

Orange Oracle

An electronic update from the Orange County Historical Society

History-to-Go



PHOTO COURTESY CLORE FURNITURE

Clore Furniture has been located in this facility in the Hebron Valley of Madison County since the 1920s.

A History of Clore Furniture

An eighth-generation descendant of the original Clore family of the Germanna Colony, Troy Coppage, presented a fascinating history of the family furniture business that has been operating in Madison County since the 1820s. Visit: <https://youtu.be/B09Wy6o7OUk>

Duff Green Stories

A collection of memories told by a pillar of the Orange County community who passed March 25 at the age of 94. This video was gleaned from interviews with Duff Green for several documentaries and oral histories for the Orange County Historical Society and the James Madison Museum. It premiered on the date of his funeral, May 13. Here's the link: <https://youtu.be/r8WkBgVwVgY>

Local history class revitalized at Prospect Heights Middle School

By Jennifer Conley

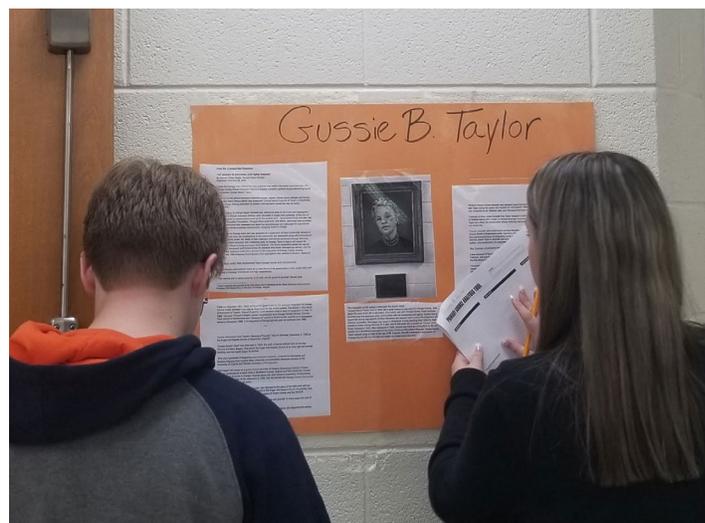
Because of Covid, the “Local History” course I have been teaching at Prospect Heights had to take a break... until this year. Armed with the vast pool of information made available by the Orange County Historical Society’s Educator Resources collection and using various books and media, written mostly by local authors about Orange County, my wheels were already in motion.

My first introduction to the class involved Frank Walker’s book *Remembering: A History of Orange County, Virginia*. I took several topics from the book to create an activity called “Fact or

Fiction?” Students were given several statements and had to decide which were fiction or which were just too strange to be fiction (factual). It’s a great way to break the ice and teach some tidbits and fun facts that sometimes don’t fit into the bigger topics that I teach. A few of the statements are: “When Orange was established in 1734, its western boundary was the Mississippi River,” and “The Father of American bourbon started out as a preacher.” Both, by the way, are facts.

We next spent some time learning about the Germanna colony. Part of that exercise in-

See **LOCAL HISTORY**, page 4



Two of Jennifer Conley’s students take notes on the historical significance and contributions that Gussie Taylor made to the Orange County School System.

PHOTO COURTESY JENNIFER CONLEY

2023 programs

> **Sunday, May 28, 4 p.m.**

Traditional Blacksmithing with the Rev. Charles McRaven

The multi-talented Charles McRaven is pastor at Waddell Memorial Presbyterian Church in Rapidan. He is also an accomplished stone mason. For his blacksmithing demo, please meet at the shelter at Veterans Park off of Newton Street behind Orange Elementary School. Bring a picnic, if you'd like. Note the time: 4 p.m.

> **Sunday, June 25, 6 p.m.**

The History of Mayhurst with Jason Cashell

12460 Mayhurst Lane,
Orange. Bring a picnic.

> **Sunday, July 30, 6 p.m.**

Grymes School 75th Anniversary with Margaret Hill

13775 Spicer's Mill Rd.,
Orange. Bring a picnic.

> **Sunday, August 27, 6 p.m.**

The History of Woodley by Steve Sanford

Woodley Road. Bring a picnic.

> **Sunday, September 24, 3 p.m.**

The History of Bloomsbury with Bethany Sullivan

Bloomsbury Road. Bring a picnic.

> **Sunday, October 29, 3 p.m.**

Preservation Virginia (formerly APVA) Revolving Loan Fund with Gordon Rohr

Meet at the newly renovated OCHS Sandra Speiden auditorium at 130 Caroline St., Orange.

Little Petersburg Cemetery clean up: *Before and after* April 23 work day



After the major tree and brush clearing this winter, the site is noticeably more appealing; more open, and the cemetery portion, in particular, looks structured and organized. Though not yet fully manicured, the area is clear enough that it should be practical to control vegetation through the summer months. Additional tree work, including taking down some of the smaller trees among the graves, is planned in the coming months. Footing on the "trail" leading into the site is still poor. Improving it will be a priority.



PHOTO BY MARCIA COLBY

Thanks to all those who have helped us get this far. This spring's team included from left to right: Bruce Monroe, Barry Barr, Greg Monroe (standing), Patrick Colby (seated), Melvin Monroe (standing), Detrick Monroe (seated) and Ellen Wessell with 'Bug.'

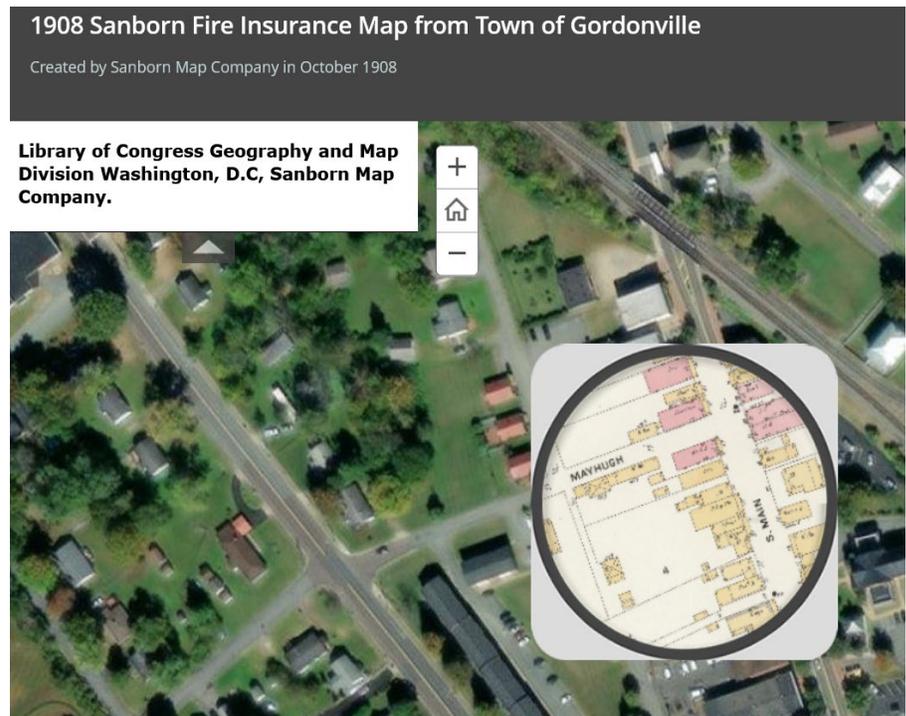
Spyglass on the Past: Orange and Gordonsville

By Ray Ezell

Recently, at the request of the Orange County Historical Society, the Geographic Information Services (GIS) office of the Orange County Administration kindly created historic overlay mapping for current aerial imagery for the towns of Orange and Gordonsville. These map overlays are called, "Spyglass on the Past," and the application contains the 1878 Atlas maps, as well as the 1905 and 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps of Gordonsville and Orange.

The O.W. Gray & Son Atlas maps are the oldest and best detailed maps in existence for both towns, and they contain important information on the locations and ownership of buildings for a period that has not been widely researched. The Sanborn maps provide important information not only for the location and designs of buildings, but also what type of businesses occupied these structures. These maps have been geo-referenced to modern features and are extremely accurate; so it is easy to see how a particular lot has changed since the late 19th century.

These free applications can be easily used for public research. They demonstrate an important public-private partnership between our agencies that stimulates historic research and highlights the significance of historic preservation in Orange County. Jim Whipp of the county's GIS department is to be especially thanked for his help in this effort. I encourage our readers to view these map overlays and use them in your own investigation of the history of Gordonsville and Orange.



Pictured is an Orange County GIS map of downtown Gordonsville with an added filter of the 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for historical comparisons. For reference, High Street is the larger road at left, with Main Street running under the railroad overpass at right—just above the inset.

The maps can be found at the following links:

Town of Orange 1878 Map:

<https://data-orangecountygis.hub.arcgis.com/apps/spyglass-on-the-past-town-of-orange-historical-1878-map-amp-today/explore>

Town of Orange 1905 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map:

<https://orangecountygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/StorytellingSwipe/index.html?appid=abd0d206d1d548539b32dc9748b30949>

Town of Gordonsville 1878 Map:

<https://orangecountygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/StorytellingSwipe/index.html?appid=535c371e894441359f222584b70fddfc&fbclid=I-wAR353NYGT00hd7FvykZdCVMLrRVR8byM-GYR5bukQHQA235Zz2U-w9v30yv0>

Town of Gordonsville 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map:

<https://orangecountygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/StorytellingSwipe/index.html?appid=1e42929002844715ac0f6c0e6279c114&fbclid=I-wAR0Rv-naghDyPyHvb1WsYhgdXMP4HWyRkwF9sFSdzPtSILaOK1Rg-mYhZd2k>

volved looking at the surnames of the original colonists and making connections to those same names in the area today, as well as famous descendants of the colony. Another day, we watched Phil Audibert's documentary *America in Embryo*.

From there, it was only natural to look at the local homes built in the 18th century using Ann Miller's book *Antebellum Orange*. Students learned about these homes and recorded information about architectural style, original owners and patents, and if there was a cemetery present.

Another useful educational tactic is called the "jigsaw" activity; it is particularly helpful when there is a lot of information to present. Each group of students chooses a topic to research and then creates a presentation to share with the rest of the class so that they learn about multiple topics. I did this activity in the fall to learn about James Madison and Montpelier, and again in February for African American History Month.

I also used some resources about the Marquis de Lafayette and the American Revolution in Orange County. From there, we moved to the Civil War, using Phil Audibert's film *All Four Years*, as a baseline. It also set the students up for our guest speaker, A.J. Austin from the Exchange Hotel in Gordonsville.

Other guest speakers included Mary O'Neill, a park ranger from Fredericksburg and Spotylvania National Military Park



PHOTO COURTESY JENNIFER CONLEY

Pictured is the author, Prospect Heights Middle School social studies teacher Jennifer Conley portraying Rosie the Riveter.

who came to speak about the Battle of the Wilderness. Our very own Ruth Long spoke about the one and two-room schools that dotted the county before consolidation. Bruce Monroe of the Orange County African American Historical Society gave an informative chat about the history of Orange County.

On Veteran's Day, with the help of the OCHS History Resources, I prepared a slide show about local veterans. Our su-

perintendent, Dr. Hornick, even paid us a visit to learn about this topic. I always teach my students about Veterans Day each year.

There are so many excellent primary and secondary sources that have been compiled by the OCHS Education Committee. Take freedmen's communities for example. I took what was there and then looked for images of old schools, churches, and homes, even a location on Google Maps, so students could learn where a community was located. I showed Phil Audibert's film *Rediscovering Little Petersburg*, and Mr. Monroe described what freedmen's communities were like from his own experience, enhancing their understanding of a time so different from their own.

There are topics I haven't covered yet. So, creating lessons around them will be my focus for next year. Forty five days is not enough time to teach the richness of Orange County's history, but I have worked hard to send students off with a lot of knowledge about this special place where we all live.

Call for volunteers

Is there a volunteer job that you would like to do for the Orange County Historical Society that you haven't seen in our monthly "Call for Volunteers?" Let us know of your ideas and thoughts! Please email Volunteer Coordinator May Saxton at OCHistVolunteers@gmail.com.

Oracle items

Do you have a news item for the Oracle? Send your stuff to: Phlodbear@aol.com. Deadline for the next issue is June 18.