

**MATHEWS MUSEUM**  
200 Main Street\*Mathews, Virginia 23109

**NEWS AND EVENTS**  
**JULY 2024**

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Our new name, the **MATHEWS MUSEUM**, (formerly the Mathews Historical Museum) is now officially launched and a good deal of our major renovation program has been completed ! We have a number of events going on in the Museum and invite you to come and enjoy the new exhibits and surroundings.

We unveiled the new Tommy Hunley General Store to the public on June 21. Other featured exhibits include a collection of large “before and after” aerial photos of Mathews County, highlighting the many changes to the landscape over the past century as well as a special “modern” 20<sup>th</sup> century kitchen. We’ve also launched a Speaker’s series on the first Friday of the month and a movie night on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday. This month’s movie on July 12, will be a re-showing of HAPPY HOMES and FERTILE FARMS on SMILING WATERS. That movie was Mathews-made and produced 25 years ago by Eugene C. Hudgins, who narrates the film. His son, Coles, has kindly offered to join us that evening, to talk about his dad’s movie.

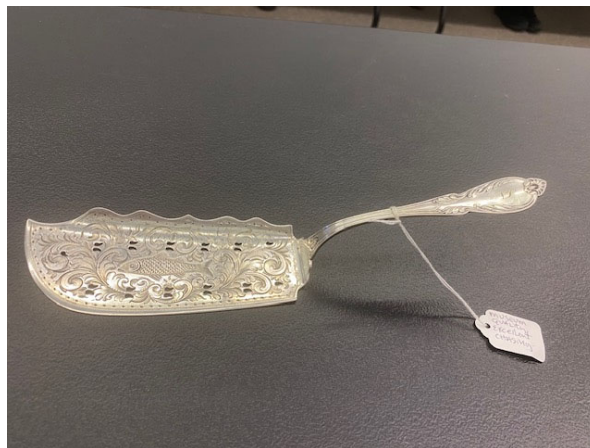
**Tom Robinson**  
President





### **MUSEUM TOASTS AND HOSTS THE NEW TOMMY HUNLEY GENERAL STORE EXHIBIT**

The Mathews Museum's first permanent exhibit was unveiled Friday evening at a special reception for members, friends and supporters. And on Saturday, 10:00 to 2:00, doors were opened to the general public.



A SILVER FISH SERVER, ONE OF THE ITEMS ON DISPLAY

### **MUSEUM HOSTS DISCUSSION ON COIN SILVER FROM THE COLONIAL ERA**

Mathews Museum Board member Tom Karow led a spirited discussion for museum members and guests, June 7, as he detailed the history of the use of coin silver in the colonial era in Virginia. Participants were able to appreciate the craftsmanship of examples of coin silver from 1690 to 1865. Examples of the silver items ranged from daily useful tableware to decorative, fashionable pieces.

“Each participant will be able to see, touch and smell the pieces of silver that were on show that evening. And why silver? Because it is an important part of Virginia’s history and Virginia’s history is America’s history,” said Karow.

The group passed around silver pieces which were 90% silver, heated and signed, in addition to other treasures from Colonial days. Some were made by silversmiths, in the years 1690 through 1865, in different locales throughout Virginia, including Richmond, Winchester and Alexandria. Karow said that American silver in Virginia was pretty much hand-made up until about 1810. And by the 1820s, most of the silver work done in Virginia was primarily repair work and other silver pieces from the 1820s on, were made up north.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM**

### **JULY 12, FRIDAY EVENING 6:00 PM**

#### **25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SHOWING OF HAPPY HOMES AND FERTILE FARMS ON SMILING WATERS**

A movie treasure, written and produced in 1999 in Mathews, by a long time Mathews resident, the late Eugene C. Hudgins, will be shown at the Mathews Museum, Friday evening, July 10. Hudgins’ unabashed fondness for his county is apparent in this homage to Mathews, and in his own words he notes, “As we travel on the road of life, many times the sweetest part of the trail is that part that leads back home. Our home and surrounding area have a beauty which bring us a calmness which most of us really appreciate.”

Mr. Hudgins narrates the 111-minute film and in it you will see many notable features of Mathews, as well as the people. Coles Hudgins, son of Eugene C, has kindly agreed to join us for a discussion of the movie.

The show is free and open to the public. A lot has changed in Mathews since 1999, and everything that you want and need to know about Mathews is in this film. Doors open at 6:00, welcome/remarks at 6:15, showtime is 6:30.

### **AUGUST 2, FRIDAY, 6:00-8:00PM**

#### **“WHAT IS IT?”**

At the Mathews Museum, 200 Main Street. Bring your ceramics, arrowheads, pottery, and other artifacts, and have them identified. This annual event is co-hosted by the Fairfield Foundation. There is no charge for this event.

### **AUGUST 18, SUNDAY 2:00 PM TO 4:00 PM.**

#### **“AFTERNOON TEA AND FASHION SHOW AT THE MATHEWS MUSEUM,”**

Unlimited amounts of hot tea served with cream and sweeteners, accompanied by numerous types of savories and sweets. Fashions are by “*Ladies Victorian*,” who will present “Our Founding Mothers and What They Wore,” period clothing that both Martha Washington and Abigail Adams would have worn. Joining them will be General Andrew Lewis and General Thomas Mathews who will make a brief appearance as revolutionary gentlemen. There will be a silent auction with numerous tea-related items ranging from tea cozies to tea pots. The cost for this event is \$35. Tickets may be purchased at the Visitor Center, or, at the Mathews Museum on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Reservations/pre-ticket purchases are requested, and space is limited.

**SEPTEMBER 6, FRIDAY**

**“HOW TO TELL YOUR FAMILY HISTORY,”** presented by Lori Black, Mathews’ historian and genealogist. Check our website for further details as they develop.

**OCTOBER 4, FRIDAY**

Reception for the opening of the Mathews Quilts Exhibition

**NOVEMBER 1, FRIDAY**

“How Textiles and Fabrics Tell a Story,” presented by Neal Hurst from Colonial Williamsburg.

**DECEMBER 6, FRIDAY**

“Changes at Ocean Products in 60 Years of Business,” presented by James Hutson. Check the Museum’s website , [www.mathewsva.museum.org](http://www.mathewsva.museum.org), for additional information.