

# Orange Oracle

An Occasional Electronic Update from the Orange County Historical Society

## History-to-Go

Frank Walker presents the unique history of gold mining in Orange County, Virginia. In Part I, "Gold Mining in the Wilderness," he tells us about the geology that produced gold in this region as well as the stories of the ore-producing mines and the people who worked them. In Part II, "History of the Vaucluse Gold Mine," Frank discusses the region's most famous and productive gold mining operation. Just click on this link:

<https://youtu.be/IVbAczW3mxA>

Next up: "Now This," a history of WJMA Radio station.



## New (Old) Mill Found

*Society President, Ray Ezell, inspects a hitherto unknown mill site on the banks of Blue Run in the Somerset area.*

"This mill was not in operation during the mid-19th century, indicating it was an 18th-century mill or ceased operation by 1860 (or both)," he notes. "There are several references to Barbour's Mill beginning in 1775, but

## Clean Up Day!

By Mike Saxton

Recently, eight volunteers spent a Saturday afternoon cleaning up clutter in and around the Research Center.



They renewed the front landscape by trimming & mulching; picked up a garbage bag of trash around the outside of the building; hauled out 15 garbage bags of indoor trash; put a large assemblage of beat up furniture and miscellaneous items on the curb for pickup; broke down and recycled a pickup truck's worth of cardboard boxes; piled up about ten electronic items like old computer monitors for recycling; started re-inventorying the mechanical room; and made a good effort distributing some



collections around the auditorium for more thorough review.

The back storage closet in the auditorium has gone from too stuffed

to get into to 75% emptied in the process. We also donated and moved the unused trophy cabinet at the rear of the auditorium to the James Madison Museum of Orange County Heritage where they do, in fact, have a need for it. And we sent a pick up truck load of stuff to Goodwill.

We are far from done and many hands make light work so we will plan to continue these clean up days in the spring and fall to align with the Town of Orange cleanup periods.

it's difficult to tie the 18th-century nomenclature for roads/streams to that in use in the mid-late 19th century. A working hypothesis is that this is Barbour's Mill. Only archival research can determine if it is in fact the case." Ezell adds, "We need to get more people involved with this mill project to track down leads in the county records."

### Become a Society Member

Some of you may be receiving this publication and still not be members. That's Okay. We want to reach out to anyone interested in Orange County history. But...please consider becoming a member of the Orange County Historical Society. We'd love to include you in on everything we have to offer.  
Just click here...

## From the Vault—

By Ray Ezell

The silver trophy cup pictured here has been in the collection of the Orange County Historical Society for a number of years. Little specific information is known about it or the circumstances under which it was given to the Society. The trophy bears the inscription of Marion DuPont Somerville (Marion DuPont Scott) president of the Orange County Horse Show and Racing Association. The trophy was likely presented to one of the 37 class winners at the 30th annual horse show held at the show grounds outside the Town of Orange in July 1929.



The event drew a total of 548 horses from across Virginia and the East Coast, and was attended by the social elites of the county and beyond, as well as several thousand visitors. The Orange Horse Show can trace its roots back to about 1897, when it was held under the auspices of the Orange Horseman's Association.

As the weather warms, our thoughts turn to...

## Pools

By Vivian Gray



This pool, built in 1920, was part of an effort by my grandfather, Horace Trimmer, to create a holiday retreat for people living in Washington, DC. The name was "Wild Beauty Park Farm." I've also attached the swimming pool ad. During the 50s, for several years, the Orange Country Club rented the pool from my grandmother, Albertina. Since then it continues to operate as a focus of family summer recreation. It



has massive leaks and will be restored to the natural state of the stone walls with new concrete between the stones this June.

*Editors Note-* Growing up at "Tivoli," I vividly remember the spring-fed swimming pool there, having jumped in and out (brrrrr!) after a long hot day in the hay-field. I was always told it was the second oldest pool in Orange County, the oldest being at "Rocklands." *Phil Audibert*

**SUMMERTIME QUIZ**

Where do fresh spring waters flow?  
Where do shady pine trees grow?  
Where is it always quiet and cool?

You guessed it . . .

**TRIMMER'S  
SWIMMING POOL**

Adults 50c	Picnic Area
Children 25c	Sun Deck

— HOURS: 10 A. M. TO 10 P. M. EVERY DAY —

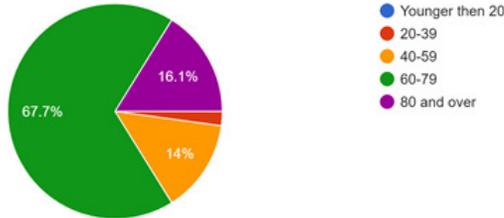
Directions—Take Rapidan Road, Rt. 615, left at 700.  
Phone 4648 Mrs. J. C. Trimmer

# Survey Results!

Below, you will see some of the results from the historical society survey that was compiled this past winter. We had 94 responses! We hope to publish all of the results in the next issue of the Record. Notes by Mike Saxton

What is your age group?

93 responses

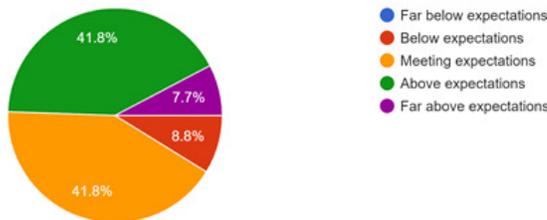


**Notes** - 2 under 40 (all non-members), 13 in 40-59 group (3 non-members).

Responses for under age 60 increased after Facebook posting.

During the last several years, please indicate your assessment of how well we have been accomplishing our mission as a research, archival, a..., Virginia, of its people, and the surrounding area.

91 responses



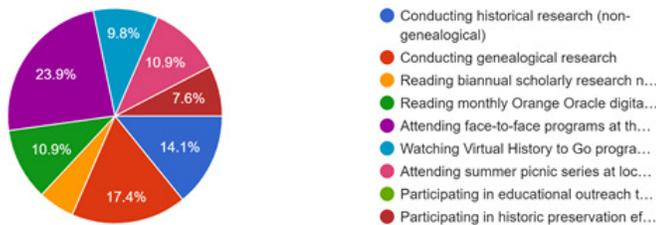
**Notes-** Of 10 members under age 59, 1-far above, 1-above, 5-meeting expectations, 3-below.

Of 70 members age 60 and above, 34-above, 6-far above, 26-meeting expectations, 4-below.

Insight - Perhaps a trend of less satisfaction among younger members?

With respect to the OCHS what is your #1 FAVORITE activity to participate in?

92 responses



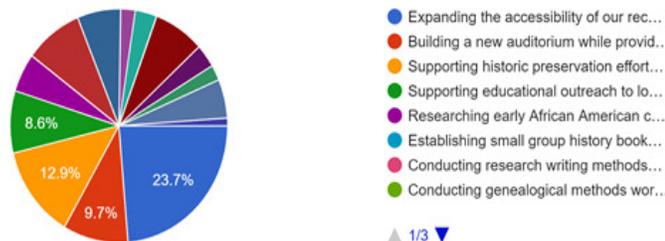
**Notes-**

Combined Research - 21.5%  
 Combined Live Programs - 34.8%  
 Combined Live and Virtual Programs - 44.6%

Combined Publications - 5.4% + 10.9% = 16.3%

Which goal do you think should be our # 1 TOP PRIORITY in the next 1-3 years?

93 responses



**Notes-** Top 3 combined equally without weighting

1. Expanding accessibility - 23.7 + 12.9 + 6.6 = 43.3

2. Supporting historic preservation efforts = 12.9 + 12.9 + 5.5 = 31.3

3. Improving accessibility of old OC newspapers - 6.5 + 8.6 + 9.9 = 25

4. Supporting educational outreach - 8.6 + 7.5 + 5.5 = 21.6