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### *the muse news*

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 Box 529  
 Lynchburg, VA 24505  
 Phone (434) 455-6226  
 Email: [museum@lynchburgva.gov](mailto:museum@lynchburgva.gov)



**LYNCHBURG**  
 MUSEUM SYSTEM



*Museum Staff:*  
 Doug Harvey, Museum Director  
 Greg Krueger, Curator  
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CONT. FROM PAGE 1

provide power and illumination for the new clock. Bob Rodgers will replace the broken glass face on the exterior, install a modern electric clock mechanism, and a bell hammer activator to sound the original bell.

The Museum System is asking the community to donate funds to this worthy project. Making the clock and bell serviceable would bring a piece of Lynchburg's history back to life and create added interest in our "grand artifact on the hill"—The Lynchburg Museum in the Old Court House.

If you are interested in helping, please send your donation to the Lynchburg Museum Foundation, Box 529, Lynchburg, VA 24505 and note that it is for the clock project. The Foundation is a not for profit 501-c-3 organization and gifts are tax deductible. Will you help the clock tick and the bell ring once again?



*Kids and parents participated in "Lights Out" sleepovers at the Museum and Point of Honor.*

# Calendar of Events 2009

### **APR 21 Garden Day at Point of Honor**

Celebrate the Garden Club of Virginia's Historic Garden Week at Point of Honor (112 Cabell Street), one of the Garden Club's historic restoration projects. Join us for a tour of the Cabell home elegantly furnished with Federal Period antiques, special flower arrangements, and living history demonstrations, (434) 455-6226. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Free to Garden Day ticket holders**

### **JUN 22-26 Discover Lynchburg Summer Camp**

This week long camp runs daily for students 9-12 years of age. Students explore the history of Lynchburg at the Museum and Point of Honor, and go on field trips and a picnic. The camp is limited to the first 25 who register. Please call (434) 455-4424 or e-mail [rachel.deddens@lynchburgva.gov](mailto:rachel.deddens@lynchburgva.gov) for registration. Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **\$100 per child**

### **OCT 10 Day at the Point**

Point of Honor will host the 12th Annual Day at the Point on Saturday, October 10th. This fall festival brings living history, food, kid's games and crafts, period music, a full-size batteau, and more to the grounds each year. The home was built by the Cabell family and is among the finest examples of Federal architecture in Piedmont Virginia. (434) 455-6226. Hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. **FREE**

### **OCT 24 Apple Tasting at Point of Honor**

Join acclaimed orchardist and apple historian Tom Burford at Point of Honor (112 Cabell Street) for an apple tasting featuring heirloom varieties, some of which are found in the recreated orchard. Tours of the house and orchard are included along with a wine and cheese reception to follow. (434) 455-6226. Hours: 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. **\$40 per person.** Proceeds benefit the historic orchard at Point of Honor.

### **DEC 6 Christmas Open House**

Point of Honor, one of Lynchburg's architectural jewels, will host its 27th Annual Open House on Sunday, December 6th. Point of Honor is among the most elegant examples of Federal architecture in Piedmont Virginia. Join us for period music, refreshments, and special items on sale in our Gift Shop. 112 Cabell Street. (434) 455-6226. Noon to 4 p.m. **FREE**

**Visit our websites for updates and added events!**

**[www.lynchburgmuseum.org](http://www.lynchburgmuseum.org) • [www.pointofhonor.org](http://www.pointofhonor.org)**

# LYNCHBURG MUSEUM SYSTEM

BOX 529  
 LYNCHBURG, VA 24505





# THE MUSE NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER of the LYNCHBURG MUSEUM SYSTEM

## Bringing Lynchburg's Old Court House Clock Back to Life... And How You Can Help



St. Paul's Episcopal Church ordered a clock for their building at 7<sup>th</sup> and Church Streets from Boston in 1835. Built on land donated by Mrs. George Cabell of Point of Honor, the church raised funds for a clock and bell "for the public benefit of this town." The clock works are not signed but the bell is inscribed "John Wilbann, Philadelphia, 1825". When the church was altered in 1850, there was no allowance made to remount the clock and bell and they lay almost forgotten outside the church for five years.

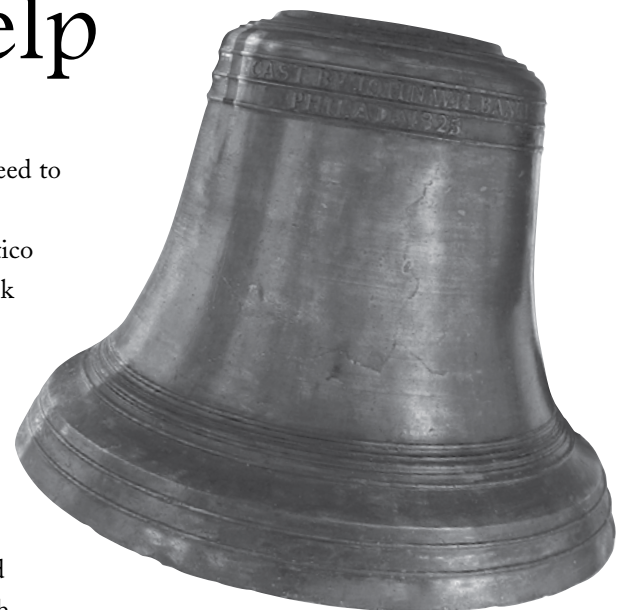
In 1853, while the Court House was being built, a group of citizens recommended to the City that a tower clock be added to the project and someone remembered the old clock and

bell from St. Paul's. The church agreed to donate both items to the project.

The pediment over the front portico was the only place suitable for a clock that would be visible to much of the downtown. The building designer, Andrew Ellison, came up with an innovative method of handling the weights that drove the clock and rang the bell. Since there was no tower for the weights to be raised and lowered within, he came up with the ingenious idea of having the weights move up and down inside the two columns nearest the front steps.

The clock and bell were a part of Lynchburg life for over 140 years. The bell struck on the hour, tolled for the passing of local dignitaries, and sounded the alarm for fires. During the Civil War, 13 rings of the bell meant that all convalescent soldiers in the Confederate hospitals that were able to shoulder a musket were called out to defend the city. Generations of Lynchburg residents used the clock to mark their daily activities.

The clock and bell weights had to be wound with a huge winding wrench every three days and the complex works required frequent repair. By 2000 when



the ceiling collapsed at the Old Court House, the workers who knew how to keep the clock going had retired or passed away. The building was under renovation until it reopened in early 2008 and the clock lay dormant; the bell was taken down to allow the cupola to be restored.

In recent months, we contacted one of the few firms that still work on tower clocks—Rodgers Clock Service of Harrisburg, PA. Bob Rodgers made a site visit and examined the clock, which he says is one of the older works he has seen. Based on research and his recommendations, the plan is to remove the old works and place them in the Museum collection. City workers will

# Looking For Mary

by Doug Harvey

One of the most enjoyable things about working in museums is the strange quests we sometimes go on and where they take us. As we were looking at what artifacts should be rotated on and off exhibit this winter, we decided to display a unique object that had not been seen here in many years—the Confederate coat of Mary Morgan Otey Forsberg.

Mary Morgan, also known as Mollie, was the daughter of a wealthy Lynchburg tobacconist and married George Gaston Otey prior to the Civil War. Otey enlisted in the Confederate artillery in 1861 and died of wounds in 1862. His mother, Lucy Minor Otey, had founded the Ladies Relief Hospital on Main Street and newly widowed Mary volunteered at this hospital.

In 1864, thousands of casualties poured into Lynchburg's hospitals, second in number only to Richmond. Among them was a Swedish native, Colonel Augustus Forsberg of the 51<sup>st</sup> Virginia Infantry who was severely wounded in the hand at Winchester. Mary helped nurse him back to health and his hand, which they thought would be amputated, was saved. After the war ended, Forsberg returned to Lynchburg and married Mary in 1865. According to her family, Mary said: "After I saved his hand, I thought I should have it."

The Civil War had been devastating to the nation and Lynchburg was no exception. Mary had lost one husband and seen thousands of men suffer in the hospitals. The local economy was in shambles in 1865 and Lynchburg was an occupied city, with Union forces in control. Confederate veterans were forbidden to wear their military insignia in public. Mary obviously did not feel the need to adhere to this regulation, as she had a jacket made in Confederate officer style on which she

added her husband's three gold stars on the collar, the rank of colonel. She added military style gold braid to the sleeves and wore it over a grey skirt. This attire must have caused quite a stir on the local streets.

Mary and Augustus remained in Lynchburg and he served as City Engineer for many years. He passed away in 1910; Mary lived until 1918. The coat remained with a daughter, Hilda Forsberg Davis, and the story of Mary, Augustus, and the coat was featured in articles in the *News and Daily Advance* in 1959 and 1960. Hilda donated the coat to the Lynchburg Museum and an oil portrait of Mary at age 5 to the Maier Museum of Art at her alma mater, Randolph-Macon Woman's College. The coat was loaned to the Chicago Historical Society some years ago and in 2007, to The American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar in Richmond as a unique artifact that showed the spirit of one southern lady during Reconstruction.

But while the Museum had the coat, the only photographs of Mary and Augustus were from poor quality newspaper print and a check with local repositories and historians did not turn up any better images. Searching on the internet, I found where Margaret F. Hodgdon had given Colonel Forsberg's diary to the Washington and Lee library in 1981. The archivist was able to tell me that Mrs. Hodgdon lived in Ingomar, Pennsylvania at that time. I searched her name and community and was stunned to find her recent obituary; she had passed away on January 31, 2009 and I had missed Colonel and Mrs. Forsberg's granddaughter by three weeks.

In the obituary and a feature article on Mrs. Hodgdon, who lived a varied

and eventful life herself, there was a list of survivors and I dialed information for the Ingomar area and asked if they had any Hodgdon's listed. They had one and I called and got Sue Hodgdon, wife of Richard. It turned out that Richard was Margaret's son and that he and Sue shared a love of history and had many of the Forsberg papers. As I described the photographs we were looking for, Sue told me: "I think I have them in this box."

Well, after a long talk with Sue, I called Richard the next morning and since then, there has been a fairly constant stream of emails, photographs, copies of diaries, and electronic greetings from far flung members of the Forsberg clan. The materials and photographs they have generously shared bring us valuable information on these significant people and families of Lynchburg. And in the museum world, when you receive a photograph taken about 144 years ago of Mary Forsberg wearing the jacket that you are putting on display, that is about the best you can hope for.

We look forward to sharing the jacket and photographs with our visitors and to seeing many Forsberg descendants tour Lynchburg in the coming year.



Col. Ludwig Augustus Forsberg,  
ca. 1865



Mary Morgan Otey Forsberg,  
ca. 1865 wearing jacket

# SOLICITATIONS

Total Received August 15, 2008-February 28, 2009 \$27,380.00

## \$15,000 & OVER

Estate of Edith Brooks Lee

## \$1,000 - \$5,000

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IF THERE ARE ERRORS OR  
OMISSIONS, PLEASE NOTIFY  
THE MUSEUM AT 455-6226

*It is never too late to help—please send your contribution to Lynchburg Museum Foundation, Box 529, Lynchburg, VA 24505  
The Foundation is a 501-c-3 organization dedicated to the advancement of the Lynchburg Museum System.*

## Artifact Changes and Additions

Since the Museum has been reopened for one year, we are rotating artifacts within the exhibits to rest fragile textiles and art and to show new (or not recently seen) artifacts to our visitors. One new object is a flight suit worn by Lynchburg astronaut Leland Melvin and a collection of photographs from his Space Shuttle flight, courtesy of NASA. Leland flew on the Atlantis mission in 2008 working with robotics and logging over 5 million miles in 12 days in space. He is scheduled for another mission in 2009.

The Museum will also hang portraits of Dr. John Terrell and his wife, Sue Wade Terrell, painted by Flavius Fisher.

Dr. Terrell, a Quaker by birth, served in the Confederate hospitals during the Civil War. He is especially known for his work overseeing the Pest House where smallpox patients were quarantined in the Old City Cemetery. Over time, the paintings had become dirty and Dr. Terrell's canvas was torn. Richmond Conservation Studio recently cleaned and restored the paintings.

Other items to be added include women's costumes, art, and domestic items, antique toys, four military uniforms, and more. We hope you visit soon to see more of Lynchburg's treasures on exhibit.