



The Hospital at Ellwood Manor

Robert Lookabill, Robert Epp, and John Kanaster

Today Ellwood Manor is the only structure dating to the Battle of the Wilderness still standing on the battlefield. Although best known as the Union 5th Corps Headquarters for General Gouverneur K. Warren during the battle on 5-6 May 1864, the house has a long history dating back to the late 1790s. But it is the role Ellwood played the previous year, in early May 1863, during and after three of the battles fought at and around Chancellorsville, that has lately gained increased attention. During this time, Ellwood – also called the Lacy House on Civil War era maps – served as a field/convalescent hospital for the Confederate Army during those battles and for four to six months afterward.

We know that Ellwood was part of the army's field hospital complex from the diary of Captain John Wesley Melhorn. Writing in his diary on 5 May he penned, "Move to Rev. 'Lacy's House Hospital' nearby. I had been lying in a bunk. Some boys carry me over, where we have excellent quarters."¹ The hospital was probably operational as early as 2 May. However, when the Confederate Army prepared to move on 8 May after the fighting at Chancellorsville, the medical staff had at least 132 officers and men who were too severely wounded to be moved. The solution was to use Ellwood as a convalescent hospital. Ellwood was roughly three-quarters of a mile from the 2nd Corps Field Hospital headquarters at Wilderness Tavern and had its own kitchen, laundry, and ice house.

The use of Ellwood as a convalescent hospital is an excellent example of how the medical departments of both armies adapted to the difficult situations they faced. Dr. Harvey Black, 2nd

¹ Diaries of John Wesley Melhorn, 1862-1863, p. 55. Series M0023a, Stanford University Library, Stanford, CA. Melhorn confuses the owner of Ellwood, James Horace Lacy with his brother, the Reverend Beverly Tucker Lacy. Melhorn was a Captain of Company C, 10th Virginia Infantry.



Ellwood Manor in April 2020. Photo courtesy of Bob Epp.

Corps surgeon, wrote his wife on 10 May, "All the wounded have been left under the charge of Dr. Graham [John Alexander Graham] at Major Lacy's house, a beautiful place, fine house and an ice house well filled."² Dr. Lafayette Guild, Medical Director and Chief Surgeon for the Army of Northern Virginia, informed Dr. Samuel Moore, Surgeon General of the Confederate Medical Department, about the situation on 22 May. Guild wrote, "Most of the cases were comminuted fractures of the upper third of the thigh and thigh amputations. They were comfortably provided for with

bedding, bunks, changes of clothing, medical supplies & dressings, surgeons, nurses, such provisions as could be obtained in sufficient abundance and were in my opinion better off than had they been removed to a crowded hospital."³

While the field hospital at Wilderness Tavern is famous as the site of the amputation of Stonewall Jackson's arm (and Ellwood Manor as the place where the arm was buried), the tavern probably also provided most of the supplies and beds for Ellwood's hospital. A copy of the reimbursement invoice paying Wilderness Tavern owner William Simms states he was paid for "1000 pailings [sic] (for bunks)"⁴ used in making the beds for the field hospital. As all the furniture had been removed from

² McMullen, Glenn, ed., *The Civil War Letters of Dr. Harvey Black: A Surgeon with Stonewall Jackson*, Army of Northern Virginia Series, Book 3. (Baltimore: Butternut & Blue, 1995), p. 49.

³ 22 May 1863 dispatch from Medical Director Lafayette Guild to Surgeon General S. P. Moore, Chapter IV, Volumes 641-642, Record Group 102, National Archives, Washington D.C.

⁴ Confederate States invoice dated 16 May 1863 approved by Brigadier General Raleigh Colston, National War Department Collection of Confederate Records, Record Group 109.12.3, Other Records, Citizens File 1861-1865. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

See **Hospital at Ellwood** on page 2.

Hospital at Ellwood (*continued*)

the house, by association, the beds were probably used at Ellwood as well. This is another example of adapting to a situation utilizing resources at hand.

Dr. John Alexander Graham, surgeon in charge, attended Washington College in Lexington, Virginia, from 1850-51. He then attended the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in 1858 and the University of the City of New York Medical Department the following year.⁵ He enlisted as assistant surgeon with the Rockbridge County artillery and was ordered to General Jackson's staff in May of 1862. As surgeon-in-charge at Ellwood, he signed an invoice in August 1863 for reimbursement to James Horace Lacy, owner of Ellwood, for milk and mutton consumed at the hospital.⁶ Dr. Graham returned to Lexington after the war and practiced medicine. Another surgeon present was Dr. Alexander A. McQueen, born in Alabama. He enlisted as Assistant Surgeon on 13 November 1861 and was transferred from Ellwood to the 2nd North Carolina Battalion on 18 August 1863.

The only two identified hospital patients who survived the war are Captain Melhorn of the 10th Virginia Infantry, Company C and Adam Jehu Wilson, a member of Company L of the 4th Virginia Infantry.⁷ On 3 May 1863, Wilson was wounded and his right arm was amputated by Dr. Harvey Black. Following the war, he married and settled in Lewisburg, West Virginia, where he was a successful businessman. He named his youngest son Harvey Black Wilson.⁸

To date our research has not come up with a complete roster of patients; however, thanks to James Horace Lacy we have his list of soldiers buried on his property, most of whom died at Ellwood Hospital.⁹ Later, Lacy and the Ladies Memo-

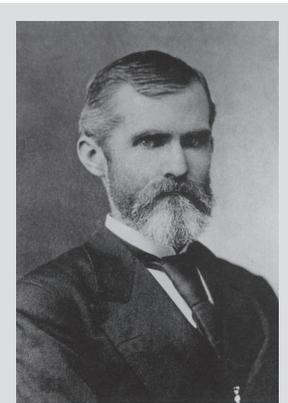


Adam Jehu Wilson, one of two known survivors who had been patients at Ellwood. Photo courtesy of his granddaughter, Ann McClung.

rial Association had the bodies exhumed and most were moved to the Confederate Cemetery in downtown Fredericksburg. He identified 10 men of the 24 removed; the remaining graves are unmarked. Through various sources we have learned several additional names who could have been some of those unknown burials.¹⁰

As could be expected, reported casualty numbers for the fighting vary depending on the source. Wartime official records are very inaccurate as whole units are sometimes omitted. On the aforementioned Simms receipt Surgeon Coleman states that Wilderness Tavern and the adjoining complex in the area treated 3,000 casualties. The point here is that of the roughly 3,000 patients treated at Wilderness Tavern, only 132 could not be moved on or about 8 May. This points to a very efficient and well run hospital system with very competent staff.

Dr. Harvey Black wrote to his wife that the original number of patients was 250, but we tend to discount that figure as too high. As stated earlier, from Dr. Guild's 22 May correspondence, the original number of wounded at Ellwood was 132 patients when the hospital was established on 8 May. In that same letter he mentions that by 22 May the number has been reduced to 90, and he goes on to say "...some few have died of their wounds and others sufficiently restored to a condition that would admit of their removal."¹¹ Family history shows Adam Wilson would be in that latter category as he was checked out of the hospital and made his way home to Blacksburg a few weeks after his surgery. On 6 June, Dr. Guild states, "Sixteen of the severely wounded, who could not be removed far from the battlefield of Chancellorsville, will be sent to Richmond tomorrow. Thirty will remain



Dr. Harvey Black. Image courtesy of Virginia Tech University Libraries Imagebase.

⁵ Attendance confirmation is available, but due to the nature of medical courses at the time, no transcripts exist.

⁶ Confederate State invoice dated August 1863, approved by Dr. J. A. Graham. War Department Collection of Confederate Records, Record Group 109.12.3, Other Records, Citizens File 1861-1865. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

⁷ James I. Robertson, *Fourth Virginia Infantry* (Virginia Regimental Histories Series), Second Edition. (Lynchburg, VA: H E Howard, 1982), p. 81 and Murphy, Terence V., *10th Virginia Infantry* (The Virginia Regimental Histories Series). (Lynchburg, VA: H E Howard, 1989), p. 164.

⁸ Ancestry.com. *1900 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004. Census Place: Lewisburg, Greenbrier, West Virginia; Page: 2; Enumeration District: 0032; FHL microfilm: 1241759.

⁹ "Buried near Ellwood House from Hospital after the Battle of Chancellorsville." Document in possession of National Park Service, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, Fredericksburg, VA.

¹⁰ Research continues in this area. Some of these known individuals have headstones in the Confederate Cemetery while we believe most of the unknown were buried in the mass grave without individual markers.

¹¹ 22 May 1863 dispatch from Medical Director Lafayette Guild to Surgeon General S. P. Moore, Chapter IV, Volumes 641-642, Record Group 102, National Archives, Washington DC.

Hospital at Ellwood (*continued*)

at Ellwood hospital, yet in no condition to be moved.”¹² The decline from 132 to 90 to 30 seems like a reasonable reduction in numbers given the severity of the wounds to start with. It took at least another 60 days for the remaining 30 most severely wounded to improve to the point that they could be transferred and the hospital could cease operations. The last death we are aware of occurred on 4 June.

It appears the hospital was closed in August 1863. The invoice mentioned earlier signed by Dr. Graham indicates an accounting for the facility at that time. Add this to Dr. McQueen’s transfer on 18 August and it appears that all patients had been moved out by that time. A sighting in November of a hospital flag nailed high on the house is believed simply to be left over from that summer.

In conclusion we believe there are at least three important takeaways from the hospital experience at Ellwood;

1. Civil War medicine was better than most people think.

Dr. Jay Bollet in his book *Civil War Medicine* states that “the medical services responded remarkably well to the immense demands by achieving survival rates for disease and wounds not known in previous wars and by developing innovations that later became standard components of battlefield and disaster medicine.”¹³ The medical corps made drastic improvements

¹² 6 June 1863 dispatch from Surgeon and Medical Director, Army of Northern Virginia L. Guild, to Surgeon-General, C. S. Army S. P. Moore. War of the Rebellion: Serial 045, Chapter XXXIX. Correspondence, etc.- Confederate, Ohio State University: ehistory.osu.edu/books/official-records/045/0864 and ehistory.osu.edu/books/official-records/045/0863

¹³ Bollet, Alfred Jay, M.D., *Civil War Medicine: Challenges and Triumphs*. (Tucson, AZ: Galen Press, 2002), p. xiii.

from the beginning of the war and many wounded veterans owed their lives to Civil War doctors and nurses. It appears probable that well over 100 of the 132 severely wounded soldiers at Ellwood recovered.

2. **The 2nd Corps field hospital at Wilderness Tavern/ Ellwood hospital was part of the second level of a three tiered system to ensure the best possible medical care for the wounded.** The first tier was the forward aid station just behind the firing lines. Here wounded were stabilized and shipped to the second tier field hospital where primary treatment was provided, to include surgery. From the field hospital the wounded would have been moved to general hospitals in cities such as Richmond, Charlottesville and Lynchburg among others. There were a number of “receiving” hospitals, generally located on railroads, from where patients were shipped on to general hospitals. The Exchange Hotel hospital at Gordonsville would be an excellent example of a receiving hospital.

3. **Ellwood is a perfect example of adapting a civilian structure into a needed hospital.** Medical personnel on both sides had to adapt to the terrible nature of the war. There were few purpose built medical facilities in the Confederacy (Chimborazo in Richmond being the most notable exception) and Ellwood is an example of an existing building being adapted to meet a need for a hospital. Ellwood, along with tents and associated outbuildings, became part of a field hospital complex. Later it morphed into a convalescent hospital for the seriously wounded patients until they were well enough to be discharged or moved to general hospitals elsewhere.

In Case You Missed It

Lynne G. Lewis

As noted in our 2019 annual report, October brought a nod to Halloween with *Superstitions, Charms & Luck*, led by Lynne Lewis and Ann Miller along with enthusiastic audience participation. Our November program featured the premiere of Phil Audibert’s video documentary *Memories: Greatest Hits Part I*, highlighting seven of Phil’s favorite oral history interviews of Orange County residents from his ongoing “Memories” oral history project.

Sunday, January 26, 2020 saw the annual membership meeting of the Orange County Historical Society and a celebration of the founding of our Society 55 years ago.

After the brief business meeting and election of Board Members, Lynne Lewis, with assistance from Ann Miller, reviewed the history of the Historical Society. Lynne noted that we had somehow missed celebrating our 50th Anniversary, but in doing the background for this story, unearthed some confusion about

the founding. It turns out that December 7, 1965 is the actual founding date, while 1966 is the year we received our incorporation papers as a private, not-for-profit organization. Hence, various mastheads and letterheads show different dates. From an article in the *Orange Review* asking if there would be interest in a historical society, to the creation of our Research Center and its opening in 1979, to the wide array of publications we have undertaken and the almost 400-strong membership, the Historical Society has remained an active and important part of Orange County for the last 55 years.

James W. Cortada (Jr.), who was involved with the Historical Society from before the very beginning shared his thoughts, via letter, with the members, as follows:

See In Case You Missed It on page 4.

In Case You Missed It (*continued*)

Observations

James W. Cortada

My family's ties to the Orange County Historical Society predate its organization in 1965 and it's my fault. When my family bought their home on Peliso Avenue I was already addicted to American history and quickly discovered that Orange was full of it: James Madison, the US Constitution, the Civil War and its famous battles in the county, on and on, including a whole generation of locals who participated in World War II. But Orange did not have an historical society to pull that story together so I started asking folks like my father, Lyne Shackelford, all the Greens and Sparks, "How about an historical society?" Long story short, this high school kid was invited to pitch the case for why we needed an historical society to Rotary—my first public presentation on anything—and it went over great. People agreed. Meanwhile local leaders had already begun thinking of putting together a research-focused organization. Amazingly, however, in 1963—two years before the historical society's foundation—Lyne Shackelford went to the Virginia Historical Society and nominated me for membership—in those days you had to be voted in—and got an invitation to join, reportedly as the youngest member ever brought in, largely because of my advocating for an OCHS.

My father got hooked too, seeing such an organization as vital for the identity of the county and as a potential economic stimulant, largely for tourism at a time when Montpelier was still a private home, the Civil War Centennial running at full steam, and the Greens at the Review constantly promoting local history and good old fashioned economic boosterism. So he got involved, loved working on the board, serving as a president, and maintained a lifelong affection for the OCHS. I did too—I still pay my dues. The OCHS also encouraged my collecting instincts, which got sharper as I majored in history at Randolph-Macon College and later earned a PhD in history from Florida State. When I ran out of room, the OCHS became my new basement. Thanks for taking the collection.

In the first several years, the Society did not have a home, it just floated out there, when the Board decided it needed a building. My father got 100% behind that idea, helped with the fund raising and part of the fun was his encouraging Walter Gottschalk who was deeply interested in solar energy—yes, 40 years before most of us. Walter wanted to help design the new headquarters, using technologies he had installed at his mother's home on Main Street and on my father's office behind his home on Peliso Avenue. It became part of the new building.

The OCHS has exceeded the expectations I dreamed about almost six decades ago. You have given Orange County a unique and proud identity, preserved its history, and helped to innovate and promote the local economy. As

a community of well-intentioned citizens you have momentum, you know how to preserve, protect, and promote your—our—history. I feel even more bullish about what the OCHS will get done in the next half century. As an important pillar of the community, thank you for what you have done and for what I know you will do well.

And as for March through June (as always, there was no February meeting), you will all know that the scheduled programs had to be cancelled. In accordance with statewide orders, the Historical Society officially closed to the public in March, and we hope to reopen in the second half of June. Our staff continues to keep the society functioning at a basic level (no visitors allowed) by answering telephone calls, email and mail inquiries, and filling orders for books.

Many, many thanks to those of you who renewed your membership at this time. It is helping us greatly and we do appreciate it. We wish all of you health and safety and look forward to the day we can open our doors once again. History is very interesting, but living through history can be a bit trying!

Please Join Us!

We invite you to join the Orange County Historical Society. Please provide your name and contact information as you wish it to appear in our records and select the appropriate dues level. Mail the completed form, along with your dues payment, to The Orange County Historical Society (OCHS), to 130 Caroline Street, Orange, VA 22960.

The Orange County Historical Society is a non-profit organization. Your membership fees are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Name: _____

(If business/organization member, name of business or organization)

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip:** _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Membership Status: New Renewal Address, name, etc. update

Membership Level: Society dues are for the period of January 1 - December 31.

Annual Individual Member: \$25

Annual Student Member (High School or College): \$12.50

Annual Family Member: \$35

Annual Sustaining Member: \$100

Annual Patron Member: \$200

Annual Sponsor Member: \$300

The Orange County Historical Society 2019 Annual Report

From the President

Lynne Lewis

Having bid farewell to 2019, it is time to consider all that transpired during the past year. There were numerous events and accomplishments that brought smiles, but we would be remiss if we did not note, with great sadness, the passing of Henry Lee Carter. A member of the Historical Society's Board of Directors, Henry Lee was always a gentleman and a scholar, in the truest sense of those words. We, along with so very many others, will miss Mr. Carter.

Our membership remains at almost 400 and our visitors, while hailing mainly from Virginia, also come from around the country – from Oregon to New York. These members and visitors continue to be ably served by our dedicated staff: Jean McGann, Jayne Blair, and Ruth Mallory Long. Those are the voices you hear when you call and those are the smiling faces people see when they come in the door. We are grateful for their knowledge, hard work, and dedication.

We continue to be blessed with a dedicated and hardworking Board of Directors. This year we again had a presence at the annual Germanna reunion conference held at the Daniel Technology Center in Culpeper. We sold books and DVDs, and Phil Audibert showed his production documenting the history of Germanna. We again hosted the annual 4th Grade Poster Day in cooperation with the Orange County public school system. On November 1, our Historical Society hosted a Meet and Greet, organized by Shelley Murphy, interim director of the Albemarle-Charlottesville Historical Society. It was attended by Albemarle, Fluvanna, Madison, Greene and Buckingham County historical society representatives, usually the president or the director. We exchanged information and ideas on how our organizations might help one another.

This year marks the beginning of the Orange County Historical Society's 55th year of existence (and 54th year as an incorporated entity), and we continue to make strides in updating and greening our Research Center. With the help of our generous members, we replaced the ceiling in the main room and the auditorium, and converted the light fixtures to LED units, during which process we were able to hide most of the computer cabling. Having taken all the artwork off the walls while the overhead work was going on, we took the opportunity to rearrange most of the pictures – although Governor Spotswood retains his pride of place.



While replacing the ceiling tiles, workers found this flat iron resting on one of the ceiling joists. No one knows when or why it was placed there. Photo courtesy of Lynne G. Lewis.

We are honored and grateful that people continue to entrust us with their collections, enabling access to ever increasing areas of our history. Thank you.

Treasurer's Report

Richard Durphy

The Orange County Historical Society sustains itself through the generosity of its members and the Orange community. Our income is derived primarily from our annual fund drive, membership dues, and investment income. We have been fortunate in the last few years to receive two much-appreciated small grants from the Town of Orange and from the County. Finally, we generate some income from the sale of our publications.

In 2019 our Annual Fund Drive donations totalled \$10,685.00 while membership dues totalled \$8,800. Our operating income, \$45,710.14, less our expenses, \$48,469.92 resulted in a net loss of \$2,759.78 for the year. However, and more importantly, we are starting the new year with checking and savings of over \$12,125.66, while total other current assets amount to more than \$331,121.92.

We are in a good financial position to continue to perform our mission to promote, preserve and disseminate the richness of our history to our community and our visitors. We will be able to continue meeting our goals and completing our mission without diminishing our endowment.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds Committee

Paul Carter

Although our 2018 fund drive was not sufficient to finance all the planned improvements to our Research Center, we were able to complete a number of needed projects. After accepting several bids, we contracted with the Ceiling and Floor Shop of Charlottesville to replace our drop-in ceiling. Once the ceiling was installed, we discovered that we are experiencing some leaks around the roof vents in the auditorium. Fortunately, the leaks are minor and occur only when we have blowing rains.

The other major project was replacing the overhead fluorescent and incandescent lighting with a new LED grid and can lights. These were installed by Blackburn's Electric and, along with the new ceiling tiles, make our areas brighter – and greener – than ever.

We continue to reap rewards from our new HVAC system installed in 2017. It is saving us \$700 per year on utility expenses. To enhance our programs in the auditorium, we purchased a new projector with some specific contributions from our membership. New LED exit and emergency lights have been installed. The old style fixtures with bulb replacements had become a real nuisance and expense to maintain. Under the Board of Directors' leadership and the membership's generosity, we are updating the facilities so that not only will it be a place for all to enjoy, but also will leave a smaller footprint on the environment.

Hopefully, this year we will be able to complete the last major element of our interior renovations to the Research Center – the new front counter that will make a more gracious impression on visitors and members and will better display our books and DVDs. The fund drive will also fund the purchase of a much-needed new, modern Microfilm reader.

See Annual Report on page 5.

Annual Report (*continued*)

Collections Committee

Hilarie Hicks

Several interesting items were added to the Orange County Historical Society's collection this year. The research library has been enhanced with the donation of a five-volume *Slave Birth Index* (1853-1865), thanks to Jayne Blair, and *My Grandfather's Letters*, a book about an Orange County family, given by Marcia Hovenden. We also received the gift of a 1932 Gordonsville High School yearbook from Al Delaney. We appreciate all gifts to the collection, which increase the usefulness of the Historical Society to our research patrons, both now and into the future.

Education/Outreach Committee

Phil Audibert

In 2019 the Committee made some progress but has plenty more to do. Committee members met with Orange County Public Schools Curriculum Directors Renee Honaker and Judy Anderson in early March to offer the Historical Society's expertise to bring Orange County's unique history to the school system. In particular we offered to conduct an in-service program for new and returning teachers in early August. Unfortunately, because the number of in-service days was cut in half, this wasn't possible. Committee members hope for better results in 2020. Also, once the new headmaster is settled in, the committee hopes to offer a similar program to Grymes Memorial School.

Committee Chair Phil Audibert spent a good part of 2019 working on his "Memories" oral history project. So far 20 interviews have gone through the editing and compiling process and have been uploaded to the AHHA Productions YouTube site, including *Memories: Greatest Hits Part I* (also presented as the November program). In addition, Audibert delivered an address to the Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet urging citizens to collect oral histories themselves. He conducted a video camera training session for the public and spoke to the Board of Directors of the George Washington Carver High School Museum about setting up a similar oral history project for Carver alumni.

Program Committee

Ann Miller

In 2019 we continued our tradition of presenting programs on a wide variety of historical subjects. Our January 2019 Annual Meeting included a showing of Phil Audibert's recent documentary, *Germania . . . America in Embryo*, which explored the many important stories surrounding the original German settlement.

As customary, there was no February meeting. The March meeting, *Oral History in Louisa County*, featured a presentation on the current Louisa County project, aimed at recording the story of the county in the 1950s through the memories of their residents. Karleen Kovalcik, Executive Director of the Louisa County Historical Society, discussed the protocols and pitfalls of conducting oral history, and provided pointers, suggestions, and inspiration for undertaking a project of this type.

For our April meeting, Frank Walker presented *Gold Mining in the Virginia Wilderness*. This program covered the mining history of the Wilderness area of eastern Orange and western Spotsylvania, once one of the top-producing gold mining areas of the U.S., and with an overall production history lasting from about 1827 to 1937. Frank covered

highlights of some of the major mines, including stories of the people who "mined" investors as well as the ground.

As usual, our "May" meeting was held in early June to avoid conflict with Memorial Day. Our program, *Margraten/Market Garden: Honoring the Fallen* had been produced to mark the 74th anniversary of World War II's Operation Market Garden, which took place in The Netherlands in the fall of 1944. Over 8,000 fallen Americans from that operation, and from subsequent efforts to end the war, are interred in the Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial at the town of Margraten. This inspiring video presentation told the story of how the fallen soldiers' burial sites are still being cared for by local families, in gratitude for their sacrifice.

Our planned June picnic, scheduled for Maplewood Cemetery near Gordonsville, was unfortunately rained out by a torrential down-pour. (A Maplewood picnic will be rescheduled.) The July picnic took place at Monteith, home of Kevin and Carla Passarello near Gordonsville. The present impressive Greek Revival house, built circa 1844, has an interesting history and numerous original architectural features.

We closed the picnic season with an August evening at Springfields, west of Gordonsville, the home of Gail Babnew and Joel Silverman. The property features a fine Colonial Revival house (built in 1895 to replace an 18th-century structure that burned), and has an extensive complement of 19th- and 20th-century outbuildings.

In September, we gathered for *160 Games: The Lost Ballplayers of Orange*. "Baseball Bloggers" Jackie Howell, Orange's own local baseball historian and award-winning blogger, shared stories of three baseball big-leaguers with ties to Orange County.

October brought a nod to Halloween with *Superstitions, Charms & Luck*, led by Lynne Lewis and Ann Miller, along with enthusiastic audience participation. The presentations included Orange County's only known witchcraft accusation, as well as local ghost stories, various traditional beliefs for both good – and bad – luck, and even the on-site manufacture and demonstration of dowsing rods.

Our November program featured the premiere of Phil Audibert's video documentary *Memories: Greatest Hits Part I*, highlighting seven of Phil's favorite oral history interviews of Orange County residents from his ongoing "Memories" oral history project.

Publications Committee

Lynne Lewis

During 2019 the Historical Society published two issues (Vol. 50, No. 1 & 2) of our newsletter, *Record*, and began consideration and prioritization of several publications that are in need of reprinting. We distributed copies of *The Nine Lives of an Orange Tabby* to all Orange County 4th graders. This marks the 13th year that this publication has been given out, free of charge.

Special Projects

Joint African-American Land Ownership Research Committee

Bill Speiden

Board members and committee members from the Historical Society and the African-American Historical Society continued to research black land ownership. Of particular interest was Liberty Acres,

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Annual Report (*continued*)

on Rt. 33 just east of Eheart's Corner. A road sign there, which sparked interest in this area, marks a neighborhood of many black land owners that turns out to have been a white-owned subdivision whose owner worked out of Gordonsville. He sold lots in the late 1800s to African-Americans who owned a number of small farms around Eheart's Corner and along Ridge Road (Rt. 644).

Tracing black land ownership is bogged down in the 1870s for the moment, frustrating the goal of finding free-black land ownership pre-dating the Civil War. Bill Speiden and Maher Washington currently are focusing on Hampstead Farm lands (owned by George W. Barbour in the 1930s) from the Rapidan towards Barboursville. Mr. Washington's mother lived on Hampstead.

Bill Speiden, Maher Washington, and Phil Audibert also recorded three oral histories from Orange County residents.

Statistics

- ☞ We have 389 members.
- ☞ We hosted 899 visitors. The majority came from Virginia, but 24 other states were also represented. Maryland and North Carolina were home to the second and third most frequent visitors, but we had guests from as far afield as Alaska, British Columbia, and Puerto Rico.
- ☞ Book sales for the year totalled \$2,572.09.
- ☞ 338 phone calls, over 200 mail queries, and numerous email requests were answered, Volunteers devoted hundreds of hours to various projects.

2019 Annual Fund Donors

The Orange County Historical Society is deeply grateful for the support shown by our community. Whether a long-time supporter or a newcomer to our Society, we appreciate your contributions – they help us to carry out our mission in a meaningful way. Not only does our Research Center now have a fresh new look, but a modern new microfilm reader was delivered in April – thanks to your generosity!

Historians

Philip & Susie Audibert
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Cortada
Carol M. Couch
Florence Bryan Fowlkes
Porter Goss
Mr. & Mrs. Harry C. Mason
Mason Insurance Agency
Heidi McMurrin
Louis Mittelman
Frank S. & Bernice Walker

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Roger Settlemyre
William O. Stidham
Patrick Sullivan

Thank you, one and all!

Staff Sgt. Edward Wallace Hughes

Paul Carter

Staff Sergeant Edward Wallace Hughes, son of Ernest Linwood and Nellie Pendleton Hughes, was born December 5, 1918, in Pennsylvania. He was the fifth child of seven. As a teenager Edward moved with the family to Orange, Virginia, where he attended high school. He drove a cab in the Washington, D.C., area and was a cook at the Dining Car Restaurant in Rosslyn, Virginia.

Edward was drafted into the army at Camp Lee, Virginia, on February 11, 1942, and received training at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, and Camp Reynolds, Pennsylvania. Camp Reynolds was a debarkation point for troops going overseas. He married Arlene Davis Baggerly of Front Royal in June 1944 and was a father to Edward, Jr., born in September 1944. His wife and son remained in Front Royal while Edward was overseas.

He landed at Utah Beach on August 4, 1944, after joining up with the 80th Division 317th Infantry, "Blue Ridge Boys," under Patton's Third Army, to help liberate towns throughout France and Luxembourg from German occupation. His division was placed in reserve in Macheren, France, where they rehabilitated, reorganized and trained after heavy activity in November when they had advanced 30 miles and taken almost 4,000 prisoners. According to 317th Infantry history, they had sustained 3,101 casualties, cleared Delme Ridge, passed through pillboxes of the old French Maginot Line, and captured the town of Falquemont.

During this period of rest, Edward and his comrades experienced severe weather conditions as they were about to fight in the Battle of the Bulge. This was the largest and bloodiest single campaign fought by the U.S. in WWII and the second deadliest battle in American history. "During the day and evening of December 23, the infantrymen marched through the dense woods between Ettelbruck and the towns of Niederfeulen and Kehmen. Every day was the same: miles of marching, intense cold, swirling fog, mysterious woods, and general confusion," one soldier remembered. "We stumbled ten to fifteen miles each day with temperatures dropping to twenty below zero."¹

On December 24, the 3rd Battalion, which included Edward's Company K, departed Feulen, Luxembourg, at 0945



Blue Ridge (80th Infantry) Division patch. Photo courtesy of Jackie Howell.

by foot and traveled four miles. When they attacked the hill west of Kehmen, they met heavy resistance of mortar, artillery, and small arms fire. The enemy was dug into their positions in foxholes. In the bitter cold, they established positions below the west crest of the hill. Staff Sgt. Hughes was killed in combat during this battle, 19 days after his 26th birthday. It was Christmas Eve.

News would reach his family via Western Union telegram that Edward was "Missing in Action." A few months later, in February 1945, he was found and notification was sent to the family that he was "Killed in Action." In April 1949 Edward's remains were moved from a Luxembourg cemetery to

Arlington National Cemetery. He received the Purple Heart posthumously.

Special thanks go to Betsy Rose, granddaughter of Staff Sgt. Hughes, who collaborated on this story.



Staff Sgt. Hughes' gravestone at Arlington National Cemetery. Photo courtesy of Betsy Rose.

¹ Murrell, Robert. *Stories of the Men of the 80th Infantry Division in World War II* (Oakmont, PA: private printing, 2001) as found in Dominique, Dean James, "The attack will go on the 317th Infantry Regiment in World War II" (2003). LSU Master's Theses. 3946. https://digitalcommons.lsu.edu/gradschool_theses/3946 p. 68.

In Memoriam: Ulysses P. Joyner, Jr.

We note with great sadness the passing of one of the Society's long-time members: local attorney and former Circuit Court Clerk Ulysses P. Joyner, Jr. — known as “Pete” to all.

A native of Southampton County, Pete served in the U.S. Army Security Agency during the Korean War. He subsequently completed his education at Virginia Tech and the University of Richmond. He received a B.S. degree in teaching from the University of Richmond in 1959 and his J.D., also from the University of Richmond, in 1962. That same year, he entered the private practice of law in Orange County. During his 20 years of law practice, he served as Town Attorney for the towns of Orange and Gordonsville and as the first County Attorney for Orange County. He also was chairman of the Virginia State Board of Elections, serving for eight years under three Virginia governors. In 1982, he became Clerk of the Circuit Court of Orange County, an office he held for 16 years until his retirement in 1997.

Additionally, Pete served as Chairman of the Seventh District Republican Committee and at various times as president of many Orange County civic and service organizations, including the Orange Lions Club, the Orange County Jaycees, the Orange County Chamber of Commerce, the Orange Selective Service Board, the Piedmont Bar Association, the Orange County Historical Society, the Orange County Bicentennial Commission, and the Constitution Highway Association. He was also a member and director of the Orange Rotary Club, and a charter member of the Orange Visitors Bureau and the Greater Orange Association (now the Orange Downtown Alliance). In addition to his membership in our own Orange County Historical Society, Pete was a member of the Southampton County Historical Society and the Virginia Genealogical Society. He was a former board member of the James Madison Memorial Foundation and the Montpelier Property Council.

Pete was the author of *Joyner of Southampton, The First Settlers of Orange County, They Crossed the Blackwater*, and *Orange County Land Patents* (the book format of his index and map of the *Original Orange County Land Patents*, a copy of which is displayed — and

frequently consulted — at the Historical Society). Pete also produced numerous smaller articles and compilations, which were brought together in his final work, the single, searchable data disk *Glimpses of Orange County History*. As Clerk of the Circuit Court, Pete worked hard to ensure the preservation of Orange County's records; as part of this effort, he also produced meticulous computerized indices of many of the county record groups. If you work for any period of time researching Orange County history and records, you will find you are heavily indebted to Pete's research.

Honored by the Orange County Historical Society for his long and invaluable achievements in research at a ceremony on March 6, 2016 (which also marked the release of *Glimpses*), Pete made a number of remarks, including the following words — in which he spoke for so many of us who love to pursue information on the past —

History is a fascinating subject, and the place you live or study makes it more fascinating. The work I have done over the years, I have done because I enjoyed the inquiry. I've enjoyed studying the land and the people who lived on it and I tried to understand the way they came to be what they were.

But, I haven't done it for fame or money or any type of pay. I haven't even done it to make it easier for you. I've done it because I enjoyed doing it, and hopefully, some of the things that I've done have been helpful to those who are living today and some who will search Orange County records in the future.

Pete will be missed by many, not the least by our Historical Society. It was an honor and a privilege to have his support and involvement for so many years. We extend our condolences to his family and friends.

In Memoriam: Richard R. Durphy, Sr.

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Richard “Dick” Durphy. Dick was in the second year of a three year term as our Treasurer. He also served as Treasurer from 2012 - 2017.

Merely saying “Treasurer” does not begin to encompass his accomplishments. We like to say that Dick dragged the Society's accounting and accountability system into the 21st century, and he has left a legacy of best practices. But that was just the beginning. Dick revamped and maintained our web site and shopping cart for online book sales and monitored our Human Resources practices. Along with his wife, Carolyn, he spent most Tuesday afternoons for four years on our digitization project – first helping to scan the family files documents and then tackling the task of double checking every single file to ensure that there were no errors.

In addition to his invaluable contributions to the Historical Society, Dick was involved with Lake of the Woods Fire & Rescue, LOW Players, Orange American Legion, and the Lake of the Woods chapter of AARP.

Dick passed away on March 7, 2020 at his Lake of the Woods home, surrounded by his family. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Carolyn, who is also quite involved with the Historical Society. He served in the Air Force for 13 years as a radar repairman and then with IBM for 26 years, retiring in 1993. A private graveside service was held at Culpeper National Cemetery, Culpeper, Virginia. A Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date.

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Research News

The Historical Society Board recently approved the formation of a Research Committee in order to stimulate and prioritize the research part of our mission, recognized as foundational to our other goals of preservation and education. The group is just getting started and encourages your participation. If you have an interest in any of the projects below, or have another project you would like to propose, please get in touch with us!

The following table lists the current research projects followed by several brief project updates.

Project	Goal	Leaders
African-American Land Ownership	Finding antebellum free black land ownership	Bill Speiden, Maher Washington
Memories Oral History	Preserving local oral history	Phil Audibert
Historic Mills Inventory	Inventory and condition assessment of 19 th -century millscapes	Ray Ezell
Graham Cemetery Preservation	Preservation of records and interesting stories	Frank Walker, May and Mike Saxton
Cemetery Inventory	Identifying and recording the locations of extant family or enslaved community cemeteries not previously recorded.	May and Mike Saxton
Orange County Free Black Register	Transcribing surviving portions of the 19 th -century register and reconstituting missing information	Ann Miller

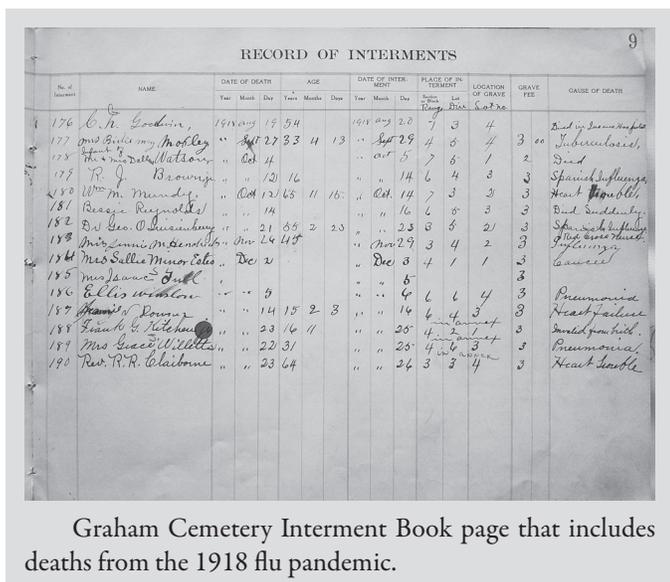
Graham Cemetery Preservation

The Graham Cemetery Trustees and Orange County Historical Society have recently started to collaborate on developing a self-guided walking tour of the cemetery. The effort began by recording a few stories with Frank Walker from the Historical Society, Tom Landis, a Trustee of Graham Cemetery and Eddie Moore, a former President of the Graham Cemetery Association.¹ Eddie Moore's career and experience at Preddy's Funeral Home also helped illuminate some forgotten history. Stories ranged from the burial of Confederate soldiers after the 1861 Battle of Manassas to the recent installation of a new columbarium for

interring ashes.² Such stories will be combined with research to identify other interesting or notable history. For example, in this current pandemic era, did you know there are records of the 1918 "Spanish Influenza" pandemic in the burial records at Graham?³ Do you know about the WWI veterans who died in France and were later re-interred here? Do you know the story of our county Sheriff who was killed in the line of duty? These are among the stories Graham helps preserve and which will be the subject of more research and future articles. If you have an interesting story related to the cemetery, please contact us!

Cemetery Inventory

Bill Speiden recently led a group to see an old Brooking family cemetery and associated African-American cemetery in the Scuffletown area. The Brooking cemetery, partially surrounded by a decaying American bond brick wall topped with brick coping, is located approximately ¼ mile west of Scuffletown Road (38°14'38.0"N 78°16'50.7"W). The enclosed area is 25 x 35 feet with additional burials extending 35 feet beyond the wall on both the east and west sides. The site includes numerous fieldstone marked graves as well as more recent inscribed markers from 1894 to 1913. Thirty-five feet east of the brick wall are four engraved stones. In order south to north are Ezekiel Wilhoit Brooking (1839-1913), his wife Mary Lou (1844-1892), their daughter Luna May (died Sept 1893) and son Hugh (died Nov 1893).



Graham Cemetery Interment Book page that includes deaths from the 1918 flu pandemic.

¹ Frank S. Walker, Edward Moore, and Thomas Landis, Graham Cemetery Walking Tour Interview, November 7, 2019.

² Columbarium: a structure of vaults lined with recesses for cinerary urns, *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/columbarium>. Accessed 18 Apr. 2020.

³ Record of Interments, Graham Cemetery, Orange VA, 1911-1948.

Research (*continued*)

Ezekiel Wilhoit Brooking was a longtime resident who served in the Civil War. He enlisted as a private in the 13th VA Barbo-urville Guards in 1861 and served all the way to Appomattox, eventually becoming one of the company's lieutenants.⁴

Located 250 feet to the south of the walled cemetery is an extensive cemetery presumed to be members of the former enslaved community. Measuring approximately 70 x 50 feet, there were a minimum of 35 fieldstone markers, all located under a tree canopy with *Vinca minor* ground cover. *Vinca minor* is a non-native ornamental planting often found in association with cemeteries as well as dwellings. It provided an effective ground cover which required little maintenance.

Brooking's Mill



Brooking's Mill Ruin. Photo courtesy of Mike Saxton.

On Friday, March 27, 2020 four members of the Society's Historic Mills Research Group (HMRG) met near Somerset and examined a partially intact 19th-century millscape situated on a wooded tract along Church Run, west of Scuffletown Road (Rte 609). The mill site and its associated landscape features are characterized by a partially standing cut-stone mill seat ruin, a well-defined head race, dam remnants on Church Run, wheel pit, and tail race.

The mill seat dimensions are unusually small, measuring 18 x 20 feet. The structure is constructed of cut stone blocks and rubble stone, built into the side slope of a low ridge. A probable second level of the former building was constructed of either brick or wood that does not survive. No mill machinery, gearing, or other artifacts were found on the site except for a single hand-made brick. A 1900-foot long, well-preserved headrace extends from the mill seat to the northwest, drawing water from Church Run. The remnants of a former dam across Church Run was also observed just downstream of the head race intake. The current working hypothesis is that the mill predates the Civil War based upon the lack of post-bellum material remains, and that the mill is not recorded on Civil War era maps of the vicinity. Archival research will be undertaken to determine the mill's ownership,

⁴ David F. Riggs, *13th Virginia Infantry*, 2nd ed., Virginia Regimental Histories Series. (Lynchburg, Va: H. E. Howard, 1988).

period of operation, and other historic activities that may have taken place at the site.

The HMRG hopes to document other mill sites in Orange County over the next several months. Mills represent an important piece of the social and industrial fabric of 18th- and 19th-century Orange County. Mills were not just places where corn was ground or timber was sawn, but were important economic and geographic landmarks on the landscape. Mills can directly connect modern Orange residents with an important by-gone era through the examination of their locations and their physical remains (millscapes). This research project intends to document former Orange County mills and assess their condition through site visits and archival records research.

Historical Society members (that's You) can help this effort by providing memories of mills (still working or inactive) in Orange County, photographs/newspaper articles of old mills, helping to make contact with families that may once have been involved in milling or have mills located on their properties, and by conducting archival research at the OCHS and at the Orange Court House to determine previous ownership of mills. The results of this continuing research will be periodically made available through newsletter updates and society presentations.

If you are interested in helping this research project succeed, by assisting with site visits, conducting archival research, or using your contacts to gain permission to visit mill sites on private property, please contact Ray Ezell by email at rayezell_2000@yahoo.com.

Memories Progress Report

Like everything else in these difficult times, the "Memories" oral history project has been put on hold. The last person interviewed by Phil Audibert and Bruce Monroe in late February was Mary Holladay White of Scotstown...age 101. She still walks unassisted despite the fact that she broke both legs in an automobile accident at age 97. And although she is hard of hearing, her mind is crystal clear.

Another person to squeak through the interview process before COVID-19 slammed the gates shut was the venerable Frank Walker. The interview, which took more than two hours to conduct has been edited down to a sparse hour and 15 minutes...all of it fascinating. Many thanks to Bernice Walker for finding and providing so many photographs from Frank's past.

These two interviews will soon join the 22 others on the AHHA Productions YouTube channel. To view these edited interviews, most of which last about a half hour or less, go to www.AudibertPhoto.com>Videos>Memories.

African- American Land Ownership Project

The Orange County African-American Historical Society and the Orange County Historical Society formed a joint com-

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Research (*continued*)

mittee to research black land ownership in the county, with a particular emphasis on antebellum free black owners. Maher Washington and Bill Speiden head the committee.

Maher is particularly interested in land, comprising more than 100 acres, given to black employees by George W. Barbour by will when he died in 1936. Maher's mother lived on Hampstead Farm then. Later that year Bill's father bought the core of Hampstead and he kept on all the employees.

Factoids emerging as small pieces of a large puzzle:

Tom Freeman, who died in 1942, was the last known burial in the Hampstead African-American cemetery, as observed by Bill in the 1960s. Mr. Freeman received 25+ acres of land from the Barbour estate. It was never built on as far as we can tell. The parcel is now part of Waverly Farm, southwest of Scuffletown Road from the parcel previously known as Hampstead Farm.

What's in a name? We have run into several names for Orange County's Route 609, also known as "Scuffletown Road" on various deeds, and "Fredericksburg Road" which name it still carries in Greene County. The same road is also recorded as "Stanardsville Road" and "Swift Run Gap Road" which in the early 19th century became a "Turnpike." The latter is appropriate in that the road connected Fredericksburg to the Shenandoah Valley, and farmers from the Valley would come over Swift Run Gap (now Route 33) on the way to Fredericksburg to sell their commodities.

Stay tuned for future great historical events emerging from Somerset.

If anyone knows someone who would be a valuable oral history candidate, please contact Phil Audibert at 540-717-5547 or Bill Speiden at 540-672-2596.

Orange County Free Black Register

For most of the first six decades of the 19th century, free black residents of Virginia were required to register with their local government. For most people, this meant the county clerk's office in their county of residence. Names, ages and dates of registration, physical descriptions, and other information (such as whether the person was born free or had been manumitted) were noted in court records and recorded in a county register. A copy of the information also was given to the registrant. Known as "free papers," such a document served to confirm the bearer's identity (via the name and description) and to identify the bearer as a free person, not a slave.

Part of the register for Orange County survives (extant pages cover the mid-1830s to 1850). For a number of years, Ann Miller has been working to transcribe the surviving pages of the register, and, via a page by page search of early 19th-century court records, to reconstitute the missing names and related information. The research is nearing completion. It is anticipated that the information will be issued as two publications: (1) the transcription of the material in the surviving, partial register, and (2) the information on registration and other data on free blacks gleaned from the county court records.

Some selected stories of people identified during the project will appear in future issues of this newsletter. This project should be a useful adjunct to Bill's and Maher's research on antebellum black land ownership, as well as related research projects.