

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

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GENERAL LEE IN ORANGE COUNTY

by Rose Burgess (1913)

Introduction by Frank Hastings, her son

Introduction:

The South was a depressing place for many years after the Civil War. The social order and the economy had been totally destroyed. Land, the storehouse of value, was virtually worthless. Recovery, accomplished without outside help, was excruciating slow. Memories of the good old antebellum days and the glories of the "lost cause" became rosier and more sentimental with the passage of time. Children like Rose Burgess (1901-1974) devoured novels about southern children during the war. Typically mother, children, and faithful servants held down the plantation while father, a Confederate officer, was engaged in the war. The plots concerned the children helping mother and also foiling various Yankee schemes which brought them the praise of father and sometimes even General Lee. The stories were good-natured and non-violent. Rose Burgess wrote her paper about 1913; considering the time and the subject, the level of sentimentality is very low. It was entered in a history competition sponsored by the United Daughters of the Confederacy and won a first prize medal. The paper is presented as written with a few spelling corrections and a few footnotes.

During the winter of 1863-64, General Lee had his headquarters on the Roberts' place, immediately adjoining Meadowfarm near the home of Messrs. Jerdone and Newman. At this period, Orange Court House was one of the main supply depots. The roads were bad beyond description; wagons were often seen stalled, and mules practically submerged on the main street of the village. The fame of "Orange County mud" became state-wide and evoked the pleasant epigram from an enamored soldier that "the Orange County girls were like the Orange County mud; they made an impression that was quite indelible."

Thus, it became imperative that "ways" as well as means be provided for feeding the army, and we owe it to

General Lee that the main street of the village was macadamized from the depot to what was known as "Sandy Bottom." The work was done by details of soldiers and constituted the only "metaling" of a highway in the county from about 1855 til our recent era of "Good Roads."

On November 26, 1863, General Meade, commanding the Army of the Potomac, was discovered to be moving his army towards the lower fords of the Rapidan. By dawn on the 27th, General Lee was several miles from Orange on his way to meet him. After several small skirmishes with the Federals, General Lee withdrew to the west side of Mine Run, which he at once proceeded to strengthen by the erection of earthworks. Both

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"General Lee asked him to have a slice, which was accepted."

Although this account of General Lee's sojourn in Orange County has been circulated in manuscript form among long-time residents of Orange County, it has never been published. The Newsletter wishes to express its appreciation to Mr. Hastings for approving its publication. It is an extraordinary and charming achievement for a 12 or 13-year-old. She relied upon the recollections of family and friends in compiling this record, and, to be expected, it reflects the great esteem in which General Lee was held. Her award-winning essay is presented here in the hope that our current younger generation might find some inspiration from her clear and expressive writing.

In My Opinion

“Getting there” Less Important Than “Being there”

by E. A. “Mac” MacEwan*

Editor’s Note: “In My Opinion” is intended to provide an opportunity for members of the Orange County Historical Society to comment on important issues directly relevant to the mission of the Society. The views expressed in “In My Opinion” are those of the writer only and should not be interpreted as reflecting any official view of the Society.

In response to Daniel Holmes article, “Let’s Talk Seriously About Tourism,” OCHS Summer/Fall 2004 Newsletter, may I offer the following in rebuttal?

Yes, let’s talk seriously about tourism, but let us give more serious thought to the Tourism Corridor Overlay District (TCOD). It is one thing to promote tourism, but it is quite another thing entirely to use tourism as a tool to discourage commercial growth.

I believe it is taking full advantage of “poetic license” to claim that “(the TCOD) received unanimous support from the Planning Commission and has received majority support from citizens at public hearings.”

I attended that meeting and my reading of the “unanimous support” given by the Planning Commission was, “Let’s pass this hot potato on to the Board of Supervisors for a decision.” And, as for the majority support from citizens at the public hearing, my reading was that it was too close to call and the April 22nd *Daily Progress* reported the plan “received mixed reviews.” Hardly what one would call “unanimous/majority support.”

Could it be that we have a more sagacious Board of Supervisors than

some would credit? Perhaps the reason the Board has not given serious consideration to nor scheduled a public hearing on the TCOD is because:

- The Board realizes the unprecedented subjective powers that would be given to an appointed county body.
- All the main arteries into the county would be affected.
- Residential, forestry and agricultural properties, which comprise 96% of the areas in question, are exempt.
- The restrictions on the remaining 4% of the areas apply to business and industry only.
- Failure to convince that the TCOD would increase or affect tourism.
- Realization that adoption of the TCOD would:
 - Require additional county staff to oversee its execution.
 - Create extra paperwork for staff and applicant.
 - Increase the number of hearings and appeals.
 - Invite a multitude of lawsuits.
 - Discourage commercial growth in the county as a whole.

Businesses and industries are not the “villains” some portray them to be. They should be welcomed as a contributing partner in the county. They would provide an expanded tax base and offer gainful and meaning-

ful employment for our youth. Their tax dollars would contribute greatly towards relief of some of the tax load currently carried by the property owners.

I am suspect of any proposal that cites “so-and-so counties” as a reference. Mostly this reference appears only when the “so-and-so” counties proposal supports the thinking of those who are putting forth the proposal. Never is “so-and-so counties” cited when the opposite is true. I would defy anyone to explain how preserving 4% of six main arteries is going to “draw valuable tourism dollars into our community.” The focus for tourism should not be directed on “getting there” but rather directed on “being there.”

I would urge your readers to obtain a copy of the proposed TCOD and to read it carefully. Those who have a vested right in the passage of this amendment have done a good job in clouding the facts; however, when “common sense” is applied the cloud disperses and the true facts are exposed to the light of day. The readers may find, at some future date, that they are on the receiving end of this amendment and rue the day it was adopted.



**Mr. MacEwan is a member of and a volunteer for several Orange County organizations. The views expressed are his personal views and neither purport to reflect, nor are they to be construed as a reflection of, the views of any of these organizations.*

What the Proposed Tourism Corridor Overlay Ordinance Is...and Isn't

by Deborah Kendall — Director, Planning and Zoning for Orange County

Editor's Note: The proposed Tourism Corridor Overlay Ordinance underscores a growing concern about the increasing impact tourism is having...and will have...on Orange County. In his "In My Opinion" commentary on page 2, E.A. "Mac" MacEwan suggests that members of the Society become more familiar with the terms of the proposed ordinance. Holding to the spirit of the tradition of the Orange County Historical Society to make available to any interested party information they can use in making their own judgements, we have acquired a copy of the proposed ordinance and it is available to members to read at the Research Center. Also, we invited Debbie Kendall, Director of Planning and Zoning for Orange County, to describe the TCO and give her perspective on what it would mean for Orange County. Her presentation was made October 25 at a regular Member Meeting.



Ed McMahon, Director of the Conservation Fund, has said "No place will retain its special character by accident. Successful communities always have a vision for the future."

Another quote jumps to mind. "No community plans to fail; they just fail to plan." The Tourism Corridor Overlay Ordinance and Design Guidelines is one feature of an overall plan to protect, enhance, and reflect the character of the community. Its ultimate goal is to promote growth and development that is compatible with the community, not to deny or restrict growth. By establishing a level of expectation — in effect, a community standard — for development design, experience has shown that eases the review process for develop-



Deborah Kendall

ers and the Planning Commission. The ordinance removes the arbitrary nature of decisions on aesthetics.

There is ample legal authority to create an ordinance that sets design standards. The Code of Virginia allows for establishing zoning ordinances that "facilitate the creation of a convenient, attractive and harmonious community," and permits "any locality to adopt an ordinance affecting significant routes of tourist access" to historic landmarks, buildings, structures, or districts.

All would agree that Orange County is rich in history and scenic beauty. As a result, tourism in the county has flourished. Since 1996, the number of tourists visiting the county has increased by 200% and is growing, both in numbers and economic impact on the county. The attraction of Orange County is not limited to tourists. In a 1989 telephone survey, 99.5 percent of respondents indicated that the general atmosphere and living environment of the county is what they like most about living in the county. The irresistible growth of tourism and the very appeal of the quality of life in Orange County bring with them pressures for development, such

as interest from franchise operations that cater to tourists. A tourist corridor overlay ordinance is one way to maintain control over what could become unfettered development.

There are six goals in the Orange County Comprehensive Plan that support the development of a corridor overlay ordinance. Goal #3 calls for providing a variety of employment opportunities that are compatible with the environment and economically beneficial to the county. Goal #9 says that the rural character of the county should be shielded from the undesirable effects of uncontrolled growth. At first glance, these goals might appear to be in conflict. The County's Comprehensive Plan Goal #13 gets at this apparent incompatibility by advocating that the design of commercial establishments along primary highways reflect "rural vernacular architecture rather than the prefabricated buildings common among franchise businesses." Inasmuch as most franchise operations are prepared to adapt to community standards and have a variety of design alternatives, the ordinance is not likely to thwart the intention of any business to locate within Orange County. The market-driven decision as to where to do business was made long before any application to build was made.

The Tourist Corridor Overlay ordinance has its origins in 2002, when the Orange County Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 in favor of drafting an ordinance that would regulate development design among the primary road corridors of the county. In March, 2003, a public hearing revealed strong opposition

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Bloomingtondale: the Golsans

by Joe Rowe

As much as we might like to avoid the old three brothers theory, we seem forced to mention it. We mention it not because one of the alleged brothers went to Kentucky, but because another of the alleged brothers settled in nearby Spotsylvania and his descendants want to be cousins. The third brother and the progenitor of our Orange County family came from England to Charleston, South Carolina. This is his story.

Major Lewis Golsan (1730-1790) arrived in Charleston in 1750. The following year he married Elizabeth Staley. Major Golsan begat several children. One of them was John Lewis Golsan, Jr. (1759-1822). John Lewis was followed by his son, yet another Lewis Golsan (1784-1856). He married Martha Whetstone. Next in line is Jacob Hodges Golsan (1815-1870). His wife was Mary Belle Broadnax. Jacob's son was Eustace Fortescue Golsan (1843-1935), who married Mary Nalle. We have here five generations of the Golsan family, who in the period between 1750 and the Civil War moved westward across the South, from Charleston to Orangeburg, South Carolina, then to Autaugeville, Alabama, and finally to New Orleans. In this migration they acquired plantations, accumulated slaves and raised cotton. Not only did they raise cotton, they sold cotton, marketed cotton, and finally brokered cotton. They made money.

The Golsans did other things as well. The first Lewis Golsan served as justice of the peace and was a member of Charleston's Provincial Congress. John Lewis, Jr., fought against the Tories in 1783. Eustace Fortescue Golsan was probably the greatest of them all. Or, maybe it was just that more is known about him. He was an officer during the Civil War. He was wounded in both the Battle of Chan-

cellorsville and Shelbyville while serving in D.H. Hill's Division. Eustace was discharged with the rank of Captain, but in retirement his friends gave him the honorary sobriquet of "Colonel." Eustace arrived in Orange County after the Civil War. He was accompanied by his wife, Mary and her father, Edward Nalle. In Orange, he worked hard to restore the Bloomingtondale farm. This farm now had to operate without slaves. He founded the Golsan and Buckner Warehouse. He served as vestryman and Senior Warden of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in Orange. Eustace died in 1935 at 93 years of age.

In the year 1877, Benjamin Henry Latrobe, Jr. came to Bloomingtondale as a paying guest. He was the son of the famous Benjamin Henry Latrobe, architect of the capitol in Washington. The younger Latrobe was at Bloomingtondale so he could have access to several local doctors. Through them he hoped to find relief from declining health. Alas, he died the following year. Taking in paying guests was a common practice of Southern farms in the post Civil War period.

The next owner of Bloomingtondale was Henry Logan Golsan (1876-1950), son of Eustace. Logan and his brother Eustace, Jr. attended Woodberry Forest School. Both of them played on the baseball team with the Walker brothers, sons of Capt. Robert S. Walker. Logan married Florence Ramage of Oil City, Pennsylvania. They had one child, a daughter, Betty. The marriage of Logan and Florence ended in divorce. Betty went with her mother. Logan remained as the squire of Bloomingtondale. Eventually, he remarried, this time to Frances Weisse of Pittsburgh, Wisconsin. The first Mrs. Logan Golsan maintained a residence on Park Avenue in New York as well as a home on Monument

Avenue in Richmond. It was from the latter residence that her daughter, Betty, attended St. Catherine's School and made her Richmond debut. In 1933, Betty was presented to the Queen at the Court of St. James. She was one of seventeen selected for this honor that year. Betty married twice: first to Philip Bateson and later to Robert Schneider. Upon her father's death in 1950, Bloomingtondale became hers.

Mrs. Schneider was known for her eleemosynary interests, both in Richmond and in Orange County. The main thrust of these interests was historic preservation. In Richmond, she was a pioneer and prime mover in the Church Hill Restoration project. For this and other similar undertakings, the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) presented her with the 1985 Historic Preservation Award. Historic Gordonsville here in Orange County gave her a similar award to recognize her time, support and financial assistance both for the Restoration of the Exchange Hotel and for the acquisition and preservation of the site of Alexander Spottswood's "Enchanted Castle."

Betty Schneider died January 16, 2004. She is survived by her adopted daughter, Nancy. (Mrs. Bryce Bugg). ■



Mrs. Schneider on the Ile de France when times were a little less rushed and a little more elegant.

Bloomingdale: the House

The house at Bloomingdale was built in 1841 by Edmund Barbour. This house faced west. It had a side hall running east and west with a double parlor to the south. Two bed chambers were above the parlors. Below the parlors was an English basement which contained the dining room. A detached kitchen stood to the east of the house.

In 1862, Bloomingdale was purchased by Richard Omohundro. The next year Richard sold Bloomingdale to Ebenezer Goss, who lived at Somerset, a neighboring estate. Ebenezer, who was married to Ann Carter Nalle, conveyed this property to his wife's uncle, Edward Nalle, of New Orleans, late of Culpeper.

Edward probably took residence at Boomingdale soon after the Civil War. When he came, he brought with him his daughter, Mary Nalle Golsan, and her husband, Eustace Fortescue Golsan. Thus did the Golsans arrive in Virginia. Mary's two sons Eustace Fortescue, Jr., and Henry Logan were both born at Bloomingdale in 1874 and 1876, respectively. It is not clear just how much time the Nalle-Golsan family spent at Bloomingdale. Certainly they were there during the warm weather months, but they found Orange County winters difficult. Also both

Mr. Nalle and Mr. Golsan had business interests in New Orleans. Mr. Golsan had a seat on the New Orleans cotton exchange.

In 1875, Edward Nalle decided the house needed enlarging, since there was now a baby and another soon to come. He built a wing to the north, balancing the double parlors to the south, creating the five bay facade visible today. He also built porches to the east.

Edward Nalle died in 1884. The Golsans continued to live at Bloomingdale, at least part-time. It was only in 1920 that central heat was installed in the house. This suggests it was then the Golsan family became serious about making Bloomingdale a year-round residence. Ownership of Bloomingdale passed from Mary Nalle Golsan to her son Henry Logan Golsan. Logan lived there, managed the farm, and enjoyed the life of a county squire. Upon his demise in 1950, Bloomingdale fell to his daughter and only child, Betty Golsan Schneider.

Betty didn't really need another house. She had a house in Richmond, one in Alexandria, and a condo in Florida. However, she had known Bloomingdale all her life. She had lived there as a small child and had

visited there later in life. She truly liked the house. She liked Orange County. So she accepted Bloomingdale as one more residence. Eventually, she would get rid of the house in Alexandria and the condo in Florida. She maintained a residence in Richmond all her life.

Much needed to be done to Bloomingdale. At some earlier period, the detached kitchen had been abandoned. A new kitchen was placed in the basement. Betty went a step further. She moved both the kitchen and the dining room to the main floor. In so doing she had to sacrifice one of the two double parlors. This became the new dining room. To accommodate the new kitchen she enclosed the 1875 porch. Part of it became the kitchen. The other part became her morning room. Here she could have breakfast, read the paper, do the mail and the telephoning.

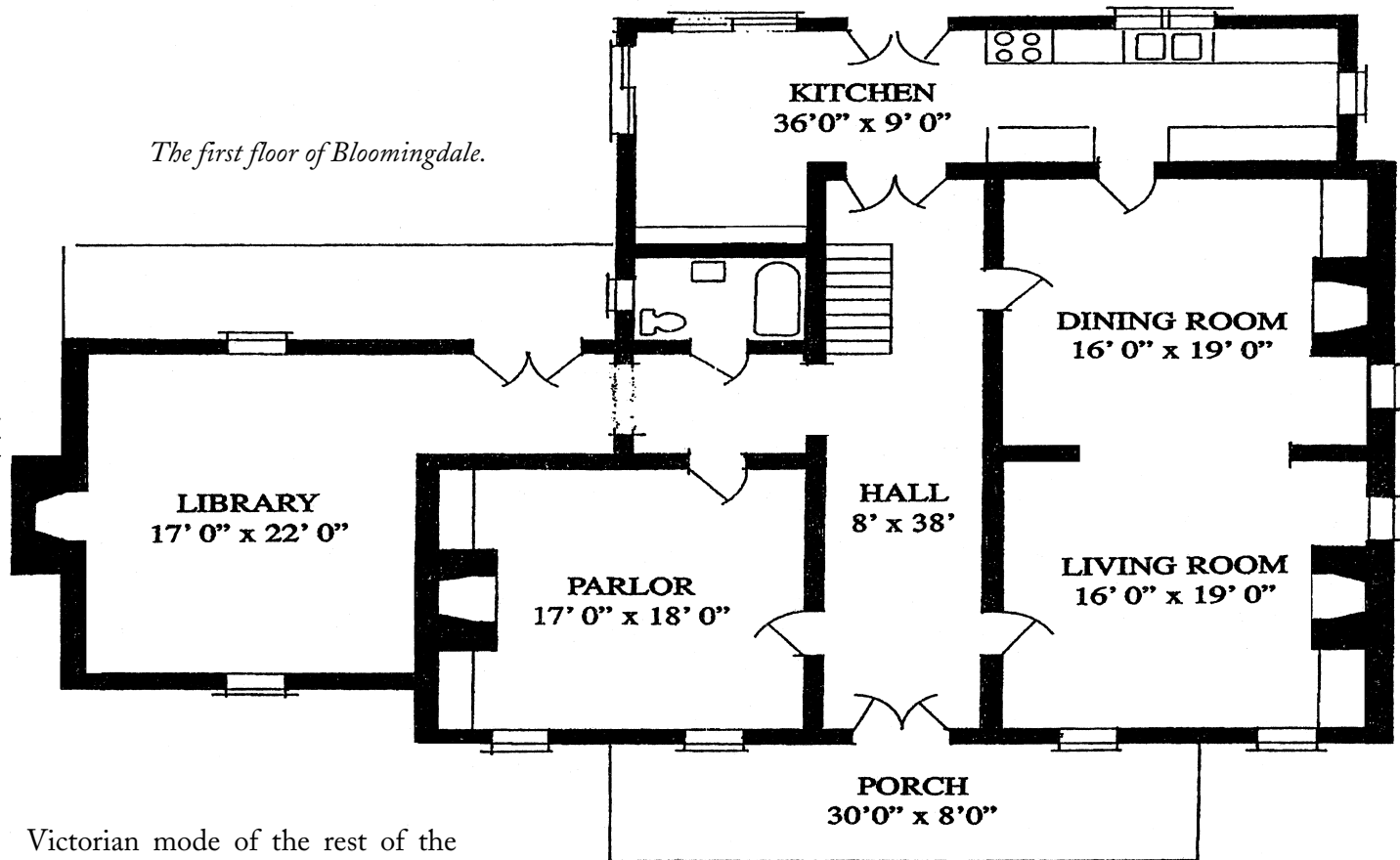
Next came the piece de resistance. She decided to add a library. It would be added to the north end of the house. To accomplish this, Mrs. Schneider retained Joe Wayner, a local master craftsman. She and Joe together did the design. Joe executed the design. The finished product was an object of great beauty and comfort, if in sharp contrast to the high

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Note the "short porch" on the original structure in this period photograph....as opposed to its more recent replacement.

The first floor of Bloomingdale.



Victorian mode of the rest of the house.

Then came additional baths, a swimming pool, and a garden. At last this was not only her house, but one to her liking.

One day a young man named Wayne Brown came to Bloomingdale seeking work. He identified himself as a carpenter who worked in tandem with his wife. Betty was impressed with his appearance and manner. She gave him and his wife a small task to do. They did it well. Large jobs followed. They soon did repair work on the house, the tenant houses, the garage and the many other outbuildings. When all of these repairs were completed, the Browns went to work painting these buildings. Their work was outstanding and Betty was pleased. Wayne Brown and his wife remained at Bloomingdale, working full time for two years.

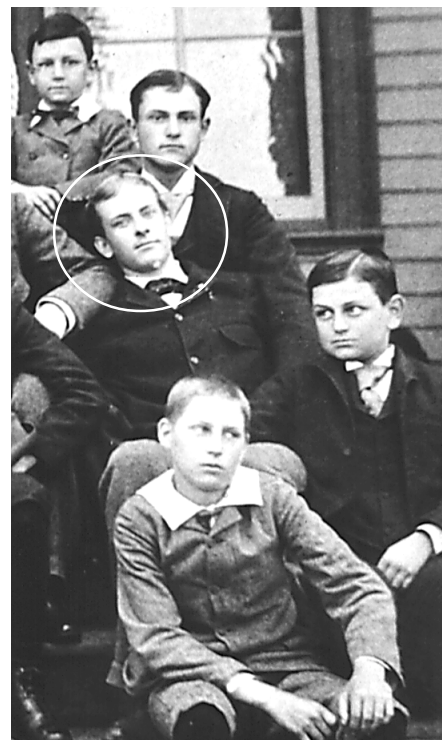
This little tale says something of the duty and responsibility Mrs. Schneider felt toward the maintenance and preservation of her historic property. She died January 16, 2004. Her adopted daughter Nancy Schneider Bugg had no interest in

owning the house. In the September/October issue of *Preservation* magazine, it was announced that Bloomingdale would be sold in a sealed bid sale on September 10. The bids submitted were found to be unacceptable and the realtor, Stevens and Company, placed the estate on the open market.

END NOTE

The bulk of the information for this article was gleaned from family and estate papers given to the Orange County Historical Society by Faye Holland. Mrs. Holland was for many years the personal secretary and companion of Mrs. Schneider. The Latrobe visit was taken from the personal journals of Benjamin Henry Latrobe, Jr. These journals are in the possession of the Maryland Historical Society Library in Baltimore. The Wayne Brown story was told to me by Mr. Brown. Mr. Brown was at one time my tenant. The photographs are from the Ferol Briggs collection. This collection is in the possession

of the Orange County Historical Society. The floor plan is from the files of Pat Kalan.



This photo dated 1893 shows Logan Golsan and his Woodberry Forest School classmates, three Walker brothers and Vivian Slaughter.

Your In My Opinion

by Warren Dunn
Executive Director

Several weeks ago, we sent out a detailed questionnaire to our 400-plus members, asking their opinion about the Society. We got back 32 completed questionnaires, which, had the universe been larger, would have been a significant return. However, as grateful as we are for the guidance contained in the 32 returned questionnaires, we cannot claim it was a scientific poll of the membership from which we can extract a valid collective opinion. What we have is 32 individual responses; nonetheless, they do reveal a pattern and an intensity of attitude that is valuable. This report will try to capture the essence of those patterns and attitudes.

First, the survey revealed that 25 of the 32 felt their membership was "worth the money." Only two felt that they were not getting their money's worth. This question also elicited some pungent comments.

Among my favorites: "Research Center storage problems have it looking more and more like a rat's nest." "I believe I was getting my OLD dues worth!" "Abolish dues entirely (and) begin an annual giving program." "Have a Monday picnic with the African-American Historical Society." "The Historical Society (exists to be) a repository of Orange County History. That (alone) justifies the dues. All the rest is icing on the cake."

Second, 18 of the respondents said they would donate money to meet a "special need," and were pretty uniform in what they thought deserved their money. Only two "Special Needs" garnered enough support to be reflective of a collective opinion: 1.) Repairs (and improvements) to the building and 2.) Fi-

nancing a historical research project resulting in a book for sale. There was precious little enthusiasm for the other six options presented.

On the other hand, there was considerable support (15 favorable responses or more) to four activities that the Society could, or should, engage in. Most popular (18) was "Increasing the size of our collection by including more historical reference material." That was closely followed (14) by opening a "bookstore" selling books about Virginia, the Civil War, genealogy, and books by Virginia authors." One favorable response qualified its support by substituting "Orange County store" for "bookstore." The third most popular (14) response for a possible activity was "Establishing a touring service specializing in Orange County sites." The Board is presently considering inaugurating just such a service and the level of support indicated by the survey is a welcome addition to the discussion. Lastly, there was support (12) for "conducting for-fee educational programs for the general public."

Perhaps the most encouraging result of the survey is the overwhelming support for the programs. Only two respondents out of the 22 who answered this question felt the programs needed improvement, although there were "suggestions."

An interesting suggestion was that the Society consider holding meetings during the day or on weekends or presenting the monthly programs twice on the same day, once in the afternoon and once in the evening. The most often other suggestions were to hold more programs off-site and to hear from public leaders on issues important to historic preserva-

tion and from those professionals who teach history.

The Newsletter received a vote of confidence, with 19 saying it was "Improving," with content that was "About right." Eight felt the Newsletter should be available to non-members who wanted to subscribe.

Perhaps one of the biggest issues with which the Society has to deal, along with finances and the building, is how to generate more volunteers. It was more or less clear from the survey that people are willing to volunteer if they 1.) have the time and 2.) do the type of work they are interested in. The type of work that appeals to potential volunteers ranges all over the lot, from entering data into computers to proof-reading the Newsletter. There was no pattern to the responses, but the ball was bounced right back to the Society to come up with a Volunteer Recruitment Program that provides a meaningful and rewarding volunteer experience. Message received loud and clear.

Satisfaction surveys like the one we conducted can be useful tools in setting policy. I sense from the number of responses and the scoring of them that the membership is largely satisfied with the Society right now and that it expects the leadership to maintain a steady course rather than take many detours. I was fascinated that half of the responses came from Out of County, and most of those from Out of State. But, regardless of where our members live, I got the distinct impression from the survey that we are to continue to improve upon what we have, rather than embark upon uncertain voyages to uncharted shores. ■

Wineries Making History

Tom Payette

Residents of and visitors to Orange County are fortunate. We drive on secluded highways viewing historic properties in all their beauty, elegance and charm. Between these properties lie immaculate vineyards prospering in the regional soils and climate. These vineyards, marching in neat, almost militant rows, supply high quality grapes to local wineries and other award winning wineries across Virginia. Quietly, these vineyards express their green beauty in the summer and their brown elegance of draping old wood in the winter while supplying the local area with a lifestyle that preserves the precious green space of our county at the same time it provides a living for area residents. On top of that, revenues are generated from tourists who want to sample the award winning wines of Orange County. Wineries are often shared destinations with many of the Bed and Breakfasts, restaurants, and other attractions in the area that offer visitors and locals alike an escape to peace, quiet, history and county beauty.

Barboursville Vineyards and Horton Cellars are two proud producers of world class wines that are bringing increasing national recognition and prestige to Orange County. At Barboursville, one can taste some traditionally made wines from well-known grapes and, at Horton Cellars, one can taste some exciting examples of the “newer breed” of varieties. In fact, the lengthy wine lists of both wineries include the more familiar Cabernet Franc and Chardonnays, as well as other grapes long regarded as “right” for Virginia’s long hot and humid summer. And both wineries are



The Norton grape was first grown in Virginia in the early 1800s and was for years a favorite with Virginians. It fell out of favor in the late 1800s, but continued to be grown as a wine grape in various parts of the county. Among the places it was produced was Stone Hill Wine Company, near Hermann, Missouri. It is perhaps no coincidence that Dennis Horton was born in Hermann and has managed to make Horton Norton among the best-selling Virginia wines.

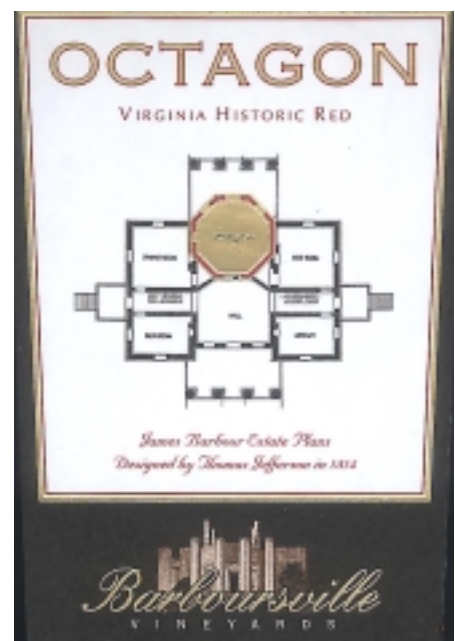
among the largest producers of wine in the state, ranking in the top five. With its recent additions to the vineyard, Barboursville is now the largest grower of grapes in the state.

Horton Vineyards was started in 1986 and the winery, Horton Cellars, opened in 1989. Horton Cellars produces wines from such grapes as Norton, Petit Manseng, Marsanne, Mouvedre, Tannat, and Touriga, to name only a few. When sampling these wines, it’s useful to remember that there were no track records for most of these varieties in the state. Thanks to Horton Cellars, many of these varieties are now successfully

grown throughout Virginia. Dennis Horton, his wife Sharon and partner Joan Bieda have pioneered the introduction of these varieties by willingly assuming the agricultural and financial risk to experiment with grapes that had not been widely tested in Virginia, but because of their growing characteristics seemed “right” for Virginia. It was a gamble that paid off. A solid foundation has been laid for anyone else caring to explore entering the grape growing business in Virginia.

Among Horton’s most notable contributions to the viticulture of Virginia to date has been the rescue of the Norton grape from historical silence, putting Viognier on Virginia — and the nation’s — wine list, and introducing Petit Manseng to Virginia as a big, bold white suitable as a dinner wine, quite a change from its role in France.

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Barboursville Vineyards is a five minute drive from Horton Cellars. Started in 1976, this vineyard occupies one of the most historic of all properties in Virginia: the Barboursville Plantation, former home of Governor James Barbour. Before being destroyed by a Christmas fire in 1884, this Jefferson-designed building was one of the finest octagonal homes in the nation. One of the winery's labels features the floor plan of the Barboursville estate.

Barboursville Winery concentrates on producing the more traditional varieties of grapes and does a world class job of making Virginia wines with an Italian flare. The winery has gone from a somewhat limited production to a very handsome level, while constantly maintaining the quality of its wines. The wine mogul family of Italy Zonin owns this property and has grown the winery with the help of many talented people. At the helm since the early 1990s is another energetic vintner, Luca Pachina. A second-generation winemaker, Pachina is not only a pioneer in growing European varietals in Virginia, but he is a bit of an adventurer as well. He arrived from Torino, Italy, with a limited English vocabulary, to grow a business. The enormous courage that took is matched by the determination he has shown in establishing Barboursville Winery as one of the most respected and nationally recognized Virginia wineries in the nation.

Both Horton Cellars and Barboursville Winery excel in their production of fine wines. Both have contributed, in their own way, to secur-

ing the future of the wine industry in Virginia. Both are making history. Each year, the efforts of the winemakers at the two wineries are recognized by their peers. Both have won the Virginia Governor's Cup, in different years, as well as gold medals from competitions all over the nation. Pachina was awarded Wineperson of the Year for 2002 and



Horton may likely be a candidate this year for obtaining a \$50,000 Department of Agriculture grant for the Virginia Wineries Association to support wine marketing efforts in Virginia.

Agriculturally, depending on crop yields from year to year, both wineries produce about 35,000 cases per year for a total of 166,000 gallons from just over 1,100 tons of grapes grown on about 370 acres. Horton Cellars uses the more modern Open Lyre trellis system to cultivate and train their grapevines, while Barboursville uses mostly a Vertical Shoot Positioning system that vineyards around the world have used for centuries. It is sobering to realize that just two wineries are responsible for keeping almost 400 acres of Orange

County countryside as farmland, at a time when more and more land is being taken out of production.

The financial impact of the wineries is not hard to see. The packed parking lots of the tasting rooms are clear evidence of the attraction of the wineries. Between them, the two wineries attract nearly as many visitors to Orange County (close to 60,000) as does Montpelier and have long been recognized as one of the major tourist destinations in the county. Some conservative estimates are that for every one dollar a person spends at a winery, they spend another four dollars on other goods and services. Some estimates take this ratio as high as one to eight!

To quote Dr. R. Curtis Ellison, MD, "Abstinence may be a risk factor." Go, visit, and support your local wineries. Help them continue to add more history to the already rich history of our county, preserve farmland and provide additional revenue for our local businesses. When you arrive home for the evening — hold up a "healthy" small sample of wine and pledge a French toast: "A Votre Sante," — "To Your Health!" ©Tom Payette 2004

Tom Payette, a winemaking professional, with more than twenty years experience, consults with established wineries to improve their products and systems and assists in new vineyard and winery start-ups. Vineyard & Winery Management magazine named Tom "Winemaker of the Year" in 1999. Tom and his family live in Orange County on the Rapidan River. He may be contacted at 540-672-0387.

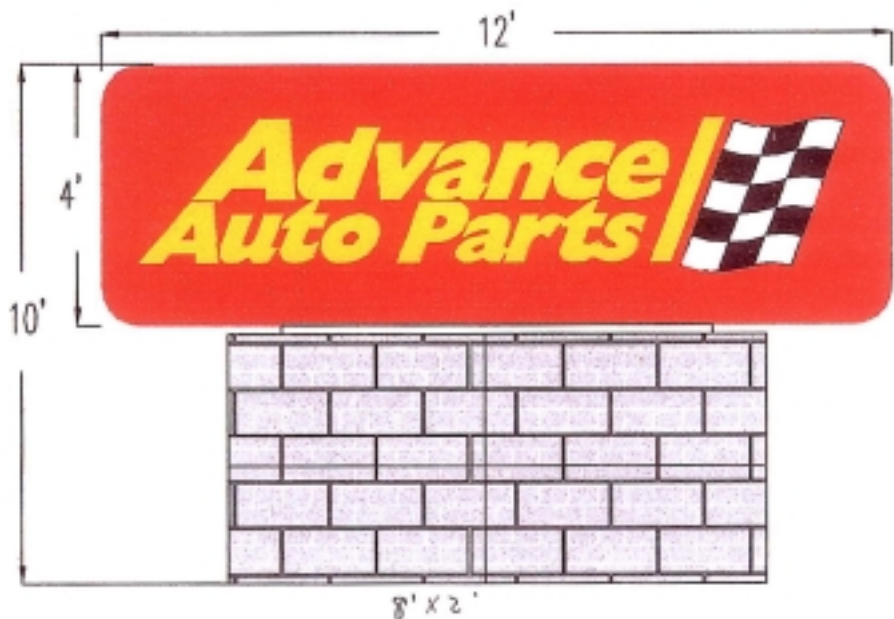
Society Endorses Architectural Review Ordinance

The Orange County Historical Society has sent letters to elected and appointed officials of the Town of Orange and Orange County endorsing the establishment of an architectural review ordinance to preserve “an overall esthetic that supports our justifiable reputation as one of this Nation’s most historic and scenic counties.”

The complete letter and a response from Orange Town Councilman Henry Lee Carter are on pages 11 and 12.

In sending the letters, the Board of Directors of OCHS is responding to sentiments expressed by the membership at their September meeting, where concerns were raised about the pending construction of an Advance Auto Parts building just south of the Society’s headquarters. Although the Society is not resisting the construction of the building, which conforms with existing zoning ordinances, and has noted with appreciation the “willingness of Advance Auto Parts to erect a monument style sign as opposed to a pole sign,” the letters point out that the type of building Advance is likely to erect has little relation to the James Madison Museum, St. Thomas’ Church, or the Historical Society...

“Without enforceable architectural standards, it is impossible to restrict the type and appearance of structures that are not compatible with our community’s image,” said Board Member Frank S. Walker, Jr. “We are especially concerned that national franchise operations will, if not required, impose their own image on our community and we know for a fact that they will conform to our standards if required to,” added Walker, pointing out that Advance Auto Parts has a conform-



Advance Auto Parts has offered to erect a monument style sign with yellow lettering on a red background, rather than the pole sign they could have erected. Work on the new building is underway.

ing-style building in at least two Charlottesville shopping centers.

David Edwards, Director of the Winchester office of the Virginia Department of Historical Resources, confirms Walker’s assessment by pointing out that many communities in and near the central Virginia area have architectural review ordinances and that “business has not suffered because of them.” The most often expressed objection to architectural review ordinances is that they discourage new business or make it more costly for them to operate. Edwards denied this, saying that “the decision where to locate a business is based on market considerations, not whether there is an architectural review process in place.”

A study of the architectural review ordinances of four communities in Virginia (Front Royal, Culpeper, Warrenton, and Spotsylvania) reveals they have several things in common. Their primary concern is to preserve those aspects of the community that have special historical, cultural, artis-

tic, architectural or archaeological significance. All establish clearly defined areas of the community that are affected and all call for the creation of an independent commission or board to review plans for the alteration, demolition or construction of structures within those geographic areas. While all the ordinances refer to some type of standard that new construction or alterations must conform to, the standards appear flexible and differ from community to community. All four have some type of appeal process to ensure that the decision of the commission is not arbitrary or capricious. Some exemptions are permitted in all the ordinances.

The Society has made copies of these ordinances from other communities available to the Town. ■

Full Text of Society's Letter to Elected and Appointed Officials of Town of Orange and Orange County

Orange County Historical Society, Inc.

130 Caroline Street Orange, Virginia 22960

October 7, 2004

Dear (letter was personally addressed),

The Board of Directors of the Orange County Historical Society, acting at the direction of its membership, wishes to register its concern over the lack of enforceable architectural standards for Orange County and its towns. It also calls upon the respective governing bodies to immediately initiate the processes leading to the adoption of Architectural Review ordinances within their jurisdictions. We take these steps because our membership feels that the lack of enforceable standards has permitted organizations to build structures that do not contribute to an overall esthetic that supports our justifiable reputation as one of this Nation's most historic and scenic counties.

While a number of local enterprises have voluntarily built structures that contribute to a visually pleasing community, there are others that have adamantly refused to conform to anything but their own image. Without controls, they are perfectly within their right to do so. Franchise operations have proven to be a particular concern, and the community's image stands mocked by Sheetz, Kentucky Fried Chicken, and Long John Silver.

We do note with appreciation the more subdued appearance of the Wilderness McDonalds. We note also the willingness of Advance Auto Parts to erect a monument style sign as opposed to a pole sign, which, under current ordinances would have been their right. Nonetheless, the type of building Advance has decided to erect has little relation to the James Madison Museum, St. Thomas' Church, and the Historical Society, Advance's closest neighbors. By the same token, Advance, like franchisees everywhere, respect architectural standards where they exist, and its store in the Pantops Shopping Center in Charlottesville is evidence of a willingness to work with a community that has standards.

Without controls, those organizations that invest in creating structures that contribute to the esthetics of the community see their efforts undone by neighbors who take full advantage of the current ineffective ordinances and create structures that detract from those esthetics. For example, the Commercial Historic District in the Town of Orange reflects the conscious efforts of the Main Street businesses in Orange to enhance the community's image. That Commercial Historic District, however, is being bracketed by franchisees who elect to build in an outmoded over-the-top garish style. A more direct slap at a local merchant's willingness to cooperate is the locating of an unmodified Sheetz next to the Wilderness McDonalds. We are not criticizing these business' personnel, products or services. Our complaint is with local ordinances that allow them to impose an image on Orange County and its towns.

Architectural control ordinances exist in numerous towns and counties in our region, and copies of the ones which have proven to be fair and workable are available for review. We believe it is imperative that the elected and appointed officials of Orange County and its towns also make certain that their comprehensive plans and ordinances contain adequate controls to ensure that Orange remains a desirable and attractive place both to visit and live one's life.

s/Warren Dunn
Executive Director

Reply From Henry Lee Carter, Town Of Orange Council Member

SOMERVILLE, CARTER & WILKINSON, LTD

113 WEST MAIN STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 629
ORANGE, VIRGINIA 22960

October 15, 2004

Dear Mr. Dunn:

This letter is in response to your letter of October 7 with regard to the need for an architectural review committee. Just like you, I view with alarm the businesses moving into Orange like Sheetz, Kentucky Fried Chicken, and now Advance Auto Parts, which is locating in the Commercial Historic District. Since I am not a planner, I feel compelled to defer to Mr. Collins, our town planner as to the mechanics of setting up an architectural review committee. Also, Jay Harrison with the Orange Downtown Alliance has a good deal of experience with such committees.

As you may or may not know, the Town is presently updating its comprehensive plan and hopefully will adopt a capital improvement plan in the near future. The comprehensive plan probably will not be ready until next May. Whether there has to be either a comprehensive plan or a capital improvements plan in effect to establish an architectural review committee is something of which I have no knowledge. By a copy of this letter, I am asking Mr. Collins to get in touch with you with regard to the requirements in order to have an architectural review committee.

Please also understand that there will be substantial opposition to such a committee that may determine whether or not the Planning Commission and Town Council will be willing to go forward with such committee, when we can do so. In obtaining passage of an architectural review committee, it is going to take the committed efforts of your society, the museum and other interested parties and preserving the Commercial Historic District. In the meantime, I share with you a deep concern about businesses being able to come into Orange at the present time without any controls.

Should you have questions or if I can be of further assistance to the society, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With kind regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

s/Henry Lee Carter

General Lee, continued from page 1

armies faced each other for several days; then General Meade quietly withdrew in the night and General Lee, after pursuing him for some distance, returned to his headquarters.

While making a tour of inspection along the lines on a Sunday, the day after the erection of the earthworks, General Lee, with his staff, accompanied by General A.P. Hill and staff, came upon a body of men engaged in divine worship. Observing the devotions of the men, the general promptly halted and listened to the singing of a hymn. He remained quiet until the singing ceased and then, as the chaplain pronounced the benediction, he uncovered his head, received the blessing, and continued his ride along the lines. This incident has been often related as an example of General Lee's deeply religious nature. Indeed, all the time General Lee was in Orange County, he attended both St. Thomas' Episcopal and the Presbyterian Churches. There was one especially notable service in the Episcopal Church, the more impressive because of the two chief figures. General Lee with some of his staff was in the congregation. In the pulpit, General W.N. Pendleton was in full uniform. General Pendleton, who commanded the artillery corps, was an Episcopal minister. I doubt if, at any time, there has been a church which had such a famous general in the congregation while another conducted the services.

General Lee's headquarters were near my grandfather's farm. My grandmother had invited him to make her home his headquarters, but he refused, saying he must fare as his men. His desire to do this was plainly evident, for he sent to the suffering privates in the hospitals the delicacies contributed for his personal use from the meagre stores of those who

were anxious about his health. If a handful of real coffee came to him, it went in the same direction while he cheerfully drank from his tin cup the wretched substitute made from parched corn and beans.

One of General Lee's traits was his love for children. I have heard an old friend of mine relate how he used to visit General Lee at his headquarters. His home was about three-quarters of a mile distant, and, being only about five or six years old at the time, he was usually accompanied on these visits by one of the soldiers who were stationed at his home as guards. Upon one occasion, having gone over on the shoulder of a soldier, when he arrived, he went into the tent without warning and found General Lee handing around a plate of cake to some officers. General Lee asked him to have a slice, which was accepted. My friend then told General Lee that the soldier who had him over was outside, and he wished a slice for him. The General took him by the hand, and, going outside, offered the cake to the soldier, who was greatly affected by this courtesy from his commander.

That winter some one from South Carolina sent General Lee a barrel of yams. He sent my aunt, who was about twelve years old, a present of some of these. She always said if it had been a million dollars she could not have been prouder or more pleased.

Some young ladies were coming to pay a visit at General Lee's headquarters. There was not room for them, and the General himself went to Peliso, which was then owned by Mr. Joseph Hiden, to engage rooms. Mr. Hiden met him at the door and, when his (Gen. Lee's) wishes were made known, said it would be wholly agreeable to him to entertain them, but he, of course, must consult Mrs. Hiden. Having consulted her, he reported that Mrs. Hiden also would

be glad to have them as guests. Then the General, with that tender consideration for others which he always displayed, said that he would be greatly obliged, "but was so sorry to give Mrs. Hiden so much trouble." "Nay, not much trouble," said Mr. Hiden, "if the young ladies will only get ready for breakfast."

"Ready for breakfast, Sir?" replied the General. "They will be sure to do that. They have been well raised."

Unlucky response for many subsequent guests at that mansion. Mr. Hiden always kept the incident on tap and never failed to tell any unfortunate who appeared late at the breakfast table what he called his "General Lee story," with the pointed moral that persons who did not get ready for breakfast had not been "well raised."

During the time General Lee was in Orange County, a lady from the far South sent him a hat, which she had made herself. When General Lee left Orange after the battle of the Wilderness, the hat was left with Mrs. Peyton Grymes. Today, however, it may be seen in the Confederate Museum at Richmond.

The months of January, February and March were times of short rations for both men and horses. At bugle call to draw forage the men with feed bags would gather around the soldier detailed to distribute the corn, which was usually done by double handfuls dipped from open bags. Eight double handfuls for twenty-four hours, of which seven went to the horse, and the eighth to the soldier, adding to his own meagre rations.

The absence of hay led to frequent depredations on the unprotected haystacks in the neighborhood. Dr. Peyton Grymes of Selma suffered so much that he asked for an infantry guard. A few mornings later

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General Lee, continued from page 13

he found the guard had caught a couple of members of the 39th Battalion. The hospitable old gentleman invited the young men down to breakfast. The prisoners wished to decline, but found it was not with them to do so. The guard escorted them to the breakfast room and after that meal they were released. The courtesy of the doctor cured the cavalymen of stealing his hay; no more were caught.

General A.P. Hill's headquarters were then at Howard Place, the home of Colonel John Willis. Mrs. Willis was a notable housekeeper, and justly celebrated for the fine and hospitable feasts she always spread. But spreading a fine feast in Virginia at that time was something beyond the ability of even a magician. One day, General Lee happened to arrive just about dinner time, too late for any special attempt at preparation. It was early springtime, the dinner was meagre; middling black-eye peas, turnip greens, and hominy. "Oh, Mrs. Willis, you have so many good things, ~~hardly know what to take,~~ said ~~confid-~~ sion. Yet surely there were many good things to be thankful for from the point of view of a Confederate soldier.

In March, General Lee ordered a drill of the pontoon command. There was no water available except a small mill pond near Meadowfarm, now know as Farrar's pond. General Lee, mounted on "Traveler," was on a little hill to the right of the pond. Unattended save by one or two couriers, General Lee watched the men unload the pontoon boats, launch and connect them with the proper parts as the boats were pushed out across the pond. General Lee remained to see the bridge removed and the boats reloaded on the pontoon wagons, no detail of the drill escaping his attention.

Later in the spring there was a grand review of the army of Northern Virginia by General Lee. This review was held on Greenfields, the farm then owned by Mr. Thomas Scott, and extended across Selma, probably including parts of the Yatton and the Kennedy farm. It was a glorious pageant — the real "pride, pomp, and circumstance of glorious war." — for the uniforms and military trappings had not then become so worn as at a later period of the war.

Those who saw and remember it describe it as a gala day indeed; men, women, and children from far and near flocked to witness it. Great military bands waked the echoes of hill and dale with martial and patriotic airs — General Lee in full dress uniform and mounted on "Traveler" surrounded by a brilliant suite of his generals and his own and their staffs galloping down the line from end to end, each division coming to attention and "Present Arms" as this cortege passed.

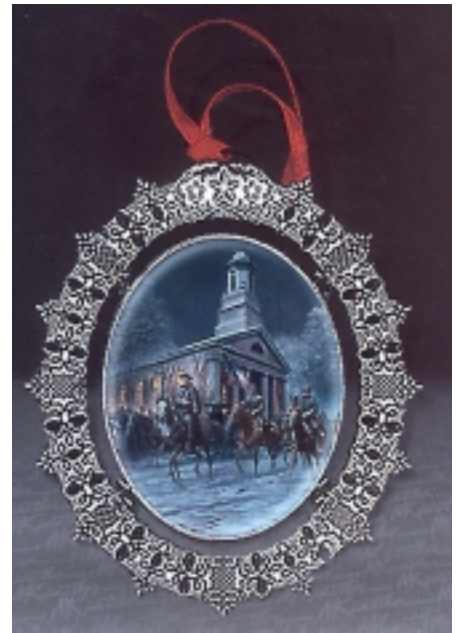
It is narrated that the four mile gallop "winded" all the horses of the escort, and only "Traveler," with one poor courier trailing some hundred yards behind, came out with mettle in his nostrils.

Early in May, General Grant began his campaign and General Lee, after several months of rest disturbed only by skirmishes, prepared once more to resume the struggle.

All these incidents occurred many years ago, and as yet General Lee's headquarters have not been marked. However, the table, which he used at headquarters, is now owned by Mrs. Rogers and the chairs by Mr. Jerdone. There are few persons now alive who remember the time when these incidents occurred, but we all look back with pride to the time when General Lee's headquarters were in Orange County.

END NOTES

Mr. Hastings has brought the narrative of his mother up to date and has clarified some points. The Francis Jerdone family lived at Bloomsbury. The old tree to which Traveler was tied during services still stands at St. Thomas.' Peliso, built in 1818, stands several hundred yards west of Spring Garden. It had been used as a school before the war and was the site of a reception in 1824 for the Marquis de Lafayette. Howard Place is a large Victorian house just south of Orange, now known as Mayhurst. Confederate President Jefferson Davis was among those present for the review described by Ms. Burgess in her narrative. A pile of stones marks the site of Lee's tent and a historical marker is nearby on Route 20, east of Orange.



General Lee's visit to St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Orange was the subject of last year's Christmas ornament by famed Civil War painter Mort Künstler.

Overlay continued from page 3

to more government regulation. The proposed ordinance was sent back to the drawing board. A committee was formed to review the ordinance and establish new guidelines. That review has resulted in a new version of the ordinance that does several things:

- Encourages better design;
- Enhances the visual experience along the primary roads of Orange County;
- Provides for the safety and efficiency of these primary roads;
- Evaluates the appearance and appropriateness of a building or site design in the context of the overall character of the community, and
- Ensures that new development is functionally well-designed, fits in well with the surrounding built and natural environment, and is in keeping with the character of Orange County.

If adopted, the anticipated result of the ordinance would be to stabilize and improve property values, protect the interests of those developers who have already constructed aesthetically sensitive businesses, and increase the appeal of Orange County to tourists and residents.

Specifically, the proposed ordinance calls for:

- All or parts of parcels of land within 500 linear feet of the center line of Routes 3, 15, 20, 33, 522, and 231 would be affected. The 500 feet distance is not a building setback requirement, but it does make that parcel of land subject to the de-

sign and entrance and exit provisions of the ordinance.

- The ordinance would permit the Planning Commission to decide whether a design plan is compatible with community standards on the basis of the overall effect of its architecture, materials and color scheme. The ordinance does not dictate nor specify architectural features, motif, or style.
- The ordinance requires that the Planning Commission balance any design decision with economic realities and may waive specific design guidelines due to excessive cost, site constraints, or safety issues.
- Any decision of the Planning Commission may be appealed to the Board of Supervisors.
- Design guidelines are more in the nature of suggestions and preferences than inflexible mandates.
- The ordinance regulates the distance between entrances on primary highways in the county. The entrances to U.S. primary highways must be separated by 900 feet; Virginia primary highway entrances must be separated by 600 feet. The requirement is to limit the number of turning movements, which lessens congestion.
- If an entrance is for agricultural or residential use, the ordinance does not apply.
- The ordinance allows for exemptions as long as it

does not affect on the general purpose of the ordinance.

The ordinance has been carefully crafted after studying the effects of similar ordinances on other communities. We are convinced that if adopted, this ordinance will not stop growth, deny property use, or bankrupt small business. Regardless of the rules and regulations this county might put in place, it will continue to grow and develop, as it should. Economic growth is important for a sustainable community. There is nothing wrong, however, with taking steps to ensure that the growth that does occur helps us keep our identity. It is our identity that accounts for the growth. This ordinance seeks to ensure that the rural, scenic, and historic identity of Orange County will not be lost. ■

Virginius R. Shackelford, 1916-2004

We note with regret the passing of Virginius R. Shackelford on November 26, 2004. V, as he was better known to all, was a strong and generous supporter of the Society's activities and was a frequent attendee at the programs. His long and distinguished life was chronicled in area newspapers. Anyone wishing a copy of his obituary may call the Society.

Since Last We Talked...

Kylie Morin Awarded OCHS/ OCAAHS Fellowship

Kylie Morin, of Rhoadesville, Va., has been awarded a \$400 fellowship from the two Societies for her videotaped interviews of OCHS Board Member and OCAAHS President of the Board Rebecca Coleman, Warren Widmyer, and Bud Graham on the integration of Orange County Public Schools. A copy of the interviews is available at the Research Center to any member who wishes to check it out (and return within a week).

Four Nominated for OCHS Board of Directors

Four candidates have been nominated for the OCHS Board of Directors and will be voted upon at the Annual Member Meeting in January. They are: Jack Miller, former city administrator for Norwalk, Connecticut, now retired; Ms. Laura Thompson, Executive Director of the Art Center of Orange; Dr. Will Harris, Director of the Montpelier Foundation's Center for the Constitution, and Chuck Mason, President of Mason Insurance of Orange. Gail Marshall, President of the OCHS Board of Directors, expressed pleasure at the willingness to serve by so obviously qualified persons, but also noted with regret that Barbara Vines Little felt compelled to leave the Board because of the demands of her new obligations as President of the National Genealogical Society.

Street Festivals Pay Off in Book Sales

The Town of Orange and the Town of Gordonsville both sponsored Street Festivals in September and October, respectively. This year, OCHS Board Member Frank Walker and Executive Director Warren Dunn manned booths at both, selling OCHS books, including Walker's *Remembering: A History of Orange County*, *The 1862 Diary of Fanny Hume: A Year in Wartime Orange County*, and Ann Miller's *Antebellum Orange*, as well as memberships. In all, 43 books were sold and six new members signed up. Many thanks to the Orange Downtown Alliance, which offered to share booth space in Orange, and to the Orange County African-American Historical Society, who shared the booth at Gordonsville. Postscript: Sales of Walker's book topped 700 as a result of the two street festivals.

Four New Research Tools Added to Library

The Cemeteries of Caroline County, Virginia; the genealogy of *Thomas Daniel of Colonial Virginia*; *Marriages of Amelia County, Virginia, 1735-1815*, and the *Index to Marriages of Old Rappahannock and Essex Counties, Virginia, 1655-1900*, have been donated to the Research Center by Everette Tucker, a member of the Board of Directors.

Matching Grant Awarded

The Virginia Genealogical Society has awarded one of its 2004 matching grants of \$250 to the Orange County Historical Society to support the Society's archival program. Monies will be used to purchase acid-free folders for the Society's collection of maps and to begin a program of transferring the standing files on families, places, and events into acid-free folders. Volunteers will be recruited to assist beginning in February, 2005. Anyone interested in helping should call the Research Center at 540-672-5366.

Remembering Virginia's Sacrifice in America's Wars

The current special exhibit at the James Madison Museum entitled "Our Lives and Sacred Honor,": Remembering Virginia's Sacrifice in America's Wars, which opened November 16, 2004, will continue until March 27, 2005. The museum is located at 129 Caroline St., Orange, and is open between 9 and 5 p.m. weekdays, 10-5 Saturday, and 1-5 Sunday. Closed weekends during January and February and on "Snowdays." The exhibit features personal artifacts and photographs of those who fought in America's various wars, with an emphasis on the wars of the 20th Century.

New Coalition Established to Promote Preservation

The National Trust, Piedmont Environmental Council and Orange Downtown Alliance have invited both the OCHS and OCAAHS to join the newly formed Orange County Preservation Coalition in an effort to promote awareness of the potential threat of urbanization to the scenic, cultural and historic nature of Orange County.

Several other organizations with similar interests have been invited to join. Any Society member wishing to comment on the opportunity should call the Research Center.

Society Board Meets Jointly With Museum Board

The Board of Directors of the Orange County Historical Society and the Board of Directors of the James Madison Museum met November 15 for the purpose of becoming better acquainted with each other and more familiar with the long-range plans of both organizations. The two organizations have a long history of working closely together and it has become clear that even closer relations would be advantageous to both.

Future of Architectural Review in Orange Up to Citizens

Town of Orange Planning and Zoning Director Michael Collins has briefed representatives of the Orange County Historical Society on what it will take for the Town and County to implement an architectural review ordinance for the two jurisdictions. "This is an issue that engenders strong emotions and it will take a clear expression of the electorate for any ordinance to pass," he told the Society. Collins was asked by Henry Lee Carter, a member of the Town Council, to meet with the Society because of its recent indication of support for such an ordinance. In a wide-ranging discussion, it became clear that the road to an architectural review ordinance is long, uphill and rocky, but that if the County and Town of Orange want to control the appearance of their communities, it will take such an ordinance to do it. "The increase in tourism will bring with it more and more franchise operations that will do only what they are required to do in terms of the type of image they impose upon the town and county," said Collins. One hopeful note was sounded when Collins cited the level of effort put in by local merchants to respect the historical integrity of the community. "They have already made an investment in conforming to the implied standards and they naturally want to protect that," he said.

Collins said it would take a "broad-based coalition of citizen groups to demonstrate their support for an architectural review process before anything happens." One such group now exists. The recently formed Orange

County Preservation Coalition may provide the structure necessary to mobilize the citizenry, he said.

It's That Time Again...Almost

Like winter, dues-paying time is almost upon us. As a reminder to those who like to pay their dues early, a new dues schedule has been approved, effective January 1, 2005. It is:

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

Members will receive a pre-addressed envelope to use in paying their dues, along with a brief Annual Report, in late December/Early January, but early bird payments are always welcome.

Businesses and Museum Gift Shops Helping Sell "Remembering..."

Just in time for Christmas, several Orange County and nearby businesses and museums are offering for sale Frank Walker's *Remembering: A History of Orange County, Virginia*. Those establishments participating in our first-ever Christmas promotion are (by publication time):

Montpelier Gift Shop • James Madison Museum Gift Shop • Bookstores at the Chancellorsville and Fredericksburg Battlefield Parks • Faulconer Hardware Store • A Classic Touch • Garden of Eden • Virginia Community Bank • Grelen Nursery Inc • Melrose Antique and Interiors • The Gentle Gardener (Gordonsville) • National City Mortgage • Adrianna S. Cowan & Associates • Minuteman Mall in Culpeper • University of Virginia Bookstore in Charlottesville • Interactive Planet • Bookshop2

Next time you're in one of these fine establishments, perhaps you could say "Thanks" on behalf of the Orange County Historical Society. We'll also be taking out an advertisement in the *Orange County Review* listing these stores, and any others who participate, to help spur sales.

Newsletter

Orange County Historical Society
130 Caroline Street
Orange, Virginia 22960-1533

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Son of Board Member Carolyn French Authors New Book

Howard French, award-winning New York Times correspondent, author of the new book *A Continent for the Taking: The Tragedy and Hope of Africa*, and the son of OCHS Board Member Carolyn French, recently appeared on C-SPAN as part of a panel discussing United States foreign policy toward Africa.

The Moderator, Howard Volpe, in introducing French, said that he was a welcome exception to the general practice of the media in the “under-reporting and distortion” that characterizes the coverage of events in Africa. In his opening remarks, French acknowledged that the U.S. was involved in significant efforts to support viable democratic regimes in South Africa and Nigeria, but that nonetheless there was a lot to criticize and things that needed to be said.

French maintained that there was an “acceptance” of the fact that 3.3 million Africans have been killed in the wars which have resulted since most Africans obtained their independence in the 1960s. “This is the biggest conflict since World War II,” said French, who pointed out that

this is on top of the deaths caused by AIDS, famine, and Ebola. “We are bearing witness to catastrophe,” he said, “without responding in a way that we do in other places. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that African life doesn’t carry the same weight as life in other parts of the world,” he concluded, while, at the same time, refusing to attribute this inattention to racism. Rather, he said, it would be more productive to come to grips with what caused this failure of America policy.

According to French, American foreign policy toward Africa is complicated by the legacy of the slave trade, the colonialism of the 19th Century and the neo-colonialism of later times when the cold war interests, which frequently had little to do with what’s best for Africa, dominated. This focus on externalities inhibited the natural political development of Africa and left in its place a whole host of problems that have plagued Africa for half a century. The all but inevitable result was that the outside world pulled back from Africa and simply has not had much to do with the continent in

decades. American foreign policy became an effort to “buy Africa on the cheap.” Fewer and fewer African specialists were hired by the State Department and the African Bureau shrunk to the point where it had the least influence of any office at State.

It is in the strategic interest of the United States to change that. “The Chinese are pouring resources, human and financial, into Africa,” French says. “They certainly understand the importance of Africa,” he added, attributing that interest partly to the fact that 25 percent of the world’s oil is in west Africa.

French appeared along with Gayle Smith, who was Director of the African Affairs Office at the National Security Council during the Clinton Administration. Howard French’s book was reviewed in the October 21 issue of the *New York Review of Books*.

We have just learned that Howard has been invited to receive an honorary doctorate from the University of Maryland for his reporting.