

Historic BROWNSBURG Newsletter

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Brownsburg, Virginia • Virginia Landmark District • National Register of Historic Places produced by the Brownsburg Community Association



Two of the homes on this year's tour are Mulberry Grove (left) 18th century home of Isabelle and Barry Chewning. The "Big House" at West Airslie Farm, home of Kim and Scott Heslep is one of four homes on the farm that will be open.

Christmas in the Country Tour 2011

The 2011 tour will be held on Saturday and Sunday, December 10 and 11th. Four homes on West Airslie Farm, Heslep's property, will be open and on the tour this year. Additionally, Mulberry Grove, 18th Century home of Barry and Isabelle Chewning, will also be open. The Asbury Church, Brownsburg Museum, Brownsburg Post Office and New Providence Church will all be decorated and on the tour. Refreshments will be served in Brownsburg.

Parking for the tour will be at New Providence Church and shuttles will take all tour members to Brownsburg where the tour will begin on Saturday at 10:00 AM and continue until 4 p.m.. Sunday's

tour will begin at 1:00 PM and continue until 4:00 PM.

Tickets for this year's tour will be \$15 in advance and \$20 the day of the tour. They may be purchased in Lexington at Hamilton-Robbins and Books & Co. In Staunton at Blue Mountain Coffee, and in Brownsburg at Old South Antiques. Day of tour tickets will be available at New Providence Church.

Lunch will be served at New Providence Church. Reservations must be made by December 3 with Dot Martin, 339 Finley Rd., Raphine, VA 24472; (540) 348-5888. Make checks payable to Dot Martin, \$12.

Brownsburg Community Association Picnic

Richard and Betsy Anderson once again hosted the annual Brownsburg picnic at their home on August 28.

Under the big tent gathered over one-hundred Brownsburg area folks, to socialize and savor once again the renowned dishes that graced the almost 60 foot long serving table. The offerings, as in years past, were simply outstanding. It has become a gourmet feast, but still has that wonderful "down home" taste that all on hand enjoy.

A first for this year's picnic was a silent auction. More than twenty individuals and businesses contributed items for the auction. Oil paintings by local artists, dinner for two at Osceola Mill, a case of wine, just to mention a few of the items that were up for bid.

"Me and Martha" provided entertainment for the afternoon.



Right: New residents, Mike and Linda Smith, on the picnic serving line.



Village Resident on Reality Show

Brownsburg resident Jula Heslep Ladd and her horse partner Drawlin will be featured on HRTV's upcoming horse reality show "America's Favorite Trail Horse" which will start airing September 13 at 8:00 p.m. EST on Dish TV channel 404 or can be seen on line at www.hrtvlive.com or www.actha.us.

"America's Favorite Trail Horse" is "American Idol" for the horse.

She and Drawlin were selected from 1,000 contestants for the series which was filmed in Texas in May. Each episode will feature 10 horses competing in trail events, and after the broadcast you can go online to www.actha.tv to cast your vote for your favorite horse. The horse with the most votes from each episode will advance to the finals. Voting is open for 48 hours after the broadcast.

Julia and Drawlin was featured along with the other 99 selected horses in the first episode, which was not a voting episode on September 13. Her voting episode will air October 25 at 8 p.m. EST.

The series will feature many different breeds and disciplines of horses working thru trail obstacles. If you like horses it should be a fun show to watch.

Please remember to go online and vote for Julia and Drawlin on October 25.



L. to r.: Larry Smedley, Nellie Hart, Jane Vaughn, David Runkle and Tom Bare enjoy the schools exhibit at the Brownsburg Museum.

Class of 1961 Class Reunion

The class began their celebration by visiting the "Schools Exhibit" at the Brownsburg Museum. While in Brownsburg they also toured the remaining school buildings and went from there to Nuckol's Cabins on the Maury River for dinner. In addition to the 1961 class, there were members of the 1959 and 1960 classes attending.

Guess enjoyed sharing class memories, viewing DVD's of class history and newly constructed 2011 "The Royal" of class members.

*Thank you,
Brownsburg Museum Docents!
The Museum could not operate
without your help!!*

JEANNE ALEXANDER
 RICHARD ANDERSON
 DICK BARNES
 ANN BEARD
 BETTY BROWN
 ISABELLE CHEWNING
 MARIE COLEMAN
 NANCY AND PAUL HAHN
 PEGGY HAYS
 SUE HECHT
 KIM HESLEP AND DAUGHTER
 CONNIE HUFFMAN
 GLENDA JACKSON
 MARSHA JONES
 RICHARD KAUFFMAN
 DEE AND MICHAEL PAPIT
 BETSY AND MILTON REID
 ANN RUNKLE
 JOE AND MARGARET SKOVIRA
 YOGI SWISHER
 MELODY TENNANT
 JANE AND VALERIE VAUGHAN
 JOAN WHITESSELL
 JIM AND PAULA ZIMMERMAN

WELCOME!
NEW BROWNSBURG
AREA RESIDENTS



Mike & Linda Smith
 (Anderson Home)

Carol Clary & Family
 (Jeff Pharr Home, Sterrett Rd.)

Charles & Sarah Walker & Family
 (Sterrett Rd. at McClure)

James & Skip Gercke
 (McElwee Rd.)

Greg & Marlene Shear
 (Raphine Rd.)

Wardlaw Beginnings in Brownsburg

By Diane Wardlaw

Robert Wardlaw. The immigrant. Our common ancestor. The founder of our clan in America. The brave one who left his homeland of Scotland to search for a better life across the water.

Robert Wardlaw, and his son William, emigrated to America from Scotland around 1720-5. They eventually made their way down into the area that would become Brownsburg and settled first of all around South Mountain. The Rev. Samuel Houston, writing of these early times, mentions the Wardlaws and others as living near South Mountain about 1737 to 1740. They were early connected with Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church, which was near South Mountain area, and later were associated with New Providence Church. I believe this was around the time they moved closer into the Brownsburg area. Robert was in the vanguard of the town's settlement and when record-keeping was in its infancy.

In the book *Historical Significance of Rockbridge County Virginia* by James W. McClung, on page 91 talking about Brownsburg Academy, he writes, "The land on which this building stands came from the famous Borden Grant of 92,100 acres, granted to Benjamin Borden by Governor William Gooch on November 6, 1739, and this grant is recorded in the Land Office in Richmond, Virginia, in Book 18, page 360.

The first owner of Record in Rockbridge County was Robert Wardlaw, and it generally supposed that he purchased some land from Benjamin Borden about the year 1740. An article entitled 'A Well-Preserved Village' by Jen Wade Heffelfinger says "Legally established in 1793, Brownsburg was laid out on lands that belonged to Robert Wardlaw and Samuel McChesney and that lay along a main stagecoach line."

Robert Wardlaw and his son William both bought land early in Borden's Grant. William purchased 343 acres of land in 1752. The map of Borden's Grant shows where this 343 acres was close to Kennedy's (Wade's) Mill. They may have had this land and homesteaded on it for some years before he actually bought it, as this is how people established their claim on the lands in the early times when Borden's Grant was first being settled. There are records of early houses being built by Robert Wardlaw.

Probably some of the earliest ones were built by the immigrant, Robert Wardlaw, later ones were more likely built by his grandson, also named Robert Wardlaw.

Just north of New Providence Church on Hwy. 252 about a mile or two, we knew the Wardlaw land was close by and in 1996 we drove up the road and came to a big house on the right called Cloverdale Farm. On a hunch we drove up the driveway and went up to the door. This was on a Sunday, but the people were home and I showed her a map of Borden's Grant and told her we were looking for Wardlaw land. She studied the map for a minute and then said "I've never seen this map before, but this is William Wardlaw's land". We were all standing there in shock for a moment and then she went on to tell us what she knew. We went in the house and she had a bunch of papers on the history of the house. William had bought the land and built a basement part of the house on the side of the hill, so it was a walkout sort of basement with two to three rooms. We went to the basement and saw the original walls, floor, beams, door and windows that William Wardlaw himself had built. This is probably the place where William's children were all born. The house that was added to it over the years is now a beautiful mansion farm.

There are many records of Wardlaw land transactions and then as William's sons grew to manhood most were involved in not only planting, but in building houses and buying and selling land, mainly one of William's sons, also named Robert. From this auspicious beginning the Wardlaws then migrated down to Abbeville, South Carolina, Kentucky and Ohio. Wardlaws today span the globe and most all can trace back to our famous beginning when Robert and William Wardlaw first set eyes on Brownsburg, Virginia!

From my books *Wardlaw Chronicle*, and book-in-the-process *Wardlaw Chronicle - Part Two*. See all my Wardlaw books on my website at: www.ladath.com.



With Christmas right around the corner, don't forget that the **Brownsburg Cookbook** makes a great Christmas gift. Available at the Brownsburg Museum on weekends for \$16.



Historic Garden Week in Virginia

Save The Date
Saturday, April 28, 2012

Annual Home & Garden Tour
"Log Homes:
A Rockbridge Tradition"

Showcasing Residences In
Rockbridge Baths & Brownsburg



Sponsored by
Blue Ridge Garden Club
&
Garden Club of Virginia

Advance tickets on sale beginning March 1, 2012
at the Lexington Visitor Center,
106 E. Washington St.
and Hamilton-Robbins, 21 S. Main St.,
Lexington

Questions?

Call Julie Grover (540-463-6568)

This issue of the Brownsburg Newsletter is going electronically to all members who have e-mail addresses. Copies will be mailed to those who do not and will also be available weekends at the Brownsburg Museum. If you would like to add your e-mail address to receive the newsletter and other Brownsburg information, please send to mwoodson@wlu.edu.



BROWNSBURG COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

www.brownsburgva.org

P.O. BOX 82


BROWNSBURG, VA 24415

Announcements

BCA ANNUAL MEETING
to be held on
November 17 at 7 p.m.
at Asbury Church

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING
on December 3 at 5 p.m.
at the home of
Richard Kaufmann,
corner of Sterrett Road
and Brownsburg
Turnpike (252)

BLUE RIDGE GARDEN CLUB TOUR
of Brownsburg area log
cabins on
April 28, 2012



*Brownsburg Christmas
Tree Lighting*

Saturday, December 3, 5 p.m.

*Dick Kauffman's Home
(Sterrett Road and
Brownsburg Turnpike)*

*Ella and Charlie Wade
on guitar and violin*

*Carol Singing
Refreshments Served*