

130 Caroline Street  
Orange, Virginia 22960

703/672-5366



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

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

## NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 7

JULY 1994

### July Picnic Meeting



The July Picnic Meeting of the Orange County Historical Society will take place at 6:30 p.m., Monday, July 25th, on the lawn of "Greenwood," in **Culpeper** County. (You will recall that our last meeting was at the Colliers' "Greenwood" in Orange County.)

Culpeper's "Greenwood" was the scene of an official welcome to the Marquis de Lafayette during his American Tour in 1825, which event was hosted by the then owner of this residence, Judge John William Green. The present owner, Angus M. Green, is a descendant of Judge Green.

Coming from Orange, "Greenwood" is on the right-hand side of Route 15 North about ¼ mile after crossing over the Rt. 29 bypass on the outskirts of the town of Culpeper, and across from Mike's Glass and Mirror Culpeper store

As usual with these summer meetings, you provide your chairs and the picnic supper of your choice and the host provides the program.

We are informed that should it be raining, Angus will bring his program to the Society's Headquarters in Orange where we will meet to socialize, eat, and listen to the story of "Greenwood."

### ***The Fanny Hume Diary of 1862 Available from the Society***

The much anticipated book *The Fanny Hume Diary of 1862: A Year in Wartime Orange, Virginia* has arrived at the Society's Headquarters and Research Center. This wonderful diary was written by a young lady living in Orange during the turbulent years of the War Between the States. 1862 was an eventful year for Miss Hume, with a skirmish fought in the streets of Orange and Yankees camping in the yard of her home.

J. Randolph Grymes, Jr. has done painstaking work editing and annotating the diary to help bring the people and events mentioned to life in much fuller detail with over 300 footnotes. The diary is available from the Society and cost \$14.95+.67¢ Va. tax (\$13.45+.61¢ Va. tax for members); postage and handling are \$1.75 for each mailed copy.



### **Recent Additions to the Society's Library**



*The Battle of the Wilderness, May 5-6, 1864*, by Gordon C. Rhea (Gift of the author).

*Some Notes on the Grymes Family of Middlesex County, Virginia*, by J. Randolph Grymes, Jr. (Gift of the author).

*Address Book for Germanic Genealogy*, by Ernest Thode (Gift of Barbara V. Little).

### **From the Z. W. Chewning, Jr. Memorial Fund**

*The Virginia Genealogist Index: Volumes 21-35*, compiled by John Frederick Dorman.

*Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, 1732-1741*, Volume IV, edited by Denis Hudgins.

### **Yours?**

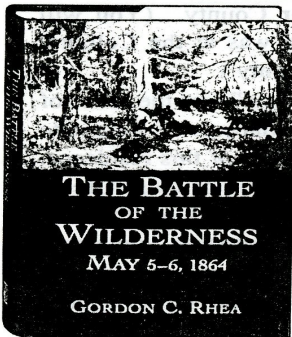
If you are the owner of the umbrella and/or the salad serving spoon which were left at the June picnic site, you may pick them up at the Society's building any time during office hours.



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## Life Member Publishes Book on "The Wilderness"



Congratulations are due to Society life member Gordon C. Rhea on the publication of his new book *The Battle of the Wilderness, May 5-6, 1864*. This book has received rave reviews and is the August Main Selection of the History Book Club (a version of the Book-of-the-Month Club for those interested in history).

The Society is also pleased to note that Mr. Rhea remembered us, as well as certain present and past members, in his acknowledgements by saying, "My debts extend to R. Monroe Waugh, recently deceased, who walked with me the overgrown remains of the Rapidan earthworks that he knew since childhood; Patricia J. Hurst, who helped identify numerous Orange County landmarks; and Ann B. Miller, who made available the resources of the Orange County Historical Society."

And that's not all! Mr. Rhea has graciously volunteered to speak at one of our meetings this fall should we wish him to do so. Needless to say, we lost no time in accepting this kind offer! Stay tuned to future issues of the Newsletter for exp

## Oops!

In last month's picnic announcement we incorrectly stated that "Greenwood" (Orange County) was built by "Lucy and Reuben Conway Macon." This should have read "Lucy Macon and Reuben Conway." Lucy, the daughter of Thomas Macon, married Reuben Conway.

## Orange County Courthouse Notes

Contributed by Ulysses P. Joyner, Jr., Clerk, Orange County Circuit Court

Marjory the wife of Elisha Perkins having presented unto ye Court with a petition setting forth therein that by reason of the said Elisha's abusing & treating her barbarously she desires Separate alimony, Its ordered that the said Perkins be summoned to ye next court to shew cause why a Separate alimony should not be allowed her, and its further ordered that ye Sheriff serve on the said Perkins accordingly.

"Marjory, the wife of Elisha Perkins, having presented unto ye Court a petition Setting forth therein that by reason of the said Elisha's abusing & treating her barbarously she desires Separate alimony, Its ordered that the said Perkins be summoned to ye next court to shew cause why a Separate alimony should not be allowed her, and its further ordered that ye Sheriff serve on the said Perkins accordingly." (Orange County Order Book 1, page 316, May 25, 1738)

**Note:** Even in the early days of Orange County, wives were being abused and the courts were called upon to settle martial differences.

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## NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 8

AUGUST 1994

### August Picnic Meeting

Our last picnic meeting of the 1994 season will take place at 6:00 p.m. (please note earlier-than-usual time) Monday, August 29th, at the Barboursville ruins, now the location of Barboursville Winery, Inc.

To quote from Ann Miller's book *Antebellum Orange*:

Barboursville was once one of the largest and finest residences in the region. The only building in Orange known to have been designed by Thomas Jefferson, Barboursville was constructed between 1814 and 1822 for Jefferson's friend James Barbour, Governor of Virginia, U. S. Senator, Secretary of War and later Ambassador to the Court of St. James.

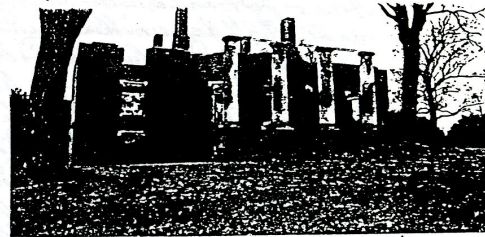
The residence was destroyed by fire on Christmas day in 1884, but the doric columns and much of the splendid Flemish bond-laid bricks of the mansion still remain.

To get to the Barboursville ruins from the Town of Orange, take Rt. 20 west to the village of Barboursville and follow the "Barboursville Ruins" and "grapes" signs to the Barboursville Winery and the ruins.

As usual for our picnic meetings, you provide your chairs and your picnic supper, we provide the program. In case of rain we will meet at the Winery's picnic shelter.



"Barboursville" before the fire



"Barboursville" today

### Getting Married in Early Virginia

It is much easier to "get married" in Virginia now than in the old days, and certainly down to the earlier years of the 17th century the fees were high for that luxury, amounting to nearly three pounds in colonial currency — the governor and the minister receiving the lion's share.

These fees might be commuted in tobacco at 10 shillings per hundred "of the growth of the parish wherein the feme lives." If the groom lived in a different county he had to give bond with security that the fees should not become a charge on the bride's parish, and Thomas Jefferson's marriage bond, preserved in the Virginia State Library, is so conditioned. No one could be married but according to the rubric of the *Book of Common Prayer*, and if a female between 12 and 15 years of age married without the consent of her parent or guardian, or the publication of banns, she forfeited her inheritance. A free person who married a servant forfeited to his or her master a thousand pounds of tobacco or else had to serve the master or owner one whole year in actual service. (*Virginia Historical Magazine*, Volume 28)

### Recent Additions to the Society's Library



*Free Blacks of Louisa County, Virginia*, transcribed by Janice Abercrombie. (Gift of the transcriber).

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

Recent Additions to the Virginia Regimental Histories Series:

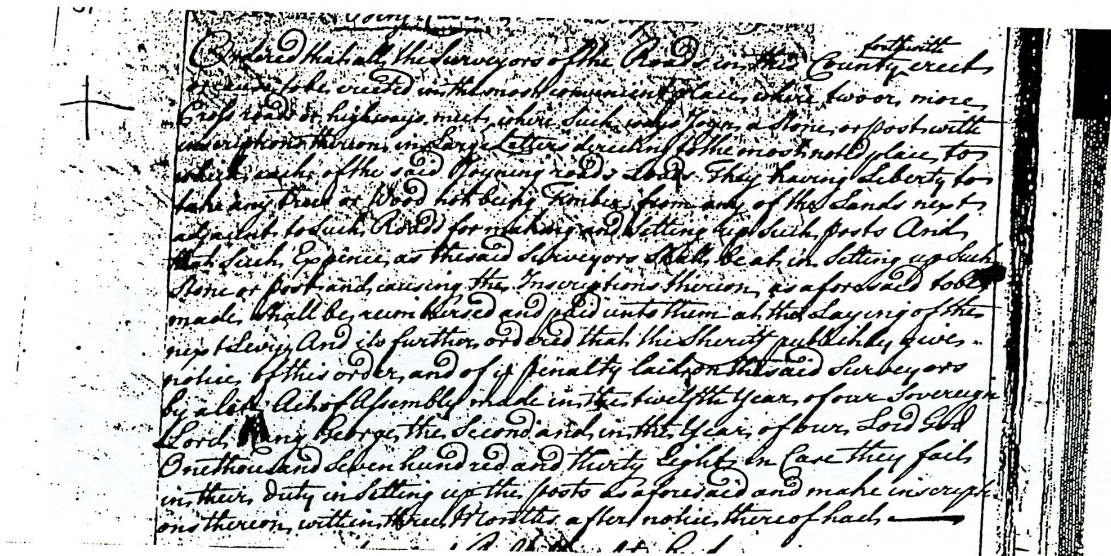
*17th Virginia Cavalry*, by Nelson Harris.

*19th and 20th Virginia Cavalry*, by Richard L. Armstrong.

*The Nottoway Artillery and Barr's Battery Virginia Light Artillery*, by Jeffrey C. Weaver.



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



Ordered that all the surveyors of the roads in this county forthwith erect or cause to be erected in the most convenient place wherever more crossroads or highways meet, where such ways joyn, a stone or post with inscriptions thereon in large Letters directing to the most noted place to which each of the said joyning roads lead, They having liberty to take any trees or wood not being timber from any of the lands next adjacent to such roads for making and setting up such post. And that such expense as the said surveyors shall bear in setting up such stone or post and causing the inscriptions thereon as aforesaid to be made shall be reimbursed and paid unto them at the laying of the next levy. And its further ordered that Sheriff publickly give notice of this order and of ye penalty laid on the said surveyors by a late Act of Assembly made in the twelfth year of our Sovereign Lord King George the Second, and in the year of Our Lord God One thousand Seven hundred and thirty eight in case they fail in their duty of setting up the posts as aforesaid and make inscriptions thereon within three months after notice thereof had. (Orange County Order Book 1, page 459, May 24, 1739)

**Note:** The Court regularly appointed citizens of the County to be responsible for certain sections of roads. Failure to properly maintain the roads was a crime often prosecuted.

Orange County's road orders for the period 1734-1800 have been abstracted from the court order books and are available from the Society.

Volume 1, 1734-1749 and Volume 2, 1750-1800.



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## NEWSLETTER

**VOLUME 25, NUMBER 9**

**SEPTEMBER 1994**

### September Meeting

The September meeting of the Orange County Historical Society will take place Monday, September 26th, at the Society's Headquarters and Research Center, 130 Caroline Street in Orange. As usual, 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 Charles F. Bryan, Jr., Director of the Virginia Historical Society. His topic will be "The Rise, Decline, and Re-emergence of Virginia: A Four Century Overview of the Commonwealth."

Dr. Bryan received his B. A. from Virginia Military Institute, a Master's Degree in History from the University of Georgia, and completed his Ph.D. in American History from the University of Tennessee. Before assuming his present position in 1988, he served as Executive Director of the St. Louis Mercantile Library Association, and prior to that was Executive Director of the East Tennessee Historical Society.

### Life in the Fast Lane?

In one of our old files entitled "Stagecoach Schedules" we found the following pages taken from an unidentified source. The date of this schedule appears to be ca. 1830-1840:



From *Orange C[ourt] H[ouse]*, by Booton's Tanyard, to *Madison C. H.*, 15 miles and back, once a week.

Leave Orange C. H. every Wednesday at 12m, arrive at Madison C. H. same day by 4 p.m.

Leave Madison C. H. every Wednesday at 6 a.m., arrive at Orange C. H. same day by 11 a.m.

From *Gordonsville*, by Barbourville, Liberty Mills, Burtonsville, Stanardsville, Ruckersville, Barbourville, and Stony Point, to *Gordonsville*, 58 miles, three times a week.

Leave Gordonsville every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 11 a.m., arrive at Stanardsville same days by 8 p.m., and at Gordonsville next days by 4 p.m.

From *Gordonsville*, by Bentivoglio and Everettsville, to *Charlottesville*, 21 miles and back, daily, in four-horse post coaches.

Leave Gordonsville daily at 11 a.m., arrive at Charlottesville same days by 4 p.m.

Leave Charlottesville daily at 5 a.m., arrive at Gordonsville same days by 10 a.m.

Note: Booton's Tanyard (Booton's Tannery) was what is now Aroda in Madison County.

Burtonsville was at the intersection of the present-day Rts. 29 & 609 in Greene County. (The Orange County portion of Rt. 609 is now Scuffletown Road.

Bentivoglio was across from what is now Cash's Corner Store in Albemarle County, Rts. 231 & 640. Everettsville was at the intersection of the Old Fredericksburg Road and the Three-notched Road, also in Albemarle County (just south of Keswick).

### Notice!

On Saturday, September 24th the "Enchanted Castle" site at Germanna will be open to the public from 10:00 to 4:00 for what may be the last time for some years. Plan to take advantage of this "last chance" opportunity to tour one of Orange County's most important historic sites.



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## Recent Additions to the Society's Library

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



Recent Additions to the Virginia Regimental Histories Series:

*45th Battalion Virginia Infantry: Smith and Count's Battalions of Partisan Rangers*, by Jeffrey C. Weaver.

*Ashland, Bedford and Taylor Virginia Light Artillery*, by Marilyn Brewer Kolezar.

*Goochland Light, Goochland Turner and Mountain Artillery*, by Jeffrey C. Weaver

## Orange County Courthouse Notes

Contributed by Ulysses P. Joyner, Jr., Clerk, Orange County Circuit Court

We present Jonathan Gibson, of the Parish of St. Thomas Gent for not frequenting his parish Church, for the space of two Months last past on the information of the Reverend Richard Hartswell

We present Jonathan Gibson of the Parish of St. Thomas, Gent., for not frequenting his Parish Church for the space of two months last past on the information of the Reverend Richard Hartswell. (Grand Jury Indictment, Orange County Order Book 3, page 69, November 27, 1741)

Note: Jonathan Gibson was Clerk of Orange County (1740—1745) and a prominent citizen of the county. This was no excuse for not attending to religious responsibilities to the "Established Church" imposed by law. One of these responsibilities was attending church.

Upon the presentment of the Grand jury against Thomas Fox This day as well Zachary Lewis Gent., Attorney for our Lord and King and the Def[endan]t by George Wythe, Gent., his Attorney....

Upon the presentment of the Grand jury against Thomas Fox, This day as well came Zachary Lewis, Gent., Attorney for our Lord and King and the Def[endan]t by George Wythe, Gent., his Attorney.... (Orange County Order Book 5, page 37, August 13, 1747)

Note: George Wythe, the teacher of law at the College of William and Mary, tutor of Thomas Jefferson and major contributor to the founding of our nation, apparently learned some of his law in Orange County.



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## NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 1994

### October Meeting



Lafayette

The October meeting of the Orange County Historical Society will take place Monday, September 24th, at the Society's Headquarters, 130 Caroline Street in Orange. The meeting has been moved to the 24th because the last Monday in October is Halloween. As usual, light refreshments will be served at 7:30 and the program will begin at 8:00 p.m.

Our speaker for this meeting is a member of our Society's staff, Kenneth Clark, Research Associate, who will give a talk on Lafayette's visits to Orange County in 1781, 1824 and 1825. Ken is a graduate of Virginia Wesleyan College and is currently working on his M. A. in history at James Madison University.

### Transcription from the Orange County Judgments (Loose Papers)

The following deposition of Mrs. Dorothy Benger, wife of Elliott Benger of Spotsylvania County taken the 8th day of March 1737/8 was recently found by Ann L. Miller in the Loose Court Papers in the Orange Clerk's Office.

The Deponent being askt whether she knew of any Limestone being brought by the Plaintiff to the Defendant and whether the same was Tried, answered that she remembered that the said Plt. did bring to Germanna some stone which she this Depot. did see Tried on the Stone Steps and was told that the said Stone did prove to be Lime, and Further this Dept. saith not.

Sworn before us this day and year above written

J. Taliaferro  
Ambrose Grayson

Notes by Ann L. Miller:

This deposition apparently relates to lawsuits involving Alexander Spotswood and William Russell in 1737-1738. The catalyst seems to have been a debt owed by Russell to Spotswood, which Russell "did unjustly delay to Settle his Accounts with [Spotswood]." Russell was ordered by the Orange County Court to pay the debt and damages (Orange County Order Book 1, p.278; 23 March 1737). (See also OCOB 1, p. 278; p.299, for payments to witnessess in the case.)

Perhaps in spite, Russell sued Spotswood, claiming damages of L 50 sterling from a debt in 1735. Russell then failed to prosecute the case and on Spotswood's motion the case was non-suited. Russell was ordered to pay Spotswood 5 shillings or 50 lb of tobacco, plus costs. (See OCOB 1, p.308; 28 April 1738.) The bill of complaint, which is partly mutilated and was illegible in places, was filed with the county judgments (loose papers); there is a reference to "five hundred bushells of good lime" (probably for use in iron manufacturing) which was to be delivered to the plaintiff, probably the lime about which Mrs. Benger (Spotswood's sister-in-law) was testifying in the above deposition. (See Orange County Judgments (Loose Papers) Reel 007, frames 0181-0182.)

None of the other papers in these cases contained any references to Germanna or buildings. Dorothy Benger's deponiton is significant because it contains a reference to "Stone Steps" at Germanna, potentially in the gardens or at the entrance to Spotswood's house.

### Recent Additions to the Society's Library

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

*The Diaries of George Washington, 1748-1799*, edited by John C. Fitzpatrick (4 volumes).

*The Virginia Genealogist*, Vol. 19 (reprint).

*The Virginia Genealogist*, Vol. 20 (reprint).





## What a Difference a Century Makes

The following gems are from a book entitled *Culture and Dress of the Best American Society* by Richard A. Wells, published in 1894. (The italicized headings are the names of the chapters from which the items are taken.)



### *Entrance into Society*

A young man in entering society cannot be too attentive to conciliate the good will of women. Their approbation and support will serve him instead of a thousand good qualities. Their judgment dispenses with fortune, talent and even intelligence.

The whims and caprices of women in society should of course be tolerated by men, who themselves require toleration for greater inconveniences. But this must not be carried too far. There are certain limits to empire which, if they themselves forget, should be pointed to them with delicacy and politeness. You should be the slave of women, but not of all their fancies.

### *Introductions*

A gentleman should not be presented to a lady without her permission being previously asked and granted.

### *Salutations*

The bow is the proper mode of salutation to exchange between acquaintances in public, and, in certain circumstances, in private. The bow should never be a mere nod. A gentleman should raise his hat completely from his head and slightly incline the whole body. Ladies should recognize their gentlemen friends with a bow or graceful inclination. It is their place to bow first, although among intimate acquaintances the recognition may be simultaneous.



### *Dinner Parties and Balls*

Dance with grace and modesty, neither affect to make a parade of your knowledge; refrain from great leaps and ridiculous jumps, which would attract attention of all towards you.

### *Miscellaneous Rules*

Let, no man speak a word against a woman at any time, or mention a woman's name in any company where it should not be spoken.

Civility is particularly due to all women; and no provocation whatsoever can justify a man in not being civil to every woman, no matter what her station in life may be; the greatest man would justly be reckoned a brute, if he were not civil to the meanest woman. It is due to all women, and is the only protection they have against the superior strength of man.

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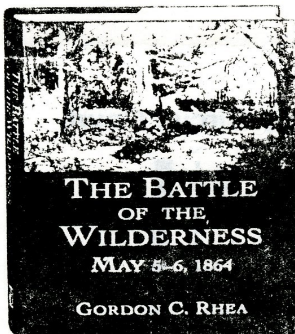
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## NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 1994

### November Meeting



The November meeting of the Orange County Historical Society will take place Monday, November 28th, at the Society's Headquarters, 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 Gordon C. Rhea, a Life Member of our Society who resides in St. Croix, U. S. Virgin Islands, and in Great Falls, Virginia. Mr. Rhea is an attorney and an author whose recent book, *The Battle of the Wilderness, May 5-6, 1864*, was a winner of the Jules and Frances Landry Award for 1994, and was chosen the History Book Club's August main selection. We are extremely fortunate to have this distinguished author for our program.

### Don't Look Now, But Here Comes Christmas

And you will certainly want to consider as gifts not only Mr. Rhea's book but also publications which we have for sale at the Society's Headquarters, including these two new ones:

*The Fanny Hume Diary of 1862: A Year in Wartime Orange*, edited by Society member J. Randolph Grymes, Jr. Miss Hume was living in Orange when she wrote this diary during that hectic war year. As interesting as the diary itself is, it is made more so by the copious footnotes and the information by the editor on the various families Fanny mentions in her diary.

*Old Blue Run Baptist Church, Constituted December 4, 1769: The First One Hundred Years*, is by another member, Garland Tyree. Mr. Tyree has generously donated a limited supply of his 72-page booklet to the Society for us to sell. This little book is of interest not only to church historians but to people interested in Orange County history generally.

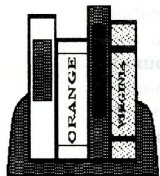
Further information pertaining to these two books, as well as other publications we have for sale, can be obtained from the Society.



### Dues-Paying Time Is Also Coming

You may recall that membership runs from January 1st through December 31st each year (except of course for Life Memberships), and dues are as follows: Annual Regular \$12.50; Annual Sustaining \$50.00; Annual Patron \$100 to 300.00; Life Membership \$300.00.

### Recent Additions to the Society's Library



*The Descendants of James Taylor of Virginia*, by Hawk Data Services. (Gift of G. Barrett Rich)

*John H. Bradshaw & Scythia Enfield Fritter of Stafford County, Virginia*, compiled by J. Douglas Bradshaw. (Gift of the author)

*Word Book of Virginia Folk Speech*, by B. W. Green. (Gift of Nathaniel Mason Pawlett)

*Historic Roads of Virginia: Culpeper County Virginia Road Orders, 1763-1764*, by Ann Brush Miller. (Gift of the Virginia Transportation Research Council)

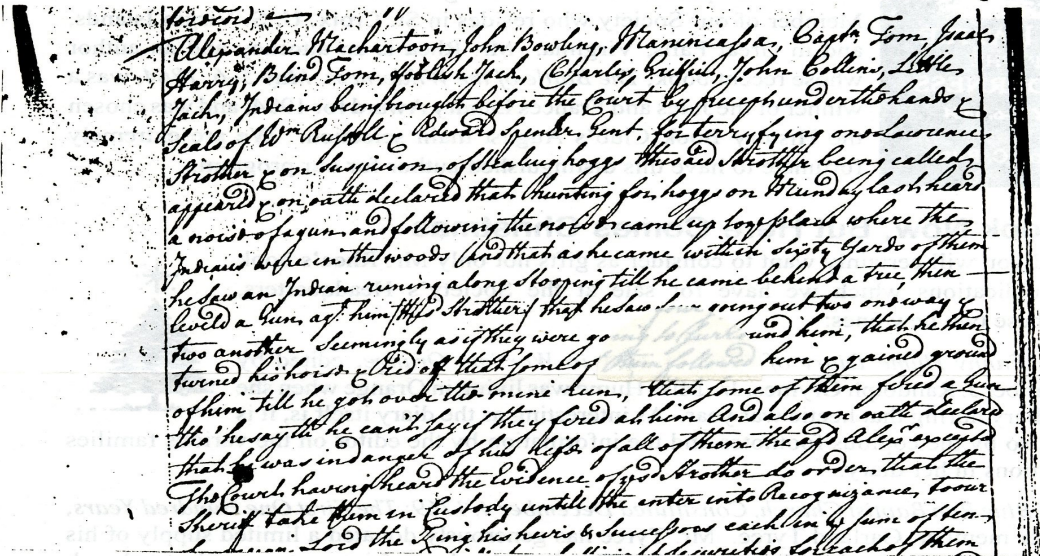
### From the Z. W. Chewning, Jr. Memorial Fund

*Culpeper County, Virginia Deeds: Volume Six, 1772-1774*, abstracted and compiled by John Frederick Dorman.



### Orange County Courthouse Notes

Contributed by Ulysses P. Joyner, Jr., Clerk, Orange County Circuit Court



A snippet of a handwritten manuscript, likely a court record, written in cursive. The text is somewhat faded and difficult to read in places, but it appears to be a transcription of the printed text below. It lists names of individuals and describes an incident involving a man named Strother and a group of Indians in a wooded area. The handwriting is in dark ink on aged paper.

Alexander Machartoon, John Bowling, Maniniassa, Capt. Tom, Isaac Harry, Blind Tom, Foolish Zach, Charles Griffin, John Collins, Little Zach, Indians being brought before the court by praeppce under the hands & seals of William Russell & Edward Spencer, Gent., for terrifying one Lawrence Strother & on suspicion of stealing hogs. The said Strother being called appeared & on oath declared that hunting for hogs on Sunday last heard a noise of a gun and following the noise came up to ye place where the Indians were in the woods and that as he came within sixty yards of them he saw an Indian running along stooping till he came behind a tree, then leveled a gun at him (the said Strother), that he saw four going out two one way and two another seemingly as they were going to surround him, that he then turned his horse and rode off, that some of them followed & gained ground on him till he got over the Mine Run, that some of them fired a gun tho' he sayth he can't say if they fired at him. And also on oath declared that he was in danger of his life of all of them, the said Alex excepted. The court having heard the evidence of the said Strother do order that the Sheriff take them in custody until they enter into recognizance to our Sovereign Lord the King, his heirs and successors, for each of them in the sum of five pounds current money with two sufficient securities for each of them in ye sum of five pounds current money for their good behavior and keeping the King's peace during a twelve month and a day to all his Majesties loyal people, but more especially towards the said Lawrence Strother. And its further ordered that their guns and Alex's gun also be taken from them till they are ready to depart out of this county they having declared their intentions to ye court to depart this colony within a week. (Orange County Order Book 3, Page 309, January 26, 1744)

NOTE: This is one of the rare instances when "Indian trouble" is mentioned in the Orange County Court Records. Most Indians had departed long before 1744.



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## NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 1994

### Season's Greetings

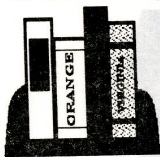


As most of you know, December is one of the two months of the year in which we have no meeting. To all of our members, the Society's Board of Directors and Staff extend their warmest wishes for a **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy and Prosperous New Year**.

### Thank You, Joyce

Only a few of the people attending our November meeting were aware that the refreshments were being furnished by Society member Joyce Clark, as she had requested that no such announcement be made to the audience. However, we are hereby making it known, not only to offer our thanks to her but also to serve as a warning to members not to expect delicious hot cider, homemade cookies and homemade candy at future meetings. (Joyce just happens to be our Research Associate's mom, but Ken vows she volunteered and was not coerced.)

### Recent Additions to the Society's Library



*International Vital Records Handbook*, compiled by Thomas Jay Kemp. (Gift of Barbara V. Little)

*A Supplement to Pamunkey Neighbors of Orange County, Virginia*, 2 vols., compiled by Lauretta Corkhill, Eldon Corkhill, Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio.

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

*Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents, Volume V, 1741-1749*, edited by Dennis Ray Hudgins.

### Reminder

As stated in our November Newsletter, 1995 dues become due January 1st: Annual Regular \$12.50; Annual Sustaining \$50.00; Annual Patron \$100 to 300.00; Life Membership \$300.00.

### A Quote . . .

of Dr. George W. Bagby (1828-1883); physician, newspaper editor, author, lecturer and humorist:

"There are people who would leave paradise to go to Orange Courthouse, and I am one of them."



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NEWSLETTER

## Christmas Gift

The following is a paragraph taken from an article entitled "Christmas and the Southern Festal Day," published in *Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, Volume X, Number 3, January 1929.

Christmas, the greatest of all holidays, was a day in the South before 1860 honored by master and slave. That day the white master was a humble victim to the negro's cry of "Christmas Gift", and he had to deliver or consider himself forever disgraced. The spirit of the negro passed that day to the white people, and "Christmas Gift" among the whites themselves took the place of "Merry Christmas." It was a salutation, and yet something more than a salutation. It never lost the idea of a gift. The penalty of being caught first with these joyful words "Christmas Gift!" had to be redeemed by a present, which might be anything from a kiss to a horse. To the wish of a merry day was added the excitement of getting there first with a demand.

