

Happy Bicenterquasquigenary!

Lynne Lewis

As Orange County prepares to commemorate its 275th anniversary, we thought you would enjoy a look back at the Bicentennial celebrations. Ann Miller scouted through the old newspapers and found articles detailing the extensive festivities that took place in September of 1934 (see accompanying article). The activities for our 275th anniversary will be considerably more modest, but the all-out splendor of the Bicentennial does give us something to aspire to as the Tercentennial approaches!

On Saturday, October 3, the Town of Orange, Orange County, and the Orange Downtown Alliance will sponsor a street party to commemorate the founding of Orange. The date was selected to coincide with several other events being held in the county that day, on the presumption that many visitors would be in town (although considerably fewer than the 50,000 to 80,000 visitors that were anticipated in 1934).

The activities will commence at 3:00 pm with free walking tours of the historic district of the Town of Orange, organized by Frank Walker. They will be offered until dark. A tour takes approximately one hour.

At 4:00 pm there will be a ceremony on the steps of the 1859 court house, featuring various elected and appointed leaders. It is hoped that Governor Kaine will be with us, as well as Thomas Jefferson standing in for his friend James Madison (who is suffering with a bad cold). At that time, the winners of a related art contest in the elementary schools and an essay contest in the high and middle schools will be recognized. The Orange County High School band may join in for a brief concert.

There will be a book signing underway at the Arts Center, and Main Street merchants are being encouraged to remain open into the evening hours. There will be at least four food vendors on Short Street, and the J. W. Seig beverage truck will be on duty. At 5:00 pm, also on Short Street, the band Blues Farm will begin performing. At 8:00 pm, there will be a fireworks display. The festivities will end at 10:00 pm.

For more information, call the Orange Downtown Alliance, 540-672-2540.

And yes, "bicenterquasquigenary" is really a word, although one you are not likely to hear – or say – very often. For the names of anniversaries (including this one), here is one of several sites where the above can be found: <http://mathforum.org/library/drmath/view/57195.html>

A Cast of Thousands . . . and Monkey Races, Too!

Ann Miller

Seventy-five years ago this month, the local papers were buzzing with news of the upcoming celebrations of the 200th anniversary of the founding of Orange County. The advertisements, articles, and notices from September 1934 issues of the *Orange County News* are a virtual time machine to the celebrations of this earlier anniversary.



—Staff Photo.
"Miss Columbia" (left) and "Miss Orange County" (right) as they introduce characters representing 1734, 1834 and 1934 in one scene of the Orange Bicentennial pageant.

The various observances were wide-ranging. Some were expected, others were surprising for what was at least nominally a history-themed event. A temporary "museum" was set up to display historical artifacts, meetings and pageants were planned, and other entertainments were being scheduled. For weeks before and during the celebrations, the *Orange County News* and other local and area papers ran features showcasing historic sites in the county, many with photos and text unabashedly cribbed from W. W. Scott's 1907 *History of Orange County*. There were interviews with older citizens (often heavy with Civil

War memories). The culminating four-day festival (September 25-28) included pageants, re-enactments of historic events, the "museum," and the "Seven County Fair."

Also prominently featured was West's World of Wonder Shows, announced as "Bigger than a Circus," and specifying that "Our usual carnival travels in 2 cars" but for the Orange Bicentennial there would be "20 Railroad Cars / Shows & Rides." Admission for adults was 50 cents, 25 cents for children, and 25 cents per automobile. Newspaper coverage noted that the 20-car carnival would include "Merry-go rounds, ferris wheels, rotary swings, caterpillars, hey-dey rides, live pony rides," a sideshow (complete with "John the Alligator Boy,"



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Bicentennial (*continued*)

“a boxing match between the Carlson sisters, heavyweight champions, refereed by Tiny Mite, a lady weighing about forty-five pounds,” monkey races, “a wild animal jungle,” “the man with two faces,” and a band concert. Lest anyone have any doubts, it was announced that “Mr. [Frank] West is offering a clean show with fun in it for every member of the family.”

“Monkey races” in those days sometimes involved monkeys dressed in tiny racing silks, and harnessed to special saddles on the backs of greyhounds (in some parts of Europe, pigs were substituted for greyhounds). We’d welcome anyone’s memories of what constituted the Orange Bicentennial monkey races, as well as any information as to what the “hey-dey ride” entailed.

The 1934 celebration also included more typical pageant events of the era, with the papers featuring story lines such as “Directors Announce Pageant Cast / Includes More Than One Thousand Lineal Descendants of County’s First Settlers.” In addition to “Miss Orange County” (Miss Wycliffe Scott, granddaughter of W. W. Scott), participants included local citizens (many of whom were relatives of the original characters) representing Alexander Spotswood, General Lafayette, James Madison, “The Pioneer Man” and “The Pioneer Woman,” “Fever and Famine,” “The Spirit of the Wilderness,” “German Immigrants” (impersonated by descendants of the Germanna colonists), “the Forty Eight States of the Union,” the “Justices of the First Court,” and the “Knights of the Golden Horseshoe.” (The “Knights” were enthusiastically, but slightly erroneously, dressed in late 18th-century garb instead of the early 18th-century-style clothes which would have been worn by the participants on the 1716 expedition.)

There was also an early, surprising show of cultural diversity (not all of it closely allied with ethnic groups who had settled early Orange County). In addition to “Virginia Reel Dancers,” African-American dancers (relegated to a segregated dance contest), and costumed participants representing early “English” settlers and “U.S. Girls,” there were also “Dutch,” “Irish Folk Dancers,” an “Indian Pageant,” “Belgian,” “Japs and Chinese,” and “Italians,” as well as floral costumes representing “Poppies” and “Roses.”

The pageants involved various sites and groups around the county, with various meetings and re-enactments at such sites as Germanna, the towns of Orange and Gordonsville, Palmyra Church (featuring the Methodist churches of Orange County), Gum Spring (Orange County’s Baptist churches), and an “Inter-racial meeting” at the Orange Nazareth Baptist Church. Hopefully a good time was had by the participants, spectators, and visitors. Certainly the descriptions make interesting reading 75 years after the fact.

Note: The majority of the articles referenced above appeared in the *Orange County News* for Sept. 6 and Sept. 13, 1934. The Society’s collections include what may be the only surviving complete volumes of this local paper for 1928 through 1938. The Society is currently arranging for security copies of these rare volumes. If you have copies of early Orange County newspapers which may be rare or unique, please check with the Society’s staff or officers. We would be glad to help you determine whether your issues exist in other repositories—we can help identify rare issues of early papers and help arrange for security copies to ensure the survival of this information.

Programs & Picnics

Germanna Foundation

More than 60 members spent a most informative and enjoyable Monday evening, June 29, listening to a presentation by J. Marc Wheat, President of the Germanna Foundation Board of Trustees. Mr. Wheat, himself a descendant of the original Germanna immigrant settlers, spoke to our members about recent developments at Germanna and plans for its future. The descendants of the Germanna colonists, who now number in the millions, include Apollo XI astronaut Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin.

Mr. Wheat showed the plans for an expanded trail system within their property along the Rapidan River. The trails are being constructed with the aid of a boy scout troop. The foundation, established in 1956, preserves 170 acres of the original Germanna tract, which neighbors the campus of Germanna Community College, to which the foundation gave 100 acres for the establishment of the school in 1969.

Some special guests were in attendance, including the President Emeritus of Germanna Community College, Frank Turnage. Mr. Turnage was appointed in March as the Executive Director of the Memorial Foundation of the Germanna Colonies in Virginia.

Ms. Ricarda Ernert from Oberholzklaus, Germany, is taking a traineeship with the Foundation. She is studying International Tourism Management in the Netherlands.

We are grateful to Mr. Wheat for providing us with so much information about Germanna and its settlers, and know they are looking forward to a grand 300th reunion in 2014!

Windholme

Our annual picnic schedule began on July 27, with a visit to Windholme, currently under the careful stewardship of David and Charlene Scibal. Originally known as Clifton, this was the home of the Scott family from the 1720s until the 1920s. The oldest part of the main residence is said to date to ca. 1729 (making it one of the earliest standing houses in the county), with additions in the later 18th and early 19th centuries, and subsequently.

The evening was well attended, the weather was glorious, the gardens were beautiful and the view from the front lawn was spectacular. The Scibals also kindly allowed our members to tour their lovely house (and meet their three Irish wolfhounds). It was

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Programs (continued)

a picnic to remember and we appreciated the opportunity to see Windholme.



Lynne Lewis

Shady Grove

August 31 saw about 50 picnickers assemble at the Shady Grove Baptist Church and Shady Grove school. Mrs. Ruth Long and her husband George were our hosts for the evening, and we had the privilege of seeing not only the recently-restored, two-room school house, but also the old church and the new church. The church was established by African-Americans in southeastern Orange County in 1871 and the wonderful wood-frame church building was completed the next year. We learned that the stained glass windows from this church will be moved to the new one, and that the chandeliers had already been moved to the Fellowship Hall of the new church.



Lynne Lewis

The school house was constructed in the two-room Rosenwald style, ca. 1925. It is a one-story, wood frame building with a metal roof. The building was heated by wood stoves and retains its original chalkboard. Several school desks that were used around the late 1920s or early 1930s were donated. The restored building was dedicated in September 2008, after a decision by the pastor and congregation in January 2006 to save the building. After the building ceased to function as a school in 1953/54, the church used it for Sunday School and later as a church dining hall and a place for wedding receptions.

It was a wonderful evening and all who attended were extremely grateful to the Longs and to the members of the Shady

Grove Church and community for preserving this important part of Orange County's heritage.

Upcoming Program: Dogwood Village

Dogwood Village has been in the local news because of the opening of its magnificent new assisted living unit. Historical Society President, Carol Couch, heard someone say at the ribbon cutting, "This is something that Orange County can be proud of" and was inspired to create a program about the Orange County Nursing Home.

Clearly this nursing home is a forty-year-old success story. But why did our community decide to have a nursing home and how did the county leaders manage to build and operate the only single-county-owned nursing home in the state of Virginia? The answers to the "why and how" are the focus of the Monday, October 26, program. The story will be told from the records of the Board of Supervisor's Minutes and the *Orange Review* plus the memory of the only surviving Supervisor from that time, Mr. Richard Sanford.

The program will be held on location in the new assisted living community room and will include a tour of the facility. The announcement postcard will provide directions.

The November 30 program is still being finalized, while we would like to remind everyone that there will be no program in December, as always.

Sad News

Thomas Weaver Pendleton (1930 - 2009)

It is with great regret that we report the passing of Thomas "Tom" Weaver Pendleton on July 6, 2009. Tom, for more than 16 years, was the person who cared for our Research Center each and every week. Most of you may never have seen him, since his hours didn't coincide with ours, but you certainly saw the results of his good care and hard work.

Tom leaves behind a very large family, including 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. He was buried from Calvary Baptist Church and was laid to rest in Graham Cemetery.

During the past couple of years, Tom's daughters helped him with his work, and they have graciously agreed to continue in that capacity. We will definitely miss Mr. Pendleton.

Jack Pendleton Maddex (1914 - 2009)

The Historical Society has lost another friend and member, Jack Pendleton Maddex. Jack, a long-time Society stalwart, died August 10 at age 95. A pharmacist, Jack bought and operated Grymes Drug Store when it was located at the present site of J. S. Mosby. Jack and wife Jackie were famous for arriving at picnic meeting sites an hour or more early and sharing "tea time" with the host(s) and anyone else who arrived.

Jack is survived by his wife, Jacqueline, two children and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was interred at Graham Cemetery.

Of Linemen & Liniment

Lynne Lewis

A few months ago, while cruising eBay, one of our members happened across a listing for a 1951 football program for a game between Orange County High School and Schuyler High School. All that could be seen of it in the listing was the cover, which certainly was a generic illustration of a football play. But the price was right, and so it was bid on and won.

Imagine our surprise and delight upon receipt – there were photographs of the 1951 team, by area of residence, and a picture of the cheerleaders. There are plenty of names that many of you will recognize, including several who are or were once members of the Historical Society. And as an added bonus, there are local advertisements on virtually every page, for businesses long gone, more recently gone, and the most fun – those that are still around.

Since September marks the opening of football season, we thought it would be fun to share a few of the photographs with our readers. The original is now safely housed at the Research Center, should anyone wish to see it. The gentleman who sold it lives in Madison County, but bought it as part of a box-lot at an auction in Unionville – and it turns out his sister lives in Orange. Not quite as exciting a route as the old photograph album, but still amazing in the way that documents travel around.

The Historical Society is delighted to have this memento of our 20th-century history. Does anyone remember the final score? Oh, and by the way, it seems that Schuyler High School (built circa 1931 and also housing the elementary school) is now the Walton's Mountain Museum!



ORANGE CAPTAINS 1951

Lorris (Buckshot Clements) Kenneth (Kenny) Morris



GORDONSVILLE-SOMERSET AREA BOYS

Front row: Randolph Bragg, William Eheart, Johnny Faulconer and Dickie, Blount. Middle row: Bill Roberts, Joe Dodd, Arnold Mundy, Garland Tyree and Gene Hoffman. Third row: Phil Ryder, Marvin Hogsten, Jimmy Cowherd, Lorris Clements, Sam Ryan and Eugene Brocking.

1951 CHEERLEADERS



First row: Patty Hale, Peggy Dwyer, Capt. Shirley Martin, Edna Breeden and Sandra Beaver.

Second row: Lulu Herndon, Shirley Sheffield, Virginia Schoonover, Gloria Breeden, Phyliss Bunch, and Doris Dawson.

Query: Along related lines, the eBay scouts have noticed that prices for Orange County items are escalating. For example, a 1905 rotograph postcard of Main Street, looking west, recently fetched more than \$50! Items such as the football program, postcards, and photographs are wonderful documents of our county's history and development. Should, as we surmise, someone in Orange County be collecting these, we would very much like to cooperate rather than compete with the collectors in bringing these items back to the County. Ideally, the Historical Society would like to have an opportunity to make a scan of such materials for our files, and immediately return them to the owner. Please contact our office (between 1 – 5 pm, M – F) at 540-672-5366 if you have any information. Thank you.

The Holladay House

Lynne Lewis

The Holladay House Bed & Breakfast, at 155 West Main Street, Orange, is celebrating its 20th anniversary, which makes it the oldest continuously operated B & B in the Town of Orange.

The land was originally a portion of the William Bell farm bought by Paul Verdier (pronounced “vir-DEAR”) in 1799. In 1821, Verdier sold the building lot to Hugh Stevens, who built the original portion of the residence in the early 1830s. For many years it was thought that the Holladay House had then housed the Lynchburg-based mercantile firm of Dinkle & Rumbough, but recent research by Ann Miller has revealed that such was not the case. In 1834, Stephens had sold the property to local merchant Mann A. Page and his wife, Mary C. Willis Page. By the late 1830s, the Pages were in severe financial and legal difficulties, and the house was acquired by Mary’s father William C. Willis, and brothers Robert T. Willis and Richard H. Willis, who put the property in trust for the Page children.

John Madison Chapman purchased the property in 1849. He was the son of County Clerk Reynolds Chapman of Berry Hill and a grand-nephew of President James Madison (via brother William’s daughter). Chapman also acquired other properties in the town, including the former Dinkle and Rumbough store (which also served as a tavern known as “Our House” and stood farther east down Main Street). In 1844, Chapman deeded the “Our House” property to a consortium of eighteen partners (himself included), whose membership appears equivalent to that of the Orange Masonic Lodge.

The front of the house is the original portion, a two-story brick Federal structure, laid in Flemish bond and set on an English basement. The decorative lintels over the windows are a typical Federal element; constructed here of plastered brick, they are meant to represent stone. A central stairhall is flanked by a room on either side. Much of the original Federal woodwork, including several mantels, survive in this section. The rear, frame portion of the house was added at the turn of the century by the Holladays.

The Holladay House itself remained in the Chapman family until 1883, when it was sold to Elizabeth A. McDonald. In 1899, it was purchased by Dr. Lewis Holladay, and it remained in that family until 2000. It was, of course, this family whose name remains attached to the residence. It was Lewis



The Holladay House c. 1930. The front section of the wrap-around porch had to be removed when Main Street was widened. Photo courtesy of the Holladay and Elswick families.

“Pete” Holladay and his wife Phoebe who opened the Holladay House Bed & Breakfast in 1989. Judy Geary succeeded the Holladays as the owner and operator of the inn until Sept. 2006, when it was acquired by Sam and Sharon Elswick, the present innkeepers.

During the course of its 175-year plus history, the Holladay House may have seen James Madison pass its doors, and certainly Robert E. Lee, J.E.B. Stuart, A.P. Hill, and Jefferson Davis passed by. In 1862, the property witnessed Union and Confederate cavalry soldiers fighting in Main Street, and a local legend describes how a Confederate soldier died on the front steps. One block away, the St. Thomas Episcopal Church became a temporary hospital for wounded soldiers in the spring of 1862.

After acquisition by the Holladay family, the building served various functions at various times, before settling into its current use. It has been a doctor’s office, a dentist’s office, a real estate agent’s office and, of course, a residence.

There was also a small private school on the property, run by “Miss Louise,” one of the daughters of Dr. Lewis Holladay. The Holladays recall that someone purchased the schoolhouse building and relocated it years ago and that it is likely still some-



School with Louise B. Holladay in the doorway, June 1937. To our knowledge, this is the only known photo of the schoolhouse (which our own Frank Walker attended as a small child). Note the Presbyterian Church in the background. The walkway is still extant, but it now ends at the side porch on the Truslow/Yost building. Photo courtesy of the Holladay and Elswick families.

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Holladay (*continued*)

where in Orange County. We would love to know if anyone has any idea where it might be found today!

Local legend indicates that the English Oak in the backyard came from Montpelier. It is not beyond the realm of possibility, given the fact that Dr. Lewis Holladay was a frequent visitor to the duPonts.

Sam Elswick had his first brush with Orange County back in 1998 when he attended the James Madison University/Montpelier field school in historical archaeology. Sam has since put his training to good use, conducting a limited excavation in the back yard prior to making some landscape improvements. An interesting array of artifacts was recovered, dating from the mid-19th century to the present. Weather and time permitting, Sam hopes to conduct a small archaeological excavation this fall.

In honor of Orange County's 275th anniversary and the 20th Anniversary of the Holladay House Bed and Breakfast, the Elswicks have extended a special offer to the Orange County Historical Society.

First, they will donate \$1 to the Orange County Historical Society for each room-night booked during October, November and December. Second, for the rest of 2009, they will offer a \$30 discount to any guest who joins the Orange County Historical Society. Third, a standing 10% discount to all Historical Society members and their families/guests is being established. On weekends, they request a 2-night stay.

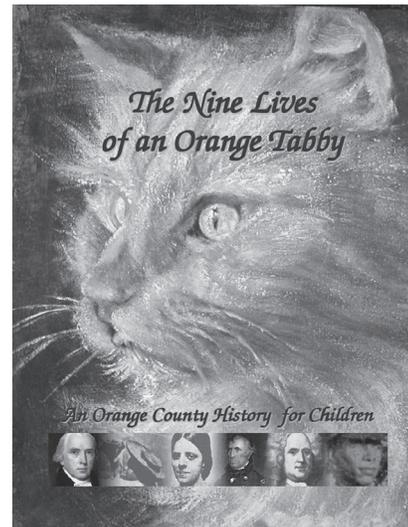
As always, copies of the *Record* will be distributed to guests so that they can take home information about the Society and Orange County history.

The Society is very excited about this kind offer, as it will provide a wonderful additional benefit to our members, and will, we hope, increase our membership. The Holladay House is the only lodging in the Orange Downtown Commercial Historic District, and it offers historians, genealogists and researchers convenient accommodations that are only a short walk from the Research Center. Thank you Sam and Sharon for thinking of this!

Publications for Sale

Members receive a 10% discount on all publications.

✿ *The Nine-Lives of an Orange Tabby: An Orange County History for Children.*



Known affectionately as “Purr” (the name of said Orange Tabby), this history of our county in coloring book form is the product of a cooperative project between the Historical Society and The Arts Center In Orange. Under the leadership of The Arts Center executive director, Laura Thompson, a number of artists and editors put together this delightful book. Geared toward the 4th grade level (when students learn county history), “Purr” appeals to all age levels with its charming illustrations and clever summary of Orange County History. If you are looking for a fun gift for a favorite child, or a “little something” for a friend, you can’t go wrong with *The Nine Lives of an Orange Tabby!* (softcover, np) \$3.00, tax included

For additional publications, be sure to see our website, www.orangecovahist.org, or drop by our Research Center (130 Caroline Street, Orange, VA) for a complete list.