



MATHEWS MUSEUM  
200 MAIN STREET \* P.O. BOX 634  
MATHEWS, VIRGINIA 23109  
[www.mathewsvamuseum.org](http://www.mathewsvamuseum.org)

## MATHEWS MUSEUM BULLETIN

November, 2024

### President's Message, November 2024

*Pumpkin Spice* is here. *Pumpkin Spice* is there. *Pumpkin Spice* is EVERYWHERE!! I even saw a sign at a building materials store that proudly announced... "Fresh Supply of *Pumpkin Spice* Lumber Just Arrived. Get yours today." With all this pumpkin spice in the air, can Turkey Day be far behind? And, with summer now behind us, we can look forward to a season of cold, wet, snowy, icy, windy weather. What do you plan to do for the next few cold months? Become a couch potato? Read dozens of books until you can get back to your garden in the Spring? **OR**, Why not consider becoming a member, (or if you already are) a volunteer, at the all-new MATHEWS MUSEUM. You will have so much fun and new experiences that the dreary Winter months will sail by quicker than you can say "I'm cold, I'm bored, and I have nothing to do."

If you haven't visited the museum in the last couple of weeks you won't believe the changes. Come and experience them for yourself. If you have any doubts about what you can expect, just go to YouTube and take a look at the new "Mathews Museum Quilt Exhibit" movie just made at the MATHEWS MUSEUM.

I look forward to your visit very soon and, hopefully to also welcome you as a new member or volunteer. We have several interesting, satisfying, and extremely important positions to fill. Have a wonderful, fulfilling Autumn, and think seriously about spending it with us.

Regards,  
Tom

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday, November 1st, 7:00 pm,

Admission: Free and Open to The Public

Neal Hurst, Curator of Textiles and Historic Dress at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation will be guest speaker at the Mathews Museum, discussing “The Art of the Quilter,” a new exhibit which is opening at the Colonial Williamsburg Art Museums. This program is part of a speaker series sponsored by Mathews Museum and is offered in tandem with the Museum’s current quilt exhibit of the Quilts of Mathews which will be on display through December. Doors open at 6:30 and the program will begin at 7:00 pm. Hurst is known as a producer of the highest quality 17th - 19th Century men's clothing. “I provide clothing to not only re-enactors but to museums and living history sites,” says Hurst, "and I have spent over 15 years studying and recreating 17th, 18th, and 19th century clothing for interpreters, reenactors, and museums.”

Hurst may be found online at *Neal Hurst Tailor*, where he is featured in numerous You Tube videos as well as posting notices of master classes in hunting shirts and regimental coat construction.

He worked for seven years in Williamsburg's Historic Trades Department, earning his Journeyman's Papers as a tailor. He received his BA in history from the College of William and Mary and his MA from the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture. Hurst received his Bachelor of Art in history at the College of William & Mary, and his Master of Arts and Sciences at the University of Delaware.



**Friday, December 6th, 7:00 pm**

**Admission: Free and Open to The Public**

A special presentation by OCEAN PRODUCTS, a company started in Mathews over 60 years ago, and still going strong! Meet the next generation managers and hear their success story. Sawyer Hutson, grandson of RC “Bobby” Hutson will be the speaker. Bobby Hutson started Ocean Products Research, Inc. in 1964 in his back yard. The company is still located in Diggs. OPR was the first company to bring monofilament to the United States, and OPR has been fabricating synthetic net and rope assemblies for the government, marine and utilities for over 60 years. Their local impact has been significant for supplying products for the commercial fishing industry through the years. There is no charge for this event.



## AT THE MUSEUM NOW

### Mathews Has A “New” General Store, a Permanent Exhibit

Years ago, general stores and post offices were both a mainstay and a way of life in Mathews County. Much like other localities in Virginia, they were gathering spots and epicenters for each of the little communities within the county. As time passed, almost every one of them disappeared.

Ray Hunley is the “postmaster” of Mathews’ “newest general store and post office,” now a permanent exhibit at the Mathews Museum. Hunley has donated both a significant collection of what was his father’s general store/post office memorabilia as well as many hours of his personal time, lovingly and patiently recreating a “mini” general store within the walls of the Museum. And he may be found at times at the Hunley General Store, telling stories and meeting with visitors and residents of the county!

Ray Hunley has honored his father’s wishes and determined that the collection could best be viewed at the Museum. The exhibit opened in June and hundreds of visitors have since passed through its doors. The Mathews Museum is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from now through the December. “There is no cost and visitors are welcome,” says Ray. Visit the Museum website, [www.mathewsvamuseum.org](http://www.mathewsvamuseum.org) for more information.

The General Store is part of the Rural Life Gallery which includes antique items related to banking, farming, schools and your grandmother’s kitchen! Come and see these unusual “old” items.



Mathews Museum General Store, Photo Courtesy Of Ally-Oop Photography

## NOW ON DISPLAY THROUGH DECEMBER!

*Free and Open to The Public!*

*Museum Quilt Show Features Vintage Quilt Sale, Raffle*

**HOURS:** The Museum will be open every Friday, Saturday, 10:00am until 2:00 pm, and on Sunday from 12:00pm to 3:00pm.

The newest exhibit at the Mathews Museum opened October 5 and will run through the end of December, featuring over 30 quilts, all from the same Mathews family. ***“Threads of Our History: Quilts of Mathews Virginia,”*** will showcase quilts going back over a century. It is believed that the two oldest quilts in the collection were made by Beuna Vista Diggs, 1847-1931. The precise dates of the quilts are not known, other than the fabrics are estimated to date back to the 1860s. Accompanying the quilts will be journals, letters and notes, and some photographs, explaining the provenance of the quilts.

There will also be vintage quilts available for purchase, some gently used, as well as a raffle of a lovely quilt along with an antique chair. For information on special tours, contact 804-695-4664 or email [mathewsvamuseum@gmail.com](mailto:mathewsvamuseum@gmail.com). For additional information, visit [www.mathewsvamuseum.org](http://www.mathewsvamuseum.org)

### **Museum Has An Unusual Visitor!**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmFIR-UB4Cg>

At the beginning of the quilt exhibit, the Museum had a special visitor drop by! View the video tour of the quilt collection now!

### **Museum Retail Store—Come by and Shop!**

We still have P. Buckley Moss trivets and prints available for sale in the Retail Shop, along with other creative items.