

5. CHRONICLE ESMONT HISTORY



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The history of Esmont does not exist in one single document, but rather in bits and pieces in numerous places. Esmont has a rich history going back to the 1800's when it played an important role in the county and region. It is worthy of being documented and published as a teaching tool.

BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY: Chronicling a comprehensive history is likely to be well received and will raise the level of interest in the Village at home and around the community.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PROJECTS: The Lane Family, trains, slate, and soapstone all had major impacts on Esmont leading to the selection of Rails to Trails Project, Rebuilding the Depot Project and Esmont Fulfillment Farm Project involving the Esmont Slate Quarry.

ESTIMATED COST: Research costs for the project: \$20,000. Printing costs: \$3000.

SUSTAINABILITY OF PROJECT: Publications of Esmont's history will be distributed electronically and in bound booklets.

JANUARY 2020 UPDATE: Friends of Esmont, Inc. has been awarded a grant for a historian to research and write the History of Esmont, funded by Virginia Humanities of Charlottesville. Included in the research: how and when Esmont became a village; the impact of the Soapstone Shortlines rail system; quarry mining of soapstone and slate; the wonderful farms in the immediate area; and face-to-face interviews with folks from Chestnut Grove, Porters and the village of Esmont.