

Newsletter

Orange County Historical Society

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Armistice Day

Lynne Lewis

SOME OF OUR members will recall when Veteran's Day used to be called "Armistice Day," denoting the end of World War I at 11:00 a.m. on November 11, 1918. It is celebrated as "Remembrance Day" in many parts of the world, including Canada, and was changed from Armistice Day to Veteran's Day in the United States after World War II. No matter how it is called, November 11 is the day to remember and honor all those who have served in the armed forces of our country.

Orange County has always done its share, and we'd like to salute all those who have served, from the time of the American Revolution to those presently in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, we'd also like to share two closer glimpses of Orange County in service to her country, one from World War I and the other from World War II.

Montpelier's Arlington House and World War I

You know how sometimes you "know" something, but don't know how you know it? Well, that's not a good thing for a historian, and that was the case with Arlington House's connection to World War I. It was "known" that Arlington House had served as a convalescent home for soldiers. Ann Miller related that the late J. Randolph "Randy" Grymes had told her that he remembered visiting Arlington House and seeing the call bells still installed where they had been by the beds of the recovering soldiers. And there matters stood for many years, until earlier this year, sometime after our picnic at the site.

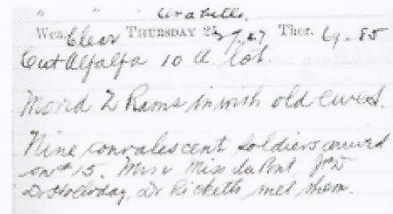
Tom Chapman, Research Coordinator at Montpelier, happened upon the 1918 journal of one J.P.D. [believed to be J. P. Dornan], living at Arlington House and serving as the duPonts' secretary or farm manager ["Journal Kept by Secretary of William duPont 1918" In Montpelier Archives, MEL 1].

In addition to notes about livestock, crops and of course the weather, all expected in a farm journal, the following entries were found:

Spelling and punctuation have been preserved, formatting has not; information in square brackets [] is added by this author.

Tuesday, July 16 - Opened Hospital to-day

Thursday, July 25 - Nine convalescent soldiers arrived on #15 [Southern Railway train number]. Mrs & Miss duPont, JPD Dr Holladay, Dr Ricketts met them.



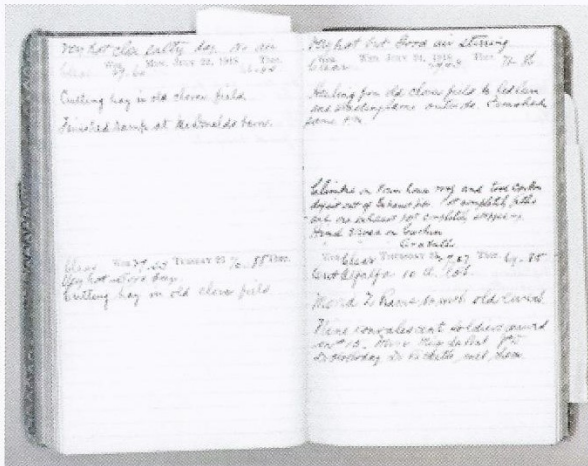
Saturday, August 31 -

Major Gen. Barnett, U S M C.
Lieut. Wood
M. J. Guiffrey } came to Montpelier

Lawn Fete at Tivoli benefit of Blind Soldiers. Largely attended.

Thursday, September 5, 1918: 10 Soldier patients arrived on #15

Those are the total entries referring to the convalescent soldiers at Arlington House. It is such intriguing information, but so limited. This would be a wonderful topic for additional research!



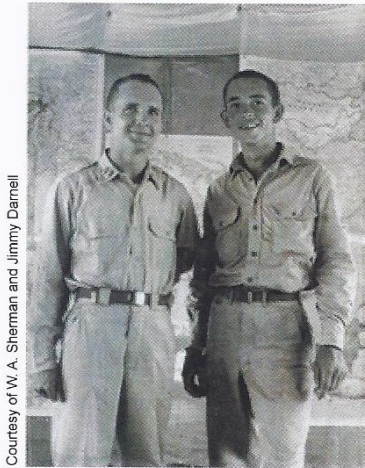
C. Thomas Chapman, Courtesy of The Montpelier Foundation

See Armistice Day on page 2.

Armistice Day (*continued*)

A World War II Photograph

Those of you who patronize Jimmy Darnell's business, called the "Garden Patch" in Orange may have noticed an old photograph on the check-out desk. It shows Robert Darnell (Jimmy's late father) and Welford A. Sherman in their military uniforms, in New Guinea. It's a small piece of World War II history, but one deserving of preservation. Mr. Darnell and Mr. Sherman kindly granted permission to scan the photo and that copy now resides in the Historical Society files. We share it with you here.



Courtesy of W. A. Sherman and Jimmy Darnell

Welford Sherman and Bobby Darnell in 1945.

In speaking to Mr. Sherman recently, I asked him about the photograph, and here's the delightful story he had to tell (any errors are the author's):

Welford Sherman and Bobby Darnell grew up together, went to school together and both went into the Army during World War II. Darnell was in the Army Air Corps while Sherman was in the Army Artillery. Not surprisingly, they lost track of each other during the course of the war. Later, Sherman was posted to New Guinea at the time the Americans were preparing to invade Japan (1945, something that never did take place). One day he was sent to another base to pick up some photographs. As he walked toward the camp, he saw a sign reading "Forward Echelon, Confederate Air Force" and as he approached, he saw a building with the same sign posted on it. Naturally, this piqued his curiosity, and he entered the building. He was a Captain at that time, so all the occupants jumped up and saluted - and who should be among them but the instigator of the sign - one Bobby Darnell!

Naturally they were delighted to see one another, and were able to keep in touch while they were both posted to New Guinea. And there we have the story behind the photograph that sits in the "Garden Patch."

Many thanks to Welford Sherman for sharing this story with us!

Party in the Park

Lynne Lewis

On Saturday, September 22, from noon to a little after 1:00 p.m., Taylor Park (Orange, Virginia) was filled with happy noise. That was the day when *The Nine Lives of an Orange Tabby*, a brief history of Orange County as seen through the eyes of the eponymous Purr, was introduced to the public in its final form.

The festivities were co-sponsored by The Arts Center In Orange and the Orange County Historical Society. Kitty Dodd and Thomas Marsh, two of the artists who contributed their work to the coloring book were present and helped some of the children learn how to draw cats. The Virginia National Bank contributed strawberry ice cream, which was scooped out by none other than Dolley Madison (Dana Frech). Fanny Hume, as portrayed by Tierney Jones, was also present, as was our town crier, Frank Walker. The Orange County Animal Shelter volunteers brought out several young cats and kittens, including the star of the show, a very young Purr. While Purr posed for photographs, his alter ego signed copies of the coloring book (thank you, Laura Thompson). The young and the not-so-young had a wonderful time, and many copies of *The Nine Lives of an Orange Tabby* went home that day (as did two of the kittens, but not Purr, who was too young to adopt yet).

From beginning to end, Laura Thompson, Executive Director of the Arts Center and Historical Society board member was the driving force behind this project, and the Party in the Park was merely the final act. Laura conceived the idea of the coloring book, rounded up sponsors for each chapter, and engaged the artists or drew segments herself, and wrote at least the outline for each chapter. Frank Walker, Lynne Lewis, Clara Colby, Ann Miller, and Bernice Walker all served as editors and consultants, but it was Laura who made sure that each installment arrived at the *Orange County Review* in time for its bi-weekly deadline.

The Saturday event was followed by Laura Thompson and Lynne Lewis presenting free copies of *The Nine Lives of an Orange Tabby* to the entire 4th grade of the Orange County School system. On hand to accept the presentation of 700 copies of the coloring book were Dr. Will Crawford, Superintendent of Schools; Chuck Winkler, Director of K-5 Education; and Miss Bassett, Orange Elementary School Assistant Principal.

For several years the Historical Society had sought a means to reach more of our children, and thanks to the inspiration, determination and just plain hard work of Laura, we've now exposed almost 700 children (and countless adults) to the fact that history can be fun as well as educational!

At \$3.00 each (including tax), these coloring books will make excellent stocking stuffers. So, next time you're visiting the Research Center, be sure to pick up a copy or three for your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors!

St. Thomas, Your Not-altogether Typical Colonial Parish

Frank S. Walker, Jr.

EVEN AFTER THE Virginia colony adopted a county form of local government, it took decades for most of its early counties to grow sufficiently in population and westward settlement to require the creation of new counties to the west. By the time Spotsylvania County was formed in 1720, however, the colony was growing so rapidly that it was a given that another new western county would soon be needed. As we know, that would be Orange County, formed in 1734.

By the 1700s the procedure being followed when a new Virginia county was about to be established followed a pattern: An Anglican Church parish would be created, and a few years later, a county would be established, usually following the parish boundaries exactly. The Anglican Church, more formally known as "The Church of England," had been founded by King Henry VIII and was the "King's Church," receiving special treatment and attended by the rich and powerful, both in the colonies as well as in England. When it came to county creation in Virginia, however, there was more involved than simply favoritism. In fact, the Anglican Church in colonial Virginia was called upon to function as a branch of local government.

Anglican Church parishes provided virtually all of a county's social services. The parish leaders, called the "vestry," looked after the widows and orphans of the parish, and they attended to the sick, the destitute, and the homeless.¹ Not necessarily out of the goodness of their hearts, mind you. They were required to do so by colonial law. Colonial law also provided that once each year vestries could impose a "levy," or tax, on parish members to support those efforts. Vestries made sure to collect all they felt would be needed, because they could be made to contribute personally if the funds ran out.

An interesting glimpse into this type of parish activity comes to us from the St. Thomas' parish vestry minutes of December 10, 1778. The vestry had gathered to "lay the levy" for the coming year, and to get an idea of the amount that they would need to raise, they first listed all the parishioners for whom assistance would be required. It is a rather long list, possibly reflecting the effect of the ongoing Revolution on the county. One entry reads, "To Mary Franklyn to be lodged in James Madison's hands.....22.0.0," reflecting the allocation of twenty-two pounds colonial money to Madison, who would then hold that money in trust for Ms. Franklyn and disburse it for her benefit during the coming year as he thought best.²

1 Ex: "To John Morpass for Nursing a Bastard child being a cripple," and "To Will Clark for his Charge and trouble with a traveling man and burying him," back-to-back entries in the St. Mark's Parish "proportions" for 1750. Rosalie Edith Davis, ed., *St. Mark's Parish Vestry Book, 1730-1783*, (Manchester MO, privately published, 1983), 63. Transcribed and edited from photostats of the originals at the Virginia State Archives. (Hereinafter referenced as "Davis, *St. Mark's Minutes*.")

2 Thought to be the only copy of St. Thomas' vestry minutes surviving from the colonial era. It was found by Dr. John Schlotterbeck of DePauw University when researching Barbour family papers at the University of Virginia's Alderman Library. Copies are in the possession of St. Thomas', the Orange County Historical Society, and the author. Referenced with deep appreciation for Dr. Schlotterbeck's extensive and ongoing interest in Orange County history.

Also, Anglican parishes provided some of the more traditional public services. In the absence of an organized political system, the election of the vestry by parish landowners and householders served to identify and establish the popular local leaders. When the county was subsequently formed, those men were then made members of its governing body. Also, once every four years, an Anglican parish was required by law to "process" the boundaries of all landowners in the parish. Delegations of parishioners in assigned precincts would walk the bounds of each property, repairing or reestablishing boundary markers wherever necessary. The processioners submitted a "return," or report, and all returns were made a part of the vestry's records. Any boundary processed three times without objection was legally indisputable. It is understandable, then, why most county formations did not take place until its parish had conducted at least one procession.³

In 1720 Spotsylvania County had been formed within St. George's Parish. Then, in 1730, the House of Burgesses directed that "from and after...[reciting January 1, 1730]... the said parish of Saint George be divided into two distinct parishes;...[describing the boundary line]...; and that all that part of the said parish, which lies below the said bounds, shall forever thereafter remain, be called and known, by the name of Saint George Parish; and all that other part of the said parish which lies above the said bounds, shall thereafter be called and known by the name of Saint Mark."⁴

As we know, Orange County, Virginia, was established within the new St. Mark's Parish in 1734 with a western boundary extending to the Mississippi and including the land area now comprising all or part of seven states in addition to Virginia. In 1740 St. Mark's Parish was itself divided, and in 1749 the new division became Culpeper County. The intent of this essay is to focus on some of the decisions and events affecting St. Mark's Parish between its creation in 1730 and that division in 1740, since they impact directly on today's St. Thomas' Parish in Orange County, Virginia.

3 For more on the work of the Anglican Church in colonial Virginia, read Chapter I of Edward L. Bond and Joan R. Gunderson, *The Episcopal Church in Virginia, 1607-2007*, (Printed in *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* vol. 115, no. 2, Richmond, The Virginia Historical Society, 2007).

4 William Waller Hening, ed., *The Statutes at Large, Being a Collection of All the Laws of Virginia from the First Session of the Legislature in the Year 1619*, vol 4, (1820 reprint, Richmond VA, University Press of Virginia, 1969), 305. (Hereinafter "Hening, *Statutes*.)

See **St. Thomas'** on page 4.

St. Thomas' (continued)

Shortly after the creation of St. Mark's Parish, the freeholders and householders elected its vestry. That vestry inherited three places of worship earlier built by the St. George's vestry, plus two ministers already sharing the service duties. By June 1732 the main, or "mother," church at Germanna had burned. The vestry was already contemplating several church building projects, however, and replacing the Germanna church was simply added to the list.

Of special interest are two decisions made by the St. Mark's vestry at its December 11, 1733, meeting. The vestry had gathered at the "Southwest Mountain Chapel," a structure whose general location is thought to have been south of the Rapidan River and west of today's town of Orange. References to that chapel cease a year or so after the December meeting, and the vestry's decision that day to build an "uper" chapel may have been the result of deciding that the Southwest Mountain Chapel was to be taken out of service.

One decision then was to build a twenty foot square chapel near a spring selected by Benjamin Cave. Almost a year later, at its October 10, 1734, meeting, the vestry ordered that Thomas Jackson be paid 2,800 pounds of tobacco for "building a chapel at the Southwest Mountain." Since Benjamin Cave's holdings extended into those mountains, it is fair to conclude that the construction paid for in 1734 was the chapel ordered built at the December 1733 vestry meeting. Vastly less certain, but so tempting to imagine, is the possibility that the new chapel was the "Orange Church," or "Chapel of Ease" described in 1857 in Bishop Meade's church history as having been originally located adjacent to the Indian burial mound on the Rapidan near Scuffletown, then subsequently moved to Ruckersville for its final years of service.⁵ The fact that such a scenario would mean that the abandoned building described in that work would have had to have been over 120 years old renders that connection tenuous.

There is, however, an even more interesting decision made at that December 1733 meeting. Specifically, David Kinked, after producing bond and security, was directed to build a church "on the Southwest Mountain Road with in a mile of the first run [stream] below the Chapel." The church was to be under roof by Christmas 1734 and completed by Christmas 1735. Kinked was to be paid 27,900 pounds of tobacco. If a twenty foot square chapel cost 2,800 pounds of tobacco, Kinked's building was going to be substantial. The magic words "brick church" or "middle church" are not used to describe this structure, but the cost and location argue strongly for it being St. Thomas' mother church, the one that was torn down shortly after the American Revolution.⁶

⁵ The Right Reverend William Meade, *Old Churches, Ministers, and Families of Virginia*, Vol II, (Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott Co., 1857), 85. The section describing that building was actually written for Bishop Meade by the Reverend Mr. Earnest, Rector of the parish.

⁶ Davis, *St. Mark's Minutes*, 15. At its October 11, 1734, meeting, the vestry noted that Kinked had finished both the Glebe house and Church



Bernice Walker

View from Route 612 north across Meadowfarm to the hill on which the Brick Church stood. Whenever possible, colonial churches were built on the highest ground in the area. Bricks from the Brick, or Middle, Church were being found on that hill up into the mid-twentieth century. Nearby ground depressions indicate that some burials took place there.

In May 1740, the House of Burgesses divided St. Mark's Parish. After an adjustment or two in ensuing years, the new parish boundary line became essentially the Rapidan River. The new parish created north of the Rapidan would become Culpeper County in 1749, from which Madison and Rappahannock counties would later come. The original portion of St. Mark's Parish south of the river remained Orange County, and Greene was divided off in 1838. A fact that tends to be missed, however, is that the 1740 division of St. Mark's Parish granted the newly-created parish the old name, St. Mark's, and the remainder of the old original parish was renamed St. Thomas'.⁷ It isn't known why that decision was made, but it was an awkward twist to the typical parish-to-county formation process. It has long confused people as to when the parish we know today as St. Thomas' was actually created. It has also tended to mislead researchers of early Orange County history into overlooking the St. Mark's vestry minutes for the 1730-1740 time period. Except for the minutes of one meeting, St. Thomas' early records don't exist. St. Mark's records do, and they make for very interesting reading.

"according to bargain," Davis, *St. Mark's Minutes*, 17. That meant that the church was ready for use before the formation of Orange County in January (Old Style calendar).

⁷ Hening, *Statutes*, Vol. 5, 96.

Picnic Season

North Pamunkey Baptist Church

The North Pamunkey Baptist Church was the site of the July 30, 2007 picnic. Mr. Garland Tyree treated us to a very informative talk. He spoke about the Baptists in Orange County, particularly about the meeting between the Baptist preacher John Leland and James Madison in 1788. Mr. V. Rae Jones, representing the church, welcomed us warmly and opened the sanctuary for viewing. Mr. Jones also kindly related the history of the church building, whose original core dates to circa 1851. He told some quite entertaining stories. All in all, it was a most pleasant evening. Although Mr. Tyree's monograph, *Blue Run Baptist Church*, is out of print, he is currently updating it. We hope to reprint it in the near future.

Ellwood

On the warm, but gloriously pleasant, evening of August 27, Historical Society members enjoyed a picnic and tour of Ellwood, in Locust Grove. The site of many historic events (including a dinner for Lafayette during his 1825 tour of America), Ellwood is a simple, yet elegant, farmhouse. It was constructed in the 1790s by William Jones and later passed into the Lacy family with the marriage of Betty Churchill Jones and J. Horace Lacy. During the Civil War, Ellwood acquired lasting fame, most notably as the burial place of Stonewall Jackson's arm.

But it was through the stories of Carolyn Elstner, a descendant of the last private owner (law professor Hugh Evander Willis) that the house really came alive for everyone. Carolyn briefly related the history of the Jones and Lacy families, and then shared her cherished childhood memories of visiting the home when it was owned by her grandparents and later her parents.

Most of us completed our evening with a tour of the house and grounds, including a visit to the family cemetery, which also includes the stone marking the burial site of Jackson's arm. As the picnickers reluctantly left that evening, a full moon was rising in the background, marking the end of a wonderful picnic season with a flourish!

W. W. Scott Celebration

The September 24, 2007 program meeting celebrated the 100th anniversary of the publication of W. W. Scott's *A History of Orange County Virginia*. Along with the excellent refreshments, we heard from Johnny Scott, grandson, and Ted Scott, great nephew, of W. W. Scott. Ted's wife, Carolyn, shared some memories of W. W., and Johnny related that the cane he was using had been his grandfather's, one of many collected by Mr. Scott over the years. Ann Miller shared a 1930s newspaper article, donated to the Historical Society by Johnny Scott, amplifying W. W. Scott's extensive career. It was a most convivial evening.

A Special Thanks

Through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Lynwood D. Wells of Martinsville, Virginia, several very important volumes have been donated to the Orange County Historical Society in memory of their son, John Emory Wells. The books have been catalogued and shelved, and we are most grateful to the Wells for thinking of us. The volumes are as follows:

Thomas Jefferson (biography) by Dumas Malone, 6 volumes
The Civil War, A Narrative by Shelby Foote, 3 volumes
Lee's Lieutenants by Douglas Southall Freeman, 3 volumes
Stonewall in the Valley by Robert G. Tanner
Stonewall Jackson by James I. Robertson, Jr.
Chancellorsville 1863 by Ernest B. Furguson

Dr. Kelso to Lecture on Jamestowne December 6, 2007

The Historical Society is pleased to pass on the announcement of a very special evening with Dr. Bill Kelso, Chief Archaeologist of Historic Jamestowne. The Germanna Lyceum Series is presenting "From Jamestowne to Germanna: Virginia's Western Frontier (1607-1714)" on Thursday, December 6, 2007, at the Germanna Center for Advanced Technology, in Culpeper. There is a reception from 6:00-7:15 p.m., followed by the presentation from 7:30-8:30 p.m., and a Q&A session from 8:30-9:30 p.m.

This promises to be a very informative and entertaining evening, and we encourage everyone who can to attend.

The Germanna Center for Advanced Technology is in Culpeper, just off the Route 29/Route 3 intersection. For detailed directions either call the Center, or visit their webpage: <http://www.gpaar.com/Directions%20Germanna%20Tech%20Center.htm>

Annual Meeting January 2008

This is to provide official notice to our membership that the Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 20, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. The site has not yet been determined, but the postcard announcement will be sent in early January. Our annual meeting is important, as that is when we present the slate of new board members or those standing for re-election. The Nominating Committee is currently seeking suggestions. If you know someone who might be a good candidate, and willing to serve, please contact Bernice Walker (540.672.4167), chair of the Committee. We are currently seeking four (4) nominees.

Once the business of the day is completed, we have a very special treat in store. If you missed the most charming presentation last January by John Amos, English teacher, raconteur and essayist par excellence, this will be your chance to hear him. And those of you who were at last year's meeting can look forward to a second round of stories, as John has kindly agreed to give us another afternoon of Orange memories. He will also be available to sign his newly published book, *Every Now and Then* (Bomari Press, Orange, VA), a collection of his occasional essays. Watch your mailbox for a postcard announcing the location of the meeting. It promises to be an afternoon that will warm your heart.

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The Ongoing Project, or Maybe the Never Ending Project!!

Marty Caldwell

For over five years now several of us have been working on a project for the Historical Society. In our collection we have five rolls of microfilm of old local newspapers. These rolls include a few issues of the *Piedmont Virginian* dated from 1870 to 1908, a few copies of the *Orange Review* dated from 1909 to 1917, and the largest number of issues are from the *Orange Observer* dated from 1882 to 1936. Many issues are missing, so it is in no way a complete collection for this time frame.

Whenever time allows, Jean McGann and Marty Caldwell have been going through them on our microfilm reader and viewing the sometimes impossible to read copies and extracting the vital statistics. We have recorded the deaths reported, marriage licenses, engagement announcements and wedding notices. There are also some births mentioned, and although the children born aren't always named, their parents are.

As the pads of Information piled up, our first transcriber was Heather Isaak. She began entering information into a data program on the computer. And now we can thank Marianne Hurd who has taken on this task. The program can be accessed and visitors can find information on family members.

As of September 2007 we have almost completed our fourth roll of film. Needless to say we are not anywhere near done with this project. We also have on microfilm some copies of the *Gordonsville Gazette*, so you can see that we will have plenty to keep us busy for some time to come.

We invite those whose families have been around Orange County for these time frames to come in to see if their progenitors are among the many residents whose life events were mentioned in these papers.

Over Our Heads

Lynne Lewis

The next time you come to the Research Center be sure to look up before you come inside. We are, thanks to the generosity of our members and friends, the proud owners of a brand new roof. Installed by N. E. Hale, Inc. in August, the new asphalt-shingle roof is good for 50 years, and is another item that can be crossed off the long list of capital projects that are being undertaken one by one. The work included replacing the plywood sheathing where needed, and indeed, several areas of the roof were in need of this treatment.



Lynne Lewis

As it transpired, September was particularly unsuitable for testing the new roof (alas), but it came through the mid-October rains with nary a drop detected inside. We will have to await a few more rains to be absolutely sure, but it certainly looks like the leaks have stopped! With the painting of the exterior woodwork we had done last year, and the landscaping, we are well on the way to making the Research Center safer for our collections and more inviting to our members.