

# Orange Oracle

An Electronic Update from the Orange County Historical Society

## New Board Members



**Ashley Abruzzo** comes to the Board via the Germanna Foundation. Since 2017, she has served as Germanna's Membership Development Manager. Ashley

focuses on fundraising and membership relations, community outreach, and event planning. She descends from one of the 1717 Germanna colonists who later moved to Madison County. Ashley currently lives in Fredericksburg and in her spare time enjoys reading, doing copious amounts of ancestry research (she has a few ties to Orange County!), and traveling.

**Mark Hoerath** comes to the Board via Rapidan River Master Gardeners. A resident of Barboursville, Mark has a marketing and communications background.



He has significant experience creating/producing/directing TV, radio, and print communications directed to consumers, the business community, and employees.

## Annual Report Excerpts

By Ray Ezell



Although 2021 was still marred by the lingering effects of Covid-19, the Society and its Board of Directors have worked hard to maintain a strong, visible, presence in Orange County and to implement improved ways to engage Society members and the public at large. I also would like to offer my biggest thanks to our research center staff who allow us to operate and provide our services to the interested public (mostly free of charge). The efforts and dedication of Jean McGann, Jayne Blair, and Ruth Mallory Long have not gone unnoticed or unappreciated.

During 2021, the Society undertook a number of beneficial projects. These include the repair of the four front porch columns at the research center and the printing of an updated membership brochure. We have inaugurated a program to assist public school teachers in Orange County, providing them with complimentary memberships and web-based resources to supplement their teaching of Virginia history. We have also partnered with the Orange County Department of Planning to have them scan our collection of 1937 aerial maps of the county at high resolution.

## History-to-Go: Capt. Andrew Maples Portrait Unveiling



Born in the Town of Orange, Andrew Maples went on to become a Tuskegee Airman. He disappeared while flying a bomber escort mission during World War II. This past May, his portrait was unveiled at the Orange County Courthouse in a ceremony that honored him for his sacrifice and as a hometown hero. In recognition of Black History Month, here's the link to the video that was produced at that ceremony:

<https://youtu.be/zZ2kSP224WI>

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

**Send us their email address!**

[ocvahistorical1965@gmail.com](mailto: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>

In addition, we have concluded a strategic five-year planning effort to identify needs that should be addressed in the future for the long term success of the Society.

This coming year, I anticipate will be a time of additional transition and exploration. This year, the Town of Orange will celebrate the sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary of its official incorporation as a town. While most understand that the town was founded much earlier, this milestone will be marked and appreciated by the production of a video documentary (as yet untitled) focused on the development and growth of our town. The release of the documentary is anticipated for the late third quarter of 2022.

The Society endeavors to maintain relevance in a changing world, while striving to honor and "tell" the stories of the past. *I'd like to take this opportunity to ask each one of you to evaluate how you can be of service to this community through the efforts of our historical society.* I'm excited to see how you respond to this question. **Please feel free to reach out directly to me at [rayzell\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:rayzell_2000@yahoo.com).**

## Annual Meeting Highlights-

**Recognition of Lynne Lewis** for her 20+ years of service to the Society.

### A Partial List of Accomplishments for 2021-

**Strategic Planning-** Five Year plan drafted.

**Publications-** Two 12-page issues of the *Record* and 12 issues of the *Oracle* published.

**Outreach-** 12 History-to-Go programs produced.

**Collections-** Collections Policy draft written.

Acceptance of Duff Green photo negatives, Rescue Squad records, Lichtenberg Collection.

**Education-** Creation of an Educator's Resource page on the society's web site.

**Building and Grounds-** Spring clean-up, new chairs in the auditorium, new fire extinguishers, new lighting.