



Orange County Historical Society

Record

www.orangecovahist.org

Vol. 48, No. 1

Spring 2017

Before the “Knights”: Some Early Piedmont Explorations Towards the Blue Ridge Prior to the Spotswood Expedition

Ann L. Miller

Part I. The 17th Century: Smith and Lederer

September 2016 marked the 300th anniversary of Alexander Spotswood's expedition from Germanna through the central Virginia Piedmont to the Blue Ridge Mountains, and over the mountains into the Shenandoah Valley. Often dubbed the “Knights of the Golden Horseshoe,” this group was the best-known early expedition to explore through the central Piedmont and to reach and cross the Blue Ridge Mountains. Their actions paved the way for a rapid opening of this portion of the Piedmont and subsequent settlement into the Valley. However, they were not the first Anglo-Virginians to reach the mountains or to make this crossing.

For the 17th century, descriptions and the few maps of the era are extremely vague—routes of these early explorations are open to (and have had) various interpretations.

Prelude: Captain John Smith (1608)

In 1608, John Smith went up the Rappahannock River to the falls (the future site of Fredericksburg). On this journey, he encountered Indian tribes—some hostile and some not—and learned of Indian tribes and towns located further towards the mountains. As related by Smith in his *Generall Historie*, he asked an Indian what was beyond the mountains and was told “the Sunne” and that further the Indian did not know “because

the woods were not burnt.” Assuming that this description is accurate, this phrasing suggests that many areas beyond the mountains were then densely forested, and that fire-hunting by Indians (setting fire to the woods to drive animals to locations where they could be more easily killed) had not yet become widespread in the Shenandoah Valley.¹

A few explorations in the last three decades of the 17th century left more detailed written descriptions. John Lederer (during several expeditions in 1669-1670) had gone at least as far as the crest of the Blue Ridge (possibly ascending in the vicinity of Swift Run Gap, and later Chester's Gap or Thornton's Gap). Cadwallader Jones (in the early 1680s) ranged through the Great Fork of the Rappahannock and crossed

¹ For this excerpt from Smith's *Generall Historie* and commentary, see Fairfax Harrison, *Landmarks of Old Prince William* (reprint. Baltimore: Gateway Press for the Prince William County Historical Commission, 1987, pp. 20-24). Another early 17th-century source, Samuel Champlain's 1632 map, depicts the area west of the Blue Ridge, showing the Shenandoah Valley from around Harpers Ferry and south to the James River in Rockbridge County. (The map was published in 1632. The Virginia portion may have utilized data collected by French missionaries who had visited the Valley with Iroquois hunting and war parties—but not via the Virginia Piedmont. Champlain had explored northern New York in 1609, but never explored Virginia in person.)

See Before the “Knights” on page 2.



Lynne G. Lewis

Before the “Knights” (*continued*)

the Blue Ridge Mountains (probably at Chester’s Gap) and explored into the Shenandoah Valley. Other references of the era, regarding white men who hunted through the region, are brief, but tantalizing.

Into the Piedmont: John Lederer (1669-1670)

The German-born Lederer made several explorations into the Virginia and North Carolina Piedmont and later published accounts of his travels.² It should be remembered that his dates were given in the “Old Style” (Julian) calendar used at the time; for the modern equivalent, add 11 days to the dates.

In March 1669, Lederer, with three Indians, whose names he recorded as Magtakunh, Hoppottoguoh, and Naunnugh, followed the York and Pamunkey rivers westward. On March 14, looking “from the top of an eminent hill” (likely part of the Southwest Mountains) he first saw the Blue Ridge (which he called, variously, the “Apalataean Mountains” or “Apalataei”). On March 15, they crossed “the South-branch of Rappahannock-river” (possibly the Rapidan River). On March 17, Lederer and the Indians came to the Blue Ridge. On March 18, after he “had in vain assayed to ride up [the mountains],” he left his horse with one of the Indians, while he and the other two “climbed up the Rocks” of the Blue Ridge, possibly in the vicinity of Swift Run Gap. The ascent took them an entire day. The next morning Lederer claimed that he could see to the east “a beautiful prospect of the Atlantic-Ocean washing the Virginian-shore” (although given the distance from the Blue Ridge to the ocean, this would seem to be either an optical illusion or wishful thinking). To the north and west Lederer recorded “Mountains higher than that I stood upon.” Searching in vain for a way through the mountains during a late winter, Lederer noted, “Here did I wander in Snow, for the most part, till the Four and Twentieth day of March, hoping to finde some passage through the Mountains; but the coldness of the Air and Earth together, seizing my Hands and feet with numbness, put me to a *ne plus ultra*; and therefore having found my Indian at the foot of the Mountain with my horse, I returned back by the same way that I went.”³

² Lederer’s report on his three explorations, published as *The Discoveries of John Lederer* in London in 1671, is an incredibly rare volume today. It was reprinted in the early 20th century, then issued with additional material and notes in 1958: see William P. Cumming, ed., *The Discoveries of John Lederer with Unpublished Letters by and about Lederer to Governor John Winthrop, Jr., and an Essay on the Indians of Lederer’s Discoveries* by Douglas L. Rights and William P. Cumming (Charlottesville, Va.: University Press of Virginia, and Winston-Salem, North Carolina: Wachovia Historical Society, 1958). For the accounts of Lederer’s first and third journeys into the central Piedmont, see pp. 15-19 and pp. 34-37.

³ In some versions of Classical mythology, the Latin phrase “*Ne plus ultra*” (“not further beyond”) were the words inscribed on the Pillars of Hercules, marking the point beyond which men in ships dared not venture. Lederer was apparently using the phrase in that reference, or citing the limit of his exploration (and strength) rather than the modern meaning of the ultimate, most extreme, or highest example of something.

In May 1670, Lederer, swinging well south of the central Piedmont, followed the James River towards the mountains and then turned south into Carolina.

In August 1670, Lederer again visited the central Piedmont. Leaving from Robert “Taliifer [Taliaferro]’s house [on the Rappahannock], Lederer—along with “Col. Catlet of Virginia” and “nine English horse” and a number of Indians—followed the Rappahannock River from the falls to the “top of the Apalataean Mountains.” The day after they reached the falls, they passed over the river “where it divides into two branches North and South, keeping the main branch North of us.” Lederer left an evocative description of coming out of dense forest into “Savanae,” or open grasslands, just before reaching the mountains: “... their verdure is wonderfully pleasant to the eye, especially of such as having travelled through the shade of the vast Forest, come out of a melancholy darkness of a sudden, into a clear and open skie.” “Finding no horse way” up, they left the horses with several of the Indians and went on by foot. “Having gained the top of one of the highest, we drank the King’s Health in Brandy, gave the Mountain His name, and agreed to return again.” “From hence we saw another Mountain, bearing North and by West to us, of a prodigious height: for according to an observation of the distance taken by Col. Catlet, it could not be less than fifty leagues from the place we stood upon.”⁴

Lederer survived a venomous spider bite, and being saved by treatment given by one of the Indians, “we unanimously agreed to return back, seeing no possibility of passing through the Mountains: and finding our Indians with our horses in the place where we left them, we rode homewards without making any further Discovery.” Although descriptions are vague, Lederer’s third expedition (“keeping the main branch [of the Rappahannock] North of us”) has been interpreted as going up Chester’s Gap, or possibly Thornton’s Gap.

Next Newsletter:

Part II: Cadwallader Jones and the “hunters in the Woods”

⁴ The Lederer group’s drinking “the King’s Health in Brandy” sounds quite similar to the famous 1716 “toasting” of the Royal Family by the Spotswood expedition. The “observation of the distance taken by Capt. Catlet” would be a form of distance calculation, also probably similar to that used on the 1716 expedition (although neither of these would involve a sextant, which was not invented until 1730). Backstuffs, cross-staffs, and other instruments were in use earlier.

Master Sergeant William McKendree Andrews

Paul Carter

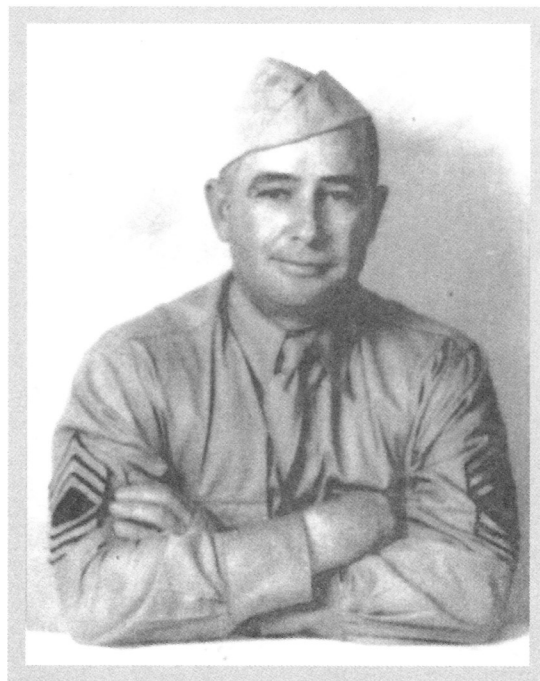
MSG William McKendree Andrews, son of William Price and Anne Belle Andrews was born on 19 January 1898, in Evington, Bedford County, Virginia. He enlisted in the Army on 19 July 1918, to serve in the infantry. Since his enlistment was at the end of World War I, he only served one year and was discharged in 1919. He furthered his service in the government after his discharge and worked for the post office in Fairfax.

His love for the military was still in his bones, and he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1928 and served with the 25th Bomber Squadron in Panama in 1929. His devotion to duty made him a prime candidate to attend the Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and he graduated on 7 March 1941, to become an aircraft mechanic.

While he was still in school, William met Emily Jane Smith of Orange, and they were married on 5 March 1940. They had one son, William, Jr., born on 11 September 1942. Today William, Jr., is living in Crozet, Virginia, and also has a home in Orange. Just about any Sunday you can find him playing gospel music at Dogwood Village.

William Senior's early years in the Army Air Corps took him to Maxwell Field, Montgomery, Alabama; Langley Field, Hampton, Virginia; MacDill Field, Tampa, Florida; Barksdale Field, Shreveport, Louisiana; and Greenville Air Base, Greenville, South Carolina. He rose through the ranks from a private at enlistment to become a master sergeant in 1942. From 1942 to 1944 he served in the Southwest Pacific with service on Iwo Jima and Hawaii.

With 18 years of military service under his belt – service that took him halfway around the world – his life came to a tragic end on 31 March 1946. He was attending a school at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and living in a private dormitory when he was found dead. His wife pressured the military for a complete explanation and the cause was noted as died from asphyxiation by gas by accident. They stated that he had been at the NCO Club the night before and apparently came back, turned on the gas stove to cook some dinner, and went to sleep. The family was never quite satisfied with this explanation since he had left for Fort Knox just a few days before

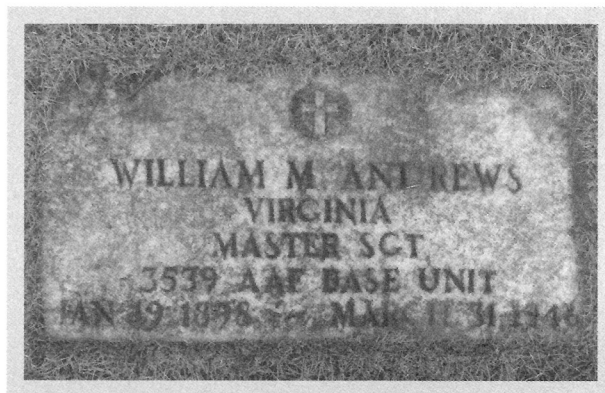


with \$300 in his wallet, and when his belongings were returned to Orange, there was only \$15 in cash included. The family still believes that someone at the club that night saw how much money he had and followed him back to the dormitory, robbed him, and turned on the gas to hide the crime. His remains were returned to Orange and he is buried in Graham Cemetery.

The medals awarded to William included the American Defense Service Medal with one Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Medal with two Bronze Stars, and a Unit Citation. One of his good friends from Orange was Atwell Somerville who had served with him in the 90th Bombardment

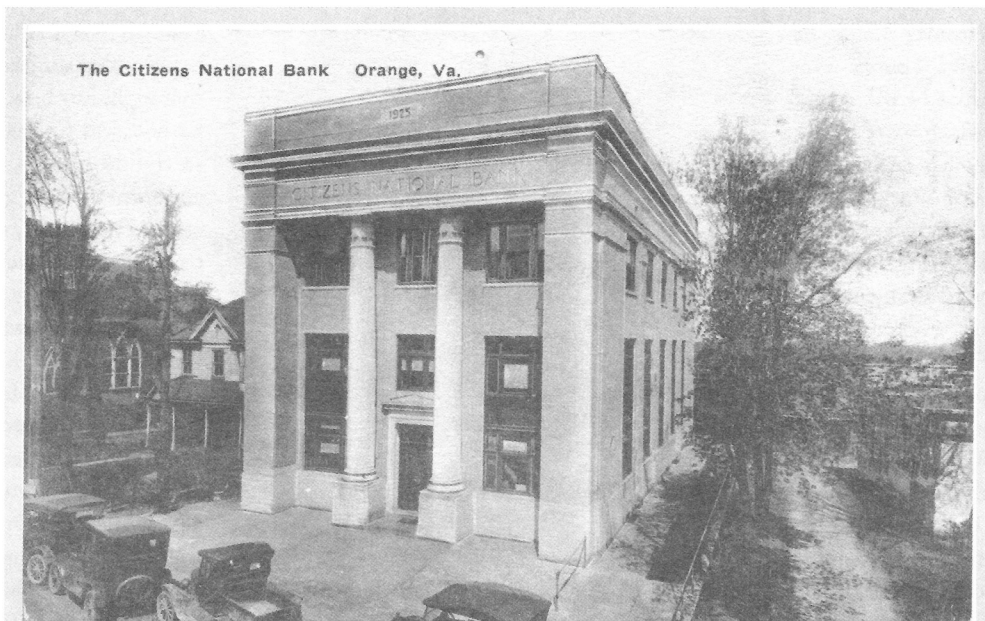
Group, "The Jolly Rogers," 5th Air Force, U. S. Army Air Corps. Although he officially didn't lose his life in a war, he is declared as losing his life during wartime. President Truman did not declare "End of Hostilities" until 31 December 1946. His name is listed on the plaque as died during World War II on the Orange County Courthouse porch.

Raising a four-year-old son was very difficult for Emily after the war, so for many years she worked in the Orange Elementary School cafeteria serving lunches for hundreds of youths. Emily passed away in 2011. Although she had remarried in 1964, Emily is buried next to her soldier husband, William, in Graham Cemetery.



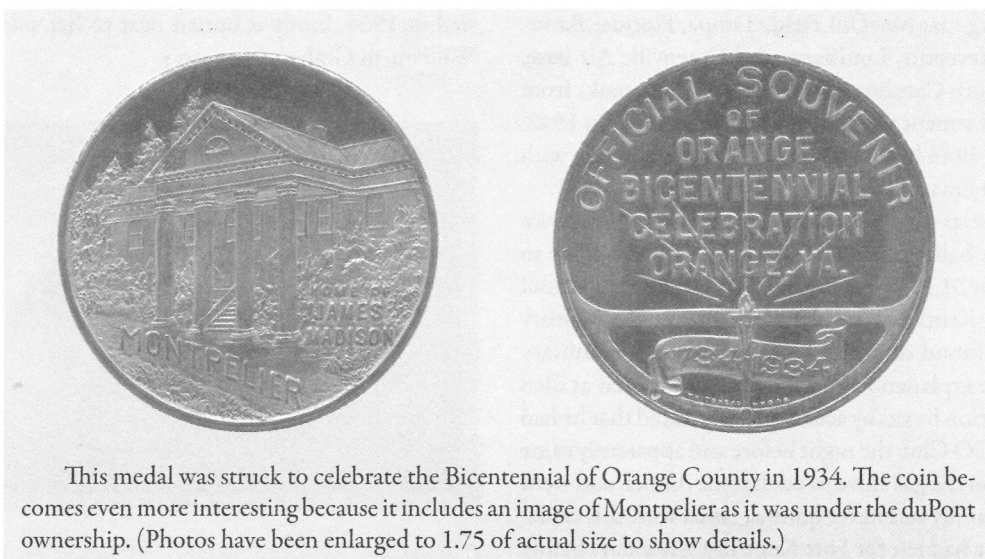
From the Vault

Courtesy of Rebecca R. Grymes, the Historical Society has received a collection of postcards relating to the Town of Orange and the surrounding area, plus two commemorative medals. Postcards are a fun way to see what things looked like in the 20th century (and sometimes a bit earlier), and are generally accurate depictions.

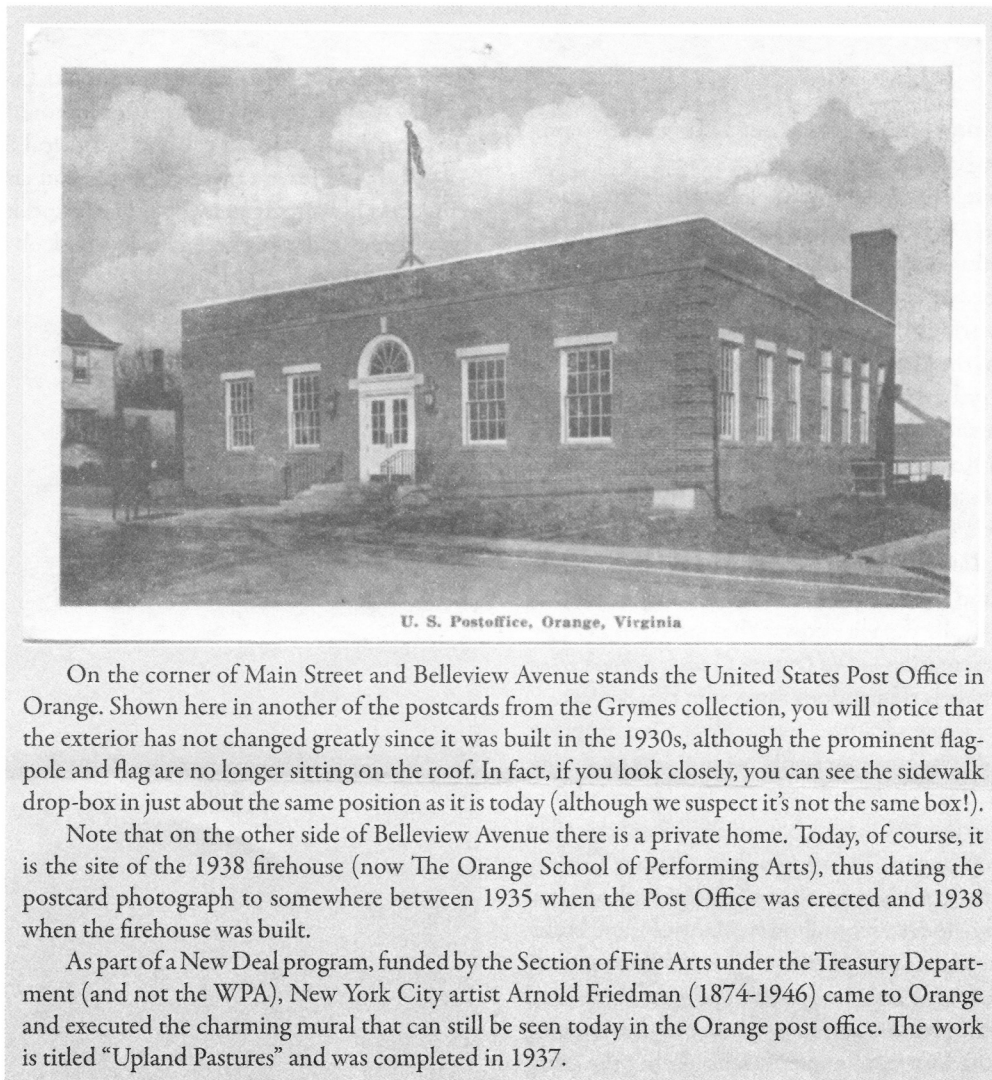


Most of you will recognize “The Citizen’s National Bank” as today’s Bank of America, sited on Main Street between the old Clerk’s Office and the Orange Baptist Church. Clearly, from the date on the building, the postcard dates to 1925 or later, although the cars and the pickup truck would indicate that it’s not much after that date.

The bank surroundings have changed a bit, but notice that on the west (left as we look at the postcard) is a glimpse of the church. The big difference is that there is a residence where the bank parking lot is now located. What looks like an alley runs along the east side of the bank, with just a corner of the old Clerk’s Office visible.



This medal was struck to celebrate the Bicentennial of Orange County in 1934. The coin becomes even more interesting because it includes an image of Montpelier as it was under the duPont ownership. (Photos have been enlarged to 1.75 of actual size to show details.)

From the Vault (*continued*)

Upcoming Programs

Our May/June program, being held on June 5 this year, will feature Carolyn Jones Elstner speaking about her new book, *Dear Old Ellwood*, that she co-authored with Katherine Porter Clark. Published in 2016, the book recounts events and stories from the life of this important eastern Orange County landmark. The program will take place at 130 Caroline Street.

At the other end of the month, on June 26, we will inaugurate our picnic season with a demonstration of open hearth cooking at Oak Grove, the home of Heidi McMurran. We have been told there will be live music as well as cooking, so it should be a fun evening. Visit our web site (www.orangecovahist.org) as the time approaches for more details.

In Case You Missed It: Program Updates

Lynne G. Lewis

2016

The Historical Society closed out 2016 with two programs involving education in Orange County.

In October, John Walker "Jack" Frazer, Jr., spoke about his great-uncle, Dr. Robert Frazer (1839-1918), and his life as a soldier, diplomat, and educator (see the Fall 2016 *Record* for a complete essay about Dr. Frazer). A full house learned about this illustrious Orange County native, including the fact that he was the first superintendent of schools when the public school system was organized in 1870.

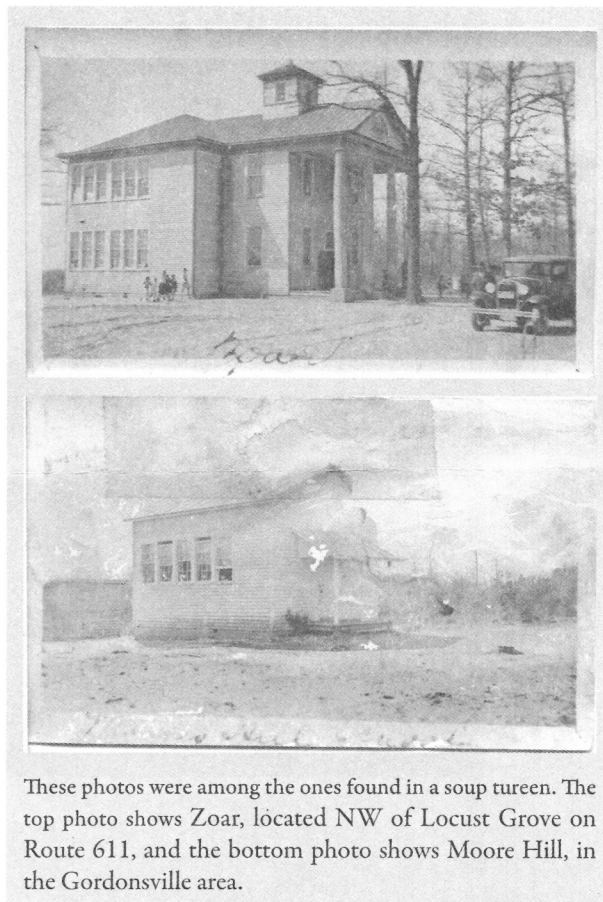
Moving farther into the 20th century, the November program featured Ruth Mallory Long, Society Board member and Research Assistant, inaugurating our *Old Orange County Schools Project*, a multi-part series on the schools of Orange County. Mrs. Long is researching and compiling images, information, and memories on Orange County schools of the past. And as the capacity crowd that attended her November 28, presentation—*Old Orange County Schools (Part 1)*—proved, there is tremendous interest in this project.

The school images featured in the November program, nicknamed the "soup tureen schools," were recent donations to the Society. They consisted of nearly two dozen photographs dating to the 1930s, which were discovered stored in an antique soup tureen. The images show Orange County schools from the era when nearly every neighborhood had its own, usually modest, schoolhouse. Many of these buildings no longer stand, and in some instances these photos are among the few or only images remaining of these local structures. Ruth's presentation covered not only her ongoing research into the history of our early schools, but the reminiscences of several former students who attended them. A lively question and answer period, along with the sharing of additional recollections, closed the evening.

The photos shown in November, which were of schools for white pupils in that era of segregated education, have been scanned and added to the Society's collections. The school images shown here are part of that collection. *Part 2* of the project, which will feature early African-American schools, is tentatively scheduled for fall of 2017. Meanwhile, Ruth and others are combing old maps, records, and photos to collect more information on county schools.

Our members' and friends' information and assistance is being requested to make this effort as complete as possible. We are seeking information on both public and private educational institutions, including very early schools for which no images or descriptions survive: for a number of schools, we have only a name or an approximate location. Please

look in your own files, desks, scrapbooks (and even soup tureens) and share your information! Should you happen across anything, you can call the Historical Society (540-672-5366) and leave a message, or send an email to info@orangecovahist.org. If you would like to speak to Ruth, she can be found at the Historical Society desk on Fridays, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.



These photos were among the ones found in a soup tureen. The top photo shows Zoar, located NW of Locust Grove on Route 611, and the bottom photo shows Moore Hill, in the Gordonsville area.

2017

We held our annual meeting on Sunday, January 15, at the Parish Hall of St. Thomas's Episcopal Church in Orange. After welcoming members and guests, Historical Society President John Tranver Graham reviewed the activities undertaken by the Society during 2016. In his report, he mentioned that the programs and picnics sponsored by the Society were well attended and that plans for the 2017 programs were well underway.

See Programs on the next page.

Programs (*continued*)

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Dick Durphy, letting the members know that the Historical Society is in sound financial condition. This was followed by reports from the Buildings and Grounds, Collections, Publications, and Fundraising Committees.

Before presenting the report of the Nominating Committee, Jayne Blair offered outgoing Board President John Tranver Graham sincerest thanks from the Board of Directors and the membership for his years of excellent service to the Historical Society. The second of only two copies of the *Historical Society Picnics* book (a book featuring photographs of our summer picnics from 2005 to 2013) was presented to Mr. Graham in appreciation for his hard work and commitment to the Society.

Ms. Blair indicated that she and Mr. Graham were leaving the Board of Directors, having reached their term limits in accordance with the bylaws. Phil Audibert, Linda Carlton and Clara Colby were presented as the slate for election to a three-year term on the Board of Directors. There being no nominations from the floor, the three nominees were unanimously elected. Ruth Mallory Long and Bill Speiden were re-elected, each to serve another three-year term.

The business meeting was followed by an enlightening presentation by Frank Stringfellow Walker, Jr., titled "*Mercy Street*" *Misses the Mark: Who Was the Real Frank Stringfellow?* Although the PBS series "*Mercy Street*" and their less-than-accurate depiction of Confederate spy and scout Frank Stringfellow inspired the presentation, Frank's focus was on the real-life—and dramatic—career of Benjamin Franklin "Frank" Stringfellow, a native of Culpeper County, a graduate of Alexandria's Episcopal High School, a daring master spy during wartime and a dedicated Episcopal priest in Reconstruction Virginia.

On March 27, L. H. Sullivan Carter, known to most as "Sully" Carter, presented a fascinating program on the history and importance of beekeeping in general and specifically in Orange County. Ranging from his experiences as the youngest beekeeper in Orange County, to his days as emergency swarm manager, to the hives he keeps today, Mr. Carter educated his audience in a most entertaining presentation. He also cited various Orange County historical records and examples of beekeeping, extending back to the period of earliest settlement in this area. An enthusiastic question and answer period followed the talk.

On the other side

Frank S. Walker, Jr.



In contrast to Frank Stringfellow was a well-known Union spy in Virginia. Stories about Southern Unionist Elizabeth "Crazy Bet" Van Lew (1818-1900) are a Civil War staple. Educated at a Quaker school in Pennsylvania, this Richmond native was a committed abolitionist. During the war, Van Lew operated a spy ring and even placed an operative in the Confederate White House. The "Crazy Bet" label came from the erratic behavior she adopted to deflect suspicion. After the war, she was publicly recognized and roundly praised by both General U.S. Grant and General George Sharp, his intelligence chief.

Possessing moderate wealth at the beginning of the war, Van Lew spent it all on the spy ring and in aiding slaves and Union prisoners. When he became President, Grant made her the postmistress of Richmond, but she was removed by Rutherford B. Hayes, an act not altogether out of character for him. Consider further, however, that when she petitioned the U. S. Government after the war to be reimbursed for her expenditures on its behalf, the petition was denied. Later, penniless, ostracized, and desperate, she applied for a pension. That too was denied. Her last years were spent surviving on a trickle of contributions from grateful former prisoners whom she had aided.

Gill Electric Company

Paul Carter

The Gill boys were real working-type fellows around Orange, from the 1930s to the 1970s. Grey and C. C. worked at Virginia Metal Products, Curtis and Bassyl operated Gill Hardware Store on Main Street in Orange, and Forest maintained International Farm Equipment and Trucks in Warrenton. Curtis (nicknamed "Buck") also operated Gill Equipment Company on Madison Road in Orange, next door to Reynolds Pontiac. Harold started the Gill Electric Company.

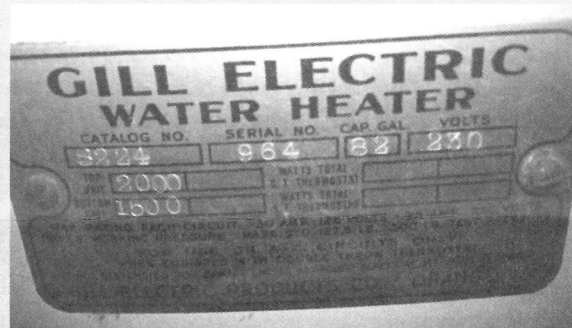
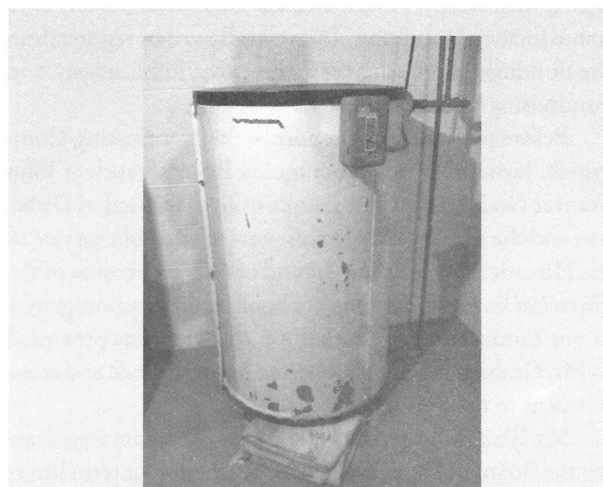
Harold B. and his wife, Elizabeth Katherine Jayne, lived at what is now 16241 Monrovia Road, just on the outskirts of Orange. They had one son, Harold, Jr., and two daughters, Wilma and Jayne. Harold, Jr., now lives in Williamsburg and Wilma lives in Charlottesville. Harold, Sr., took young Jayne to the 1939 World's Fair in New York, and it was there that she contracted polio at the age of eleven. It was one of the first known cases in the Orange area, and it put the town in pure fright. Oddly, Wilma and Harold, Jr., were not quarantined and attended school as usual. For a while people only went out when necessary for fear of getting the disease even though Jayne was in Charlottesville at the University Hospital. Jayne recovered well with only her left arm paralyzed. She was able to drive her car. She went on to attend college, get married, and have three children. Jayne passed away in 1982.

Harold was a partner of C. C. Gill & Sons hardware in Orange and Gordonsville. He ran the Gordonsville store, but when he was drafted into the Navy during World War II, the Gordonsville store was sold to Melvin Ware and W. S. Gill (Harold's uncle).

When Harold returned from the Navy, he found that after the war there was a strong market for home appliances, which had been unavailable during the war. In addition, many people in the countryside were getting electric power for the first time.

He sold his share in the hardware business and began his water heater making enterprise in a shop on Chapman Street. He shared the building with Railway Express. He also sold electrical supplies and called the business Gill Electric Company. The glass-lined water heater tanks were made to his specifications at a plant in Nashville, Tennessee; all the rest of the work – sheet metal work, wiring, etc. – was done in the shop. Dairy cooperatives in Maryland and Virginia were the main markets for the heaters, and most were wholesale sales. His water heaters were approved by the Underwriters Labs testing service and were sold in 30, 42, 60, and 82 gallon units.

He also had a local retail market. Because the heaters were made in Orange, there were no shipping charges, so his prices were below those of the major appliance manufacturers. When General Electric found out about it, they lowered their prices in an effort to destroy his business. They didn't succeed, but they did cut significantly into the retail side of the business.



Gill Electric Company water heater and its identification plate.

When Harold's business outgrew the Chapman Street shop, he built two buildings next to his house on Monrovia Road. One of the buildings was designed so that it could be turned into a dwelling if business declined. That's exactly what happened and the building became a residence.

While Harold was still in business, Wyatt Williams of Yatton Farm came to visit. Wyatt had been sterilizing his dairy barns with a coal-fired steamer. It was very heavy, dirty and awkward to move around. At this time the U. S. Agriculture Department required that dairy equipment be cleaned with steam. Harold invented a steam accumulator for Wyatt. The apparatus produced superheated water that turned into steam using electricity. When a valve was opened, steam was immediately produced. The tricky part was to configure it so that when the steam was released, the heating units did not burn up. This invention turned out to be successful and he sold many to dairymen on the east coast and some even in Cuba.

As noted, when major appliance manufacturers found he was cutting into their retail business, they lowered their prices

See Gill Electric Company on the next page.

Gill Electric Company (*continued*)

on water heaters so that Harold could no longer compete. In the meantime, there was a revolution in Cuba that cut into the steam accumulator end of things and, to top it off, the U. S. Department of Agriculture decreed that dairy equipment had to be cleaned with chemicals, which killed that side of the business altogether.

So, between big business, the Cuban Revolution, and the federal government, Harold retired in the early 1960s. After he retired, he occasionally worked for Southern States and sometimes took in small jobs. He liked to repair fence controllers. He also made other small electric appliances such as electric space heaters.

Harold was a very private person – so much so that he never went to the doctor. He always said, “If you ever take your car to a mechanic, you will always have to keep taking it back.” Harold died in 1979 at the age of 72 with angina, and Katherine died the next year. Both are buried in Graham Cemetery.

We know of one surviving Gill water heater in Orange County. Please let us know if you are aware of any others.

The author would like to extend special thanks to Harold Gill, Jr., for kindly providing assistance and valuable information for this article.

Book News

Lynne G. Lewis

Patrick Sullivan, author of *No Matter What Befalls Me*, the most recent book to be published by our Historical Society, was the guest speaker at a “Meet the Author” event hosted by Lifewise of Greenville, South Carolina, on January 31st. About 35 people attended the presentation and thoroughly enjoyed it. Pat noted that the question and answer portion of the program lasted longer than his presentation and he was asked several times when the next book would be written!

John Walker “Jack” Frazer’s book, *The Pamunkey Neighborhood 1727 – 2016: The Long History of a Small Place*, published earlier this year, represents the culmination of his research into this section of our county. As he notes on the back cover: “The variety and scope of people, places and events that encompass this 289 year period is a remarkable record of time and place, as well as the perseverance and accomplishments of its citizens. The Pamunkey neighborhood is a microcosm of American history at its finest.”

Jack’s book is only available through the Macedonia Christian Church, copies having been donated to the church for use as a fund-raiser. Copies are available at \$25 each plus a shipping-handling charge of \$5. Payments can be sent to: Macedonia Christian Church, P.O. Box 244, 24077 Lahore Road, Orange, Virginia 22960.

In the category of coming attractions, our own Jayne E. Blair’s publication, *Orange County’s Confederate Monument*, has gone to the printer and should be available in a few weeks; keep an eye on our web site bookstore. This publication not only lists every name on the monument, but also incorporates additional information about each soldier. The work is being produced with the assistance of a generous grant from the United Daughters of the Confederacy, for which we thank them very much.

Hurst Donation

Lynne G. Lewis

The Historical Society gratefully accepted a most generous donation from Mr. Stanley Johnson, brother of the late Patricia Hurst. Mr. Johnson arrived at the Research Center with 17 copies of *Soldiers, Stories, Sites and Fights* and later came by with 12 more, for a total of 29 books. This is perhaps Pat’s best-known book. It is out of print, and there is nary a copy to be found for sale from the usual internet sources, including a site that purports to provide a search of over 150 million books!

In the course of his visits, Mr. Johnson also brought 16 copies of the paperback book, *The War Between the States* and 2 copies of *The History and People of Clark Mountain, Orange County, Virginia*. All these wonderful books were given with the understanding that we would do with them as we saw fit.

After deliberation and discussion, the Board determined that at least two copies of each book would be retained in our vault, so that copies would always be available. One copy of each will remain on our open shelves for use by the public in their various researches. Finally, the remainder will be offered for sale to our membership and the public.

Soldiers, Stories, Sites and Fights is thus being offered to our membership for \$85.00 a copy, but only while supplies last or until June 10th. After June 10, the book will be offered for \$100.00 via our web site bookstore and at the Research Center, and the standard 10% membership discount will apply.

The War Between the States, a 96-page paperback, is being offered (while supplies last or until June 10th) for \$25.00 to our membership. Thereafter, it will be \$30.00 via our web site bookstore and at the Research Center, and the standard 10% membership discount will apply. Please contact us during our regular hours if you would be interested in one or both books.

We would like to extend our thanks to Mr. Johnson for his thoughtful donation that not only provides an excellent fund-raising opportunity for us, but also and most importantly, provides a means to disseminate valuable information to historians.

2016 Annual Fund Donors

The Orange County Historical Society is profoundly 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. Thank you!

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Special Thanks

The Historical Society is grateful to all those who have made generous contributions in memory of Pat Hurst. We are especially grateful to Pat's brother, Stanley Johnson, for honoring us with his donation of several dozen copies of Pat's books (see "Hurst Donation" on page 9).

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In Memoriam: Patricia J. Hurst

We note with great sadness the passing of one of the Society's most active and productive researcher-members, Patricia Johnson Hurst. An Orange County native, Pat grew up on her family's Trails End Farm near Gordonsville, but spent much of her life at Rivercrook Farm near Rapidan.

In addition to completing extensive genealogical research for her own family, Pat made some outstanding contributions to documenting local history. For over 40 years, Pat chronicled the history of this region, working particularly in Orange, Culpeper, Madison, and Greene counties. She had special interest in the lands along the Rapidan River, particularly her beloved Clark Mountain area. She generously exchanged information with, and assisted, other researchers and contributed copious amounts of information to the Society's files as well as assisting the Society's staff. Ann Miller especially notes Pat's invaluable assistance in the preparation of *Antebellum Orange*, including sharing information on land titles, and visiting and documenting many old houses and sites.

Pat's interests were wide ranging: landholdings, families, churches, houses and other buildings, local businesses, mills, historical sites, schools, the Civil War, African-American history and sites, interviewing older denizens of the area, documenting early roads, fords, and bridges—there were few limits to Pat's interests, curiosity, and projects.

In addition to various smaller projects, Pat published three books: *The History and People of Clark Mountain, Orange County, Virginia* (1989); *The War Between the States 1862-1865: Rapidan Area of Clark Mountain, Orange County, Virginia* (1989), and *Soldiers, Stories, Sites and Fights: Orange County, Virginia 1861-1865 and the Aftermath* (1998). The text of her last work, a two-volume history of the Rapidan River—its crossings and bridges, its geography, and stories of its people—was essentially complete at the time of her death. The book is being finalized by family and friends.

Pat will be missed by many, not the least by our Historical Society. We extend our condolences to her family and friends.

Smile

If you are an Amazon.com shopper, we thought you would like to know that the Orange County Historical Society is now a registered charity of the Amazon Smile program. If you log on to smile.amazon.com instead of just plain amazon.com or through the mobile app, and your purchase is "Smile eligible," a small percentage of your purchase price will be donated to us. There is nothing you need to do besides select the charity; there are no fees or extra charges. And while we hope you might choose us, there are thousands of eligible charities that you can support (but only one at a time). Just be sure you select the Orange in Virginia and not in Florida, or California, or New Jersey!

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Highway Marker Project

Bill Speiden

Orange County is proud to contain the largest contiguous historic district in Virginia. The 32,520-acre Madison-Barbour Rural Historic District has no highway marker signs proclaiming its historical and environmental importance. Given this situation, the Orange County Historical Society has taken on the project to provide two highway markers, one on Route 20 between Orange and Somerset and one on Route 33 between Barboursville and Gordonsville.

The money has been raised for this project and the process is progressing. Criteria for these markers and their sites include procuring Virginia Department of Transportation approval, obtaining landowner permission, and composing the text for the signs. The wording is then checked and approved by the Department of Historic Resources in Richmond. It will be a slow process but the Historical Society is diligently walking through the necessary steps.

The marker committee thanks our members and the community for their generous financial support during last fall's Fund Drive, making this project possible.



Virginia Department of Historic Resources

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)

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City: _____

State: _____ **Zip:** _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

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

Would you be willing to receive meeting notices via email in lieu of a postcard? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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