



Dr. Robert Frazer (1839-1918): Soldier, Diplomat & Educator

by John Walker "Jack" Frazer, Jr.

Robert Frazer, the youngest son of William Smith and Ann Burrus Frazer, was born May 30, 1839 on the family farm (Waverly) near Lahore, Virginia. His father, in addition to being a prosperous farmer, was an early Orange County educator serving as a Virginia School Commissioner and operating a school in the Lahore/Pamunkey neighborhood. Robert's older brother, William Tandy Burrus Frazer, was an Orange County Supervisor and later took over his father's school.

Robert began his education at the University of Virginia in 1859; however it was interrupted by the Civil War. Following the outbreak of hostilities in 1861, he enlisted in the 1st Rockbridge Artillery (Confederate Army) commanded by Lieutenant General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. He was wounded twice during the First Battle of Fredericksburg on December 13, 1862, one wound disabling his right arm for life. A detailed account of his participation in that battle is described in Edward A. Moore's *The Story of a Cannoneer Under Stonewall Jackson*.

Additionally, in a list of prominent men who participated in the 1st Rockbridge Artillery, he is identified by that author as "an accomplished scholar and prominent educator," and a portrait

of him is featured in the book.¹ After a period of convalescence, Robert returned to his unit and served until 1863 when he was again wounded, rendering further military service impossible. He then accepted an appointment as a professor of Greek and Latin at the Florida Military Institute at Tallahassee, returning to Virginia at the end of the war.



Portrait of Dr. Robert Frazer.
Taken by George S. Cook of Richmond, VA,
it likely dates from about 1900.

After the war, Robert was able to resume his education at the University of Virginia. He had initially studied law under Professor John B. Minor, but later changed his academic discipline to that of education. The details of the advanced degree awarded to him are unclear, as the PhD degree was first introduced in the United States around 1861, and was not widely in use until at least 1900. Frazer was awarded an LL.D. (Legum Doctor; or Doctor of Laws) degree, which may be considered as either an academic or honorary award depending on the jurisdiction or awarding institution, although in the United States, the LL.D is most often honorary. The University of Virginia archives for the years immediately following the Civil War are very limited in scope and the records do not provide any definitive information on the matter; however, his-

¹ Edward A. Moore, *The Story of a Cannoneer Under Stonewall Jackson*, (New York: The Neale Publishing Company, 1907), 161-169, 242 and 260.

torically that institution has not awarded honorary degrees as a matter of protocol. That practice currently remains in place according to the University of Virginia Graduate Records Department.²

Whether Robert's advanced degree was earned or honorary, in *A History of Prince Edward County, Virginia*, he was listed as "Robert Frazer, LL.D.," the third president of the Virginia State Normal School at Farmville, serving from 1898 to 1902.³ His biography is also provided in that publication. He is similarly credentialed in *The Baptist Encyclopedia of 1881* and in the 1898 *Virginian Yearbook*, and was referred to as Dr. Frazer in numerous public sources and in private references throughout his post UVA years.⁴

After completing his studies, Robert taught at a school for boys in Orange County near Lahore for several years. This was the private academy operated by his father and later his older brother William T. B. Frazer. In 1870, the public school system in Virginia was organized, and he was appointed the first Superintendent of Schools for Orange County. According to the *Virginia School Report of 1885*, F. L. Marshall, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in addressing the history of the public schools of Orange County wrote:

From 1861 to 1870 there is no evidence I can find to show anything was done in the line of education. The present law was enacted July 11th, 1870. Under its operation Mr. Robert Frazer became the first county superintendent of public schools for Orange County. His first session opened on 1st January, 1871, and continued until 31st July, 1871. His second commenced in the fall of that year and closed on 31st July, 1872, when he resigned and Mr. J. P. Taliaferro was appointed superintendent.⁵

Later in 1872, Frazer helped organize the Fauquier Female Seminary, a boarding school for girls in Warrenton, Virginia, and served as its first principal. At this time, he resumed a friendship with Colonel John S. Mosby, known as "The Grey Ghost" of Mosby's Rangers fame during the Civil War. They had initially become close friends while both were law students at the University of Virginia before the war.⁶ While there he also met and married Annie Florence Spilman (1850-1910) on June 19, 1873. They had no children. Known by her middle name, she was described in her obituary as "a leading light in religious and social circles in Warrenton."⁶

Both the Fauquier Female Seminary building and his wife's family home, Broadmoor, also known as the Spilman-Mosby House, are individually listed as historic structures in the 1983 National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the Warrenton Historic District. That form also documents Robert Frazer's association with the school.⁷ However, despite the joint family names associated with Broadmoor, there is no known connection between the Mosby and Spilman families other than ownership of the residence at different times.

Early in the Ulysses S. Grant Administration, Dr. Frazer was appointed Consul to Jamaica by U.S. Secretary of State Hamilton Fish. However, he desired a European position (France, Germany or Italy) in order to learn the language and literature of one of those countries. At the intercession of Colonel Mosby, a post-Civil War friend of that President, he was subsequently appointed Pro-Consul (Ambassador) to Sicily by President Grant on April 14, 1874.⁸



Photographic portrait of Robert Frazer, taken in Palermo, Sicily

Dr. Frazer served two years (1874-1876) as the Pro-Consul to Sicily, residing in the capitol city of Palermo. During this time he regularly corresponded with family members. A publication entitled *Correspondence of Robert Frazer* is comprised of letters from him and his wife to various members of their families describing Sicilian and Italian life and culture. Also included are remarks regarding his consular duties and their travels throughout Europe. The publication also contains correspondence from the period

2 University of Virginia Graduate Record Website: Archived Catalogue; Chapter entitled: "University Regulations, Honorary Degrees." (http://records.ureg.virginia.edu/content.php?catoid=41&navoid=2540&hl=honorary+degrees&returnto=search#hono_degr)

3 Edward Charles Burrell, *A History of Prince Edward County, Virginia* (Richmond, VA: The Williams Printing Company, 1922), 307.

4 William Cathcart, *The Baptist Encyclopedia*, Published by Lifelines Philippines, (1881) p.1312; *The Virginian*; Longwood College Yearbook, Farmville, Virginia (1898) pp. 30-33, and W.R. Hearst; *The American Almanac, Year-book, Cylopaedia and Atlas*, New York American & Journal and San Francisco Examiner (1904) p. 207.

5 F. L. Marshall, *Virginia School Report: Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction*, (15th Annual Report; Year Ending July 31, 1885), 117.

6 "Letter from Lahore," *The Free Lance*, (Fredericksburg, VA), June 28, 1910, [p. 1], (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn87060165/1910-06-28/ed-1/seq-1/>).

7 National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form: Warrenton Historic District, Fauquier County, Virginia (June 1983), 6, 7 and 41.

8 Ulysses S. Grant, *Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*, edited by John Y. Simon, (Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 2005), Volume 27, 427.

1855-1858 between Robert, his father, his brother William, and his sister Lucy, who was attending the Culpeper Female Institute and later the Piedmont Female Academy.⁹ Dr. Frazer's tenure in Sicily was considered a success, and he was urged by the Grant Administration to continue for an additional two year term. However, he had developed health issues resulting from the wounds incurred during the Civil War, and he felt the need to return to the United States to be closer to family.

After his return from Sicily and a period of convalescence, Dr. Frazer was selected as the President of three institutions of higher learning for women, serving a total of twenty years in these positions. Information regarding his accomplishments at these three schools was presented by Florence Spilman Decker in her remarks at the March 20, 1971 dedication of *Frazer Hall* at Longwood University and is summarized below.¹⁰

In 1882, his friend and mentor, the noted educational reformer, Dr. J. M. L. Curry, persuaded him to accept the presidency of Judson College at Marion, Alabama. (The Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia is named for Dr. Curry.) Under Frazer's administration Judson grew from a boarding student enrollment of 45 to 125 plus a large day student enrollment. When he arrived, the college was in debt; but when he left it had a surplus in its treasury, and the faculty was greatly enlarged with increased salaries. While at Judson College, Dr. Frazer's name, along with six others, was put in nomination for the vacant position of President of Richmond College; now the University of Richmond. The position ultimately went to Frederic W. Boatwright who served for 51 years.¹¹

In 1891, he was called to the Industrial Institute & College of Mississippi at Columbus, now known as the Mississippi University for Women. When he assumed the presidency, the school was the subject of a state legislative investigation and was badly run down. When he left, seven years later, enrollment had doubled, the numbers of academic courses were extended, a normal school was established and credentialed, and significant capital improvements had been made. In 1966 a five-story, air-conditioned dormitory named *Frazer Hall* was constructed on the campus.¹²

Dr. Frazer was selected President of the State Female Normal School of Farmville in early 1898. His four years at what is now Longwood University followed the same constructive policies found in his previous work. He added a department of physical education, a new gymnasium, an infirmary, a steam laundry, and a steam heating plant. Always interested in the development of students of limited means, he organized the Normal League Loan Fund, subsequently known as the Frazer Memorial Loan Fund. In 1900, the school's yearbook, "*The Virginian*" was dedicated to him; and in 1971, *Frazer Hall* was also dedicated to him.¹³

Frazer Hall at Longwood University is currently one of that school's two high rise student residence halls; the other is Curry Hall named for his friend, Dr. J. M. L. Curry. Construction was completed in 1970 and the building consists of nine floors of rooms housing 438 students. On the ground floor there is a large study lounge, general meeting rooms, and individual rooms for five fraternity or sorority chapters. The two dormitories are connected by a causeway and share first floor common space.¹⁴

In 1903, Dr. Frazer was one of five men selected to develop a plan to improve the standing of public education in Virginia (the other four members of this group were Governor Andrew J. Montague, Dr. S. C. Mitchell of Richmond College, Dr. H. B. Frissel of Hampton, and J. D. Eggleston, the Virginia Superintendent of Education). These men were responsible for the creation of the Cooperative Education Association of Virginia.

Dr. Frazer was one of two men tasked with carrying the association's message throughout the state, and assisting local entities in implementing its recommendations. The other was H. St. George Tucker, a former United States Congressman and the Dean of the Washington & Lee University Law School. Their effort resulted in what has been called the "*Educational Renaissance*" period in Virginia based on the dramatic increases in public school funding and capital improvements along with correspondingly higher teaching standards and levels of academic performance on the part of the state's students. During this time, he also represented Virginia as a member of the Southern Education Board with other prominent southern educators including Booker T. Washington who was an Alabama representative.¹⁵ He continued in these activities until his wife died in 1910, at which time he retired, at age seventy one.

9 Robert Frazer, LL.D.; *Miscellaneous Letters* (1855-1858). Originals of these are in possession of the author. The letters have been typed and bound in book form entitled the *Correspondence of Robert Frazer*. The author has a draft copy. Originals of all letters contained in this publication are in possession of this author.

10 Florence Spilman Decker, *Introductory Remarks at the Frazer Hall Dedication*, (Farmville, VA: Longwood University. March 20, 1971). Mrs. Decker (1893-1993) was selected to represent the Frazer family at this event. Although from Warrenton, Virginia, she was a close cousin of the Lahore Terrill and Frazer families. Additionally, the aunt for whom she was named was married to Dr. Robert Frazer. Mrs. Decker was a 1917 graduate of Westhampton College; a member of the City of Richmond School Board from 1938 to 1953; a University of Richmond Trustee from 1933 to 1963; president of the Westhampton College Alumnae Association; and the Richmond Christmas Mother of 1952.

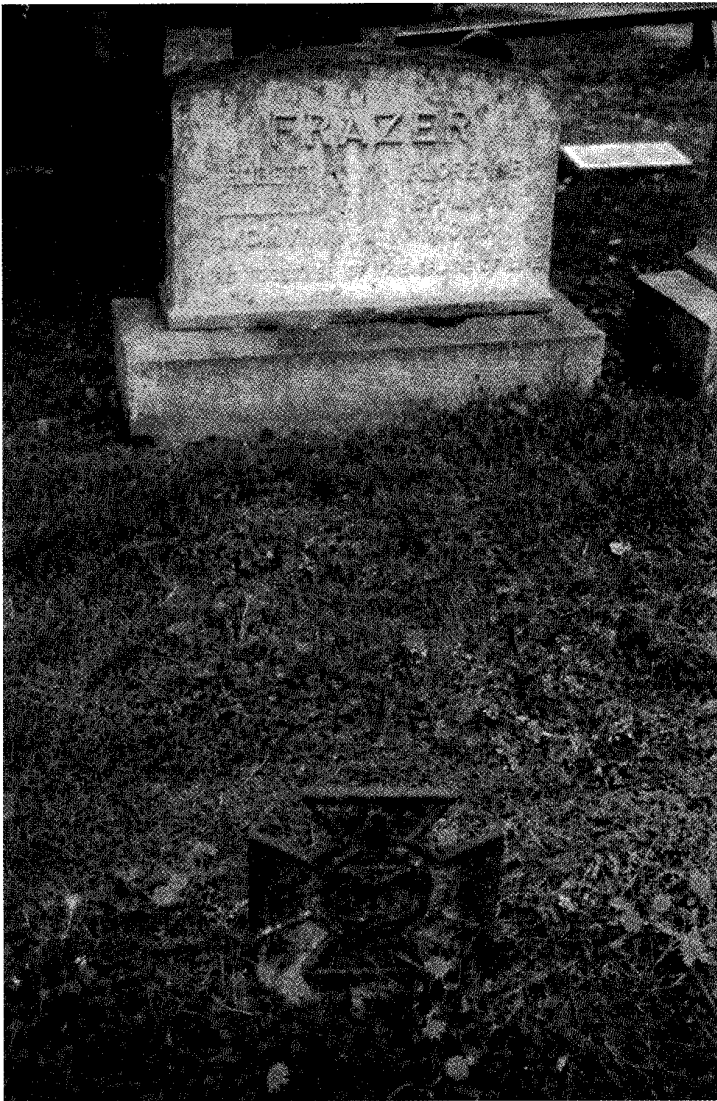
11 Reuben E. Alley, *History of the University of Richmond; 1830-1971*, (Charlottesville, VA: University Press of Virginia, 1977), 78-79.

12 Decker, *Introductory Remarks*, Mississippi University for Women Web Page: *Our History* (<http://www.muw.edu/about-muw/our-history>) and *Campus Map* (<http://www.muw.edu/campusmap>).

13 Ibid. and Kristen Welch and Abraham Ruelas, *The Role of Female Seminaries on the Road to Social Justice for Women* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2015), 147.

14 Longwood University Web Page: *Past Presidents* (<http://www.longwood.edu/about/leadership/presidents-office/past-presidents/>) and *Campus Map* (<http://www.longwood.edu/about/directions/>).

15 Cornelius Jacob Heatwole, *A History of Education in Virginia*, (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1916), 313-317.



Dr. Robert Frazer's grave in Warrenton, Virginia

After retirement he frequently visited his family in Orange County and especially enjoyed attending his boyhood church, North Pamunkey Baptist Church at Lahore where he maintained a life-time membership. He died on June 18, 1918 at the home of a niece, Lucy Terrill Coons, in Culpeper, Virginia, and is buried with his wife at the city cemetery in Warrenton, Virginia, adjacent to Colonel John S. Mosby's gravesite. His gravesite contains a Confederate grave marker.

The author, John Walker "Jack" Frazer, Jr., of Richmond, Virginia, is Dr. Frazer's great-great nephew. He can be contacted via email at jack.frazer@comcast.net

Mr. Frazer's soon to be published book is titled:

The Pamunkey Neighborhood: 1727-2016

The Long History of a Small Place

All photographs are courtesy of Mr. Frazer

PROGRAMS

This year we have enjoyed many wonderful programs and picnics — and many more are planned for the coming months.

In April, Ross Hunter and Phil Audibert presented the newly digitized version of Audibert's 1984 oral history of Freetown, the hometown of Edna Lewis.

The "May Meeting in June" featured Ms. Teresa Roane, Archivist/Librarian for the United Daughters of the Confederacy speaking on "Minorities in the Confederate Military: Combat Support." She explained that "far from being unpaid, forced labor, Free People of Color (both men and women) in support roles were paid more money than privates in the army and received military pensions."

Photo by Jayne E. Blair



Ms. Teresa Roane with Historical Society President John Tranver Graham.

The picnic season kicked off in June with members assembling at Elizabeth Goeke and Jay Billie's Inn at Westwood, where everyone appreciated seeing their wonderful home and grounds. A very hot July evening saw members gratefully gathering at the Rapidan fire house where Alan Shotwell spoke about the Burning of Rapidan during the Civil War.

Our August picnic was held at Germanna in eastern Orange County, where the Germanna Foundation's Chief Operating Officer, Steve Hein, introduced Archaeologist Dr. Eric Larsen. Eric spoke about the resumption of archaeological explorations at Spotswood's home site, known to many as the "Enchanted Castle."

Continued on page 9

OLIVER DINWIDDIE TUCKER: LOCAL MAJOR LEAGUER

by Robert L. Lookabill

If you have driven State Route 230 in Madison County, you have probably noticed a good sized mausoleum in a family cemetery near the road in Radiant, Virginia, between Madison Mills and Pratts. I was intrigued upon seeing the vault and inquired of Frank Walker for some history. Frank stated, "That is the grave of O. D. Tucker who played major league baseball." Being a huge fan of the game, I quickly made a note and was soon doing research on Mr. Tucker.

What I found is a most interesting story. Oliver Dinwiddie Tucker, or "Ollie" to his legion of fans, was born on 27 January 1902, and died on 13 July 1940, at the unseemly age of thirty-eight. He was born and died in Radiant and his mausoleum is located in the Tucker family cemetery there. The tenth of twelve children, Ollie was schooled locally and in 1920 played baseball at Woodberry Forest Academy.¹ He played only one year and did not graduate from Woodberry.

He was signed by the New York Yankees at age 19 but never actually played in the major leagues for them, although there are pictures of him in a Yankee uniform. It may be that the 1920 purchase of Babe Ruth by the Yankees kept the talented young Tucker in the minor leagues. In one of life's big "what ifs"; with another organization he may have been a big league star.

Ollie was sent out his first year to Cedartown, Georgia for seasoning and then spent 1922 to 1926 with the New Orleans Pelicans. In a Yankee retrospective in the 26 March 1935 *St. Petersburg Independent*, the writer reminisced about the powerful Yankee outfield going into spring training in New Orleans in 1924. "The Yankees were World Series Champs in 1923. Manager Miller Huggins looked to repeat in 1924 with the powerful outfielders he took to camp in New Orleans -Babe Ruth, Bob Meusel, O.D. Tucker and [future Hall of Famer] Earl Combs." Just to be mentioned in that outfield shows Ollie's potential. However, at the end of

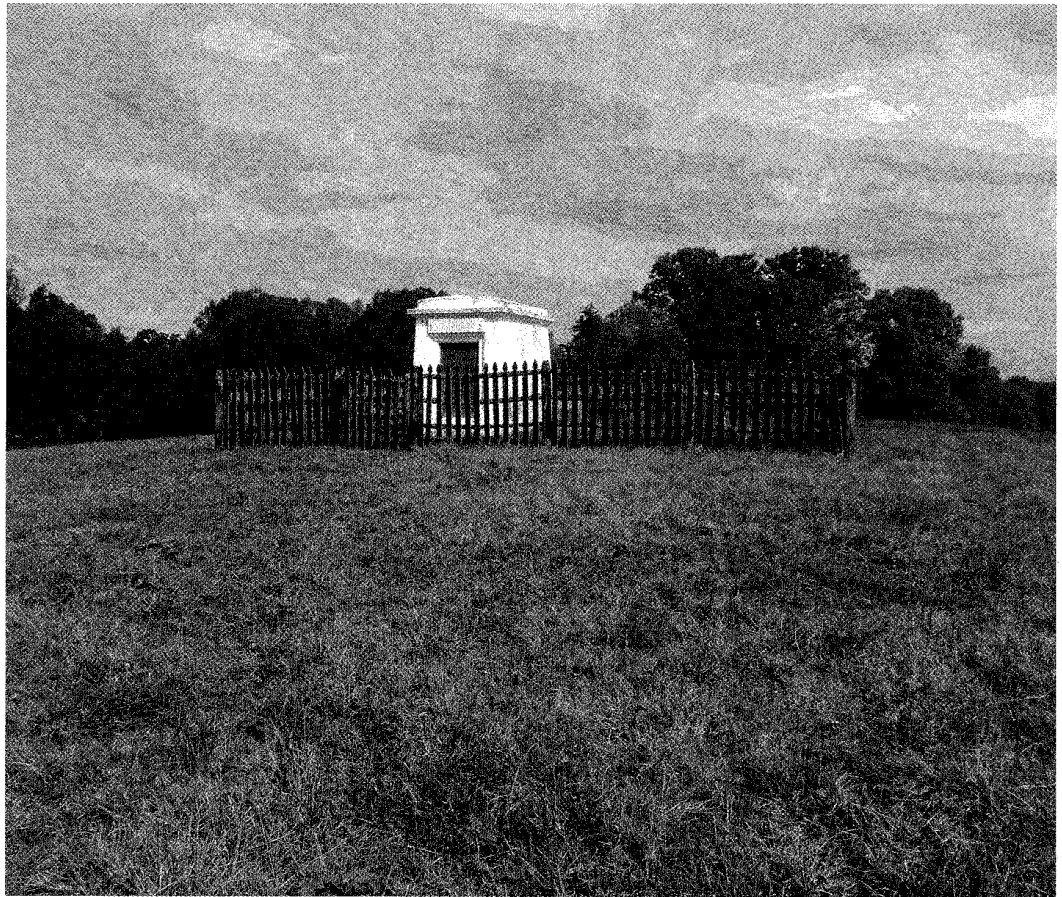


Photo by Lynne G. Lewis

Oliver Dinwiddie Tucker's Mausoleum

that spring training he was still in the minor leagues with New Orleans. He was recognized for his outstanding play in 1926 (.361 batting average with 209 hits) by being named to the Southern League All Star team while still playing for New Orleans. It was there he met his wife Thelma Elizabeth Parish.²

Ollie ended up playing most of 1927 with AAA Minneapolis. However, late that year, at the age of 25, he finally got the call to the big leagues by the Washington Senators. This was a team that had won the World Series in 1925 and featured future Hall of Famers Tris Speaker, Walter Johnson, Bucky Harris, Sam Rice and Goose Goslin. He played in only 20 games that year, posting a modest .208 batting average on five hits in 24 at bats.³ He was back in New Orleans in 1928 and again got a call to the majors late in the year, this time with the Cleveland Indians. He played in 14 games but batted only .128. He did hit his only major league home

1. 1919-1920 *The Fir Tree*, Vol. 10. Woodberry Forest Academy Yearbook, Woodberry Forest, VA.

2. *Orange County Review*, (Orange, VA), 12 June 2008.

3. All statistics taken from Baseball-Reference.com



Photo courtesy of Woodberry Forest School

On the team at Woodberry Forest Academy. O. D. Tucker is thought to be the third player from the left, top row. Photo from the 1919-1920 yearbook, *The Fir Tree*

run that year. Sadly, he never returned to the major leagues after that season. If Ollie's story ended there you might think that is nice, a local boy becomes one of the few players to make it to the big leagues. Yet it is the rest of Ollie Tucker's career that is so special.

While never finding his niche in the big leagues, Ollie amassed an amazing career in the minor leagues. Playing for the Buffalo Bisons of the International League, beginning in 1930 and for the next five years, he amassed a .322 batting average playing in 779 games. He hit 110 home runs and had 539 RBIs. He still holds the Buffalo single season record for doubles with 52, set in 1932. In 1930 he hit an amazing .376. For these efforts he was inducted into the Buffalo Bison Baseball Hall of Fame in 1986 and the International League Baseball Hall of Fame in 2008.

At this point the question to any student of the game is why Ollie could not translate his all-star-quality minor league numbers into a big league career. His minor

league statistics are amazing. He was a career .335 hitter for his minor league career, hitting 237 home runs. One theory was put forth by his great nephew Dr. H. Q.

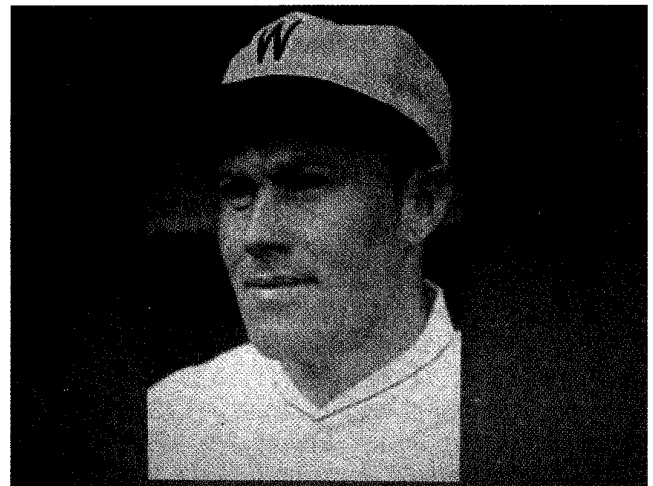


Photo provided by Jim Tucker

Tucker as a Washington Senator.

Tucker.⁴ As one of the highest paid stars in the minor leagues, his \$5,000 per year would be a lot more than he would be paid as a bench warmer in the major leagues. When you consider the cost of living during the 1930s (a Ford V-8 cost \$490), \$5,000 was a princely sum.

While 1935 was his last season in professional baseball it did not mean Ollie was through with the game. In the year following his retirement he coached the semi-pro Charlottesville team in the Valley League that summer.⁵ The Charlottesville paper reported that while the team played well, they lost the pennant to the Harrisonburg team.⁶ Ollie played in some of the contests in his role as player manager, a second career that lasted several seasons.

However, his health problems, which had begun in his last year with Buffalo, continued to plague him. As his health continued to deteriorate his wife and brother-in-law opened a popular dance hall called Tucker's Tea Room.⁷ Located just across the Rapidan in Orange County on Route 15, it gave Ollie a place where the ex-major leaguer could regale patrons with his baseball exploits. He had brain surgery in Washington, D.C. in 1939 and passed away in July of 1940 at the age of thirty-eight. It was at his wife Thelma's direction that his mausoleum was constructed in the style of the tombs found in New Orleans.⁸

Putting aside all of Ollie's baseball accomplishments, what made him such a special person to all who came

in contact with him? He remained true to his heritage, returning to Radiant every off season, and splitting his own firewood to stay in shape. He would bring pillow cases of baseballs for all the local kids so they would have professional equipment. He always had a big grin on his face and never forgot his family. His niece remembers being on her wedding trip and Ollie showed up to give her tickets to a game. The Buffalo *Courier-Express* referred to him as "Ollie Tucker, the slugging Virginia Gentleman." The final tribute to the man was the contingent of local fans and relatives who made the trips to Buffalo and to Richmond for his induction into both the Buffalo and the International League Hall of Fame. His niece, who had never seen him play, escorted his 94-year-old sister Effie Tucker to Buffalo for his induction. This was a man revered by everyone who came in contact with him.

The author would like to extend special thanks to Jim Tucker, third cousin to Ollie Tucker; Karen Culbertson, Archivist at Woodberry Forest School; and Frank Walker, historian, for their kind assistance with this article.

4 *Madison County Eagle*, (Madison, VA), 3 September 1998.

5 *Madison County Eagle*, (Madison, VA), 5 June 1936.

6 *Charlottesville Progress*, (Charlottesville, VA), 31 August 1936.

7 *Madison County Eagle*, (Madison, VA), 3 September 1998.

8 *Ibid.*

9 *Ibid.*

The remains of
Tucker's Tea Room
Orange County,
Virginia

"The dance hall had a dirt basement with an old Buick car and a belt set up in it that was connected to an airplane propeller upstairs," H.Q. Tucker remembered. That propeller cooled the dance hall while patrons consumed fried chicken and drank potables from brown bags.⁹



Photo by Bernice Walker

STAFF SGT. WILLIAM BRECKENRIDGE GRYMES

by Paul Carter



Staff Sgt. William B. Grymes

From an undated *Orange Review* clipping found in the Tex Webb scrapbook at the Historical Society.

le before enlisting the Army Air Corps.

He tried to enlist at the age of 17, but was not called until 21 October 1943. After his initial induction in Richmond, VA, he trained at Greensboro, NC; Tyndall Field, Panama City, FL; Lincoln Field, NE; and completed training at Army Air Corps Field, Pueblo, CO, on 5 September 1944, as a nose turret gunner on a B-24 Liberator. After a short leave home, he sailed from Camp Patrick Henry, Warwick County, VA on 10 September 1944. Camp Patrick Henry was located on the same site at what is now Newport News / Williamsburg International Airport.

Breck was assigned to the 15th Air Force, 98th Bomber Group, 343rd Bomber Squadron located in Lecce, Italy. If you can imagine Italy as the shape of a boot, Lecce is located on the heel. From this location bombing missions were flown

William Breckenridge Grymes, son of William Randolph and Emily Leftwich Grymes, was born in Nottoway County, Virginia, on 5 July 1925. The family lived on Main Street in Orange in a house that was torn down where Taylor Park is now located. The father was an electrical engineer who worked for the power company. Breck, as his family and friends called him, graduated from Orange High School in 1942 and attended one year at William and Mary College before enlisting the Army Air Corps.

to Vienna, Munich, and parts of Italy attacking viaducts, railroad yards, and bridges. Round trips usually took from eight to twelve hours. On one such mission on 7 November 1944, to knock out the bridge at Bolzano, Italy, located in the northern mountainous region, his B-24 lost an engine and sustained 43 flak holes at an altitude of 14,000 feet. The plane was able to return safely. All total, Breck flew twenty bombing missions.

While most people were thinking of the Christmas holiday season, Breck was to fly on a mission on 23 December 1944. Fog and poor weather over the target area called off the mission at 7:00 AM, so seven of the crew members decided to get some "sack time." The co-pilot and two other members got in a jeep and went to town because they knew more than likely that whoever was hanging around might be subjected to all sorts of training exercises.

Their prediction proved true. The seven were picked for an indoctrination flight with a new crew to learn the area and procedures. When the three returned that night, they were told that the B-24 had been reported missing. The plane had crashed into a mountain in poor weather. Ground troops were able to recover the bodies. The actual report of the people on the flight, including Breck, was not declassified until 1973. The Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Purple Heart

From the Grymes family file, Orange County Historical Society



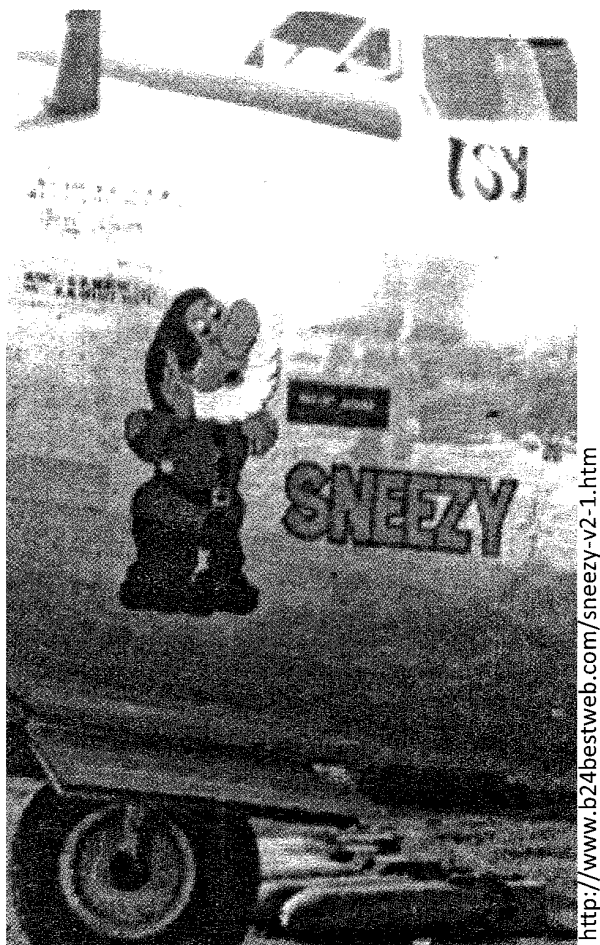
Picture of his air crew with Breck in the center front with Dixie, their mascot. Dixie never went on a flight, but always waited for them to return. The picture was sent to the Grymes family by the co-pilot of Breck's plane.

were awarded posthumously to his mother. His body was disinterred from Italy and buried in Graham Cemetery on 19 November 1948.

Back home Mr. and Mrs. Grymes were in shock. They had lost Breck's only sister, Betty, at the age of 20 on 14 July 1943, with kidney disease, and now their only son at the age of nineteen had been killed overseas less than two years later.

The family went on with life in Orange. Breck's mother, Emily, started a private school in a summer kitchen behind their house on Main Street and later moved it upstairs. This school prospered into what is now Grymes Memorial School located on Spicers Mill Road. It was named in honor of Breck and Betty.

At St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Breck is listed along with William Barton Mason and Severn M. Nottingham, Jr., on the stained glass War Memorial window dedicated to the memory of St. Thomas members killed in World War II.



One of the B-24's on which Breck was a gunner. The planes in his unit all had a painting of one of Snow White's Seven Dwarfs, done by Sgt. Gerald Viola, aircraft electrician on base.

PROGRAMS, continued from page 4

In September, historian Ann Miller spoke on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of the 1716 Spotswood expedition to the Shenandoah Valley. Often celebrated as the ride of The Knights of the Golden Horseshoe, the ride was not overlooked during the 1934 observance of Orange County's founding 200 years earlier. As Ms. Miller noted with some amusement, the Revolutionary-era costumes worn by these reenactors are just a bit anachronistic.



Harrison Spotswood, great grandson of Alexander Spotswood, presenting a Golden Horseshoe to his Knights. This scene will be symbolized in the Pageant during the Bicentennial.

Our October and November meetings cover topics relating to education in Orange County.

ANNUAL MEETING 2017

The Orange County Historical Society's Annual Meeting, held in January, will feature a talk by Frank S. Walker. Date, time and location will be announced in the near future.

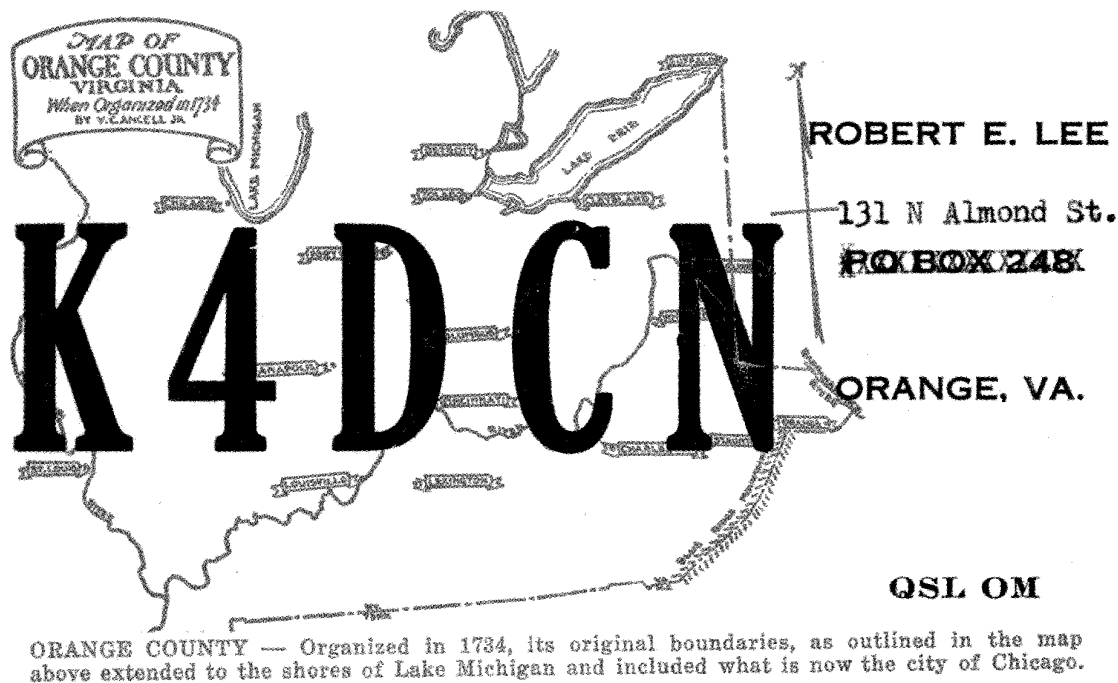
MR. ROBERT E. LEE

by Ann Miller

Our senior member, Mr. Robert E. Lee, passed away in July at age 98. A frequent attendee, and occasional participant, at our meetings, in recent years he contributed many pieces of information to the Society, as well as several articles for the *Record*. A native of the town of Orange, and blessed with an amazing memory, Mr. Lee was a wonderful source of local history. A former watchmaker, Mr. Lee also had a meticulous eye for detail, which is well illustrated in the scale model of the

1909 Orange Train Station that he constructed between 2001 and 2005, spending over 2,000 hours to complete the project.

Mr. Lee would frequently drop into our Research Center with a great piece of information or a similarly fascinating object from the past. The QSL card shown here is Mr. Lee's last historical tidbit for us. The card gives Mr. Lee's radio call numbers, a reminder of the days when there were numerous radio hobbyists, many

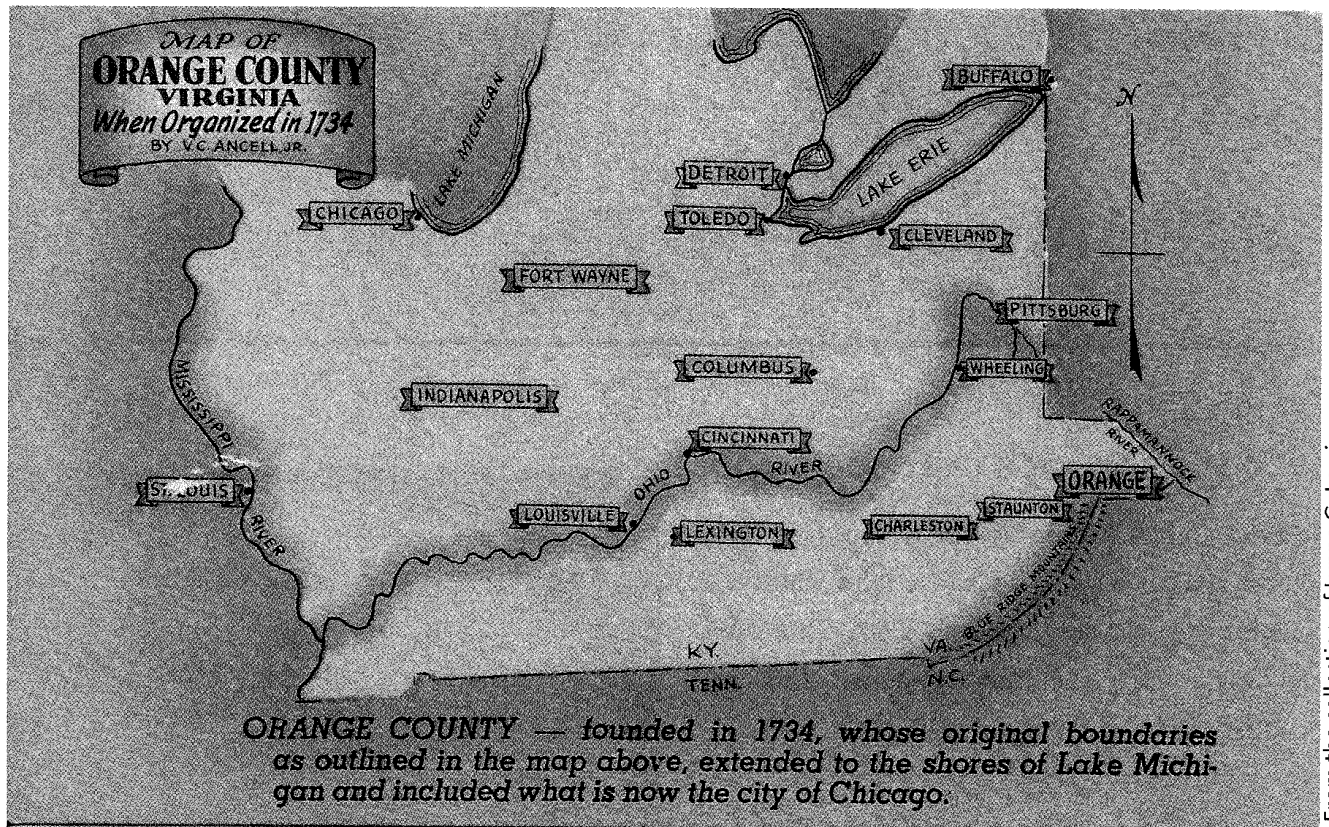


Front and back of Mr. Lee's QSL card

To RADIO	Confirming
our QSO of	19.....
atM	ST on Meters
Ur Fone-CW	Sigs QSA S RST
Revr	
Xtmr	
Watts input. Ant:	
Rmks:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pse QSL <input type="checkbox"/> Tnx QSL. Cu Agn OM 73	

of whom had cards of this kind. The information on the back of the postcard was to record the dates and times that you had communications with another radio'er (left side) and the blank space (on the right side) was for the address. You then sent the card to the transmitter of the signals (local or regional address books were often issued to local radio aficionados). This would confirm that you had received their message, and let the transmitter know how far (and how strongly) his signals were reaching.

The map on the card is the familiar image of Orange County at its greatest extent, as created in 1734. Mr. Lee also gave us "the rest of the story": the designer of the map was V. C. Ancell, Jr. (see the small scroll on the upper left hand side of the front of the card). Mr. Ancell was an engineer and the designer of the sewer system for the town of Orange around 1919, when the American Silk Mill wanted to open a plant here. There were no sewer plants in town at the time, and in order to open a plant the town needed a sewer system. Hence Mr. Ancell came to town, and later produced this graphic representation of the county boundaries "back when."



From the collection of Lynne G. Lewis.

A standard postcard, showing "old" Orange County.
Note the same scroll and credit to Mr. Ancell appears in the upper left-hand corner.

From *A Brief History of Orange County, Virginia*, published by
the Orange County Historical Society, 1992

Established in 1734, Orange County is named in honor of William, Prince of Orange, who in that year married Anne, Princess Royal of England. Rich in history, it has the distinction of having been the largest Virginia county ever formed. Orange covered a vast territory extending from its present eastern boundary west to the Mississippi River and north to the Great Lakes. The states of Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and West Virginia were once part of Orange County. Over time, its boundaries have contracted to an elongated county of approximately 37 miles by 17 miles.

Orange County Historical Society
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THE RESEARCH CENTER

The Research Center is open Monday thru Friday from 1pm to 5pm and has recently added the third Sunday of each month. Staffing the Research Center are Jean McGann, Jayne Blair and Ruth Long. All three are there, willing and able to help our visitors and guests.

Do you have your copy of *Glimpses* yet? Be sure to pick up a copy of this newly created, totally searchable CD of Pete Joyner's comprehensive work on the history of Orange County. Do you want to know who was Sheriff in 1920—just consult *Glimpses*! And don't forget, members receive a 10% discount on this and all other Historical Society publications!

