

Orange Oracle

An Electronic Update from the Orange County Historical Society

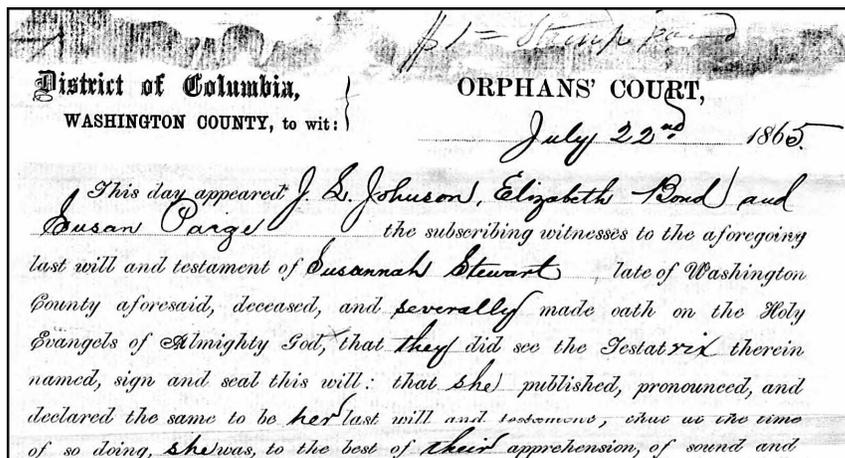
Board Sets Priorities at Retreat

- 1) To increase outreach to members and the community.
- 2) To increase member participation.
- 3) To increase income from current sources.
- 4) To provide adequate space to support the needs of staff, collections, and researchers while fulfilling the educational goals of the Historical Society.
- 5) To increase the reach of our programs by equipping the auditorium for simulcast and archiving live presentations.
- 6) Tie (a) To ensure operational excellence and continuity to maintain the Historical Society's grounds, building, collections, and equipment. (b) To develop and apply processing, conservation, and protection procedures compliant with the collection management policy.

History-to-Go goes "live" "Roads, Taverns and Mills: Cornerstones of Community"

As you drive along our country roads, have you ever wondered how these thoroughfares were developed: Orange Turnpike, Plank Road, Blue Ridge Turnpike? What about all these mills? Grymes Mill, Wilhoit's Mill, Matthews Mill...dozens of them. Then, there are the taverns and their place names: Gordon Tavern (Gordonsville), Wilderness Tavern (Wilderness), Chancellor Tavern (Chancellorsville).

Sukey's Will



As a Senior Research Historian for Montpelier's Naming Project, former OCHS Board member, Hilarie Hicks, has found the last will and testament of Susannah Stewart, known as Sukey. She was Dolley Madison's enslaved maid.

The will provides intimate information on Sukey's life including the fact that Catharine Taylor was Sukey's daughter. "Now we know who Catharine's siblings were, we can see that Catharine named three of her children after them. When we see Sukey's daughter, Ellen Stewart White living with Catharine and Ralph Taylor in the 1860 census, we now know that this was a married sister opening her home to her widowed sister. This was a free Black family, reuniting in the aftermath of their enslavement," said Hicks.

Speaking of Wills...

Have You Made Yours Yet?

By Bill Speiden

One way to extend your positive influence on your locality is to include the Orange County Historical Society (OCHS) in your will. Whether you support the Society's genealogy



Local videographer and documentary producer Phil Audibert was intrigued; the result, a documentary that shows that roads, taverns, and mills were all interconnected to create vibrant economic and social networks in 18th- and 19th-century Orange County. They are the cornerstones of community.

This program will be presented “live” Sunday, April 24, 2022, at 3:00 pm (doors open at 2:30) at our Research Center auditorium, at 130 Caroline St., Orange, Virginia.

This program is free and open to the public. It will also be available for viewing on the Society’s History-to-Go YouTube channel, starting at 3:00 pm, Sunday, April 24, at the following link: <https://youtu.be/Y7sfsn0gCEs>

Our next program will be the Waverley Gardens in Somerset on Sunday, May 29, at 6:00 pm. Bring a picnic and then stroll through the outdoor rooms of this extraordinary local landscape.

Know someone who might like to receive the *Oracle*?

Send us their email address!

ocvahistorical1965@gmail.com

Interested in Orange County history?

Become a Society Member!

Want to help?

Become a volunteer!

Click here-

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

files, the availability of research material, the public/private programs, the extensive outreach via History-to-Go, oral histories, local history books or any combination of the above, a legacy gift in your will would be an investment in Orange County’s future.

When making a will, you can include a gift to OCHS with little fanfare. If you already have a will, consider doing an update. It’s easy to add a codicil leaving a value of your choice to any entity.

Ask your attorney about including OCHS in your will. Charity begins at home.

Thank you for your consideration. Looking forward to seeing you at our programs this summer season and/or in the Research Center on 130 Caroline Street, Orange, where you can delve into your family genealogy, local area history, or browse our history books for sale.

From the Vault

By Ray Ezell,

President,
OCHS



This month’s column highlights this WWI helmet (M1917) and Small Box Respirator (SBR) gas mask carry bag. The equipment was worn by Sgt. Charles J. Stovin who fought in Company G, 320th Regiment of the 80th Infantry Division American Expeditionary Force (AEF). The Division was nicknamed the “Blue Ridge” Division as it was mainly composed of soldiers from Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

Stovin returned from Europe on May 20, 1919. The design painted on the helmet is the 80th Division AEF insignia. Before the war, Stovin was a clerk at Crafton & Sparks store in Orange, and his family resided at “Tetley” in western Orange County.