

Orange Oracle

An Electronic Update from the Orange County Historical Society

New Program Schedule

After a two year hiatus, the Orange County Historical Society is going back to live programming! We hope to present to our membership a “live” program at the research center on Sunday, April 24, at 3:00 PM.

It will be the premiere of producer Phil Audibert’s (AHHA Productions) most recent documentary, “Roads, Taverns and Mills: Cornerstones of Community.” The 53-minute program looks into how roads, taverns, and mills interconnect to form communities in 18th- and 19th-century Virginia.

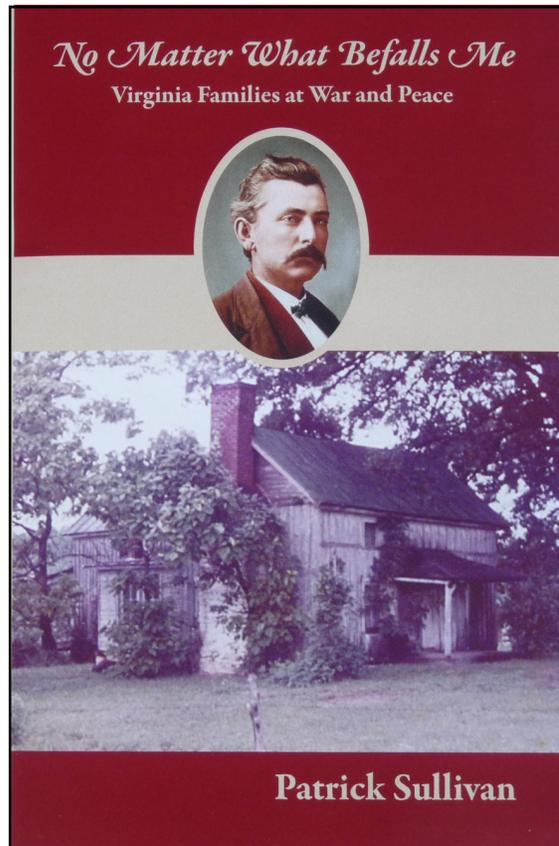
For those of us still uncomfortable with indoor gatherings, the program will also be available that day at the same time via YouTube link.

From May through August, our programs will move outdoors for monthly picnic gatherings. All picnic meetings will be scheduled for 6 PM with the program to start at 7 PM. Rain, thunder, and lightning will cancel. Here’s a tentative schedule:

- Waverley Gardens: Sunday, May 29, 6:00 PM
- Matthews Mill: Sunday June 26, 6:00 PM
- Blue Run Baptist Church: Joint meeting with the OCAHS- Sunday July 31, 6:00 PM

OCHS Author Receives Honor

By Lynne Lewis



We are delighted to announce that Patrick Sullivan, author of *No Matter What Befalls Me: Virginia Families at War and Peace*, will receive the 2022 Dr. Edward Alvey, Jr. Education Award from the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation later this month. This collection of historical essays was published by the Orange County His-

torical Society in 2015. The award recognizes significant contributions made to the advancement of preservation-related education. In addition to his book, Mr. Sullivan publishes the blog: *Spotsylvania Memory* (<http://spotsylvaniamemory.blogspot.com>). It covers not only Spotsylvania, but also surrounding counties.

If you haven’t read *No Matter What Befalls Me*, you are in for an educational treat. Copies may be ordered from www.orangecovahist.org/books-dvds.html or purchased at our Research Center (130 Caroline Street, Orange, VA).

Other programs that we're considering for 2022 and beyond:

Maplewood Cemetery, Architecture From the Ground Up, Orange County Airport, Knights of the Golden Horseshoe, Germanna Archaeology, 150th Anniversary of the Town of Orange documentary, Football in Orange Since 1940, Law Enforcement.

History-to-Go:

Memories Greatest Hits, Part 1

Ever since the fall of 2018, the "Memories" oral history project has focused on the life stories of residents of Dogwood Village and the surrounding community of Orange County. As many as 30 oral histories were collected before Covid shut the project down.

"Memories Greatest Hits, Part 1" is a compilation of the high points of some of producer Phil Audibert's favorite interviews. This program was originally presented at the research center on Nov. 25, 2019. The fact that it's called "Part 1" leaves open the possibility of a sequel...or two. To watch "Memories Greatest Hits, Part 1," just click on this link:

<https://youtu.be/gjpnLoWVH4o>

Know someone who might like to receive the *Oracle*?

Send us their email address!

ocvahistorical1965@gmail.com

Interested in Orange County history?

Become a Society Member!

Want to help?

Become a volunteer!

Click here-

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

From the vault

By Ray Ezell



This month's column focuses on this cast aluminum nameplate from the former Snead & Company of Orange, donated to the Society by Bob Hickerson.

Snead & Company operated in Orange during WWII and manufactured "pontons" (sometimes referred to as "pontoons") for boats and metal bridges, glider aircraft, as well as fuel tanks for fighter aircraft. Metal plates reading "Orange, VA" began to be placed on all pontons after employees argued that products turned out from Orange should be distinguished from those of the Jersey City facility. The management apparently agreed.

The plant produced transport gliders for the US Navy, which rapidly adopted this technology for military applications during the early war years. At its height of production in 1945, the Orange facility employed more than 600 people. At the end of the war, the plant remained in Orange and rapidly transformed its operation to the design and manufacture of metal library book stacks and conveyors, of which they were a recognized industry pioneer.

Let the Society know if you have any photos or recollections of the wartime operations at Snead & Company by emailing ocvahistorical1965@gmail.com



*New Bookcases
at Research Center*