

AGAR and ACMHS TO DISCUSS BEAR MOUNTAIN INDIAN MISSION SCHOOL AND EARLY INTEGRATION OF AFRICIAN-AMERICAN STUDENT DOCUMENTARIES

AMHERST -- On Sunday, July 14, 2019, Amherst Glebe Arts Response, Inc. (AGAR) and the Amherst County Museum and Historical Society will present two of AGAR's films about going to school in Amherst County in the first three quarters of the twentieth century. The event will begin at 2:30 pm at the museum's Hamble Center, behind the main museum at 154 South Main Street, Amherst.

The film series was compiled from over 133 interviews with Amherst County teachers, students and parents. The two documentaries being shown on the 14th of July were produced by AGAR with support from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities with Lynn Rainville, PhD, as humanities advisor; Lynn Kable, president of AGAR, as project director; and Mia Magruder as documentary videographer, director and editor. Magruder, daughter of Sweet Briar dance professors Ella and Mark Magruder, graduated from Amherst County High School and the University of Virginia. After working with AGAR on school projects in 2009-2010 and 2012, she went on to work for five years on documentaries at Monticello in Charlottesville.

"The Bear Mountain School" concerns a small log cabin school that operated to teach Native American students, primarily Monacans, from first through seventh grade. The school was founded by missionaries in the late 19th century and operated, primarily as an Amherst County Public School, until Monacan students were accepted into the white schools of Amherst County. Only then could Monacan students finally attend high school in Amherst County. The log cabin school now is a part of the Monacan Ancestral Museum. The film features interviews with former students, the late Rev. Phyllis Hicks, Chief Kenneth Branham, Herbert Hicks, Dolly Ashley and Bonnie Hicks. Speaking about how Monacan education has changed over the years will be Herbert Hicks, an older member of the Tribe who is a golf professional, Chief Kenneth Branham, and Winona Gear, a 2019 graduate of Amherst County High School who worked as an intern at the Museum during her senior year.

The second film, from 2012, about Integration in Amherst County from the perspective of African-American students and teachers from 1962-1973, features perspectives of elementary to high school students. Teachers also speak of the challenges, difficulties and successes that came with integration in the schools. A post-documentary-showing discussion will be led by Beverly Campbell Jones, who taught in the schools for 35 years, and who has been chair of the Diversity Committee of Amherst County. Jones worked with Jean Higginbotham as Outreach Coordinators for AGAR in interviewing retired teachers and previous students for the documentary. Jones often goes to the schools to show some of the 21 documentaries made by AGAR.

This program is made possible by The Greater Lynchburg Community Trust and is open to the public with no admission fee. The Museum is located at 154 South Main Street in Amherst. Light refreshments will be served.

Amherst Glebe Arts Response, Inc. (AGAR) is a non-profit arts and humanities organization that collaborates with many Amherst County area arts and humanities groups including libraries, museums, and educational, religious and civic organizations to present live performance, documentaries, lectures, discussions, and participatory workshops.

The Amherst County Museum and Historical Society is a nonprofit educational organization whose mission is to discover, collect and preserve objects related to the history and genealogy of Amherst County. The society exhibits, interprets and offers its collections to provide educational experiences for people of all ages.

For additional information contact Lynn Kable, President, AGAR at 434-946-0116 or by website email: AmherstGlebeArts@gmail.com or Octavia Starbuck, Director, Amherst County Museum and Historical Society at 434-946-9068 or by the website email: staff@amherstcountymuseum.org.

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