

Orange Oracle

An Electronic Update from the Orange County Historical Society

Sept. Program Well Attended; Oct. Program Slated for Airport



Our September program was, in a word, *fascinating*. A good size crowd gathered at Taylor Park, Sept. 25, to be spellbound by Craig Jacobs' description and demonstration of 18th- and early 19th-century timber framing building techniques. He covered everything from making the foundation bricks to splitting the roof shakes. The entire program was videoed and edited into a History-to-Go episode. If you missed it in person, by all means, click on this link to see it in its entirety: <https://youtu.be/hcmz9A0RoJg>

Next program- This coming **Sunday, Oct. 30th**, we'll gather indoors at the **Orange County Airport** (11275 Aviation Way) at **3 pm**. Longtime airport advocate Hubert Compton will deliver a talk about the history of the facility.

Interested in Orange County history?

Become a Society Member!

Become a Volunteer!

email

ocvahistorical1965@gmail.com

or click here-

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

A Salute to our Staff

Jean McGann (since 1997) came to Virginia to be near her grandchildren. She answered an ad in the local newspaper for a staff person at the Historical Society. That was in 1997. She's



Jean McGann

been there ever since, although her workload has been reduced from three days a week to one (Thursdays). She remembers interviewing for the job

with then President, Joe Rowe. Concerned about her New York accent, which she still has, she told Rowe, "Don't count me out. You don't know what I can do."

Ruth Long (since 2016) came to Orange County from New York in 1957 when she was a three-year-old. She's been here ever since. Here's a little known fact

about Ruth: she holds a dual citizenship with the Caribbean island of Nevis, from which her grandparents emigrated in 1915. Married to the legendary George Long (plumber, electrician, roofer, small engine repairman extraordinaire) she noticed that he kept the obituary from every funeral he attended. She has expanded and indexed that collection of 800 obituaries to 1600 and as a result has helped numerous folks connect to their long lost relatives.

Jayne Blair (since 2009) came to us from Texas where she served in the Navy and later had a 30-year career with the Dallas



Ruth Long



Jayne Blair



The invitations are out. The wine and hors d'oeuvres have been ordered. The venue has been reserved.

If you are a Society member whose membership is current, you should have received the email invite to the premiere of "Unqualified Promise." If you're not a Society member, this might be a good time to join or renew (hint hint). Here's a link:

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

Also on the invite list are all the donors to the A/V fundraiser, the participants in the Memories and Visions Project, and various town and county leaders both civic and governmental.

Invitees, please note: If you did not receive an invite, CHECK YOUR SPAM FOLDER! This event will take place at the Pavilion at Lakeland (13582 Sedwick Lane, Orange, VA) on Sunday, Nov. 20 from 2-4:30 pm.

To RSVP, please contact event coordinator, Jess Cifizzari at Jess@orangepaints.com or call 540-287-9319. Please RSVP by Nov. 10.

"Unqualified Promise" is a documentary film about the varied history of the Town of Orange. This premiere marks the capstone of the Town's sesquicentennial celebration.

police department. She worked as a jailor, housing project peace officer, city hall security guard, and finally Dallas Airport police officer, where she got to know such luminaries as George Bush (father and son) and Lady Bird Johnson. In fact, she handled roof top security when Air Force Two landed! Author of two books about the Civil War among many other historical publications, Jayne also helped organize the re-enactment of the August 2nd, 1862 Battle of Orange Courthouse, as well as an encampment and demonstration at Montpelier. She calls the Historical Society Research Center "my playpen."



Auditorium Audio-Visual Fundraiser Update-Success!

Thank you to the 45 members who contrib-

uted a total of \$5685 towards the recent auditorium audio-visual (AV) equipment fundraiser! While our goal was \$5800, with 98% of the funding, we are close enough to proceed. This will allow us to upgrade the internet and our equipment so we can provide both live and simulcast programming with better archiving capabilities.

We are also excited to announce a designated donation of \$25,000 to upgrade the physical space within the auditorium. This will include an overall "facelift" to improve both the aesthetics and utility of the space. Because both projects are interdependent, they will run in parallel. The completion dates of the AV portion of the project will be adjusted, if needed, to accommodate the final schedule of the auditorium facelift that is currently in the planning phase. More details to follow. We will keep you posted!

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