

# Orange Oracle

An Occasional Electronic Update from the Orange County Historical Society

## History-to-Go

"A Brief History of Orange County, Virginia"- Frank Walker takes us on a 40-minute journey that touches on all the high points of our county's rich and varied story. If you didn't see it already (part of the Annual Meeting, Feb. 1) you can always go to the Society's YouTube channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvPfUSloS7GZW4Pce\\_17XQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvPfUSloS7GZW4Pce_17XQ)

## Welcome New Board Members

### Richard Floyd

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Richard spent, until he was 15 or so, most summers at his grandmother's farm in Barboursville. He attended college in Virginia, and after ten years in Missouri, returned to Virginia in 2009. Both at UVA, his wife, Desiree, worked researching brain cancer therapies, and Richard taught courses, mostly in the School of



## A Farewell

by Lynne Lewis

This will be my last time addressing you as President of the Orange County Historical Society.

First, I would like to thank my fellow board members, past and present, who have been most excellent team members and made my job that much easier. Their devotion and creativity have enabled us to explore new avenues of communication or improve old methods. From the most mundane tasks to the most demanding, they were always ready to dive in.

Next, I want to thank our always impressive staff – Jean McGann, Jayne E. Blair and Ruth Mallory Long. They are the people who keep things running smoothly, day in and day out. And they have been the heroes during the past year, working once we re-opened in June and maintaining

Continuing & Professional Studies.

Richard's chief focus as a historian is modern Britain, and he has written two books in that area, with a third one in the offing. Richard and Desiree have four children and reside in Barboursville.

### **Rod Hawkins**

Rod was born at Gordonsville Hospital in 1954 and his wife was born there 7 months later. They live in her parent's house in Gordonsville where they can see the delivery room window in which they were both born. Rod grew up in the Town of Orange and graduated from Orange County High School in 1973.

After graduating from Madison College (now James Madison University) in 1977 with degrees in Psychology and Elementary education, Rod began his teaching career. He taught Social Studies, Language Arts, and Reading during his 42 years at Prospect Heights and the High School during his career. Rod and his wife have a son and daughter, both in teaching, along with three grandchildren.

### **Ruth Mallory Long**

This will be Ruth's second time on the Historical Society's

the needed protocols so we can remain open. Their knowledge and ability to help our members and visitors is unparalleled.

And finally, but not last, I would like to thank all our wonderful members. Your support over the many years I have been closely associated with the OCHS is a measure of your interest in and caring about Orange County history. With your help we have been able to improve the 'greenness' of our building (and in the process, save), keep our equipment up to date, and slowly but surely digitize our collection, which will one day be online.

On a personal note, I take great pride in our publications program, from the twice-yearly newsletter, *Record*, to our most recent book, *No Matter What Befalls Me*. The greatest regret is that we have not been able to launch a building campaign. We are bursting at the seams, and as our collections continue to grow, we must find room to properly store and preserve the items entrusted to us. But I trust that in the near future, the Society will be able to undertake a project of that magnitude. After all, if our founders could do it in 1979, we can do it before 2079!

So, thank you, everyone, for your hard work, energy, creativity, passion, and support. I have enjoyed my time as President and I retire knowing that the Historical Society will move forward in fine fashion.

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## A Welcome

by Ray Ezell

It's with great pleasure that I've been elected your next Society president. Our former president, Lynne Lewis, has served with great distinction for several years and has left large shoes to fill. It's almost unfair to any president that comes behind her; she has set the bar very high.

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and provide a bit of my vision for our Society as we move forward. I am a native of East Tennessee, having moved to

Board. She has also been with the Orange County African-American Historical Society, including a year and a half serving as its President.

Most recently retired from 31 years as an employee of the Commonwealth, she worked for two years at the University of Virginia and 29 years with the Orange County school system. Before that, a job that made a lasting impression on Ruth was serving as camp councilor for blind adults at Camp Blue Ridge.

A fun fact is that Ruth holds dual citizenship with the United States and St. Kitts/Nevis, where her predecessors originally hailed from. She has been happily married to George Long for 26+ years and is a silent partner in his farmer's market enterprise.

Her primary interest is genealogy. Her Black obituary collection contains more than 1,600 items and continues to grow, becoming a valuable resource for our county history.

### **Joe Wayner**

A former board member, Joe is President of Wayner Construction Company, which has been operating in Orange County since 1973.

Orange in 2005 with my wife, Barbara, and daughter, Kaitlin. I am a regional archaeologist with the Va. Dept. of Transportation and have been a Boy Scout volunteer for many years. I coach youth football and basketball and enjoy University of Tennessee athletics. My wife and I have two dogs, Josie and Mr. Darcy.

As your next OCHS president, I hope to build upon the collective successes we've enjoyed over the previous years and lay the groundwork for greater success in the coming year and beyond. My priorities include expanding our membership, broadening our research initiatives, deepening our public outreach and educational efforts, and expanding the society's relevance for our members and the general public. As a matter of fact, in the next issue of the *Orange Oracle*, you will notice a new column, *From the Vault*, which will spotlight interesting objects housed in the OCHS repository. I hope you'll enjoy it.

In the meantime, each of you can help me get started by replying with one thing that you'd like to see the society engaged in over the next few years. You can reply to me at: rayezell\_2000@yahoo.com.

I'm looking forward to a productive and exciting 2021.

Ray Ezell

### **Orange County Historical Society**

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**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 Orange County, Virginia, of its people, and the surrounding area.**