

# Cousin Emma's Bed & Breakfast

*Have a sit down and relax in Mayberry.*

## What's News?

We are coming up on Christmas Holidays and the halls have been decked at Cousin Emma's. There are pictures!

Yes, when Santa Claus needs a retreat from the North Pole, he and the Mrs. come to Mayberry! Folks continue to have photos made with the long-johns hanging on the porch... When I happen to be outside they always want to know "whose they are," "where I got the idea," and probably unasked but wondered, "how long have I been nuts."

I love the Christmas season and remembering so many happy things as I open boxes of ornaments inherited and also purchased and sometimes handmade by my two now adult children and various special friends along the years. One of the joys of being a senior citizen is I can make time to visit cherished memories that have enriched my life and made me who I am....guess this is why I don't mind lines in traffic or the check-out in stores....and I can block out the grumps and their tirades.

On the inside, I just got my new ventless logs installed in the front parlor and sunroom so I plan to settle myself by the fire (or "farr" as is said here). I ordered them before the holidays so I have to Grinch-give on presents this year- I'm only a little sorry about that.

Opie has climbed the Christmas Tree in the dining room several times a day and it doesn't quite fall to the floor thanks to the three bungee cords used to cat-proof the tree. He is hilarious when I am not tired. (And when I am tired, I think of wrapping his tail around his neck!

We have snow coming down all over Mt. Airy and it is lovely....Inside we are toasty warm, cooking lots of food to freeze for later. This weekend I had a lovely couple here who enjoyed the snow falling outside the windows as much as they enjoyed the Jacuzzi tub. They said they think they picked the 'right' time to visit Mayberry. Both had very healthy appetites and luckily we were neither snowed- in nor ran out of food or we would have had to resort to cat food salad....

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[Http://Cousinemmas.weebly.com/](http://Cousinemmas.weebly.com/)  
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I am glad two of my six fireplaces got their ventless gas logs put in earlier this week so we could all veg in front of the fire and listen to Christmas carol cd's..... And I am so glad I got the house all festive! 'Promised myself last year that this year would be 'done' in every room. The day prior to Christmas Eve last year, the drunk movers treated my furnishings like a truckload of trash, It all about did me in....I ate wherever there was an open space without a stack of boxes, and read or slept the holiday away with only a wreath on the front door.....Everyone knows a drunk who can't in some manner ruin Christmas, and there were four of them moving my furniture into the house!...ah, the perfection of hindsight. But then, everything looks better a year later from a cozy chair in front of the parlor fireplace.

## Visit Mayberry!

For Mt. Airy happenings, check out  
<http://www.visitmayberry.com/calendar/>  
and plan a visit!





## Tea, Tales, and Ghost Tours

of Cousin Emma's slave cabin and main house. Cousin Emma's is having an open house for the congregation of First Presbyterian. All are invited for a house/cabin tour and to enjoy some yummy refreshments. Come join us on December 16th from 2-4pm. I serve high tea with sweets in the formal dining room. While folks eat, I share the legends of the house, then they can walk through anywhere that does not have a guest napping in a guest room. I collect a donation per person that will go to send a needy local child to a week of summer camp next season. This event is completely separate from the Surry County Regional Museum Ghost Tour. *Tea, Tales and Ghost Tours* is available most Sunday afternoons and for no more than 6 at a time. Call or send an email if you would like to schedule this special afternoon event.

## Special for Veterans and Wounded Warriors

I love it when the Wounded Warriors and their significant others come for a couple of nights and invariably they say it is like going to grandma's house. If they have documentation I let them stay free the second night....I so appreciate their service to keep our country safe. So many seem a bit tense when they arrive but soon relax and make themselves at home, say they sleep better, and wow...they have healthy appetites at breakfast....a joy to cook for since nobody mentions calories or turns down seconds, or even sometimes thirds. I always pack them a care package to snack on as they travel back home...my beloved Mother sent everyone who came to our house home with something special to eat later. I usually tell them it was made with love but I don't remember whether or not I washed my hands prior to cooking....love the laughs and grins I get from that!

## Out of the bag...

Aside from me, the guests and the ghosts, Cousin Emma's most spirited resident is Opie the cat, Here's a picture which I think shows Opie in a more relaxed, king of the castle light. ...still not sure of his future but with constant planning I have been able to entice him - and his 24/7 availability to eat- into the small bedroom which also has the essential litter box....this way he and the other cat, Kitty can discuss politics and he will not have a chance to shoot out the door....Kitty rarely shows interest but bolting outside is one of Opie's obsessions. I am thinking Opie needs to work in a carnival, knocking things off the shelves people try to shoot or throw things at for prizes....the big boy has talent and is as strong as he is strong-willed. Kitty just watches him and shakes her head or grooms her rear end in disgust!



Love and holiday things to smile about,

Emma...aka Suzanne Lewis Brown of Mayberry's Cousin Emma's Bed and Breakfast Inn