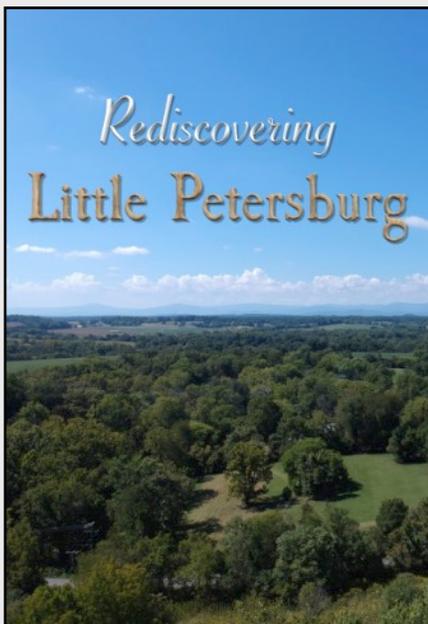


Orange Oracle

An Occasional Electronic Update from the Orange County Historical Society

History-to-Go

All Historical Society monthly programs in the auditorium have been cancelled through the end of the year. But, thanks to the Society's new YouTube channel, History-to-Go, we hope to bring you two new programs by year's end. This month it's the documentary *Rediscovering Little Petersburg*, which was originally slated for March 30. Click on this link to see it: <https://youtu.be/LyFhKgJ3WXo>. Next up: Frank Walker's "Washington and His Women."



Open for Business!

Covid-19 got you feeling a little stir crazy? Can't find anything to do? Well here are a few suggestions that will get you out of the house and into our rich history.



Germanna Visitor Center

Take an historical driving tour- Go down to the Visitor's Bureau (The Orange Train Station is open seven days a week, 10-4 except Tuesdays, 11-3) and pick up two free driving tours: Frank Walker's magnificent *Tracks Through Time: A Railfan Tour of Orange County, Virginia* and Phil Audibert's *All Four Years: A Civil War Driving Tour of Orange County, Virginia*. Then get in the car and follow the printed directions.

Fort Germanna Visitor Center- 2062 Germanna Highway, Locust Grove, VA. Open Monday-Friday, 10-4. Make advanced reservations to use the library. The Siegen Forest trail system is open seven days a week dawn to dusk. On Oct. 3, visitors will get a chance to visit the 1714 fort and Enchanted Castle archaeological site. Go to germanna.org.

Newsbits

In the years leading up to the United States' entry into World War I, state volunteer militia organizations (i.e. National Guard) were eager to demonstrate their military readiness.

The Virginia Volunteer militia was no different. Approximately 2,000 members of the 1st Brigade, Virginia Volunteers descended upon the Town of Gordonsville for 10 days during the summer of 1914 to



Encampment on the Charlottesville Road (Rt. 231)

conduct its "training camp of instruction."

The training camp provided a unique spectacle for residents and visitors alike, with military parades, baseball games, and regimental band performances almost every evening of the event. Read more about this interesting event in the upcoming Fall issue of the OCHS newsletter, *Record*.

Ray Ezell

Visit Fredericksburg Spotsylvania National Military Park, part of which is in Orange County. All four of these major battlefields are open dawn to dusk. Visit them in the order that they were fought: Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, Spotsylvania Courthouse. Although the visitor centers are closed (no restrooms!) you can follow clearly-marked driving tours with numbered stops and informative story boards. Better yet, download the American Battlefield Trust's free battlefield apps.

Stop in at Ellwood- 36380 Constitution Highway, Locust Grove, VA. If the gate's closed, you can park and walk in. Although the building is closed, you can learn much of its history by reading the story boards in the yard. And don't forget to visit the last resting place of Stonewall Jackson's amputated arm. Open dawn to dusk.

Visit James Madison's Montpelier- 11350 Constitution Hwy., Montpelier Station, VA. Open Thursday-Monday, 9-4; Closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Although the house is closed, you can walk the grounds, hike the trails and visit the Museum Shop. Live virtual house tours are available Mondays at 2 pm. A car pass costs \$10, but if you're an Orange County resident, it's free!

Go to the James Madison Museum of Orange County Heritage- 129 Caroline St., Orange, VA. Open daily 10-5; Closed Oct. 14, 15, 16. Self-guided tours on the hour are available with docents on hand to answer questions. Limit- ten people at a time. \$6 adults, \$3 children.

The Exchange Hotel Civil War Medical Museum- 400 S. Main St., Gordonsville, VA. Open Tuesdays-Saturdays 10-4; Closed Sundays and Mondays. \$12 Adults, \$5 Children. Rated one of the 15 most haunted places in America, the museum offers occasional Friday evening paranormal tours. Check out their Facebook page for details.

Barboursville Ruins- Thomas Jefferson designed this home for the prominent Barbour family. Open daily 10-5:30, except Sundays, 11-5:30. Free.