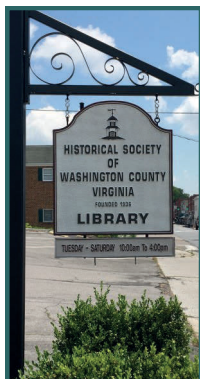


NEWSLETTER

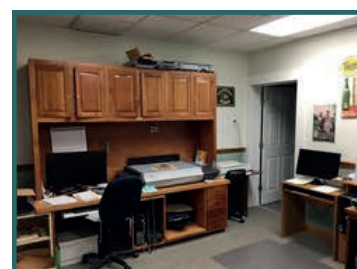
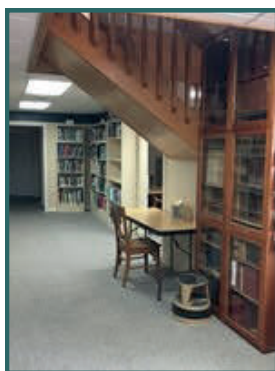
Annual Meeting and Cemetery Tour Info	2
Donations & Acquisitions	3-4
From the Media Center	5
Financial Report	6

Home, Sweet Home!

As of May 2018, the Society is open for business in our permanent location at 341 W. Main Street, Abingdon. After a year of renovations, we have a facility that will serve us for years to come. Please visit us and see the new library, media center, archives and display room, as well as much needed storage rooms. We are just a block away from our former location at the depot. There is a spacious parking lot and complimentary WiFi in the library. The historic Sinking Spring Cemetery is steps away (see inside for our annual Tour information). Please enjoy the following photographs and plan your trip to Abingdon soon.



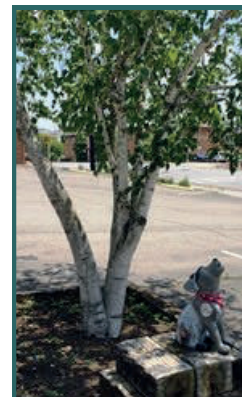
PRESERVE THE PAST WITH PICTURES



NEWSPAPER ROOM



341 W. Main Street



2018 Annual Meeting *June 23*

The 2018 Annual Dinner and Program of the Historical Society of Washington County, Virginia will take place from 6-9pm on Saturday, June 23, 2018 at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon. The evening will begin with a social hour (wine will be available for purchase by the glass or you can BYOB), followed by a short business session to elect new members of the Society's Board of Directors as well as the President's Report and a Financial Report. A buffet dinner, catered by JJ's Restaurant and Sports Bar, will then be served.

This year's program speaker is Irvin Beech Wells, III. He will present a true to life tale, from the early 1900s, about fake weddings and tricked women who thought they were legally married. Wells was born and raised in Abingdon, attended Virginia Military Institute, had a challenging career as an FBI agent, and wrote a book, *Women of Summer*, based on a local newspaper article that detailed the fake wedding scam that impacted his family. Wells is the grandson of Irvin Beech Wells whose family had a large house on the NE corner of Main Street and Russell Road. He is also the great grandson of early Abingdon photographer George Wertz.

Tickets for the Dinner are \$25 each; these may be purchased at the Society office at 341 West Main Street, Abingdon or online at www.hswvc.org. Dress is casual or circa 1910 period dress. For more information or to reserve a ticket, please call the HSWCV at 276-623-8337 during regular business hours. We look forward to seeing you there!

During the business meeting, the following item will be presented to the membership for approval. This publication serves as notice of such proposed action.

The Nominating Committee presents two candidates for election as Directors, terms 2018-2021.

Cindy Large has a strong interest in history and genealogy. She is also a business person who has helped operate an antique business on Main Street and knows the community well.

Mark Hagy is a current member of Board of Directors and serves as Chair of the Local History Committee. He teaches history in the Governor's School at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center.

2018 Sinking Spring Cemetery Tour

The Historical Society of Washington County, Virginia's **Living History Tour of Sinking Spring Cemetery** will take place from 5:00-7:15pm on Sunday, July 28, 2018,

The Living History Tour is fast becoming a tradition. It is not only a nice little fund raiser but it is an excellent opportunity to let the community and County know who we are, what we do, and why we are here. By attending you can help the Society raise money, have a visible role, recruit new members, and have fun also! Bring the kids and grandkids; it is a pet and family-friendly event. This year parking will be available at the Society's new location, just steps away. Admission is \$5/ person.

In order to make this event a success, we need help! This help can take many different forms. We need people to serve as interpreters or "Spirits." We need people to set up chairs, help decorate the selected tombstones, place signs, organize groups, lead groups, sell tickets, greet visitors, and help in other capacities. Please consider giving a few hours of your time to assist in this event. Set-up will begin at 3:30pm at the Cummings Cabin.

If you are interested in assisting with the Tour, please contact Martha Keys (martha.keys@comcast.net) or Mark Hagy (mhagy@hgs.k12.va.us). You can also contact the HSWCV at 276-623-8337.

Cemeteries of Washington County, Virginia, Volume I, is at the printers. The book has been in the works for several years and is now about to become a reality. Volume I will contain corrections and updates of the 333 cemeteries in *High on a Windy Hill* by Catherine McConnell. The Washington County Cemetery Preservation Committee hopes the book will be available in the late summer/early fall of 2018. You will be able to buy the book from any member of the committee. Committee members are Charlie Barnette, John Gregory, Carol Hawthorne-Taylor, Barb Stewart, Troy Taylor and Doris Wells. The book will also be available through the Historical Society's web page and at the Historical Society library in Abingdon. The cost of the book is still undetermined, but you can reserve a copy by notifying one of the members or calling Carol at the Historical Society at 276-623-8337.

Donations May 1, 2017—May 31, 2018

Miscellaneous Books	Charles & Donna Belisle, Abingdon, VA
<i>Marion Landmarks</i>	
<i>The Saltville Entrepreneurs and their Endless Litigation</i>	Carolyn Ryburn, Glade Spring, VA
<i>Buchanan A Genealogical History</i> by John A. Blakemore	
3 G. N. Wertz Photos	Myrle Gilpin Bowe, Wilmington, DE
G. N. Wertz Photo	Loretta Rice, Waterloo, IA
<i>Washington Co., VA Minute Book 17, 1866-1869</i>	
<i>Washington Co., Va Minute Book 18, 1869-1870</i>	
<i>Washington Co., VA Personal Property Tax List 1871-1879</i>	Jack Hockett
<i>Washington Co., VA Minute Book 19, 1870-1872</i>	
<i>Washington Co. Marriages 1776-1855</i>	
<i>Washington Co. Census 1840, 1850, 1870, 1880</i>	
<i>1850 Hancock Co., TN Census</i>	Sue Lessenberry, Charleston, SC
<i>1880 Hancock Co., TN Census</i>	
<i>1971-1989 Smyth County Telephone Directories</i>	Joseph Lee, Abingdon, VA
Pictures and other materials related to Moran, Pruitt, and Lamkin families	Louise Woiteshek, Alta Loma, CA
<i>Picture of Dr. J. B. McKee, saddlebags, medicine bottles, prescription envelopes</i>	Nelson County Historical Society, Lovingson, VA
<i>The Cameo 1910 (Martha Washington Yearbook)</i>	Joe Furr, Signal Mountain, TN
2 painters' hats from Withers Hardware Co. found in James/Keys House	Stephen James, Abingdon, VA
<i>Prince William Co., VA Patriots & Pensioners 1752-1856</i>	
<i>Early Church Records of Loudoun Co., VA 1745-1800</i>	
<i>Neglected & Forgotten-Fauquier Co., VA French & Indian War, Rev. War & War of 1812 Veterans</i>	
<i>Abstracts from Loudoun Co., VA Guardian Accounts Book A-H 1759-1904</i>	Florence A. Powell, Meadowview, VA
<i>Surviving Cameron Parish Records Loudoun Co., VA Tithable List of 1765</i>	
<i>A Guidebook to Virginia's Historical Markers</i>	
16 x 12 Display Box, 8 x 14 ½ Display Box, 8 ¼ x 6 ½ Display Box, 3 Easels (1 wood, 2 metal)	Robert Weisfeld, Abingdon, VA
<i>Arthur Campbell Pioneer & Patriot of the "Old Southwest"</i>	Ron and Joyce Swofford, Rex, GA
<i>Betsy's Descendants</i>	Jean Meadows, Emory, VA
Scanned photo of 1954 William King class in front of the Capitol building	
<i>Obits and Pieces From SW VA Newspapers 1827-1899</i> , compiled by Debbie Fowler	John Gregory, Emory, VA
<i>Where the Blue Grass Grows</i>	Michael Rucker, Peoria, IL
1927 Picture of Big Jack Overall Co. employees	Lynda McCracken, Brisol, VA
DVD – <i>Tanasi 1796</i>	David T. Black, Rockford, TN
Sullivan Co. Quarterlies	
Appalachian Quarterlies	
Scott Family Records	Donna Denton Sisk, Blountville, TN
Books on Sullivan and Washington Counties TN and Scott Co., VA	
Pictures of Craig's Mill School students (1946)	Juanita Ogle O'Dell, Johnson City, TN
<i>Economic and Social Survey of Washington Co.</i>	
<i>Soil Survey of Washington Co., VA</i>	
<i>The Battle of Kings Mt. and the Battle of Cowpens</i>	
<i>Conquistadors at Saltville in 1567? A Review of the Archeological & Documentary Evidence</i> by Jim Glanville	Brett Compton, Bristol, VA
<i>A Story of Holston Avenue</i> by Clyde K. Reser	
<i>Pleasant View History</i>	
Articles & Photographs of Mont Calm, documents and photographs	Charles S. Bartlett, Jr. Ph. D., Abingdon, VA
1911 and 1913 <i>Cameo</i> – annuals of Martha Washington College	Eleanor Grasselli, Damascus, VA
<i>The White Cap</i> , Johnston Memorial School of Nursing Yearbooks-1953, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1966, 1968, 1969	Helen Barlow, Abingdon, VA
Civil War Letters	Bill and Mary Farris, Wilmington, NC
Photos and list of burials in Nicholas Cemetery	Judith and Willet Gorham, Grand Rapids, MN
<i>History of the Green Spring Berry Family</i>	James W. Berry, Gainesville, FL
1961 Virginia Interment College yearbook	Mrs. Pat Dennehey, Arlington Heights, IL
1911 King College yearbook	Gina Thayer-Coleman, Jonesborough, TN
<i>McNeeley-Our Roots in Virginia and East Tennessee</i>	Larry McCutcheon, Hohenwald, TN

1844 Letter from Alexander Preston	Gloria Surber, Glade Spring, VA
Scouting's Great Adventure by Keller & Merrihue	Betty Carbury, Abingdon, VA
Set of Children's books used at Damascus High School	
Isaac Shelby-Kentucky's First Governor & Hero of Three Wars	Joe Mumpower, Hollywood, FL
William Edmondson "Grumble" Jones – The Life of a Cantankerous Confederate	James Buchanan Ballard, Houston, TX
Old newspapers, letters, documents and pictures	Sallyanne Mumpower Heltzel, Bristol, VA Michael C. Wood, Cantonment, FL
Family genealogies of Counts, Kestner, and Jessee families and copies of family pictures	Bill Counts, Zebulon, NC
Washington Co., VA Minute Book 20, 1877-1879	Jack Hockett,

Monetary Contributions May 1, 2017—May 31, 2018

Mary B. Kegley	Wytheville, VA	Molly Hortenstine	Abingdon, VA	In Memory of Don Preston by Joyce Ferratt	Abingdon, VA
Michael & Susan Hayter	Emory, VA	Jacquelyn Garrison	Chattanooga, VA		
Jim Glanville	Blacksburg, VA	Mark Hagy	Abingdon, VA	In Memory of Bret Watson by Doris Wells	Meadowview, VA
Tony & Janiece Hughes	Abingdon, VA	Mary Sue & Randall Smith	Abingdon, VA		
Kitty & Gerald Henninger	Newnan, GA	Alma Sue Ray	Abingdon, VA	In Memory of John & Shirley Moore Menzies by Richard and Hazel Blackwell	Edison, NJ
Phillip D. & Diane	Abingdon, VA	Shelley Hart	Moses Lake, WA		
Michael K. Smeltzer	Roanoke, VA	Eddie & Sandra Jonas	Bristol, VA	In Memory of Kay McKinney Blevins by Jane Bryan	Abingdon, VA
Samuel & Martha Shumate	Hickory, NC	Dixie Avey	Heber Springs, AR		
Cheryl LeSueur	Bristol, VA	Robert Craig	Abingdon, VA	In Honor of Jane Oakes by Riley and Emma Clark	Abingdon, VA
Mary Milano	Centerville, OH	Audrey Honegger	Des Moines, WA		
John & Ann Myhre	Garner, NC	Laura Livingston	Edgewood, WA		
Virginia Kysh	Brentwood, CA	Carl Bergstrom	Ashland, MA		
Mary Jane Cox	Richmond, VA	Foxglove Antiques	Abingdon, VA		
Doris Wells	Meadowview, VA	Sierra Pope	Novato, CA		
Arthur Wills	Raleigh, NC	Frank and Michele Stanley	Meadowview, VA		
Anna Huth	Edgewood, MD	Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Davenport	Houston, TX		
James Ballard	Houston, TX	E. Paul Morehouse	Akron, OH		
James Fleenor	Richmond, VA	Patricia Craig Johnson	Dallas, TX		
Ronald Cassel	Los Gatos, CA	Vicki Baker	New Castle, DE		
Wilma Moore	Brentwood, TN	Sandra D. Kruse	Friendswood, TX		
Sharon Withers	Lexington, KY	Mr. and Mrs. Richard McQueen	Abingdon, VA		
Pauline Gotham	Abingdon, VA	John Russell Montgomery	Murfreesboro, TN		
Dr. Charles S. Bartlett, Jr.	Abingdon, VA	John Gray	Tarboro, NC		
Billie Woodward Cummings	Woodstock, VA	Mary A. Ehlschlager	Seattle, WA		
Robert W. DeYoung	Joliet, IL	Virginia L. Bennett	Bloomfield Hills, MI		
Barbara Farris & Family	Abingdon, VA	George Kegley	Roanoke, VA		
Mary Ann Hinshelwood	Abingdon, VA	William Presley	Bristol, TN		
Robert L. Jones	Crofton, MD	James and Nancy McBrearty	Maryville, TN		
Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Montague	Abingdon, VA	Carolyn C. Ryburn	Glade Spring, VA		
Caroline K. Spires	Abingdon, VA	Carl (Bob) Maiden	Abingdon, VA		
Augusta Waters	Gadsden, AL	Peggy J. Johnson	Abingdon, VA		
Mr. and Mrs. James Garrett	San Antonio, TX	Cathy Hagy (George Wertz Exhibit)	Abingdon, VA		
Melba and Coy Powell	Charlotte, NC	George Bird Metcalf, Jr.	Abingdon, VA		
Richard and Hazel Blackwell	Edison, NJ	Carol Hawthorne-Taylor (Wertz)	Bristol, TN		
Frances Rutherford	Blountville, TN	Charlie Barnette (Wertz Exhibit)	Bristol, TN		
Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Bowden,	Abingdon, VA	Bob B. Buchanan	Berkeley, CA		
Robert & Linda Bailey	Novi, MI	James R. Fleenor	Richmond, KY		
Ralph & Holly Haynes	Auburn, WA	Jeni and Eddie Neely	Abingdon, VA		
Tina Roark	Bradenton, FL	Dr. C. Phillip Kestner	Kingsport, TN		
Cindy Cole	Brandon, FL	Mr. and Mrs. Tom McConnell	Abingdon, VA		
Barbara Smiley	Crozier, VA	Arthur Wills	Raleigh, NC		
Katharine Burland	Southfield, MI	J. H. Combs, Jr.	Abingdon, VA		
Pat Butkovich	Mount Pulaski, IL	Robert Moore	Wagontown, PA		
Kathryn C. Beattie	Chilhowie, VA	Karen McClanahan	Bristol, VA		
Sheila Stevenson	Maurertown, VA	John and Annette Legard	Abingdon, VA		

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A Thing of Beauty and a

The **Media Center** has embarked on another ambitious program to launch us into our 14th year. We had totally outgrown our original three indices used with our in-house History Search+ program. There were too many images, too many types of images and too many opportunities for mistakes and duplications. We had no choice but to combine those three indices into one. The complete conversion will take a year or more but our system is flexible enough so the index system will be useable while this conversion takes place. We aren't Google! They have spoiled us all.

When we started we were only concerned about finding and retrieving all the images referring to "Jacob Bell". Now, increasingly we get asked: a] "Could I see all letters you have that were written during the Civil War?" b] "I'm considering buying the big white house on Main. Could you give me the history?" c] "My great uncle had some kind of business here. What was it and where was it?"

To meet these added demands we not only combined the three indices, but also modified the search system to allow us to offer more options. These options are:

A] **Type** – photographs or documents

B] **Collection** – certain groups of images are grouped together in a "collection"; or a significant donation can carry the donor's name

C] **Category** – every image fits into one of 42 categories; i.e. *people, building, bible, fort, house, letter, map, mill, letterhead, obituary, railroad, school, survey, etc.*

D] **Primary and secondary** – *last and first name of a person, names of a school, business or town, the primary search subject*

E] **Dates** – *born, died, event*; these are known dates, not estimates or "about"

F] **Details** – explanation or details about the image; keywords; space limited

G] **Image number** – every image has a distinct number; the suffix is the page number

I want to introduce you to two not-so-new members of the Media Center team. Ann Kite Lee is an Abingdon native, which is a huge advantage since the rest of us are not, and handles the write-up of the work sheets for me. She is a valuable resource in identifying people, places and things around Abingdon. Next is Betty Taylor Duncan, who handles the big repetitious scanning jobs for us. Betty makes scanning an assembly line process. We have affectionately named her "Speedy Gonzales" for her ability to scan whole books in record time.

At the end of each calendar year we do a count of images we have scanned, lines of index, etc. so we don't know exactly where we stand in mid-year. At the end of 2017 we had scanned **172,028** images and had about **180,000** lines of index. We haven't slowed down in 2018 but our output has been affected by the move. We are still working out of boxes and just got all our PCs up and running but we are very much open for business so stop by our little, not-so-quiet corner of the world.

Jane Oakes

Membership

Membership renewals for 2018 are now due. **Those not paid by July 1, 2018 will be purged from the Membership List.** Dues remain at \$35 per person or family for an annual membership and \$350 for a lifetime membership. We also have three different levels of business memberships, student rates for any age, and a Library/Museum rate.

Dues and donations may be made on our Web page (hswcv.org) with PayPal, credit cards, or by check mailed to the Society at PO Box 484, Abingdon, VA 24212.



PLEASE be sure we have your current address and email so you don't miss out on anything!



**The Historical Society
of Washington County, Virginia, Inc.
P.O. Box 484
Abingdon, VA 24212-0484**

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Financial News and Updates

As you know, the Society purchased a new home in April of 2017. Because acquiring the building necessitated taking out a mortgage, and pre-move modifications have been expensive, we have incurred considerable financial obligation and increased operating expenses. We have gone from paying no rent (due to the generosity of the Town of Abingdon), to having a monthly mortgage payment of approximately \$1300, plus the increased utility costs of an 8000+ square foot building.

The Society's operating budget for year 2018 predicts a loss in excess of \$30,000. This loss, as in the case of prior years, deletes our invested savings the same way our building purchase drew down our savings and investment account. We look to our loyal members to again make operations financially successful through the balance of this year by your unrestricted donations, large and small, which cumulatively help our History of years past be the History of our future.

And recently, responding to the call, two anonymous donors – both Society members - generously gave \$25,000 each to the Society to be used to pay-down the mortgage and reduce monthly payments! These significant gifts will go a long way toward attaining the Society's long-term goal of owning a home of our own, and in the process help with the current financial stability of the Society.

We are deeply appreciative to these donors and their families and are honored to be the recipient of their trust in us to continue to collect, preserve and make accessible the records of people, places and events in Washington County, Virginia. It is hoped that by so doing, future generations may find common interest and knowledge in the unique heritage of our County and surrounding region.

Because the Society is a 501(c) [3] non-profit organization, donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. We will honor requests for anonymity.