

Orange Oracle

An Occasional Electronic Update from the Orange County Historical Society

History-to-Go

“Sentimental Journey: Dogwood Village...50 Years” tells the story of the Orange County Nursing Home from its humble beginnings to the present. The tale of this remarkable facility is told by residents, staff and board members. Just click on this link:

<https://youtu.be/SeT3mbm1AX0>

We’re not sure what the topic of the next History-to-Go will be, but there’s a rumor afoot that Frank Walker will be dusting off his popular Gold Mining talk!

Live Programs to Return?

We’re also not sure when we’ll go back to hosting live programs at the Research Center. But there’s talk of maybe hosting a picnic or two this summer and going back to having indoor programs possibly as early as September. It all depends on the pace of vaccinations and the retreat of the virus.

In the meantime, we will keep making History-to-Go available online, and once we resume live presentations, we’re going to try to record them and continue to make them available to those who can’t come to the research center.

Those who do come to the research center for a live presentation will be pleasantly surprised by the addition of new chairs in the auditorium, pictured at the bottom of page 2.

Matthews Mill...now and then



Snowfall last month made the mill dam across the Pamunkey Creek highly visible from above. The figure wearing the red coat is OCHS President, Ray Ezell, who is studying old mill sites.



From the Vault– the Seely Sword



Boy Scout Identified



An alert reader, Virginia Donnelly, identified this Troop 111 Boy Scout for us. He is Michael Turner, son of Molly Turner.

Oracle's New Look

You may have noticed a slight change in the look of this publication. Truth be told, your beleaguered editor was growing tired of navigating the mysterious rabbit's warren that is Apple's "Pages" program; he reverted to a program with which he is more familiar: Microsoft Publisher.

Become a Society Member

Some of you may be receiving this publication and still not be members. That's Okay. We want to reach out to anyone interested in Orange County history. But...please consider becoming a member of the Orange County Historical Society. We'd love to include you in on everything we have to offer.

Just click here...

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

The Charles Sherlock Seely sword is an interesting artifact housed in the Society vault. Its tag reads, "Chas. S. Seely's China Station sword 1924." A native of Orange County and



naval veteran of World War I, Seely was promoted to Lt. Commander in the U.S. Navy in 1922 and retired in 1934. He served at several duty stations around the world and completed his career as a highly decorated seaman. During retirement, he became a renowned author and expert on geo-politics and international relations. He died at Rapidan, VA in 1969.

His naval officer's saber (and scabbard) were donated to the Society and are in excellent condition, resembling the USN Model 1852 pattern. The blade is decorated with naval motifs (anchor/knot/shield) and embossed with Seely's name. The blade bears the mark of the "M.C. Lilley & Co., Columbus, Ohio," which was founded in 1864 and became one of America's largest manufacturers of military regalia. The company went out of business in 1965. Charles Seely's sword is one of the Society's most attention-grabbing items.



New chairs at the research center. Comfy too!