



## Business Notes

Your museum has been the recipient of an additional \$5,000 grant through the Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge. It will be put to use immediately in purchasing materials and supplies for the mural soon to begin. A Grass Roots Grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities in the amount of \$3,000 has been applied for. At this writing, verification has not been received.

Internet service is now being provided by Metronet and allows coverage in all areas of the museum. The cost is a bit more than the previous provider, but will be worth the extra expense in that visitors will be able to access information while working on various types of research in the museum library.

The AH&AS website has been completely redesigned. The site is easy to navigate; provides museum history; contains an excellent collection of photos; allows immediate membership dues payment, making donations, ordering memorial/honor bricks...all at the touch of a few keys. There is also information on doing any of these by phone, mail or in person.

Please do check out the site at:

[www.aydenhistoricalandartssociety.com](http://www.aydenhistoricalandartssociety.com)

Phil Barth has designed a beautiful, portable banner to be used in any of the off-site presentations or participations where the museum is represented. Its inaugural display was at the Pitt County Youth Arts Festival held at South Central High School in mid-October. In addition to the banner, a large print of the old Ayden Depot, wooden train whistles, train drawings to color and a large hand bell (the kind the conductor rang to announce boarding time) attracted children *and* adults to the museum's space located in the school's lobby area. Several people signed up to help with the mural in the many different phases of its development. Participation in this festival broadened awareness of your museum across Pitt County in all age groups.

## Christmas at the Museum

The Annual Christmas Open House at the Ayden Museum will be Thursday, November 30th, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Held in conjunction with Christmas Town in Ayden, visitors may choose to come in before or after the parade. You will see old-fashioned decorations and enjoy a cup of hot apple cider with a tasty Christmas cookie!



## Mural Plans

Artistic Director Phil Barth has ordered the materials and drawn up the plans for the much-anticipated mural to be located on the front of the museum. The Town of Ayden is supplying the wood strips and the installation of same. The strips will provide the base to which the nine painted panels will be attached. When completed and mounted on the wall, the panels will form the now famous picture of the old Ayden Depot with the train pulled up beside it.

Volunteers will be needed as this project gets underway. "Oh, but I am not at all artistic," you might be saying. But you can mix paint, spread broad layers of color, clean brushes, etc., etc.! And have fun at the same time, watching this creation come to life. And here's another good piece of information: each of the panels will be completed one at a time, indoors, with weather as no concern and ladders not needed!

Just imagine yourself in ten or twenty years, standing in front of the museum, pointing to a section of the mural and saying, "I helped with that!"



## Bricks

After prolonged laser and mechanical issues at the brick supplier in Florida, fourteen back-ordered memorial/honor bricks have arrived. Placement in the front garden area has been completed.

## New Exhibit

Would you believe there are sixteen churches in the Ayden area that are *over* 100 years old? After extensive research by Andrea Norris, and the artistic design and placement by Phil Barth, the Historic Churches of Ayden exhibit is complete. The history of each church, as given by clergy or officials, is being compiled into a notebook that can be accessed by anyone wanting this kind of information. In the display, space is limited to one or two paragraphs...not an easy task, when some of the histories covered many pages of text. Pictures of some of the stained glass windows are being added to the space.

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## Additional Business Notes

The number of visitors to the museum continues to increase as more folks learn of its existence. From January to October over 400 people signed the guest book. Over 100 came in during the Collard Festival. This is going to be the highest attendance year to date, and it's not over, yet!

The Pitt County Cemetery Group meets at the museum each second Sunday. Reminder: club groups, family groups, school groups are welcome to schedule meetings in the museum. Fifteen to twenty people would be the most that could be comfortably accommodated.

The tri-fold informational brochure that was developed as the museum was in its infancy (2015) has become outdated. The revised brochure is being graciously printed for us by CopyPro, Inc. in Greenville. It will be given to new members of the community, visitors from businesses/organizations...wherever there is an opportunity to share our story.

A small contingent of the board of directors visited the John Lawson Days event in Grifton to determine the feasibility of sharing our museum's history in a space during the 2024 celebration. Members of their committee and museum graciously shared information, ideas and a tour of the Grifton Museum. Since the designated space for a display would be in an open breezeway, adapting to weather conditions could be a determining factor. Use of their large outdoor area is commendable (and enviable!).

## Membership Time!

Enclosed is a self-addressed envelope for your new or renewing 2024 membership dues. \$10 for individual, and \$20 for family. By joining AH&AS, you are contributing to the growth and care of your museum.

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## 1700s Ayden

Josh Richardson was a guest at the recent quarterly AH&AS board meeting. In doing family property boundary research, Josh found information that he felt might be of interest to the museum. And he was correct!

It seems that one Arthur McLawhorn, following the Revolutionary War, was given a land grant covering much of the area on which Ayden is located. Referred to as Ottertown (Arthurstown), the land was later divided among his grandsons, two of whom were William Henry Harris and Skilton Dennis.

To date, Josh has found records dating back to the mid 1700s. He has promised to return when he has more information related to town history, and to share written copies for placement in the museum library.

*[To be honest, your editor was aware that one of the original names for the town was Ottertown, and wondered if there had been an issue with otters. It's good to know it was a pronunciation issue rather than an animal infestation!]*

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## A 1916 Town Ordinance

Sec. 13. No person shall suffer or permit any bull, ox, heifer, cow, calf, horse, stallion, mare, colt, mule, jack, sheep, goat, or goose to roam at large or be tethered in any street of the town, alleys or unfenced lots of the town, by day or night. Any person violating any part of this ordinance shall be fined \$5.00. And every such animal or fowl found at large on the streets shall be taken up and impounded under the stock laws.

*[Hmmm...looks as though your chickens have the freedom to roam where they please...free range chicken!]*

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