



Annual Meeting Wrap-up

The Historical Society celebrated our 90th anniversary during our annual meeting on June 13.

A good crowd of about 60 people attended the event at the Higher Education Center in Abingdon. Guests caught up with each other during the social time with wine, Tumbling Creek apple cider and hors' d'oeuvres while the Boys from Bristol, Easton Compton and Eamon Russell, provided traditional Appalachian music.

President Walter Jenny gave his annual report and the financial report from Treasurer John Neal before Charlie Barnett and Brett Compton were re-elected to new three-year terms on the Board of Directors without opposition.

Retired history professor and author Jim Hagy, who also turned 90 this year, was awarded the Davis-McConnell Award for his years of outstanding service to the Society and the community.

An excellent dinner was served by Bristol Cakery and Catering before the program, which was presented by Society member



Arthur "Scrapper" Broady. He gave an overview of his research on his ancestor, John Broddy, who was present at the Battle of King's Mountain and later provided valuable information about what transpired on that fateful day. Scrapper also was on stage at the Lincoln Theater in Marion on June 21 with a one-man performance about Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous appearance at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963.

A 90th anniversary is the result of consistent loyalty and teamwork. To honor that, our Local History committee and many others put a lot of time and effort into this year's celebration, and their service was warmly appreciated.



Photos by Jackie Weaver Dennison and Walter Jenny



Goodbye Mortgage!

As you know, the Board of Directors has decided to pay off the remaining mortgage on our property this year.

At the end of August, the balance of our loan used to purchase our property several years ago was down to \$27,382.06. We have raised \$21,265 of that, including two single donations of \$10,000 and \$5,000. We have more in outstanding pledges from our annual meeting, and we will continue to bring in more donations toward our goal. We will also receive a donation from Tumbling Creek Cider Company at the end of the year based on their sales of our commemorative bottles of apple cider.

The Board has voted to use the donated money to pay off the balance by the end of the year. Doing that will save us \$718.11 each month, about 9% of our 2026 monthly expenses, in our 2027 budget.

If you want to help nudge us over the finish line, feel free to send or drop off a check at the Historical Society office with "mortgage" on the memo line. Keep in mind that your donations are tax-deductible.

All non-profits depend on donations to make their budgets balance, and the Historical Society is no different. Every dollar adds up. Thanks to all of our donors, large and small, who have made this possible.



Photos From This Summer

The "Washingtons Unite" quilt, on tour around the country, was on display at the Higher Education Center in Abingdon. It represents all the counties named for George Washington. Mary Warner stitched our county's logo.

Photo by Walter Jenny



321 people attended our "Conversation with Jefferson and Washington" event with Kurt Smith and Ron Carnegie from Colonial Williamsburg. The two programs raised about \$4,000 for the Society. The video will be posted on our YouTube channel on November 1.

Photo by Walter Jenny



Our annual meeting and 90th anniversary banquet was well attended. Arthur "Scrapper" Broady provided the program.

Photos by Jackie Weaver Dennison and Walter Jenny



Ninety people attended our Living History program this year. Among our interpreters, Amber Fiorini and Kevin Slaughter portrayed Margaret and Samuel Vance, and J.P. and Shep Parsons told the stories of Andrew Willoughby and his son Andrew Jr..

Photos by Adele Lassiter and Walter Jenny

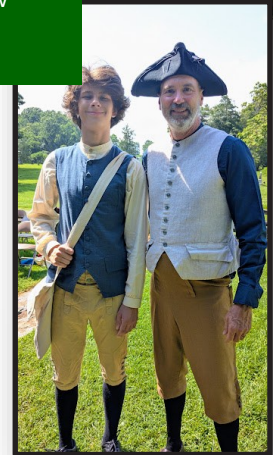
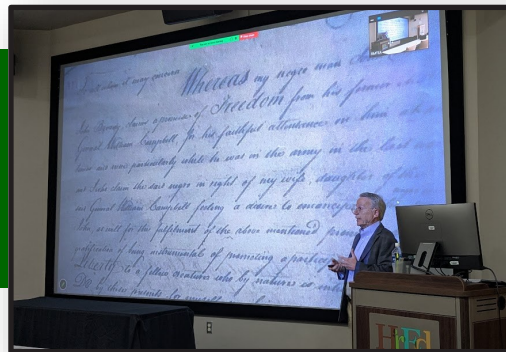


Our hard-working volunteers raised \$728 during the town wide yard sale.

Photo by Charlie Barnette

The Virginia Highlands Festival included two history related lecturers at the Higher Ed Center. Dr. Michael Puglisi (shown here) spoke about our African American community before the Civil War, and Eric Campbell from the Library of Virginia explained how Washington County was created in 1776. Eric's text will be in this fall's Bulletin.

Photo by Walter Jenny



"Our vision is to be an educational resource and community leader committed to collecting, preserving and sharing the records of people, places and events, so that future generations may find common interest and knowledge in the unique heritage of our County and surrounding region."

Fall 2026 Evening With The Spirits

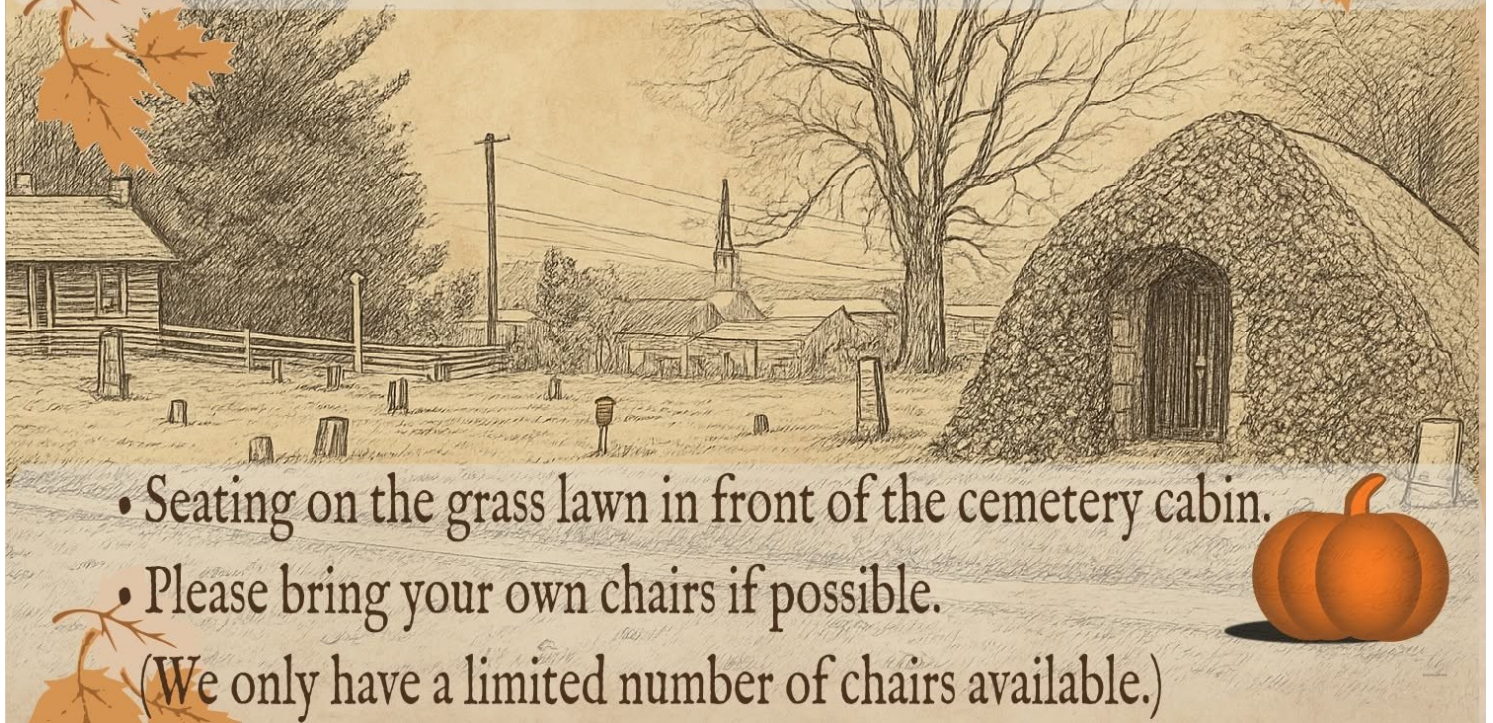
at Sinking Spring Cemetery, Abingdon, VA

Saturday, October 10, 2026 7:00-8:00 PM

Hosted by the Historical Society of Washington County, Virginia

A one-hour seated event featuring "Spirits" from our local history.

Tickets on sale at 6:30 PM at the cemetery gate – \$5 per person (cash only)



- Seating on the grass lawn in front of the cemetery cabin.

- Please bring your own chairs if possible.

(We only have a limited number of chairs available.)

- You may want to bring blankets and your own drinks.

- The presentation is family friendly and is not scary.

(Younger children may become bored.)

Location: Russell Rd. and Valley St.

Behind the Historical Society at 341 West Main St.

Free parking along the street or in the Society lot.

More info: Email office@hswcv.org or call 276-623-8337

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Starting 6/13 \$8 of every bottle goes to HSWC

Commemorative Historical Society Anniversary Bottle




We have t-shirts, totes and D2 kits for sale. Contact our office, go to our website or drop by the library.

Apple cider is available through Tumbling Creek at Abingdon Commons, 238 W. Main above Delta Blues BBQ.

In The News...

Society Board member Charlie Barnette continues his labor of love cleaning and preserving local cemeteries.

Earlier this month he gave a free class in cemetery care for the Royal Oak Chapter DAR at the Royal Oak cemetery in Marion. His day of service received front-page coverage in the Smyth County News & Messenger newspaper.

Charlie became interested in cemeteries in 2008 when he was searching for the graves of family members. He has since become a local expert at headstone cleaning and has visited hundreds of burial grounds in Southwest Virginia. Now he is working on a new book documenting more sites, many of which have not previously been recorded in the books we already have available at our research library.

The old saying “Gone But Not Forgotten” is still true in Southwest Virginia thanks to you and people you inspire!



By The Numbers...

Our Historical Society continues to show signs of steady growth, aided no doubt by this year’s 250th celebrations for the United States and Washington County.

The number of library visitors through the end of August is 658, up from 650 this same time last year. 351 of those were from Washington County, 106 from other places in Virginia, and 201 from out of state.

Our Facebook group has been viewed almost 1.4 million times in the past year. “Membership” in the group is now 14,542 and continues to rise, while another 1,572 visited but have not yet joined. There’s no cost to engage in this steady conversation about our history and local genealogy.

Our YouTube account has 245 subscribers since it was created six years ago. We have 94 videos from interviews with local veterans and sorghum making at Fairview to our “Conversation with Jefferson” program from last year; this year’s program with Jefferson and George Washington will be posted for the public to see on November 1.

Our dues-paid membership is 441 through June, up from 429 at the end of 2025 and 408 at the end of 2024. 257 of those are individuals or families, and 140 are life members.

We appreciate everyone for participating!

Monetary Donations

May through August 2026

Appalachian Memory Keepers - *Ashe County NC*
Joella Barbour - *Lodi VA*
Jack Barrow - *Abingdon VA*
Arthur Broady and Carol Barnard - *Richland WA*
Aubrey Brown - *Abingdon VA*
Patricia Caldwell - *Bristol TN*
Riley Clark - *Abingdon VA*
Brett Compton - *Bristol VA*
Robert and Elizabeth Craig - *Abingdon VA*
Mar Jane Crosby - *Abingdon VA*
David and Jill Dalton - *Abingdon VA*
Sandra Darden - *Abingdon VA*
Frieda Davison - *Williamsburg VA*
Paul and Jaymie Derden - *Abingdon VA*
Bucky and Elizabeth Edmondson - *Abingdon VA*
Eye Physicians of Southwest Virginia - *Abingdon VA*
First Bank & Trust - *Abingdon VA*
Foxglove Antiques & Etc. - *Abingdon VA*
Dierdre Goldsmith - *Abingdon VA*
James Hagy - *Abingdon VA*

Mark Hagy - *Abingdon VA*
Isidore Design - *Bristol TN*
Ben and Merry Jennings - *Abingdon VA*
Walter and Rose Ann Jenny - *Abingdon VA*
Jerry's Signs and Awnings - *Abingdon VA*
Nancy Leasure - *Abingdon VA*
Susan Lowry - *Abingdon VA*
Charlotte Lytz - *Blountville TN*
Michael Trueblood Family - *Cape Girardeau MO*
Bob Moore - *Altamonte Springs FL*
Richard Morgan - *Abingdon VA*
New Peoples Bank - *Abingdon VA*
Pamela Parks - *Marion VA*
Carolyn Ryburn - *Glade Spring VA*
Dan Smith - *Bristol VA*
Kimberly Smith - *Rosedale VA*
Carol Taylor - *Bristol TN*
TruPoint Bank - *Abingdon VA*
Stanley and Anne Tucker - *Damascus VA*
Doris Wells - *Meadowview VA*

Donations of Items

Yearbooks: 1924 Martha Washington and 1928 E&H / misc. old newspaper clippings
1942 shooting of two FBI agents at Pats Café
Smyth County Virginia / Order books #20 (1897-1901) & #21 (1901-1904);
Smyth County Virginia / Land Tax Lists (1832-1850); and
Russell Co Common Law Order Books 1&2, 1809-1824 and 1824-1837
Old Photos with captions / William King Boy Scouts, class trip
Books: Korean War; Civil War; Bloodlines: Deadly conflict between Hatfields and McCoys
Book: Pioneer Recollections by E.J. Sutherland
Book: Sullivan County 1779 Families and History, Vol. II
Book: The Long Hunt by Ted Franklin Beleu

Betty Cline, *Abingdon VA*
Robert Craig, *Abingdon VA*
Jack Hockett, *Newark DE*

Janna McConnell, *Abingdon VA*
Dean Roark, *Abingdon VA*
Kathy Shearer, *Emory VA*
Michelle Thomas, *Abingdon VA*
Gree Walbridge, *Virginia Beach VA*

Memorial and Honorarium Monetary Donations

In Memory of Emma Clark
Doris Wells - *Meadowview, VA*

In Memory of Kitty Henninger
Doris Wells - *Meadowview, VA*

In Memory of Catherine Elizabeth (Sanders) McConnell
Mary Cox - *Richmond, VA*

In Memory of Troy Taylor
Carol Taylor - *Bristol, TN*
Jane Bryan - *Abingdon, VA*
Doris Wells - *Meadowview, VA*
Barb Stewart - *Bristol, VA*

In Memory of Lila Thurmond
Doris Wells - *Meadowview, VA*

Thanks to all our donors for your support!

Arthur Campbell, Father of Washington County

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the creation of Washington County, it seems fitting to reflect on the remarkable life of one of the men who helped create the county and spent most of the rest of his life in its service.

Arthur Campbell was born on November 3, 1743 in Augusta County to David and Mary (Hamilton) Campbell.

When he was 14, Campbell was captured by Wyandot Indians and taken to the Great Lakes region where he became acquainted with their ways. He escaped two years later, traveling on foot 200 miles in two weeks until he met up with a British regiment. His family had given him up for dead. His insights into Indian culture proved valuable to the British government after his return, and he was given a land grant near present-day Louisville as a reward.

Campbell was a physically imposing man, nearly six feet tall with red hair and a fiery temper but was well read and a fluent conversationalist. His nephew David Campbell (1779-1859), later governor of Virginia, wrote that he was “hasty and excitable and disposed to be overbearing; and was often engaged in violent personal quarrels.”



David Campbell

About 1769 Campbell moved with his family to the western frontier, and in 1773 married his cousin Margaret Campbell. They built a home called Royal Oak in present-day Marion where Marion Middle School now stands. The family grew to include six sons and six daughters. Also that year he became a justice of the peace in the new Fincastle County and, as a major, led local volunteers who guarded the home front against Indian attacks during Dunmore's War. His name was attached to the Fincastle Resolutions on January 20, 1775.

As friction with England continued to grow, Campbell and William Russell were elected to the fifth Virginia Revolutionary Convention. Campbell voted in favor of independence on May 15, for the Virginia Declaration of Rights on June 12, and for the first Virginia constitution on June 29.



William Russell

*I am with great Respect
your Obedient Servant
Arthur Campbell*

Campbell's signature on correspondence to Thomas Jefferson, 1791

On June 10, 1776, the General Assembly received a petition from men “of the Western part of Fincastle County” asking for the “division if practicable or a separate district” because of the hardship of “near one hundred and fifty miles” to attend court or other public business. The first signer was Charles Cummings; the petition contained the signatures of dozens of early settlers of our area.

Campbell became a member of the House of Delegates in the fall of 1776 along with a new acquaintance his own age, Thomas Jefferson. The Fincastle petition and similar petitions were assigned to a committee Jefferson chaired and on which Campbell served. The first draft would have resulted in Fincastle and Kentucky counties, but competing interests killed the idea. Campbell opposed the original bill, but supported a compromise that proposed three counties - one of which, Washington, would have benefited him. As Jim Hagy wrote, “when Washington County came into existence he became not only the head of the county court but also the county lieutenant with the rank of colonel, something he could not have done in Fincastle County where (William) Preston served as the military leader.” Preston became the lieutenant for the new Montgomery County.

For more details about the legislative creation of Washington County, read this year's Bulletin - soon to arrive in the mail.

Campbell helped coordinate operations against Indians and Loyalists in the county throughout the Revolution. He was also elected to one-year terms in the House of Delegates in 1778, 1782 and 1783.

One of the many issues facing the new Commonwealth involved land ownership on the frontier. Did the interests of Thomas Walker's Loyal Land Company, for example,



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www.youtube.com/@historicalsocietyofwashing5798

under British law control over the unpatented claims of pioneers? Campbell remained in the thick of these disputes, supporting settlers who wanted to keep their land. The land companies prevailed in 1783.

Campbell also advocated for a new western state. There was considerable sentiment in 1784-5 around Abingdon regarding the idea, but Governor Patrick Henry was strongly opposed and sent William Russell to suppress the effort. By this time Russell had become Henry's brother in law by marrying the widow of Campbell's own cousin and brother in law, Gen. William Campbell, who died in 1781. Arthur was stripped of his appointed offices and the legislature defined separatist activity as treason.



William Campbell

Campbell relented; in 1786 and 1787 he was re-elected to the General Assembly and the new governor, Edmund Randolph, reappointed him to his posts as justice of the peace and county lieutenant.

Campbell became an active Federalist during the 1790s, winning federal appointments from President Washington as an Indian agent and for mail delivery.

In 1799, now 55 and with John Adams as president, Campbell resigned all his Washington County offices. Ten

years later he moved to the Yellow Creek settlement in Kentucky - now Middlesboro - near some of his grown children and other family members. Arthur died there of cancer on August 8, 1811 at the age of 68. Despite his fame, his grave in Middlesboro was lost until it was found in 1890 by construction workers. It is now marked by a modern headstone and a nearby historical marker. The Abingdon Town Council room is named in his honor.



Throughout his life, Campbell continued to acquire land. In 1785 he was the largest landowner in Washington County with almost 5,500 acres. By the time of his death, he held almost 15,000 acres, almost all in Virginia. But he was not a speculator; he rarely sold any of his land for profit, reserving most of it for his heirs.

Sources:

James William Hagy, *Arthur Campbell and the Origins of Kentucky: A Reassessment*, *Filson Club History Quarterly* 55 (1981): 344-374

Peter J. Kaston, *Arthur Campbell (1843-1811)*, *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, Library of Virginia, 2001

J. Allen Neal, John Allen Neal III, *Bicentennial History of Washington County, Virginia, 1776-1976*, Taylor Publ. Co., 1977

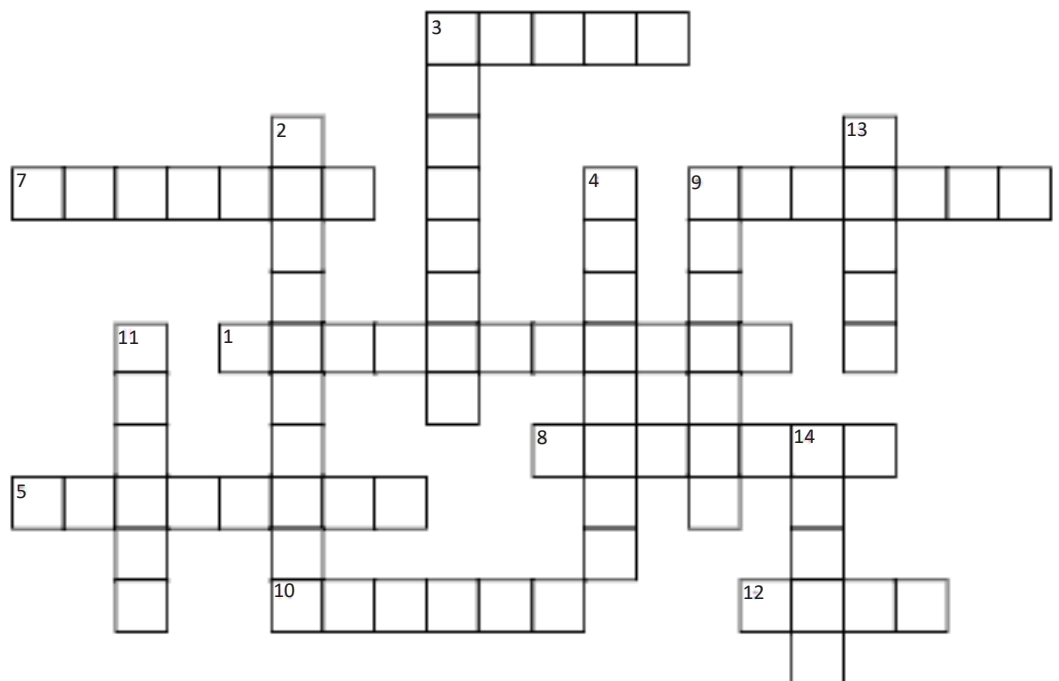
Across

1. Arthur's final resting place.
3. Apple _____
5. Coming soon.
7. Brother in law and cousin
8. Virginia is for _____ lovers.
9. Book donor
10. Society age
12. McConnell-Davis recipient

Down

2. Visitor from Williamsburg
3. Festival speaker
4. _____ Creek
9. Evening with the _____
11. Arthur's children
13. Margaret and Samuel _____
14. _____ Oak

Quick! Can you do the puzzle without looking back for clues?





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