

# Visitors from our past...

[www.AugustaJamestown2007.org](http://www.AugustaJamestown2007.org)



**John Colter (c. 1774–1813)**, was born in Stuarts Draft, but his family moved to Maysville, Ky. when he was young. In 1803 he signed on as a member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition sent by President Thomas Jefferson to explore the West. While with the company, he gained a reputation as a fine scout and skilled hunter. On the group's return east, Colter requested an early discharge so that he might return to the Idaho-Wyoming-Montana area to fur trap. There he gained legendary fame as a Mountain Man and became the first white American to explore Yellowstone, Jackson Hole, and the Grand Tetons. Many spots out West are named for him including geysers in Wyoming called Colter's Hell. Perhaps his most memorable feat was bargaining for his life after being captured by Blackfeet Indians on horseback. He asked to be allowed to outrun them. They agreed, but stripped him naked and then followed him at a leisurely pace. He ran through cactus to a stream and hid inside a beaver dam for days until his pursuers gave up the hunt. Colter never made it back to Kentucky. He eventually settled in Missouri where he died in 1813.



**William H. Sheppard (1865-1927)** was born in Waynesboro in 1865. His Presbyterian parents were both recently freed slaves. At 16, he entered Hampton Institute. He also attended Stillman College (Ala.) and was ordained a Presbyterian minister. In the 1880s he was selected for missionary service in Africa. Sheppard soon mastered the language of the native peoples, the Kuba, and became the first westerner to explore deep into the Congo. He not only evangelized, but also documented the native cultures who welcomed him as a long-lost brother. His explorations gained him election into the famed British Royal Geographic Society. By



1898 his African mission reported 350 converts. Eventually he became very vocal in exposing colonial human rights violations occurring in the Congo at the hands of the Belgian government. The Belgian-backed rubber production company perpetrating the acts filed a libel lawsuit against Sheppard and another man and an international press followed the trial. Both men were exonerated. Sheppard retired from missionary work in 1910 and 7 years later published *Pioneers in the Congo* about his 20 years of missionary service.

**Ida Stover Eisenhower (1862-1946)** was born near Mt. Sidney and attended Salem Lutheran Church where she took top Sunday School honors by memorizing 1,365 Bible verses. Ida finished her high school education at 19, taught school for 2 years, and then moved to Kansas to be with her brothers and attend Lane University where she met and married David Eisenhower (wedding picture below). Their six sons who reached adulthood went on to successful careers including Dwight David Eisenhower who led the Allied forces at D-Day and was later elected the 34<sup>th</sup> U.S. President. Ida instilled in her boys a desire for education, respect for hard work, independence, self-discipline, good humor, and the freedom to choose any profession. In 1945 Ida was named both Kansas and American Mother of the Year. The Eisenhowers never forgot their mother's Augusta roots and traveled to their mother's birthplace and home church on several occasions.



## **Anna Mary Robertson**

**"Grandma" Moses (1860-1961)**, remembered as a renowned American folk artist who captured bygone rural scenes, was born in New York. However, in Augusta she is also remembered as an entrepreneurial farm wife. In 1887, newlyweds Anna and Thomas Moses stopped in Staunton, intending to stay overnight before heading on to North Carolina for a farm job. They didn't reboard the train for 18 years. In the meantime they lived on 5 different farms in the county, purchasing 2 with farm profits. Anna gained a reputation for butter making, bringing in far more than most American families earned in a year. She even made potato chips and peddled them on a Staunton street corner. Mt. Airy in Verona, purchased by Anna and Thomas, is currently being restored by the Shenandoah Valley Rural Heritage Foundation ([www.SavingGrandmasHouse.org](http://www.SavingGrandmasHouse.org)). In 1905 the Moses family packed up and went home to New York. Years later when the 4-foot-11 farmwife picked up a brush she remembered Augusta County in at least 38 of her 1,600 paintings.



**Kanahpauia Matoni, "Morning Sky" (Monacan Indian Woman c. 1700)** – When the settlers landed in Jamestown, native peoples had already inhabited Virginia for 10,000 years. In western Virginia lived 10,000 Siouan Indians of the Monacan and Mannahoac tribes, arranged in a confederation from the Roanoke River Valley to the Potomac River.



They practiced agriculture centered upon the "Three Sisters" – corn, beans, and squash. They also grew sunflowers, fruit trees, grapes, and nuts. Within their palisaded villages they resided in dome-shaped bark and reed huts. Annually they traveled to camps to hunt for deer, elk, and small game. The copper that they mined was traded with the Powhatans to the east and the Iroquois to the north. The Monacan people buried their dead in mounds, some of which have been archaeologically investigated in Augusta and Rockbridge. Pressures from white settlers and other Indian tribes caused the Siouan peoples to abandon the Augusta County region by the 1730s.