Press Release

Heritage Day 2004 will be Saturday, September 11, 2004, 9:30 - 4:00 pm. Sponsored by the Southampton County Historical Society, events will take place at the Southampton Agriculture and Forestry Museum / Heritage Village on Heritage Lane and at the Rochelle-Prince House on Main St., both in Courtland, VA. Admission is $2 for adults and $1 for school age children.

Crafts people from Virginia and North Carolina, many in period costumes, will demonstrate old crafts, with craft items for sale. Lunch will be for sale on the grounds. BBQ, hot dogs, snacks, and soft drinks will be available.

Visitors can sign up to participate in numerous old timey games, such as horseshoes, sack races, wheelbarrow races, tug of war, and egg races, as well as hog calling and husband / wife calling.

Ken Christison will be demonstrating the art of making sorghum molasses. Gasoline engines will be running at times throughout the day. Other special demonstrations include wood carving, basket making, chair caning, spinning, and various types of needlework. Dulcimer music can be heard throughout the day. Some of the other crafts expected include lye soap making, seagrass stool bottoms, rush chair bottoms, butter making, hominy making, cracklings and lard rendering, crocheting, split oak, Williamsburg, and farm basket making, fur handling and tanning, quilting, whittling and wood working, painted items, folk art, painted pumpkins and gourds, rug weaving on a circa 1920 loom, and broom making, to name just a few.

Activities throughout the day include corn shucking and shelling, bee keeping, washboard washing of clothes, operation of the grist mill grinding meal, running of the diesel engine, and viewing the area from atop the fire tower. Antique cars and tractors will be on display. Herbs and other plants will be for sale.

In addition, the 1920's Ground Sawmill and planing mill at the Agriculture and Forestry Museum, always a crowd pleaser, will be in operation several times during the day. A blacksmith will exhibit his skills in the blacksmith shop throughout the day.

Have you ever seen peanuts being harvested by an old timey picker? Be present at 2:45 for this attraction.

A Petting Zoo in an old pig sty will be provided for children to enjoy. Smokey the Bear will visit, and there will be hay rides, face painting, wheel barrow rides, baby chicks hatching, and a hen house of bantam chickens. Story-telling will take place in the one-room school at 11 am, 1, and 3 pm.

Confederate re-enactors will be practicing the art of rope making and welcome help from young visitors.

Iron Gate Miniature Horse Photography will have miniature horses for kids to see and will provide photographs at reasonable prices of children posed in cowboy hats and vests or other outfits with a horse.

Entertainment will include Shilo Grass, a local blue grass band, at 11:30 am as well as a well-known local gospel group, Raccoon Swamp Boys, at 3:00 pm.

The Rochelle-Prince House will feature a very nice exhibit of Old Time Spinning and Weaving. A shuttle van will provide transportation to and from the Ag & Forestry Museum to the Rochelle-Prince House

In addition to all the special activities, visitors are welcome to tour the Agriculture & Forestry Museum and all of its outbuildings and Heritage Village, which includes a country store, one room school, country dwelling, doctors office, old post office, and two outhouses, among other buildings.

This event promises to provide a wholesome and fun outing for the whole family. Visitors will see how the older generations lives, how hard they worked to make a living, and how they made the items in their homes and on the farm.

For more information, feel free to contact me, Lynda Updike at 757-654-6785 or at updikes@earthlink.net or at 33335 Statesville Rd., Newsoms, VA 23874. To find out more about the Southampton County Historical Society, the Ag & Forestry Museum & the Rochelle-Prince House, please visit our web site at http://rootsweb.com/~vaschs/ . To see additional photos of past events, at this web site simply scroll down to find them.