

LYNCHBURG MUSEUM SYSTEM

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the muse news

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of the Lynchburg Museum System
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Museum Staff:
Doug Harvey, Museum Director
Greg Krueger, Curator
Rachel Deddens, Museum Educator
Ann Scalf, Office Manager

Calendar of Events

Lynchburg Museum System Events

First Fridays

The Museum is open the First Friday of every month from 5 pm–8 pm for FREE, focusing on a variety of topics related to Lynchburg history. We are on the free trolley route!

January 20 and February 17 Kids' Night at the Museum

Kids ages 7–12 participate in scavenger hunts and living history, interact with nocturnal animals from the Nature Zone and a mystery guest, create art, and end with pizza and a movie. 6 pm–11 pm. \$20 per child. Reserve early!

February 20 President's Day

Museum and Point of Honor FREE to visitors 10 am–4 pm

February 24 and March 23 Hearth Cooking Class

Help prepare and eat a meal in the hearth kitchen at Point of Honor 11 am–2 pm. \$20 per person. Limited to 12 people so reserve early!

April 24 Garden Day

Point of Honor is FREE to visitors from 10 am–5 pm and the Museum is

FREE from 10 am–4 pm. Tea and light refreshments will be served at Point of Honor and the Gift Shop will have a sale on special items.

May 22 Homeschool Open House

10 am – 3 pm, FREE
Homeschoolers from across Virginia are invited to tour the Museum and Point of Honor as educational resources for families.

May 28 Memorial Day

Museum and Point of Honor FREE to visitors 10 am–4 pm

June 11–15 Discover Lynchburg: Summer Camp for Kids

Children ages 9–12 can enjoy a week long camp from 9 am–3 pm daily. Visit historic sites, police department, fire station, and picnic on Percival's Island. \$50 per child. Reserve early!

June 25 – 28 Teacher Recertification Camp

Educators explore Lynchburg area history and earn recertification credits at the Lynchburg Museum and Point of Honor 9 am–3 pm Monday thru Thursday \$50 per teacher

The Museum and Point of Honor are closed only on New Years' Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. Open hours are 10 am to 4 pm Monday–Saturday and Noon to 4 pm Sunday. Visit our websites: www.lynchburgmuseum.org and www.pointofhonor.org, see us on Lynchburg Museum Facebook, or call (434) 455-6226 for more information.



THE MUSE NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER of the LYNCHBURG MUSEUM SYSTEM

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Woman's Club of Lynchburg: Founders of the Museum System



Left, Nina Thomas, book editor, and Virginia Pearson, president of the Woman's Club of Lynchburg, present a copy of the new cookbook to Doug Harvey, museum director.

If you work in the field of history and museums, you learn early on that women were the founders of historic preservation in America. In 1853, Ann Pamela Cunningham became aware that Mount Vernon, George Washington's home, was deteriorating. She organized the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association to rescue Mount Vernon—the first large-scale preservation project in America. In 1889, the City of Richmond had plans to demolish the White House of the Confederacy to build a school. The home

Few people today realize that the Lynchburg Museum System is a continuation of the work begun by the Woman's Club of Lynchburg in the 1920s. At that time, the Club borrowed traveling exhibits from museums such as the Metropolitan Museum in New York and assembled exhibits of art, costumes, decorative arts, and textiles. These were displayed in their clubhouse which then stood on Court Street. In 1933, the Woman's Club convinced City Council to provide a room in City Hall for a Lynchburg museum which operated as a

sheltered Jefferson Davis and his family during the Civil War. The women of Richmond lobbied to save it and created the Confederate Memorial Literary Society, which acquired the property. Both groups continue to own and operate these significant sites today and without the vision and perseverance of women, many other sites would have been lost. Lynchburg's women made a similar contribution in the early 20th century.

partnership between the Club, the City, and the Works Progress Administration. In 1942, the Museum space in City Hall was taken over by the local Rationing Board to support the war effort and the Museum was mothballed.

After World War II, Club members lobbied the City to bring back the Museum and to place it in the Old Court House. Alvin Gerhardt was hired as the first curator and the Museum operated in the ground level of the Old Court House. Tom Ledford arrived in 1976 as the first full-time Museum Director and served until 2005. During his early tenure, the building was fully restored and has served as the Museum's home since then. Point of Honor was also restored and added to the Museum System soon after Tom arrived.

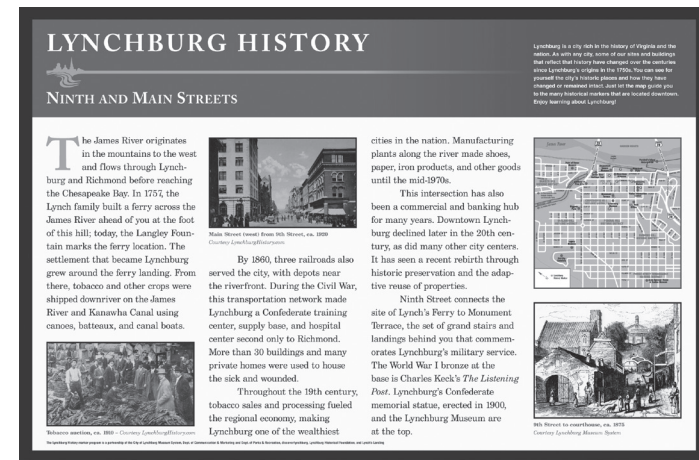
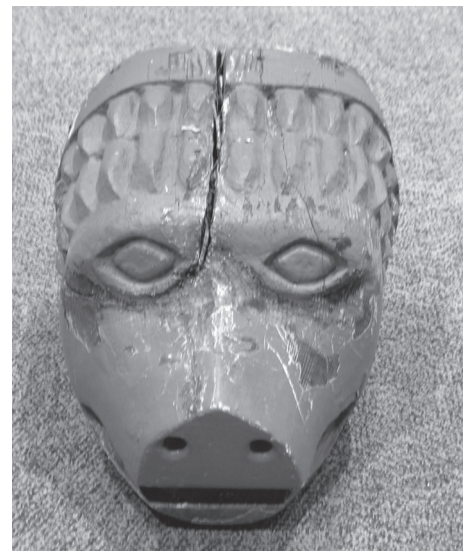
A new cookbook documents the formative museum work done by the Woman's Club of Lynchburg. On January 9, 2012, Club President Virginia Pearson and Editor Nina Thomas presented a copy of *Our Favorite Recipes* to Museum Director Douglas Harvey for the reference library. The Museum System is appreciative of all that the Woman's Club of Lynchburg has done to preserve history and for their other good works.

Gargoyle Sale Generates \$1,785 for Foundation

When the City of Lynchburg, Virginia built a new court house in 1855, the design called for wooden "Corinthian lions" to be carved and placed on the exterior of the Greek Revival building as gargoyles. Based on the surviving original gargoyle in the Lynchburg Museum collection, the woodcarver must have thought lions looked somewhat like pigs.

When the Old Court House was restored in 1977, the original gargoyles had rotted and wooden replacements were carved by local artisan Michael Creed. Creed related that he cut sections from a yellow pine beam from an old tobacco warehouse and hand-carved the replacement gargoyles to match the originals.

As the City started work on the exterior of the Museum in 2011, the gargoyles installed in 1977 were found to be damaged so new ones were planned. The City graciously allowed the Museum Foundation to sell five of the 1977 gargoyles on Ebay. When the bidding ended in December, over 75 bids had been received with a total of \$1,995, which netted \$1,785 after fees. The sale generated considerable media and internet coverage for the Lynchburg Museum in tv, radio, internet search engines, and an article in *Lawyer's Weekly*.



Historical Markers Installed

Nine markers were recently placed in Downtown and along the James River Heritage Trail to help illuminate Lynchburg's long and rich history. Each features a map, vintage photographs and brief descriptions of history that occurred nearby. The markers are a project of the Lynchburg Marketing Partnership whose members include Lynch's Landing, Greater Lynchburg Transit Company, Lynchburg City Schools, Lynchburg Convention and Visitors Bureau, Lynchburg Historical Foundation, and the City Departments of Communications and Marketing, Economic Development, Lynchburg Museum System, and Parks and Recreation. The Museum staff coordinated the initiative.

Lynchburg Museum at the Old Court House Work Completed

The repair of damaged wood, roof and gutter leaks, and painting of the building trim was completed in mid-January by Worcester-Eisenbrandt, Inc. Funded by the City Department of Public Works, the project was overseen by Craddock Cunningham Architectural Partners. The Old Court House is probably in the best shape it has been in since opening in 1855. Thanks to all who were involved in this project for a job exceedingly well done!

American Turning Point: The Civil War in Virginia—Surviving War

The Lynchburg Museum is pleased to present this traveling exhibit courtesy of the Virginia Historical Society and the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission. Explore rare artifacts gathered from across the nation, multi-media programs, and the great Virginia stories that surround them. *Surviving War* will run from July 21, 2012 through November 18, 2012. In January 2013, the second phase of the exhibit, *Waging War*, will arrive—stay tuned!

An American Turning Point: The Civil War in Virginia encourages visitors to consider how a single event, separated by 150 years can influence and address the questions of today: what was gained, what was lost, what was undecided, and what was left for us to resolve? From 1861 to 1865, Virginia stood at the center of a military and social revolution. How we define freedom, liberty, patriotism, and nation today is directly related to the diverse experiences of the individuals who participated in the war.

An American Turning Point is not a top-down study of battles and generals. Instead, the exhibition engages visitors in the experiences of a representative group of individuals and situations to promote an understanding of the wartime experiences of Virginians, and those who served in Virginia, during the war. The stories of the men, women, and children who struggled to survive Virginia's Civil War can be found in the fabric of every uniform, the blade of every sword, the handle of every tool, the imagery of every drawing, the words of every letter, and the notes of every song.



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It is never too late to help—please send your contribution to Lynchburg Museum Foundation, Box 529, Lynchburg, VA 24505
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