

Friends of ESMONT

May 2021 Update

I was hoping to lead with exciting news regarding the **Purvis Store Market**, but we still do not have a closing date. We have reason to believe we will close in the next couple of months, so we patiently wait.

Community Clean-Up Day

We had a successful **community cleanup** in Esmont and surrounding areas on March 27, spear-headed by Ed Brooks of Yancey Community Center. The event was written up in the county newsletter along with pictures. We need to do these cleanups at least twice a year.

Esmont Community Clean-Up Day

The first Esmont Community-Wide Spring Clean-up Days had over 50 volunteers participate. They filled approximately 115 orange bags with roadside trash in Howardsville to Keene. They covered Howardsville, Sand Road/Alberene, Green Mountain, Esmont Village Road, Esmont Porters Road, and the Chestnut Grove neighborhood.

Litter is more than just a mark on our landscape. Litter is costly to clean up, impacts our quality of life and economic development, and eventually ends up in our waterways and oceans.

The Esmont Community-Wide clean-up was a success that we would like to learn from so we can create opportunities to bring neighbors together to pick up litter and keep it out of our waters!



Trail Update

We are moving along with the **Trail**. The county map office is drawing a map for us showing the possible Trail route running from Alberene to Warren with a spur running up to Simpson Park. We will begin by building the Trail starting across from the former Esmont School, through the village and down to Route 6, a distance of about one mile.

A month ago, Senator Creigh Deeds came to Esmont to meet with the Trail Committee and Randy Marcus from CSX. We discussed getting the RR path still owned by CSX turned over to Friends of Esmont, either as a donation or at a reasonable price. Friends of Esmont is also working with County Parks and Rec to get the trail into the Comprehensive Plan.

New on FriendsofEsmont.com

Memories

We have added several new stories to our **Memories** page, one told by Richard Heath, who grew up in Esmont and was a long-time dentist in Charlottesville. Richard grew up on the family farm on Green Mountain Road and has some interesting anecdotes about that time in his life. Read Richard's story [here](#).

I wrote a story about Birthin' Babies and Hog Killin' Time. I sent the Hog Killin' one to my brother, Pete, for verification which resulted in him writing his own version with much more detail as he was more involved in the process than I was. [Click here](#) to check them out. I hope you enjoy all the stories.

Do you have fun or interesting stories to tell of "way back when"?
Send them to me (with pictures if you have them), and we'll post them on the website!

Gallery

Some interesting pictures of the Steeds and their store have been added to the **Gallery** on the website and on our Facebook page. Those photos were submitted by Sue Kamps from California, who is the granddaughter of the Steeds. She is going through her papers and finding some good stuff; we hope to receive more later.

Schuyler Quarry Adventure

Several of us visited the Schuyler Quarry a couple of weeks ago. I was surprised to see it was still operating! They are quarrying in Old Dominion, bringing the stone over to Schuyler for processing. We saw the old quarry there and remnants of the old buildings made of stacked soapstone.



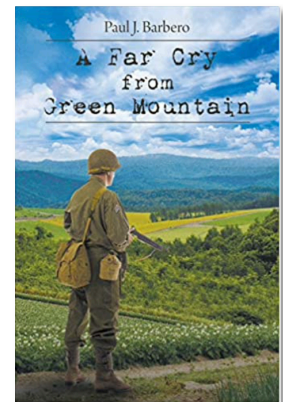
A Visit with Daughters of the American Revolution – Shadwell Chapter

I was delighted to be invited to talk to the **Shadwell Chapter of the DAR** last week. There were 13 members present who were interested in learning the history of Esmont and several of them purchased our book.



A Far Cry from Green Mountain

Dr. Heath gave me another book about Esmont that you need to know about. The name of the book is **“A Far Cry from Green Mountain,”** written by Paul J. Barbero. It is a paperback book telling the life story of Sgt. Frank Peregoy, based on facts gathered from much research. It is very interesting, and I highly recommend it. Sgt. Peregoy was born and raised on Green Mountain in Esmont and the only soldier in American history to have earned the nation’s two highest awards for valor, The Soldier’s Medal and The Congressional Medal of Honor. There is a state marker in his honor at the intersection of Emmet Street and West Main in Charlottesville, and the entry to the National Guard building on Avon Street is named Peregoy Lane. You can read about this in an article on our [website](#).



Together Again!

Looks as though we will soon be able to have in-person meetings again! I will let you know when I find a meeting place.

Until Next Time...

Peggy Denby