

Randolph County Historical Society

Explore the Stirrup Gallery with the RCHS

The Stirrup Gallery of Davis and Elkins College showcases the extensive and fascinating artifacts of the Darby Collection. Join the RCHS at 7pm, Thursday, November 19, for a special program about the collection by Mark Lanham, Coordinator of Special Collections, as well as a tour of the Gallery and the special Harper’s Ferry exhibit. The Stirrup Gallery is located in the Myles Center for the Arts on the D&E campus, across the lobby from the Harper -McNeely Auditorium.

This evening will also feature the very short annual members’ meeting of the Randolph County Historical Society and the election of Board members. Anyone interested in getting more involved or joining the Board is urged to contact us prior to the meeting. The RCHS Board meeting will be held at 6pm the same evening, prior to the program, and is open to the membership.

Come find out what we are up to and how you can be part of the RCHS

Warm the Old Bones: Randolph County Museum Capital Campaign

Phase One of the RCHS Capital Campaign is underway, raising match funds for a grant request to replace the obsolete heating system in the Randolph County Museum Building, and to install an energy efficient HVAC system. This will not only save on heating costs, but create a much better environment for the lasting care of the artifacts and the building.

The Society has a pledge of matching funds up to \$5000 for private, organizational, or corporate donations or sponsorships toward this campaign that are pledged by the end of 2015. See page 3 for a letter from our Society President about the need for this campaign, as well as for a form for you to help!

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MUSEUM UPDATES

Now open 5 days a week!

Come visit the RCM Tuesday– Saturday 11– 4 pm

For an appointment email randolphcountymuseum@gmail.com or call (304) 637-7424. The museum is located on the corner of Main and Court St. in Beverly, WV. Admission is free.



Randolph County Museum

TOOLS OF LIFE: HOMESTEADING IN APPALACHIA (1836-MODERN)

The Randolph County Historical Society invites you to explore our new 2016 exhibit, researched and developed by AFHA AmeriCorps Kellyn Biela.



Perhaps you have seen the Homestead School in Dailey, still in use today, 75 years later. Do you know why it was built?

In October 1933, four years after the onset of the Great Depression, 30.5% of the population in Randolph County was receiving direct aid from the government, reflecting how affected this region was by the depleted coal and timber industries. The Tygart Valley Homestead was established under a New Deal agency that hoped to rehabilitate struggling families by providing them means to earn a living and survive on their own. The first family moved onto the Homestead in February 1935, and at the end of 1936, 750 people lived in the community. Community members built their

own homes and found employment in the construction or operation of facilities such as the general supply store, the weaving center, the garage and filling station, the stone quarry, the limestone crushing plant, or the school.

“Well, of course when the Homestead was started, the idea was to survive without whole lot of help. And so what they did, they planned to have homes built and each person was to have around two acres so he could raise the most of his food and be able to take care of himself. Besides that, they brought in people that would help. For instance, they had a home economics teacher and they had people who taught them how to farm or how to plant. You’d be surprised how many people didn’t know these things.”

- Olive Goodwin (11/20/90)

The exhibit showcased the work of four photographers, Carl Mydans, Arthur Rothstein, Marion Post Wolcott, and John Vachon. Assigned by the Farm Security Administration, these photographers captured the essence of Tygart Valley Homestead through their depictions of daily life, industry, work and schooling, portraying how a self-sustaining community developed during one of the most difficult periods in our nation’s history.

Accompanying the exhibit, Betty Rivard, editor of “New Deal Photographs of West Virginia, 1934-1943”, presented her research on the New Deal FSA photographers and their images of the Homestead. Ten photographers were sent to West Virginia, commissioned to use their skills to improve the image of the state and how the people feel about themselves. They captured on film, communicating across the nation, the needs and poverty of the rural communities, government solutions (like the model communities); and wartime images on the Homefront.

You can still see the exhibit on display November 28th or December 5th. If you are interested in Betty Rivard’s book, it is currently available in the Beverly Heritage Center Gift Shop.



This project is presented with financial assistance from the West Virginia Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations do not necessarily represent those of the West Virginia Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Hu-

manities.



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Through the years the Randolph County Historical Society has been involved in the preservation of local properties of historic importance, including Union trenches and the Confederate cemetery on Mt. Isner, and the old subscription school and Stalnaker House located on the Bosworth Store lot. The anchor of our properties has long been the Randolph County Museum, located in the old Bosworth Store building in the heart of Beverly.

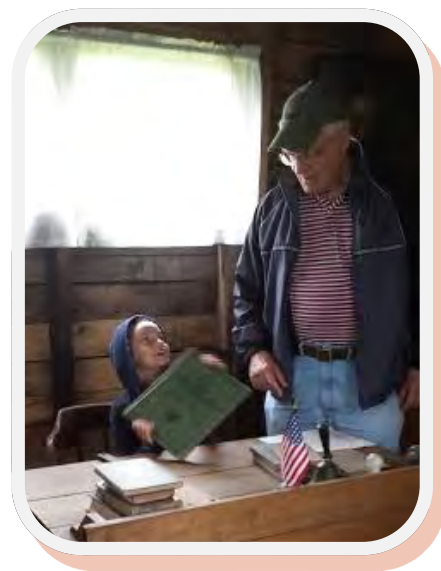
The building is not young, with its main section having been built prior to the Civil War, and it has suffered from a lack of capital for maintenance. We have recently worked on painting, replacing window sills, and blocking starlings from entering the attic and continue to make improvements to the structure. However, some needs require more than our modest means can presently address, with improved climate control in the museum building being one of the most pressing issues. The heaters now in the building are old, inefficient, and expensive to operate. We need to upgrade and modernize the system, and better climate control would help protect and preserve the building and our collection of artifacts.

We invite our friends to join this effort to warm the old bones of our museum building, and the old bones of our esteemed museum curator, Donald Rice. In the spirit of full disclosure, he is my uncle, and I would like to see us accomplish this major goal in his honor. The time and effort he has donated to the Randolph County Historical Society, and for the preservation of Randolph County History in general, deserves recognition.

We are applying for grant funding this year, but successful application for these funds is dependent on having significant matching funds on hand. Of course, if no grants come through, the money we raise will still be earmarked for the purpose of upgrading or maintaining the museum's heating system. Please help.

With warmest regards,

Donald L. Teter
President
Randolph County Historical Society



Volunteer Don Rice giving a tour of the One Room School House

Yes, I want to help with the Randolph County Historical Society's **"Warm the Old Bones Campaign"**

Amount of contribution: _____ enclosed: _____ pledged: _____

Yes, I want to **join / renew membership** in the Randolph County Historical Society for 2016.

_____ \$10 hardship _____ \$20 regular _____ \$50 supporting _____ other amount

Name: _____

Address: _____

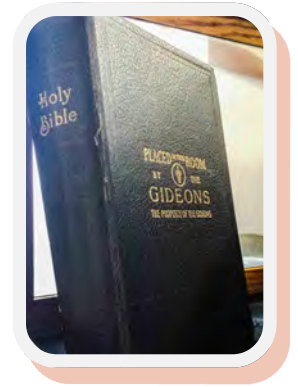
Email (if used) or phone: _____

*Return by mail with enclosed check to the RCHS at: **Box 1164 Elkins WV 26241***

FEATURED ARTIFACT

Our November 2015 artifact is a Gideon Bible from the early 20th century that belonged to the Cherry Fork School in Montrose, WV. With the current emphasis on the segregation of faith from schools, it might surprise you to learn this very Bible sat on a teacher's desk, placed there through a special project of the Gideons. Every artifact has a story— here is one connected to the Gideon Bible:

It was a summer evening in Montrose 1944, the winds were high and the sky pink. With the rain came the funnel cloud. The electricity was gone. All who could took shelter, unable to sleep through the night, the damage not realized until the next day. So is the story of Dorothy Smith, the current teacher of Cherry Fork School (built in 1900). The next morning she hurried to her school to find it completely gone with the wind. The thought flashed through her mind, “No job for the teacher, no school for the students.” The old coal house was there ready to start again, but no stove. No school. It was a time to cry. Then, suddenly, on the ground at her feet was the Gideon Bible. All the other books were gone. She thought, “surely the Bible is meant for me,” so she took it home for a while. When she noticed the gold inscription “Property of the Gideons” she returned the book to a local Gideon leader who in turn donated the book to the RCM to be placed in a display along with the accordion, bell, and school notes of Joseph Curtis— a teacher at Cherry Fork for five terms between 1902-1932.



STAY CONNECTED

Stay up to date on Randolph County History and RCHS news by:

1. *Subscribing to our email list*
2. *Joining us on Facebook*
3. *Volunteering*

⇒ *To subscribe or volunteer just email:*

If you would like to join or **renew your membership** digitally, please email the museum at:

randolphcountymuseum@gmail.com

If you would like to sign up for a membership manually, please send your name, address, email address, phone # and membership fee to the RCHS mailbox at: Box 1164

Elkins WV 26241

The Randolph County Historical Society (RCHS)
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**STIRRUP GALLERY PROGRAM
NOVEMBER 19**



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5