

# Orange Oracle

An Electronic Update from the Orange County Historical Society

## Call for Volunteers:

*1) Event Coordinator for Documentary Premiere Needed*

*2) Scanning & Accessibility Of Family Research Files*

We have two volunteers already! We need several more individuals interested in either of two interrelated projects:

1. Archive scanning: scan family research files that have accumulated since the previous scanning several years ago, to archival standard. This will be done onsite at the Historical Society.
2. Increasing accessibility: converting archival quality digital files previously scanned into additional PDF files to make the digitized material easily accessible to the public. For this, we need volunteers who have Adobe Acrobat Pro available in their home office and who are willing to do this via online file sharing.

If you are interested and/or have questions, please email:

[OCHistVolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:OCHistVolunteers@gmail.com)

**Many thanks to volunteers Carol Couch, Carla Passarello, and Jayne Blair for all of their work organizing the *Orange County Review* negatives in chronological order!**

**Interested in Orange County history?**

**Become a Society Member!**

email

[ocvahistorical1965@gmail.com](mailto:ocvahistorical1965@gmail.com)

or click here-

<https://www.orangecovahist.org/about-us.html>

## "Unqualified Promise"

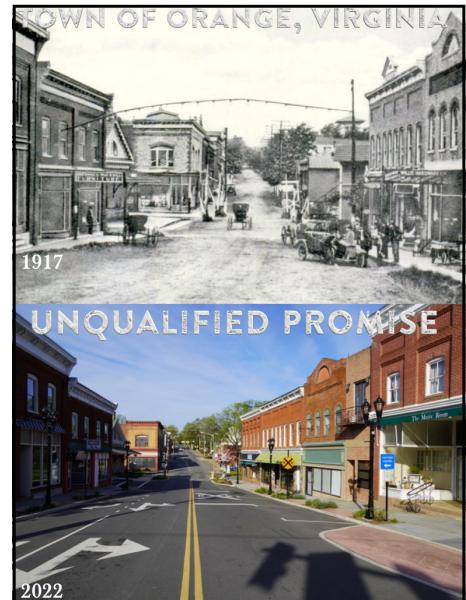
### Town of Orange Documentary Complete

In 1835, Joseph Martin, of the village of Orange Courthouse, commented that the budding settlement was "a place of unqualified promise." Little did he know that 187 years later his words would become the title of a documentary by that name.

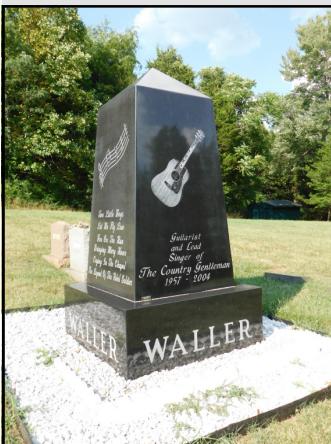
Producer Phil Audibert of AHHA Productions, with the help of OCHS President Ray Ezell and others, has been working on this project since last October. Sifting through hundreds of archival and modern day photographs, conducting numerous interviews, shooting extensive video, some of it by drone, the project is now complete. Audibert estimates he has spent 300 hours so far on the documentary.

The video stems from the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Orange this past June. But the documentary goes farther than that. It takes the viewer on a journey through the history of the town, from its humble beginnings as a colonial courthouse village through war, prosperity, disaster and recovery, to the present. Sprinkled throughout the film are "Little Known Facts," that will surprise and perhaps delight the viewer.

The premiere of "Unqualified Promise" is slated for Sunday Nov. 20 at 3:00 pm at a place to be determined. **OCHS needs a volunteer to help coordinate this event.**



## Picnic—Maplewood Cemetery Sunday, August 28, 6 pm



Please join us for an evening picnic at Maplewood Cemetery, on Route 33 just west of the Town of Gordonsville.

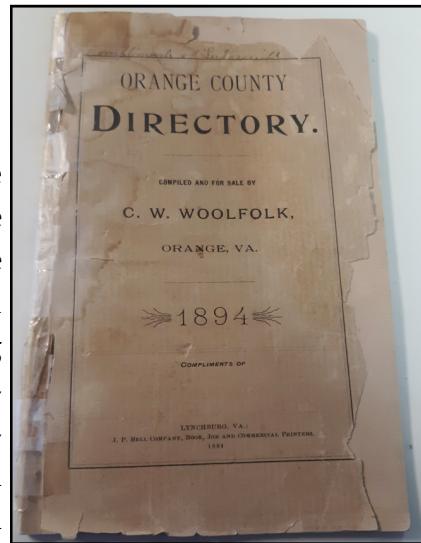
Maplewood was established as the town's cemetery in the mid-19th century and is the final resting place of Nathaniel Gordon, after whom the town is named. He was moved to the cemetery when it was founded. Local notables such as Marion duPont Scott can be found here, as can the International Bluegrass Music Association's Hall of Honor member, Charlie Waller. In addition, more than 700 Confederate soldiers are interred in a mass grave at the top of the cemetery, most of whom were treated at the Exchange Hotel while it served as a hospital.

Lynne Lewis will present a brief history of the tradition of Sunday picnics in cemeteries, and Lynne and Ray Ezell will talk about some of the people buried at Maplewood, including the Civil War soldiers. So bring your chairs and picnic and enjoy a quiet evening with us. Be on the lookout for an email in the coming week, giving detailed directions to Maplewood Cemetery and the site of our gathering. Rain, thunder and lightning cancel.

## From the Vault

By Ray Ezell

This month's "From the Vault" column highlights the 1894 edition of the Orange County Directory. Town and county directories have long been a valuable source of information, providing a snapshot of the commercial and private composition of a place at any given time. Just imagine a telephone directory without the phone numbers. This directory, compiled by C. W. Woolfolk, the Orange County Treasurer, is especially interesting, not only for its listings, but also for the numerous advertisements that it contains from Orange, Gordonsville, Somerset, and Barboursville.



Business advertisements in the directory include: State Bank of Orange (Town of Orange), Detrick & Cross fertilizer (Somerset), James H. Clarke millwright (Somerset), Marshall Willis grocery (Town of Orange), Orange Observer (Town of Orange), G. A. Gaines saloon (Town of Orange), C. C. Quisenberry (Town of Orange), A. W. Kube Lumber Co. (Rhoadesville), A. B. Martin grocery (Gordonsville), W. T. Sneed & Bros. hardware (Gordonsville), Miss B. W. Higgins millinery (Town of Orange), Jonathan F. Fox livery (Town of Orange), W. H. Camper cannery (Nasons), Frank B. Perry dentist (Town of Orange), Jonathan E. Morris & Co. (Town of Orange), W. O. Blakey dry goods & grocery (Gordonsville), Montclair grist mill (Nasons), E. B. Wood liquor (Gordonsville), and T. M. Ware & Co. (Gordonsville).

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**For comments and contributions**

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