



Cousin Emma's Bed & Breakfast

501 South Main Street
Mt Airy, NC 27030
336-756-5656

<http://cousinemmas.weebly.com>

Summer 2023

Have a sit down and relax in Mayberry.

What's News?

Must share this!

Late one afternoon, a banged-up, red truck backed into my front yard and a man -who I didn't recognize- got out and started ringing my doorbell. I had just finished a



shower, put on my robe, and answered the door with hair and all dripping. Turns out my back-door neighbor overheard me say several times how I wished I had an old outhouse in the backyard near the slave cabin area. Well, this guy found some ancient wood and tin for a roof and built one for me. Donnie, lives in Virginia and made the outhouse without any instructions but based on ones he had, um, experienced first-hand.

He did a great job! It looks like a relic from the Civil War. He couldn't get a helper, so backed into my front yard and managed to push it off his truck and land it upright by the front porch- close to the little garden where several visitors have asked to stage wedding ceremonies. I told him to not worry and leave it there for the holiday and we'd think of how to get it to the back - plus it will raise more eyebrows in the front yard for a while...



The one tiny, toilet-only bathroom down the street at Cruise Mayberry Squad Car Tours is now closed to tourists so dozens of them ring my doorbell asking to use the bathroom,- I don't 'do tourist potting' unless they are paid guests so I don't let them in. Donnie padlocked the outhouse door to prevent anyone from using the outhouse before it is- um, in

its proper situation. I may talk him into making birdhouses to sell to guest and bypassing tourists.

I think there should be a ribbon cutting so I am going to leave a voicemail for my minister- who is now the new mayor- and ask him if he wants to do the honors! He will likely roar. This should

help stir the pot for the holidays...ha ha ha. I want to stick a flag and also some sort of noticeable toilet paper holder, maybe a metal coat hanger. Since he padlocked the door, likely folks are walking in circles trying to figure out how to get inside. I find great joy in these 'innocent' annoyances.

Thus far, there have been no less than 37 doorbell rings and knocks, in addition to notes stuck in the door of the outhouse and some in my storm door to tell me how cute and 'sassy' the outhouse is. All had taken photos of it with their companions. I wonder if I put a "Not From Aunt Bea" sign on the outhouse door, would folks believe it? Maybe my outhouse is the one that actually once was in his tiny childhood home's backyard? It may make a quaint Kodak moment.

In other news, it's finally turning summer here, it's been pleasantly cool but 14 straight days of rain and storm! Cousin Emma's hosted a house-full of Wounded Warriors and wives as weekend guests. They had such fun and ate everything but the cat's food.

My daughter and granddaughter are traipsing through Europe for a month to visit my first cousin's daughter who married a Frenchman and they recently bought an old chateau outside Paris for their seven children and themselves My daughter speaks fluent French so I figure they will likely go, see, and be with lots of interesting folks....Ten years ago I'd have also gone but now, Mayberry is more my speed and some of the tourists here are foreign enough for my taste, (grin).

Visit Mayberry!

**For Mt. Airy happenings,
check us out and plan a visit!**

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

Hope you all are fine...come visit... Seriously, come visit! Cousin Emma's Bed and Breakfast is open for business. Since the plague and pestilence seem to have settled down for a while, I am carefully accepting guests through the spring and summer. Tea, Tales, and Tours are always available by reservation.



I've been making SONKER which is an original Surry County, Mt. Airy/ Mayberry dessert, (the uninitiated might try to call it a cobbler). I lower the sweetness by using stevia, 1-4 kinds of fresh fruit, and my

usual gluten-free flours and of course eggs....the pastry puffs up light and high in the baking and I serve either hot sugar-free syrup or maple syrup. Folks love it and whatever might be left gets carefully wrapped and refrigerated for them to take on the road home when they stop for a drink and necessary room. Each southern family has their own recipe but mine is back from several generations of fabulous cooks....I must carry on the legacy.

Memories of Christmas in July

Just a few quick pictures from the Holiday Open House hosted at *Cousin Emma's Bed and Breakfast* back in December. I had decked the halls and here are some of the pictures. It is nice to fall back on



memories from cooler times in the height of the summer. Especially if it is hot outside. But there is a different kind of

warmth at Christmas that is fondly remembered any time of year. It's nice to enjoy the feeling without having to break out the tinsel

and glitz.

Opie and Ella Mae's Corner



He is not happy about having to share anything with anybody, but Opie tolerates sharing the house with Ella

Mae, the rescued hunting dog who was so emaciated a year ago now is a filled-out sixty pounds. Opie tries to put himself anywhere where he is unwanted and Ella Mae tends to stay underfoot. Both of them like attention though, and food!



One guest disliked grits and didn't want to hurt my feeling so put her bowl down for Ella Mae to eat and she loved them...I had no idea she would eat such but then again she mostly prefers people food and she has learned to 'work' the dining room at breakfast and someone always gives in. I have to shut Opie up since he will tactlessly jump up on the table in search of sausage or bacon with his 20 pound girth and lengthy tail swooping. Ella Mae's favorite neighbor is Noah, a two year old, seven pound Yorkie who chases her in circles inside the fence surrounding the slave cabin. Both run until their tongues hang out and then come to where I sit and expect a treat before they flop down in the grass to rest. So funny to watch all of this, rain or shine.

Check out

<http://www.mountainrydowntown.org/mont-hly-calendar.html> for local events and then book your stay at Cousin Emma's.

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