



Museums in Partnership

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2009

* To visit a website, right click the blue weblink and open it in your browser.

For past issues of MIP Newsletters, visit FOMH website, and follow the link to [News and Press](#).

“LIVING OFF THE LAND” EXHIBIT OPENS

by Linda O. Anders

“History follows a consistent thread from today back into yesterday—the thread depending firmly on the same source of strength: the woods, the pure, rushing streams, the waterfalls, the fertile valleys, pleasing scents and cool climate.”—*Our State* magazine, Aug 29, 1964

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From beaver skin hats to moonshine to mountain laurel pipes and retirement communities, Transylvania County’s economic history has always depended upon its rich natural resources. In 2009–2010, the Transylvania Heritage Museum will highlight the amazing variety of endeavors that were necessary for survival of the pioneers and are still necessary for continued progress.

The exciting new exhibit opened Saturday, May 23, at the Museum and celebrates the ingenuity and tenacity of Transylvania’s populace, past and present. Exhibits,



Board member Linda Vande Weghe and Executive Director Rebecca Suddeth prepare for the opening night “Sneak Peek” of the new exhibit at the Transylvania Heritage Museum, LIVING OFF THE LAND: Economic Impact of Our Natural Resources. And, yes, that’s our famous cow in the background!

photos, artifacts and special presentations will be presented throughout the coming year as the Museum interprets the topic “LIVING OFF THE LAND: Economic Impact of our Natural Resources”.

Far removed from other population centers, not even the Indians had permanent settlements in the area that is now known as Transylvania County. Beginning in the early 1700s, the trappers and “Long Hunters” from the Low Country hunted deer, bear and other game in the mountains to supply the burgeoning coastal towns. From then on, word of the richness of the mountains and western valleys spread.

After the American Revolution, settlement began. In the late 1700’s, as farmers came into the area, they used the natural resources they found here to make their livings and support their families. The forests

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**Contact Information
for
Friends of Mountain History
Museums in Partnership**

Kaye Myers, Executive Director
Friends of Mountain History
km Myers@nccommerce.com

Jill Jones, Museums in Partnership
jjones@awnc.org
svmuseum@buncombe.main.nc.us

Tammy Walsh, Yahoo Group
Tammy.Walsh@nccmail.net

Ran Shaffner, MIP Newsletter
highlandshistory@nctv.com

Friends of Mountain History (FOMH) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supporting museums, heritage organizations, and cultural and heritage-related programs in twenty-five counties in Western North Carolina.

Museums in Partnership (MIP), which is supported by FOMH, is a new resource for museum professionals. Museums, historic sites, and heritage-related organizations in twenty-five counties of Western N.C. receive advocacy, educational support, and financial assistance as well as the MIP Newsletter, which includes announcements and updates from the region and informal sharing of ideas through networking. There are no dues for MIP membership, and communications are via electronic media. MIP welcomes nonprofit organizations that collect, interpret, preserve, and exhibit some aspect of Western North Carolina's culture and heritage.

CALL FOR ARTICLES ABOUT YOUR SITE

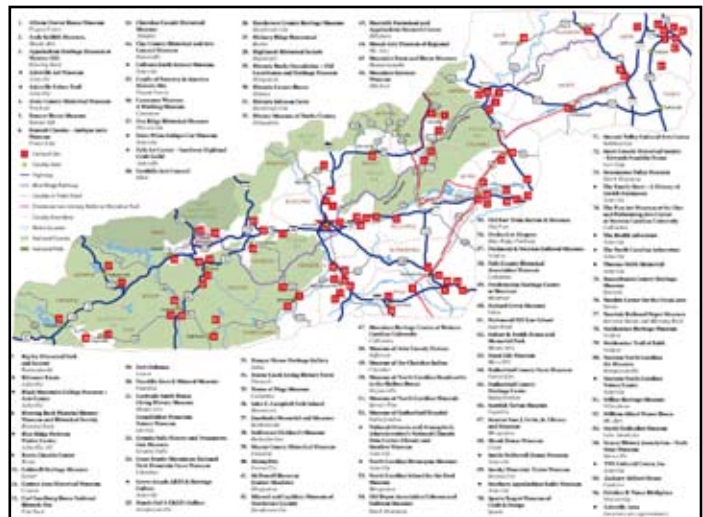


Museums, historic sites, and heritage-related organizations in the 25-county region of Western North Carolina served by FOMH are encouraged to share their news, announcements, and photographs of their programs and resources through our newsletter. Please email articles, photographs, or event listings to Ran Shaffner at highlandshistory@nctv.com for publication in a subsequent issue of the newsletter.

For a monthly listing of **MUSEUM CALENDARS OF EVENTS** during 2009, visit the Friends of Mountain History website at www.fomhnc.org or here at www.fomhnc.org/calendarofevents.php.

2009 Museum Guide and Map Now Available Online

The new 2009 Western North Carolina Museum Guide is now available for download from the Friends of Mountain History website or from here at www.fomhnc.org/FOMH2009Guide.pdf. Also available for download is the Museum Guide Map from here at www.fomhnc.org/FOMH2009Map.pdf, which locates the 86 cultural sites featured in the guide.



Highlands Historical Society Celebrates 10 Years of Walk in the Park



From Friday, June 26, through Sunday, June 28, the Highlands Historical Society will stage its tenth annual Walk in the Park, a very popular fund raiser in which community actors and actresses portray early characters of the town's history near their graves in the cemetery.

Over the years Walk in the Park has featured such well-known historic figures as golf-legend Bobby Jones, who opened Highlands' first major golf course the year before his grand slam in 1930; medical pioneer Dr. Mary Lapham, who established one of North Carolina's first TB sanatoria (known in Highlands as "Bug Hill") in 1908; horticulturist and historical writer Silas McDowell, who originated the concept of a temperate "thermal belt" and gave the town of Highlands its name; renowned photographer George Masa, who photographed a hundred scenes of Highlands and its surroundings in 1929; and Professor Alexander Anderson, the botanist who invented the popular Quaker Puffed Wheat and Rice breakfast cereals.

This year will focus on seven of the most significant characters featured during the ten-year span of Walk in the Park. The public is invited to performances from 6:00 to 7:30 on Friday and Saturday evenings with docents leading small groups to grave sites to meet Highlands's early pioneers, and Sunday's performance will take place at 4:00 in the afternoon on the stage of the Performing Arts Center. Tickets are only \$15 each, students free.

More information can be found at the Historical Society's website www.highlandshistory.com under the Event Calendar tab or by emailing highlandshistory@nctv.com, and tickets can be purchased either online or in Highlands at the times of the event.



Becky Schilling, who will portray Dr. Mary Lapham, stands beside "Bug Hill Cottage," one of 60 open-air cubicles that housed victims of one of the most dreaded and virulent diseases of early 20th-century America. Dr. Lapham used the Swiss method of artificially collapsing one lung to give it a rest while exposing the other to crisp, clear mountain air and sunshine, an effective cure of tuberculosis that added 40 to 50 years to the lives of some patients who had come to Highlands on stretchers expecting to die.



PRESERVATION
DIRECTORY.COM



The Preservation Library

Greetings Preservationists,

We are very excited to announce the launch of our new tool—the "Preservation Library: Articles, Regulations & Policy." The Preservation Library is a repository of historic preservation and restoration articles that provide expert guidance for the rehabilitation and preservation of historic structures, as well as links to essential policy and legal documents that pertain to historic preservation and cultural resource management. We will be adding regular installments of preservation-related articles, as well as other documents that will be of interest to the preservation community.

There are so many resources online that pertain to historic preservation and restoration, and it is our pleasure to gather them in one convenient place. The Preservation Library features links to all National Park Service "Preservation Briefs," the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Properties, links to important laws and policy papers, Preservation Case Studies, and information on obtaining our "Preservation Resources on the Web" resource guide.

Does your organization have articles, reports and/or documents that would be of interest to the preservation community? We would love to share these with the preservation community. Please click here to contact us www.preservationdirectory.com/historicalpreservation/contactus.aspx!

To view the Preservation Library Articles, Regulations & Policy section, click on the following link: www.preservationdirectory.com/PreservationBlogs/LibraryArticles.aspx.

Bluff Mountain Auction - June 13th

The Madison County Arts Council presents the 14th Annual Bluff Mountain Festival on June 13, 2009 on the grounds of the Hot Springs Spa and Resort in Hot Springs, NC. The festival is FREE! Bluff Mountain is also a major fund raiser for the Madison County Arts Council. The popular Silent Auction is a great SHOWCASE of local and regional arts and crafts as well as locally produced goods.

I am asking you to please help us keep the Bluff Mountain Festival FREE to the public by donating an item to the Silent Auction. Your donation will be listed in an Artist Directory and Performance Program. We will give you a statement for income tax purposes.

Auction items that have been successful in the past are a piece of art, pottery, gift certificate for services, painting, photography, plants, mushroom log, books, fabric art, quilts, music lessons, dance lessons, house concerts, massage therapy, palates, photography session, dinner for two, three or four, & Breakfast Gift Certificate, horseback riding, rafting, gift baskets, handmade soap. Or you are welcome to donate cash for the day long Bluff Raffle. Email me at patrfranklin@yahoo.com to make arrangements to deliver your donation to the Madison County Arts Council office. If needed I will be happy to come and pick it up. Above all, please accept our thanks and join us on the 13th of June.....all day long...music! dancing! food!

American Association of Museums Partners To Support Cultural & Heritage Travel To Museums

Are you seeking a new marketing channel to attract cultural and heritage travelers to your museum?

Heritage Travel, Inc., a new subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is seeking partners in an exciting venture that will offer exposure to millions of cultural and heritage travelers. It will provide a global stage for destinations and museums and a professional forum where partners can find and share information and best practices.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation and American Association of Museums have reached an exclusive agreement to offer AAM members a 20% discount on annual participation fees. If you join before the Heritage Travel Web site is launched later this spring, you will also save on your set-up fees.

The Web site will be the premier online community where consumers will find and share heritage and culturally rich experiences. It will include Web 2.0 opportunities in social media, RSS feeds, blogs and podcasts. Heritage Travel's substantial annual marketing budget will drive travelers to the Web site which will launch in late spring 2009.

We invite you to visit www.heritagetravelinc.com for more information, a video introduction from John Williams, president and CEO, as well as a webinar that gives a more in-depth look at the official Web site and its features. Once you have reviewed this information, please contact us at Heritage_Travel@nthp.org or (202) 588-6200, and be sure to let us know you're an AAM member to get the 20% discount.

You may also wish to visit our pre-launch site for consumers, www.gowithapurpose.com. This pre-launch site enables interested travelers to start participating in this new community, even before the official launch. Consumers can register for free and begin submitting reviews of some of their favorite U.S. historic and cultural destinations. When Heritage Travel's new online community is introduced later this spring, reviews will be posted on the official Web site allowing visitors to compare interests and share experiences.

Heritage Travel is participating in the AAM Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo® in Philadelphia May 1-3. Please visit us in the Cultural Traveler Pavilion in the 100 aisle of the MuseumExpo® Hall to say hello and learn more about this exciting new marketing opportunity.



North Carolina Family Bible Records Online

North Carolina Family Bible Records Online collection makes finding your ancestors one step easier at <http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/dimp/digital/ncfamilyrecords/>.

The State Library of North Carolina and the North Carolina State Archives are proud to present their newest digital collection, North Carolina Family Records Online. The joint digital collection currently contains nearly 220 family Bible records (lists of birth, marriage, and death information typically written inside North Carolina family Bibles) from the State Archives, and the six-volume Marriage and Death Notices from Raleigh Register and North Carolina State Gazette: 1799-1893, a 1,100-page compendium of marriage announcements and obituaries compiled by then State Librarian Carrie L. Braughton.

This exciting online collection was unveiled at the National Genealogical Society Conference, held at the Raleigh Convention Center from May 13-16. Nearly 200 conference goers—including genealogy librarians, genealogists, history buffs, and the general public—attended two interactive presentations about this and other online collections hosted by the Library and Archives.

North Carolina Family Records Online has a narrow scope at present, containing only a tenth of the over 2,000 Bible records owned by the North Carolina State Archives, but it is hoped that the online collection will continue to grow. All of the Bible records selected for digitization contain family history information dating from the 1700s or earlier and span over 150 years, with the majority of the materials dating to between roughly 1750 and 1900. Each record has been scanned, transcribed by Archives and Library staff, and is available for free on the web. And, because the mostly handwritten materials have been transcribed, the entire collection is full-text searchable, enabling users to search by name, location, or other subject words and phrases.

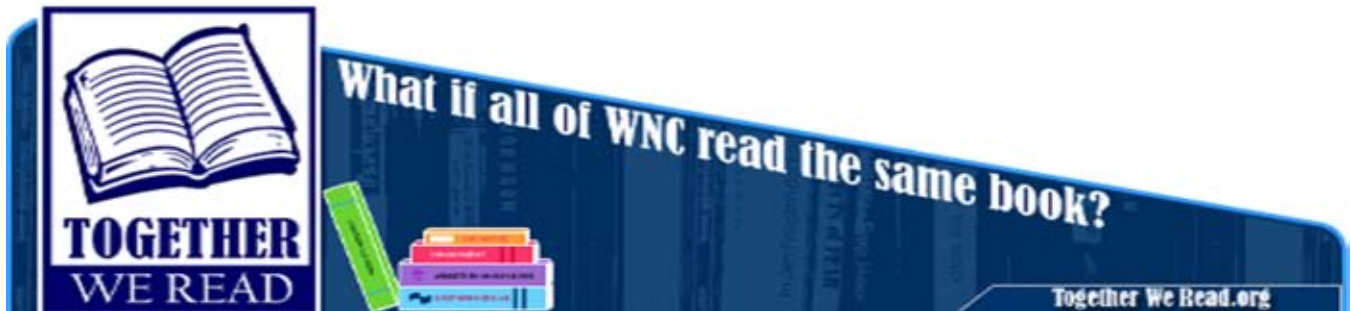
Due to the content and period of time covered in the North Carolina Family Records Online collection, it reflects only a small segment of North Carolina's diverse population—namely literate, Protestant Caucasians of the 18th and 19th Centuries. However, 25 Bible records contain documentation about the birth of slaves, and many other records contain information about governors, legislators, and other political and military leaders who helped shape this country. The State Archives continues to collect Family Bible Records that begin before 1913 from all of North Carolina's citizens, with the hopes providing a broader understanding of North Carolina's past.

Questions to Amy Rudersdorf (amy.rudersdorf@ncdcr.gov) and Druscie Simpson (druscie.simpson@ncdcr.gov).

We Need Agricultural Artifacts!

Friends of Mountain History Board members are putting together Teaching Trunks for “*That’s A Long Row To Hoe!*” *Lifestyles in Farming, Gardening, Foodways and Viticulture*. We need agricultural related artifacts that are child-safe and easy to handle. The artifact must be smaller than a bread box in order to fit into trunks. We are looking for butter molds and other safe cooking utensils as well as farming and gardening related items. If you have items to donate to this project, please contact Kaye Myers at kmyers@ncommerce.com. Many Thanks!





The Board of Directors of Together We Read welcomes each of you to another season. This year we are honoring Barbara Kingsolver's *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life*. In these days of continuing economic turmoil, Kingsolver's ode to a simpler life could not have been chosen at a better time.

At our January Summit, the decision was made for Together We Read to continue as a co-op with the season from June through October. Each participant will operate independently establishing programming and events. Since the resignation of our Executive Director, Rob Neufeld, www.togetherweweread.org, our website, has become the hub of our communication for participants, as well as, the public. All your TWR events and programs should be posted through our webmaster Tim Daniels at tim@flattotech.com. We are maintaining a list of speakers for programming events and ask that you reference and list any speakers you are planning to use for sharing with others. With this year's budget constraints in mind, a number of listed speakers will be available for a nominal fee, if any. I would encourage each of you to enjoy our website and the many links and features we have established in relation to our topic this year. One of particular interest is a general press release that can be tailored to your specific events.

Our Board of Directors considers the continuation of this reading program of utmost importance. In the face of adversity, our strength comes from our union through community because it is through community that we are all connected. Each participant is important in this effort. We wish each of you a successful season in honoring Barbara Kingsolver's masterpiece.

New Digital Project Announcement: NC MOSAIC

NC MOSAIC (Managing, Organizing, and Strengthening Access to Institutional Collections)

Local, county, and state government information is found (or perhaps equally likely, not found) in public and academic libraries, historical societies, government agencies, and even in corporate offices. Often, locating information about a certain topic is challenging, and may require a researcher to travel from one institution to another to gather a complete view of a topic. With NC MOSAIC, the State Library of North Carolina attempts to bring together in one online location links to important collections of government information, including, maps, publications, records, and historical documents that have been made available on the Internet by academic institutions or government agencies in North Carolina.

The records found in NC MOSAIC do not contain government information themselves. Instead, they describe and link to online resources found all over the state. Searches within NC MOSAIC examine these descriptions for word and phrase matches and point researchers directly to relevant collections, whether they are housed in New Bern or Boone.

NC MOSAIC began in 2008 by reviewing and describing online collections of government-related resources. By the end of 2009, we hope to include a comprehensive survey of North Carolina state agency online collections, as well. NC MOSAIC is available online at <http://mosaic.ncdcr.gov>.

ENCYCLOPEDIA

The State Library needs your help! It is involved in a project to revitalize the eNCyclopedia, its online resource for facts and information about North Carolina people, government, history, culture, and other topics (<http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/nc/cover.htm>), and we are hoping you can assist us in our efforts to obtain user feedback that will help us set priorities for revitalizing this valuable resource.

The eNCyclopedia, initially developed over a decade ago to assist students requesting North Carolina-related information for school assignments, continues to be heavily used by students, educators, and others who are seeking North Carolina-related information. In order to make changes that improve and enhance the users' experience and meet their informational needs, we are soliciting feedback about all aspects of the eNCyclopedia, including its content, appearance, usability as well as the functionality of the website.

We are requesting your assistance in promoting this project among your coworkers, students, patrons and friends and encouraging them to participate in the eNCyclopedia online User Survey. To help you do this, we have prepared a survey "promotion package" that includes descriptive information, images and links that you can easily copy and paste into e-mails, newsletters, blogs, websites, etc. Please see the description of the "promotion package" and links to package components below. Note: The online User Surveys (one for adults; one for students) will be open through June 21, 2009.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Michelle Czaikowski in the Government and Heritage Library at the State Library of North Carolina at Michelle.Czaikowski@ncdcr.gov or 919-807-7459.

User Survey Promotion Package

1. Surveys: We developed 2 separate surveys – one for adults, one for students. Please refer your patrons, students, friends or coworkers to the appropriate survey listed below:
 - a. Adult Survey: for librarians, teachers, parents, researchers
<http://tinyurl.com/ncency> (Main eNCyclopedia Survey)
 - b. Student Survey: for students in Grades 4-12
<http://tinyurl.com/ncencystudent> (eNCyclopedia Survey: 4th-12th grade)
2. Survey Descriptions/Explanations: We have developed sample emails or articles that provide information about the eNCyclopedia project and the user surveys that you may wish to use in your promotion emails, school/library newsletters, blogs, or websites. Simply copy and paste the text from one of the two brief articles found at <http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/nc/surveyarticle.html>, inserting the name of your school, library, association, or other affiliation where appropriate.
3. Additional information, images and links: we have also made available additional information, images, and url links that you may insert into webpages. These can be found at the following website: <http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/nc/survey.html>.
4. Deadline for Survey Participation: The online user surveys will be open for completion through June 21, 2009.

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provided lumber for shelter and game for meat, and the river valleys offered rich soil for growing crops.

Farmers prospered as they managed abundant lands even with scarce labor. To get their products to market, drovers herded cattle, sheep, hogs, and turkeys to Greenville, South Carolina, where they could be sold and necessities could be purchased. To support the farmers, mills were built, inns and taverns provided shelter to travelers, merchants opened stores, and industries began to develop. One of the earliest entrepreneurs in the area was Jimmie Neill, the maker of Beaver skin hats.

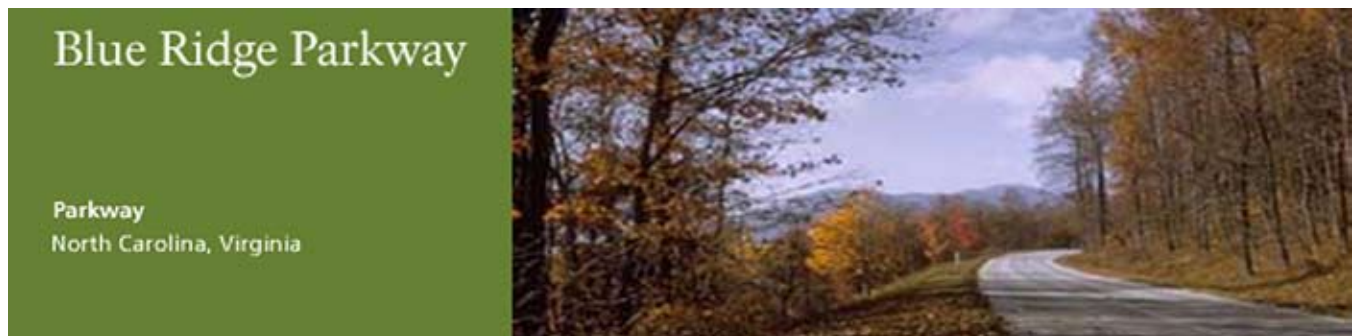
Exhibits cover the Hattery and Cherokee Trade as well as How Mills Work. Charleston Families, How the County was Formed, Early Hotels and the Summer Camp Industry are in another section, and Life in a Logging camp, Rosman Industries, and Wildcrafting in yet another. The last display features Heritage Tourism and new ways that we use our resources, including the Gaia Herbs farm.

Not in the actual exhibit, but new, are the History of the Space panels that tell about the history of Jordan Street and the building where the Museum is located.

What is Wildcrafting? It is the old craft of collecting plant materials from their natural habitat and using them for food, medicine, crafts, and as a source of income. Come see the exhibit for more details!

All are invited to visit the Museum, support preservation of our history by becoming a member of the Transylvania Heritage Coalition, Inc., partake in the programs offered, and shop at Heritage Gifts. Admission is free. Donations are appreciated and are dedicated to the purchase of archival materials necessary for preservation.

For additional information or to make donations, please call (828) 884-2347 or visit the web site at www.transylvaniaheritage.org/, or come to the Museum at 40 West Jordan Street in Brevard, Wednesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Invitation to Join the Blue Ridge Parkway's Web Site

Western North Carolina communities can now have a presence on the Blue Ridge Parkway's newly launched web site in the following ways:

- To have a community spotlight on the website, go to www.blueridgeparkway75.org/contact-us/ for the form. Look under the "promoting parkway communities" heading.
- To explore spotlights already on the site, go to www.blueridgeparkway75.org/more-than-a-road/. This is how anything submitted will be integrated into the site.
- To have Western North Carolina events become part of the 75th calendar of events, go to the following web site: www.blueridgeparkway75.org/events/plan-an-event/.
- To explore events already on the site, go to www.blueridgeparkway75.org/events/. Explore the various search options and event detail pages.