

Cousin Emma's Bed & Breakfast

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<http://cousinemmas.weebly.com>

Winter 2022

Have a sit down and relax in Mayberry.

What's News?

Well, I am still here, and grateful for it. With the surge in Covid, Cousin Emma's is NOT hosting guests or events, vaccinated or not. I, of course, have had the shots and booster but, being a senior, I am not taking chances. This is also my personal home as well as an active bed and breakfast under normal circumstances....and tourists to Mayberry/Mount Airy come from many places and have been around many people in the process. But I must be a hostess. I do have a sign outside inviting folks to come sit and rock on the front porch and walk around taking whatever photos they might want from outside views of the slave cabin and main house.



The tourist and events here are so enjoyable, I really miss it and look forward to the day the Bed and Breakfast is buzzing with activity again. As always, Cousin Emma's donated High Tea/Tour events to area holiday fund raisers this year and all were bought with the knowledge no date as yet can be determined when they will resume. *Tea, Tales, and Tours* makes for an enjoyable way to honor a birthday, anniversary, or special event for no more than six people. It is not an event for young children under ten. But if they are sufficiently well-mannered, children are likely to enjoy themselves with the adults with them. While folks eat, I share some of the special history of this historic house and provide a tour of the rooms and furnishings and always try to answer questions.

There are often reluctant husbands or boyfriends who come

in tow, but they also enjoy themselves since there are many 'manly' things of earlier days they may have seen in a great grandparent's home. But are not able to figure out the 'way back when' use. I enjoy watching them light up with the information and being able to gently touch or hold whatever it is.



Like I said earlier, most events are off at Cousin Emma's but we did host the 2nd annual Holiday Open House. For two afternoons, folks could tour Cousin Emma's decked out for the holidays to raise funds to send kids to the Salvation Army summer camp again. I missed last year due to Covid but raised \$2,500 in the first one in 2019. We didn't do nearly as well this year but then all stuff is tight, right?

Also, I invited the small congregation at the Friends Meeting (Quakers) to come following the Dec. 19th morning service to enjoy Civil War recipe gingerbread and lemon sauce with a cup of my famous decaffeinated-with lotsa spices, and sweetened with stevia hot tea. And then they went elsewhere for lunch. They

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calendar/](http://www.visitmayberry.com/calendar/)**

roamed the house, ate, then re masked, and happily went on their way.

Oh, the gingerbread recipe is from a 1800 cookbook passed down through my family. Confederate wives would go to the campgrounds and cook over a wood or coal fire for the soldiers. Supplies were sparse so they adjusted but still made a dessert that was devoured by the soldiers.



This gingerbread has no eggs, milk, or sugar since all of that was in short supply. (if eggs were indeed available, folks wanted to 'see' them as scrambled or fried). The sweetness for the recipe came from either molasses, syrup, or sometimes honey, so it is spicy but not sweet. Having the bed and breakfast guests with many "I don't/can't eat this or that" led me to use stevia entirely. It works fine for diabetics or picky weight-watchers. When I serve it, the antique handmade silver bowls I serve it in are scraped almost clean when I remove them from the dining room table. The lemon sauce can be frozen in small batches, which saves time when needed.

The gingerbread can also be frozen but isn't nearly as good



compared to 'freshly made.' A quick internet search will yield several versions of Civil War Gingerbread. This is not exactly my recipe, but it will get you close.

Opie's Corner

A certain obnoxious character just got a roommate. I adopted a rescue dog! The vets think her name was Bella but being a southerner of unknown heritage, I have renamed her ELLA MAE.

Without care, housing, etc, she was found running loose after the demise of an elderly owner. The vets put her through the hoops and she is updated on everything now but they



know nothing of her habits, only her sad state. She needs to add some weight but their scales said 50 pounds and the vet says she is probably 3 years old and spayed.



She had had some good care but not in recent times. Opie is shut up and that meeting will come with some prayers. He has been king bee for too long. Pray for us all...

Thanks for reading Cousin Emma's Newsletter. See you soon in Mayberry!
<https://cousinemmas.weebly.com>