New PHC Exhibits Opening

A series of four new exhibits will open during the next six months at the Presbyterian Heritage Center in Montreat, NC.

- The topic of these displays will be:
  - Native Americans and Presbyterian Missions across nearly four centuries;
  - Women’s right to vote movement, celebrating its centennial passage;
  - Mount Mitchell Railroad & Montreat, and Archaeology in the Middle East.

Cultures & Conflict: Native Americans and Presbyterian Missions highlights the 375-year history of efforts by Congregational and Presbyterian missions. From colonial efforts in New England during the mid-1600s to eventual continent-wide efforts during the 19th century, “Indian missions” involved Christian conversions, expanded education, practical economics, cultural erosion, dislocation, trail of tears, removals and more.

Among the early groups supporting missions to Native Americas was “The Honourable Society in Scotland for propagating Christian knowledge.” Founded with the support of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, The Honorable Society funded Presbyterian efforts in the American colonial period. Its most well-known 18th-century missionary was David Brainerd. This major exhibit contains rare newspaper from the 18th & 19th centuries, maps, illustrations, photographs, artifacts and books.

continued on page 2

From the PHC Archives

Christmas in Montreat

One of the PHC’s staff was recently reading a diary from the Kenneth Foreman Sr. collection. The diary details the festivities surrounding Christmas in Montreat in 1905 and 1906.

Dec. 22, 1905 — “The school had its Christmas tree (note: the Montreat multi-grade school was housed in the community center building, now occupied by the post office). My present to my unknown was a set of three pencils, with her name and address on each.”

Dec. 24, 1905 — “In the morning the church and Sunday School services were held jointly, after the manner of Children’s Day. Every child or adult in S.S. who had attended 26 Sundays or more, was given some remembrance. My present was a 4 in hand red necktie.... We hung up our stockings in the evening, as is our usual custom, sang the Christmas songs, and we older children decorated the tree.”

Dec. 25, 1905 — “It is too much trouble to mark in red all the red-letter days, but this is one, being the first one of which I opened my stocking before I was dressed.”

continued on page 2

Inside This Issue

New Exhibits  p. 1, 2
Christmas    p. 1, 2
Pandemic Collection  p. 3
Exhibits/Events    p. 4
New PHC Exhibits Opening

continued from page 1

If your church has supported or conducted missions and mission trips for Native Americans, please contact the PHC. We are looking for pictures, videos and documents, so that we can expand our coverage.

Right-to-Vote: Women’s Suffrage in the U.S. exhibit explores the Constitutional Amendment drive to enact the right to vote by American women, which is celebrating its centennial anniversary. The display reveals the role played by Presbyterians on both sides of the issue and the 70 year battle leading up to the law’s passage. It also reveals the issue of racial prejudice affecting the suffrage and political issues of the time. Plus, the exhibit highlights how the women’s state-by-state campaign finally pressured Presbyterian U.S. President, Woodrow Wilson, to support their cause.

2021 Future Exhibits

Trains & Trestles: The Story of the Mt. Mitchell Railroad & Montreat will open during early Spring 2021. Through pictures and a model railroad display, the history of the early 20th century lumber and tourist line will be featured. Once running through Montreat, the railroad abandoned its lumber activities by the 1920s and was superseded by the Mt. Mitchell (Automobile) Toll Road from Black Mountain through Ridgecrest.

Archaeology in the Middle East will open during late Spring 2021. This exhibit will feature pottery, coinage and cuneiform shards, as well as Dead Sea Scroll fragments sanctioned by the Israel Antiquities Authority. The history of the region, the origins of Biblical Archaeology, timelines and hands-on activities for young people all will be a part of the display. If you have any Biblical pottery or other materials for possible display, please contact the Presbyterian Heritage Center.

Christmas in Montreat

continued from page 1

“For dinner we had: mashed potatoes, chicken, turnips, peas, bread, jelly, cake, plum pudding, nuts, raisins, figs, and oranges.”

The Christmas 1906 season got off to a rocky start. On December 21, 1906, Kenneth writes that his younger brother, “Charles was sick the day before, and on this date, which was Friday, Mamma, suspecting it to be Scarlet Fever, did not go up to school.”

Once the doctor confirmed that it was Scarlet Fever, the Christmas entertainment and services involving the community were cancelled to prevent the spread of the disease.

Dec. 24, 1906 — “I got a Christmas tree for Mrs. Constantine and took it up there in the morning.”

Dec. 25, 1906 — “Was Christmas. On the day before I got some hemlock branches and Mama put them on the stand in the corner of Charles’ room.... I was invited to Mrs. Constantine’s for dinner... The presents for us all were at Mr. Constantine’s. Irena sent most of Charles’ presents home that day — he did not open them, however, for they would have had to be burned or fumigated, which last, indeed, most of them were, in any case.... There was a little party, at which were Mr. & Mrs. Lansing, Miss Christianson, the Lord children, Irena, and I, besides the host and hostess. We first went in to see the tree, which, when lighted and decorated, looked very pretty. Then we played games and had refreshments, until it was time to go home.”

The diaries of Kenneth Foreman Sr. give us insights into Christmas in Montreat about 113 years ago. It also reminds us of the ongoing, periodic health threats to the community.

As we weather this year’s Covid-19 pandemic, we can be thankful for what we have and those we know.
Collecting Pandemic Artifacts, Stories, Digital AV and more

We are living in perilous times, as did the American people during October of 1918. That month, the second wave of the misnamed Spanish Flu closed churches, businesses and indeed, all of society.

With uncanny similarities to the 1918 pandemic, the 2020 Covid-19 led the historians at the Presbyterian Heritage Center in Montreat in May to begin seeking objects, archival materials (both digital and physical), and web content that reflect the experiences of the public, Presbyterian/Reformed churches, organizations, and others.

Examples include online videos of church services, church newsletters, posters, photos, newspaper clippings, etc. We have been in contact with churches, pastors and individuals across the country, from such places as California, Kentucky, Michigan, New Mexico, New York, and North Carolina.

This material could be used in future exhibits and by authors/researchers of this time.

As one observer noted: “Museums serve many roles in a modern community by providing education and a window into other worlds. But one of the key things that a museum can do is help people to understand moments in history. By documenting the pandemic that we are living through, museums can help us to make sense of it - both in the short and the long term. This process puts together a collective memory of the event.”

If you have ideas and materials for this Covid collection, contact the PHC with questions or to arrange delivery of materials — info@phcmontreat.org.

We also appreciate financial support during this pandemic era, you can contribute online through the website - www.phcmontreat.org - or by sending a check to the Presbyterian Heritage Center, PO Box 207, Montreat, NC 28757.

Editor’s Note: PHC Currently Open

The Presbyterian Heritage Center was closed this past March through mid-September 2020, as were other North Carolina museums. We have been open on a limited schedule this Fall and have been visited by many people — regular visitors, authors, researchers and others. Face masks are required at the PHC until further notice.

With the unpredictability of the Covid-19 cases, it may be possible that we may have to close again temporarily. Please call 828-669-6556 or check our website before you come to make sure we are open.

Closed during Christmas holidays.

Online Museum Offerings

The PHC has been increasing its online selections for virtual museum goers.

During 2021, we will be exploring webinars, guest lectures, additional games, educational online resources for Sunday School classes, and much more!

If you have a request for a specific topic to be covered, please let us know.

We are working on exhibit booklets and lesson plans, as well as video clips from our collection. In addition, the PHC website will be extensively expanded during this winter.

There also will be museum tours and a regular Treasures from the Attic, where we will show and talk about an artifact, rare document or glass slide from the PHC collection.
Current Exhibits Displayed At The PHC

The current exhibits at the Presbyterian Heritage Center include:

**Who Are Presbyterians?**

From John Calvin and John Knox to Presbyterians coming to America, this exhibit explores all facets of Presbyterianism. Ongoing.

**Fiction & Fantasy: C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien & Dorothy Sayers**

Come see first editions of fantasy novels and murder mysteries of this vaunted group. Open through 2021.

**Age of Reform: Child Labor**

Come see photos, documents and the pen used by U.S. President William Taft to sign the first federal child labor law. Open through March 2021.

**Central American and Caribbean Mission Histories**

Cuba, Caribbean Islands and Central America were mission fields for all Presbyterian denominations. Open through August 2021.

**Appalachian Gospel Carvings**

There is always a display of Rev. John Mack Walker carvings of Gospel scenes using Appalachian folk. There are 29 carvings at the PHC, but not all are on display as we rotate the sculptures. Ongoing.

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**PHC Contribution Options**

The PHC relies on contributions to conduct its educational activities, create exhibits and preserve its various collections. Help us in our mission. Please give.

**Annual Operational Fundraising Levels**

- Celtic Circle $150 - 499
- Kirkin Circle $500 - 999
- Tartan Circle $1,000 - 2,499
- Witherspoon Society $2,500 - 4,999
- Knox Society $5,000 - 9,999
- Calvin Society $10,000 - 24,999
- Heritage Society $25,000 +

☐ Other Amount $___________

**Legacy Kiosk** — contact the PHC for more information on permanently profiling your family or church through video, photos and biographical information on kiosks in our lobby.

**Naming Opportunities**

☐ Levels of $10,000, $25,000, $50,000, $100,000.

Please call to discuss 828.669.6556

**Adopt a Collection or Digital Preservation** (help preserve and protect valuable artifact & manuscript collections, as well as films/photos housed at the Presbyterian Heritage Center)

☐ $5,000

Please call to discuss 828.669.6556

Send your contributions to:
Presbyterian Heritage Center, PO Box 207, Montreat, NC 28757

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Support the Presbyterian Heritage Center at Montreat

**Yes:** I/we want to support the Presbyterian Heritage Center at Montreat.
Here is my ☐ donation or ☐ pledge

of $________________ or

of $________________ annually for three years.

If a pledge, please indicate when you want to be invoiced. Date(s):

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Write how you want your name(s) listed

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4 — The Herald December 2020

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Presbyterian Heritage Center at Montreat