

Orange Oracle

An electronic update from the Orange County Historical Society

New O.C. Historical Society Publication

Old Blue Run Baptist Church

We are pleased to announce the publication of the 2nd edition of Garland Tyree's *Old Blue Run Baptist Church (Constituted December 4, 1769): The First One Hundred*



Years. Originally published in paperback in 1985, this second edition is hardcover, indexed and in-

cludes an eight-page pictorial insert. Mr. Tyree's 96-page book is a thorough history of the early Baptists in Orange and surrounding counties, as well as the Blue Run Baptist Church itself. Mr. Tyree continued his research over the years and has added new material to the original publication. Copies are available at the Historical Society's Research Center or via our website, <http://www.orangecovahist.org>, for \$15.95 plus tax.

Auditorium re-do

Thanks to a \$25,000 gift in the name of the late Sandra Speiden, the Historical Society auditorium is undergoing a much-needed renovation. After fixing a pesky gutter leak and installing new insulation and sheetrock, the society will construct a new storage space at the back of the room with new cabinetry in front of it. Finally, more storage and display space will be added along the west wall and a presentation area at the front will be created. Coinciding with this effort will be the purchase and installation of audio visual equipment, so society programs can be livestreamed. The only thing that's not certain is the timetable. Right now, it seems doubtful the auditorium will be ready for our program in March.



Pictured, top to bottom: Board members Joe Wayner, left, and Rod Hawkins disassemble a half wall in preparation for a new and improved auditorium. Wayner and Patrick Colby send a pickup truck load of stuff to the landfill. All the furniture that will remain in the auditorium is in a pile in the middle of the room.

Photos courtesy
Bill Speiden

2023 Programs

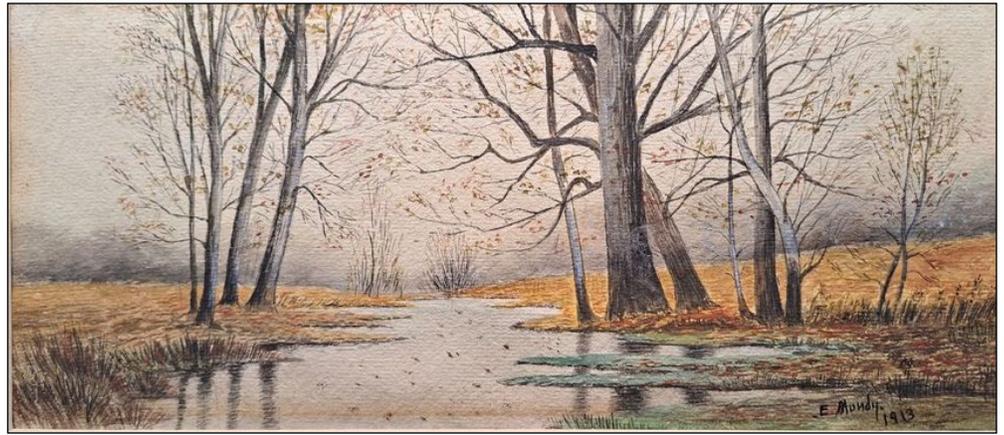
(Tentatively Set)

- > February: No program
- > Sunday, March 26, 3 p.m.
Knights of the Golden Horseshoe
- > Sunday, April 30, 3 p.m.
Virginia Winemaking
- > Sunday, May 28, 4 p.m.
Traditional Blacksmithing
- > Sunday, June 25, 6 p.m.
Mayhurst History
- > Sunday, July 30, 6 p.m.
Grymes School 75th Anniversary
- > Sunday, August 27, 6 p.m.
Woodley History

Please note: Not all program locations have been determined yet. Stay tuned.

Call for volunteers

Our old, wizened videographer needs some help! This is a second call for someone to learn how to operate the new audio visual equipment in the auditorium and in the field. And training just might include some instruction on video shooting and editing techniques. If you are interested and/or have any questions, please email Volunteer Coordinator May Saxton at OCHistVolunteers@gmail.com.



Local artist's work sought

By Ray Ezell

Ella Mundy, an early 20th-century Latin and English teacher at the now defunct James Barbour High School in Barboursville, was a prolific watercolor artist in Orange County. Several examples of her paintings hang in homes across the county and surrounding region. Many of her paintings date to 1918, but others from 1913, 1917, and 1924, are known to exist. Historical Society member Heidi McMurrin owns several Mundy watercolors.

Ms. Mundy never married and lived at her family home place outside of Barboursville her entire life. The home was demolished several years ago. Interestingly, a number of rooms in her home contained floor-to-ceiling murals she had painted.

How many other Mundy watercolors are out there hanging in your homes? If you have any information or examples of any of Ella Mundy's works, please contact Society President, Ray Ezell, at rayezell_2000@yahoo.com.



About the historical society

The Orange County Historical Society, Inc. is a research, archival, and educational organization, dedicated to the discovery, preservation, and dissemination of the history of Orange County, of its people, and the surrounding area. The Society's reference library contains over 2,000 volumes, and there are over 1,300 files with information on families, historic buildings, events and sites, plus a map and photograph collection. The research center at 130 Caroline Street, Orange is open Monday through Friday from 1 to 5 p.m. For more information, call (540) 672-5366 or email info@orangecovahist.org.

New board members elected

Four new members were elected to the Orange County Historical Society (OCHS) Board of Directors during the January 29, 2023, annual meeting. They are Carla Passarello, Jennifer Conley, the Rev. Darryle Crump, and Margaret Wilson Hill. They will serve three-year terms.



Pictured, from left to right, are new board members: the Rev. Darryle Crump, Carla Passarello, and Margaret Wilson Hill. (Not pictured: Jennifer Conley.)

Carla Passarello describes herself as a “lifelong history buff.” She can trace her roots to 18th-century western Virginia, with forefathers serving in the military during the American Revolution, the Civil War and the Korean War. Carla and her husband, Kevin, moved to Monteith Farm outside Gordonsville 10 years ago, where they raise horses, chickens and honeybees. She has immersed herself in her community, serving as President of the Dolley Madison Garden Club, a committee chair of the Garden Club of Virginia, and a board member of the Boys & Girls Club of Orange. Carla has agreed to serve as Secretary to the Board.

Jennifer Conley is a lifelong resident of Orange County. She has resided in the historic community of Lahore for most of those years. After attending Bridgewater College, she returned home to teach locally, serving for the past 19 years as a history teacher at Prospect Heights Middle School. Her interests include researching genealogy and actively serving in her church, North Pamunkey Baptist. She also enjoys singing, cooking, and making time for special memories with her husband.

The Rev. Darryle Crump was born and raised in Washington, D.C. After an enlistment with the Navy, he and his wife returned to D.C. where he served as a pastor to a congregation for 30 years. In 1999, the Crumps relocated to Orange, and in 2014, Darryle retired from pastoring. He is the past president of the Orange County African American Historical Society. His interests include reading, doing minor building repairs, and helping others. Darryle desires to be an asset to the OCHS.

Margaret Wilson Hill also is a native of Orange County, living today on a farm that has been in her family for more than 100 years. A graduate of Grymes Memorial School, Margaret returned to her alma mater as a teacher. Over the past 25 years, she has taught a variety of grades and subjects. While teaching, she came upon a treasure trove of photos and files pertaining to the history of Grymes. With these materials, she has organized the Grymes School Archives and is planning a 75th anniversary celebration of the local private school for this summer. Margaret and husband, Floyd, have been members of OCHS for the past 12 years.