



Major Robert W. Raup

Paul W. Carter

Major Robert W. Raup was born on 21 June 1919, and grew up on Landon Lane in Orange where his father, W. F. Raup, was a supervisor at American Silk Mill. He attended Orange County High School and played on the high school basketball team. Following his graduation from Virginia Tech in July 1941 with a degree in chemical engineering, Raup joined the Coast Artillery, but later transferred to the Air Corps to become a pilot.

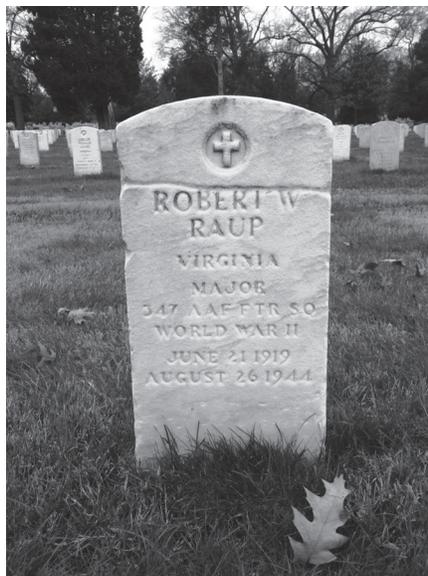
He trained as a lieutenant at airfields in Florida, Mississippi, New Hampshire, and North Carolina, finally receiving his wings on 4 February 1942 after seven months of training at Kelly Field in Texas. He was first stationed in England and then North Africa in July 1942 before going to Italy where, in March 1944, he was promoted to captain. Shortly thereafter he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for extraordinary service as a pilot of a P-39 fighter while doing strafing missions from Sardinia and Corsica.

The P-39, a unique airplane, was the first fighter aircraft with tricycle wheels. The engine was located behind the pilot and the propeller was driven by a two-piece drive shaft in a compartment under the pilot. The pilot sat high in the canopy to provide great vision. The P-39 had car-type doors on both sides—the right side had handles on both sides and the left side handle only opened from the outside. The cockpit roof was fixed which made it difficult to escape from in an emergency. It was equipped with up to five machine guns and one five-hundred-pound bomb.

On 9 July 1944, Robert married Lieutenant Ruth Dalton, Army Nurse Corps, of Minneapolis. Following a ten-day honeymoon on the Island of Capri, she returned to a hospital unit in Bari, Italy, and he returned to Corsica.

In July 1944, while serving as commanding officer of the 347th Army Air Forces Fighter Squadron, Captain Raup was promoted to Major. At this time he was wearing the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters in addition to the Distinguished Flying Cross previously received.

Realizing that one five-hundred-pound bomb was insufficient for an upcoming mission, he had his P-39 equipped with two-five-hundred-pound bombs. Because of the additional load, his aircraft crashed into a hill at the end of the runway and caught fire. Two



men rushed to the crash site and were able to pull him from the aircraft. These men later received awards for their heroic action. The major was still alive, but was badly burned on over eighty percent of his body. The difficulty in effecting a rescue from the plane's cockpit was certainly one of the causes for his extensive injuries.

He was sent to Bari, Italy, where his wife was stationed, to recover. Major Raup succumbed to his wounds and died on 26 August 1944, at twenty-five years of age. He was recommended for four more Oak Leaf Clusters just prior to his death and was the most decorated man in his group. Following the end of the war, his body was returned with twelve other comrades killed in the war and he was interred in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors on 6 December 1948. After his death his wife

remained in Italy. Besides his parents, Violet Still and William Franklin Raup, he was survived by his sisters, Pauline and Jean Raup. Jean, the widow of the late Judge Robert Grady, continues to reside in Orange.



Major General John K. Cannon, Commanding General of the 12th Air Force, presents the Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster to Lt. Ruth W. Raup, of 4147 Garfield Avenue, South, Minneapolis, Minnesota, widow of Major Robert W. Raup, of Milton, Pennsylvania, a pilot, who was killed in action in August 1944, a month after their marriage. Lt. Raup is an American nurse in Italy.

Zachary Taylor's Birthplace

Zachary Taylor was born in Orange County on 24 November 1784. These facts have never been disputed. However, just where in Orange County his birth occurred has been questioned, and over the years a number of sites have been identified by one or more proponents. As the *Orange County News* notes, two of these sites have been given credence by various official bodies. Both have their proponents.

It appears, however, that the person who originally proposed Hare Forest as the site of the president's birthplace later decided that he was in error. Historian Patricia Hurst discovered the following typescript written by Daniel Grinnan¹ entitled "Memo for Dr. Garnett Ryland, University of Richmond"² among the papers of Orange County historian, D. N. Davidson. Although the typescript is undated, Dr. Ryland³ taught chemistry at the University of Richmond from 1917 to 1945,⁴ which suggests that the document was created some time during this period. Although the typescript focuses primarily on the Orange County meeting between James Madison and Elder John Leland, a Baptist minister, it also included information on Zachary Taylor's birthplace:

When a man tries to set down his recollection of what he heard from older men a great many years ago he must be cautious for many errors have been made in this field.

My father, Dr. Andrew Glassell Grinnan, was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia, in 1827 and he died in 1902 at his home on Rapidan River in Madison County, where he had lived since 1859.⁵ This place adjoins on the east Woodbury Forest where lived Gen. William Madison, a younger brother to the President.

A grandmother of the President was a Taylor of Orange County and she was sister, I am quite sure, to Erasmus Taylor of Greenfield near Orange Court House who was great grandfather to my father. My father was a great antiquarian, read a great deal and had a wonderful memory and was much interested in all his Taylor kin like James Madison.

The Frank Taylor Diary that you mentioned was kept by Taylor at his home Red Bud just north of Orange Court House, a part of the huge original grant of 1722–23 to James Taylor II, and those diaries were given to my father by old Cousin Polly Taylor of Red Bud—niece I think to Frank Taylor, the Diarist.⁶ [The next six paragraphs deal

with the Madison-Leland meeting.]

Scott shows in his book that Gen. Zach. Taylor was really born at Montebello near Barboursville (little house still standing and property now owned by Mrs. John Stewart Bryan⁷) and he produces traditions to that effect which cannot be gainsaid. Now it happened that Richard Taylor, father to Gen. Zach. Taylor lived in Orange County not far from the Rapidan River, in a plain house called Hare Forest, near what was later Covell's Crossing or Trimmer's Crossing on the present Southern Railway between Orange and Rapidan Station; and some years before Scott got his book out my father having found the ruins of the house and finding that Richard Taylor was living there almost on the day that Gen. Zach. Taylor was born and not knowing the exact day that Richard T. started on his move to Kentucky he concluded naturally that Gen. Zach. Taylor was born at Hare Forest and took part in rising a small fund to put a marker there, which was done. Now it turned out that just before Gen. Zach. Taylor was born his father had started for Kentucky and being detained somewhere at Montebello where he and his family lodged with their friends,—Zach happened to be born a few days later than my father supposed and not at Hare Forest. Scott and my father were close friends but Scott never forgave my father for such a pardonable error, in which several other persons participated. For all that Dr. Scott was a most delightful gentleman and we were all greatly attached to him and it was only an accident that prevented me from going to Gordonsville to his funeral.⁸

The Madison Bibliography is so great that I suppose that somewhere in that great store-house this story [Madison-Leland meeting] is mentioned by someone; but I leave that search to Dr. Ryland. [signed] Daniel Grinnan.

It would appear then that Hare Forest was not Zachary's place of birth. In fact the records create some doubt as to whether it was even the residence of his father. The property now called Hare Forest was purchased in 1778 by William Strother, Zachary Taylor's maternal grandfather.⁹ Some have suggested that Zachary's father Richard and his wife were living with her father at the time they left Orange. However, William Strother is listed in the 1782 and 1785 Orange County census with only three white souls in his household,¹⁰ two of whom would have been William

¹ Daniel Grinnan (1861–1940) was the son of Andrew Glassell Grinnan and Georgia Bryan. Grinnan Family Papers, 1765–1932, Mss1 G8855 a, Virginia Historical Society, Richmond.

² D. N Davidson Papers, Orange County Historical Society. A copy of the memo has been placed in the Taylor file as well. Taylor File, Family Files, Orange County Historical Society, Orange.

³ Dr. Garnett Ryland was the author of *The Baptists of Virginia, 1699–1926*, the definitive history of the early Virginia Baptists.

⁴ Biographical Information, "A Guide to the Garnett Ryland Essex County Records, 1685-1796," *Virginia Heritage* (www.ead.lib.virginia.edu : accessed 2013).

⁵ This would be Brampton, formerly the home of Vee and Carroll Shackelford, and still in the family.

⁶ Francis Taylor and his father, George Taylor, moved to Midland

(Yatton) after that house was constructed in ca. 1786–1787.

⁷ Mrs. Bryan purchased the property in 1922, and it remained in the family until 1946. The "little house" stood between the present Montebello house and Rt. 33. Other sources cite a tradition that he was born in a house on the premises that is no longer standing.

⁸ W. W. Scott died in 1929 and is buried at Maplewood Cemetery, Gordonsville.

⁹ Orange County Deed Book 17, p. 151.

¹⁰ *Heads of Families at the First Census of the U.S. Taken in the Year 1790 Virginia* (1908; reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1992), 39, 96.

Taylor (*continued*)

and his wife Anne.¹¹ Zachary's father, Richard Taylor, does not appear in the 1782 personal property tax lists or the 1782 Orange County census.¹²

Indeed there is some question as to whether Richard and Sarah were even living in Orange. The only property Richard is shown as having bought or sold is a 96-acre tract on the west side of Mine Run bordering the Rapidan River, which Richard, his wife Sarah, and her sister, Susannah Hawkins, sold in 1780.¹³ This was a tract that Sarah's mother Sarah (Bailie) Pannill Strother, purchased in 1773.¹⁴ The fact that Richard does not appear on the Orange County 1782 personal property tax list or in the 1782 census list would appear to preclude his living in a separate house on the Hare Forest tract.

A Richard Taylor is listed as an adjacent landowner in a deed from Charles and Benjamin Grymes Jr. to William Twyman for 315 acres in then Culpeper, now Madison County. The land lay on Great Run, which would place it across the river from Hare Forest. Although there is no record of Richard selling the land, he is not listed in the 1782 Culpeper County land or personal property tax records. Since Richard was declared a supernumerary officer in 1780, it may be that his sale of the land in 1780 preceded a move to Kentucky and that he left his wife Sarah in Orange while he established himself there.

While, thanks to the research of Patricia Hurst, Hare Forest appears to have been eliminated as Zachary Taylor's place of birth, we are still left with questions unanswered.

Barbara Vines Little, Patricia J. Hurst, and Ann L. Miller contributed to this article.

¹¹ Orange County Deed Book 18, pp. 258, 512

¹² Barbara Vines Little, *Orange County, Virginia, Tithables, 1734-1782, Part I*, rev.ed. 2 vols. (Orange, Va.: Dominion Market Research Corporation, 1990). *Heads of Families at the First Census of the U.S. Taken in the Year 1790 Virginia* (1908; reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1992).

¹³ Orange County Deed Book 17, p. 399.

¹⁴ Orange County Deed Book 16, p. 151. Sarah's parents legally separated in 1764, which allowed her to function as a feme sole. *Strother vs Strother*, Orange County Chancery File 1764-001, microfilm, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

TAYLOR'S PLACE OF BIRTH DISPUTED

Much dispute is held in Orange County over the birthplace of Zachary Taylor, Indian and Mexican War hero and twelfth president of the United States. Some say he was born near Rapidan. Others say he was born near Gordonsville.

Those favoring Rapidan as his birthplace say the general was born at Hare Forest, between Orange and Rapidan. This place is near the Southern railway and is now no more than a thicket. Deed books do not show that Taylor's father ever lived at Hare Forest, nor is his name in the census.

Word has come down through descendants that the Taylor family had started on a journey in wagons to Tennessee before Zachary was born. This information has led to the belief of the other side. Evidence favoring Gordonsville as the birthplace says that Montebello, home of the Johnsons near this town, was the goal of the first day's movement. While they were staying with their relatives there, a member of the band was taken sick, causing a delay of six weeks. During this period of delay, General Taylor was born.

A short while before his death, the late W. W. Scott, in a letter to the editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, reveals his belief to be identical to that of the latter group.

"But about General Taylor's birthplace," he writes in the letter. "Four correspondents from the Church Home, whom I know and admire, has fallen into a common error about the matter. Taylor's parents undoubtedly lived at Hare Forest, about four miles northeast of the courthouse, but they

had started on their emigration to Tennessee before General Zachary came into the world.

"On the last day's journey some member of the family was taken sick, and they had to stop at Montebello, the residence of Mr. Valentine Johnson, about midway between Gordonsville and Barboursville. There they were detained some time and there the future general and president was born.

... (Continued on page 24)

TAYLOR'S PLACE OF BIRTH DISPUTED

(Continued from page 21)

"This information I had from the son of Mr. Johnson, from the late John Willis, and from other respected and well known citizens of the county."

Mr. Scott also states this opinion in his history of Orange County.

Orange County Its Past, Present, and Future in Word and Picture, 1734-1930, *Orange County News*, November 1930.

History Day for Students

Carol Hunter

Orange County History Day was developed by the Orange County Historical Society, the Arts Center in Orange, and the Orange County Public School's Academic Gifted team. Local historic events are used to involve elementary students in learning history while supporting the Standards of Learning curriculum. History Day encourages students to walk through local history by completing a research project about various historic topics, such as the Exchange Hotel, the Silk Mill, Orange County's involvement in the Civil War, Fort Germanna, or some of Orange County's better known historic figures, such as Zachary Taylor and James and Dolley Madison.

As part of the Virginia Studies curriculum, fourth graders are each given a copy of *The Nine Lives of an Orange Tabby*, a coloring book detailing Orange County history from its habitation by Native Americans to the present. These coloring books, created by members of the Arts Center and produced by the Orange County Historical Society, serve as a resource for students who select a topic to study in more depth. After completing their research, students create posters to share their work with others at the school level where the posters are judged for accuracy and clarity. This year the posters of sixty-six students from the county's elementary schools were selected to be displayed at the Orange County Historical Society from May 13 through the 17 or at the Taylor Education and Administration Complex from May 20 through May 23.

A reception for this year's Blue Ribbon Poster winners was held at the Historical Society on May 13. Students who participated are listed below by school.

Orange Elementary School: Michael Mahieu, R. J. Ventura, Maggie Hurst, Kourtney Gugel, Matthew Rogers, Lyndsay Bradford, Kayla Nicholson, Leah Call, Cierra Polson, Taylor Munger, Jared Vogt, Claire Vanderwater, Katlin Gray

Locust Grove Elementary School: Karinne Brochu, Genevieve Blake, Emma Dwight, Madison Kirk, Xavier Vaughan, Gwen Lewis, Kendall Wynn, Madison Lancing, Alyssa Drew, Braden Hass, Rebel Fretwell, Deirdre Gray, Ethan Batton, Julie Long, Autumn MacDonald, Rodney Zummo, Marco A. Lopez, Anneliese Mabie, Suki Clinkenbeard

Lightfoot Elementary School: Salaar Ali, Allison Grace Alarcon-Flores, Jesse C. Blevins, Ashlyn Bradley, Nikiya Burger, Amari Cooper, Shelby Jones, Jasmine Hoffman, Nathaniel Kzinowek, Jake Jarrell, Jayden Warren, Taylor Jenkins, Westley Nixon, Trenton Matthews, Autumn Duboski, Dakota McDaniel, Donald Brooks, II, Taylor Holtzman, Aaron Ratcliff, Hunter Kzinowek, Douglas Newsome

Gordon Barbour Elementary School: Taylor Chandler, Aniya Johnson, Ethan Williams, Aiden Baker, Caelan Reinhold, Alana Shumake, Conner Hogsten, Sid Aylor, Grace Rodriguez, Hannah Collier, Anicia Ward, Charity Hutchinson, Elizabeth Goodwin

From Fairgrounds to Factory: Snead and Company, Virginia Metal Products, Virginia Metal Industries

Continued from Volume 44, no. 1 (Spring 2013)

Paul W. Carter

The Orange County Board of Supervisors learned that Snead and Company was scheduled to begin shipping products for a major library project in the National Archives Building in 1937 and needed additional fabrication facilities. They made a proffer to the company's president Angus MacDonald that included a five-year tax waiver if the company would come to Orange.

MacDonald accepted and a bond company was established to sell a thousand five-hundred dollar bonds to finance the project. On 15 August 1936 Snead purchased the fairground tract from W. D. Roberts and his wife for \$3500 and a contract for construction of a 40,000 square-foot factory to be built on the site was issued to the Austin Company. Local resident Skinny Redmon was one of the men hired by the Austin Company to dig the footers for the foundation at the rate of twenty-five cents an hour. Milton Rubin, president of the American Silk Mill, and many others in the community voiced concerns that such a high rate of pay would upset the local economy. At that time the prevailing wage in the area was ten to fifteen cents an hour. The new plant started shipping library products to the National Archives Building in Washington, D. C. the following year.

Setting up production in Orange meant bringing key employees (and their families) to the area as well. Finding housing was a problem. The company's solution was to build a number of houses on Morton and Dabney streets and an apartment complex on Peliso Avenue.

Snead and Company's move into the Orange area was the beginning of what would later become VMP and even later VMI. The strength of the company was its president and owner, Angus Snead MacDonald. Born in 1884 in Louisville, Kentucky, Mr. MacDonald graduated from the University of Louisville. He continued his studies at Columbia University graduating in 1906 with a degree in architecture. Upon graduation MacDonald joined the family firm, Snead and Company, which had moved to Jersey City, New Jersey, following a fire in the Louisville plant. He was responsible for the design, manufacture, and installation of their book-stack product and was credited with the development of the so called "modular system" of library construction which was used by a majority of the large libraries built after World War II. The company's library book stacks systems were used by major universities including Yale, Harvard, and Columbia, as well as the Library of Congress, the New York Public Library, and the Vatican Library in Rome. In addition to the book-stack line, Snead produced other library accessories including partitions. It was also a heavyweight in the production of cast iron products such as manhole covers. One of its more famous products was the cast-iron stair nosings for the 897 stairs in the Washington Monument.

Firmly ensconced in Orange by the beginning of World War II, Snead and Company expanded during the war. The War Assets Administration assisted Snead in procuring military contracts for aluminum pontoons, hatch covers, oil tanks, air tanks, and aircraft drop tanks. To produce these additional products, the WAA helped the company finance additions to the plant that increased the total size to 200,000 square feet. Everything went well until the war ended in 1945 and the government cancelled its military contracts. Snead had five million dollars in contracts and six hundred employees. The loss of the contracts forced the company to reduce staff leaving only a

skeleton force to move into peacetime production. This was a major blow to Orange County and its residents.

While under government-established wage and price controls Snead built up a large backlog of contracts for book stacks using the prevailing fixed prices. Following the government's elimination of the controls, prices skyrocketed. Steel jumped one to three cents per pound. All costs soared which meant a loss on each fixed-priced contract of twenty-five to forty percent. It didn't take long for Snead to declare bankruptcy. The bankruptcy judge appointed a neutral company, Phoenix Iron and Steel, to manage the company until the bankruptcy sale.

As the saying goes, all was not lost. In 1948, Joseph Patrick, an ex-SEC lawyer and his partner, Robert Baird, purchased all of the assets, plant, equipment, and machinery and renamed the company Virginia Metal Products. It quickly became known as VMP. Patrick added rolling mills to allow for the production of doors and frames and developed a regional office network in the major cities creating sales, engineering, and installation staffs that permitted a huge expansion of sales. While not up to wartime production rates, VMP was running three shifts and had over three hundred employees. Patrick sold the company in 1952, but rather than sell it for its true total value of ten million and pay a hefty income tax, he sold the company and its name, VMP, and sales backlog and goodwill for five million to Chesapeake Industries, owned by Robert Young of the C&O Railroad, and then took the plant, land, and all machinery and equipment worth another five million and established a charitable foundation, the Anglican Foundation. He named Episcopalian Bishop, Charles W. McLean, of the Long Island, New York, Diocese as its president. The Foundation rented the complete VMP facility to Chesapeake for \$90,000 per year payable at \$7,500 per month. The Bishop selected ten New York charities and sent each a check for \$750 each month.

Virginia Metal Products, better known as VMP and its successor company, Virginia Metal Industries (VMI), was the second largest manufacturer of flexible partition systems in the USA and for that matter, in the world. It had sales, engineering, and installation staff in all the major cities including New York, Detroit, Los Angeles, and Chicago. Its sales ran five to fifteen million dollars per year over its lifetime. Sales could vary from ten thousand for a VEPCO installation to three million for the sixty-four-floor U. S. Steel headquarters in Pittsburgh. Incidentally, VMP furnished partitions for the headquarters of all three major United States steel manufacturers—U. S., Bethlehem, and National. VMP took great pride in the fact that the three major steel companies preferred the quality and performance of its product to that of a major competitor who purchased much more steel from them.

Unfortunately, though profitable, the company was sold back and forth on Wall Street like a pawn in a chess game resulting in management changes every two years or so. Competitors told customers that VMP's management changes made it vulnerable, but John Paisley, who had joined the company in 1952, countered this with, "We are super strong because we continue to grow in spite of management. Our people are our major strength."

In the early 1960s VMP was sold to Gray Manufacturing, which had five other divisions, none operating profitably. After purchasing

See Fairgrounds to Factory on page 5.

Fairgrounds to Factory (*continued*)

VMP, they bought Circle Steel Partitions, another partition company. Circle was going out of business and if Gray had waited another couple of weeks, they could have bought them for ten cents on the dollar.

In the early seventies, Gray became tired of paying rent to the Bishop. They started shopping and Brookneal, Virginia, agreed to float a multi-million dollar bond issue to provide them with an up-to-date manufacturing facility with the latest powder-coat paint system. They had a new facility, but no machinery. That all belonged to the Bishop.

John Paisley described the ensuing events:

I returned from a sales meeting one day to find the facility completely void of equipment. I approached Mr. Charlie Hodap, the manager at the time, and he said all the machinery had been moved to Brookneal. I explained that that was not theirs to take. It belonged to the Bishop. He said, "The hell with the Bishop." I only had a small relationship with Mr. Patrick, but I proceeded to call him and tell him of the situation in Orange. He put me in contact with the Bishop, who gave me the first option to bid on the equipment.

In a matter of weeks Gray Manufacturing went out of business. In the meantime I received a call from John Hough of Hough Manufacturing of Jamesville, Wisconsin. They were considering going into the partition business, but had no equipment. He convinced me to go with their people to Brookneal and Orange to purchase the equipment necessary and he would keep the facility in Orange. To show his good faith, he sent me a check for \$50,000. I was riding high. As soon as the sale was over in Orange, an announcement came over WJMA that Hough had decided not to locate in Orange. They had decided that our facility was too old and required too much maintenance and upkeep. They had taken me for a ride.

I then formed a relationship with Nick Gianakos and Stanley Oginz and we became Virginia Metal Industries (VMI). We were very fortunate to acquire the original phone number of VMP and started receiving calls from our old clients. We borrowed a couple of million dollars from a bank in Richmond and proceeded to replace the 200,000 square foot roof. We pinched pennies and saved wherever possible, and within two years, we went from nothing to eight million dollars in sales and a million in profit. The tide had turned for us. By then the banks were calling us asking us to borrow money from them.

For the next ten years we were very successful and employing over 150 workers at the plant. At about that time Stanley came home from work one day and discovered that his wife had passed away from a massive heart attack. The three of us were getting up in age and we decided to sell. The time to sell is when you are successful, not when you are struggling. We ended up selling to United Coal Company of Bristol, Virginia. Nick and Stanley decided to get out completely, but I managed to stay on working for another fifteen years. After United had about three managers that didn't work out, they decided to sell the equipment and product line to a company in Jamestown, New York. Before the sale could be completed, old paint cans, filters, and paint buried on the back property had to be dug up and replaced with new fill. We had used that piece of land as a dump for years. This ended up costing United upwards of two million.

In 2003 Hugh Wright of Wright's Iron and Steel of Manassas Park, Virginia, bought the property from United. They're still operating today—manufacturing miscellaneous and structural steel products.

John Sanders Row

Patrick Sullivan

Elhanon Row (1798–1874) inherited Row's Mill, a four hundred twenty-seven acre farm, which by 1861 included three residences. One of these, built in 1810 and named Rio Grande, was the home where Elhanon and his wife Mary Dawson (Sanders) Row reared their eight children.¹ The house was located on the southeast side of modern Route 20 at Mine Run. Still standing in 1936, it was "a nine-room log house, weather-boarded, two brick chimneys, . . . unusual floors, 12 and 15 inches wide, heart pine. The house is a story and a half, and has one dormer window. It is near the battlegrounds of the Wilderness and Mine Run. A ball was found embedded in the logs of the house."² Here John Sanders Row was born on 24 January 1831.³

From an early age John Row followed a commitment to public service exemplified by his father and his grandfather. His grandfather, Thomas Row (1754–1840), was twice appointed high sheriff of Orange County, served as magistrate and was appointed a colonel in the Second Virginia Militia. Likewise, Elhanon was the first elected sheriff of the county, served as school commissioner and was also appointed colonel of his father's old militia regiment during the Civil War.

By the age of nineteen John Row was serving as deputy sheriff for the last appointed sheriff of Orange County, Richard M. Chapman. He was also deputy during his father's one term as sheriff. Elected sheriff in his own right in 1854, he remained in office until 1859, when he was succeeded by James L. Robinson.⁴ John and his brother-in-law James Roach⁵ were Robinson's deputies on the eve of the Civil War.

On 20 December 1853 John Row married Eliza Walker in a ceremony solemnized by Gibson Mauzy. Eliza was a daughter of Benjamin and Lucy (Henshaw) Walker and a first cousin of Robert Stringfellow Walker, founder of the Woodberry Forest School. During the first eighteen years of their marriage John and Eliza would have nine children together.⁶

¹ Patrick Sullivan, "Dr. Elhannon Winchester Row," *Orange County Historical Society Record*, Spring 2013.

² John C. Hendricks, "Rio Grande Survey Report, 10 Dec 1936," Virginia W.P.A. Historical Inventory Project, digital image, *Library of Virginia* (<http://www.lva.virginia.gov/>; accessed 2013).

³ "The Prayer Book of Rachel Keeling Row," *Spotsylvania Memory*, <http://spotsylvaniamemory.blogspot.com/2012/04/prayer-book-of-rachel-keeling-row.html>. For the original see Keeling, Rowe and Farish Family Papers, 1765–1877, Accession #11144, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville.

⁴ Ulysses P. Joyner, "Appendix F: Sheriffs of Orange County," *The Clerks of Orange County* (Orange, Va.: Orange County Historical Society, 1998).

⁵ James Roach married Adelaide Row on 28 November 1859. She died on 27 June 1860.

⁶ Four of these children ultimately settled in West Virginia. So far as I know only one, Thomas Keeling Row (1856–1927) remained in Orange. He served as commissioner of revenue in the early 1900s and was elected to the House of Delegates in 1911.

Row (*continued*)

John Sanders Row enlisted in Company I of the Sixth Virginia Cavalry, the Orange Rangers, on 1 April 1862. The company had been commanded by Gustavus Judson Browning, but he had been sidelined after breaking his leg during a fall from his horse in October 1861. He was replaced by Lieutenant William H. Walker, John's brother-in-law. Walker was taken ill and was absent for some time in early 1862. Both Browning and Walker received medical discharges on 20 April 1862, and Captain John S. Row assumed command of Company I on that date.

Among the men who served with Captain Row was his brother, Dr. Elhanon Winchester Row, who would soon become the regimental surgeon of the Fourteenth Virginia Cavalry.⁷ Lieutenant James Roach, who had married John's sister, remained with the company for several more months.⁸ John's cousin George Washington Estes Row (great grandfather of the writer of this article) had transferred to the Sixth from the Ninth Virginia Cavalry in March 1862 and fought with the regiment for the remainder of the war. Also of note was Jonathan Taylor Mann, Captain Row's friend and neighbor who was promoted to lieutenant in December 1862.

On 1 August 1862, John and Eliza Row were visited by a double tragedy. Two of their sons—seven-year-old John and three-year-old Elhanon—died in Fluvanna County.⁹ It is likely that Eliza and the children had gone there to stay in relative safety with the mother of Sarah Spencer Mann, wife of Jonathan Taylor Mann.

On 12 September 1862 Captain Row submitted his resignation to Colonel Thomas Flournoy. The reason given for this decision was

I have been Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff of the County of Orange for the last twelve years and have a large amount of important business unsettled and no other person can settle it without serious loss to myself and those who are bound as security for me. It is my desire to save those who are bound as security for me, for large sums from loss, and to do so I feel it is necessary to resign my commission.

Four days later Orange County Sheriff James L. Robinson followed up with a letter to Secretary of War G.W. Randolph:

Mr. John S. Row, my Deputy Sheriff of Orange Co. Va. last spring before the deputies were exempted by law from the service, volunteered in the service of the Confederate States. It is now necessary that I should have him to assist me to collect the Revenue. Therefore pray you to discharge him from the service so that he may return to his duties as Deputy.

Captain Row's resignation was accepted on 7 October 1862. Eight months after he resigned, on 9 June 1863, John Row's former

comrades in J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry were caught by surprise near Brandy Station when Union forces commanded by General Alfred Pleasonton splashed across the Rappahannock River. Troopers of the Sixth Virginia Cavalry leaped barefoot onto their unsaddled horses and raced to the sound of gunfire. One of the first men killed was John Row's friend, Jonathan T. Mann.

Starting two months after Mann's death, John wrote a series of letters to Mann's widow, Sarah. Photocopies of these letters are part of the archive of the Central Rappahannock Heritage Center in Fredericksburg. These letters document John Row's attempts to materially help Sarah Mann. They also describe conditions in Orange County during and after the war and they convey the prevailing sense of anxiety due to the constant threat of Union raids. During the war years Sarah and her two young sons lived with her mother in Fluvanna County. A few excerpts from these letters follow:

Verdierville, 4 August 1863. We are quite well Eliza is going about the house. We have our army in this county again and the soldiers are running around as usual...It is impossible to say how long our army will stay or whether it will be safe for you to come over. We are afraid of yankee cavalry raids where I live. Our infantry is above me and I fear the cavalry will make a dash below me. I will try to save the horses.

Louisa C.H. 20 February 1864. I have received your letter and have written to Captain Morton to send me a check for the money due from the Regiment ... Father's family are living with me. I rented a good farm and we have two large houses (though in want of repairs). We can be comfortable. I put in an application for exemption as a farmer, but don't expect it will do any good...I enclose you one hundred dollars which you will please keep an account in case of my death. I hope that we will all get throughout this war soon and come out of it better and wiser people. I will try to do my duty while I am here to everybody and trust my family to the protecting care of a kind Providence. I have been in many difficulties and have always found someone to help me in time of trouble. I shall go forward not doubting but that all will be well for and those dependent upon me no matter what befalls me. We must never give up—keep in good spirits, do our duty and trust God and he will take care of us.

22 October 1869. I did not give you the history of Wm Walker's [John Row's brother-in-law] misfortune because I did not like to think about it. He was in a desponding condition about money matters and attempted to take his own life and his daughter Cattie [Catherine Walker, age 21], seeing him with the pistol in hand and knowing his constitution attempted to take it away. In doing so she pulled the pistol down upon her right breast and was shot through the lung, the ball passing

⁷ Patrick Sullivan, "Dr. Elhanon Winchester Row," *Orange County Historical Society Record*, Spring 2013.

⁸ Roach was elected sheriff of Orange County in 1862 and assumed office on 1 January 1863. He served in this office until 1869. He later became a well-known merchant and auctioneer in Fredericksburg.

⁹ Virginia Deaths and Burial Index, 1853–1917, microfilm no. 2048579, Family History Library, Salt Lake City.

Row (*continued*)

through. She lived from Friday until Monday morning. She was rational and willing to die. Her mother has been ill ever since and I suppose it will be long before she is herself again.¹⁰

It is unclear when John moved his family to Louisa County; they appear to have remained there through January 1865. In a letter by Private George W.E. Row to his sister Nannie dated 29 January 1865, he wrote, "I went to Spot[sylvania] but was taken sick and remained longer than I expected...I then spent one night with Uncle Elhanon and took the cars at Louisa CH the next day, left my mare with Cousin John." In 1869 John bought a farm located somewhere between Verdiersville and the town of Orange and the family moved there.

The Rows of Orange County would never regain the prosperity of the antebellum years, but John did try his hand at other ventures in addition to his work as a farmer. In an edition of the *Virginia Star* published about 1880 there appeared an article entitled "The Goldmines of Spotsylvania,"

An outcropping of the same veins which have been worked by the Chicago-Virginia has been opened on the lands of Jno. S. Row of Orange, and recent experiments develop an immense quantity of ore, and assays have been made of the same, which are highly gratifying to the company, so much so we learn that the requisite machinery will be placed for a thorough development there.

In this regard John was following a precedent set fifty years earlier by his uncle Absalom Row, father of George W.E. Row, who had worked the Grasty mine, among others.

By 1880 James L. Robinson—former sheriff and deputy assistant postmaster of Orange County—was serving as county treasurer. Because of the "gradual failing health and mind of said Robinson, and the consequent inability on his part to conduct properly the duties of his office" taxes due by Orange County to the state of Virginia for the years 1880–1882 in the amount of \$2,303.60 had not been paid. This would seem to have placed the sixteen living sureties of Robinson's official bond, including John and his brother Dr. Elhanon Row, in a difficult spot. Fortunately for all of them, an act passed by Elhanon's colleagues in the House of Delegates on 28 January 1884 provided some relief to these sureties. Because of the unique circumstances attached to the shortfall, the bondsmen were held accountable for only \$460.32 and were given ninety days to make good the loss.¹¹

In a letter dated 6 July 1885 written to his cousin Nannie Row of "Greenfield" in Spotsylvania, John described the marriage of his son Dr. William Dawson Row—an 1883 graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Baltimore—to Blanche Johnson:

Willie and Blanche Johnson were married in church at Orange C.H. last Tuesday at 4½ o.c. P.M. and came

from church to our house. They spent two days with us very pleasantly. I hope they will always be as happy as they were here. Lizzie, Benjamin and Lawrence [children of John and Eliza Row] went up to see them married and returned with them. No invitations were sent out. They did not want any company invited here and we did not. I told Willie I would invite his friends here if he wished it, but he and Blanche preferred to have none. I am glad it was so as I can't afford to give parties. I said nothing about their expecting to be married because very often it happens something happens to prevent it, and then it is unpleasant. They had some nice presents, one from cousin J. Williams [James Tompkins Williams of Lynchburg]. I felt badly I had nothing to give them.

John Row died on 10 April 1892. He and Eliza are buried together at Graham Cemetery.

Sources:

Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Virginia. Microfilm publication M324A War Department Collection of Confederate Records, Record Group 109. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C. United States Federal Census data for years 1850, 1860 and 1870.

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To renew your membership! Did you know that membership dues make up almost 20% of our annual income (another 20% coming from the kindness of our annual fund drive donors)? You can see why your membership is so important to us. Thank You!

¹⁰ John S. Mann, Letters to Sarah Mann, document numbers 2002-015-001-017 through 2002-015-001-021, photocopies, Central Rappahannock Heritage Center, Fredericksburg.

¹¹ Acts and Joint Resolutions, Amending the Constitution, of the General Assembly of the State of Virginia During the Session of 1883–1884, pp. 74-75.

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From the Vault: Civil War

Over the years, the Orange County Historical Society has acquired a small but interesting assortment of Civil War-related artifacts. These include the items shown here, which were given to the Society during our early years in the 1960s and 1970s.

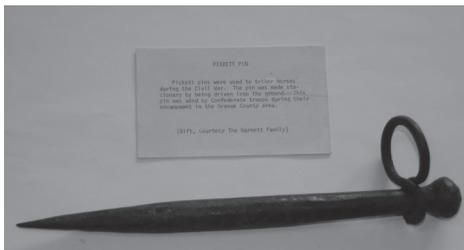


Legal tender during the war, these notes, dated 21 July 1862 and valued at one dollar each, are drawn on the Treasury of Virginia.



An assortment of spent Minié balls (muzzle-loading rifle bullets), were found on Payne's Farm in eastern Orange County. These large-caliber bullets, notorious for their power and for the terrible wounds that they could inflict,

were named after their inventor, Claude-Etienne Minié.



This cast-iron picket pin was used during the war to keep horses from wandering when no fenced area was available. The pin, which is approximately a foot in length, was driven into the ground, then the horse was tethered to the loop on the pin. This picket pin was reportedly used by Confederate troops at an encampment in Orange County.

Please Join Us!

We invite you to join the Orange County Historical Society. Please provide your name and contact information as you wish it to appear in our records and select the appropriate dues level. Mail the completed form, along with your dues payment to The Orange County Historical Society (OCHS), to 130 Caroline Street, Orange, VA 22960.

The Orange County Historical Society is a non-profit organization. Your membership fees are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Name: _____

(If business/organization member, name of business or organization)

Street: _____

City: _____

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Membership Status: New Renewal Address, name, etc. update

Would you be willing to receive meeting notices via email in lieu of a postcard? Yes No

Membership Level: Society dues are for the period of January 1 - December 31.

- Annual Individual Member: \$20
- Annual Student Member (High School or College): \$12.50
- Annual Family Member: \$30
- Annual Sustaining Member: \$100
- Annual Patron Member: \$200
- Annual Sponsor Member: \$300