

*Est. 1908*  
BEDFORD city/county MUSEUM

Fall 1998

The Board of Directors of The Bedford City/County Museum has great news. The museum has received a matching grant from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources for the restoration of the third floor and the construction of an elevator. The museum has received the match from the city, the county and other generous contributors. The Board of Directors hopes this project will go out for construction bids in the fall.

Isabel Stephenson has made some wonderful donations to the museum's collection. One of these items is a beautiful quilt made by her great aunt, Isabel Petigrew Lueado. Several of these items are now on display in what was once the secretary's office on the first floor of the museum. Please come see these new additions to the collection.

The museum has also been given a wonderful portrait of Carrie Hudnall that is now on display with her wedding gown. This was given by Elisabeth Parsons and is on the first floor of the museum.

In the downstairs main hall there is an exhibit of World War I Trench Art loaned by Barbara Hatcher. Cody Williams has redone the upstairs

World War I exhibit as well as refurbished the World War II exhibit upstairs. Do come and see all the good things that have been completed this summer, thanks to good summer volunteer help.

September does not end our volunteer help. Karen Owens, a Longwood College senior will be doing an internship at the museum. Karen volunteered last summer and this fall will be working with the museum's collection. Karen will start with an exhibit for the Bedford Public Library on World War II as the opening of their lecture series September 10th. We look forward to seeing you there at the library.

This year the museum plans another silent auction. Everyone has been so supportive of the auction that it has become a big fund raising event for the museum. Items will be ready to view on Monday, September 21 and we will accept bids until Saturday, September 26, at 3:30 P. M. During Centerfest will be a great time to come see the new exhibits at the museum and buy all kinds of really great treats at the museum's Bake Sale. We look forward to seeing you at Centerfest.



# ONE-ROOM

# SCHOOLS

by Frances Owen

Public education, in the United States today, is one of our biggest responsibilities as well as a tremendous business enterprise. Virginia's and Bedford County's modern day budget, elaborate school plants, extended curriculum and expensive equipment is a far cry from the lowly beginnings of the educational program of our county.

During the Colonial period, most of the Virginia colonists were a cultured class and clergymen served as tutors for the young. The rich planters arranged for the education of their own sons and the children of their neighbors.

Tax supported schools and equal opportunities for all children was far from the thinking of most plantation owners and tax supported education was looked upon as charity for paupers.

Before the War Between the States, many pupils attended subscription or pay schools called Field Schools. A few citizens, ambitious for an education for their children, would combine their efforts and money and build a schoolhouse in an abandoned field and employ a teacher. The school building was constructed by community effort. One man furnished logs from his land, another, hand wrought nails. Books and study materials were brought from home which were handed down from parents and grandparents. for writing lessons, pens

were made of the wing feathers of a goose, sharpened to a point.

There were four legal attempts to establish public schools in Virginia. The first was in 1796 but it wasn't until 1870 that the breakthrough came and public schools became mandatory.

It was at this time the one-room schools came into existence and in Bedford County there were thirty-six one-room, white schools. Twenty-nine of the thirty-six teachers were men, seven, women. The men received \$36.52 monthly salary and the women averaged \$24.36.

These schools were full of activity from nine in the morning until four in the afternoon. There were usually twenty-five to thirty-five students consisting of seven grades. Classes were fifteen minutes long.

The day began with salute to the flag. Curing this time history was taught. Why we have the kind of flag we have? who took an active part in making the flag and why the flag was flown at half-mast was explained. Patriot's birthdays were also recognized.

Next was a short devotional, then a brief nature study. children were taught to observe leaves, trees, wild life and flowers. Other subjects taught, according to grade level,



FALL'S SCHOOL



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# THE CEDARS OF CIFAX

## A VIRGINIA RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

by *Kathleen Bonnie Worsham*

Mrs. Worsham, who spent years combing through public records, courthouse files, U. S. Census data, land and tax records, wills, inventories, marriage licenses, court proceedings, and, and historical archives, chronicles a very thorough, well documented, history of rural Virginia crossroads known as Cifax.

The story begins in 1760 when John Bush ( a descendent of John Bush who arrived in Virginia in 1618 on H.M.S. Neptune) patented 800 acres on Sycamore Creek in Bedford Co., Virginia. In 1796, the children of John Bush sold all of their father's land to Benjamin Moore (son of Benjamin Moore a Revolutionary War veteran and planter from Amherst Co., Virginia). Benjamin Moore added considerable acreage and in 1818 sold all of his property to Samuel Poindexter. The Moore Family moved to Arkansas where they are recognized among Arkansas' prominent pioneer settlers. Samuel Poindexter was a g-great grandson of George Poindexter of the Poingdestre/Poindexter family, Island of Jersey, who immigrated into Virginia in 1657 and the son of Joseph Poindexter a Revolutionary War veteran. Samuel owned the plantation (approx. 1.412 acres) from 1818 until his death in 1841.

After the division of The Cedars property upon the death of Samuel Poindexter in 1841, new names such as: Abbott, Coffey, Freeman, Ellett, Fellers, Hatcher, Hawkins, Higginbotham, Lankford, Logwood, Noell, Williams and the White and Thomson families, were to have a great impact on the village of Cifax. The White family is descended from Harry White who arrived in Virginia in the 1700s. The Thomson family, is descended from Dr. Alexander Spottswood and Henry Thomson. The wife of Henry Thomson, Lula May Lupton, is the niece of John Thomas Lupton, one of the founders of the Coca-Cola bottling industry.

The author also provides a wealth of information on the history of many black families who have figured prominently in the village for generations, including names such as: Cheatwood, Spinner, Miller, Goode, Poindexter, Haynes, Hatcher, Wright, Jones, Rucker, Turpin, Thompson and Walker.

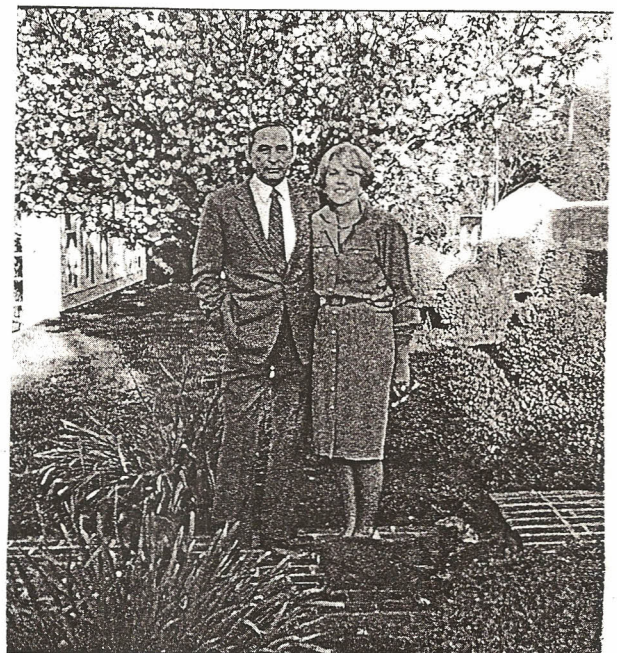
As a product of Mrs. Worsham's research the text includes genealogies, wills and estate inventories of several of the families associated with the village.

In 1991, Cifax was listed in the Virginia Landmark's Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This 263 page, attractive, hard bound book is brimmin with well-written,

interesting text and many old, as well as contemporary photographs of the 19th and 20th century buildings and inhabitants.



*The Cedars of Cifax*



*Raleigh and Bonnie Worsham*

## The Board of Directors of the Bedford City/County Museum

### One Room Schools in Bedford County

were music, drawing, history, geography, arithmetic, English and reading.

There was only one door and on a shelf just inside the door a water bucket was kept from which all the pupils and teacher drank, using a long-handled gourd.

Desks were arranged in double rows, girls on one side and boys on the other. In the center of the aisle, between the rows of desks, was a wood stove. Wood for the stove was hauled in by the families and cut in lengths by the older boys. The teacher sat at her desk in front of the class, opposite the one door.

In the Bedford City/County Museum these is a rare treat. for on view is a perfect replica a one-room school created by Layman Williamson of Botetourt County. This is an exact reproduction the Falls School built in 1890 and used until sometime in the 1940's. It was located on Bore Auger Mountain in Bedford County.

There is interior lighting so the viewer can look in the five, little windows and see the perfectly constructed two rows of desks, the stove in the center aisle and the teacher's desk in front. The windows were built only on one side of the building so as to have a south and seat exposure.

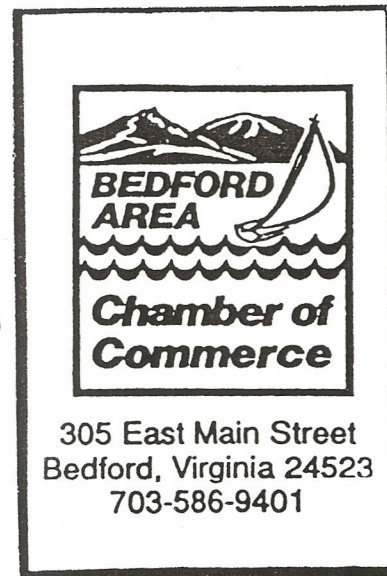
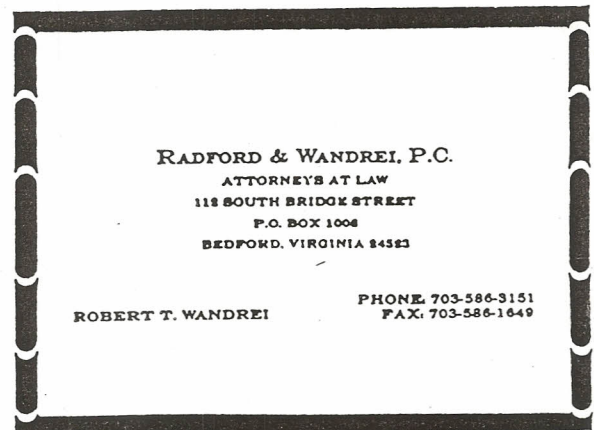
Mr. Williamson's wife attended this one-room school when she was a child and one of the purposes in constructing this miniature building was so the grandchildren could see the school their grandmother attended. It took approximately one month for Mr. Williamson to create this perfect replica of a part of our educational past.

From these little schools the girls were trained to become teachers, secretaries, stenographers and home makers. The boys became farmers and business men.

Harris Gardner, Chairman  
Dorothy Arthur, Secretary  
Winston Burks  
Evelyn Cherebin  
David Cole  
Dr. Thomas Jennings  
Frances Owen  
Harry B. Reed  
Anne Soukhanov  
Bert Wade

### Staff

Ellen A. Wandrei, Director  
Louise Bonds, Gift Store Manager  
Ruth Farrar, Aide  
Bernice Sizemore, Librarian  
Karen Owen, Intern



Sept  
15th @  
4:30



# NEW BOOKS IN THE GIFT SHOP

1.) The Cedars of Cifax: A Virginia Historical District \$26.13 (incl. tax)

By: Kathleen Bonnie Worsham

Documents the history of Cifax as well as the lovely home known as The Cedars.

2.) The Greenstone \$36.58 (incl. tax)

By: Rachel Parson Flynn Bishop

Is a compilation of the history of Southern Bedford County, including: Moneta, Huddleston, Stone Mountain and many others.

3.) Bedford Villages Lost and Found \$36.58 (incl. tax)

By: D.A.R., Peaks of Otter Chapter

Provides historical and contemporary information on Bedford County villages such as Kelso, Jeter, Body Camp and a wealth of others.

4.) The Stone Wall \$13.53 (incl. tax)

By: Brad Smiley

Documents the story of a confederate soldier while at the same time offering tips on researching genealogy.

5.) Leftwich History Collectibles \$15.68 (incl. tax)

By: Rachel Parsons Flynn Bishop

Provides a history of the Leftwich Family including that of their old home places.

## ORDER FORM

YES, I would like to place and order from the museum gift shop.

Book desired: \_\_\_\_\_

Price of Book: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping/Handling: \_\_\_\_\_ \$4.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check which I have made payable to the: Bedford City/County Museum.

Mailing Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

## BENEFITS FOR CONTRIBUTORS

The Bedford City/County Museum is a private non-profit corporation. Gifts are tax-deductible.

- All Contributors receive a Contributor card, copies of the Newsletter, and free admission to the Museum.
- All Patrons are recognized in the Museum Newsletter.
- Engraved nameplates are available for memorials of \$100 or more.

Yes, I want to help! Date \_\_\_\_\_

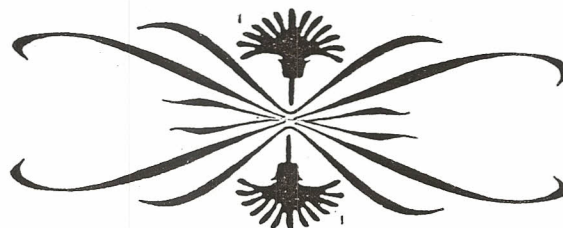
Here's my contribution:

Benefactor	\$1000
Building Facility Patron	500
Corporate Annual Patron	100
Sustaining Patron	50
Annual Patron	25
Donor	10
Other	_____

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_



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Centertown Bedford