

Orange Oracle

An Electronic Update from the Orange County Historical Society

Town Sesquicentennial Slated Video Documentary to Follow

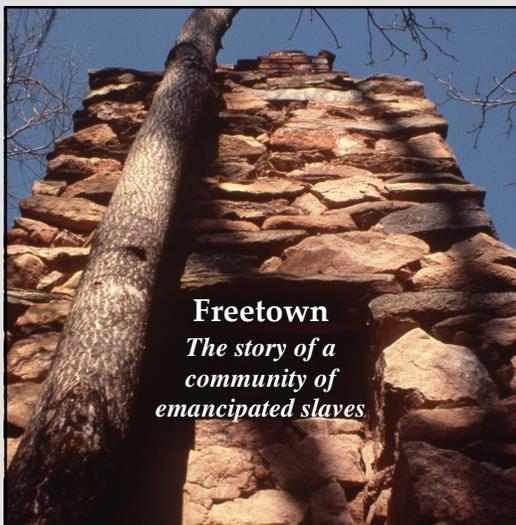
Next year the Town of Orange turns 150 years old. Plans are being laid to celebrate that event on June 11, 2022, featuring music and dance performances and a fireworks display.

The Orange County Historical Society will be playing an important role in that celebration by producing a video documentary about the town. Although the town was incorporated in 1872, its story begins long before then.

The documentary will look at the Town of Orange from its beginnings as a simple crossroads and courthouse village up through the 20th century.

Researchers are already hard at work looking through the society's files and image collections. And already they have found some heretofore hidden historical tidbits about the town's rich and varied past. Stay tuned!

History-to-Go



Freetown
*The story of a
community of
emancipated slaves*



Julien Icher, President and Founder of the Lafayette Trail, shakes hands with "President James Madison" at the dedication of a marker commemorating Lafayette's two visits to Montpelier in 1824 and 1825.

Lafayette Marker Installed at Montpelier

By Phil Audibert

Julien Icher is a driven man. He wants to install 170 historical markers at places that the Marquis de Lafayette visited during his famous tour of our young nation in 1824 and 1825. Just the other day, he installed marker number 36 at Montpelier. He referred to it as "a turning point in our project to have a second marker at a presidential home."

From August 1824 to September 1825, Revolutionary War hero, the Marquis de Lafayette, returned to the United States for a grand tour. During that tour he stopped at Montpelier twice. And during one of those visits, Icher says that James Madison "challenged Lafayette on the relationship between the Catholic Church and the state in France. And through those remarks, Lafayette and his team brought up the issue of slavery in American history." Icher added that "Lafayette was an abolitionist very early on."

The next installment of History-to-Go features a slide/sound (pre-PowerPoint) program dating back to 1984. It is an oral history of the then surviving residents of Freetown, one of many communities of freedmen established in Orange County after the Civil War. Originally recorded by Phil Audibert on 35mm slide film and cassette tape, the presentation was converted to digital format several years ago. Among others, it features the memories of Edna Lewis, the Grande Dame of Southern Cooking, who was born and raised in Freetown, along with her brother Lue Standley Lewis. Just click on this link to view the full program:

<https://youtu.be/rHQQUVOBCa0>

Carver Museum Features Edna Lewis



Orange County native, Edna Lewis, is this month's honoree in the Carver 4-County Museum's "When Women Use Their Power" exhibit. Since her death in 2006, there has been increased interest in Ms. Lewis' philosophy of preparing and eating foods fresh from gardens and in their most flavorful season. The online exhibit is featured on www.carver4cm.org throughout November, and the in-person version is on view at the Carver 4-County Museum by appointment.

During that same tour, Lafayette also visited Gordonsville and Ellwood. Icher says he's looking into erecting markers at those two locations as well.

Lafayette's visit came at a divisive time in American politics. "He was always thinking of ways to contribute to the union militarily, morally, to national unity at a time of political divide," continued Icher.

From the Vault

By Ray Ezell

This month's column highlights this Boy Scouts of America War Savings Stamp (WSS) campaign medal which belonged to Phillip Barbour Stovin of Orange. P.B. Stovin was a founding member of the first Boy Scout troop in Orange in 1915.

The WSS campaign began in 1917 and ran until 1918, during the United States' involvement in World War I. Boy Scouts raised a total of \$52 million in WSS subscriptions over the duration of the war.

When citizens purchased enough stamps to buy a war bond, the scout was awarded an "achievement button." When a scout had orders for a total of \$250 in stamps from 25 or more individuals, he would receive an "Ace Medal" (like the one pictured here).

Despite several Orange Boy Scouts actively selling WSS in 1918, P.B. Stovin was one of three scouts to have earned a WSS achievement button and may have been the only Orange scout to earn an Ace Medal. He was presented the medal in a "Court of Honor" ceremony in August 1918. A total of 8,221 Ace Medals were awarded during World War I. Stovin later went on to attend the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) during the early 1920s.



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