

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Transylvania Heritage Museum Continues to Celebrate the County's History in 2012

Transylvania County is rolling into 2012 after an extensive year of celebrations to mark the 150th Anniversary of Transylvania County. Last year was filled with historical celebrations throughout the county, and the Transylvania Heritage Museum was instrumental in providing historical displays to contribute to the festivities. While the monumental 150th Celebration year has come to an end, the Transylvania Heritage Museum is continuing to carry the torch of history into 2012 and the years to come.

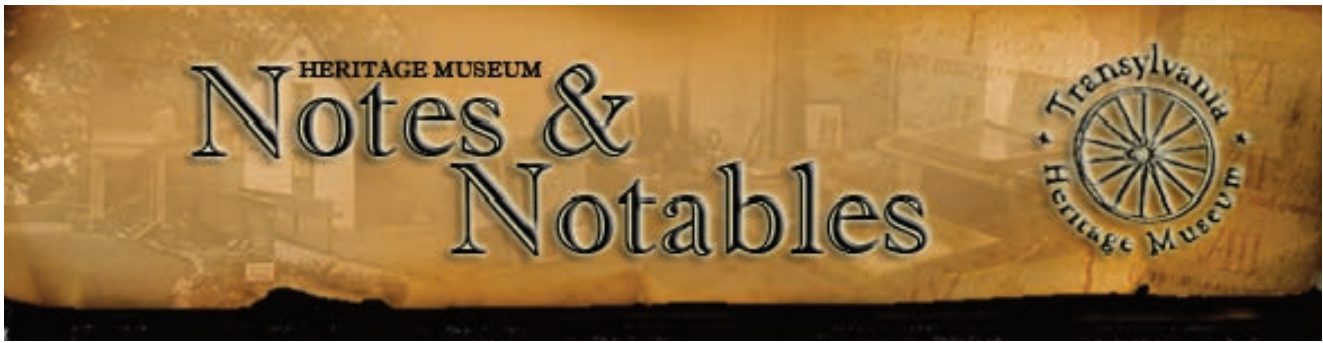
Last year's historical festivities were celebrated at the individual community centers throughout the county. To maintain this momentum of compiling and storing historical information, the representatives from the individual communities have committed to remaining involved as a collective group. According to the Executive Director of the Transylvania Heritage Museum, Rebecca Suddeth, "The representatives from our county's community centers have formed a 'coalition of communities' to collaborate with the Transylvania Heritage Museum in continuing to capture the history of each community."

One of the remarkable projects that was initiated during the 150th Celebrations last year was the creation of a quilt to represent the theme of "Weaving a Tapestry of Community". Each of the communities is represented in the quilt, and after it is sewn together and quilted, it will travel from community to community and spend some time in both the T.C. Library and the T. Heritage Museum.

Susan Threlkel, who was instrumental in synergizing all of the community events last year, is very excited to facilitate the continued collaboration among the communities. "The 150th Celebration was a remarkable year! It raised community awareness of history and reminded us of what we value in Transylvania County. It is up to all of us to take advantage of this greater sense of community and pride in family, to build on the momentum created and to continue to celebrate, to educate and to preserve our rich heritage."

The Transylvania Heritage Museum is well worth a visit. For locals, transplants, or visiting tourists, there is a wealth of information surrounding our county's heritage. There is a rich collection of exhibits, photographs, and collections that will interest old and young seasoned or aspiring historians. For those interested in exploring their local family history, the Genealogical Society is located in the upstairs of the museum. Even the old building that houses the Heritage Museum can be considered a local artifact, it was the home built at the end of the 19th century by Thomas England, who owned the first General Store in Brevard.

In addition to the exhibit, the Heritage Museum is actively involved in educational programming which is available to schools and civic groups, community centers, and educators who are interested in learning more about Transylvania County. The Museum's "Teaching Trunk Program", a program funded by a grant from the Transylvania Endowment of the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, is used in Transylvania County Schools as a resource that makes history come alive to students. "Students were able to learn so much about the history and economy of our county by analyzing photographs and artifacts included in the Teaching Trunk." states Crystal Whitman, Lead Teacher at Rosman Elementary School. "By allowing students to wear gloves and use magnifying glasses during these lessons, the students felt as if they were detectives searching through decades of Transylvania's history." Additional trunks on Educational Changes and Civil Rights are available to schools this year. The Heritage Museum will gladly accept donations of items "that illustrate the history of our county and the heritage of those who have lived that history". Dusty local artifacts and well-preserved family heirlooms are all welcome!



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The Museum has been closed briefly for its annual maintenance and organization, and will re-open on February 18th at 1:00pm. The first exhibit to debut this year is Perseverance, Strength, and Faith: The African American Experience in Transylvania County. The staff at the Heritage Museum have been working closely with the Transylvania Citizens Improvement Organization (TCIO) and the Rosenwald Community to present this fantastic exhibit.

There are several other special exhibits that will be presented through the year, and many other opportunities to enjoy events at the Heritage Museum. Once the museum re-opens, the regular operating schedule is Wednesday through Saturday from 10am to 5pm. The additional events include remaining open during the Gallery Walks on the 4th Friday's of every month, and participating during the celebrations of all festivals that are held in Downtown.

Starting on February 18th, head on over to the Transylvania Heritage Museum to explore the cornucopia of historical resources that are offered. Peruse the artifacts and exhibits while pondering the significance of preserving our county's heritage and consider investing in the sponsorship of a portion of the offerings. Sponsor support is a vital asset in fulfilling the mission of the Transylvania Heritage Museum, and there are a variety of sponsorship options available for both corporate and individual donors. The Transylvania Heritage Museum is operated by the Transylvania Heritage Coalition, Inc., which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; financial support is tax deductible.

As it is so eloquently described in the Vision of the Transylvania Heritage Museum, "Heritage isn't dead-it is a living thing that changes and grows with each person and each generation that comes onto the scene. It connects us with those who went before us and those who come after us. It connects each one of us in this special place, at this particular time. Heritage is a gift and a responsibility. To preserve this gift, we must be passionate about it, dedicated to pursue it, and committed to sharing it with others."

For more information about the Transylvania Heritage Museum and its upcoming activities, visit www.transylvaniaheritage.org.

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