

Newsletter

Orange County Historical Society

Visit our Web Site at www.orangecovahist.org, or our
Research Center at 130 Caroline St.; Orange, VA 22960, or call us at 540-672-5366

Summer/Fall, 2004

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A Call to Arms Falling on Deaf Ears?

Pressure to establish a strategic plan for the protection of Orange County's historic properties mounted during June when 20 public and private groups met to map out an approach to preserving the county's "unique and irreplaceable assets" despite what a report on the meeting labeled as widespread citizen apathy about the community's future.

The report, which was released July 19 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, contained a laundry list of failures that included existing zoning laws, uncontrolled growth, poor land-use decision-making, transportation problems, loss of agricultural land and historic resources, unattractive gateways and degradation of the natural environment. All this at a time, the report claims, when Orange County is under "heavy pressure" to develop by converting farmland to new residential subdivisions, expansion of its public infrastructure, especially roadways, sewer and water systems, and landfills.

The report pulled few punches in laying blame. It blamed everyone. Local decisions-makers were called "ill-equipped to respond to the pressures for development and lacked the necessary growth-management tools" to make any response effective. The general citizenry was said to be "unaware of the serious threat on the horizon from development pressure and poorly informed about land-use management." However, at the same time, the report claimed there was



A hay truck passing the Walker Chapel on Rt. 230 may become a sight from the past as development pressures intensify.

"community support for growth management," but that it was going unnoticed, which accounted for the lack of political will on the part of the decision makers to be responsive.

This could change if there was more proactive planning, increased public involvement and greater town-county cooperation, the report continues. The long-term goal proposed as a means of achieving success in raising awareness and generating support for the benefits of land-use planning is more public education. This could lead to the building of a constituency of residents and property owners who would become active in the planning process.

While there was a call for expanding the "tools" available to elected officials, community leaders, and decision-makers, the only specific one mentioned in the report was exposing those groups to "training in land-use management and best practices for small town preservation

and rural landscape conservation." No legislative remedies were proposed. (See Daniel Holmes' "In My Opinion" commentary on page 2). There was a recognition, nonetheless, that public policy on preservation would be strengthened by an active program of political activism. A series of short-term next steps included creating a new organization that would "build bridges" with other organizations and enter into a "constructive dialogue" with community leaders in search of common ground. A citizen survey of attitudes toward preservation was proposed, as was an analysis and inventory of historic, cultural, natural and scenic assets. The report concludes with a call for the community to establish a vision for the future of Orange and Orange County. ■

The August member picnic will be held at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 119 Caroline St.; Orange, on Monday August 30.

Ann Miller will remind us of the history of the Caroline Street neighborhood and describe some of the impending changes that are likely to have a dramatic effect on us in the immediate future. We've invited other concerned citizens to join us. The meeting will start at 6:00 PM, rain or shine.

In My Opinion

Let's Talk Seriously About Tourism

by Daniel R. Holmes

Piedmont Environmental Council

Boasting such national treasures as Montpelier, Wilderness Battlefield, and Madison-Barbour Rural Historic District, Orange County is truly blessed with its rural character, natural beauty, small town charm and historic resources. The scenic drives that link these resources enhance the experience for tourists and help define a sense of place for new and long-time residents. As pressures increase from surrounding high-growth communities, there could not be a better time to put in place a mechanism that will assist the planning department and County elected officials in their decision making process for new commercial and industrial developments along our most traveled corridors.

Unfortunately, we are being forced to wait indefinitely for consideration of a tool that has already received unanimous support from the Planning Commission and has received majority support from citizens at public hearings.

It has been over five months since the Orange County Board of Supervisors postponed the scheduled public hearing on the Tourism Corridor Overlay District (TCOD). Before making its way to the Board, the District had already received lengthy and thoughtful consideration from a citizen Corridor Committee that doggedly worked to bring balanced and reasonable language back before the Planning Commission. Similar to ordinances already in place in Culpeper and Albemarle counties, the District would aid in preserving the unique character of roads that lead to destinations that draw valuable tourism dollars into our community.

To accomplish this goal, the District would use design guidelines for new commercial and industrial development projects along six major corridors entering and exiting the County. The district would complement existing zoning by addressing the aesthetic character of new projects. To preserve our character, new development would be asked to meet achievable standards for architecture, lighting, signage and landscaping that would enhance or maintain historic and scenic values along the transportation route.

Some have claimed that this ordinance is overly burdensome to new business and that we may find ourselves losing opportunities if it is enacted. I would invite those with concerns to research what has happened in Culpeper County since their new TCOD was adopted. Over 15 new businesses have gone through this process. The County Planner asserts the ordinance has added no additional time to the permitting process, nor has it had a negative effect on attracting business. It is well recognized that the associated design guidelines have aided the County in shaping a more attractive atmosphere for its citizens and businesses alike. The point is, we can have our cake and eat it, too. By requiring more attractive businesses, we in return keep Orange an attractive place to visit and shop, actually aiding business in capturing valuable tourist dollars.

Growth along the County's major transportation corridors will continue to play a major factor in the aesthetic beauty of the county. With development spilling into the County and the evident sprawl associated with

the Route 3 corridor, it has become clear that unless regulated, Orange would soon lose the very characteristics that makes it such a wonderful place to visit and reside.

The introduction of the Tourism Corridor Overlay District is a major step toward protecting the scenic and historic nature of Orange County. The Supervisors have yet to announce a public hearing to consider the TCOD. Please contact your Supervisor and let them know your desire to have this tool in place. Ask them to schedule a public hearings to give the Overlay District its well-deserved day in court.

See related story on page 1.

In My Opinion is a regular feature of the Newsletter. It is intended to provide a forum for the discussion of issues of importance to the community that are directly related to the mission of the Orange County Historical Society. The Newsletter invites opposing and supportive views on the TCOD, and other issues. Please contact Warren Dunn at 540-672-5366.

A Review

Avoid Simplifying the Past Advises Cushman

On occasion, a gifted speaker will give such a far-ranging presentation with such virtuosity that it would be not just an injustice, but literally impossible to report on it using the conventional five Ws of journalism. That was the kind of presentation made by Dr. Stephen Cushman, Mayo Distinguished Teaching Professor at the University of Virginia, at the April member meeting. The 60 plus attendees, the most at any member meeting this year, were treated to a highly personal, introspective and intellectually absorbing experience, which started with a poem from Dr. Cushman's book of poems, "Cussing Lessons".

WHENEVER I SMOKE
A CIGAR

Whenever I smoke a cigar I think
of Grant in the Wilderness writing
orders out in fatless prose without
revision,
then chewing on a burnt out stub and
weeping as



Board Member Clara Colby makes a point after Dr. Cushman's presentation.

numbers flooded in and names piled
up
on lists the northern papers printed
along with the outcry *Butcher, Butcher*,
but by the time he hooded himself
in a shawl on the porch to finish a
book
that provided the wife he couldn't
stand to part from
with nearly half a million,
before the sore throat he'd nursed for
four months,
the thirty pounds gone, and the
vomited blood
finished him, everybody up there
loved Grant,
and yet whenever I smoke a cigar I
wonder
what it takes to be happy in marriage
and march through the woods
making widows.

That poem is less about a man at war than it is a man conflicted by the contradictions in life. Dr. Cushman's entire presentation was like that. The Civil War may have provided a sturdy frame, but the canvas within was covered with many different colors. Perhaps the color that dazzled me most was the darker tones of stress and strain in our lives.

We moderns tend to oversimplify the complications of the past, assigning to times long ago a clarity and logic that comes only from hindsight that enables us to make sense and draw conclusions from events that, then, had no clear outcome. Dr. Cushman would, I think, be quick to maintain that once you scratch through the veneer of your own time, those before us were subject to the stresses and strains that, for their time, were just as real and just as troubling as our own, only



Dr. Stephen Cushman, Mayo Distinguished Teaching Professor, University of Virginia
...the first speaker to start a meeting with a poem.

different. As one of those in the audience put it that night: "Today, if some relative in another town is gravely ill, we can pick up a phone, get on a computer, and even fly to their bedside in a matter of seconds, minutes, or hours. But a Civil War parent or spouse had to wait weeks, even months, to learn the fate of their loved ones after a battle."

Adding to the stress and strain of any time is the frustration of not being able to control the course of events. Dr. Cushman used the Battle of the Wilderness to illustrate. "Far from a heroic enterprise that resolved the issue, the Battle of the Wilderness was a battle the North did not want to fight...not there, not then. Like Viet Nam, it was nothing anyone wanted to do, just something they felt they had to do." There was an enormous war weariness in the North that might not forgive another defeat on the battlefield. The Wilderness was too close to Chancellorsville,

continues on page 4

Cushman, continued from page 3

Lee's great victory. The battle was fought in an election year, compelling Lincoln to acknowledge in a private memo that it was almost certain he would not be re-elected. Against this discouraging backdrop, U.S. Grant fought a battle that provided no relief from the constant stress of war, yet at the same time, discernible only by the distance of time, revealed a strategy that would prove triumphant.

Cushman suggests that this constant uncertainty that underlies what must have been excruciating stress makes it imperative that anyone dealing with the Civil War today embrace four "rules." First, they must avoid trivializing the Civil War, either by glossing over the terribleness of its details or by turning it into a commodity. There is an unfortunate tendency to "tidy up" complicated events, which minimizes the likelihood that we will learn as much as we should from the past.

"It is highly important to remember that the Civil War is still very important to a great many people" says Cushman, adding that they have a right to be treated with respect and taken seriously.

The second rule is that one must resist assuming that the war is safely concluded and tucked away in the past. The number of books on the Civil War that keep spewing out is a clear indication of just how deep and abiding an interest there is in the Civil War. To consider the Civil War irrelevant to our lives today is as much a mistake as considering the stresses we face in our nation today are truly unique.

Cushman's third "rule" is to remind Civil War historians that they are writing on behalf of all of us. We can all claim to have been affected by the Civil War because it defined our national attitudes, for better or worse. Either way, the Civil War is not the

domain of the historian. It is a legacy we all share.

Cushman's last rule is for the historians. He says, the historiography of the Civil War must not distinguish between military events and social trends, nor threat them as if they weren't mutually dependent. If the difference in social mores is so great that conflict is inevitable, then military goals must be achieved before social goals can be realized. Anyone doubting that war settles anything should pick up a book by Victor Davis Hanson. However, there are pitfalls in assembling the facts of any event in history. If, as the historian E.H. Carr has written, facts from the past are like fish on a fishmonger's slab, separate and meaningless by themselves, then it is the obligation of the historian to select from amongst the fish-facts only those that point to the ultimate outcome, for what happened happened and nothing can change that. The "might have been" school of history is, on one level, merely an intellectual exercise. Nonetheless, what happened is as much a result of how individuals under tremendous stress reacted to that pressure and it is always interesting and perhaps productive to examine how they might have reacted differently.

Was there any failing in Dr. Cushman's presentation? Certainly. He failed to bring enough books of his poems for sale to an appreciative audience. **WD**

Board Members in the News

Barbara Vines Little



Barbara Little

Board member Barbara Vines Little was featured in a June article by Julia Stevens of the *Orange County Review* after she had been selected President of the National Genealogical Society for 2004-2005, the nation's largest association representing the fastest growing avocation in the nation. First organized in Washington, D.C. in 1903, the society now has 14,000 members. However, there are estimates that 10 million Americans "routinely" engage in some form of genealogical research. In 2003, the Society made its own contribution by assisting nearly 700 persons with family research. Barbara has served on the Board of the Orange County Historical Society for five years and

during her tenure has provided invaluable guidance to the Society's services in publishing and genealogical research, and helped keep our computers on line. She is a certified genealogist specializing in colonial Virginia and is active in assisting families throughout the nation trace their family origins. As she told the *Review*: "Rebuilding a life from an earlier time by researching manuscripts is a fascinating experience." Barbara is a graduate of the University of Virginia and has been with the Orange County school system for 40 years. Barbara has assured the *Newsletter* that she has much more to say on the value of genealogical research and will share that with us as soon as things are a little less hectic.

Frank S. Walker, Jr.

Author, lecturer, tour guide, and OCHS Board member Frank S. Walker, Jr. received star treatment in an article by Robin Knepper in the Town and County section of the July 10 edition of the Fredericksburg, Va. *Free Lance-Star*. The article appeared in connection with his appearance at a signing of his new book, "Remembering: A History of Orange County, Virginia," sponsored by the Eastern National Bookstore in the Chancellorsville Visitors Center. In her article, Robin speculated that Frank would not just sell books, but would "spend most of the day telling stories." She was certainly right on one count. Frank sold 28 books that day. And he acquainted at least 42 people, by one count, with the details of the Chancellorsville battle. It must be noted that Frank doesn't like the term "story telling," inasmuch as it "connotes spinning tales." And he has history on his side. The "history" of Trojan War was literally told by

Homer, and he is remembered as the premier "story-teller," of Western Civilization. But it wasn't until Thucydides wrote "The Peloponnesian War" that modern "history" was born and set the standards for the kind of research and thoughtful analysis that characterizes "Remembering..." (Those wanting to argue the case for Herodotus are invited to stop by the Society.) One thing is certain: those who bought a copy of "Remembering..." or just talked with Frank were treated to more history than they would have encountered otherwise. Frank remains tireless in the promotion and marketing of "Remembering..." giving of his time, energy, and immense knowledge on behalf of the Society. On July 28, he will be at the Lake of the Woods annual "Lighted Boat Parade," and then at the annual Street Festival in Orange, hopefully increasing book sales over the 597 sold to date.



Frank S. Walker, Jr., talks with fellow author Vincent E. Sescocoe during a fund raising event for the Brandy Station battlefield preservation association. Sescocoe has written a children's Civil War book entitled "Double Time". Walker has appeared at more than a dozen events to sign his book, "Remembering: A History of Orange County, Virginia."

FREDERICKSBURG: A TALE OF TWO GENERALS

By Frank S. Walker, Jr.¹

Students of the December 13, 1862, Battle of Fredericksburg are almost universal in their assessments that the frontal assaults directed by Union General Ambrose Burnside at the Confederate defenses along Marye's Heights never had a chance. The Rebel artillery on the heights and the infantry in the sunken road behind the stone wall at its base were simply too well positioned and in too great numbers to be rooted out and driven off. Those same scholars, however, are considerably more circumspect when they discuss the chances for Union success that day in the Prospect Hill sector, roughly four miles farther south and well away from that terrible wall.

At Prospect Hill, Union General George Meade's attack had broken the Confederate line and had gained control of the road connecting the

Prospect Hill sector to the rest of Robert E. Lee's army. For a brief time, Lee faced the real possibility of suffering crippling losses, if indeed not outright defeat. But then, with his assault running out of steam and with no support at hand, Meade and his men were driven back and the Confederates restored their line. The possibility of success had been real enough, however, for the U. S. Congress' Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War to later censure William Franklin, the overall Union commander in the Prospect Hill sector, for his failure to quickly support Meade and exploit the breakthrough. Across the line, Franklin's counterpart, "Stonewall" Jackson, was praised for having quickly brought up his reserves and quashed the Federal threat.

While General Franklin had ordered such a limited assault that success would have seemed an impossibility, General Meade had actually begun to do the impossible. Another general, however, refused to help him when help was needed most. On the Confederate side, while Jackson had reserves on call to meet such threats, it was another general who started Confederates racing to seal the breach. Both of those "other" generals were of the lower-ranking, lesser-known variety, both were under considerable pressure to make decisions which would have greatly enhanced the chance for Union success, and both made decisions contrary to that pressure, thereby guaranteeing Union failure.

Just prior to Meade's advance, Union Brigadier General David Bell Birney double-quickened two of the three brigades of his division into a position just behind him. When

Meade moved out, Birney's men eased forward to occupy Meade's old position and to protect the nearby artillery. Without further orders, however, that was all Birney proposed to do. His division actually belonged in another part of the army, but it had been sent to the Prospect Hill sector to bolster the planned attack. Birney's orders for the day placed him under the command of Major General John Reynolds, and Birney had now done everything that Reynolds had ordered him to do.

Behind the Confederate front line and back in the woods, Brigadier General Jubal Anderson Early rested his division while they listened to the fighting in their front. His division, composed of four brigades, had seen hard service during the summer campaign and was one of the units that General Jackson had decided to hold in reserve. Their respite, however, was short-lived. Jackson, sensing a threat to the far right of his line (which was also the far right of the army), had already dispatched an order to Early to prepare to shift in that direction. After starting the courier to Early with the order, the routinely impatient Jackson began riding south. He was probably well on his way to the area that was concerning him when the woods to Early's left front exploded with the sound of combat. It was coming from a point closer to Early's brigade than the front line, a point where there ought not to be any fighting—unless something was going wrong. Then Early quickly began receiving troubling news.

Officers and men of broken Confederate regiments began appearing on his front, and by piecing together the hurried snatches of



Major General David Birney
...he hedged his bets.

information they gave, it was clear that a Union attack — Meade's — had hit a gap in the Confederate front line, routed portions of the brigades on either side of the gap, routed the entire brigade posted behind that gap, killing its general in the process, and were now moving deeper into the Confederate rear. Early was begged to come to the rescue. About then, Jackson's order arrived. Early was in a bind. As experienced and as capable a leader as he had proven himself to be, his career could be on the line.

On the march from the Valley to Fredericksburg, Early's men had gotten into some whiskey while coming down off the Blue Ridge Mountains into Madison County. Such attempts as Early made to control the situation were undone by his own love of John Barleycorn, and General Jackson was treated to the sight of drunken men passed out on the shoulders of the Blue Ridge Turnpike and to the ribald serenades of groups of tipsy soldiers. Furious, Jackson sent a sharp message to an also-drunk Early, who compounded the situation by sending back a snappy, smart-aleck response. Now incensed, Jackson ordered Early's arrest. Staff officers begged with the general to rescind the order, noting that Early was one of his better field commanders and that apologies were sure to be tendered as soon as the whiskey wore off. Jackson relented, and people scurried off to find Early and make sure he understood just how close he was to being cashiered out of that army.

Now, three weeks later, here is Early, holding an order from Jackson to do one thing and facing a situation which called on him to do another. Trying to find Jackson and request changed orders could take forever. Questions without clear answers stormed through his mind. "What if I disobey Jackson and it turns out

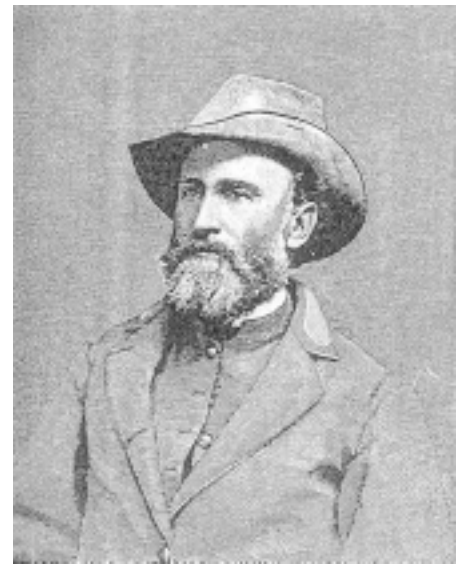
that my help was not needed?" "Worse still, suppose I disobey Jackson and the right is actually attacked?" But then, "What if I obey Jackson and stand ready to march at his order, and the right wing of the army — Jackson's wing — collapses?"

Early, not a professionally trained soldier, was by nature accustomed to acting on his own initiative. General Lee sometimes called him "my bad old man," referring to both his age of 47 years (Jackson was 38) and to his habits of drinking, cursing, spitting, and speaking his mind, no matter who was present. Independence could cost him dearly this time however. Call this one wrong, and he could find himself shuffling papers in Savannah for the rest of the war.

After a few minutes of indecision, Early released one of his brigades into the fight on his front. A report on the gravity of the situation from an artillery officer who had observed the breakthrough as it took place down the line from him, strengthened Early's commitment, and he released another brigade, then a third. Early's brigades began hitting Union resistance less than three hundred yards from their front, and they began driving the enemy, whose momentum it turned out was nearly spent and whose attacking units were largely disorganized. Without some help, and soon, everything the Federals had won would be lost.

Down on the plain, an officer on General Meade's staff rode up to General Birney and relayed his commander's urgent request for help. With Birney's brigades, the gains can be held until even more reinforcements are found and poured into the breach. Birney refused.

Birney explained that he would only take orders from General Reynolds, who was nowhere to be found. (After the battle, it was learned that Reynolds, an old artilleryman, had spent the afternoon visiting



*Major General Jubal A. Early
...he risked it all.*

batteries.) Like Early, Birney was not a professional soldier, but he had learned quickly and was considered a competent field commander. Birney also had some experience with the exact situation now facing him. He had been charged with disobeying orders during the fighting around Richmond the previous spring, but he had been found blameless and returned to duty. Birney knew the position he was taking on Meade's request would stand up at a court martial. (Meade subsequently did prefer charges, and Birney was indeed exonerated.)

Meade's staffer worked his way back through the battle in the woods and reported to his general. Meade was incredulous. Another staff officer rode out of the battle onto the plain and delivered another message. HELP! If you don't come, all will be lost. Birney refused again. Then here comes Meade himself. By now it is probably too late, but Meade's agenda included getting a piece of Birney, no matter what.

A West Point graduate, Meade had dropped out of the army for a while, but he had been back long enough for everyone to learn about his ferocious temper. "The old

Two Generals, continued from page 7

snapping turtle” they called him. Birney braced for the storm, and Meade lit into him.

Onlookers reported that Meade’s tirade ascended into a venom-laden shriek that carried above the noise of battle. One noted that even the rocks seemed to be crawling away from him. But Birney held his ground. Finally, Meade calmed down and spoke the magic words: I outrank you, I order you to come to my aid, and I will accept full responsibility for whatever happens. Birney rounded up his troops and moved out. By then, however, it was truly too late.

From a vantage point on the far Confederate right, General Jackson observed the Union breakthrough and Early’s response. There was no attack on the right, and Jackson approved of Early’s actions. “Old Jube” had begun to rehabilitate himself in his superior’s eyes, though his character remained a long way from where the pious Jackson would have liked it to be.

For all of that terrible fighting on December 13, 1862, then, it seems likely that its outcome boiled down to the decisions of two middle-tier generals facing each other at the south end of the battlefield. We know what they chose to do and why. But just imagine how dramatically different the war might have gone had they decided differently. ■

¹ For this article the author drew heavily upon Frank A. O’Reilly’s *The Fredericksburg Campaign* (LSU Press, 2003), easily the most complete and the most accurate history of the December 13, 1862, Battle of Fredericksburg (Fredericksburg I).

Rosni: A Working Farm

by Joe Rowe

Rosni Farm lies in Madison County near the village of Madison Mills. The name Rosni, whose origin has been lost in time, is almost synonymous with the name Walker. The Walker family lived and worked on the farm for four generations, spanning a period of more than a century and a half. In recent months, the farm was purchased by Mr. Marvin J. "Jimbo" Tucker, a native of Madison County and the former owner/manager of the Tucker Livestock Market located Radiant. It is because of this change in ownership the Orange County Historical Society feels a brief history of Rosni is in order.

The immigrant member of the Walker family was Edward. He arrived in King and Queen County from England in 1715. While he lived for some time in that county, by 1744 he had acquired land near the Rapidan not far from Orange. It was there he made his residence. James, the eldest son of Edward, was born in 1726 and, of course, accompanied his father to the Rapidan area in 1744.

James acquired land that embraced two farms currently known and Edgewood and Hilton. James attended William and Mary College;



Rosni as it appears today.

was a vestryman of the St. Thomas Parish, and served in the House of Burgess. Eventually, he married Sarah Ware and reared a large family.

John Walker, the seventh child of the couple, was known as "Jack." He was born in 1773, attended Hampden-Sydney College and married Lucy Wood of Madison. Jack is an important player in the history of Rosni because he purchased two 80 acre plots that became the nucleus of the Rosni farm. One plot was purchased from Eleanor Wood; the other was acquired from a James Madison. Both Eleanor and James were children of Francis Madison, brother of the President.

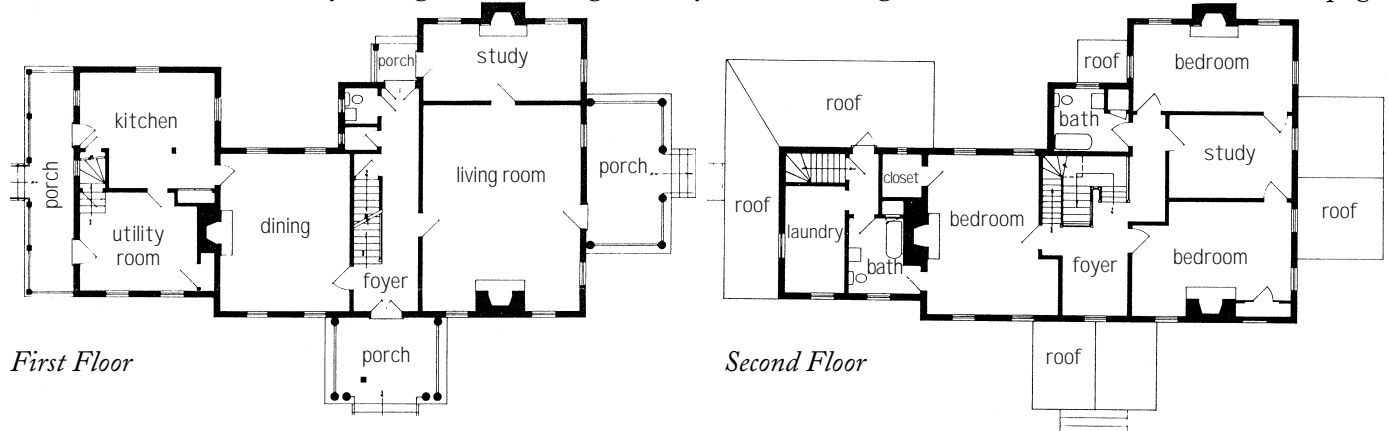
Because Francis lived at Greenway Farm, nee Prospect Hill, one might easily infer the original

160 acres of Rosni had once been a part of Prospect Hill.

Jack and his family became Methodists and he gave the Methodists the land on which the Walker Chapel now stands, just off Route 230. When Jack died he left the Rosni property to his son Joseph, who took residence there prior to 1828, when he was killed by a bolt of lightning. The property was then transferred to Joseph's brother, John Scott Walker, the elder (1809-1893). A grandson would also bear that name.

The house in which these brothers lived probably predated their occupancy. 1805 is the usual date attributed to its erection. It consisted of one great room over an English

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First Floor

Second Floor

Rosni, continued from page 9

basement for dining and a sleeping loft above. A detached kitchen stood nearby. The house faces west (see architect's plan). John Scott enlarged the house by adding a living room and library to the south. This addition included bedrooms above. The final addition was made by Mr. Frank Walker in the 1920s (more about him later). He added the kitchen wing to the north as well.

John Scott not only enlarged the house, but he also enlarged the farm with a purchase of 247 additional acres. He made one further significant real estate transaction: the purchase of Woodberry Forest, then spelled "Woodbury." Woodbury Forest had been the home of William Madison, youngest brother of the President. When William died in 1843, he left the property to his son, Ambrose. In 1859, John Scott Walker took an option on Woodberry Forest from Ambrose, and exercised the option in 1870.

Robert Stringfellow Walker, the only son of John Scott Walker, was born at Rosni in 1840. He grew up at Rosni, assisted his father in the management of the farm and attended Randolph Macon College at Boynton. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he enlisted in Mosby's Rangers, serving with distinction and discharged with the rank of Captain. Colonel Mosby and Captain Bob Walker formed a friendship that would last all their lives. Colonel Mosby was a frequent visitor at Rosni and later at Woodberry Forest. His visits were most welcome by Captain Bob, but Mrs. "Nanny" Walker found their lengthy conversations about the war to be tiresome and repetitive and was always happy when Colonel Mosby departed.

In 1872, John Scott Walker transferred the Woodberry Forest estate to his son, Robert and his daughter Sarah, affectionately known

as "Mit." In 1874, Captain Bob married Ann Carter Goss, "Nannie" of Somerset House. Of this marriage there were six sons, Carter, Joseph, John, Robert, Jr., Frank and Stuart. It was for these six sons that Woodberry Forest School was founded. In 1893, John Scott Walker died. He left the entire Rosni estate to his six grandsons, the sons of Captain Bob. Of these sons, only Frank had any interest in pursuing farming as a career. Frank attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute, where he studied agriculture, and upon his return from college he took over Rosni and eventually bought out his brother's shares. In 1923, Frank married Margaret Shackelford, a Jefferson descendant, thus bringing an interesting addition to an already distinguished pedigree.

Frank and Margaret had four children, three daughters, and a son. The son was Frank Stringfellow Walker, Jr. Like his father, Frank, Jr. attended Virginia Tech, where he, too, studied agriculture. And, like his father, he returned from college to take over the management of Rosni, which he did for some years. In the meantime and acquired an MBA from the University of Virginia. Frank, Sr., died in 1971 and left the farm to his four children. Frank, Jr., continued to farm for some time, but eventually his interest in the law lured

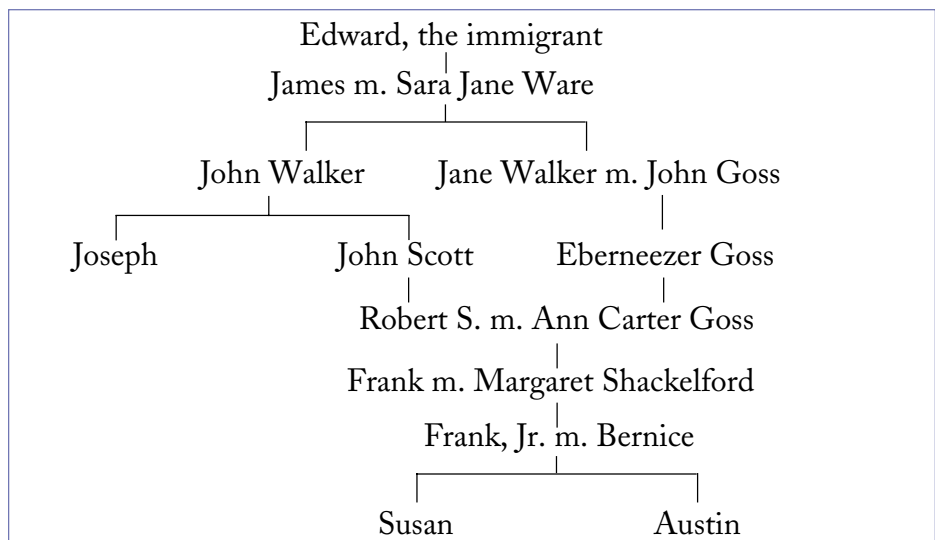
him to UVA's law school and away from Rosni. In 1979, Rosni was purchased by Mr. Peter Harris, an Englishman, who continued to operate the farm on an absentee basis. Mr. Tucker purchased the farm this year.

A POSTSCRIPT

Frank, Jr. says Rosni was the home to four generations of Walkers. I make it a practice never to argue with Frank; however, I count six generations. John Walker purchased the first 160 acres but never lived there. Frank and Bernice's daughter, Susan and Austin, lived there but never owned the property. I guess we could settle on five generations who called Rosni "home" at some point in their lives.

SOURCES FOR THE ARTICLE:

1. Maria Williams Minor, "The Walkers of Woodberry Forest," published privately, 1973
2. Vee Dove, "Madison County Homes," published by the author, 1975
3. Walker Family Papers, lent by Frank S. Walker, Jr.
4. Joseph G. Walker: informed notes and observations.
5. Conversations with J. Carter Walker; Coleman C. Walker, and John Scott Walker, the Younger.



Since Last We Talked...

Board Approves Dues Increase

The Board of Directors in their meeting July 20 approved the following dues schedule, which will go into effect next year.

Annual Individual Membership:	\$20
Annual Student (High School or College):	\$12.50
Annual Family:	\$30
Annual Sustaining:	\$100
Annual Patron:	\$200
Annual Sponsor:	\$300

In approving the new schedule, the Board noted that dues have not been raised in 10 years and that dues as a percentage of operating budget were less than 15%. The latter is important only in that the lower the contribution of dues to the operating budget, the more the Society has to rely upon other revenue sources to meet expenses in order to minimize reliance upon the earnings of the endowment (i.e. investments). It's no secret that the equities markets have taken a hit in the last three years and that recovery is lagging behind losses. It should also be noted that dues for 2004 have topped \$4,000, which is a first in the history of the Society, insofar as records indicate, and that membership is approaching past highs, with 297 paid memberships as of July 1.

Thanks Again to Marty Caldwell and Joe Rowe

We want to again take note that members Marty Caldwell and Joe Rowe are frequent volunteers at the Society's Research Center. We wish the list were a lot longer. Please take a moment and fill out the survey included with this edition of the *Newsletter*. You'll note that a section on volunteering is included in the survey. We're interested in learning from you what type of volunteer activities would be most appealing. Once we've compiled that information, we'll design some activities that will make a genuine contribution to the Society and get back in touch. By the way, that short list of volunteers would be considerably expanded if we pointed out that our Board of Directors are all volunteers. We aren't overlooking them; it's just that they have their plates full now.

Members Sample Barboursville Wines

The July member meeting was held under the arches of Barboursville Winery, as 37 members sampled Pinot Grigio, Chardonnay, and Merlot while they picnicked. Orange County is home to two of the state's largest wineries, in terms of production: Barboursville and Horton. Barboursville has become the state's largest cultivator of wine grapes, with an anticipated 141 acres. Luca Paschina, Managing Director of the Barboursville Winery, related the history of the winery while John Marshall told of his experiences as a judge in the Governor's Cup competition. The challenges facing the Virginia wine industry were touched upon — er, make that elaborated upon, according to some — by Executive Director Warren Dunn.

Believing that wine making occupies a special place in the past, present, and future of Orange County, the *Newsletter* will devote a good deal of its next edition to a fuller treatment of the significant contribution made to the Virginia wine industry by both Barboursville Winery and Horton Cellars.

Survey of Bank Records Completed

Mary Parke Johnson, a professional conservationist, has completed her survey of the old business records found in the attic of the National Bank of Orange building (now Virginia National Bank) at 102 E. Main St. Preliminary sorting by Gail Marshall, President of the Society, determined that there were essentially two major groups of records: the business records of the National Bank of Orange, which roughly span the first two decades of the twentieth century, and the office records of the law firm of James Gavin Field (or Fields), an attorney who practiced in Orange County. The latter group has documents dating from 1847 through the 1890s, consisting of legal instruments and personal correspondence. Among them is a pardon from President Andrew Johnson of a man with the last name of Cowherd for his service in the Confederacy. The bank records consist of three bound ledgers of financial transactions and approximately 55,000 unbound documents such as deposit receipts, correspondence from customers on financial matters, and transactions between the bank and other financial institutions.

Newsletter

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James Madison Museum Mounts Exhibit on the Blue Ridge Culture

The summer exhibit at the James Madison Museum provides glimpses into the lives of the People of the Blue Ridge prior to the establishment of the Shenandoah National Park. The exhibit continues through September 26 at the museum, located at 129 Caroline St. in Orange. The following description of the exhibit was provided by Anne Gobar, Administrator of the museum.

July 3, 1936, was an auspicious day in the lives of many Americans in the eastern United States, for it marked the establishment of a new national park. Dedicated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, it had taken twelve years to become a reality. But for those who were driven from the mountains to make way for a park, this date marked the end of a lifestyle and culture that had been in place for generations. The Shenandoah National Park encompasses close to two hundred thousand acres and stretches from Front Royal to Rockfish Gap, Va. It was conceived of as a recreational getaway for the overcrowded urban population along the East Coast. In 1924, the Secretary

of the Interior, Hubert Work, established the Southern Appalachian National Park Committee to search for suitable land that would be close enough to the cities, but still retain its natural beauty.

Two other forces served to expose the Blue Ridge area to the public and led to the establishment of the Park. George Freeman Pollock, who owned the Skyland Resort at Stony Man Mountain near Luray, has been called the father of the Shenandoah National Park. He devoted his life to promoting his resort and advertised regularly in *The Washington Post*, encouraging city dwellers to catch a bus and see the proposed park in a day. The other influence was from President Hoover, who established Hoover's Camp as a presidential retreat in Madison County in 1929. With the Blue Ridge so much in the public eye, it was not difficult to sell the idea of a park to the non-resident public. At this point, the fate of the mountain people who lived in this area was sealed.

Some five hundred families were displaced by the government's policy of eminent domain. Although those who owned their land were paid, the appraised values were often far below what the land and appurtenances were thought to be worth by their owners. To make the evictions more palatable to the public, the government painted a portrait of the mountain people as being poverty stricken and ignorant. There were indeed pockets of poverty and many lacked education, but that was only a small part of the story. Most of the people lived comfortable lives, attended school at least part of each year, and worked hard to make a living.

To its credit, the Park Service has made a concerted effort to correct the initial misinformation. Hopefully, through the use of pictures, personal objects and reminiscences from former residents and descendants, this exhibition will present a balanced portrait of what life was like on the mountains before the establishment of the park.