

Orange Oracle

An Electronic Update from the Orange County Historical Society

Call for Volunteers: "Orange County Review" Photo Negatives

We are looking for individuals interested in helping to organize the negatives in chronological order.

It is estimated this project will take approximately 40 volunteer hours total. Volunteers can work as many hours or as few hours as they are able.

A staff member will assist volunteers to assure that the organization of negatives is consistent.

If you are interested, please email:
OCHistVolunteers@gmail.com

Picnic at Matthews Mill Sunday June 26 at 6 pm



The location of our June picnic is Matthews Mill, a grist mill site in the Lahore area of the county that dates back to ca. 1856. This property is owned by Mary Jane Shackelford who resides in what is believed to be the miller's house.

Directions from the Town of Orange: head north on Rt. 20 for 3 miles, turn right at Gas and Stuff onto the Lahore

Town's 150th Proceeds Despite Conflicting Weather Forecasts



Mayor Martha Roby (left) and members of the Orange Town Council, Elliott Fox, Tim Bosford and Donna Waugh-Robinson applaud as past mayors are introduced. Time capsule is the safe on the table.

At one point the forecasters were calling for 80% chance of rain on Saturday, June 11, the day that the Town of Orange had set aside to celebrate the 150th anniversary of its incorporation. So, organizers moved the celebration to Sunday, the 12th. The weather followed suit. Saturday turned out to be cool and dry; Sunday dawned with a downpour!

Although the 5K run at the beginning of the day was a soggy affair, the weather managed to improve to the point that the Opening Ceremony could proceed without a hitch, albeit with reduced crowds and a few gaps in the guest list.

Following a mini concert of patriotic music by the Community Band, Mayor Martha Roby recognized current town council members and past mayors. Following remarks by State Senator, Bryce Reeves, and the reading of a House of Delegates Resolution recognizing the town's anniversary, OCHS President Ray Ezell and OCAAHS President James Bruce Monroe spoke of the town's rich history. Ezell concluded his remarks by sharing a comment made by a Joseph Martin, who wrote in 1835, "Orange remains a place of unqualified promise." Ezell continued, "This statement is still true today. However, we, as the current stewards of this place and its collective memory, must con-

Road (Rt. 629), proceed five miles and turn right on Matthews Mill Road (Rt. 630). At .6 mile, turn right into the mowed field just below the Old Mill House. The address is 15416 Matthews Mill Rd, Orange, VA. Rain and/or thunder and lightning cancel.

Our July picnic will be a joint gathering of the Orange County Historical Society and the Orange County African American Historical Society. It will be held at 6 pm, **Sunday, July 31**, at the historic **Old Blue Run Baptist Church** on Rt. 20 between Somerset and Barboursville. Instead of a picnic, plans are being made to make this a covered dish event that can be held rain or shine, thanks to the Fellowship Hall on the premises.



Our first picnic gathering in almost three years was held last month at "Waverley" home of Charlotte Tieken (foreground) and Charles Stick (speaker).

Interested in Orange County history?

Become a Society Member!

Want to help?

Become a volunteer!

ocvahistorical1965@gmail.com

or click here-

<https://www.oranagecovahist.org/about-us.html>

tinue to work to bring this promise to fruition."

The ceremony continued with the reading of a partial list of the contents of the time capsule, which includes a softball from the high school regional champions, photographs from the Orange Volunteer Fire Company, and the Memories and Visions collection of 25 video interviews conducted by the Historical Society.

The ceremony concluded by the cutting of a cake. Music and dance performances continued for the rest of the day ending with a fireworks display that night.

Here's a link to video highlights of the ceremony: <https://youtu.be/hFwQ2eefOts>



Vice Mayor Rick Sherman (left) and councilwoman Donna Waugh-Robinson get ready to cut the town's birthday cake.

Local Genealogist Honored By Mike Saxton

We are pleased to recognize that our long-standing member, Barbara Vines Little, was honored at the annual banquet of the National Genealogical Society in Sacramento, California on May 27th with their Award for Excellence. Her article, "Correct Interpretation of an Eighteenth-Century Virginia Will Restores the Parents of Allerton Newton of Westmoreland County, Virginia," appeared in the December issue of the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*. In solving a long standing controversy involving colonial lineage, the award recognizes her excellence in scholarship combining knowledge of Virginia records, the law, and historical context with genealogical research best practices. A well-known national leader in the genealogy field, Little also serves as editor of *The Magazine of Virginia Genealogy*, and is a former board member and President of this society.