

Orange Oracle

An electronic update from the Orange County Historical Society

FoWB and NPS divorce

By Phil Audibert

A relationship of 25 years between Friends of the Wilderness Battlefield (FoWB) and the Fredericksburg

Spotsylvania National Military Park has come to an end. FoWB President Bob Lookabill confirmed recently that the partnership agreement between the battlefield organization and the National Park Service has not been renewed. The agreement to staff and maintain historic Ellwood was originally forged 25 years ago.

"With the complete change in leadership at the Park over the last 12 months it was expected the agreement would finally be renewed. However, after many hours of negotiation and draft revision it was finally decided by both parties that FoWB has no real role at Ellwood Manor under current Interior Department policy," said Lookabill in a written statement. "It is obvious that volunteers do not currently fit in their plans. FoWB can no longer be in the house without a ranger present. The house will be open approximately half of the days this year



PHOTO BY PHIL AUDIBERT

Historic Ellwood will no longer host FoWB living history programs.

that it was open under FoWB supervision. The final straw came when the Park unilaterally decided to do away with tours of Ellwood, a job FoWB has done for 25 years."

Popular living history programs such as "Taming the Wilderness," that were hosted by FoWB will no longer be held on National Park Service property.

Meanwhile, FoWB has joined the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust in a suit against the Orange County Board of Supervisors regarding the proposed 2600-acre Wilderness Crossing development.

"We are not going away,"

reassures Lookabill. "FoWB has been in discussion with the American Battlefield Trust and the Central Battlefield Trust about maintaining, interpreting and enhancing some of their properties as we do for the State of Virginia. Additionally, we will look at presenting educational programs at these sites as we did in the past at Ellwood. We will also look to partnering with local educators in sponsoring programs as we have done previously. We will be here protecting and preserving your battlefields and property and educating future generations as we have done for over 25 years."

CELEBRATING
STORIES OF FREEDOM

2023
JUNETEENTH
month



PHOTOS BY PHIL AUDIBERT

Pictured, clockwise from top right: OCHS members, Mike and May Saxton were welcomed at a booth hosting the newly formed Madison County African American Historical Society. Montpelier Director of Archaeology, Matt Reeves visits with one of his volunteers, Kathy Mallory Watson at her booth, Katt's Creations. Culinary Historian, Leni Sorensen talks to a group of young volunteers about the role of African American cuisine in our nation's history. A Juneteenth celebration was also held at the Church St. Park in Orange. Pictured from left to right: Darryle Crump, Rebecca Coleman and Jane Ware.



A/V upgrade

Your money at work! OCHS Board member and Outreach Committee Chair, Mark Hoerath tests some of the new audio/visual equipment that will be installed in the Sandra Speiden auditorium at the Research Center. When complete, the society will be able to record and stream live programs.

2023 programs

> **Sunday, June 25, 6 p.m.**

**The History of Mayhurst
with Jason and Casey Cashell**



12460
Mayhurst
Lane,
Orange.
Bring your
own lawn
chair and
picnic food.
**Picnic will
be canceled
in case of
rain and/or
thunder.**

Park on either side of the driveway leading up to the house. Handicap parking at the main parking lot to the left of the house. We want to make sure we keep parking available for inn guests. For additional details on the history of the property see:

www.mayhurstinn.com/about

> **Sunday, July 30, 6 p.m.**

**Grymes School 75th
Anniversary with Margaret Hill**

13775 Spicer's Mill Rd.,
Orange. Bring a picnic.

> **Sunday, August 27, 6 p.m.**

**The History of Woodley by
Steve Sanford**

Woodley Road. Bring a picnic.

> **Sunday, September 24, 3 p.m.**

**The History of Bloomsbury
with Bethany Sullivan**

Bloomsbury Road. Bring a picnic.

> **Sunday, October 29, 3 p.m.**

**Preservation Virginia (formerly APVA)
Revolving Loan Fund with Gordon Rohr**

Meet at the newly renovated OCHS Sandra Speiden auditorium at 130 Caroline St., Orange.

From the vault...



The Charles Daniel Quisenberry Jewelry Store

By Ray Ezell

This photo is believed to be the only surviving image of the interior of the Charles Daniel Quisenberry Jewelry Store in Orange. It was located on Main Street in the Rawlings Building/Sanford Block adjacent to the Orange National Bank.

The photograph dates to February 1907, confirmed by high resolution examination of the image where two editions of the Richmond Times Dispatch are visible in one of the display cases at the right of the image. From the visible advertisements and objects in the image, the Quisenberry store is known to have dealt in a variety of items including: pocket watches, fountain pens, silver service pieces, sewing machines, ornamental cane heads, shirt collar buttons, mantel clocks, silver decorative ornaments, and rambler bicycles, among other items. Quisenberry's labeled safe can be distinguished at the rear of the store as well.

In addition to many other civic roles, Quisenberry was president of the Orange chapter of the Anti-Saloon League. In 1933, Quisenberry moved his store across Main Street to the building formerly occupied by Grymes Drug Store.

Call for volunteers

Do you enjoy looking at old local postcards? If so, we have a short-term project just for you! We are looking for a volunteer to transfer a number of old photos and postcards to photo sleeves to make them available to the public for viewing. If you are interested, please email Volunteer Coordinator May Saxton at OCHistVolunteers@gmail.com.