

Virginia's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts Honorees 2018



Amherst County Historical Society
Amherst, Virginia

Wooden Leg of Edwin Spotswood Ware, SGT, CO 1, 19th Virginia Infantry

Contact: Octavia Starbuck, Director
staff@amherstcountymuseum.org
434-946-9068

Edwin Ware was shot in four places during Pickett's Charge on July 3, 1863. He lay where he fell until the morning where he was picked up by Federal soldiers and taken to a field hospital where his right leg was amputated. As Amherst County Commissioner of Revenue during Reconstruction, he liked to say, "I'm the only man in Amherst County with two left legs; one left on my body and one left at Gettysburg!" Edwin Ware's wooden leg is a unique piece of medical history from the late 1800s, and his life's story serves as a role model of successful handicap individual.

Fairfield Foundation

Gloucester County, Virginia

Images of African American Life in Mid-20th Century Gloucester County: Photographs and Mementos from the Freedom B. Goode Collection

Contact: Rebecca Guest, Development Assistant
rebecca@fairfieldfoundation.org
804-815-4467



A newly discovered collection of photographs and memorabilia belonging to Freedom B. Goode, who served for 39 years as the first African American unit director of the Virginia Cooperative Extension office in Gloucester, provides a glimpse of life in rural Virginia in the mid-20th century. Goode contributed to the growth and improvement of Gloucester, including initiating the Parks and Recreation and Community Education Departments. As an avid photographer, he captured events in the community from his farm extension work to proms and church functions, and once conserved, the collection will enable the museum to make connections with people in the images and assist with research for generations to come.



Friendship Firehouse Museum
Alexandria, Virginia

1858 Prettyman Hose Carriage

Contact: Dan Lee, Historian
dan.lee@alexandriava.gov
703-746-4733

The use of long fire hoses in the 19th century was a technological innovation. They replaced bucket brigades as a more efficient means to supply fire engines with a steady source of water from wells and cisterns. Special vehicles were created that could carry a reel of up to 600 feet of hose. Alexandria, Virginia's Friendship Fire Company purchased this hose carriage in 1858 in the North Pitt Street shop of coachmaker and Friendship member Robert F. Prettyman. Not only a technological advancement, the hose carriage was shown in parades, symbolizing early fire company members interest in supporting civic activities.



James Monroe Museum
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Pair of Umbrellas Presented to James Monroe and the Marquis de Lafayette

Contact: Jarod Kearney, Assistant Director and Curator
jkearney@umw.edu
540-654-1043

The unique pair of umbrellas were presented to James Monroe and the Marquis de Lafayette in 1824 in Boston during Monroe's presidency and Lafayette's "Triumphal Tour". They represent a landmark moment in American history when the nation came together to remember the sacrifices of the American Revolution. Lafayette is notable for having fought in the American Revolutionary War, commanding American troops in several battles, including the Siege of Yorktown.

Mosby Area Heritage Association
Middleburg, Virginia

Maurice Rector WWI Souvenir Pillow

Contact: Jennifer Moore, President
jmoore@mosbyheritagearea.org
540-687-6681



In 2018 a pillow was discovered in the attic of Fauquier County's historic Caleb Rector House. Upon first examination it was clear that the pillow case was made from elements of a soldier's uniform from the World War I era. Embroidered initials on the reverse side indicate that the uniform belonged to Maurice Bryant Rector, who lived in the Rector House until his death in 1982. It is a unique memento of a Virginian's service in the Great War and a visually interesting piece of local history. The circa 1801 stone house has seen over two centuries of history pass by its front door and happen in its parlor. At the time of the Civil War, Caleb and Mary Ann Rector owned the home that now bears their name. John Singleton Mosby officially formed his first company of the 43rd Battalion Virginia Cavalry in the Rector's parlor on June 10, 1863, and Confederate cavalry commander J.E.B. Stuart called the home his headquarters during the Gettysburg Campaign. Today, the Rector House is the headquarters of the Mosby Area Heritage Association.



Museum of the Shenandoah Valley
Winchester, Virginia

Stump Map by Folk Artist Robert L. Cross

Contact: Julie Armel, Deputy Director of Community Relations
jarmel@themsv.org
540-662-1473 ext 225

This unique Stump Map depicting the 50 states is one of 12 sculptural miniatures made by African American folk artist Robert L. Cross during his peak period of 1959-1974. Now ninety-two years old, Cross is the grandson of former slaves from Clarke County. Following stateside service during the Korean War, the artist relocated to Winchester and began crafting sculptural structures, "to learn how to build and design." Cross's time working on his family farm, in orchards, and at a local brickyard encouraged him to use both natural and man-made materials in his pieces. In this instance, Cross repurposed a locust stump discovered on his family farm as the core to a U.S. map that is guided by the contours of the wood. Many of the artist's pieces—including this one—are bounded/bordered by repurposed materials such as Christmas ornaments/lights. Cross approached his sculptures free form, making each piece utterly unique.



Red Hill-Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation

Brookneal Virginia

1823 Plat of Red Hill

Contact: Myra Trent, Community Relations Coordinator
trent@redhill.org
434-376-2044

Patrick Henry died in 1799 and instructed in his will to have his wife, Dorothea, divide Red Hill into two parcels. This plat was completed in 1823 after Patrick Henry's son, John, inherited the property from his mother's estate. John was three when his father died, so when he came of age, he inherited the land for which the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation now serves to preserve and interpret. This plat includes a hand-drawn map of Red Hill with the original latitude/longitude descriptions as well as key details about the placement of now-lost roads and natural identifiers. The preservation of this plat is essential to our ability to further interpret and restore the original property.

Southwest Virginia Museum Historical State Park

Big Stone Gap, Virginia

Rome Daniel's Accordion

Contact: Doretha Cole, Chief Range Visitor Experience
doretha.cole@dcr.virginia.gov
276-523-1322



This Fidel Socin accordion was brought to America on the French immigrant liner La Savoie at the turn of the 20th century by the young Romano Danelon. At some point between his Declaration of Intention to become an American citizen in 1901, and his marriage in 1914, Romano Danelon became Rome Fred Daniel, the name he was known by for the rest of his life. After clearing Ellis Island immigration in 1903, Danelon began the classic immigrant's adventure, and eventually became an integral part of his new home in Big Stone Gap. As a brick layer and stone mason, he made lasting contributions to the community, from the Presbyterian Church to the old Wise Printing Shop, and even the building which now houses his accordion, the Rufus Ayers mansion which is now the Southwest Virginia Museum Historical State Park. Throughout his long life, his love of playing the accordion remained constant, as the broken strap and worn surfaces where his hand rested attest. This beautiful instrument symbolizes the diverse culture of Southwest Virginia and its history as a destination for immigrants, stone masons and coalminers, shop keepers and dreamers, whose descendants can still be found in the area. Their story is the story of Southwest Virginia, and America.



Town of Wytheville Museums/Wythe County Historical Society

Wythe County, Virginia

1803 Fraktur, German Style Hand Painted Birth Certificate

Contact: Frances Emerson, Director
frances@wytheville.org
276-223-3330

This hand painted birth certificate is one of the few works by Wythe County, Virginia's wild turkey artist that still exists and is the only fraktur in the collection. It is an important example of the decorative arts traditions of the early German settlers who came to Wythe County in the late 1700's and of which is now a very rare art form.



Virginia Living Museum
Newport News, Virginia

Mastodon Fossil Collection

Contact: Judy Triska, Marketing Director
judy.triska@thevlm.org
757-534-7432

Excavated from a site in Yorktown, Virginia this collection of fossils represents the second Mastodon ever to be discovered in Virginia and is the first such discovery east of the Blue Ridge Mountains. This extinct elephantine mammal was last known to roam the earth more than 12,000 years ago. Mastodon fossils are extremely rare finds in Virginia. The collection comprises 20-25% of a full Mastodon and includes a complete tusk, a near complete foot, a partial jaw, a humerus bone, several ribs, several teeth, and many other bones. While the full animal is not intact, the condition of the fossil collection has the potential to be preserved well enough to share this mastodon's story.