



THE MUSE NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER of the LYNCHBURG MUSEUM SYSTEM

Early Iron Works OF Central Virginia AND THE Slaves Who Ran Them

FREE PROGRAM • AUGUST 19, 2 PM • LYNCHBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY



Asking Large Questions in Small Places: The Slave Ironworkers of Buffalo Forge and Oxford Furnace, Virginia will be Dr. Charles B. Dew's topic at a free program at the Lynchburg Public Library on Saturday, August 19, 2006 at 2 pm. A native of Florida, Dr. Dew is currently

Ephraim Williams Professor of History at Williams College in Massachusetts and the award-winning author of several books including: *Ironmaker to the Confederacy: Joseph R. Anderson and the Tredegar Iron Works*, *Bond of Iron: Master and Slave at Buffalo Forge*, and *Apostles of Disunion: Southern Secession Commissioners and the Causes of the Civil War*.

Dr. Dew's study of Central Virginia iron works started over 30 years ago; his article: *David Ross and the Oxford Iron Works: A Study of Industrial Slavery in the Early 19th Century South* was published in the *William and Mary Quarterly* of April, 1974. The Virginia Historical Society owns the 1812-1813 letterbook for the Oxford Furnace Iron Works, which operated in Campbell County from before the Revolutionary War until about 1870. David Ross acquired Oxford Furnace in 1776 and made munitions and supplies for the Continental Army as well as household, farm, and industrial wares.

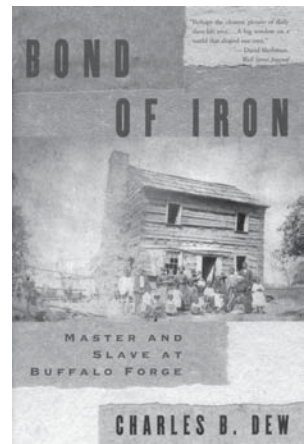
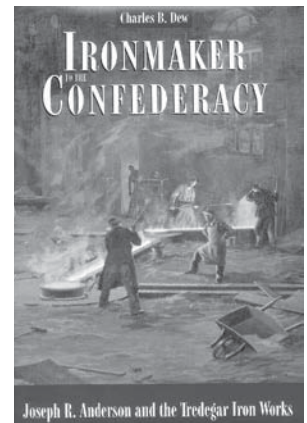
As Dew researched the letterbook and other sources, he found a fascinating story of early 19th century life in Central Virginia. Ross lived in Petersburg and his Oxford operation grew to over 24,000 acres with four plantations, grist mill, a batteau fleet,

blast furnaces, and forges. Except for a white manager, a miller, and a carpenter, other work was done by a slave force of over 225 people with a slave named Abram in charge of the iron works. The slaves grew the crops, milled grain, operated the boats hauling iron to Richmond, and did the skilled work of turning iron ore into products.

Buffalo Forge was an ironworks located near Glasgow, Virginia, and Dew's research revealed a similar story of skilled slave workmen, an owner who often let his slaves decide where they would work, slaves who did extra work and were paid in cash, and an intricate story of human relationships within the framework of master and slave. This is the basis for *Bonds of Iron*.

There will be a reception following the program and Dr. Dew will be available to sign copies of his books. A limited number of his books will be available for sale. The program is sponsored by the Lynchburg Public Library, Lynchburg Museum System, Legacy Museum of African-American History, The Martin Luther King Center, and Jones Memorial Library.

For information, please call the Lynchburg Museum at (434) 455-6226.



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Museum Update

Noted museum consultants Mary Ellen Stumpf of Stumpf and Associates of Richmond and Dan Murphy of the PRD Group of Fairfax have completed their review of the Museum System: operations, funding, facilities, governance structure, programs, and other aspects were evaluated. Group and individual meetings with advisory board members, volunteers, City staff, and varied "stakeholders" were held and surveys were sent to all who are in some way involved in the Museum System.

Based on these discussions, survey responses, and familiarity with best industry practices, the consultants recommendations for the future will be shared with participants and City leadership in the coming weeks.

While the study has been underway, Curator Greg Krueger along with former Director Tom Ledford have been going through our collections of artifacts, graphics, and photographs selecting the best material to be used in the Old Court House exhibits. Design and creation of the new exhibits will be our major focus for the rest of the summer and fall.

Lynchburg Museum System Events for 2006

All events take place at Point of Honor, 112 Cabell Street (434) 455-6226

OCTOBER 14 Day at the Point 11 am—4 pm

Visit the historic treasure in your own backyard—Point of Honor. This year's event has something for all ages and we have added several new programs. Since the name Point of Honor is related to dueling, we will re-create a duel that occurred in Virginia in 1826 between Henry Clay and John Randolph of Roanoke with costumed interpreters from Virginia Patriots, Inc of Richmond.



There will also be a batteau, iron working, quilt exhibition, storytelling, silhouette making, guided tours of the Cabell home, games and activities for kids, pony rides, open-hearth cooking demonstrations, several musical groups, and much more! Food and beverage will be available on site.

Information: (434) 455-6226 or (434) 847-1867

DECEMBER 3 Christmas Open House 1 pm—4 pm

Start the holiday season at Point of Honor with the Christmas traditions and music of the early 19th century by Riddle on the Harp. Guided tours of the first floor will enlighten your holiday spirit as open-hearth cooking demonstrations warm your palate. Then join us in the Carriage House for period recipe cookies, apple cider, and the company of neighbors and friends.

POINT OF HONOR MUSEUM PRESENTS

The Worlds of Nancy Lancaster

Two-Day Seminar at the Academy of Fine Arts in Lynchburg, VA

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

Field trip to Greenwood, VA led by Ralph Harvard

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2

Martin Wood: Nancy Lancaster, English Country House Style

Bryan Green: Colonial Revival Architecture

Fiona Heyward: Life at Haseley Court

Lang Gibson: A Very Few Family Memories

TWO-DAY SYMPOSIUM: \$325 • MONDAY ONLY: \$125

*For reservations and information please contact Melanie Christian (434) 384-1881
or visit www.PointofHonor.org*



Educator and Workbook

Thanks to funding support from the Lynchburg Museum Foundation and Point of Honor, Inc., the City approved adding a museum educator to the staff this fiscal year. This much needed position will allow us to offer our existing programs to more people, create new activities, and strengthen our educational partnerships.

The hiring panel is in the final stages of interviews and we expect to have our educator on board in August. The museum educator will work with City and surrounding school divisions and other groups ranging from scouts to retirement communities.

There was another educational asset added recently. With grants from Wachovia Bank and the Lynchburg Museum Foundation, staff members Ann Scalf and Sally Gregory created a Living History Workbook geared to elementary age visitors.

The book contains puzzles, scavenger hunts, and other activities all related to visits to the Museum and Point of Honor. The workbook was provided to almost 500 students in May who came to our spring Living History Programs at Point of Honor and will be used again this October. To inquire about group educational visits, please call Ann Scalf at 455-6226.



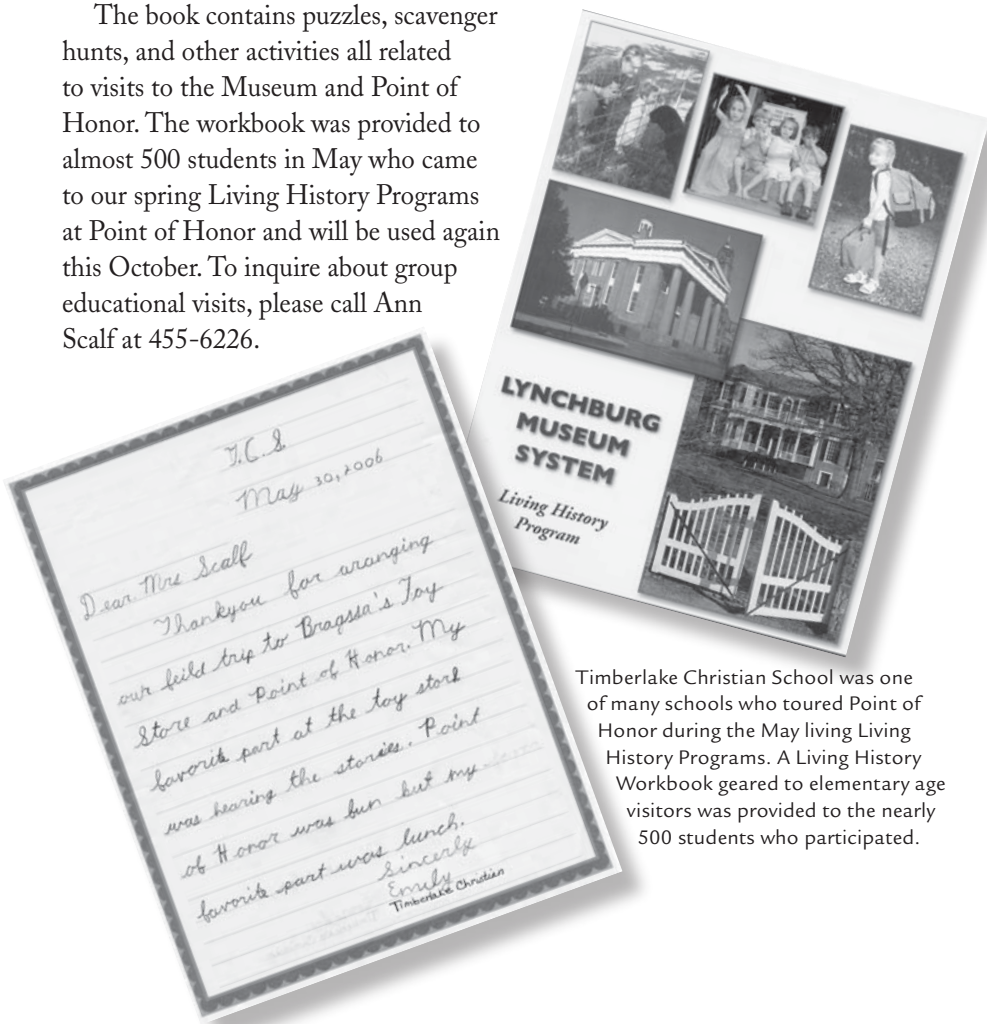
NEW ACQUISITIONS

Wachovia Bank recently donated a fine Regulator clock believed to have been the shop clock for Williams and Victor, silversmiths and jewelers who worked in Lynchburg from 1815–1845. While made by Regulator, the clock face is marked “Williams and Victor.” The firm made and sold clocks as well as fine silver and several of their tall case clocks are known, with one in the collections of Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Volunteers Enhance Museum System

The Museum Volunteers held elections this spring and the new officers are: Florence Perrow, President, Brenda Langhans, 1st Vice President, Dorothea Fuller, 2nd Vice-President, Frances Calhoun, Secretary, Frank Craddock, Treasurer, and Bernadette Kyle, Member at Large. Dabney Jackson retired as President but will remain on the board as Past President; Betsy King retired as 1st Vice President.

On behalf of the Museum System, sincere thanks to the outgoing and incoming officers and all our other volunteers who do so much to enhance the Museum System. The volunteers give hundreds of hours each year of a most precious resource—themselves. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please call Ann Scalf at 455-6226.



Timberlake Christian School was one of many schools who toured Point of Honor during the May living Living History Programs. A Living History Workbook geared to elementary age visitors was provided to the nearly 500 students who participated.

Point of Honor News

The Point of Honor website (www.pointofhonor.org) has been greatly expanded and we invite you to visit. Information on the home's history, furnishings, tours, driving directions, special events and more is now online. Since the internet has become the primary source for travel information, this will enhance our presence and visitor service in the world of tourism.

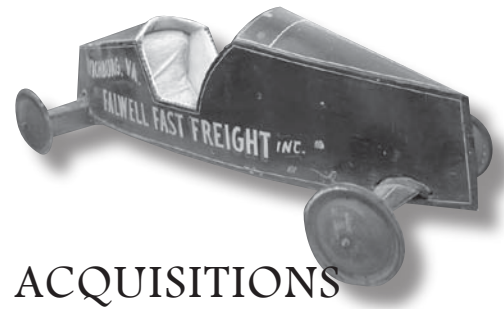
Eggstravaganza was held at Point of Honor on April 8th—a day of children's activities that benefits Kids'Haven, the local agency that supports grieving children.

The Gift Shop at Point of Honor is a great source for special gifts, notecards, books on local history, and decorative items so please stop by 112 Cabell Street or visit our website!



www.pointofhonor.org

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:
Point of Honor's expanded website
Eggstravaganza 2006
The Gift Shop at Point of Honor



ACQUISITIONS

The people of Lynchburg have been generous with gifts of artifacts since the Museum System's beginnings. We hold about 20,000 individual items of all types, with each artifact having a link to the history of Lynchburg and Central Virginia. If you have items that you think are museum-worthy, please contact Curator Greg Krueger at (434) 455-6226 or at Greg.Krueger@lynchburgva.gov.

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LYNCHBURG
MUSEUM SYSTEM



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LYNCHBURG MUSEUM SYSTEM

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