

TOUR, HISTORY EXHIBIT, AND BAKE SALE IN SMITHVILLE FLATS

On Saturday, October 14, the Smithville Historical Society and Town Historian will host a history exhibit at the Community Center in Smithville Flats. Members will welcome visitors from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the building at 5285 State Highway 41.

At noon, Alison Owens, Town Historian, will lead a tour of the Community Center, built in 1842 as the First Universalist Society Church. After the church's membership declined, the building served as the Smithville Valley Grange hall. It was converted to town offices and a meeting place through a community effort in the mid-1990s. The Greek Revival building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1998.

On exhibit in the meeting room will be panels featuring the Flood of 1935, Tarbell Farms, and a commemoration of the Great War, now known as World War I. Also on display will be a photographic exhibit of murals painted by itinerant artist Willard "Crip" Ashley on the interior walls and wooden surfaces at Seeber's Tavern. It is said the artwork was painted in 1929 in exchange for room and board. Of the four known taverns where Ashley's work was painted, only Seeber's still stands.

In conjunction with the history exhibit, the Smithville Valley Junior Grange will sponsor an on-site bake sale to benefit Kyle Eldred's Eagle Scout project: a new climbing slide unit for the park in Smithville.

As Time Goes By...Stories from Smithville and Greene, a new book compiled and edited by Peg Ross and Christine Buck, will be available for purchase. Included are personal memories of Smithville's people and places. Proceeds from the book are shared by the Smithville and Greene Historical Societies.