

Orange Oracle

An electronic bulletin from the Orange County Historical Society

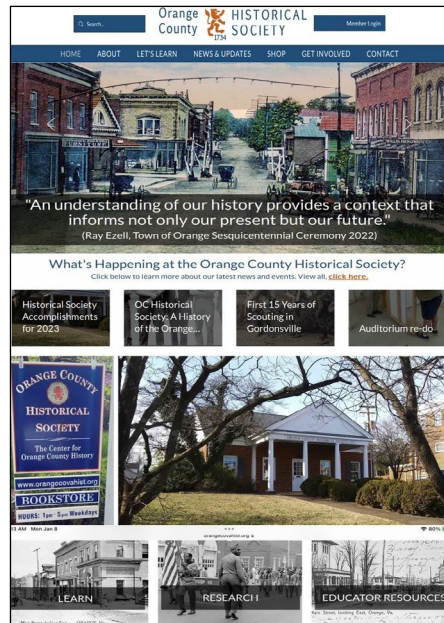
New and improved website

Check it out! The Orange County Historical Society has a completely redesigned website.

Of particular interest is the “Let’s Learn” button. From that drop down menu you can access the extensive Educator Resources section which has been organized by era from the first inhabitants all the way to the 20th century. Also from the “Let’s Learn” button, you can access all 35 History-to-Go episodes and 27 “Memories and Visions” oral histories from the town’s sesquicentennial celebration last year.

Another drop down category is entitled “Research.” That will lead you to all manner of interesting articles and links to other history-related entities in the county.

The website redesign was done by Deb Newman. She



is the owner/operator of Petite Taway, a company that specializes in web design for small businesses and non-profits in Central Virginia.

Our new and improved website is still a work in progress, but one thing that has not changed is the address; it’s still www.orangecovahist.org.

Thank you volunteers!

May Saxton
Volunteer coordinator

Thank you for your offers to volunteer over the past year! In addition to countless volunteer hours offered by board members and by some staff, more than 225 volunteer hours have been logged by society members compared to 125 hours in 2022. Many thanks to these individuals who have given their time to benefit our Historical Society during 2023: Carla Passarello (before she became an OCHS board member), Laura Bray, Patrick McAloon, Lynne Lewis, Carolyn Walker, Kevin (our student intern), and several members of the Woman’s Club. Also, special thanks to Patty Parmer for her amazing contribution of approximately 107 hours of work scanning family files and organizational materials! And many thanks to Jayne Blair for coordinating our volunteers on-site at the Research Center. Be sure to watch the Oracle for 2024 volunteer opportunities!

Goals and Objectives for 2024

Designing and launching a new website with attractive user interface and expanded capabilities for members and visitors

Cataloging the large volume of *Orange Review* negatives

Digitizing portions of our documents collection as appropriate

Organizing archival collections as needed

Increasing the number of engaged volunteers

Continuing to implement 2022-2027 strategic plan priorities

Register of free					negroes and mulattoes continued		
No.	Age	Name	Colour	Stature	Marks or scars on face or hands	In what court entered	After registration
18	about 25 years	Waring, George	Black	5 feet 6 inches	Broadly head of hair a thin p. of flesh growing upon the interior of each thick fingers and holes on forehead made of a ring	Brown free	Nov 5. 1825
19	about 20 years	Young, M. M. M. M.	Bright Mulatto	5 feet 5 inches	Scar about an inch in length over the right eye and upon the left hand, near the thumb and another upon the left cheek	Brown free	Nov 9. 1831
20	about 40 years	Yellow, a black woman	Black	5 feet 2 inches	A small scar upon the forehead and both hands	Brown free	28 th May 1835

New publication coming:

The Register of Free Blacks for Orange County, Virginia (1803—1850)

By Ann L. Miller

Ann Miller's latest contribution to the history of Orange County is the transcription of the Register of Free Blacks that was kept between 1803 and 1850. The forthcoming book represents 147 register entries, transcribed and indexed, covering the years from 1803 to mid-1850. The dated registration entries—which include names, ages, and descriptions of each individual—go up to Sept. 23, 1850. The entries in the register include men, women and children. There also is evidence that the register entries continued beyond September 1850, but it is unknown at present whether this later portion of the register still survives.

Like most extant registers of this type, this register should not be considered as a comprehensive list of free blacks in Orange County for the years covered by these entries. Rather, it is one piece of evidence among many for reconstructing and documenting the history of this population.

As is the case with most other Virginia counties, there often was a considerable lack of overlap in the names of free blacks between those entered on the register, and those names that appear on Census records, on personal property taxes, in the court order books, in wills, on deeds of emancipation, and in other records.

The records, published in a format that makes them readily available for the first time, will be a valuable addition to our knowledge and understanding of Orange County. The original pages, kept in the Orange County Circuit Court Clerk's office, are fragile and are not available to the public. With the cooperation of that office, however, the images of those pages are going to be placed at the Library of Virginia so that researchers who wish to view the original handwritten entries can do so.

The Historical Society hopes to have the book available in time for the observance of Black History Month in February.

2024 program schedule

(Dates and times are subject to change)



> Jan. 28, 2024, 3 p.m.
OCHS annual business meeting

Members, please join us for our annual meeting. You will hear a recap of our 2023 accomplishments, and you will be asked to vote on incoming directors and any new business. Following the business portion, we will be treated to a program: Archaeological Discoveries at Historic Germana. This past season, archaeologists completed excavations of a cellar associated with one of the Enchanted Castle's dependencies and uncovered an impressive array of food-related artifacts, including thousands of animal bones and burned plant materials, along with several intriguing personal objects. Artifacts like these, and others, bring us closer to understanding the experiences of individuals living in Orange County at the time of its formation. Meet at the Sandra and William H. Speiden Auditorium, 130 Caroline St., Orange, VA.

See **2024 PROGRAMS**, next page

> No February program

> Sunday, March 24, 3 p.m.

Implications of Casualties at the Battle of Chancellorsville for the Army of Northern Virginia

Robert Lookabill, Friends of the Wilderness Battlefield historian, will present a program about his research on how the Chancellorsville battle casualties later affected military movements of the Army of Northern Virginia. Meet at the Sandra and William H. Speiden Auditorium, 130 Caroline St., Orange, VA.

> Sunday, April 7, 3 p.m.

Holladay House History and Architectural Tour

Patrick McAloon will present a history of the Holladay House, and he will take us on an architectural tour of the structure. Meet at the Holladay House at the corner of Main and Caroline Streets in the Town of Orange. Bring a picnic.

> Sunday, May 3, 3 p.m.

History of North

Pamunkey Baptist Church

Jennifer Conley (OC Historical Society Board member and Prospect Heights Middle School teacher) will give a presentation on the history of this church and congregation. North Pamunkey was the second Baptist church founded in Orange County by Elijah Craig. Founded in 1774, this year marks its 250th anniversary. Learn about its founding, early members, and its legacy in the Lahore community. Bring a picnic and your lawn chair. In the case of rain, the picnic will be cancelled. Meet at North Pamunkey Baptist Church on Lahore Rd., 15109 Pa-

munkey Lane, Orange, VA.

> Sunday, June 30, 3 p.m.

A Boy, a Dream and the Orange County Pilots Who Shaped His Destiny

Russ Roberts came to Orange County in 1969 when his folks took over the operation of the Orange County Airport. From that experience, Russ found the path to his dream by becoming a professional pilot. He will talk about his important mentors, the local pilots who shaped him, not only as a pilot but as a person. Meet at the Sandra and William H. Speiden Auditorium, 130 Caroline St., Orange, VA.

> Sunday, July 28, 5 p.m.

Marshall Farms: An Automated Dairy Operation

Keith Marshall will conduct a tour of the high tech Marshall Farms organic dairy operation. Meet at Marshall Farms, 8494 Zachary Taylor Hwy., Unionville, VA. Bring a picnic.

> Sunday August 25, 3 p.m.

The Culpeper Minute Men in the Revolutionary War

Bill Schwetke, of Sons of the American Revolution, will present a history of the Culpeper Minutemen militia and their role in the Revolutionary War. In mid-1775, the Culpeper Minutemen militia was created by volunteers from Culpeper, Orange, and Fauquier Counties to fortify the revolutionary task force operating at Great Bridge, VA. The minutemen were under the command of Culpeper's John Green and were attached to the 1st VA Regiment (Continental

Line) under the command of Patrick Henry. Meet at the Sandra and William H. Speiden Auditorium, 130 Caroline St., Orange, VA.

> Sunday, September 29, 3 p.m.

Rebuilding Menokin

Sam Biggers of Dominion Traditional Building Group will give a presentation on the ongoing reconstruction of Menokin, a well-known example of colonial-era Georgian architecture in Virginia. This innovative rebuilding effort combines traditional materials and methods with modern ones. Dominion Traditional Building Group has been involved in the documentation and rebuilding of Menokin for more than six years. Meet at the Sandra and William H. Speiden Auditorium, 130 Caroline St., Orange, VA.

> Sunday, Oct. 27, 3 p.m.

Sandra Speiden: Mounds, Indian Pipes and Preservation

Bill Speiden will give a presentation on how his late wife, Sandra, used her platform to advance the cause of archaeological and historic preservation in Orange County and beyond. Meet at the Sandra and William H. Speiden Auditorium, 130 Caroline St., Orange, VA.

> Sunday, Nov. 24, 3 p.m.

Implications of Recent 3-D

Scanning of the Barboursville Ruin

Will Rourk, 3D specialist with the University of Virginia Library, will detail the results of laser scanning of the ruins of the Barboursville mansion and its adjoining landscape. Meet at the Sandra and William H. Speiden Auditorium, 130 Caroline St., Orange, VA.



Single Copy 15¢

Orange County Review

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ORANGE, VIRGINIA 22960, JANUARY 3, 1974

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50 years ago: Page 1 of the *Orange County Review*

Jan. 3, 1974

A Warrenton man was arrested and charged with breaking into Grymes Drug Store (today's Orange Pharmacy) on Saturday night and stealing a large quantity of controlled drugs and merchandise.

Jan. 10, 1974

The Board of Supervisors hired Terrell Baskerville to be County Administrator and started the process of engaging a consultant to develop a Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Jan. 17, 1974

A Somerset man was arrested

and charged with making a bomb threat at Virginia Metal Products. A 56-year-old woman was found dead in a field off of Little Skyline Drive. And a house being used to store valuable antiques in Rapidan burned to the ground.

Jan. 24, 1974

Jim Cortada was named President of the Orange County Historical Society. Mayor Robert Morin announced he would not seek reelection in May.

Jan. 31, 1974

The "troubled" Orange-to-Gordonsville water pipeline was officially rejected by the Rapi-

dan Service Authority, with the contractor being held responsible. The pipeline had suffered numerous breaks and interruptions of service.

Editor's note:

Fifty years ago, we were in the throes of the Arab Oil Embargo. It is interesting to see car dealer ads from that time promoting fuel efficiency and how a well-tuned engine pollutes less. "Less fueling around means more energy to go around," proclaimed Herndon Brothers Chevrolet-Pontiac. As an alternative energy source, C.R. Butler advertised stove coal for \$36/ton.

Reminder: please, please renew your membership!

Online: Go to our web site, www.orangecovahist.org and click on "Become a Member" at the top right of the page.

By phone: Call (540) 672-5366 (Monday through Friday, 1 to 5 p.m.)

By mail: 130 Caroline St., Orange VA 22960

(To download and print the membership renewal form, go to www.orangecovahist.org, click on "Become a Member" at the top right of the page and then click on "OCHS Membership Form")

In person: Visit the Research Center (130 Caroline St., Orange, VA; Monday through Friday, 1 to 5 p.m.)

Not already a member? Interested in Orange County history?

You can become a Society member by using any of the methods mentioned above.

The Orange County Historical Society, Inc. is a research, archival, and educational organization, dedicated to the discovery, preservation, and dissemination of the history of Orange County, of its people, and the surrounding area. The Society's reference library contains over 2,000 volumes, and there are over 1,300 files with information on families, historic buildings, events and sites, plus a map and photograph collection. The research center at 130 Caroline Street, Orange is open Monday through Friday from 1 to 5 p.m. For more information, call (540) 672-5366 or email info@orangecovahist.org.