

Orange Oracle

An Occasional Electronic Update from the Orange County Historical Society

New Acquisitions

Rescue Squad- The Orange County Volunteer Rescue Squad, which was in existence for 67 years, has donated all of its papers, photographs, minutes and clippings to the Historical Society.

New Book- The Historical Society has a new book: *Local Folks* by Phil Audibert. It is a collection of feature stories he wrote for the Orange County Review in the mid to late 1980s. \$19.95. All proceeds go to the historical society.

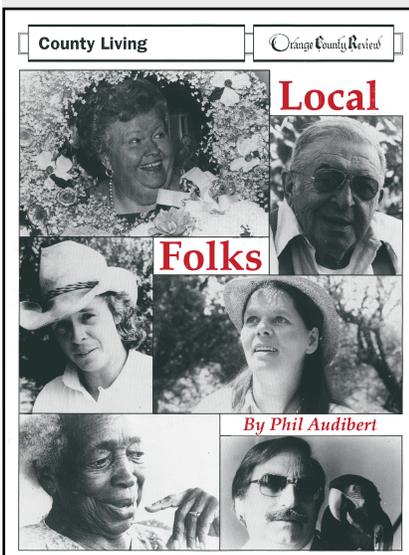


“Memories” Update

Mary White

Obviously, like everything else in these difficult times, the “Memories” oral history project has been put on hold. The last person interviewed by Phil Audibert and Bruce Monroe in late February was Mary Holladay White of Scotstown...age 101. She still walks unassisted despite the fact that she broke both legs in an automobile accident at age 97. And although she is hard of hearing, her mind is crystal clear.

Another person to squeak through the interview process before Coronavirus slammed the gates shut was the venerable Frank Walker. The interview, which took more than two hours to conduct, has been edited down to a sparse 51 minutes...all of it fascinating. Many thanks to Bernice Walker for finding and providing so many



Bill Speiden's report on the Brookings Mill, cemetery and slave graveyards

Friday March 27, Mike Saxton, his wife May and Ray Ezell spent the afternoon with me exploring two slave graveyards, a Brooking family walled gravesite, and the mill remains and fairly intact race on Jackie Colvin's farm.

We met on my open porch then drove to the sites in separate cars to stay as safe as we could under the pandemic circumstances.

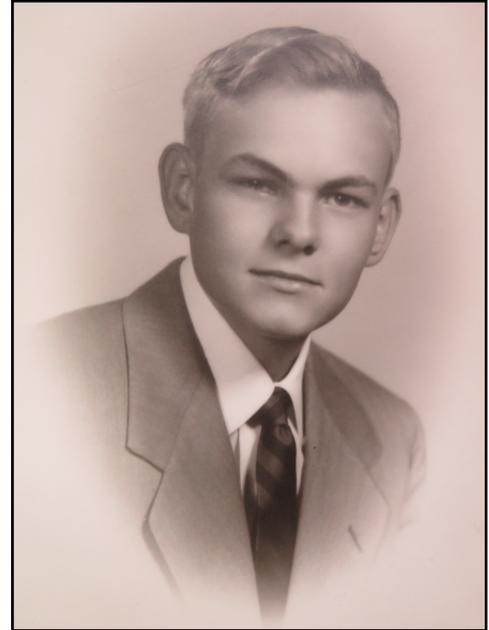
The Brooking family has a walled (now mostly down and a number of graves outside the original wall)

cemetery on Jackie Colvin's farm. 200 feet from the Brooking gravesite on a steeper, rockier slope was a slave gravesite with the graves marked only by head and foot stones. The Brooking family site had a number of graves from the 1800s on the headstones.

The wall was made of bricks consistent with bricks I have on my place made by slaves in the 1830s.

photographs from Frank's past.

These two interviews join 22 others on the AHHA Productions YouTube channel. To view these edited interviews, most of which last about a half hour or less, go to AudibertPhoto.com> Videos>Memories. Suggestion: Start with "Memories Greatest Hits Part 1."



Frank Walker, Woodberry Forest School graduation photo

Orange County Historical Society

www.orangecovahist.org

130 Caroline St.

Orange, VA 22960

540-672-5366

Welcome to the first issue of the *Orange Oracle*, an occasional email publication of the Orange County Historical Society. Its purpose is to keep the membership up to date on society news in a timely fashion. It does not replace the society's regular newsletter, the *Record*. *Phil Audibert, Editor*

Back on Hampstead Farm, we checked out the slave gravesite I discovered there in the 1960s. There is a galvanized marker, (now illegible) I remember as commemorating Tom Freeman, a farmhand with my father in the 1930s- 40s - the last burial there. I believe he died in 1948.

Bill Speiden

Editor's Note- The upcoming Spring issue of the *Record* will have a more detailed report on this fascinating expedition.