



December 2023 Update

We end our year with good news! But first a reminder that **it is not too late to purchase ESMONT History books for Christmas gifts**. They are available at Scottsville Museum, Scottsville Library and Coffee Shop, Amazon, and most bookstores can order for you.

The best news is that we just received a grant in the amount of \$4687. to complete the work on the Trailhead Building. This grant came to us from the Community Endowment Fund at the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation from Thomas I Crowell Trust. The Crowell Estate gives funds to preserve the natural environment, open spaces and public trails specifically in Albemarle County.

Some of those funds went to a local artist/carpenter, Don Charlebois of Keene, who made the beautiful new ESMONT sign which we placed on the front of the Trailhead, under the original light fixture which was taken down and refurbished by Pat Healy, a member of our volunteer construction team. Tom Dixon of the C&O Historical Society gave us the dimensions of the original Depot signs, so our new sign is a replica of the one that originally hung on the old Esmont Depot which was destroyed around 1964. **So, some 60 years later, Esmont once again has an official sign and its name back!!**

More of the grant funds will be used for additional coats of paint (weather permitting) on the outside and inside of the building. All the windows in the building will be removed, repaired and reinstalled. The large "barn door" on the front will be removed and a new one built, using the same hardware seen in the picture. Other improvements are underway on the inside and outside. All work is done by our volunteer team and should be finished by early Spring. We will update everyone as this work progresses.



We have applied for a large grant, \$268,000, from the Virginia Museum of History and Culture, which we should hear about sometime in January. Keep your fingers crossed on that one! Receiving those funds would get the Purvis Store building up and going, so we are excited. If we do not get funded, our only option is to take the building down, salvaging everything reusable, and continue our search for construction funding.

Please let me know if you have questions or comments. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Peggy Denby
Friends of Esmont