

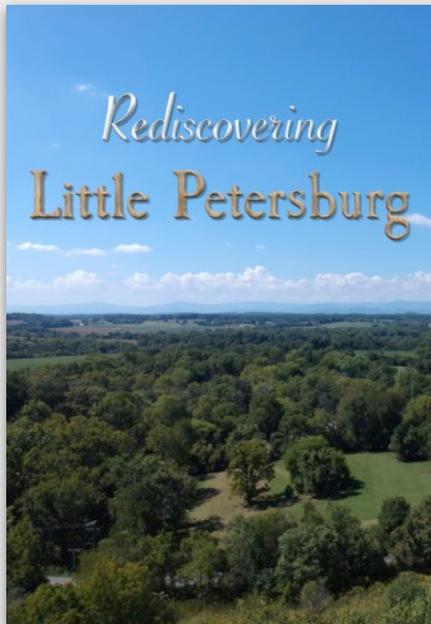
Orange Oracle

An Occasional Electronic Update from the Orange County Historical Society

Newsbits

Ed Spark's Trunk

The Society has been offered the contents of a trunk belonging to the late Ed Sparks. It reportedly contains World War II memorabilia from when he served in Italy. But thanks to the Covid-19 pandemic, the society has not had a chance to follow up on this kind offer.



Another victim of the pandemic was the March 30 screening of the video documentary **Rediscovering Little Petersburg; a look at**



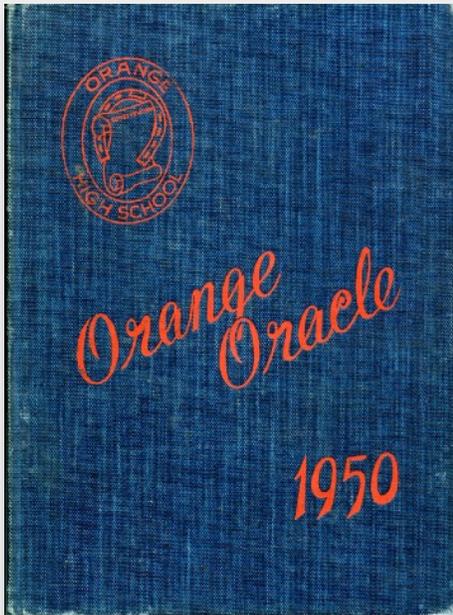
Historic Mills Project Update

Editor's Note- Board member Ray Ezell is researching old mills in our area. The small amount of archival data included below is derived in part from Jack Frazer's 2017 book, The Pamunkey Neighborhood: 1727-2016.

The ruins of the Brockman/Graves/Matthews Mill on Pamunkey Creek in the Lahore neighborhood consists of a partially intact mill scape including a mill seat ruin, large earth/stone dam abutments, earth/poured concrete millpond retaining enclosure, and relict (partial) millrace. None of the mill's former machinery or gearing remains. Few surface artifacts were noted, but the area is heavily overgrown.

This mill was established ca. 1850 by William L. Brockman, Jr. After the Civil War the mill was owned/operated by Mr. Graves until about 1910. In 1910 the mill

the past, present and future of a rural freedman's community. Five DVD copies of the documentary have been donated to the Historical Society for sale through its online bookstore. The DVDs were donated in memory of co-Producer, David Sides who passed in early May. \$19.95. All proceeds benefit the historical society.



OCHS Although we look upon our initials to mean Orange County Historical Society, most people in the county think of the high school instead. Thanks to Mike Saxton for coming up with the name of our publication, the *Orange Oracle* because it used to be the name of the Orange County High School yearbook . . . before it became the *Golden Horseshoe*.



passed to Joseph H. Matthews and continued under his ownership until 1938 when the mill operation was destroyed by a flood (Frazer 2017). Exact beginning date for the mill operation has not been determined at this time. In 1916 and 1917, the mill and its immediate surroundings was the location of a number of encampments of Orange Boy Scout Troop No. 1 (Ezell 2018).

Scuffletown- What's in a name?

Editor's Note- A humorous discussion has been going back and forth on the origin of the name of the hamlet, Scuffletown. It seems it was a place where people...scuffled! Here's what Bill Speiden has heard:

I'm told of two possible sites for high times happening in/around Scuffletown, famous for its moonshine and Saturday nights. 1. In downtown Scuffletown, on the Orange/Greene county line was an inn/tavern - I believe it is still standing. 2. Just 50 feet north from the Brooking holding (Springdale) are the remains of an old ice house. Over this icehouse was the Springdale main barn. It was supposedly in this barn that the "Scuffletown" Saturday night dances took place. Shine flowed, politics were cussed and discussed and tempers occasionally flared. *Editor's note: Frank Walker added that similar scuffles erupted at Robinson Tavern in Locust Grove in the 1990s.*