

130 Caroline Street
Orange, Virginia 22960

703/672-5366



Office Hours:
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Monday thru Friday

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Summer Saturdays

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 67

JULY JUNE, 1993

July Meeting



"Locust Grove"

The July Picnic Meeting of the Orange County Historical Society will take place at 6:30 p.m., Monday, July 26th, on the lawn of "Locust Grove," home of Robert and Elizabeth Hepworth not far from the village of Rapidan.

"Locust Grove" is believed to have been built c. 1735 and is one of the few residential structures built during that time which is still in active use. It is located just East (downstream) of Rapidan on the Culpeper side of the river. With Rapidan Station serving as an important commercial center for this area well into the nineteenth century, the early history of "Locust Grove" and of

Orange County are closely linked.

"Locust Grove" is located on Route 736 (designated the Willis Bridge Road in Orange County, Willis Ford Road in Culpeper). Going north from Rapidan on Route 615, take the first State road to the right. This will be State Route 647, which will lead you into Route 736. It is a gravel road. Look for the stone gate wall entrance and the "Locust Grove Drive" sign. You are there.

See Map on Back Page

Old Post Offices' Older Names

Many of the old post offices and communities in the County were at one time known by another name than the one with which we are now familiar. For instance, did you know that...

Gold Dale was once New Hope?

Mine Run was Tinder?

Rhoadesville was Lafayette?

Somerset was Embrey's Station?

Lahore was Jackson's Shop?

Gordonsville was Newville?

Rapidan was Rapid Ann Station?

Verdierville was White Plains, then Collins' Tavern?

Have you information on others? Let us know and we will include the names in a future Newsletter.

Lecture Series Reminder

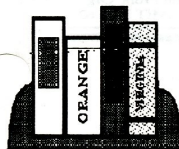


Saturday, July 24th, at 9:00 a.m. is the date and time of Larry Dermody's next lecture on protecting your antiques and collectibles. This month's session will pertain to Metals, some of the do's and don'ts in caring for them.

Ann Miller's next lecture in her series "How Old Is Your House?" is scheduled for Saturday, August 14th, at 10:00 a.m. and is entitled "Physical Evidence".



Recent Additions To Our Research Library



From the Zed W. Chewning, Jr. Memorial Fund:

Genealogical & Local History Books in Print, Volume 5, compiled by Bette A. Schreiner and Kamm Y. Schreiner.

Virginia Northern Neck Land Grants, Volumes 3 & 4, 1775-1862, compiled by Gertrude E. Gray.

The Road to Bristoe Station: Campaigning With Lee and Meade, August 1 - October 20, 1863, from the Virginia Battles and Leaders Series, by William D. Henderson.

Orange County Courthouse Notes, contributed by Ulysses P. Joyner, Jr., Clerk,
Orange County Circuit Court

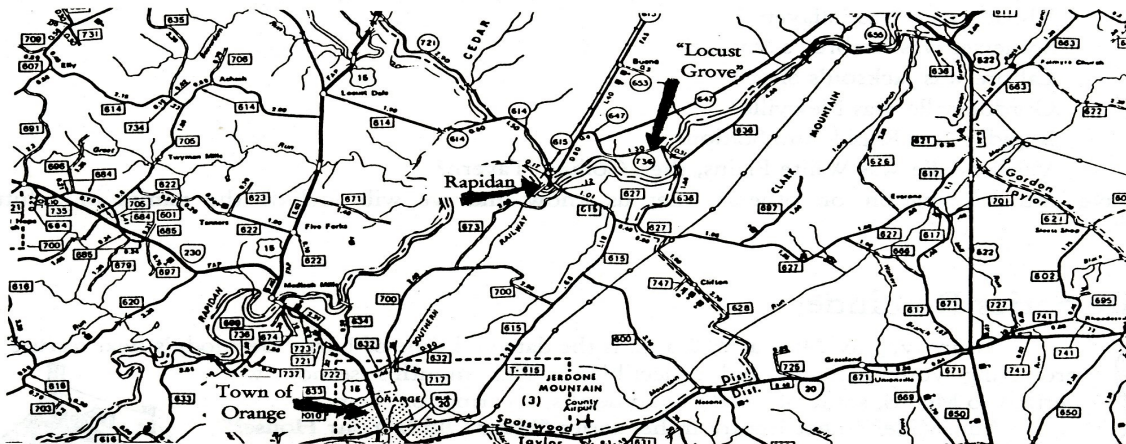
[This is another of several excerpts from the minutes of the County Court during the Civil War which we are running from time to time in the Newsletter.]

NOTE: Life in Orange County under the Confederate States of America was not easy. For much of the war Orange County was home to most of the Army of Northern Virginia and the Rapidan River was the frontline facing the Union forces occupying Culpeper. The situation is reflected in the minutes of the Orange County Court during that period.

*The Court doth appoint Thomas C. Reveley, W^m Henderson
James Q. Newman, Cha^s L. Bankhead, Peter T. Johnson,
William T. B. Frazer & Lawrence Sanford or any three
of them after taking an oath for the purpose, Com-
missioners to assess the damages done by the army under the
Command of Gen'l. J. E. Johnston while encamped in
the vicinity of Orange upon the lands of D. Uriel
Terrill, Robert de Sale, any other Citizen or Citizens
who have been damaged by them*

The Court doth appoint Thomas C. Reveley, W^m Henderson, James Q. Newman, Cha^s L. Bankhead, Peter T. Johnson, William T. B. Frazer & Lawrence Sanford or any three of them after taking an oath for the purpose, Commissioners to assess the damages done by the army under the command of Gen'l. J. E. Johnston while encamped in the vicinity of Orange upon the lands of Dr Uriel Terrill, Robert C. Sale any other citizen or citizens who have been damaged by them. (Minutes of the Orange County Court April 28, 1862)

Map to "Locust Grove" (referred to on front page)



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NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 8

AUGUST, 1993

August Meeting

The August Picnic Meeting of the Orange County Historical Society will take place at 6:00 p.m. (Please Note New Time), Monday, August 30th, on the lawn of "Grelen," home of the late Mrs. Will R. Gregg and now owned by members of her family. This will be our last picnic meeting of the season.

"Grelen" is the site of the Glebe of St. Thomas' Parish. In the era prior to the Revolution, the Church of England, or Anglican church, was the official or "established" church of Virginia. Essentially an arm of the government, it was supported by taxes levied for that purpose. The Glebe, or church farm, was farm land owned by the church for the express purpose of providing a homeplace for the minister of the parish.

To get to "Grelen" take Rt. 15 North approximately 1½ miles from the Orange Courthouse to Rt. 634 (Woodberry Forest Road) on the east (right-hand) side of Rt. 15. Go approximately ¼ mile on Rt. 634 and cross the stone bridge. The entrance to "Grelen" is on the right directly after the bridge.

As usual, we provide the atmosphere, you provide chairs and picnic supper of your choice.

In the event of rain, bring your picnic to our headquarters at 130 Caroline Street where the program and the socializing will then take place.

Lecture Series Update



Please note: Due to his tight schedule pertaining to the replacement of the copper roof at Montpelier, Larry Dermody has been forced to postpone for the time being the remainder of his lecture series on protecting your antiques and collectibles. However, he plans to continue with the series at a future date. We will keep you advised.

Ann Miller's next lecture in her series "How Old Is Your House?" will be held Saturday, September 11th, at 10:00 a.m. and is entitled "Documentary Research."



Feeling Ill?

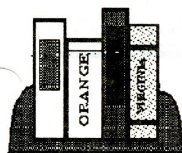
An advertisement from the July 9, 1897 issue of the *Orange Observer*.



Electric Bitters is a medicine suited for any season, but perhaps more generally needed when the languid, exhausted feeling prevails, when the liver is torpid and sluggish and the need of a tonic and alternative is felt. A prompt use of this medicine has often averted long and perhaps fatal bilious fevers [fevers?]. No medicine will act more surely in counteracting and freeing the system from the malarial poison. Headache, Indigestion, Constipation, Dizziness yield to Electric Bitters. 50¢ and \$1.00 per bottle at Dr. E. M. McMurrans' drug store.

Note: Dr. John R. Grymes bought out Dr. McMurrans' business, which became East Side Pharmacy (situated on the east side of the railroad tracks), and later became the Grymes Drug Store we know to this day.

Recent Additions To Our Research Library



Bells and Belfries and Some of Neither, by J. William Mann. (Gift of the author)

Gifts of Barbara V. Little:

A Bibliography of Abstracts and Compilations of Virginia City and County Records, compiled by Robert Vernon.

Index to the Virginia Revolutionary "Publick" Claims County Booklets, abstracted and compiled by Janice L. Abercrombie and Richard Slatten.

Index to the Tithables of Loudoun County, Virginia and to Slaveholders and Slaves, 1758-1786, compiled and edited by Margaret Lail Hopkins.

The Complete Book of Emigrants, 1607-1660, compiled by Peter Wilson Coldham.

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NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER, 1993

September Meeting

The September meeting of the Orange County Historical Society will take place Monday, September 27th, at the Society's Headquarters and Research Center, 130 Caroline Street in Orange. Light refreshments will be served at 7:30 and the program will begin at 8:00 p.m.

Our speaker for this meeting will be Harold B. Woodward, Jr. who will give a talk on James Lawson Kemper. Kemper was a native of Madison County, a Major General in the Confederate Army, and a Governor of Virginia. Shortly after his retirement Governor Kemper moved to "Walnut Hills," now the home of Mr. & Mrs. I. W. Jeanes, II, in Orange County, where he lived out the remainder of his days.



Harold Woodward is also a native of Madison County and is a prominent Civil War historian who has written and lectured extensively. He is a brigade commander in the Virginia Division of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans. His published books include *For Home and Honor: The Story of Madison County During the War Between the States*, and *The Confederacy's Forgotten Son: Major General James Lawson*

Where Oh Where Were The Newsletters Hiding?



A stressful time for the Society's staff was encountered when it became known to us that although only five days (including Saturday and Sunday) remained before the picnic meeting at "Grelen," apparently none of our members had received the August *Newsletter* announcing the place and time of that meeting - - even though mailed in what should have been plenty of time. We immediately sent out first-class post cards to in-state members (assuming out-of-staters would not be attending anyway). Inevitably, some of these people received the card and the *Newsletter* in the same mail! We hope that everyone eventually received the August *Newsletter*. At any rate, our remedy, albeit expensive, seems to have worked as we had a good turnout for the meeting.

Lecture Series Update



Ann Miller's October lecture in her series **How Old is Your House?** will be held Saturday, October 9th at 10:00 a.m. and is entitled **Respectfully Rehabilitating the Vintage House**. A \$10 donation to the Historical Society for the lecture is encouraged.

As stated in the August *Newsletter*, the remaining classes of Larry Dermody's lecture series on protecting your antiques and collectibles have been postponed to an as yet unannounced date.

Genealogy Classes Scheduled

The Orange County Historical Society will sponsor a four-week series of classes on genealogy beginning Wednesday, October 6.

Wednesday, October 6 Family Sources and Record Keeping

The types of resources one finds within the family including Bibles, diaries, newspaper clippings and oral history and with various methods of recording family histories from scrapbooks to computer-generated records.

Wednesday, October 13 Census, Vital Statistics, etc.

National Archives, social security, war department and naturalization records will also be featured.

Wednesday, October 20 County Records: Wills, Deeds and Other Local Government Records

Emphasis will be placed on types of records and their interpretation.

Wednesday, October 27 Manuscript Records, Published Genealogies, and Other Sources

This session will focus on where to find them, how to evaluate them, and when to use them.

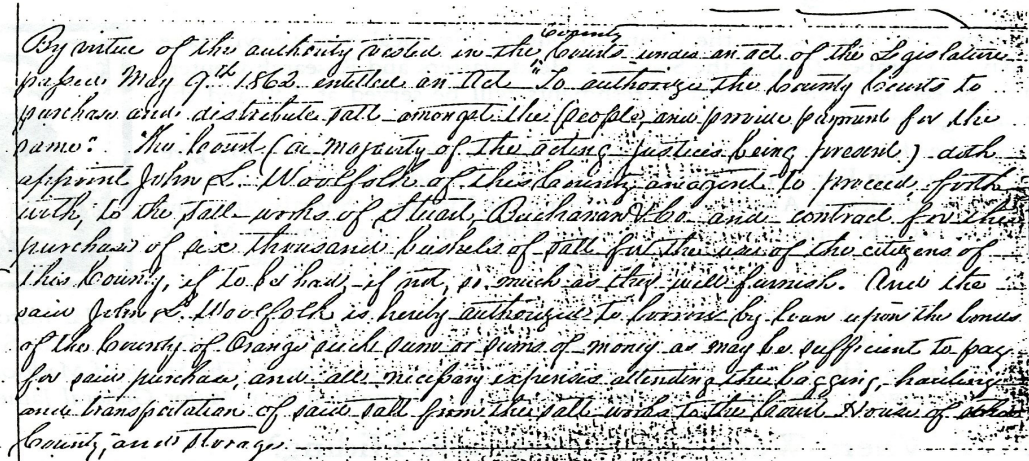


Each session will run from 7:00-9:00 p.m.. While Virginia records will be featured, the presentations will be geared to research any area. A donation to the Orange County Historical Society of \$10.00 for an individual session or \$25.00 for four sessions is suggested. The instructor will be Barbara Vines Little, immediate past-president of the Virginia Genealogical Society, co-editor of the Virginia Genealogical Society Newsletter and editor of *Der Kurier*, the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society newsletter.

Orange County Courthouse Notes, contributed by Ulysses P. Joyner, Jr., Clerk, Orange County Circuit Court

[This is another of several excerpts from the minutes of the County Court during the Civil War which we are running from time to time in the Newsletter.]

NOTE: Life in Orange County under the Confederate States of America was not easy. For much of the war Orange County was home to most of the Army of Northern Virginia and the Rapidan River was the front line facing the Union forces occupying Culpeper. The situation is reflected in the minutes of the Orange County Court during that period.



By virtue of the authority vested in the ^{County} Courts under an Act of the Legislature passed May 9th 1862 entitled an Act "to authorize the County Courts to purchase and distribute salt amongst the people and provide payment for the same." The Court (a majority of the acting justices being present) doth appoint John S. Woolfolk of this County an agent to proceed forthwith, to the salt works of Stuart, Buchanan & Co. and contract for the purchase of six thousand bushels of salt for the use of the citizens of this County, if to be had, if not, so much as they will furnish. And the said John S. Woolfolk is hereby authorized to borrow by loan upon the bonds of the County of Orange such sum or sums of money as may be sufficient to pay for said purchase, and all necessary expenses attending the bagging, hauling and transportation of said salt from the salt works to the Court House of this County, and storage.

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(On the same day William Parker was appointed agent to receive and distribute the salt.)

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Can anyone enlighten us as to where the "salt works of Stuart, Buchanan & Co." were located? Apparently not in Orange County.]

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NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER, 1993

October Meeting



The October meeting of the Orange County Historical Society will take place Monday, October 25th at the Society's Headquarters and Research Center, 130 Caroline Street in Orange. Light refreshments will be served at 7:30 and the program will begin at 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Raymond M. Hugo, Director of Customer Service for Orange District of Virginia Power will speak on "Sparks from the Past: The History of the Development of Orange County's Electric Power Generation and Distribution Systems."

Come join us on the 25th for what promises to be an "electrifying" program.

Genealogy Classes -- A Reminder



Depending upon when you receive this Newsletter (and we can never be sure) there should still be time for you to attend at least a couple of Barbara Little's remaining Wednesday nights genealogy sessions. Each session will run 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. and will be held at the Society's Headquarters and Research Center.:

Wednesday, October 13 -- Census, Vital Statistics, etc.

Wednesday, October 20 -- County Records: Wills, Deeds and Other County Records.

Wednesday, October 27 -- Manuscript Records, Published Genealogies and Other Sources.

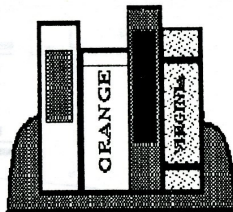
A donation to the Orange County Historical Society of \$10.00 per individual session is suggested.

Query From A Member

Interested in sharing any information pre-1800 re Crosswhite (Crosswaite), Stowers, Shiflet, and Roebuck families. My lines of these families moved to Georgia by very early 1800's. Mimi Jo Butler, 3812 Overlook Trail, Kennesaw, GA 30144-2040.



Recent Additions to Our Research Library



Historic Roads of Virginia: Lunenburg County Road Orders, 1746-1764, by Nathaniel Mason Paulett and Tyler Jefferson Boyd. (Gift of the Virginia Transportation Research Council)

Jefferson's Adoptive Son: The Life of William Short, 1759-1848, by George Green Shackelford. (Gift of the author)

You Junior Officers, Our Nation Salutes You! by C. D. Long. (Gift of the author to the Z. W. Chewning, Jr. Memorial Collection.

This book tells the story of the 128th AAA Gun Battalion which Z. W. "Zip" Chewning, Jr. commanded during World War II.)

From the Z. W. Chewning, Jr. Memorial Fund:

Deed Abstracts of Culpeper County, Virginia, 1790-1794, abstracted by Ruth and Sam Sparacio (4 volumes).

Orange County Courthouse Notes, contributed by Ulysses P. Joyner, Jr.
Clerk, Orange County Circuit Court

[This is another of several excerpts from the minutes of the County Court during the Civil War which we are running from time to time in the Newsletter.]

NOTE: Life in Orange County under the Confederate States of America was not easy. For much of the war Orange County was home to most of the Army of Northern Virginia and the Rapidan River was the frontline facing the Union forces occupying Culpeper. The situation is reflected in the minutes of the Orange County Court during that period.

It is ordered, that the account of William M. Graham against the County of Orange for furnishing provisions to the sick and wounded soldiers before the establishment of a hospital at this place, amounting to the sum of nine hundred and seventy seven dollars and fifty nine cents be paid - The Court being satisfied that the same is due, and that so much of the depositions now in the hands of the Sheriff to wit: four hundred and fifty dollars be paid thereon and the balance five hundred and twenty seven dollars and fifty nine cents be levied for and paid

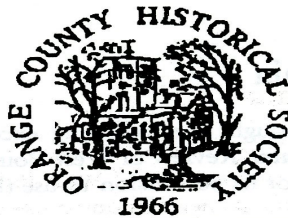
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(Minutes of the Orange County Court September 22, 1862)



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NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER, 1993

November Meeting



Union Troops at Robinson's Tavern
during Mine Run Campaign

The November meeting of the Orange County Historical Society will take place Monday, November 29th, at the Society's Headquarters and Research Center, 130 Caroline Street in Orange. Light refreshments will be served at 7:30 and the program will begin at 8:00 p.m.

Our program will feature Historian Robert E. L. Krick of the Richmond-Petersburg National Military Park, who will speak on the

Mine Run Campaign. November 26 - December 2 marks the 130th anniversary of this campaign conducted extensively on Orange County soil. Come and relive with us on November 29th the events of 1863 and learn about one of Orange County's most historic events.

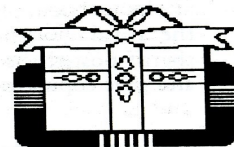
Dues Are Almost Due

It's about that time again when dues are becoming due! As you may remember, membership runs from January 1st to December 31st each year (except, of course, for Life Memberships), and the dues are as follows: Annual Regular \$12.50; Annual Sustaining \$50.00; Annual Patron \$100.00 to \$300.00; Life Membership \$300.00.

We would like to thank those nine "early birds" who have already paid their 1994 dues and hope that the rest of you will follow soon.

It's Not Too Early to Think About Christmas!

To our newer members and as a reminder to our older ones, when doing your Christmas shopping don't forget the publications of the Orange County Historical Society. They make nice stocking stuffers or gifts under the tree. Among the books that are still available are Ann Miller's *Antebellum Orange* and "Pete" Joyner's *First Settlers of Orange County, Virginia*. For a complete list of our publications write or call the Society.



Members may also want to consider giving their friends a membership in the Society.

Recent Additions to Our Research Library



Directory of Family Associations, 1991-92 edition, compiled by Elizabeth Petty Bentley. (Gift of Barbara V. Little).

Spotswood's Iron: The Story of the Birth of the Industrial Revolution in the New World, revised edition, by Ralph C. Meima. (Gift of the author).

From the Z. W. Chewning, Jr. Memorial Fund:

From the Virginia Regimental Histories Series:

43rd Battalion Virginia Cavalry: Mosby's Command, by Hugh C. Keen and Horace Mewborn.

The Otley, Ringgold and Davidson Virginia Artillery, by Michael A. Cavanaugh

Elections in Early Virginia

In this election month, we thought the following excerpts from articles appearing in November 1983 issues of the *Tidewater Review* of West Point, Virginia, would be of special interest. We thank that newspaper for its permission to use these.

In the days of Washington and Jefferson [prior to the Revolutionary War] Virginians voted to fill only one office – that of burgess. Each county was entitled to send two members to the House of Burgesses. Voters in the city or borough also sent two. The faculty of the College of William and Mary sent one.

There was no requirement remotely approaching registration. However, a man had to own a modest amount of property before he could vote. Women, slaves, and freed slaves could not vote. Dissenters (non-Anglicans) could not vote but they did. The provision of the law was generally ignored.

A man could vote more than once if he took the trouble. A planter or other property-owner could cast a ballot in any county where he owned land. A professor at the College could vote once as a faculty member and again as a resident of *Williamsburg* or one of the nearby counties if he owned land there.

If these rules seem strange, so do early ideas of political manners. A candidate for the House was not supposed to go around openly asking his fellow-citizens to vote for him. In the course of his candidacy, however, his friends could declare their support. That was entirely proper.

All political activity took place at the courthouse, which was fixed by law as the election place. A writ issued by the royal governor set the date. The sheriff posted the writ at the courthouse and gave copies to the rector of the parish

and his lay readers.

When election day dawned, the candidates came to the courthouse. Being absent for any reason was known to cost a man the election. Each came with his own "writer" or clerk to tally his votes. Some candidates set out big bowls of punch to influence the undecided – a practice called "Swilling the voters with bumbo" and not regarded as being quite cricket.*

A hotly contested election could stir up fist fights – so could a vestry meeting incidentally – but the sheriff was there to hold rowdiness in check. There was no secret ballot. On the contrary, each voter had to call out in a distinct voice the name of his choice. Each candidate's "writer" kept a running total, so everyone knew, at any time, how the election was going.

As one man forged ahead, shouts of triumph came from his supporters, scowls and growls from his opponents. The sheriff decided when to close the polls, compare the list and determine the winners. The tallies were filed with the county clerk and were open to inspection at any time. Finally, the winners were certified to the lower house of the Assembly.

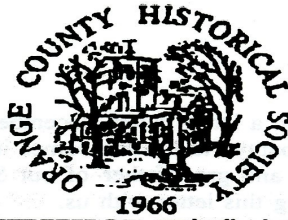
When the shouting died, the winners would be raised on the shoulders of their supporters. Then as now, a banquet and often a ball concluded the "festivities." These affairs were held in the ordinary or tavern that was an inevitable fixture of the rural courthouse scene.

*Orange County's James Madison, who was later to become President of the United States, failed to be re-elected to the Virginia House of Delegates for 1777, a defeat which many historians, and Madison himself, attributed to his having failed to "swill the voters with bumbo."

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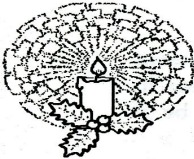
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NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 12

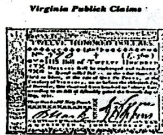
DECEMBER, 1993

Seasons Greetings



As usual, anticipating the holiday rush there will be no meeting of the Orange County Historical Society this month. To all of our friends and members, the Society's Board of Directors and Staff extend their warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Thank You, Janice



Orange County

Compiled and Transcribed by
Janice L. Abercrombie

Member, Public History Program
James Branch

The Society would like to offer its heartfelt appreciation to member Janice L. Abercrombie, compiler of the *Virginia Public Claims* series. Janice recently donated copies of all 70 volumes in this series to the Society's library. A well-known and highly-respected genealogist and author, Janice Abercrombie has worked for a number of years in compiling these publications, a series begun in partnership with the late Richard Slatten, and carried on by Janice after his death.

The *Virginia Public Claims* series contains transcriptions and indexes for every public claims court held in each Virginia county. The claims courts provide records of materials supplied to American troops during the Revolutionary War. Besides giving the obvious insights into social and military history, these records are valuable genealogical tools, and are especially useful to researchers documenting family lines and Revolutionary contributions for application to patriotic groups such as the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The complete set of these volumes is a wonderful addition to the Society's Research Library, and again, our deepest thanks to Janice Abercrombie for her donation.

Other Recent Additions to Our Research Library



The Fascinating History of the Lake of the Woods Area, by Arnold Chase.
(Gift of Lake of the Woods Fire and Rescue Co.)

The History of Virginia's Navy of the Revolution, by Robert Armistead Stewart. (Gift of Barbara Vines Little.)

From the Z. W. Chewning, Jr. Memorial Fund:

Great Campaigns: The Wilderness Campaign, May 1864, by John Cannan.

The Virginia Genealogist, Volumes 10 & 11, edited by John Frederick Dorman.

Plus the following editions of the Virginia Regimental Histories Series:

15th Virginia Cavalry, by John Fortier.

34th Battalion Virginia Cavalry, by Scott C. Cole.

Thurmond's Partisan Rangers and Swann's Battalion of Virginia Cavalry, by Jeffrey C. Weaver.

Don't Forget Dues Are Due – And Contributions

As you may recall, Society membership runs from January 1st to December 31st each year. Dues for the coming year are as follows: Annual Regular \$12.50, Annual Sustaining \$50.00, Annual Patron \$100 to \$300.00, and Life Membership \$300.00.

Rest assured that the Society will also greatly appreciate any additional tax deductible contributions you could send our way. The current low rate of interest combined with the high cost of supplies, etc. are taking their toll on our already-tight budget.

An 1884 Christmas

The following is abstracted from a letter dated December 31, 1884 written by John F. Newman of "Bloomfield," Orange County, to his son James in Maryville, Missouri. These gentlemen were the great-grandfather and grandfather of our Society members Rev and Ted Scott. We appreciate the Scotts sharing this letter with us.

Of particular interest is the paragraph pertaining to the fire which had just the week before destroyed the "Barboursville" mansion, home of the Barbour family and the only building in Orange County known to have been designed by Thomas Jefferson. Today the ruins of the mansion have been preserved and stand on the grounds of the Barboursville Winery.

My Dear Son,

... Yours to Mother, received on last Monday. Hattie's nice present came all right. Mother was delighted with it. Many thanks to Hattie for it; your package also received, with which she is delighted; the overcoat will be of great service to me....

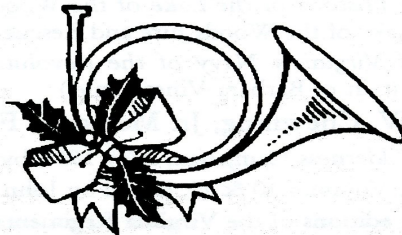
Have had some very cold weather. The Mercury stood at 2° on the 19th, Filled our ice house on Xmas, ice 3/4. Now having spring weather.

I am writing in the hall as it is so warm. Have had a lonely Xmas. Nannie came over on Thursday, carried Lester back with her, saw no more of her until Sunday evening. Monday Mr. Walker, Nannie Jimmie, Maude Taylor, and Miss Lillie Evans dined with us. Lester returned with Nannie. Mother and I are all at Bloomfield and having a quiet time.

On Xmas day about 3 o'clock P.M. while at dinner, Mr. B.J. Barbour's fine mansion was burnt, caught above some way not known. Men from Barboursville saw the fire and got there before the family knew the house was on fire, they were at dinner in basement with company. He has a very nice home near Richmond I learn, they go there.

You don't know how much I enjoy the papers sent. On Monday I remarked to Mother wish I had some more papers, in the evening little Eddie came from G-ville with bundle. I enjoy them highly these long evenings.... Nothing more of interest. Love from all of us to you, Hattie and children. Wishing you and yours a prosperous and happy New Year.

Your affectionate father
Jno F Newman



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