

Orange Oracle

An Occasional Electronic Update from the Orange County Historical Society

History-to-Go

This month, we're going to try something new; we will "broadcast" our next History-to-Go at **7 pm, Monday, June 28** via Zoom with a "live" Q & A session afterwards. The program is entitled "Now This...Extras," a collection of outtakes that didn't make it into the original documentary about WJMA Radio (posted last month on History-to-Go). These "Extras" offer an informative and sometimes humorous glimpse into the behind-the-scenes world of a rural radio station. The program lasts just under one hour. Ross Hunter, Phil Audibert and a few other WJMA alums (we hope) will be available to answer questions afterwards in this, our first attempt to slowly bring back live programs on the last Monday of the month. To join the meeting at 7 pm, Monday, June 28th, click this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/9281960141>

If you can't join us live, "Extras" will also be made available by clicking on this link after 7 pm, June 28th.

<https://youtu.be/elelITWapiE>

From our mailbox

Concerning the "New (Old) Mill Found" story in the April edition of the Oracle, Historian Ann Miller writes "I went back over the entries from the late 18th-century road orders, and I interpret the road evidence as Magruder's mill--this is the one by current Rt. 231 near Frascati.



U.S. Geological Survey Markers

By Bill Speiden

Several years ago, I was weed eating some light brush near the end of my driveway at the junction of Orange County routes 609 (Scuffletown

Road) and 644 (Ridge Road) and uncovered a concrete monument about one and a half inches above ground and seven inches square with a brass medallion mounted on it.

It was engraved with "U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY." Second line reads "COOPERATION WITH THE STATE." The bottom lines read "250 DOLLARS FINE FOR DISTURBING THIS MARK". The center has a triangle stamped in it; and, now obliterated, was a pointed dent in the middle of the triangle to be used by surveyors to plumb on for accurate measurements.

It also reads "MM 23 1929." That's the year it was installed. According to Ray Ezell, the "MM 23" is a code employed by the USGS to denote what kind of a control marker it is. Under the date are the words "ELEVATION ABOVE SEA." Below and to the right of the triangle is the word "FEET", and under and to the left is stamped "451," indicating 451 feet above sea level right here.

\$250 fine for disturbing was a serious offense then as the average laborer's wage was \$1 a day. That fine would



"I'm wondering if your 'mystery mill' was a private plantation mill of some persuasion--in which case there might not be any viewers' report or process in the county records. But something might turn up on the land title for that tract... Your mill also would be different from Perry's mill, which stood on a low spot on that loop road (Rt. 654) that now bears that name."

Become a Society Member

We want to reach out to anyone interested in Orange County history. Please consider becoming a member of the Orange County Historical Society. Just click here...

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

OCHS Mission Statement

The Orange County Historical Society is a research, archival, and educational organization dedicated to the discovery, preservation, and dissemination of the history of the people, places, organizations, and events of Orange County, Virginia, and the surrounding area.

Orange Oracle Editor: Phil Audibert
For comments and contributions
contact him at phlodbear@aol.com

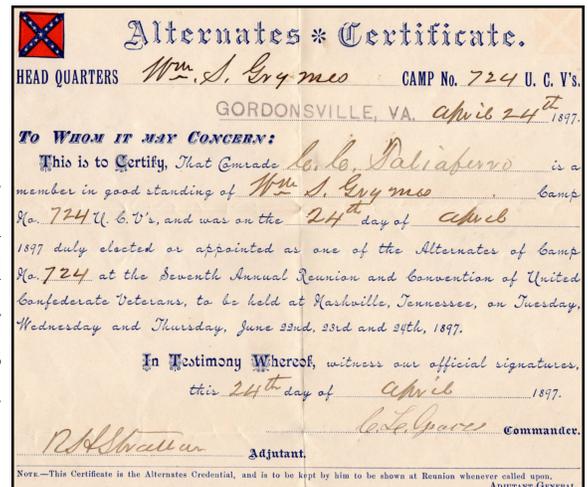
equal 250 days' work! In today's wages, say at \$15 an hour, that would equal \$15x8 (hours a day) or \$120 a day x 250 days would come to a \$30,000 fine.

The United States Geological Survey was created by an Act of Congress in 1879. One of its first directors was John Wesley Powell, the famed explorer. The USGS is the main science agency of the Department of the Interior.

From the Vault

By Ray Ezell

This month's column highlights a document related to the United Confederate Veterans (UCV) organization.



This image depicts an "Alternates Certificate" issued to C.C. (Charles Champe) Taliaferro by the William S. Grymes Camp (No. 724) of Gordonsville for the Seventh Annual Reunion and Convention of UCV, held in Nashville, Tennessee, June 22-24, 1897. C.L. Graves signed the certificate as commander of the Camp.

The UCV was a national organization established in 1889 for Confederate veterans and their sons. The William S. Grymes Camp was organized at Gordonsville in 1895, and by 1907 the chapter had moved to the Town of Orange. It was named for William Grymes who was a Confederate surgeon during the Civil War.

C.C. Taliaferro resided at Nasons, east of Orange. He was a judge, the president of the Orange Telephone Company, and member of the House of Delegates.