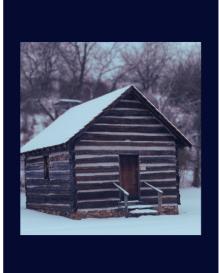
Newsletter of Historic Crab Orchard Museum & Pioneer Park, Inc.







JANUARY 2024 ISSUE 98

THE DISCALL PATHFINDER

FEATURING:

2024 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

PICTURES, NEWS, AND MORE...







Tazewell, Virginia



A Note from the Director, Cynthia Farmer

We have traveled another year together, working tirelessly to preserve and promote our heritage. I hope I never fail to acknowledge the efforts of so many dedicated to the success of Historic Crab Orchard Museum. We have a hard-working and devoted staff that depend on our faithful volunteers to help us with our many educational offerings. We are fortunate to have our membership foundation and the guidance of a dedicated volunteer Board of Directors supporting our mission. These efforts combined with the steadfast support of our many donors, sponsors, and other benefactors make our

common goal a success each year.

In 2023, we were able to make capital improvements to our Red Barn that greatly enhanced the display of artifacts, while also creating usable space for events and activities. Additionally, we renovated the tractor shed to become a dedicated exhibit area for our farming equipment and tools. These expansions and improvements have added real value to our site and improved the experience of our visitors and patrons.

We are encouraged with the growth of our Admissions and Educational Programs offered to schools and groups throughout the year, ranging from Spring Planting, Pioneer Life, Native American Life, and Pioneer Christmas Tours. Our visitors also enjoyed many events within the museum and Pioneer Park, including Living History Encampment, Independence Day Celebration, Fiddlers' Convention, Pioneer Apprentice Camps, and Frontier Christmas.

Many of our events engage the young and the young at heart. Undeniably, our Summer and early Fall events continue to be favored by many. Expanding on the long-standing success of our Pioneer Apprentice Camp for ages 8-14, we developed a Little Pioneers Camp for ages 4-7 in 2022. Both camps embody our mission by allowing the children to have a real Pioneer Living experience. Visitors far and wide gather each July for our annual Fiddlers' Convention that just celebrated its 20th year. This event highlights our Appalachian music heritage, while also showcasing our Pioneer Park and grounds. We continued our outdoor classroom at our 10th annual Crab Orchard Corn Maze, an event where we feature museum and local artifacts within checkpoints of the maze. In summary, another busy and successful year is behind us as we turn to new opportunities.

Now, as we continue this journey, whether your role is museum member, volunteer, demonstrator, board member, staff, donor, sponsor, or other supporter of Historic Crab Orchard Museum, never doubt that you do make a difference. So museum family, let's travel this road together, telling the story of our heritage, and preserving it for future generations to discover.



Publication of this issue of the Pathfinder has been delayed due to winter weather and staff illness.

We apologize for its belated arrival!

Please note – winter weather conditions may also cause last minute changes and cancellations for workshops and events. Please check our facebook page or call the museum for the most up-to-date information.

MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP BE PART OF II join today!

Did you know that Historic Crab Orchard Museum is 100% owned by its membership? Museum members are the most crucial element of our existence. Without the dedicated individuals who champion and sustain the museum and its programs, we would not be able to serve our region as a center for history and learning (and fun!) for all.

Becoming a member shows the community that you care about the museum and its mission to preserve the past for the future. As an added bonus, members receive exclusive discounts for museum programs and in the Gift Shop. If you're already a member, **THANK YOU!** If you've never joined, or your membership has lapsed, please consider joining now. We need you! Museum membership also makes a wonderful gift. Share your love of history with your friends and family!

Joining online is easy. Just visit www.craborchardmuseum.com to get started. You can even set up a recurring payment so you'll never have to worry about remembering to renew. Join today!

We are grateful for your continued support of Historic Crab Orchard Museum.

Welcome & Thank You!

WE'RE EXCITED TO WELCOME TWO NEW ADDITIONS TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
DOUGLAS BRANTON AND MICHAEL WOOD, III. DOUG WILL BE FILLING A VACANT SEAT AND
MIKE WILL BE STEPPING IN FOR DEPARTING BOARD MEMBER, BOND STRONG. WE THANK BOND
FOR HER SERVICE TO THE MUSEUM AND HOPE SHE'LL COME BACK TO VISIT OFTEN!

POSITION AND WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR THE DEDICATED INDIVIDUALS WHO DONATE THEIR TIME AND TALENTS TO CONTINUALLY MOVE THE MUSEUM IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION. THANK YOU





Frontier Christmas

It was a delightful time as we welcomed the holiday season with music and history throughout the museum and park! The spirit of giving was a strong presence, with over 800 lbs. of food donated to A Child Shall Lead Them Food Pantry. Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers and visitors for making Frontier Christmas such a joyful event!

2024 schedule of events



23rd Winter Buddies Craft Workshops 25th Board Meetings



1st
Winter Honey Festival Kick-off
6th & 8th
Valentine Ornament Workshops
20th & 22nd
Honey Bee Ornament Workshops



19th & 21st
Easter Ornament Workshops
TBD
Exhibition Opening



18th
Board Meetings
28th
Annual Membership Meeting



16th Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon



7th - 9th
Living History Encampment

18th - 20th
Little Pioneers Camp



4th Independence Day Celebration

> 12th - 13th Fiddlers' Convention

22nd - 26th Pioneer Apprentice Camp



15th Board Meetings



13th Crab Orchard Corn Maze & Pisgah Pumpkin Patch Opens for the Season



27th Crab Orchard Corn Maze & Pisgah Pumpkin Patch Closes for the Season



Visit the Museum!



2nd - 7th Annual Gift Shop Sale

6th Frontier Christmas

19th Board Meetings

Don't miss your last chance to visit HANG ON TO YOUR HAT!

Exhibition closing on Saturday. February 17th

Featuring historic headwear from the early 20th century and special treasures from the millinery shop of Miss Emma Yates in Pocahontas, Virginia, this exhibition offers a captivating journey through the evolving styles, cultural influences, and historical significance of hats. It also honors Miss Emma's community and entrepreneurial spirit, shedding light on her remarkable contribution to the town of Pocahontas.





Miss Emma Yates



Hang On To Your Hat! is presented in partnership with Historic Pocahontas, Inc. and the Tazewell County Public Library.



AT CRAB ORCHARD

On-site accommodations for four guests at Historic Crab Orchard Museum



living room

queen bedroom

twin bedroom

full bathroom

washer & dryer

tv (no cable or satellite)

wifi included

RATES

Single Night Rental: \$150 + tax Weekend Rental (Fri-Sun): \$275 + tax Full Week Rental: \$750 + tax

rental includes admission to the museum & pioneer park during regular hours MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

ARTISAN SPOTLIGHT

Ruth Miller

Ruth's handmade soap is made by Ruth with her four daughters, and her granddaughter, Victoria Ruth.



Ruth's soap is made with love in small batches, and is free of chemicals and dyes.

Each bar is scented with essential oils.



Find these wonderful soaps

and many more unique and handmade items in the Museum Gift Shop!



Winter Honey Festival 2024

Event Kick Off

Thursday, February 1st at 7 pm

Celebrate the start of the Winter Honey Festival at the museum with friends and fellow honey bee fans! Enjoy light refreshments, tour the museum gallery exhibits, including the current exhibit, Hang on to Your Hat!, learn about honey bees, and have a good time! The event will also feature a presentation by Dr. John Willis, Holy Land Honey, and honey samples from three different areas of Israel will be offered.

Whether you're a beekeeper, interested in honey bees, someone who loves honey, or just looking for a fun evening out, we hope to see you there!

New year. New Workshops!

Join us for a new series of no-sew quilted ornament workshops and other craft projects throughout the year!

Valentine Ornaments
February 6 at 5:30 pm
February 8 at 11:00 am

Honey festival Ornaments february 20 at 5:30 pm february 22 at 11:00 cm

<u>Faster Ornaments</u> March 19 at 5:30 pm March 21 at 11:00 am

\$15.00 WORKSHOP FEE AND PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED.
TO REGISTER, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CALL 276-988-6755.

Letting the Cat Out of the Bag

COMMON SAYINGS AND THEIR MEANINGS



Have you ever burned the midnight oil?

Complained that something cost an arm and a leg? Bitten off more than you could chew? Pulled out all the stops?

Told someone to sleep tight?
Idioms like these are a common part of how we speak. We often use them, knowing our meaning is clear to those listening, but not necessarily knowing the story behind the expression.

Our newest exhibition in the Lucie Greever Gallery will explore things we say and why we say them.

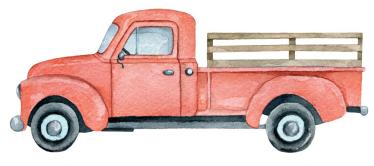
Coming this Spring!



wish A Truck!

Do you have a truck, SUV, or other utility vehicle you'd like to donate to the museum?

Do you know someone who might?



As we continue to increase our offerings for programs and events, the museum is sorely in need of a way to haul materials, supplies, chairs, tables, and more.

Your donation is **tax deductible** and will make a huge difference at the museum!

If interested, please contact Cynthia Farmer at cfarmer@craborchardmuseum.com or 276–988–6755.

Please remember that during the winter months the museum may be closed due to inclement conditions.

Be sure to check our facebook page for information about unexpected closures, or call the museum at 276-988-6755 before venturing out.

Stay warm, everyone!

Schedule Your Spring Tour Today!









Despite the January cold, we know spring is on the way and now is the time to schedule your visit to Crab Orchard Museum!

Group tours are fun and educational for visitors of all ages.

Our hands-on pioneer life and spring planting tours offer an authentic and captivating experience, bringing history to life.

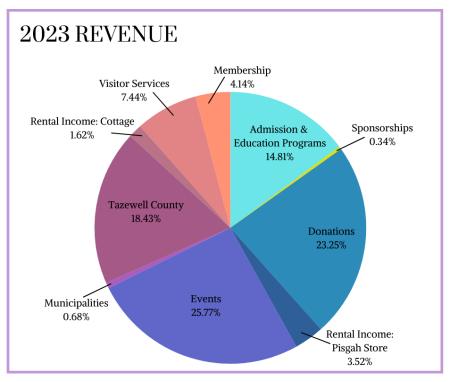
Step into the past with costumed demonstrators and interpreters to learn about the joys and hardships of life on the Appalachian frontier. Engage with our rich heritage and find out how well you would have fared as a pioneer!

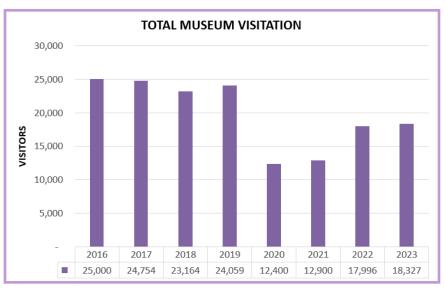
To schedule your group, contact Laura Mallory, Education Director, at 276–988–6755 or lmallory@craborchardmuseum.com.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Historic Crab Orchard Museum's fiscal year ended December 31, 2023 with total revenues of \$366,260 and total expenses of \$385,044, which reflects total expenses of \$18,784 above total income. This shortfall is partially attributable to a \$24,834 decline in donation revenue from Annual Fund, Major Gifts, and Donations, down from \$67,164 (2022) to \$42,330 (2023). A \$43,819 increase in total expenses in 2023 was largely due to rising utilities costs, insurance costs, and the addition of a full-time staff member.

Conversely, total revenue increased slightly, up \$4,442 in 2023, in comparison to 2022. Admissions & Education Programs, and Visitor Services revenue remained strong with only a \$898 decline as reflected in a previous year comparison: \$55,139 (2022) to \$54,241 (2023). This, combined with increased revenues of \$21,728 from Events, Rental Income, and Sponsorships, held total income steady. It must be noted, however, that an annual grant provided by the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors, continues to be a foundation stone for operating funds at 18.4% of total revenue.





Visitor Services continues on a gradual increase with a four-year review reflecting 4.9% (2020) to 6.1% (2021) to 7.2% (2022) to 7.4% (2023) of total revenue and can be accredited to increasing grounds rentals and on-site functions. Membership income rose slightly from 3.89% in 2022 to 4.14% of total income in 2023. The 2023 Events revenue remained steady at 25.8% of total revenue and continues to be largely comprised of Crab Orchard Corn Maze revenue. Additionally, Admissions & Education Programs increased to 14.8% of total revenue in 2023, up from 9.4% in 2022, which is consistent with increased school tours, workshops and other educational programs, during 2023.

2023 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

New and Renewed Members from January 1 - December 31, 2023

Mike Abel Rod Cury John & Rosemary Haun

Mary Adams Joe D'Amato George & Molly Hemsworth

Will Adams

Vince & Lucie D'Amato

Browne Hollowell

Tom & Lara Addison

Bruce & Cindi Daniel

Bill & Jennifer Alicie

John Daniel

Richard Hudson

Eleanor Armes

Greg & Cindy Deskins

Billy & Lee Hunter

Miller & Ann Asbury

James Deskins, Sr.

Bobby & Dede Hunter

Donna Bell Joy Deskins Sheree Hurley
Fame Black Jamey Doak Gene & Martha Hurst
John & Joanne Boggess Jim & Joan Doak Jeff & Charity Hurst
George & Donna Bowen Tom & Anne Dumper Mike & Cecelia Hymes
Joe & Gizele Bowen Michael & Jennifer Duty Billy Jackson

Joe & Gizele Bowen Michael & Jennifer Duty Billy Jackson

Ray & Darlene Bowling Brian Earls Natalie Crawford Jackson

Sarah Bowling Keith & Emily Edmondson Henry & Susan Johnson

Bob & Lorraine Bradshaw Don & Ellen Elmes Sam & Chrisa Johnson

Hal & Betty Brainerd Greg & Jennifer Estoll Jo Jones

Doug & Ginger Branton Melinda Estoll Eunice Jones-Lester

Nancy Brooks Lloyd D. Evans Kimberly's Greenhouse at Pisgah

Bob & Kathy Buchanan Sonny & Cynthia Farmer Dr. Charles King

David & Ann Marie Burks Rick Fisher Wayne & Barbara Kitts

Kim Campbell Joan Flynn Amity Lane
Tom & Michelle Carter Erica Galloway Mary Lawson

Glenn & Estella Catron Alan Galumbeck Larry & Mary Ruth Laxton

George & Letitia DuVall Chapman Robert & Anabelle Galumbeck David Leonard

Tearesa Clifton Bob & Sharon Gemmell Thad Lewis

Carl & Mary Coalson Bill & Cindy Gillespie Thad & Eleanor Lewis
Ellis & Dawn Cole Jeff & Susan Gillespie Zach & Ashley Peery Lewis

Scott & Keshia Cole Joyce Gillespie Lilies of the Field Thrift Store
Carol Combs Linda Gillespie Ben & Sarah Lineberry

Elene Combs Sterling & Nettie Green Phil & Linda Livoni

Doraldean Coon Darlane Haines Crockett & Cindi Lowe

Robert & Clara Corell Ash Harris Dianna Lynch
Ken & Kay Crabtree Patricia Harry Josiah Macias

Ronnie & Kelli Cruey Charles & Karen Hart Jean & Ralph Maggard

Mac & Mary Catherine Culbertson Chad & Wilma Hatcher Rick & Laura Mallory

Sandra Culler Russ & Debbie Hatfield Mary Lou Mannschreck

2023 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

New and Renewed Members from January 1 - December 31, 2023

Elsie Matney Mike McClure

Brenda McCormick Bill McDonald Martha McDonald

Jim & Barbara McMillan

Henry Miller

Anita McGraw

Roderick & Linda Moore

Sandy Mosolgo Sallie Moss

Peter & Jane Mulkey

Rachel Mulkey

Ron & Linda Mullennex

Grat Mullin

Terry & Irene Mullins Garnett & Nita Musick

Mike & Violet Neel
Joe & Cindy Nicholson
David & Nancy Olson

Wanda Partyka

Catherine C. Payne

Bill T. & Peggy Foster Peery

George Peery
William A. Peery
Michelle Perkins

Ben & Anita Poe Brad & Elaine Pyott Lonnie Quesenberry

Margaret Ratcliff

Susan Reeves
Narcie Reynolds
Rill & Karen Rich

Bill & Karen Rich Charlotte Rich indy Ringstaff Diana Roberts

Jonathan & Sarah Romeo

Tonia Russell Judy Sears

Seasons IV Garden Club

Bill & Pam Sexton

Singleton Funeral Service

Bonnie Sisk

Lance & Jennifer Skaggs

Jean Smith
John Spracher
Cynthia St. Clair

Kenny & Hedda St. Clair

Richard & Marian Stansbury

David & Valerie Stanton

Charlie W. Steele Rebecca Steele

Brad & Mary Ann Strong Reece & Bond Strong

Lynda Stuart Shirley Susman

Jim & Melissa Thompson Ron & Velma Thompson

Yvonne Thompson

Jane Thornhill Diana Tibbs

Gracie Vernon Martha Waddell

Mike & Hilda Wade Bryan & Sandra Warden

Daisy Watson Nina White

Robert & Bonnie White

Dwain & Patricia Whited

Eric & Charlotte Whitesell

Mary Sue Whitt

Charlotte Whitted Alison W. Williams George Williams John & Jane Willis Ray & Lynn Willis Tom Witten Tommy Wright

Dan & Joan Yates



We try our best to make sure our records are correct and up-to-date, but mistakes do sometimes happen. If we have omitted your name in error, as a member, donor, or sponsor, please let us know so that we may recognize you in our next issue of the Pathfinder.

The Legacy Society

Established in 2020 as a reflection of the need to support Historic Crab Orchard Museum & Pioneer Park as it was impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Legacy Society recognizes individuals who value the museum's mission to serve as a bridge across past and future generations, connecting us to our roots and reminding us who we are. Through a one-time gift of \$5,000, either in their own name or as a gift in honor of a loved one, Legacy Society members honor the pioneering spirit the museum seeks to remember and share with all who enter our site. Additionally, the creation of the society replaces the Lifetime option for museum membership, and all Lifetime Members are now members of the Legacy Society.

The museum staff and Board of Directors thank you, our most devoted and determined supporters, for remembering the museum and its mission to preserve the past for the future, and for taking on the challenges we face with the boldness and bravery consistent with our Appalachian heritage.

Mary Gillespie Adams

A gift from her children, grandchildren, & great-grandchildren

Grace Barnes

Mike and Donna Bell

Anne Bishop

A gift from her son, Charles W. Bishop

Joe and Gizele Bowen

Nancy Brooks

Frances Carlson

Ronnie and Kelli Cruey

Rod Cury

Rick Fisher

Gordon and Copey Hanes

Billy and Lee Hunter

Gene and Martha Hurst

Dr. Charles King

In memory of his wife, Mary L. King

Mary W. Qawson

Thad and Eleanor Lewis

Bob and Anita McGraw

Joe and Cindy Nicholson

David and Nancy Peery Olson

Catherine C. Payne

On behalf of the Stelio & Betty Tracy Corte Charitable Foundation

William *G.* Royall, Jr.

Lynda Stuart

Herman Watts

Mary Sue Whitt

Sandra Whitt

In memory of Rev. Dr. Kathy Spitzer

Charlotte G. Whitted

Dr. Tommy Wright

Held in perpetuity by the Office of the President, Southwest Virginia Community College

For information about becoming a Legacy Society member, please contact Cynthia Farmer by phone at 276-988-6755, or via email at cfarmer@craborchardmuseum.com.

2023 DONORS & SPONSORS

January 1 - December 31, 2023

The 1774 Circle

Recognizing donors making annual cash gifts of \$1,000 or more.

Mary Adams
The Betty Gardner Bailey Fund
Charles W. Bishop
Joe and Gizele Bowen
Jefferson Brooks
Nancy Brooks
Elene Combs
The George M. Cruise Foundation
Bruce and Cindi Daniel
Tom and Anne Dumper

Crockett and Cindi Lowe
Mary Lawson
David and Nancy Olson
Catherine C. Payne
Peggy Foster Peery
Lonnie Quesenberry
The Frank L. Smoot Charitable Trust
Tazewell County
Town of Bluefield
Charlotte G. Whitted

The 1774 Circle name commemorates the construction date of the original Fort Witten.

A & S Sanitation Will Adams Bluefield Daily Telegraph **Bluefield Monument Company Bluefield University** John and Joanne Boggess Ray and Darlene Bowling Bob and Kathy Buchanan Cargo Oil Company George and Letitia DuVall Chapman Claypool Hill Pharmacy The Stelio & Betty Tracy Corte Charitable Foundation **Crab Orchard Veterinary Services** Brenda G. Cruise Mac and Mary Catherine Culbertson Sandra Culler **Rod Cury** Vince and Lucie D'Amato David Mullins Wealth Management James Deskins, Sr. Jim and Joan Doak

Nancy Dunford

Etter's Greenhouse

Farm Credit First Sentinel Bank Fisher & Company Fisher Cove Farm Galumbeck, Stiltner, & Gillespie Carl and Linda Gillespie Gale Gillespie Joyce Gillespie Gillespie, Hart, Pyott, Thomas, & Hunter, P.C. Sterling and Nettie Green **Grants Supermarkets** David Harman Patricia Harry Russ and Debbie Hatfield **Elaine Holmes** Richard Hudson **Huffman Insurance Agency Charity McDaniel Hurst Hurst-Scott Funeral Homes** Mike and Cecilia Hymes Jennmar Corporation of VA

Kicks Country

Kimberly's Greenhouse at Pisgah

Mary Lawson Steven and Elizabeth McRae Marshall Miller & Associates Rod and Linda Moore Mulco Insurance Agency National Bank New People's Bank Olde Virginia Pharmacy **Outdoor Country** Wanda Partyka **George Peery** Sharon Peery Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. of Norton Lonnie Quesenberry Ramey Motors Richlands Lions Club Peggy Riley Diana Roberts **Travis Roberts** Russell County Farm Bureau Sassy Farm

Seasons IV Garden Club

Bruce and Flora Sherrod

Wayne and Barbara Kitts

2023 DONORS & SPONSORS

January 1 - December 31, 2023

Sleepin' Dog
Southwest Virginia Community
College
Cynthia St. Clair
Charlie W. Steele
Tazewell Carilion Community
Hospital

Tazewell County Fair Association

Tazewell County Farm Bureau Federation Tazewell Rotary Club Tazewell County Sheriff's Department Ron and Velma Thompson Twin Enterprises

Robert and Bonnie White

Mary Sue Whitt Alison W. Williams George Williams John and Jane Willis Thomas Witten WVVA TV



2023 HONORARY AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of Anne Bishop Charles W. Bishop

In Honor of

Mr. & Mrs. John Peery Boggess

Porter and Stevie Boggess

In Honor of

Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Porter Boggess, III

John and Joanne Boggess

In Honor of Nancy Greever Brooks
Peggy Foster Peery
Sharon Peery

In Memory of Doris Campbell
Elene Combs

In Memory of Emerson, Vernon, and Morris Daniel

Bruce and Cindi Daniel

In Memory of Morris L. Daniel
John Daniel

In Memory of Don Dunford

Jim and Joan Doak

Sharon Peery

Robert and Bonnie White

In Memory of
Katherine Peery Harman DuVall
Letitia DuVall Chapman

In Memory of Carl C. Gillespie, Jr.

Jim and Joan Doak
Thomas George
Gillespie, Hart, Pyott, Thomas,
& Hunter, P.C.
Anne Gillespie
Linda Gillespie
Anne Kiser
Catherine C. Payne
Kimberly Snyder
Robert and Bonnie White

*In Memory of Roger Hankins*Roderick and Linda Moore

Eric and Charlotte Whitesell

In Memory of Nancy Jackson
Billy Jackson

In Memory of Eli B. Jones, Jr. Lena J. Jones

In Memory of Brian Matney
The History Department
of Virginia Tech

In Memory of
James and Charlotte McVey
Will McVey

In Honor of David Mullins
Mary Lawson

In Memory of Paul Peery and Paul S. Peery Jennifer Jensen

In Memory of Bruce Sherrod
George and Molly Hemsworth

In Honor of
Mary Hamlin Sherrod Maser,
Olivia Sherrod Adams,
Robert Sherrod, and Flora Sherrod
Mary Adams

In Memory of
Charlie S. and Helen W. Steele
Rebecca Steele

In Memory of Donald R. Wimmer
Susan Jessee

In Memory of Jeanette Wood
Peggy Foster Peery

Virginia Association of Museums Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce Tazewell County Chamber of Commerce 'Round the Mountain:
Southwest Virginia's Artisan Network

WEMBER

(276) 988-6755 info@craborchardmuseum.com www.craborchardmuseum.com

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January 2024

Mewsletter of the
Historic Crab Orchard Museum
& Pioneer Park
3663 Crab Orchard Road
Tazewell, Virginia 24651

The Pisgah Pathfinder



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Kim Campbell
Lucie D'Amato
Annabelle Galumbeck
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Peggy Foster Peery
Lonnie Quesenberry
Peggy Riley
Travis Roberts
Michael Wood, III
Joe Bowen, Counsel to the Board



MUSEUM STAFF

Cynthia Farmer
Executive Director

Cindy Ringstaff

Administrative Coordinator

Laura Mallory

Education Director

Elisabeth Hemsworth

PART TIME STAFF

Brittany Davis, Bethany Estoll, Ron Ireson, Amy Whitt, Jenny Woodward

Mission Statement

The Historic Crab Orchard Museum is an educational institution whose mission is to identify, collect, preserve, interpret, and promote the diverse Appalachian cultural heritage of Southwest Virginia and the surrounding region.