

“Our history is America’s history...”

Stewards of Area History

“Our history is America’s history” are words that resonate through the work of the Augusta County Historical Society. In this county that once stretched west to the Mississippi River and north to the Great Lakes, the stories are as numerous as the grains of wheat that once grew here in abundance.

Native Americans lived on the land for the first 15,000 years. European settlers and Africans, often held in bondage, followed in the early 1700s, cultivating the land, building homes, mills, and other businesses. It was here that Revolutionary War patriots helped secure their nation’s liberty; America’s agricultural revolution began; a future U.S. President was born; Civil War armies vied for control of a state; a missionary and human rights activist came of age, and great artists shaped their vision.

Indeed, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, Cyrus McCormick, Ida Stover Eisenhower, and Woodrow Wil-

son all played important roles in our history. Folk artist Grandma Moses, African missionary William Sheppard, artist George Caleb Bingham, singer Kate Smith, explorer John Colter, and architect T. J. Collins all enriched our lives with their talents. Daniel Boone visited kinfolk here, Charles Lindbergh landed here, Buffalo Bill performed here, and Billy Sunday preached here. Many of history’s great names such as Dwight David Eisenhower, Neil Armstrong, and John McCain trace their ancestral homes to this county. And – we cannot tell a lie – George Washington slept here.

The Augusta County Historical Society’s mission is to preserve and share this rich history. The past has made us who we are now and can influence who we are in the future.

All of our stories are important.

Stewards of Your Financial Support

The Augusta County Historical Society has established an endowed fund within the Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge, a charitable organization serving Augusta, Highland, and Nelson counties and the cities of Staunton and Waynesboro since 1992. The Foundation provides



professional oversight and investment of the many charitable funds, totaling over \$45 million, in its care. The Foundation also helps to simplify the process of charitable giving for individuals. Stewardship of its financial assets is a benchmark for the historical society as it continues to work its way toward excellence.

Augusta County
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

augustacountyhs.org

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Serving Augusta County, Staunton, and Waynesboro

Cover: Eric Pyle, JMU professor, portrays an 18th Century Surveyor at Fort Harrison in Dayton, Virginia



This Charles Hogshead surveyor’s compass, the

centerpiece of the Society’s collections,

symbolizes all the stories of Augusta County,

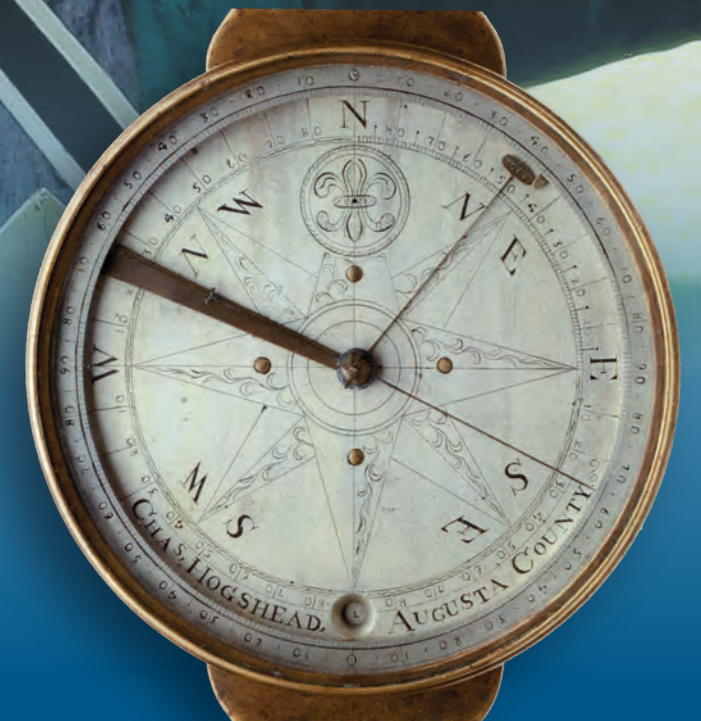
Staunton, and Waynesboro. And now, The

Compass Project will fund the telling of these

stories, of the skilled crafts people, of

exploration and settlement, of innovation, and

of “Preserving Our Past for the Future.”



The Compass Project

Augusta County Historical Society

The William C. and Frances Bowman Bosserman family members are pictured at their Mt. Tabor farm located between Staunton and Middlebrook circa 1898. On the back row (left to right) are Frances Bosserman, William Bosserman, Junius Edwin Spitler, Gladys Bosserman Spitler; on the front row (left to right) are Raymond W. Bosserman, Ira Zirkle Bosserman, Glenna J. Bosserman, Sidney Bosserman (behind Glenna), Olive Pearl Bosserman, Lucy Bosserman, and Zola Aria Bosserman. (ACHS John Brake Collection)



Handmade and engraved about 1790 by Augusta County surveyor Charles Hogshead, this extraordinary compass came home to our area in 2013. Its purchase was spearheaded by the Augusta County Historical Society, and its addition to the ACHS Collection is a shining example of what this community can accomplish.



We invite you to review the complete ACHS Strategic Plan

About the Compass Project Preserving the Past for the Future

The Compass Project is a financial master plan that undergirds the Augusta County Historical Society as it implements the Strategic Plan adopted in January 2022.

ACHS launched the Strategic Plan after a year of intense, comprehensive planning with input from community leaders, organizational stakeholders, Board members, staff, and focus groups, such as young adults. Highlights from the priorities identified by the plan include:

PRIORITY 1 Strengthen Our Operational Capacity

Raise funds to hire an executive director. Increase capacity through internships and volunteers.

PRIORITY 2 Increase Accessibility and Visibility for the Community

Digitize the Society's collections as well as private and institutional resources within the community, making as much of our history as possible available virtually through our *Augusta Community Portal*.

PRIORITY 3 Widen Public Engagement through Innovative Programs

Create and promote new events and activities as well as reinvigorate existing programs. Increase involvement of younger adults, families, and diverse communities. Be more relevant for current members.

PRIORITY 4 Advocate for Historic Sites

Advocate for documentation and protection of important historical sites in the area through archaeological exploration, preservation learning labs, and the establishment of a program to recognize places of local historical interest.

LEGACY GIVING

*You may contribute to the historical society's financial master plan **today** through:*

Cash contributions
Gifts of appreciated securities
IRA Charitable Rollover contributions (if you are 70½ or older)
401(k) Rollovers
Charitable Remainder Trusts
Charitable Lead Trusts
Gifts of Life Insurance

You may also plan ahead for future contributions to be offered through:

Bequests
Remainder interests in retirement plans and trusts
Gifts of life insurance

The Augusta County Historical Society is dedicated to preserving our local history for generations to come. We are able to carry the lives and legacies of past generations forward to the future with the help of donors like you. What you make possible includes:

Professional staffing
Archives management
Augusta Community Portal Project to digitize and make accessible ACHS and community resources
Genealogical research
Cemetery documentation
Annual journal of local history
History programs
Historic building documentation



ACHS offers a helpful resource guide that explains what Legacy Giving can mean for you and your family

ANNUAL GIVING

Annual gifts sustain ACHS operations throughout each year and make possible our daily operations, the preservation of important documents, photographs, and objects from our past, the presentation of exciting exhibits, and exemplary programs.

Three issues of Society newsletter each year share stories found nowhere else; our well-respected annual journal provides articles, historic photographs, and book reviews.

Programming each year includes spring and fall meetings, our Stuart Speaker series, special events, trips, and rotating exhibits in the R. R. Smith Center for History and Art, often in partnership with area history organizations. The Society's fine archival, object, and photographic collections are preserved in a climate-controlled environment at the R.R. Smith Center for History and Art located in downtown Staunton.



Here's where you can learn more and give to the ACHS Annual Fund



African American students attending Round Hill School, a school for "colored pupils" near New Hope, pose with their teacher. The school eventually consisted of two buildings, one built in 1881 and one in 1924. Alverta Lewis might be the teacher pictured here with roughly half of the students enrolled in the 1909-1910 school year. Augusta County and Staunton schools desegregated in 1966. (ACHS Coffman Collection)