

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Amherst County Museum and Historical Society in VAM's TOP TEN

Amherst County Museum and Historical Society was selected this week as one of Virginia's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts Honorees by the Virginia Association of Museums. The artifact that the Museum submitted in the hope of obtaining conservation funding is the Wooden Leg of Sergeant Edwin Spotswood Ware, Company I, 19th Virginia Infantry.

Edwin Ware was shot in four places during Pickett's Charge on July 3, 1863. He lay where he fell until the morning when he was picked up by Federal soldiers and taken to a field hospital where his right leg was amputated. As Amherst County Commissioner of Revenue during Reconstruction, he liked to say, "I'm the only man in Amherst County with two left legs; one left on my body and one left at Gettysburg!"

Edwin Ware's wooden leg is a unique piece of medical history from the late 1800s, and his life's story serves as a role model of a successful handicapped individual in Amherst County.

The Museum will receive \$750.00 conservation funds for placing in the Top Ten. However the public can help increase that amount by voting for this artifact from January 22-31, one vote per day! Vote online at www.vamuseums.org; or www.vatop10artifacts.org.

VAM is inviting the public to vote for their favorite Virginia's Top 10 Endangered Artifact. Online voting competition opens January 22 and continues through January 31, 2019. The two artifacts receiving the most votes during this ten-day crowdsourced competition will be recognized as the People's Choice Awards and receive \$4,000 and \$3,000 respectively to conserve their artifacts and care for their continued preservation. Remaining honorees will be eligible for other monetary awards provided by the selection committee. This funding is made possible through the generous support of the Community Foundation for a Greater Richmond and Blandford Rees Foundation. Learn more and vote online at www.vamuseums.org; or www.vatop10artifacts.org.

The Amherst County Museum and Historical Society is a nonprofit educational organization whose mission is to discover, collect and preserve objects related to the history and genealogy of Amherst County. The society exhibits, interprets and offers its collections to provide educational experiences for people of all ages.

For additional information contact Octavia Starbuck, Director, Amherst County Museum and Historical Society at 434-946-9068 or by the website email: staff@amherstcountymuseum.org.





VIRGINIA
ASSOCIATION
of MUSEUMS



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Amherst County Museum and Historical Society
Amherst, Virginia

Wooden Leg of Edwin Spotswood, Sgt, CO 1, 19th Virginia Infantry

Contact: Octavia Starbuck, Director
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