

# Orange Oracle

An Electronic Update from the Orange County Historical Society

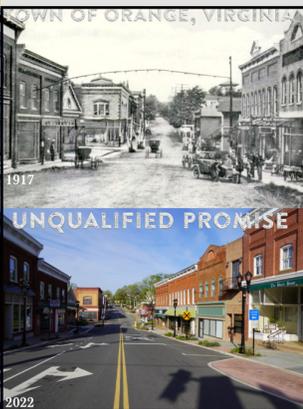
## Call for Volunteers:

Would you be interested in doing deed research at the Orange County Clerk's Office? We are looking for volunteers to do title searches on Orange County mill sites.

If you are interested and/or have any questions, please email Volunteer Coordinator, May Saxton at:

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

## "Unqualified Promise" Premiere tomorrow



Just a friendly reminder that the Historical Society's documentary about the Town of Orange premieres tomorrow (Sun. Nov. 20) at the Pavilion at Lakeland Farm (13582 Sedwick Lane, Orange), starting at 2:00 pm. It's free and it's open to the public.

This premiere is the final event of the sesquicentennial year for the town. If you miss the premiere, a limited number of DVDs are available for sale at the Historical Society's Research Center.

**Orange Oracle Editor: Phil Audibert**  
For comments and contributions  
contact him at  
[phlobear@aol.com](mailto:phlobear@aol.com)

## Orange County Native, Edna Lewis Honored

The Grande Dame of Southern Cooking was honored locally last month on the 50th anniversary of her first cookbook, *The Edna Lewis Cookbook*. Lewis, who was born and raised at Freetown near Lahore, is widely recognized as the person most responsible for putting Southern and regional American cooking on the international culinary map.

Her legacy was honored by a collection of food writers at a dinner at Willow Grove catered by Craig Hartman of the Barbecue Exchange, Joy Crump of FOODE in Fredericksburg, and Willow Grove Chef, Andrew Eppley. All three courses were paired with Barbourville and Horton wines and an Iron Pipe Aleworks beer.



Edna Lewis' adopted son, Afeworki Paulos (left), and Rev. Darryle Crump placed a wreath on the grave of the Grande Dame of Southern Cooking.

The next day, the writers toured Orange County, starting with a program at Montpelier. That visit featured a paper about culinary practices at James Madison's home, researched by former Historical Society board member, Hilarie Hicks. The writers also visited the Lewis family cemetery where they placed a wreath at her grave. An historical marker will be erected early next year near her Freetown birthplace. The writers concluded the tour with a visit to Patches in Gordonsville where representatives of Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger pre-



Edna Lewis at Freetown in 1984

## Airport Program Well Attended



Hubert Compton at the Orange County Airport

A moderate-sized crowd of history buffs forsook the NFL on October 30, to attend a talk about the history of the Orange County Airport. Longtime airport advocate Hubert Compton can trace his connection to the local aviation facility from when he was a child. After delivering a short talk, he spent the next 30 minutes answering a wide variety of questions.



The talk and the Q and A have been edited into a History-to-Go episode. Here's the link:

<https://youtu.be/z6PQ15Zlr8k>

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>

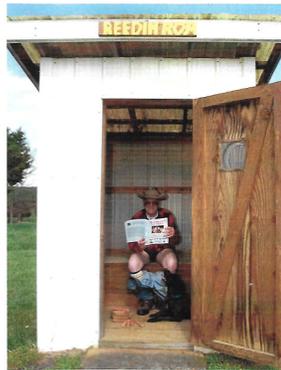
sented a document honoring Lewis that was entered into the Congressional Record.

Starting Thanksgiving and continuing until Memorial Day 2023, seven Orange County restaurants will offer Edna Lewis-inspired dishes on their menus. The promotion is called the Edna Lewis Menu Trail. Participating restaurants: The Barbecue Exchange, Champion Ice House, the Market at Grelen, Coopers Cooking and Catering, Spoon and Spindle, Vintage Restaurant, and the Clearwater Grill.

## Bathroom Reading

For the Sophisticated and the not so

Illustrated 80+ years of life's memories-historical snippets for you



William H. Speiden

Farm life in central Virginia 1920s → plus history of cattle from 14,000 BP to 2020s

Personal stories, observations with bucket list checks, cattle & people as historical partners

Jim Crow times and their effects

Unforgettable characters here and there

Native American stories

Tourist questions from the clueless plus a WC?

## Speiden Publishes Again!

Local historian, society board member, philanthropist and farmer, Bill Speiden has done it again; another self-published book, that follows on the heels of *Letters to Tyler*.

Entitled *Bathroom Reading, For the Sophisticated and the not so*,

the book is a collection of "80+ years of life's memories," along with some interesting historical snippets.

Of particular interest are observations on farm life during the 1920s, including a history of cattle from 14,000 years ago to the present. Speiden also includes sections about the Jim Crow era, Native American history and sprinkles in some poignant and humorous personal stories. The book is on sale at the Historical Society.

## OCHS Mission Statement

The Orange County Historical Society is a research, archival, and educational organization dedicated to the discovery, preservation, and dissemination of the history of the people, places, organizations, and events of Orange County, Virginia, and the surrounding area.