

# Augusta Annals

A newsletter published three times a year by the Augusta County Historical Society

## Folk Art and a Founding Father to be Featured in New Exhibits

Visitors to the Society's History Gallery have a lot to look forward to in 2026 with two exciting exhibits. First they will learn about local folk art, and later they will get to know a not-so-famous Founding Father.

First up on the agenda will be "Artists Everywhere: Dwight Joe Bell & Valley Folk Art" that will open sometime in February and run until June. Later in the summer, the History Gallery will feature "Zechariah Johnston: Augusta's Forgotten Founding Father."

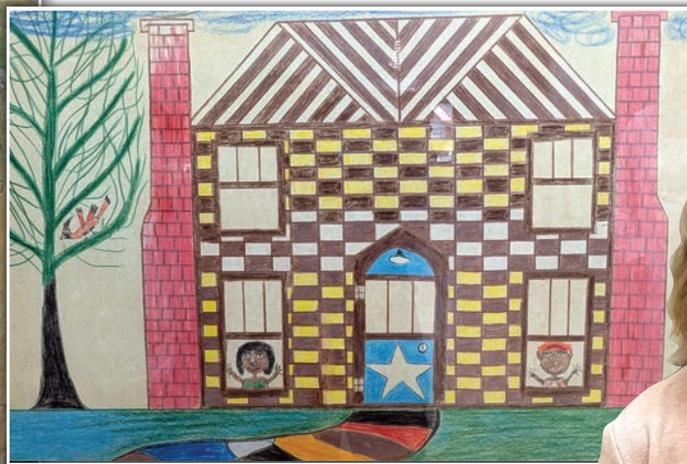
The folk art exhibit, curated by Society Archivist Donna Huffer, features the work of Dwight Joseph "Joe" Bell, who was born in Mount Crawford in Rockingham County in 1918. Bell, the youngest of 10 children, had a cognitive disability that kept him from ever fully learning to read and write, but he had an inventive mind and an artistic spirit. He was very creative and enjoyed woodworking and drawing pictures using

crayons and colored pencils. He would also spend hours carving and assembling model airplanes and whirligigs.

Bell's art was known for its vibrant colors, simple lines, and relatable subjects. He often sketched children playing in the neighborhood and was fascinated with trucks, checkered houses, cars, boats, and airplanes. When he died in 2004, one of his beloved whirligigs was carved into the back of his tombstone. In addition to displaying some of Bell's three-dimensional models and drawings, the exhibit will feature other Valley folk art pieces, including that of famed folk artist Grandma Moses who, together with her husband and children, lived in Augusta County for nearly two decades.

The second exhibit, opening in July, features Augusta's very own Founding Father, maybe one of the most significant ones, who is almost unknown even in his home community. Without him, there might not have ever been a nation united under our Constitution.

*continued on page 3*



*TOP: In 1793, Johnston moved to Rockbridge County, where he died at the age of 57 in 1800. He is buried in Lexington. (Photo by Nancy Sorrells)*

*MIDDLE: One of Joe Bell's colorful drawings*

*RIGHT: ACHS Archivist Donna Huffer holds one of Joe Bell's model airplanes that will be in the upcoming folk art exhibit opening in February in the History Gallery. (Photo by Maitlyn Ritter)*



# PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

Dear Members and Supporters of ACHS,

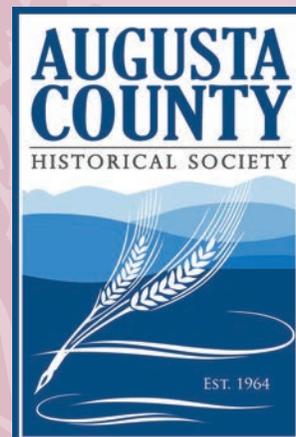
The year 2025 has been quite something and it is you whom we have to thank for it! “Conversations from the Grave” was a smashing success and the wonderful exhibit on the Blue Ridge Tunnel came to a close with rave reviews. Together, we keep making history and the coming year will be no exception.

The Augusta County Historical Society is you. You are who makes the exhibits happen, you preserve and share the history that helps us all understand where we’ve been and where we’re going. It is your hard work, your dedication, your safekeeping of our history that means the most.

As we look ahead to 2026, plans are already in motion to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence by highlighting Augusta County’s role in the momentous events that created the country we know today. We hope to see you at the exhibits, speaker programs, outings, and more as we all seek to mark this important occasion.

I’m pleased to welcome our new Digital and Assistant Archivist, Alexandrya Click, who is already hard at work scanning our collections to make them available online for free. I’m also pleased to announce several new board members, whom you can learn more about in this newsletter. If you are interested in serving on our board, volunteering in our library, and helping to make our history come alive, please contact our office manager, Maitlyn Ritter, at [adminachs@augustacountyhs.org](mailto:adminachs@augustacountyhs.org), at [facebook.com/augustacountyhs](https://www.facebook.com/augustacountyhs), or by calling (540) 248-4151.

Here’s to another amazing year!



*Happy New Year!*  
*Andrew Phillips*  
*ACHS President-Elect*

## ACHS UPCOMING CALENDAR

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| <b>On-going through<br/>Dec. 28, 2025</b>  | “Gifts of History” is currently featured in ACHS’s History Gallery, R.R. Smith Center for History and Art. A great opportunity to pick up unique gently used gifts, books, and more. Free to the public, Tues-Fri 11-4, Sat-Sun 10-5. Local authors will be available for booksignings on weekends.  |
| <b>February 2026<br/>Opening date: TBD</b> | “Artists Everywhere: Dwight Joe Bell & Valley Folk Art” will be featured through June. Bell, born in Mount Crawford in 1918, created art characterized by vibrant colors, simple lines, and relatable subjects. He also spent a great deal of time crafting model airplanes and whirligigs. Besides Bell’s folk art, other Valley folk art pieces will include work by famous artist Grandma Moses. Free to the public, Tues-Thurs 1-4, Fri-Sat 10-4, Sun 10-2. History Gallery, R.R. Smith Center for History and Art, 20 S. New Street, Staunton, Va.  |
| <b>July 2026<br/>Opening date: TBD</b>     | Featuring Augusta County’s very own Founding Father, “Zechariah Johnston: Augusta’s Forgotten Founding Father,” is an exhibit in commemoration of America’s 250th anniversary. Born in 1742, Johnston was a local representative in the Virginia House of Delegates for 20 years. He was instrumental in helping Virginia to pass the Act for Establishing Religious Freedom and for his important contributions to support ratification of the U.S. Constitution. Free to the public, Tues-Thurs 1-4, Fri-Sat 10-4, Sun 10-2. History Gallery, R.R. Smith Center for History and Art, 20 S. New Street, Staunton, Va. |

For more information, e-mail the ACHS office [adminachs@augustacountyhs.org](mailto:adminachs@augustacountyhs.org) or call 540-248-4151.

**Beginning January 6, 2026, the office will be open on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10am-1pm.**

## *Folk Art and a Founding Father to be Featured in New Exhibits*

*continued from cover page*

This exhibit is in commemoration of America's 250th anniversary. Johnston was born in the Fishersville area around 1742 in a house that is still standing. He and his family were staunch Presbyterians. He married and had 11 children and was a community leader and farmer when the Revolution broke out. He saw some military service during the war, but it was his legislative service that made history. He was a local representative in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1778-1798.

Two things stand out from that service. First, he served on the House of Delegates Committee on Religion and chaired that



*ABOVE: Three of Zechariah Johnston's chairs, which were donated to ACHS in 2022 by descendants of Johnston, will be featured in the exhibit. Catherine Paunov, one of those descendants, is shown here with the chairs. (Photo by Nancy Sorrells)*

committee for 13 years. He was instrumental in helping Virginia pass the Act for Establishing Religious Freedom.

Even more important than that was his representation in Virginia's Constitution Convention where he was good friends with a couple of other Founding Fathers named Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. When it came time for the new states to ratify the U.S. Constitution, all eyes were on Virginia. If Virginia ratified it, then the U.S. was a go. If Virginia said "No" then the future of a United States of America was in doubt.

In the Virginia Constitutional Convention, the debate was hot and heavy. Ratification did not look promising. Many of the eastern delegates were against it. Johnston saved the day with such a rousing speech in favor that all 14 western Virginia representatives voted yes, and Virginia ratified the Constitution 89-79. America was born!

There were celebratory bonfires in Augusta and Staunton, and the vote caused Staunton to rename one of its streets "Federal" Street. By the way, did you know that Johnson Street is named for Zechariah Johnston? Originally there was a "t" in the name, but somehow it got lost. Once this exhibit opens, it might be time for a "t" party to put the "t" back in Johnston Street.

The exhibit will run through the middle of November of 2026, then be partially removed to make room for ACHS's annual Gifts of History holiday shop, returning to the gallery in 2027.

—Nancy Sorrells, ACHS Board Member

## *ACHS Hires Digital Archivist*

Since October, ACHS has been taking a deep dive into the virtual world thanks to our new Digital and Assistant Archivist Alexandrya Click. She has been busy scanning, adding metadata, organizing the vast amount of materials that have been digitized, and creating digital finding guides, all of which will soon be available to the public on our new website.

Alexandrya will be working hard to organize the Society's ever expanding digital library made up not only of digitized documents from within the ACHS collection, but also of items temporarily loaned to the Society for purposes of scanning in order to preserve and share the information within those documents that might otherwise never be available to the public. She will also be scanning out-of-print and rare books that are pertinent to our area's history.

As the person in charge of the Society's "digital world" she will be part of the team that includes Bill Humm and Laurel Heydenberk of Light Heavy Industries who are creating the new website and the platforms through which the Society's digital library can be shared. She will also work closely with long-time ACHS Archivist Donna Huffer and the entire ACHS Archives Committee, which is chaired by incoming president Andrew Phillips.

Alexandrya, who is from Rockingham County, has a B.A. in history from Eastern Mennonite University where she graduated with honors. She has worked as a records intern at the U.S. Copyright Office Historical Records and is currently an assistant archivist at the Rockingham County Circuit Court. She brings extensive technology, archival, and writing skills to the job.

Alexandrya has settled right into the routine at ACHS and says she is excited about the future. "I enjoy archival work because it allows me to connect to the past in a tangible way, through the care and preservation of historical documents and items. I have always enjoyed research and managing sometimes tedious details. Working in archives can be a solitary endeavor, but I value the connections made by meeting other historians and researchers in the various institutions I've worked in and look forward to making similar connections at ACHS," she said.

—Nancy Sorrells, ACHS board member



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# ACHS Welcomes New Members to the Board

## Dale Brumfield

*Class of 2027*

Augusta County native Dale M. Brumfield is a criminal justice journalist, TEDx speaker, and author of 12 books. His latest, *Closing the Slaughterhouse: The Inside Story of Death Penalty Abolition in Virginia*, was published in May 2022. Dale previously served as Field Director and Executive Director for Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, a Richmond-based nonprofit that played a major role in ending capital punishment in Virginia. In 2015, he was nominated for the Pushcart Prize for his short story “Death Row Report,” and the Library of Virginia has nominated him three times for best non-fiction book author. Dale contributed historical stories to the *Staunton News Leader* between 2014 and 2020 and won first place for feature writing from the Virginia Press Association in 2022 for his *Richmond Magazine* article “The Unbroken.” He received the 2021 Frederick Douglass Human Rights Award from the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta for his efforts to abolish the death penalty. Dale currently resides in Richmond.

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## Alex Davis

*Class of 2028*

Alex was born and raised in Staunton. He attended Robert E. Lee High School (now Staunton High School) and Mary Baldwin College. He works as the Office Director at Henry Funeral Home in Staunton. In his spare time, Alex is a genealogist, published researcher, and an historic grave restorationist. He also holds memberships in the Association for Gravestone Studies, the Augusta Memorial Association of Virginia, the General Society of the War of 1812, and the Descendants of Mexican War Veterans, and has previously served on the board of Trustees of the Augusta County Library. He, his wife, Chelsea, and their three daughters live in Churchville.

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## Glenn Hanger

*Class of 2028*

Glenn Hanger was born and raised in southern Augusta County in Dutch Hollow and is a charter member of the Augusta County Historical Society’s First Families of Augusta County. He is married to Laurin Sours Hanger. He has three grown children with families of their own and three grandchildren. He graduated from Riverheads High School, earned a two-year degree in criminal justice management at Blue Ridge Community College, and graduated Magna Cum Laude from James Madison University with a BS in administration of justice and in psychology.

Glenn retired in 2015 from the Augusta County Sheriff’s Office as Chief Deputy with the rank of Captain after 33.5 years of service. He and his son have a small farming operation that includes a custom meat processing business for animals they raise, as well as for customers who bring their own farm-raised animals to be processed.

Glenn has always had a strong interest in history and genealogy and currently serves as the president of Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery, a non-profit that he started in 2022. He serves on the board of directors for the Augusta County Federal Credit Union. He attends Old Providence Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, serving as an elder and helping teach Sunday School. He is a life member of the Augusta County Genealogical Society and the Shelby County Missouri Historical Society. He is also a member of the Pendleton County, WV Historical Society, the Greenbrier County, WV Historical Society, the B&O RR Historical Society, and the C&O RR Historical Society.

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## Beth Scripps

*Class of 2028*

A native Virginian, Beth traces her roots back to interpreter Thomas Savage (Jamestown 1608). She grew up surrounded by history – attending The Falls Church, where George Washington had served on the vestry, and participating in the 1976 bicentennial celebrations. She double majored in historic preservation and American studies at Mary Washington College.

With her husband, Prewitt, Beth moved to Staunton from Charlottesville in 1999. Together, they have renovated two properties on East Beverley Street in the Gospel Hill Historic District, and are currently renovating a small mid-century modern house on the North End. Over the past 26 years, she has helped a friend with a small downtown business, served as COO of the Wildlife Center of Virginia, spent 10 years at Frazier Associates, worked in tourism-centered public relations, assisted the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library with buildings and grounds projects, and led the American Frontier Culture Foundation for a brief period.

Beth has served on the boards of Historic Staunton Foundation and the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library, among others. One of her favorite volunteer opportunities to date was the chance to assist with archaeological exploration behind the Manse at WWPL. Currently, her volunteer efforts, in addition to ACHS, include serving as President of the Augusta Garden Club and on the Garden Club of Virginia’s statewide Historic Garden Week Committee.

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## Mark Thomas

*Class of 2028*

Mark Thomas is Professor of History and Economics at the University of Virginia (U.Va.). His area of specialty is modern economic and business history and his course offerings at U.Va. include the International Economy since 1850 and The Industrial Revolution in Global Perspective, as well as American Economic History and American Business History. A native Briton, Thomas received his B.A. from Oxford University, holds an M.A. in Economics from Cornell University, and completed his D.Phil. at Nuffield College, Oxford. His dissertation was

awarded the inaugural Alexander Gerschenkron Prize of the Economic History Association.

Thomas is the author or co-author of five books, including *Capitalism in Context: Essays in Economic Development and Cultural Change* (with J. A. James), *The Economic Future in Historical Perspective* (with P. A. David), and *The Disintegration of the World Economy between the Wars*, and over 40 journal articles and book chapters on the economic history of Britain, Australia and the U.S. His publications have won the T.S. Ashton Prize of the Economic History Society (UK), and (jointly with J.A. James) the Arthur H. Cole Prize of the Economic History Association (US). He is currently completing a book on the British economy in the 19th century.

Thomas has held visiting appointments at Clare Hall, Cambridge; Nuffield College, Oxford; All Souls College,

Oxford; the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure; the School of Advanced Studies, Australian National University; and was Leverhulme Visiting Professor at the University of Warwick in 2011-2012. Thomas has been deeply involved in international education at Virginia since the early 1990s—serving as Director of the U.Va. Summer Program in Oxford since 1995 and Director of the U.Va. in Australia Program since 2007.

Outside of academics, he enjoys reading detective novels, listening to jazz and classical music, playing cricket and croquet, and spending time with his family, including his wife, Georgi Tomisato, his daughter, Emma, who is a Major Gifts Officer at GBH in Boston, his son, Adam, an anti-trust attorney at Vinson, Elkins in Washington, D.C., and his two grandkids, Kenny and Cassie.

## *ACHS Fall Meeting Draws Large Crowd “The Augusta Glebe: Rediscovery and Restoration”*

“What’s in a name?” seemed an appropriate question as the ACHS Fall Meeting location in Staunton was mere blocks from the Blackfriar’s Playhouse. What is a glebe and what does it have to do with local history?

Glebe: a plot of farmland legally set aside to support a clergyman who was part of the local government in colonial Virginia. The former Augusta County Glebe, located 12 miles south of Staunton, was a 200-acre farm purchased by Augusta for use by its Anglican minister (a member of the local government in a time when there was no separation of church and state) who lived there and worked the land. Because the glebe was public church land, it could contain a cemetery, and that was the case in Augusta County where the oldest legible stone is dated 1755.

Did you miss the Nov. 16 meeting about the Augusta Glebe? Over 90 history enthusiasts packed the meeting hall at the historically significant Trinity Episcopal Church in downtown Staunton, the perfect venue for discussing an almost-forgotten 18th century burial ground located some miles away in Augusta County – a long-neglected final resting place.

Venerable historian Nancy Sorrells spun historical facts into an entertaining yarn as she wove stories of ancient glebes, colonial Virginia government, a House of Burgesses member, frontier pioneers, Native American conflict, and six Revolutionary War soldiers into a fascinating narrative that brought to life events and characters that shaped Augusta County in the colonial period and for centuries to come.

Ted Shuey built on Nancy’s foundation and took the audience back to his own childhood, when he visited the Glebe to honor ancestors. This ignited a spark that burned unrequited until it reignited in his retirement. Ted, the humble historian and amazing author who always gives credit to others (such as local Scouts who cleared the land), has been instrumental in the relatively recent Herculean effort to evaluate, document, and make both figurative and literal



*Andrew Phillips opens the ACHS Fall Meeting at Trinity Episcopal Church (Photo by Vera Hailey)*

inroads into the research and preservation of the Glebe.

Glenn Hanger, cemetery enthusiast extraordinaire, who is known for bringing the Dutch Hollow Hanger Cemetery back from the brink of ruin, shared his passion for the Glebe restoration, as well as his respect for all persons entombed therein: the common, the famous, the enslaved, the immigrants, and those vast majority of stones not yet unearthed. Ground penetrating radar (GPR) and a numbering system have been utilized to carefully research and document those findings. Glenn is providing important advice on documentation and stone restoration.

In bringing it full circle, long-time Society supporter and past president Rick Chittum gave compelling information and updates on restoration work at Trinity, where the clergymen benefiting from the Glebe served when the church was part of Augusta’s colonial government. GPR enabled the discovery of the foundation of the original structure built in 1763.

—Vera Hailey, ACHS Board Member

# *It's Tough to Keep a Good Spirit Down – Especially Six Feet Down!*

Back from the dead again after a four-year hiatus, the spirits of Thornrose surfaced to enlighten and entertain a record number of people who attended “Conversations from the Grave,” September 20-21, 2025. Hosted by the Augusta County Historical Society, the weekend program attracted more than 235 participants who toured the cemetery, meeting up with new and returning spirits eager to share fascinating glimpses of their former selves when they walked among the living. “Conversations” netted \$9,100 from ticket sales and sponsorships.

Those familiar with Thornrose will tell you in the weeks leading up to “Conversations,” the spirits freely roamed about, anxiously watching as their gravestones were cleaned, the grass mowed and clipped, and fall flowers appeared in what had been empty urns. They were in rare form by the time the first tour groups arrived and the Spirit Medium greeted everyone, urging them to “suspend disbelief” as they left the world of the living and entered the world of the dead.

ACHS wishes to thank Thornrose superintendent, Suzanne Berry, the groundskeepers, and the Board of the Thornrose Cemetery Company for their continuing support and assistance with this important fundraiser. The Society also wishes to thank Henry Funeral Home for their longtime support, tireless work with Thornrose to clean and repair headstones, and office director, Alex Davis, who provided cart transportation and assistance to tour participants. ACHS further thanks all those who volunteered their time and energy to make the weekend a success, the spirits who “rose to the occasion,” and our sponsors who made this program possible.

—Lucinda Cooke, “Conversations” Chair

## *“Conversations from the Grave” sponsors:*

**Amanda Avery**

**Charlton & Groome Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc.**

**City National Bank**

**First Bank**

**Henry Funeral Home & Crematory**

**McDonough Toyota, Staunton, Virginia**

**Thornrose Cemetery Company**

**& Suzanne Berry, Thornrose Superintendent**

**Braden and Van Fossen Ironworks/Van Fossen Rentals Inc.**

## *Help Us Ensure the Glebe's Future*

To ensure that research, restoration, maintenance and perpetual care of the Glebe continues, Ted Shuey has pulled together a number of partners including the Citizen Soldiers Education Foundation (CSEF is the foundation wing of the 29th Division Museum in Verona), the Augusta County Historical Society, the Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge, and a number of other volunteers. To date, the CSEF and volunteers have footed the bills and provided the labor for such things as maintenance, the ground penetrating radar, permanent identifying markers, and clean up.

There are a number of ways for you to help with that work. First, the Community Foundation of the Blue Ridge will administer a “Glebe Cemetery Fund” created at the request of local philanthropists wanting to be a part of the restoration in hopes of creating an endowment. To donate, visit [cfbr.org](http://cfbr.org) and under the “Donate” button select “Glebe Cemetery Fund.”

ACHS has also created a restricted fund for smaller donations that can be put toward immediate needs rather than going toward an endowment. To donate to that fund, send an email to [adminachs@augustacountyhs.org](mailto:adminachs@augustacountyhs.org) or call 540-248-4151.

Don't miss these exciting opportunities to honor our collective history and those who shaped our nation.

Any person or group willing to help – whether doing research from home or doing physical tasks at the property – will be warmly welcomed! To find out how you can be involved email Ted Shuey at [tedgshuey@gmail.com](mailto:tedgshuey@gmail.com).





1. *These three spirits, (left to right), John Willis McCue (Bobby McAllister), The Spirit Medium (Barbara Wimble), and Father Daniel Downey (Brian Holsopple), posed for a photo during a break in the program. McCue reflected on his early life as an errant teenager, leaving VMI (Virginia Military Institute) to seek glory on the battlefield during the Civil War. The Spirit Guide served as a bridge between the living and the dead for tour groups about to begin their journey into the world of spirits. Father Downey's life took a major turn when he was arrested for murder and tried four times before acquittal.*
2. *A circus performer for Cole Brothers, Eva Clark stands by her grave and recalls the tragic events around the argument that led to a gunshot wound and her subsequent death three weeks later. Accident or love triangle? Everyone had an opinion at the time. She is beloved in circus lore 119 years later and flowers adorn her headstone at all seasons. Hannah Martin-Kelley portrayed Eva this year.*
3. *Marguiretta Crescioli enthralled participants with tales of her life as the most infamous owner of a Charlottesville brothel in the 1920s, '30s, and early '40s. She chose Thornrose Cemetery as her final resting place because racial discrimination (she was part Native American and part Creole) prevented her burial anywhere else.*
3. *Evelyn Lee Byrd DuLaney, portrayed by Erin Staebell, lost her way after the Civil War and eventually ended up spending the last 20 years of her life in asylums. Some think she was a spy during the war, but she would prefer you to think of her as bringing messages of hope to Confederate soldiers.*
7. *Mary Julia Baldwin, played by Sara Dull, described what it was like to keep a school and students safe during the Civil War when both the Northern and Confederate armies threatened Augusta Female Seminary, raiding precious supplies and food stores. Later, Mary Julia and her co-principal Agnes McClung, worked tirelessly to build the school into a first-rate institution of higher learning for young women. The school was later renamed Mary Baldwin Seminary in honor of Baldwin and is now Mary Baldwin University.*
8. *Played by Stacey Fregosi, Charlotte Coffman is seen here telling visitors about her rather eccentric life. Always elegantly dressed in dark clothing, she longed for a past that no longer existed. Charlotte outlived her parents and two husbands, so her comfort came from attending their graves and reading by the hour – to them? We don't know.*
9. *Thomas Rolander Blackburn studied architecture under Thomas Jefferson and much of his work reflects Jefferson's beliefs and influences. Played by John Tindall, Blackburn is credited with the designs for both buildings and landscapes at Western State Hospital (now The Villages at Staunton). He is also credited with a number of elegant residences in Albemarle County and for work on Monticello. U.Va. and Poplar Forest.*

*Photo of Charlotte Coffman by Nancy Sorrells, all other photos by Lucinda Cooke*

## Community Foundation Partnership Important to ACHS

As the Society heads into 2026, we are all excited to begin unveiling our new reimagined interactive website that includes the Augusta Community Portal featuring our digital archives. Work on the website and our digitization efforts have been made possible through a variety of generous donors and some concerted fundraising efforts, but we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge our long-standing partnership with the Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge (CFCBR) as a key component to that work.

This summer we were notified by CFCBR that we were once again recipients of a three-year grant commitment amounting to \$4,000 a year for the next three years. This is the second consecutive three-year community grant that the Society has received for its archival work. The focus of this three-year grant is on our digital future as we more fully integrate our traditional and digital archives through our virtual gateway to scanned documents, databases, photographs, and videos that bring to light our community stories. At its first 2025 meeting, the ACHS Board launched a massive assessment, reworking, and integration of our technological assets that will come together as an interactive website that will be our public presence reflecting our vision and mission of engaging ALL the community stories in the Staunton-Waynesboro-Augusta area.

The Community Foundation's incredible work within our community is known by many. This charitable organization has served the independent cities of Staunton and Waynesboro, and the counties of Augusta, Highland and Nelson since 1992. In addition to managing agency funds, the Community Foundation also provides grants and nonprofit resources to organizations in our region to the tune of over \$1.7 million annually.

ACHS partnership with the foundation has helped us enhance our exhibits, expand our digitized resources, develop our strategic plan, underwrite important historical research, and strengthen our overall mission. The Foundation also offers classes and peer learning opportunities that equip our board and staff with valuable tools for leadership and growth.

ACHS has recently opened an Agency Fund with the Community Foundation in order to support our strategic plan and build an endowment. Look for more information about that work in 2026.

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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](http://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.

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