



HOMESTEAD HIGHLIGHTS

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2009

On Exhibit

Do not miss these two original exhibitions. The main gallery features Rick Hyman's "The Riches of Family: An American Journey from Slavery to Prosperity" and in the downstairs gallery is Pierre Daura, "Virginia Landscapes." Both on exhibition through March 31. See story on page 3 for more detail.



The Homestead Postcard Club Exhibit features antique Valentine's Day cards to tickle your fancy!

CONTACT US:

Reynolds Homestead
463 Homestead Lane
Critz, Virginia 24082

(276) 694-7181
(276) 694-7183 fax
martinlm@vt.edu

Eagle Scout Project Honors Homestead's History

Kevin Daniel Reynolds was recognized on January 10 for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout during a Court of Honor Ceremony held at the Reynolds Homestead. The ceremony was conducted by Patrick Henry Troop 69 of the Blue Ridge Mountains Council. In order to reach this rank, young men are required to complete many milestones, one of which is the successful completion of a service project. The staff of the Reynolds Homestead are pleased that Daniel chose to undertake an assignment that is an important piece of the history of the Reynolds Homestead.

had no hand rails. Phillip Plaster, Scoutmaster and unit leader, Daniel's father, along with other members of Troop 69, spent about seven months giving this focal point a fresh new look. This project was special to Daniel since his ancestors

from the spring. His design also included replacing the bridge, building a picnic table and benches, and erecting a sign to identify the spring as the main source of water for the plantation during the mid-1800s. The historic home bears the name "Rock Spring Plantation" which gives additional validation that the spring played an essential role in the day-to-day lives of the Reynolds family.



The proud Reynolds family (l to r): father Kevin, sister Kate, Daniel, grandmother Jewel Gray, and mother Malissa

Daniel and other members of his troop observed that improvements were needed around the Homestead's rock spring. The grounds around the rock structure were filled with weeds and undergrowth and the spring had running water but was full of sediment. Visitors were able to walk to the spring; however, the bridge leading to it was unstable and

were slaves on this estate and in all likelihood spent time at this very spot.

Daniel's plan was to mow and weed the area and remove the sediment

In an emotional and joyous celebration, Daniel was recognized for "The Rock Spring Restoration Project" and for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. With Daniel's work to create a significant makeover of the rock spring, we are now able to showcase this piece of family history.

We congratulate Daniel and thank him for the significant contribution he has made to bring beauty to an area that had been forgotten!



A summer camp student enjoys the newly-restored Rock Spring

Gospel Celebration!

Gospel choirs from churches throughout the area will gather at the Reynolds Homestead Virginia Tech Continuing Education Center on **Sunday, February 8, starting at 3:00 p.m.** The public is invited.

The Reverend Burgie Penn will lead the annual gospel celebration marking the 20th year of commemoration of Black History Month. This traditional event spotlights the wealth of talented gospel singing in our community. The Trinity Church of the Living God in Stuart will

serve as the host choir.

"We are honored to pay tribute to the African American culture, and I cannot think of a better way to do that than to hold a joyous afternoon of praise with talented musicians and vocalists," stated Kay Dunkley, Director of the Reynolds Homestead.

Admission is free and attendees are encouraged to arrive early in order to get a seat.

Volunteering to Serve as an Historic Interpreter

A Message from Director Kay Dunkley

Adults who are interested in volunteering to serve as historic interpreters (guides) are asked to attend a tea at the Homestead on February 18th at 3:00 p.m. Individuals will learn more about the benefits and rewards of this important assignment. The Rock Spring Plantation and the 785-acre estate are historical attractions in Patrick County. Come and learn more about this valuable site and volunteer your time to serve in a role that shares the successes of the Reynolds family.

The staff of the Reynolds Homestead Virginia Tech

Continuing Education Center know the importance and benefits of volunteerism. Community service is an expectation of our jobs that stems from Virginia Tech's motto of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve).

Lisa Martin devotes over 200 hours a year to community service, including an upcoming stint as Vice-President of the PC Chamber of Commerce. She also makes a significant contribution to the Extension Leadership Council. Michele Faircloth is an active participant in PAWS (Patrick Animal

Welfare Society), and Beth Ford volunteers with the PC Historical Society. I am a member of the Stuart Rotary and also serve on the Virginia Tech Council for Women Leaders in Philanthropy (WLP). Douglas Turner is always ready to share his talents with several churches in the area, and Eydie Clifton is involved in activities at the Spencer-Penn Centre.

Come and join us for tea on February 18. Help us develop the best interpreter program we can. **WE NEED YOUR GIFTS AND TALENTS!**

Strategic Planning

What does the future hold for the Reynolds Homestead Virginia Tech Continuing Education Center? Please send an e-mail to Kay Dunkley (kdunkley@vt.edu) with answers to the following:

- What are we (the Reynolds Homestead) doing that is good?

- What needs improvement?
- What is missing altogether?

We value the input of our community as we plan for the future!

Thank you.



“The best performance by a child actor ever. Period.”

Film Critic Richard Propes

Dinner and a Movie Night



The Reynolds Homestead's monthly "Dinner and a Movie Night" features the 1996 French classic "Ponette" on Thursday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m.

The movie stars 4-year-old Victoire Thivisol, whose amazing performance won her the "Volpi Cup" for Best Actress—the youngest actress ever to win this award. "Ponette" has been recognized as one of the top One Hundred Spiritually Significant Films of our time.

The movie is not rated and is free to the public.

For those who would like to take a break from cooking, come out and enjoy Eydie Clifton's wonderful French cuisine. The cost is \$10 per person and reservations are required. Dinner begins promptly at 6:15.

Call the Homestead at 276-694-7181 to reserve a seat. Seats fill quickly, so call early to save your spot!

Exhibitions Explore Virginia History and Landscapes



“Hattie Plays Her Mandolin”
by Rick Hyman

“[Rockbridge] produced on me the impression of a very wild, nearly savage country.”
Pierre Daura

The Reynolds Homestead, with sponsorship provided by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, is hosting two premier exhibitions which will be on display through March 31.

The Riches of Family: An American Journey from Slavery to Prosperity

In one generation, artist Rick Hyman’s ancestral family went from being Virginia slaves to owning 2,000 acres of oil-producing property in Texas. After his grandfather’s death in 1983, Hyman discovered over 300 photographs documenting this family’s life from 1912-27.

In 1996, the Virginia resident began what he envisions as a lifelong project: interpreting on canvas these photographic images of his ancestors.

This exhibition presents ten of Hyman’s original paintings, accompanied by the photographic images that inspired them and text panels discussing the history of this uncommon family.

Virginia Landscapes: Watercolors by Pierre Daura

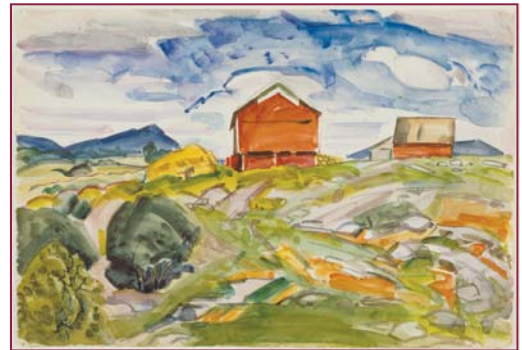
Pierre Daura, of Catalonian ancestry, was born in 1896, in Minorca, Spain. In the summer of 1934, he and his family came to Rockbridge Baths, Virginia, for a year’s stay, where he began a series of paintings depicting the Blue Ridge region of Virginia.

He returned to Virginia in 1939 for a visit—concerned about the political climate of Europe—and he and his family decided to remain here.

In Rockbridge Baths, Pierre Daura turned to the landscape with enthusiasm. He wrote, “this village . . . produced on me the impression of a very wild, nearly savage country, grandiose like nothing I had ever known, like nothing I had ever seen.

Yet in some places, when I came to forget that I was in America, in Virginia, I couldn’t help but think of some places in the Lot [valley], in France, in St. Cirq, some places in Catalonia, Montsegur, the Pyrenees.” Twenty-four selected works executed between 1940-1970 are shown in the exhibition taken from the private collection of Martha R. Daura.

Gallery hours are 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Groups are welcome, but are encouraged to call ahead. There is no charge to view this exhibition which is open to the general public.



“Red Barns and Jump Mountain” in Rockbridge County, by Pierre Daura

Play with Your Food!



February can be a long dreary month, but the Reynolds Homestead has an exciting reason to bundle up and get out of the house! FoodNetwork champion and award-winning baker Lora Mahaffey will be teaching a course entitled “Play with Your Food: A Spring Cookie Workshop.” What better way to start thinking about the end of

winter than learning to make beautifully decorated cookies for Easter and other spring events?

Lora will share her professional tricks of the trade such as creating “run-outs” and making quick fondant flowers. Students will decorate, then take home, six oversized cookies. Bring an apron, rolling pin, and container to transport

your cookies! All other materials will be provided.

The workshop will be held upstairs in the CEC on Friday, Feb. 20 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., continuing on Saturday morning from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The cost of the course is \$50 if registered and paid by February 10; the cost after that will be \$55.

One of Lora’s award-winning designs is shown at left.

February 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Teen Advisory 4:00 Photo Club 6:30	3	4	5	6	7 Oil Class 9:00 Quilters Guild 2:00
8 Gospel Celebration 3:00	9	10 Great Books II 6:30	11 Postcard Club 7:00	12	13	14 Oil Class Snow date
15 Dessert & Coffee 3:00	16 Decorative Painters 9:30	17	18 Prospective Interpreters Tea 3:00	19 Dinner & Movie 6:15/7:00	20 Play with your Food Class 6:00	21 Play with your Food Class 10:00
22	23 Acrylics Class 9:00	24 Acrylics Class 9:00	25 Acrylics Class 9:00	26	27	28

Don't Miss!

Dessert & Coffee with...Warren Kimmel

Classical pianist Warren Kimmel will entertain at **3:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 15** in the CEC. Spend an afternoon with Schumann, Scriabin, Beethoven, and Albeniz, with dessert and coffee provided by the Homestead. Free and open to the general public.



Creative Writing: Recalling the Stories of Your Life

How often have we heard, "I wish someone was writing these stories down.."? Whether it is to record family recollections for posterity, or simply to enjoy the remembrances of your life, instructor Beth Almond Ford will offer the tools and

the encouragement for you to put your memories on paper. No previous writing experience needed, but come prepared to listen, experiment and share with other students. **March 9, 15, and 23.** 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. \$30 if registered and paid by 2/15; \$35 after that date.

Experiment with Acrylics!

Get ready to lose your inhibitions as you use unexpected tools and innovative techniques to discover and create exciting, colorful, textured effects with acrylic paints. No previous painting experience necessary to participate! Just grab any liquid or tube acrylic paints, and bring along some palette knives, brushes, and paper towels and get ready to learn how to use acrylic paints.

Instructor Andrea Morrison teaches the workshop, which runs Monday-Wednesday, **February 23-25** from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. each day. Students should bring a bag lunch. Andrea will supply all other needed materials. The cost is \$80 if registered and paid by February 15, \$85 after that date.

Youth Art Saturdays in March!

If your 9- to 12-year-old children are starting to get a little stir-crazy this winter, enroll them in the Youth Art Saturdays program in March to celebrate Youth Art Month.

Each Saturday during the month will feature a different art class from **9:00**

a.m. to 12 noon in the Continuing Education Center. The theme of the month is "Recycled Art," and kids will work on projects that use recycled and found materials. Each class is \$15 individually, but if registered and paid by February 15, all four may be taken for only \$55. Students may take one, two, three or all four classes.

The first class on **March 7** features Henry County schools' art instructor Stacy Jenkins leading students in "Collage Art," learning how to create at least two collages out of found and recycled items. One of those collages will be wearable art.

Patrick County instructor Grace Helms will lead the next class on **March 14.** Her "Recycled Art" session will help students create projects from everyday objects recycled for class use. She encourages students to bring their own "found items" and see what happens!

On **March 21**, Surry County Schools' instructor Kayla Ellis will teach a course in "Mask Making," helping students create giant masks from cultures such as China, Mexico, and Africa. The end result will be an elaborate three-dimensional mask.

Rounding out the month on **March 28** is Linda Daumen, instructor in Patrick County, who will lead a session in "Relief Sculpture," creating sculptures using old computer parts!

**Register for any class by calling
(276) 694-7181.**