



the Muse



A PUBLICATION OF
THE MUSEUM OF WESTERN YORK COUNTY

Preserving Our Past for Our Future

December 2017

The Museum is now open all 52 Saturdays during the year from 10am – 3pm. The Museum’s Council approved the new hours to meet the desires of many visitors. You can now visit the Museums’ web site www.museumofwesternyourcounty.net or our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MuseumWYC/ for scheduled events.



The Museum of Western York County hosted its first art festival to over 80 visitors. Visitors were treated to a variety of handmade art work from 12 artisans that included hand woven materials, specialty soaps & lotions, stain glass fixtures that explode with sunlight, wood carvings of your favorite animals, handmade baskets & other items, paintings & line drawings, pottery & clay jewelry. With food from the Sharon Grill and music by Herschel “Brownie” Brown everyone had a great time. Check in with the Museum next year for the art festival schedule.

Museum of Western York County, 3716 Woodlawn Street, Sharon, SC 29742

Contact us @ 803.658.5025 or send questions/comments to museumofwesternyourcounty@gmail.com

Visit our website @ www.museumofwesternyourcounty.net

Education in Blairsville

The earliest school located in Blairsville, three miles south of Sharon, was established by eighteen year old Robert Young Russell in the fall of 1818. His grammar school, with thirteen subscribers was located in a corn crib at his step-father, James Hogg home. The school operated for a year, when Russell decided to further his education, attending Hopewell Academy. One of his teachers Rev. Aaron Williams established the Blairsville Academy around 1830 just one mile from the site of Russell's school. Williams was a graduate of Tennessee's Washington College and pastor of Bullock's Creek and Salem Orthodox Presbyterian churches. It seems the academy was turned over to *Reverend R. Y. Russell* in 1855, when Russell purchased a home in Blairsville. Russell moved from Mt. Tabor in Union County where he had established Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church and taught school. The school continued to 1861 when it closed because of the Civil War. When reopened, Russell's daughter and two of his sons taught at the school which became part of York County's free public school system. Early in the 1920s, during a period of consolidation Blairsville School closed along with other "field" schools. The building was converted into a school for African-Americans operating on an agriculture schedule. In the late 1950s, with integration and consolidation all children went to a school in Sharon.

