

Orange Oracle

An Occasional Electronic Update from the Orange County Historical Society

History-to-Go

In honor of Black History month, the February installment of History-to-Go is "Someday: The Unexpected Story of School Integration in Orange County, Virginia." Produced by local videographers Phil Audibert and Ross Hunter, this documentary debuted to overflow crowds at the society research center in September of 2017. Just follow this link to view the 55-minute film:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvPfUSIoS7GZW4Pce_17XQ

Next up is "Sentimental Journey: Dogwood Village... 50 Years," a celebration of the Orange County Nursing Home from its humble beginnings to the present.

Membership Survey

"We want to hear from you," says the Membership Committee, as it prepares a questionnaire and survey. What we're trying to find out is: are we doing a good job? Are we meeting



Does Anyone Know Who This Is?

February 8, 2021, was the 111th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), and in the Town of Orange, Scouting has been active at least since 1915. This photo was taken in 1968 in Orange and shows an unidentified member of Boy Scout Troop 111.

Troop 111 was Orange County's only Black Boy Scout troop. It was organized in November 1967, and its first Scoutmaster was John T. Bracey of Somerset. By 1968 the troop had grown to more than 40 boys. We'd like to know who is this Boy Scout in the photo. If you recognize him or were a member of Troop 111 and have memories or photos you'd like to share, please contact Ray Ezell at rayezell_2000@yahoo.com.

From the Vault

Editor's note- A new regular feature of the Orange Oracle, this column will focus on a document, artifact or object we've found in the vault at the Historical Society. Any help amplifying or identifying items from this treasure trove is much appreciated.

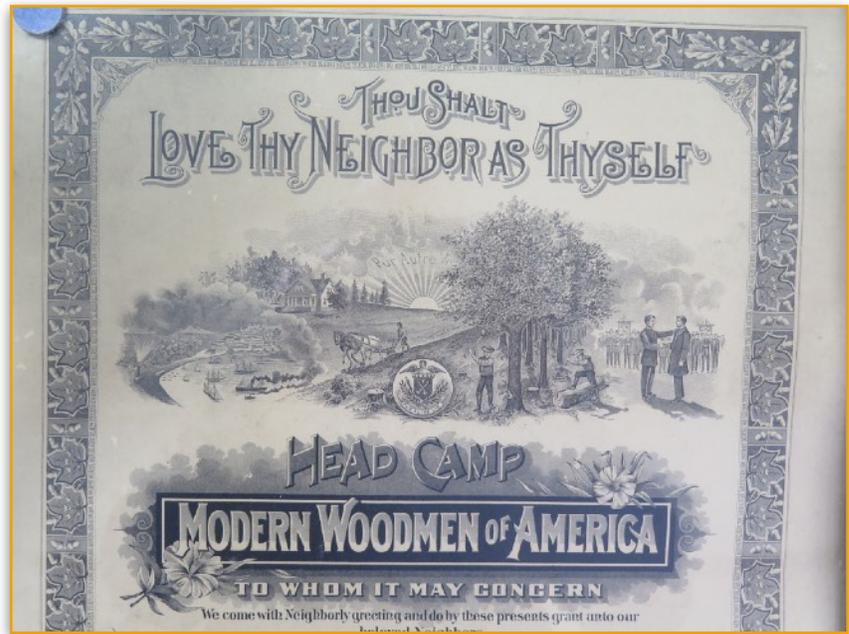
expectations? What OCHS activities interest you the most? What kinds of programs and activities would you like to see in the future? What skills do you have that you might consider contributing as a volunteer? **And please consider serving on any of the society's eight committees:** Program; Finance and Development; Research; Education and Outreach; Membership and Volunteers; Building and Grounds; Collections; Publications. You do not have to be a board member to serve on a committee. The survey will appear in your email box in early March. Please take a few minutes to fill it out and return it.

Research Center Back Open Mondays

As the Covid crisis begins to ease, the Orange County Historical Society will be open on Mondays again, effective March 1. Regular hours will now be 1-5 pm Monday through Friday. The usual mask and social distancing requirements remain in place.

New officers elected

President- Ray Ezell
Vice President- Mike Saxton
Secretary- Hilarie Hicks
Treasurer- Clara Colby



The photograph above is of a portion of the original charter for the Orange County chapter of the Modern Woodmen of America (Camp No. 15272). The certificate is dated October 27, 1914 and contains a number of prominent Orange County names, including: Norman C. Bailey, Judson A. Ballard, Manley W. Carter, Edwin W. Cooke, Frank R. Fenton, Lacy E. Gravatt, Hubbard Hoffman, Earl E. Miller, Raymond Z. Nelsen, Herbert G. Purdy, Armand J. Schwalbe, George M. Schwalbe, Virginius R. Shackelford, Richard S. Sutherland, and Graham Winn. The charter prominently depicts the clearing of forested land and plowing fields, imagery that would have conveyed a sense of financial stability to its viewers and members. The French slogan, "*pur autre vie*" translates literally to "pure other life," reinforcing the mission of the organization. The Modern Woodmen of America (MWA) was founded in 1883 and is one example of several fraternal and benefit societies that became popular during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The MWA was headquartered in Illinois and boasted more than a million members in 1910. The MWA still functions today as an insurance carrier. It is not known when the Orange camp dissolved.