Frank "Stovepipe" Carr, two legends on Booker T. Washington's Golden Eagles basketball team. Don Houser, who has supplied numerous articles for the *Bulletin* over the years, has put together a comprehensive history of the Soap Box Derby when it ran in Staunton in the 1950s. In another article, Nancy

Sorrells has uncovered the story behind a mysterious baseball uniform that was recently donated to ACHS.

There are two unusual Civil War themed stories in this 2023 edition – one about a "reluctant rebel" and the other about a raid on Western State Hospital late in the war.

Finally, Associate Editor Daniel Metraux has contributed a current events essay about Israel and has assembled a delightful variety of book reviews.

As a reminder to everyone, this issue of the *Bulletin*, which is the 2023 edition, is the last one that will be supplied at no additional cost to members. Soaring print and mailing costs have forced ACHS into considering digital options. In early 2025, all members will receive a free digital link to the newest *Bulletin*. Those who still like the feel of paper in their hands will have that option for an additional \$15. Anyone who wants to get a jump on virtual technology by receiving the 2023 *Bulletin* just described in this article as a digital link can certainly do so. Just let office manager Mary Gooden know by emailing her at adminachs@augustacountyhs.org.

Nancy Sorrells, ACHS Past President

ABOVE: Dennis Sutton poses in his Soap Box Derby race car. Read Don Houser's comprehensive history of Soap Box Derby racing in 1950s Staunton.

Meet Our New Board Members



Megan Schoeman

Megan Schoeman, a devoted public historian with roots in Virginia and Beijing, China, proudly bears the title of “Double Duke,” having recently completed her master’s degree in history at James Madison University. Her academic journey has solidified her dedication to preserving and disseminating the rich history of the Shenandoah Valley. Megan’s affiliation with ACHS began as a graduate assistant, where she played a pivotal role in digitizing the Mount Zion Masonic Lodge’s ledgers for the “Histories Along the Blue Ridge” project. Transitioning from a student role to a prominent leader in the collaboration between JMU and the historical society, Megan exhibited leadership skills and a deep understanding of the convergence of technology and the humanities.

Currently serving as the Historical Archives and Law Librarian at the Rockingham County Circuit Court, Megan continues to demonstrate her unwavering commitment to historical research and community engagement. Her passion lies in bridging the gap between history and the community, encouraging individuals to explore how history can transcend mere footnotes and come alive at their fingertips. Megan endeavors to inspire people to uncover the transformative influence of history, urging them to explore and preserve the narratives of Augusta’s past and grasp its significance in the present day.



Ted Shuey

Brigadier General Theodore Shuey is a native of Augusta County where he was in education before starting an insurance and financial services organization in 1980. He enlisted in the Virginia National Guard in January 1970 and received a commission to the rank of Second Lieutenant in August 1972.

During his military career he commanded company-sized units in Altavista, Farmville, Chase City, and Rocky Mount. He commanded a battalion in the Shenandoah Valley based in Winchester, and then returned home to Staunton to command America’s Stonewall Brigade from 1997-2000.

His last military assignment was at the Pentagon where he served as J-4 for the National Guard until his retirement in July 2007.

General Shuey is a graduate of Bridgewater College and obtained his master’s degree from the University of Virginia. His military education includes the Basic and Advanced Infantry Courses at Fort Benning, Georgia, the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and the United States Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

He retired from the TGS Group insurance agency in 2015, but continues to operate Historical Publishing and Lest We Forget, LLCs. He also writes works on WWII and conducts historical WWII tours, principally to Normandy, France.

He is married to the former Elizabeth Pickett Kennon of Richmond and the couple resides at “Falcroft” in Staunton. He still maintains the old Shuey farm just west of his residence.

He has served on and chaired the Board of the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library, the 116th Infantry Regiment Association, and the Citizen Soldiers Educational Foundation. In addition, he is the past National Commander of the 29th Division Association.



Rachel Sites

Rachel Sites is originally from Plymouth, Minnesota. She has a BSc in Archaeology from Mercyhurst College, and an MA and PhD in Archaeology from the University of Sheffield. She fell in love with historical interpretation at High Point Museum in North Carolina, leading to her employment at the Frontier Culture Museum, where she is currently the Director of Education. Her hobbies include performing or costuming local theatre productions at multiple theaters, hiking the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains, and hanging out with her dog. She is honored to serve on the board of the Augusta County Historical Society, pairing a love of history with public engagement.



“Gifts of History” Breaks All Records!

The annual “Gifts of History” holiday fundraising event sponsored by the Augusta County Historical Society, surpassed all previous sales records this year. Opening in the History Gallery in early November, and closing at the end of December, the Society raised more than \$4,300 to benefit our programs and mission. Quilts, festive dishware, lamps, books, historic maps, games, puzzles, pillows, and holiday décor made many visitors very happy. Thanks go to the Staunton-Augusta Art Center who also sponsored their “Art for Gifts” fundraising event in the adjoining galleries, and to the placement of one of Santa’s reindeer from the Staunton Downtown Development Association in our New Street front window, and to locals and out-of-towners alike who shopped our ever-changing collection of gift items.

Moving forward to the 2024 holiday season, think about ACHS this winter as you clean out cupboards, basements, and attics to freshen up for spring. All those holiday decorations that didn’t get used again this year, or other items just collecting dust, can find a new home for our 2024 sale. We rely on your donations to continue this successful event each year – and the best part is that we will pick up your donations NOW and store for “Gifts of History 2024.” Help us grow this event and support our important mission! With your help we can look forward to breaking another record in 2024. Just call the office at 540-248-4151 to make arrangements for a pick-up.

Linda Petzke, Gifts of History Chair

BELOW: Stauntonians and visitors alike were treated to a delightful array of holiday décor and gift items that reaped profits for ACHS’s “Gifts of History” fundraiser.
RIGHT: The Gifts of History tree.



Happy 2024! Have you ...



- ☐ Renewed your ACHS membership?
- ☐ Told office manager Mary Gooden whether you want to receive future *Bulletins* digitally (free) or in print? Our forthcoming 2023 edition will be the last complimentary issue. Next year a \$15 charge applies for a print copy.
- ☐ And, have you told her if you would like to receive this newsletter digitally instead of as a print copy (no charge for either version)? Her email is adminachs@augustacountyhs.org.
- ☐ Signed up for our ACHS eblasts so you can keep up with our latest History Happenings? To sign up, go to our website (AugustaCountyHS.org) and scroll down to the bottom right of the page where you will see "Sign up to Receive Our E-blasts." Enter your email address and you will now be in the history event loop.
- ☐ Visited the ACHS Community Portal (the blue icon with a keyhole on our home page) to enjoy our digital history from your home, including nearly 60 years of back issues of the *Bulletin*?
- ☐ Put a visit to our newest exhibit, "Waynesboro's Ray Abraham Yoder: Art Educator with a Mission" on your calendar (late January through Memorial Day) with an exhibit reception on Feb. 2 in the History Gallery?
- ☐ Put the ACHS Spring Meeting, Sunday, April 28, 3 p.m. about the Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery (including an actual visit to the cemetery) on your calendar?
- ☐ As a reminder to everyone, this issue of the *Bulletin*, which is the 2023 edition, is the last one that will be supplied at no additional cost to members. Soaring print and mailing costs have forced ACHS into considering digital options. In early 2025, all members will receive a free digital link to the 2024 edition. Those who still like the feel of paper in their hands will have that option for an additional \$15. Anyone who wants to get a jump on virtual technology by receiving the 2023 *Bulletin* just described in the article on page 5 as a digital link can certainly do so. Let office manager Mary Gooden know by emailing her at adminachs@augustacountyhs.org.

Augusta Annals

published three times per year by the
Augusta County Historical Society
P.O. Box 686, Staunton, VA 24402
(540) 248-4151

www.augustacountyhs.org

email: augustachs@ntelos.net

office: Smith Center, 20 S. New St.
Staunton, VA, 24401

Ray Wright, president

Nancy Sorrells, past president

Lucinda Cooke, newsletter editor

iamcindy@comcast.net

Mary Gooden, office manager

The ACHS Individual dues are \$45,
Family dues are \$65, Student dues are \$20,
Institutional are \$100.

Members receive invitations to the semi-
annual meetings, an annual banquet, the
Stuart Speaker Series, notices about other
special Society events and activities, and
discounts on Society books, and some
programs and tours. The dues include your
exclusive Digital Copy of the *Bulletin*.
Print copies are \$15 extra per year.

To become a member, send your check to:
Augusta County Historical Society, Attn.:
Membership, P.O. Box 686, Staunton, VA
24402-0686, or join on-line at
www.augustacountyhs.org.

Membership dues are payable in full
upon joining. You will receive any current
newsletters and *Augusta Historical Bulletin*
published during your year of membership.
Subsequent dues will be billed annually on
the anniversary date you joined.

Return Service Requested

540.248.4151 • augustacountyhs.org

P.O. Box 686 • Staunton, VA 24402-0686

Augusta County
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Staunton, VA
Permit No. 7