

Trivia: History of the Orange County Seal

From the Orange County Historical *Record*, author unknown:¹

The Orange County Seal

“The Orange County Court on July 28, 1774 ordered the Sheriff to pay fifty shillings for a county seal. This seal, according to W.W. Scott, Orange County historian, consisted of ‘an excellent cut of a lion, encircled by the name of the County.’

“It was in late July 1774 also that delegates from Virginia’s counties were about to elect the colony’s delegates to the First Continental Congress. Feeling against England was high, and the First Congress had been called to decide what should be done to defend the rights of American colonies. The choice of a lion as the device for the seal, therefore, was appropriately symbolic and in keeping with the spirit of the times, for in heraldry a lion rampant, or rearing up, signifies angry defiance.

“The colors of the seal are those appertaining to the coat of arms of ‘The Honorable Alexander Spotswood Esqr., Her Majesty’s Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of Virginia,’ as his commission read, and the principal figure in the early history of what became Orange County in 1734.

“The Orange County Bicentennial Commission engaged Miss Jean Lowe of Orange to design and execute a conjectural rendering of the seal in color. On March 11, 1975 the Orange County Board of Supervisors adopted the seal as the official seal, and the colors as the official colors of Orange County, Virginia.”

¹ Author Unknown, “The Orange County Seal,,” Orange County Historical Society *Record*, Vol. 45, No. 2 (Fall 2014), 4.

