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Historic Sandusky-University of Lynchburg  
757 Sandusky Drive  
Lynchburg, Virginia 24502



Historic Sandusky  
in Lynchburg, Virginia

2023

Historic Sandusky  
Foundation

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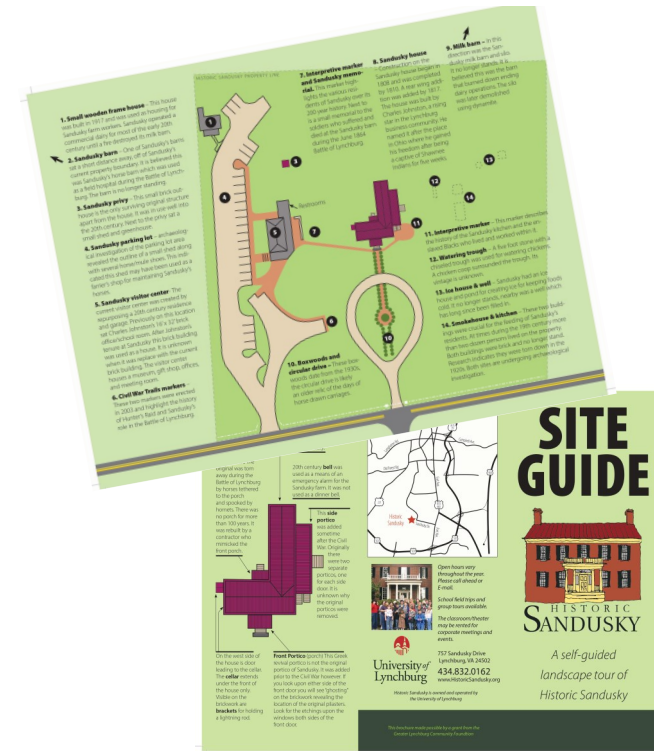
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Historic Sandusky, in partnership with the University of Lynchburg, is dedicated to providing educational opportunities and career development for students and the public by preserving and interpreting the history of the Civil War, slavery, and 19th century American life.



ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF HISTORIC SANDUSKY

## NEW SITE BROCHURE & MARKERS



Historic Sandusky now has a new site guide. This two-sided brochure shows the layout of the Sandusky site and various outdoor features.

Many features of the Sandusky landscape no longer stand such as the kitchen, smokehouse, icehouse, well, and barns. This guide will help visitors visualize the property as it originally was. It also highlights various points of interest on the Sandusky house.

The guide is available on the side of the visitor center in a weather-proof rack.

Two new outdoor markers are also part of this project. These markers will be mounted on pedestals near the Sandusky house. They detail the social history of Sandusky by describing the those who lived at Sandusky over the past 200+ years.

This project was made possible through funding from the Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation.





## RECENT DONATIONS TO SANDUSKY



This US belt plate (buckle) was donated by Robert Hutter Gale on behalf of the Gale family. The Gales are descendants of Sandusky Hutterers. This buckle was found on the Sandusky property in the early 20th century. It was worn by an enlisted Union soldier and is no doubt a remnant of the Battle of Lynchburg.



We are thrilled to have this Hutter era washstand return to Sandusky. This ca. 1860s washstand was at Sandusky, in one of the bedrooms upstairs during the 19th century. It was graciously donated by Kathleen Beatrice, widow of Risque Hutter (1923-1974) who was born and raised at Sandusky.

## GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL VISITS SANDUSKY

This past summer Historic Sandusky assisted with the Governor's School for Mathematics, Science, and Technology held at the University of Lynchburg. This three-week program provides gifted high school students from across Virginia with intensive educational experiences in STEM topics. Students who visited Sandusky enjoyed an immersive experience in the field of archaeology and how it is applied to learn about past peoples. Thank you to Hurt & Proffitt's archaeologists Randy, Jess, Taylor, Eric, and Emma for giving these students an unforgettable experience.



## PARTNERS IN EDUCATION



We are proud to have been recognized for our 21st year supporting the Lynchburg City Schools as part of their Partners In Education program. We strive to promote education and learning for people of all ages. We look forward to continued collaboration with LCS.



Your support is critical to us fulfilling our mission. To donate online, visit [www.HistoricSandusky/give](http://www.HistoricSandusky/give) or use this form to mail in your gift

I/we would like to make a gift in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ and would like this gift to support:

Check one: ☐ Archaeology ☐ Programs ☐ Special Projects

☐ Restoration ☐ General Endowment ☐ Peter W. Houck Endowment Fund

☐ Hutter Endowment Fund ☐ I would like to discuss planned giving

This gift is in ☐ honor ☐ memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of person to be notified of your generosity (amount of gift will not be disclosed)

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# SANDUSKY PRIVY NEEDS RESCUE



The situation with the Sandusky privy (outhouse) has gotten much worse, particularly over the past three years. When the foundation bought the Sandusky property in 2001 the cracks were nonexistent. Now they are prominent. The tree next to it is more than 100 years old and is the problem; its trunk roots are literally uprooting the north wall of the privy. The walls are quite damaged; they are noticeably leaning and bulging.

To fix this we will need to dismantle it brick by brick and re-build it a short distance away from its current location. Any bad woodwork will be replaced. This privy is an original structure from the Sandusky plantation (ca. 1808), and was in use well into the 20th century. Consequently, this project is our highest priority. We have been applying for grants to repair the privy but have not been successful yet. If you can help us, please give to the Sandusky restoration fund.

# KITCHEN ARCHAEOLOGY CONTINUES

## New Kitchen Unit

A new 5 by 5 foot unit at the kitchen site was opened in the fall of 2023. The location was chosen in hopes of finding the east wall of the kitchen, and it appears we have found that wall.



The kitchen wall can be seen running vertically in this new unit.



Eric Taylor's interest in archaeology began as a University of Lynchburg intern at Sandusky. Now he is a full-time archaeologist.



Some of the many artifacts we found include brick, nails, glass, and ceramics. These will be processed through our onsite archaeology lab.



Thanks to our U of L students who came out and helped!

## Subfloor Pit Excavation

Investigation of Sandusky kitchen subfloor pit has begun yielding results. Subfloor pits are often found in 18th and 19th century buildings, they served as a storage compartment, hiding hole, or trash pit. We sift through the excavated soil from the pit with a "fine tooth comb." First the dirt is run through floatation which is a sluice that separates out the artifacts and rocks from the dirt. Then the material is examined visually and any artifacts are recovered.



University of Lynchburg student Maya Taylor '26 is leading the painstaking work on the subfloor pit material.



Just some of the artifacts found in the subfloor pit so far. At top left are fish gullet stones, left side: egg shells, middle column: fish bones, top right: beads, and bottom right: shotgun bird shot.

**We still have much more kitchen archaeology yet to do. We need your support to make this happen. Please consider giving to the Sandusky archaeology fund.**



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This past year was a busy one. We hosted many individual and groups onsite for tours and programs. We also spent a lot of time in the community presenting Sandusky history at meetings, festivals, and libraries. Thanks to Lilly, Jess, Taylor, Randy, Eric, Clifton, Emma, Mike, Haley, and Greg for representing Sandusky so well!



## CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE, DEC. 3RD

Sandusky's annual holiday event will take place Sunday afternoon, December 3rd, 1:00—5:00 pm. Visitors can give Santa their wish list, there will be music, refreshments, and kids can make a tree ornament! **All of this is free.** Tours of the house will be at 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, and 3:30 pm. They will be regular price (\$7/adults, \$5/seniors, \$3/kids).

Our gift shop will be open and there will be some great bargains and specials there for you to shop from! Last year's open house was a great success. We had 143 people visit and many took the tour. We hope you will come visit us!



*Student Haley Sabolic leads a tour during the 2022 Christmas Open House*



*Thanks to Jeff Taylor aka "Santa Claus" for being our Santa*

## USED BOOK FAIR RAISES \$3,200!

Sandusky held its first ever used book fair in this past spring. We had hundreds of visitors over the two days. It was amazing meeting and talking to so many other book lovers.

We raised \$3,200 from the sale. This money was applied to the Sandusky Endowment Fund. We are so thankful to all of the donations of books that made this possible. Surprisingly, we still have quite a few books left. We are planning to hold another book fair sometime in 2024.

Watch our social media or website for updates about our 2024 book fair.

