



Tempus Fugit: Early History of Orange Boy Scout Troop #1, 1915-1918

Raymond Ezell

On February 10, 2010, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) celebrated its centennial, having been formally incorporated on that date in 1910. The BSA is commonly thought of as one of America's most esteemed youth development organizations. This is demonstrated dramatically in the United States Space Program (NASA) where at least 180 astronauts have been members of the BSA. Of these, 40 attained Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout. As of 2016, there were 2,341,000 youth registered in all divisions of the BSA. For more than 107

years the BSA has been an integral part of the American social landscape for youth and the adults who serve them.

In Orange County the popularity of the BSA was no different. By Spring 1915, two BSA Troops had been organized in the county; Orange Troop #1 and Gordonsville Troop #1, as they were known during the first several decades of their history. Orange Troop #1 (now Troop #14) boasts an unbroken tenure

While this article provides an introduction and historical context for the early history and activities of Orange Troop #1, the development of other early Scout Troops (e.g., Gordonsville, Barbourville, Unionville) are best dealt with separately. By no means is this the final word on the history of this youth movement in Orange County. I invite others to share relevant information on Scouting throughout Orange County to create a fuller context of the movement that had such positive influences on many of Orange County's youth and adults. R.E.



Figure 1. Boy Scouts of Orange Troop #1, ca. 1915; W. R. Grymes and Harold McIntosh are noted at the left and rear of the image (photo from Grymes 1915-18).

in Orange going back to 1915, and in 2015, this troop celebrated its centennial. Such longevity for BSA troops is increasingly rare.

Fortunately there is a plentiful written record of the early activities of Orange Troop #1 during the first several years after its formation. These records appear in the detailed journal of William Randolph Grymes, charter member of the Troop and Patrol Leader of Troop #1's Wolf Patrol, as well as in a number of short (but informative) newspaper articles in several Orange County newspapers (many of these early articles were

probably written by Grymes himself). It is rather unusual that such a vivid record remains of these formative days when the Scouts and leaders had no idea that the organization would quickly rise to such national prominence and public admiration. This is a marvelous and fortunate convergence of events. William R. Grymes' journal is now housed in the archives of the Orange County Historical Society where it can be examined and is preserved for future generations. The current Troop #14 Scoutmaster, Kevin Cordray, has also compiled a number of early documents, rosters, and newspaper clippings that appear on the Troop's Facebook archives, which were consulted in the preparation of this article.

William Grymes' journal of the Wolf Patrol begins within six weeks of the official formation of Troop #1. His first entry, from March 24, 1915, lists the charter members of the Wolf

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Scouts (*continued*)

Patrol: William Grymes (Patrol leader), Maurice C. Bradbury (Asst. Patrol leader), Curtis Gill, Harold Kinzer, Bassyl Gill (subsequently moved to another patrol), Newman Robinson, Charles L. Moncure, and Tom G. Terrell (Figure 2). The Wolf Patrol appears to have been the second patrol organized within the troop; however Grymes tells us that it was known from early troop business as Patrol #1. Two additional patrols, the Panther and Eagle patrols, were formed around the same time.

A brief account of the troop's initial organizational event and the first outing is appended to the Grymes journal and consists of an article written by the unnamed Troop #1 scribe for the Orange High School student newspaper, *The Flashlight* (Scout M.C. Bradbury served as the business manager for the paper). The article reports that the Panther Patrol, perhaps the Troop's earliest patrol, gave an "entertainment in the auditorium" of the Orange High School on March 18, 1915. Reportedly the program was well conducted and was assisted by several young ladies at the school. It was probably a presentation of the merits of Scouting to interested students and their families. Although no record exists of boys who may have joined the Troop because of this presentation, many in attendance are known to have expressed their wishes for the unit's success (Grymes 1915).

The second portion of *The Flashlight* article describes the Troop's first hike to an unnamed location near Montford, 3-4 miles west of the Town of Orange, on April 3, 1915. When the scouts got to their destination, they played outdoor games and cooked over a campfire. Unfortunately there was no roster recorded for this inaugural hike that would prove to be the first of many (Grymes 1915).

The first Scoutmaster of Troop #1 was Professor T. A. Russell. Biographical information on Russell is scarce; however, it appears that he was the principal of Orange High School in 1915-16, and in 1916 served as a vice-president of the Virginia State Teachers Association for this region (VJOE 1915). Specific references to Prof. Russell in Grymes' journal are limited; but an entry dated June 10, 1915, notes that Prof. Russell would not be with the unit for the remainder of the summer due to obligations at the University of Virginia (Grymes 1915). Perhaps Russell was a lecturer there, but a search of University archives for 1915-16 failed to find T. A. Russell listed in either student or faculty directories.

In addition to Prof. Russell, Mr. H. C. Clark is known to have served as the first committee chair for the Troop from its organization in 1915 through at least 1935. In 1935, Clark



Figure 2. Members of Troop #1-Wolf Patrol, June 9, 1916; pictured L-R: H. Kinzer, M. C. Bradbury, T. Terrell, W. R. Grymes, and F. Jerdone (from Grymes 1915-18).

was also appointed as a committee member to the Stonewall Jackson Council (*Orange County News* 1935).

Within five years after the founding of the BSA in 1910, the Virginia Journal of Education (VJOE) reported that the statewide teachers' association was actively advocating for the organization of Scout troops in Virginia's rural high schools. Scout troops were acclaimed to be of "wholesome effect" and appealing to the instincts of youth. Teachers were actively encouraged by their state organization to bring Scouting into rural areas and small towns as a

way to supplement classroom work and enrich students' lives (VJOE 1915). Apparently Prof. Russell was on the forefront of this effort to bring Scouting into rural Orange County during the mid-1910s.

The second (and noteworthy) Scoutmaster of Troop #1 was Rev. Frank C. Riley (Figure 3). Riley was born September 27, 1888, in Baltimore, Maryland, and was graduated from Crozer Baptist Theological Seminary (B.Div.) in Chester, Pennsylvania, and from the University of Pennsylvania (M.A.) — both in 1915. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Richmond College (University of Richmond) and was ordained in September 1913 at Lee Street Church in Baltimore — although this congregation had previously granted him a "License to Preach" in 1908 (Anonymous 1918; Riley 1995). He was an acclaimed football player while at Richmond College and at his other educational stops (Maxwell 1922; Riley 1995). In 1913, Riley also taught advanced Greek at McGuire's University School in Richmond (Riley 1995).

Riley was called as pastor of Orange Baptist Church on November 14, 1915, and served until 1930 (with a year's leave of absence during World War I from 1918-1919) (McColley 1987; Riley 1995). Riley's association with Troop #1 had begun as early as February 1916 (*Orange County News* 1930) when he is noted as an "Assistant Scoutmaster" on a Troop camping trip to the Montford neighborhood west of Orange (Grymes 1916), as well as on a camping trip to near Matthews' Mill in April 1916 (*Orange Observer* 1916a). Although Riley began as the Assistant Scoutmaster, it appears that he served as the primary adult leader after June 1916 and was the de facto Scoutmaster referenced in newspaper accounts and Grymes' journal entries after this date. By the beginning of the fall semester of 1916, Prof. Russell was no longer employed at Orange High School and had apparently ended his leadership role in the troop. By the Spring of 1917, Riley had fully replaced Prof. Russell as the

Scouts (*continued*)

troop's official top Scoutmaster, a position that he would retain until he left Orange in 1930.

In March 1918, Rev. Riley requested a leave of absence from Orange Baptist Church for the duration of the war (McColley 1987) and had made it known to the Scouts of Troop #1 that he would be leaving Orange to attend Chaplain Training School at Camp Taylor, Kentucky (Grymes' journal mistakenly identifies it as Camp Jackson). He left Orange in June of that year to begin his military service. He was commissioned as Chaplain and 1st Lieutenant on July 5, 1918, and was assigned to the 318th Infantry Regiment (80th Division) of the U.S. Army Expeditionary Forces (AEF). He arrived in the European theatre on August 7th (Anonymous 1919; Riley 1995). His unit served in the Meuse-Argonne offensive, and he was discharged on June 2, 1919 (Anonymous 1933). He then returned to his Orange pastorate and as the leader of Orange Troop #1 by July 1919 (McColley 1987). He continued as the Scoutmaster of the troop until his resignation from Orange Baptist Church on November 2, 1930, when he became the pastor at First Baptist Church in South Boston, Virginia (*Orange County News* 1930). In April 1928, Riley was officially recognized by the now defunct Lewis and Clark Boy Scout Council with a ten-year veteran certificate and was noted as the longest serving Scoutmaster in the council, which covered the counties of Orange, Albemarle, Culpeper, and Madison (*Orange County News* 1928).

It is clear that Rev. Riley embodied the high ideals of service and duty to country and self that were cornerstones of the Scouting movement. Riley's leadership of Troop #1 and the principles that were promoted by Scouting had an obvious effect on William Grymes especially — demonstrated in how he vividly documented the three years of his Scouting activities. Grymes' journal described this time as the troop's "Golden Age."

A March 1916 newspaper article indicates that the Troop's permanent meeting location was the "Boy Scout's room" above Norman C. Bailey's store (*Orange Review* 1916). An August 1917 industrial appraisal indicates that Bailey's store (known as NC Bailey and Co.) was established in 1909 (*Orange Review: Industrial Edition* 1917). The store was located on the north side of East Main Street in the Willis/Mathews building with the ground floor consisting of a Dry Goods operation and a separate Grocery store operation (Sanborn 1915). Bailey operated there for many years (US Federal Census 1910, 1920, 1930). He was noted as a committee member of the troop in February 1928 (*Orange County News* 1928) and was perhaps a committeeman as early as 1915-1916 as well. For special events and ceremonies, such as Courts of Honor, meetings were held at the Orange County Courthouse and later at the Orange Baptist Church.

On April 15, 1916, Grymes' journal detailed a trip taken to identify a suitable camping location for the Troop, presumably by the Wolf, Eagle and Panther patrol leaders (Grymes, Bas-

syl Gill, and Lewis Paxton). These three Scouts found a location along Pamunkey Creek "about ¼ mile from Mathews Mill," approximately nine miles south of the Town of Orange, near the community of Lahore (Grymes 1916). This campground would later become known as "Camp Riley," named for the Troop's eminent leader.

On April 21, 1916, the Troop camped at a location near Lahore, approximately one mile past (south of?) Pamunkey Baptist Church for one night. No roster was kept for this outing.

Troop outings were not limited to camping and hiking trips into the countryside. They also engaged in educational activities. On May 15, 1916, a joint trip by Troop #1 and the Orange High School physics class to the telescope observatory on "Observation Mountain" at the University of Virginia was hosted by Prof. Harold Alden of the University of Virginia. Prof. Alden lectured on the "McCormic" telescope, escorted the party through the Rouse Physical Lab, and explained wireless telegraphy. Observations through the telescope were made of Venus, Saturn, and the Moon. As noted in the *Orange Review* article, then Scoutmaster Prof. Russell expressed his gratitude to several Orange businessmen (some were fathers of Scouts) for providing transportation for the 42 participants. This is the last specific mention of Prof. Russell in newspaper accounts or Grymes' journal as the Scoutmaster of Troop #1.



Figure 3. Ca. 1930 photo of Rev. Frank Riley in BSA hat with Scoutmaster Insignia (courtesy of Bob Riley).



Figure 4. 1916 photo of Camp Riley near Mathews' Mill (from Grymes 1915-18).

Scouts (*continued*)

Frequent camping excursions around Orange were a fixture of Troop #1's activities. These included trips to the countryside surrounding Town and to neighboring counties and local geographical landmarks. One such camping trip took place June 9-10, 1916. The encampment was located about one mile beyond Gillum's Mill (Madison Mills) near a feature on the Rapidan River called "Rock Swimming Hole." A total of 15 Scouts made the trip with Scoutmaster Riley (*Orange Observer* 1916b; Grymes 1916).

The Troop also held a number of week-long camping excursions. Maybe the most notable was its annual week-long stay at Camp Riley. Fifteen scouts travelled to Matthews' Mill by wagon and held camp at Camp Riley from September 8-13, 1916 (Figure 4). Here the Scouts spent much of their time writing letters to family, fishing, and swimming in Pamunkey Creek. Each night a guard was mounted (on a horse or mule) about 9:30, which attested to an affinity for some aspects of militarism during the early days of the BSA.

On the following Sunday the troop marched in formation to the nearby North Pamunkey Church for the worship service. William Grymes noted that the Troop made a very good impression, and the pastor allowed the Scouts access to his vegetable garden, and another parishioner provided "four chickens and a suit box full of sweet potato and chocolate pies" (Grymes 1916). That Sunday afternoon saw a number of people visiting the Troop at Camp Riley. Monday evening was a time when the scouts held "war councils" and played "capture the flag," a game still played by scouts today (Grymes 1916).

The week following their expedition to Camp Riley, the Troop made a trip to the Montford and Liberty Mills neighborhood, near Somerset (*Orange Observer* 1916c). This trip attracted mostly younger scouts, and the Wolf Patrol probably did not participate and only bare details were recorded by Grymes.

The last major event during 1916 was held at the Orange County Fair, October 25-27th. Troop #1 scouts assisted the County Fair committee with crowd control and other tasks. A feature of the fair was an inter-troop competition, on the 26th, between the Scouts of Orange Troop #1 and Gordonsville Troop #1 (now Troop #12). The competition was designed to demonstrate each unit's ability in rendering first-aid for bleeding, fractures, and fainting, as well as a number of bandaging techniques. The competition ended in a draw — the Orange Troop winning the bandaging component and the Gordonsville Troop winning the first-aid portion. Each unit won a prize of \$5.00 (*Orange Observer* 1916d, Grymes 1916). Unfortunately no list of competitors from either troop is available. Almost no scouts' names are recorded for the Gordonsville Troop during this early period as well. Incidentally, a rematch was set for the 1917 Orange County Fair, but was not held as Gordonsville Troop #1 failed to attend (Grymes 1917).

The BSA anniversary week in February 1917 was an

especially active time for Troop #1. The troop performed a community service project of distributing "notices" around town on behalf of the Orange Civic League, and on February 10 made an anniversary hike to Buzzard Mountain, which is about one mile northeast of Rapidan in southern Culpeper County, near present day Coffeewood Correctional Center. Scouts making the hike were William Grymes, Brantley Willis, Joseph Houseworth, Harold Kinzer, Carlton Kinzer, Frank Perry, Wilson Porterfield, W. H. Herndon, and Phillip Barbour (P. B.) Stovin. As is still the custom of Boy Scouts across the nation every February, Troop #1 attended Sunday worship service at Orange Baptist Church where Scoutmaster Rev. Riley gave the sermon (Grymes 1917, *Orange Review* 1917).

The second annual expedition to Camp Riley was held June 11-15, 1917. A total of 14 scouts and a cook, led by Scoutmaster Riley, hiked south from Orange eight miles along the Monrovia Road to the Daniel's Store with about 600 pounds of equipment for their 5-day encampment. They then turned northeast and hiked to Matthews' Mill where, due to a heavy rain storm, they spent the night of the 11th inside the mill. The campground was reported to be 1-½ miles from the mill, south of Pamunkey Creek (Grymes 1917), and was likely in close proximity to the Matthews' Mill Road. As was the custom on Troop #1's overnight outings, a scout "guard" was mounted on horseback each night while in camp. Rev. Riley was away from the camp on Thursday evening for the weekly prayer meeting at Orange Baptist Church and to celebrate the first birthday of his daughter with his family (Grymes 1917).

In addition to the June encampment at Camp Riley, Troop #1 held another long-term camp from September 7-14th at what was known as "Camp Coon" on the Rapidan River. William Grymes and the camp cook, Riley Hill, travelled from Orange with a wagon and cart loaded with equipment and supplies. Their trip to Raccoon Ford took them five and a half hours "over muddy roads and steep hills." The remainder of the troop took Train #30 from Orange to the station at Mitchells, disembarked and hiked the rest of the way to the camp. The nightly guard duty was assigned randomly to two scouts each night, as was their tradition (Grymes 1917).

The week was spent fishing, swimming, "loafing," tramping about the vicinity, as well as practicing close order drills. On Sunday a general inspection was made of the scouts by the Scoutmaster. This is the first mention of an inspection being made at any of the Troop's campouts. Grymes records that only two scouts passed this inspection — P. B. Stovin and an unnamed scout. Dirty fingernails caused the rest of the scouts to fail the inspection. Sunday morning was concluded with a worship service led by Rev. Riley where he gave a brief sermon about the scouts using their opportunities, accompanied by Bible reading and reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Scouts (*continued*)

During the days that followed at Camp Coon, the scouts were up at 6:00 a.m., followed by breakfast, then fishing, rambling around, Scout skills tests, and going for mail (probably at the Mitchells Station/store). On September 13, there was a "Big Show" in Orange but due to an infantile paralysis (commonly known as polio) quarantine no one from the Troop was allowed to attend (Grymes 1917).

Grymes' journal revealed that by this time another patrol, the Owl Patrol, had been formed and was present at Camp Coon. Several scouts from both the Wolf and Owl patrols almost completed their second class advancement requirements during this week. However, Grymes had a harsh rebuke for some of the shiftless scouts who failed to use their time wisely. He was sorely disappointed that a handful of veteran scouts did not even try to finish their advancement tests while one new scout who had only been in the Troop for about one month had quickly advanced (Grymes 1917).

On the night of the 13th a big campfire was built, and the scouts held "a war dance" that lasted over 45 minutes. Grymes reported that after everyone had gone to bed, he and Scoutmaster Riley snuck away and went to a dance held in a house not far from the Camp. Incidentally, Grymes would turn 18 years old that coming December.

After the troop broke camp later that week, the supply wagon driven by Frank Camper and cook Riley Hill got stuck near Somerville's Ford on the Rapidan River. The remainder of the unit hiked via a different route to the train station at Winston and took the #15 train back to Orange. The following scouts were reported at Camp Coon: P. B. Stovin, L. S. Macon, Jr., W. H. Herndon, Frank B. Perry, Jr., Leslie B. Gray, Max Perry, B. T. Willis, Wm. W. Burgess, W. R. Porterfield, Wm. Greiner, H. H. Kinzer, Frank Jerdone, C. H. McIntosh, Frank Camper, Robert Houseworth, M. C. Bradbury, W. R. Grymes, and cook Riley Hill (Grymes 1917).

During the United States' involvement in the Great War (1917-1919), scouts in the BSA fulfilled a variety of vital functions that were deemed important by the Federal government. These included: serving as lookouts along US coastlines; locating unlawful radio stations; providing assistance during the flu epidemic of 1918; conducting a nationwide census of and planting black walnut trees; collecting peach pits for use in the manufacture of gas masks; planting War Gardens and War Farms; selling subscriptions to the five loan campaigns during the War (the fifth campaign was initiated after the Armistice and sold Victory Bonds) for a total of nearly \$355 million; selling subscriptions for War Savings Stamps, which totaled \$52 million; and serving as official government dispatch bearers (BSA 1941). Scouts in Troop #1 participated in several of these initiatives and some details of these have been preserved in the Grymes journal.

Beginning in April 1917, the BSA organized nationally to

overcome the war-time food shortage. Scout War Gardens and War Farms were begun as a way to supplement food supplies that were being diverted for military use in Europe. A total of 12,000 war gardens and war farms were reported being grown in 1917-1918 (BSA 1941). Locally, Troop #1 was actively involved in the campaign to supplement food production for the War effort. In May 1917, Dr. Hume of Orange gave the Troop permission to use "six lots" of unknown size on Jno. G. Williams' farm. The precise location of this farm has not been determined, but it was likely in close proximity to the Town of Orange. The scouts cleared the donated field of undergrowth and prepared it for planting on May 19 and ploughed it the following Monday (Grymes 1917). Regrettably no other information about the Troop's war farm was maintained. Perhaps tending the troop War Garden was the responsibility of one of the other patrols in the unit.

Also in 1917, the government issued War Savings Stamps (WSS). When citizens purchased enough stamps for a war bond, the scout was awarded an "Achievement Button." When a scout had orders for \$250 in stamps from 25 or more individuals, he would receive an "Ace Medal." Despite several Troop #1 scouts actively selling WSS in the spring of 1918, there is no indication that any ever earned an Ace Medal. One scout, P. B. Stovin, was awarded an achievement button for selling WSS in August 1918 (Grymes 1918).

Scoutmaster Riley put a heavy emphasis on scouts selling Liberty Bonds and supporting the War effort. In April 1918, three scouts were awarded medals for selling bonds for the second loan campaign (P. B. Stovin, Max Perry, and William Grymes). The medals were presented by Charles C. Carlin at a ceremony on April 13, 1918. Congressman Carlin was a member of the National Council of the BSA and was the US Representative from Virginia who in 1914 introduced the legislative bill for granting a Federal charter/incorporation to the BSA, which was signed into law by President Wilson in 1916.

The Federal charter was important to the growth of the young BSA movement because the charter protected the BSA and its insignia from brand infringement and competition from a myriad of rival youth organizations attempting to imitate the BSA and profit from use of similar uniforming and emblems. Only a few other organizations have received a Title 36 congressional charter and include the American National Red Cross (later the American Red Cross), The American Legion, Girl Scouts of the United States of America, and Boys & Girls Clubs of America (Wendell 2016).

In an April 1918 entry, Grymes noted that four scouts who were charter members were to receive service stripes representing three years of registration in the unit. He was probably referring only to members of the Wolf patrol as there were several charter scouts still registered in the Troop in the Spring of 1918

Scouts (*continued*)

who were eligible for the same service stripe.

After the departure of Scoutmaster Riley to the army in mid-1918 to serve in the European theatre as a chaplain, William Grymes and Maurice Bradbury may have been asked to serve as Assistant Scoutmasters. Grymes' signature inside the front cover of his BSA Scoutmaster handbook notes the dates of August 10, 1918 and January 23, 1923, accompanied by the notation of "Asst. Scoutmaster." By August 1918, Maurice Bradbury had joined the military and was stationed at Fort Berrancas in Pensacola, Florida (Grymes 1918). It is likely that Scoutmaster Riley requested only a temporary leave of absence from the Troop (just as he had at Orange Baptist Church), and he probably felt confident that he would return to the troop within a year. An obviously emotional Grymes made a journal entry on August 18, 1918 and described the Troop's dire predicament:

This is our crisis. Mr. Riley is in France, Maurice Bradbury in Florida and I will be at V.M.I. after the first of September. If someone does not take charge of the boys at once, I fear there will be no organization at all. I hope somebody shows up soon. At present we have eighteen active boys enrolled... (Grymes 1918).

That ominous entry ends the Grymes' journal. It is unknown what immediate allowances for troop leadership were made during the absence of Scoutmaster Riley. The troop committee chair may have stepped in on an interim basis, but there is no direct evidence of this. Rev. Riley would return in June of 1919 from his military service and fortunately would resume where he left off as Scoutmaster of Troop #1 (and as the pastor of Orange Baptist Church). There appeared to be no ill effects due to his year-long absence from leadership as the troop roster was brimming during the 1920s.

The following reconstructed roster of Scouts during the early years of Orange Troop #1 represents many of the prominent families in this section of the county. Many of the 39 names are still recognizable in the area today.

Orange Troop #1 Roster 1915-1918

Bassyl Gill* (Patrol Leader 1916)	Earl Ware
Ben Moncure	FLV Rogers
Brantley Turpin Willis	Francis B Perry, Jr
Bryan Cave (Asst. Patrol Leader-Wolf Patrol 1916)	Frank Ernest Camper
Carlton Kinzer	Frank Jerdone
Carol Chewing	Frank S Rogers
C Harold McIntosh	George Smith
Charles L Moncure*	Harold Holladay Kinzer*
Charles Newman	Joseph Eldridge Houseworth
Charles S Moncure	Latimer Small Macon, Jr. (Asst. Patrol Leader-Wolf Patrol 1917-18)
Curtis Gill*	Leslie B Gray

Lewis T. Paxton (Patrol Leader 1916)	Thomas Gray Terrell*
Lewis Wright	WH Herndon
Maurice Culver Bradbury* (Asst Patrol Leader-Wolf Patrol 1915)	William W Burgess
Max Perry	William Greiner
Newman Robinson*	William Randolph Grymes* (Patrol Leader-Wolf Patrol 1915-18)
Phillip Barbour (Coon) Stovin (Patrol Leader 1916)	William Robinson
Riley Hill	Wilson R Porterfield
Stuart Garrett	William Porter Cary Hatcher
	Warren Paxton

*1915 charter member of Wolf Patrol

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See **Scouts** on page 7.

Scouts (*continued*)

1935 "HC Clark Named Scout Committeeman." Gordonsville, Virginia. September 26, 1935.

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1916a Untitled. Orange, Virginia. April 28, 1916.

1916b "Happy on a Hike." Orange, Virginia. June 16, 1916.

1916c Untitled. Orange, Virginia. September 22, 1916

1916d "First at the Fair." Orange, Virginia. November 3, 1916.

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Jesse Cleveland Lohr, son of Jesse B. and Novie Smith Lohr, was born 2 July 1914 in Somerset. He was the oldest of ten children. He attended elementary school until the seventh grade and helped his family on the farm in the Madison Run area. Before joining the army he was a mechanic at the Silk Mill. He tried marriage at the age of 21, but that ended in divorce in less than a year.

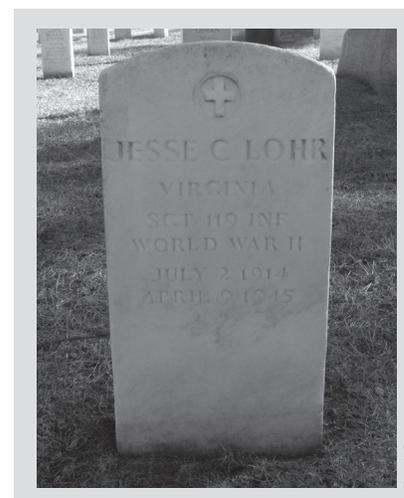


Jesse Cleveland Lohr

Jesse enlisted into the army on 4 February 1941 in Richmond and joined the 119th Infantry Regiment. The 119th Infantry Regiment was a unit of the 30th Infantry Division originally formed as a National Guard unit from North Carolina. It landed in Normandy between 10 and 15 June 1944, as a replacement unit of the 29th Division. The 29th Division was almost completely destroyed on the D-Day landings of 6 June 1944.

Before Jesse was killed in combat on 9 April 1945, he had been in Europe for one year and was wounded four times. His parents received a telegram from the War Department on 20 April 1945. He was killed less than one month before the total collapse of Germany on 8 May 1945. At the time of his death he had a brother, Otis, who had just returned from 19 months of duty in North Africa, Italy, and Corsica. Another brother, Noah, had just left for Europe with an infantry division.

Jesse's remains were buried in a temporary grave at the U. S. cemetery at Margraten near Aachen, Germany. During this stage of World War II, this cemetery was accepting approximately 500 bodies a day to be buried.



Paul Carter

It presently covers 65 acres with the remains of 8,300 soldiers.

Jesse Lohr's body was returned and buried in the Culpeper National Cemetery on 2 December 1948. His medals included the Combat Infantry Badge and Purple Hearts with Oak Leaf Clusters.

Help from Holland – The Dutch Participate in the American Revolution

Frank Walker

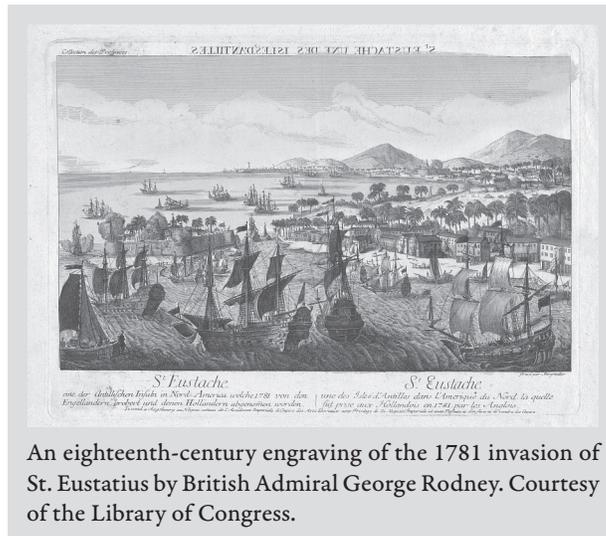
To understand why the Dutch were especially interested in the revolt of Britain's North American colonists, we need to go all the way back to when it appeared that one North American colony would be Dutch. The story begins this way:

After nearly a century of warily eyeing each other, the major colonial powers of the day made their moves to occupy North America. In 1607 the British established Jamestown in a land they called "Virginia." In 1608 the French established Quebec as the capital of "New France." In 1609 the Spanish chartered Santa Fe as the capital of "New Mexico." While all that was happening, Henry Hudson, an English explorer working for the Dutch, was looking for a northwest passage to the Dutch India colonies. After exploring a river that would bear his name, Hudson returned to its mouth and established a Dutch settlement on Manhattan Island. They named their settlement "New Amsterdam," and it was to be the capital of a colonial province called "New Netherlands." While that colony evolved from a camp and supply base that existed possibly as early as 1606, the date of 1609 is the one most often cited as the founding of New Amsterdam.

The British were especially unhappy with New Amsterdam because they wanted to occupy all of North America's eastern seaboard. In fact, in 1606 they had attempted to establish a colony on what would become known as the Kennebec River in the state of Maine, well north of the Dutch.

Distance and the demands of survival kept the various colonies from troubling each other, but there were troubles aplenty on the other side of the Atlantic. Of particular interest were four trade wars fought by the British and the Dutch between 1652 and 1784. In 1664, at the beginning of the second war, a British fleet captured New Amsterdam. The British wanted all of the Dutch colony of New Netherlands but were not in a position at that time to wage that much of a war. The Dutch for their part recognized that the British were committed to running them out of North America, if not now, then later. When offered the the British Caribbean colony of Surinam, they decided this was as good a deal as they would get, and the Dutch surrendered their North American colony to the British. (William Byrd II of Virginia was incensed at the Dutch being given Surinam. He was all for just driving the whole lot of them into the East River.) The British promptly renamed it "New York."

Now, fast forward to 1776. The British are gearing up to deal with a pack of unruly rebels in their North American



An eighteenth-century engraving of the 1781 invasion of St. Eustatius by British Admiral George Rodney. Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

colonies, and they would appreciate some Dutch cooperation. The Dutch did their version of "forget, hell," proclaimed their military neutrality, and made it clear their merchants would do business with whomever they chose, citing an old treaty provision with the British. Immediately a stream of merchant ships, mostly Dutch and French, began shuttling between Europe and ports in the Caribbean, carrying military supplies and equipment that were transferred to American merchant ships for delivery to the colonies.

In addition to the supplies and equipment, both the Dutch government and individual Dutch bankers and investors loaned millions to the colonial government, much of which naturally went to pay the merchants and shippers. With loans of differing currencies at different times, it is difficult to state what the amount would be in current US dollars, but it has to be in the billions. America took forever getting the loans paid, but during the administration of Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, the books were finally cleared.

One Dutch contribution toward the success of the rebel colonists' cause was enormous and certainly most unintended. It involved the Dutch Caribbean island port of St. Eustatius. Its large protected anchorage, still called Orange Bay, had earned the island the nickname of "Golden Rock." The Rock had overseen hundreds upon hundreds of shiploads of badly-needed cargo from Europe transferring to American ships. Finally the British produced a document that "proved" the Dutch were not merely doing business with the Americans, they were collaborating with the American rebels as a military ally. When France had recognized the revolutionary government in America as the true government of the American colonies, Britain had declared war on France. Now in 1780, it declared war on the Dutch. It was probably just one war too many for a thinly-stretched British navy. In February 1781, British Admiral George Rodney sailed into Orange Bay, and St. Eustatius was put out of business. It was a British disaster. What? Why? Because instead of occupying Dutch ports in the Caribbean, Admiral Rodney needed to be off the Virginia capes later that year, assisting in the evacuation of Lord Cornwallis' army from Yorktown. Cornwallis, left high and dry, had to surrender, and the success of the revolution was assured.

Dank u (thank you), Dutch friends, Dank u.

The Orange County Historical Society 2017 Annual Report

Founded in 1966, the Orange County Historical Society, Inc., is a research, archival, and educational organization dedicated to the discovery, preservation, and dissemination of the history of Orange County, Virginia, of its people, and the surrounding area.

From the President

The past year was a remarkable one for the Orange County Historical Society. First and foremost is our amazing membership, who stepped up like never before and literally funded the cost of our brand-new heating and air-conditioning system. We have also replaced our antiquated security system with a new fire and intrusion detection package.

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

Ann Miller, Research Historian, plays a crucial role in guiding our visitors in their research projects and is the person we all turn to when there is a question about Orange County history. We are that much better thanks to her invaluable and unflagging assistance.

Also hard-working and dedicated are the members of your Board of Directors, who do everything from the expected (such as tracking our finances), to the humdrum but important (like keeping our planters out front looking lovely), to the technical (wiring our computers so they are networked), and everything in between.

January 21, 2018 marked the beginning of the Historical Society's 52nd year of operation, and we hope to make this year the start of things bigger and better than ever. We are honored that so many people entrust us with their collections, and while it is a very nice problem to have, we are literally bursting at the seams with our collections. We intend to find ways to address this issue.

Thank you to everyone involved in this fine organization. It is you and the people like you who make us one of the best historical societies in the Commonwealth!

Treasurer's Report

First of all, many thanks to our membership for their generosity. Our Annual Fund Drive donations came in at over \$16,600. This allowed us to make the many improvements that we wanted to do and do some very expensive repairs that we didn't want to do, but really had to do. The specific repairs and improvements are covered elsewhere in this document, but their costs ran over \$18,000.

I am happy to report that we managed to cover these expenses and our normal operating expenses without dipping into our investments. They are still out there earning us more money for now and in the future.

Our normal operating income and expenses, \$54,706.07 and \$43,181.48 respectively allowed us to show a Net Income of \$11,524.59 for the year. More importantly, we are starting the new year with Total Checking and Savings of over \$10,000 and Total Other Current Assets of over \$320,000. In other words, we are in a good financial position to continue to perform our basic mission. Complete Society Financial Reports are available from the Treasurer upon your request.

Respectfully submitted: Dick Durphy

Building and Grounds Committee

We are constantly making improvements to your historical society and this year has been no exception. We have added a new eight-foot ladder for better access to our lights and shelves, a water cooler for our staff and visitors, and new signs out front.

After watching Jack Frazer make his presentation at the October 2016 meeting and seeing his obvious discomfort from the heat in the auditorium, we knew something had to be done with our aging heating and cooling system. It had been going on 40 years old and repairing had become costly and inconvenient. In September we had two heat pumps installed. All the oil in the old tank was removed for a credit and we now are enjoying comfort and reliability for a change. Even in the recent bitterly cold weather, the Research Center remained warm and comfortable.

We rounded out the year by replacing our obsolete security system on December 1. Previously we only had fire alarms that could not be updated and were more expensive than our new digital system, which now includes intrusion coverage as well as fire detection, both of which are accessed via a keypad.

Collections Committee

The Historical Society received donations of several items reflecting the history of Orange County. Noteworthy accessions included three boxes of materials from the Atwell Somerville estate, eight cartons of genealogical research materials from Shirley Breeden, minutes and a brief history from the Dolley Madison Garden Club, minutes from the tenure of Joyce Clark as President of the Orange County Historical Society, a circa 1900 photograph of Madison Run School, a 1929 Gordonsville High School scrapbook, and several yearbooks (*The Oracle* from 1938-1941 and *The Golden Horseshoe* from 1959). Book donations included bound volumes of *Virginia Cavalcade* from the 1950s and 1960s, and *The History of Early Spotsylvania*.

An updated Collections Policy is being drafted. This policy will provide guidance for accepting future donations, given our

Annual Report (*continued*)

limited storage space. It will help us determine when it is better to acquire digital scans of materials and allow the originals to find a better home at appropriate repositories such as the Library of Virginia.

Program Committee

The Historical Society hosted seven presentations in our auditorium and three picnics at various sites around the county. We honored Capt. Andrew Maples, Jr., and the installation of his historical highway marker in Taylor Park (Orange), sampled open-hearth cooking while listening to period music in Barboursville and marveled at a collection of railroad items and memorabilia at our picnic in Unionville.

Indoors we discovered the importance of bees, toured the Town of Orange via the “penny postcard,” heard about the real life and times of Benjamin Franklin Stringfellow, learned more about the families who owned and cherished Ellwood, the 18th century home that played a central role in the Battle of the Wilderness, and heard the story of Eve, a slave woman convicted of poisoning her master in the early 18th century.

Two programs of the fall season, focused on Orange County schools, were especially noteworthy. The presentation of Phil Audibert and Ross Hunter’s video *Someday: the Unexpected Story of School Integration in Orange County, Virginia*, was the most-attended indoor program in the history of our Society. We had an overflow and had to turn a number of people away—a second showing was arranged the following week at the Arts Center. Ruth Mallory Long’s presentation on “Old Orange County Schools (Part II): Early African-American Schools” was also enjoyed by a very large and engaged audience.

Publications Committee

During 2017 the Historical Society published two 12-page newsletters, saw the publication of Jayne E. Blair’s booklet on Orange County’s Confederate Monument and were pleased to accept the donation of reprints of a *Civil War Times* article on the Battle of Mine Run.

Stanley S. Johnson, brother of the late Patricia Hurst, thoughtfully donated copies of three of her now out-of-print publications, most notably several copies of *Soldiers, Stories, Fights and Sites*. In addition, Mr. Johnson, with the assistance of Pat’s friend Jayne E. Blair, attended to the completion and publication of her final book, *Bridges Over the Rapidan River in Virginia*.

Special Projects

Madison-Barbour Rural Historic District Highway Markers

We want to extend a big thank you to our membership for making the acknowledgement of one of our county’s treasures possible. In 2016 we said we wanted to sponsor historical

highway markers for the Madison-Barbour Rural Historic District. Covering a large swath of western Orange County, it is the largest contiguous historic district in Virginia and now it will have two signs (one on Route 20 at Montpelier and one on Route 33 about 1 mile west of Gordonsville) telling residents and visitors about this important part of our county.

Under the guidance of board member Bill Speiden, the process of getting the signs approved was completed and they have now been manufactured.

Scanning Project Update

After several years of work by a group of most-dedicated volunteers, the family files and the place files have all been scanned and those scans checked for correctness. The next step, making those scans available for viewing by our visitors doing research is almost complete with the purchase of a new computer and a laser printer for making copies of any documents of interest. This system will allow researchers access to the files without actually handling the papers.

This is another project that has received a huge boost from our generous members as over the years we have purchased two computers, two scanners and many external hard drives on which to store the digitized data. A set of backup hard drives are stored in an off-site location.

IT Upgrades

While we were updating our computer systems, we took the opportunity to purchase two additional computers. The first is a new primary office computer to go with the upgraded wi-fi system that was installed in 2016.

The improved speed is much appreciated by our staff.

The second computer is a small laptop on which to show programs in the auditorium. We discovered that the old laptop was so old that it would no longer support current PowerPoint presentations – the most commonly used format. In order to prevent distress to our presenters, a new computer seemed the right thing to do.



Gov. Spotswood oversees the new computer station that will be used for accessing our digitized collections.

Lynne G. Lewis

Annual Report (*continued*)

Finally, we hope you have had a chance to notice our new and improved web site and especially the upgraded and updated book/dvd sales site, with the improved graphics and ease of use.

Statistics

- ♦ We have 394 members.
- ♦ We hosted 1062 visitors. The majority came from Virginia, with 24 other states – in other words, half the United States came. Maryland came in second, with Florida, South Carolina and Texas tied for third. California and Montana, Indiana and Missouri are represented, as are most of the southern states.
- ♦ Book sales for the year were brisk, totaling \$5,665.82. We added four newly published items to our inventory and sold or gave away 820 books and CDs. This number includes our annual gift of 450 copies of *The Nine Lives of an Orange Tabby, An Orange County History* to the Orange County school system.
- ♦ Our staff fielded 418 phone calls, and volunteers devoted hundreds of hours to various projects.

In Case You Missed It: Program Updates

Lynne G. Lewis

The Historical Society's year ended with the Sunday, January 21, Annual Membership Meeting, held at the American Legion Post 156 in Orange. In addition to the business meeting, a marvelous display of World War I memorabilia and a look at the town of Orange, via a July 1919 Sanborn insurance map, was available for members to view.

As you may know, we have dedicated the 2018 programs to the history of the 20th century in Orange County. Although to many of us the 1900s are very well remembered, it is a history, particularly from the first half of that century, that is rapidly being lost. It is important that we remember that more recent history is just as important to preserve as is the history of earlier centuries.

The 2018 program season began on March 26th with an excellent presentation by members of the Reynolds family – Kevin, Sr., Tom, Kevin, Jr., and John – on the history of Reynolds Automotive in Orange. Stretching back to the opening of a Reynolds service station in 1935 by Kevin and Tom's grandfather, the family has been in the automobile business continuously since that time. The gentlemen took the audience through the changes, including the addition of the still-thriving new car dealership in 1951, and shared wonderful stories of their experiences and how they are meeting and planning for future automotive needs.

On April 30th our members were treated to a viewing of the 2016 film, *A Candle in a Candy Store*, documenting the 100-year history of Gordonsville's volunteer fire company. A 1916 Main Street disaster sparked the formation of the fire company, which is now possibly the oldest rural volunteer fire department in the Commonwealth. Documentarians Phil Audibert and Ross Hunter (AHHA Productions) interviewed six veteran fire fighters and pored over hundreds of photographs, clippings, and even vintage 8-millimeter film to tell the story of this remarkable community resource.

The work was shown to a full house, with four members of the Gordonsville Volunteer Fire Company present. The audience was charmed, moved, and informed by this excellent presentation.

GORDONSVILLE SWEEP BY FLAMES

Two Business Blocks Wiped
Out Before Fire Is
Checked.

MANY BUILDINGS IN ASHES

Fire Departments Rushed to
Scene From Charlottesville
and Orange.

Spread of Flames Is Finally Checked

GORDONSVILLE, VA., January 3.—With a loss of its principal business blocks, it was believed at 3:30 o'clock this morning that the flames, which had swept Gordonsville since shortly before midnight and at one time threatened to destroy the town, had been brought under control. The fire was still burning fiercely at that hour, but the Charlottesville and Orange companies had succeeded in checking its spread, and no further outbreak was feared.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

GORDONSVILLE, VA., January 3.—Fire, originating in the restaurant and cleaning and pressing shop of G. Mas & Co., located in Faber's old jewelry store on Main Street, close to the bridge, ignited several other buildings in the immediate vicinity shortly after 12 o'clock, and by 1:30 o'clock this morning had completely destroyed one of the principal business blocks of the town.

Up to 2 o'clock this morning the following firms had been burned out: Mrs. M. L. Faber, general notions; Warren's 5 and 10-Cent Store, the Gordon Printing Co., E. D. Michie, grocer; Mayhughes' Meat Market, a residence occupied by George Wilkins and an unoccupied storeroom beneath; A. K. Clowes, jeweler; W. E. Clowes, photographer; L. M. Acree, general merchandise; J. W. Sullivan, men's furnishings.

Calls to Orange and Charlottesville for assistance resulted in engines being rushed here on special trains, and it is hoped that at least one, and per-

The 1916 fire that led to the establishment of the Gordonsville Volunteer Fire Company was described in a front-page article in the January 3, 1916 *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. You can read the entire article at <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045389/1916-01-03/ed-1/seq-1/>

2017 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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 The Montpelier Foundation
 John S. Lynch
 Mason Insurance Agency
 Suzanne H. McMurrin
 Louis Mittelman, Jr.
 Currell Lee & Carol Pattie, *in honor of Dr. F. B. Perry (Orange Mayor) and in memory of Julie P. Pattie*
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 Susan B. Strange, *in memory of Marjorie B. Strange*
 Barbara B. Tucker, *in memory of Everette L. Tucker, Sr.*
 Frank S. & Bernice S. Walker

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

Ann L. Miller

Part III: James Taylor and John Baylor Plan an Expedition, 1705

Col. James Taylor, an experienced surveyor who was an important figure in the early settlement of what would become Orange County, was a participant on Alexander Spotswood's 1716 expedition to explore the Piedmont and the Shenandoah Valley. But this was not Taylor's first journey into the wilderness. In April 1704, "a Letter of Coll^o. Masons" to the Governor, dated the 14th of that month, "with the Copy of an Order of Lieut. Coll. Taylor of King & Queen County" were reported to the Virginia Council "relating to the strange Indians lately seen on our Frontiers" and were further referred to the General Assembly.

Ordered that a Letter of Coll^o Masons' to his Excell^{cy} dated the 14th instant with the Copy of an Order of Lieut. Coll. Taylor of King & Queen County both relating to the strange Indians lately seen on our Frontiers be referred to the Genll Assembly¹

Taylor petitioned the House of Burgesses for permission to mount an expedition into the western wilderness, and in May 1705 the House of Burgesses referred to the Council Taylor's petition "for leave to go out on a discovery on the Back parts of King & Queen County." The Council, understandably reluctant to let an ambitious and adventuresome surveyor loose on the unclaimed lands beyond the frontier, pressed Taylor for more details.

Upon reading a Resolve of the House of Burgesses upon the Petition of Coll^o James Taylor for leave to go out on a discovery on the Back part of King & Queen County.

Ordered that the s^d Coll^o Taylor give his Ex^{cy} an acco[un]^t of the time he intends to set out on y^e s^d discovery and what force he intends to take along with him before he obtain any Licence for going out.²

By the next month Taylor had joined forces with John Baylor, his friend and near neighbor, who tendered a more detailed proposal to which Council tentatively agreed: Baylor, with at least 30 gentlemen formed into a quasi-military troop, would "go on their own costs and charge as Adventurers on a discovery to y^e Westward of the Inhabitants of this Colony" — beyond the Fall Line and into the Piedmont. Approval, however, was conditional: the "Adventurers" had to agree in writing to guidelines imposed by both Baylor and by Council before the Governor would grant commissions to the officers. Equipment,

servants, weapons and ammunition, "a Trumpeter," fifty pounds of "Bisquet" per man, plus salt, pepper, and other provisions were to be provided, and a detailed plan for command (including a succession plan in case any of the officers were killed) was to be worked out in advance.

M^r John Baylor of King and Queen County in name of himself and diverse other Gentlemen intending to go on their own costs and charge as Adventurers on a discovery to y^e Westward of the Inhabitants of this Colony, presented to his Excell^{cy} in Council several Rules proposed & agreed on by them for the better effecting the said discovery, and prayed leave for their going out accordingly, which propositions were read, and his Excell^{cy} & ye Council being willing to encourage so good a design, do agree that Leave be given to the Subscribers of y^e said proposition now presented to go out on the said intended Discovery with the following Proviso's and Directions viz. That the number of y^e said Adventurers to go out on the discovery be not less than thirty besides their Servants & attendants, That every one of y^e s^d Adventurers be provided with a Gun, Sword, & tomahawk, a pair of Pistols, three Pounds of Powder and a proportionable quality of Shott or bullets.

That the said 30 Adventurers be modelled into a Troop. That out of the said number they shal choose one fitt and well qualyfyed Person to be their Captain, another fitt Person to be Lieutenant who may be capable of succeeding in the chief com^d in case of the death of the Captain, and likewise one other for Cornett who in case of the death or advancement of y^e Lieutent shal succeed as Lieutenant of the Troop. That y^e s^d officers shal receive Commissions from his Excellency & Instructions for their beter & more regular proceedings in their March. That in case any controversy arise in the said Troop as to their March or proceedings they shall be determined by the opinion of y^e s^d Commission officers or Major part of them. That in case by the death of any of y^e said officers & advancement of y^e succeeding officer in his room as above or by the death of all the said officers to be Commissioned, the Adventurers shal supply the vacancie of all or any of y^e said officers by choosing such Person or Persons out of their number as they or the Major part of them shal think fit. That they carry with them a Trumpeter. That every Person going out on this Adventure be provided with fifty pounds of Bisquet. That they carry

¹ *Executive Journals of the Council of Colonial Virginia*, II, p. 357, 19 April 1704 (Richmond, Davis Bottom, 1928).

² *Executive Journals* III, p.6, 12 May 1705.

Before the “Knights” (*continued*)

with them a sufficient quantity of Salt and Pepper, and such other provisions as they shal think necessary And when such a number of Adventurers shal under their hands agree to the directions herein prescribed, and such others as are contained in the proposals now given in by M^r Baylor, and not altered by this: His Excell^{ty} doth promise to grant Commissions to the Officers to be named by them, with suitable Instructions for their proceedings on the same discovery.³

The requirement “That they carry with them a Trumpeter” reinforces the military character of the expedition. (Spotswood would also have a trumpeter on his 1716 expedition.) The outcome of the expedition of 1705 is unknown, but as James Taylor already had shown a propensity for roaming along the “Frontiers” of the colony, it is likely that he (possibly in company with John Baylor at times) continued explorations into the Piedmont — either officially or unofficially — during the next decade.

Whether coincidental or not to Taylor and Baylor’s planned expedition, an October 1705 Virginia statute indicates the swelling interest in exploring the western Piedmont and the lands beyond the Blue Ridge. Anyone bold enough to make contact (at their own charge) with an Indian tribe or town beyond the Blue Ridge would receive a monopoly on trading with those specific Indians for a term of 14 years:

If any person or persons shall hereafter, at his or their own charge, make discovery of any town or nation of Indians, situate or inhabiting to the westward of, or between the Appalatian mountains; in such case, it shall be lawful to and for the governor, or commander in chief of this dominion, for the time being, by and with the advice and consent of her majesty’s council of state, by charter or grant, under the seal of the colony, to grant, unto such person or persons so discovering, as aforesaid, and to their executors, administrators, and assigns, for the space of fourteen years then next – coming, the sole liberty and right of trading to and with all and every such town so discovered as aforesaid, with such clauses or articles of restraint or prohibition of all other persons from said trade . . .⁴

Next Newsletter:

Part IV: Alexander Spotswood Looks Westward, 1710 to mid-1716

Looking for Woody Bowles

Ross Hunter

For the past few months I’ve been searching for information on Woody Bowles. Woodrow S. “Woody” Bowles and his wife operated Bowles Studio in Orange from late 1948 to approximately 1956. Bowles Studio provided the usual photographic service and, beginning in October 1948, Bowles photographs began appearing in the *Orange Review*. Duff Green remembers that Woody provided news photos and photographic services for the paper before Duff became photographer for the *Review*. A sampling of images from the *Orange Review* shows wedding photos, automobile accidents, house fires, civic improvements, the 2000th telephone in Orange, beauty queens, sports pictures, parades, and more.

Woody Bowles was born in 1912 in Richmond and graduated from Marshall High School in 1934. He married Mary Dacy in 1937; they were divorced in 1942. From August 1937 until the mid-1940s he was employed by the Archives Division of the Virginia State Library. In March 1944 he was granted military leave from the Library.

On August 5, 1947 he married Mary Herndon Roberts of Orange, widow of Edward Stewart Roberts. An ad in the October 7, 1948 *Orange Review* said “The Pendleton Studio has been bought by Mrs. Mary Roberts Bowles and will be known as The Bowles Studio.” The February 3, 1949 *Orange Review* carried an ad saying the studio had moved to a new location “up over” the Ben Franklin building.

Bowles appears to have returned to the Virginia State Library after leaving Orange and later worked as the first Virginia State Police staff photographer from November 11, 1963 until his retirement on July 1, 1977. He apparently died in Richmond on April 15, 1981, although his gravestone shows his date of death as 1980. His wife had died January 27, 1979. Both are buried in Rose Park Cemetery in Wolfstown. They were members of Rapidan Baptist Church.

My goal in this search is to find Woody Bowles’ collection of photographs and negatives. I had assumed he left them to the Library of Virginia, but the Library cannot find any record of a gift from him. A search of the Special Collections at the University of Virginia has not turned up anything.

If you can help with any information about Woody Bowles or Mary Herndon Roberts Bowles, please contact me. You can leave a message at the Orange County Historical Society, email me at jrhunter3@verizon.net or call 540-672-2822. Any clues would be helpful.

Get Well Soon!

On April 4, Jayne E. Blair was yet another victim of the terrible intersection of Route 20 and Route 231 at Somerset. She sustained serious, but non-life-threatening, injuries and is currently at home, recovering from a broken elbow and a couple of broken ribs.

Everyone misses her and we look forward to her speedy recovery and return to the office. Meanwhile, we also wish to thank Jean McGann, Ruth Mallory Long and Society board members for filling in the gaps.

³ *Executive Journals*, v. III, p. 16, June 26, 1705. James Taylor and the elder John Baylor co-patented several sizable tracts of land in King and Queen County: see, for example, their co-patent for 4,500 acres dated 20 October 1704, Virginia Patent Book 9, p. 630; and an additional co-patent for 2,763 acres dated 3 May 1706, Virginia Patent Book VPB 9, p. 721.

⁴ W. W. Hening, *The Statutes at Large*, v. III, p. 468 (Facsimile reprint, Charlottesville, University Press of Virginia, 1969).

Dank u (thank you), Mr. Ambassador!

Lynne Lewis

No. 24 Is an act for Dividing Spotsylvania County This being one of the Frontier Counties Erected in 1720 to which His late Majesty was pleased to give Encouragement by a Remission of Rights and Quit-rents is since so Encreased that the Inhabitants are gott upon and even beyound the great Ridge of Mountains and as they are thus grown so great an Extent and new Settlements daily multiplying to the Westward the Ease of the People in Attending their County Courts and Musters required the Division directed by this Act To which I shall only Add that in Honour to the Prince & Princess of Orange the new erected County is named the County of Orange.

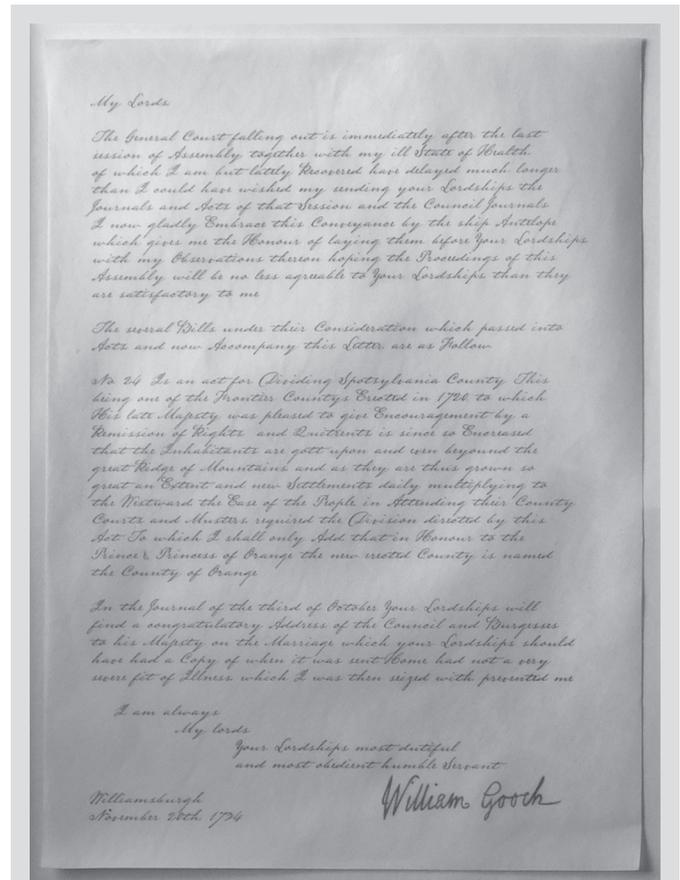
In the Journal of the third of October Your Lordships will find a congratulatory Address of the Council and Burgesses to his Majesty on the Marriage which your Lordships should have had a Copy of when it was sent Home had not a very severe fit of Illness which I was then seized with prevented me

So reads a portion of a November 20th 1734 letter from William Gooch, Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, to the Lords Board of Trade, overseers of all Britain's colonial affairs.

For many years there has been some uncertainty about the origin of Orange County's name. Although it was deemed most likely that we were named after William IV, Prince of Orange, there was no known documentation.

It was the general understanding that the House of Burgesses in their Act of Establishment named Orange County to honor the March 1734 marriage of Dutch Prince William of Orange and Princess Anne, daughter of King George II of England. In an effort to remove any doubt about the origin of our name, Netherlands embassy staff began investigating pertinent documents at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. Orange's own historian, Frank Walker, directed them to the Gooch papers and the embassy staffers ultimately found the letter Lt. Gov. Gooch sent in 1734 confirming the newly established county's name. The letter had been misplaced and its recovery required the focused search of hundreds of documents.

On March 24 and 25, 2018, His Excellency, Henne Schuwer, Ambassador of The Kingdom of the Netherlands, paid a visit to Orange County. Among the several reasons for this trip to Orange was the desire to rekindle an historic friendship and a bond that the Netherlands and our county have shared from the early years onward. As a token of that friendship, Ambassador Schuwer, with permission from the Library of Congress, had three exact copies made on sheepskin (as was the original) and presented one framed document to the County of Orange, one to our Historical Society, and retained one for its embassy files. Ambassador Schuwer noted that the letter authenticates that Orange County was named to honor the union of the Royal



His Excellency, Henne Schuwer, the current ambassador from the Netherlands to the United States, gave the Historical Society this facsimile of the 1734 letter from Virginia Lieutenant Governor William Gooch that notes that the newly-established Orange County is named in honor of the Prince and Princess of Orange.

Family of Great Britain with the House of Orange, the royal family of the Netherlands, rather than after the fruit like some other "Orange" counties. We are now in the process of finding a suitable place to display this wonderful piece of history at our Research Center.



William IV, Prince of Orange, portrait by Bernardus Accama. Self-portrait of Princess Anne. Images from Wikimedia Commons.

Orange County Historical Society
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Orange, VA 22960

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Madison-Barbour Rural Historic District Marker Dedication

It was a long process, but well worth the effort – and now, at last, we have dedicated the two historical highway markers erected at two of the approaches to the Madison-Barbour Rural Historic District. We are most grateful to Montpelier for allowing the Route 20 marker to be placed on their property, as it will maximize the number of visitors who can learn about this marvelous part of Virginia. The other marker is located on the south side of U.S. Route 33, about 1 mile west of the Gordonsville circle, in an attractive, shady stretch belonging to the Virginia Department of Transportation.

On May 19, 2018, we assembled at the Research Center to officially dedicate both markers. Speakers included Kat Imhoff, President and Chief Executive Officer of James Madison's Montpelier; Lena McDonald, National/State Register Historian for the Department of Historic Resources; Orange County District 1 Supervisor R. Mark Johnson; and Bill Speiden, Historical Society Board of Directors member and the leader of the effort to obtain these markers.

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

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



Bill Speiden, Kat Imhoff, Lena McDonald, Mark Johnson, and Lynn Lewis at the dedication of the Madison-Barbour Rural Historic District highway markers.