



2020: New Opportunities, New Challenges



We are living through challenging and historic times with the Covid-19 Pandemic. The Glencoe Mansion has had to close its doors and cancel programming since mid-March, but we are moving forward!

Despite the setbacks, we are working to “preserve and promote awareness of our history and culture” by engaging the community in other ways. We have placed our educational focus on Facebook. Our daily history posts are receiving more traffic than any of our previous posts, and people’s comments let us know they appreciate them—and they’re learning.

There is a great deal of focus on the economic impact of the Pandemic, but there will be an educational toll as well. To make sure that Radford City School students are continuing to learn and appreciate our history, we have begun a series of online videos for elementary teachers to share with their students.

As we face uncertain times, we must remain resolute to move forward. We have exciting plans for the future, and you can help us make a difference.

Glencoe Mansion: An Open Door for Everyone!

We are excited to be laying the groundwork for an exciting new project for the Glencoe Mansion—a project which will make the museum more accessible than ever before for more people.

This first phase of this project will constitute the creation of a welcoming new entrance for all people no matter their physical ability. Currently, the Glencoe Mansion has an ADA-accessible entry point, but it is separate from the primary entrance. Our vision is to create one primary entrance for all.

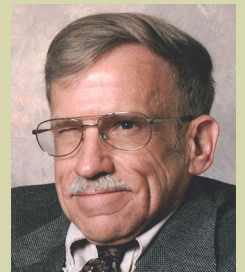
This new main entry point will face toward Main Street to encourage people to visit the museum. We are working with the architectural firm Thompson & Litton to move this vision for the museum forward.

The second phase of the project will be an exploration of ways to provide for future ADA accessibility between the second and third floors of the museum.

All parts of this project will take time and resources to move forward! Be on the lookout for more information. We hope you’ll help us when the time comes to make Glencoe Mansion a place for all.

A Special Gift

The impetus and inspiration behind this new entry project is a generous gift from the estate of the late Dr. Ronald W. Kolenbrander.



Ron was a special person dedicated to history and community. He was quiet and unassuming, but he was a true force with his ability to strategize and plan for the future. Put quite simply, he was a brilliant man.

He was a member of the faculty of Radford University as a history education instructor. In his retirement he was an active board member and volunteer, who helped foster great changes for the Glencoe Mansion.

Ron was never able to fully enjoy the Glencoe Mansion because of his limited mobility. His gift will help us to start taking action to assure that all will be able to enjoy the museum.



GLENCOE MANSION MUSEUM & GALLERY

New Rail Observatory in Radford!

Why are we so fascinated by trains? Throughout the years much has been written about this subject. One scholar, in particular, believes just as the internet changed our sense of time and space, railroads did the same for Americans in the 19th century.

William G. Thomas, III, a University of Nebraska—Lincoln history professor, says people “respond to trains as not only great engineering feats but also as symbols of national aspirations and the freedom to go and move somewhere else.”

Perhaps that’s what makes the City of Radford a perfect location for a structure that combines our interest in trains with a new twist. Just as the railroad spurred the development of this southwest Virginia municipality, the New River Train Observatory located adjacent to Glencoe Mansion is not only bringing pleasure to railroading enthusiasts but also has become a pilot project for economic development.

The observatory, designed and built by Virginia Tech architecture students, is a great example of how low value Virginia hardwoods, such as yellow poplar, can be turned into high-value, high performance building products. Professor Kay Edge, who directed the class project, says her students gained an understanding of economic development through tourism and learned how to work with clients and consultants. The RHF-city-university partnership raised \$100,000 in cash and gifts-in-kind from across the state to make the undertaking a reality.

Visitors can view the Norfolk Southern rail line to get a peek at the “iron horses” as they travel through Radford. The observatory is open dawn to dusk daily.



Architectural Rendering of Observatory.



Virginia Tech architectural student on the job building the observatory.

In Memoriam

Sally Wharton van Solkema
&
Frits Jan van Solkema

Within months of each other we lost this special couple. Sally was a Wharton by birth, and Glencoe was her family heritage.

She and Frits met in Radford and both lived at Glencoe. They were happy to see their home become a museum for the community.

Their efforts to save the Wharton Family Papers have left to the world an amazing window into the past.



New Website Coming Soon!

Our goal is to make the Glencoe Mansion a welcoming place for all, and in the 21st century one of the most important places to make that statement is online. A great website can make all the difference.

Our website from 2011 had done its part, but in early 2020 we knew we needed a new face to the online world. We are working with Jenneifer Carroll of Twin Coves Media to develop our new Glencoe Mansion site. It will be a fresh and exciting invitation for people to take part.

Coming Soon! — GlencoeMansion.org

