

CAROLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April 2015

Caroline County, Virginia

Vol. 35, Issue 2

The Society will meet at 3 p.m., Sunday, April 26, at the Caroline Community Services Center, 17202 Richmond Turnpike, Milford, Virginia 22514, which is located about 1 mile south of Bowling Green on U.S. 301.

Kimberly C. Campbell, genealogist and author, will be the speaker at the Caroline Historical Society meeting in April. Kimberly was presented the Caroline Historical Society annual award in 2009 for her efforts in researching and publishing books that preserved and promoted the history of Caroline County. She is a supporter of the Central Rappahannock Heritage Center. Kimberly will speak on her latest efforts and a list of the books she has had published will be available at the meeting.

Message From the President

As we start a new year, I would like to make it a priority for the Caroline Historical Society (CHS) to continue providing educational information related to Caroline County history, through the news media, recordings, displays, newsletters, programs, field trips, and printed documents. We have many dedicated volunteers who spend countless hours working on our collections, displays, history articles, and newsletter. These are a few of the areas where we can always use additional help from volunteers. Other items at the top of the “to-do” list include increasing our membership and promoting our overall purpose. I am open to discussing any ideas you may have to improve our organization. Please contact me at (804) 633-5217 (home), (804) 513-9069 (work), or by e-mail at wbrooks@bealenet.com. I look forward to working with our membership, citizens, the County Board of Supervisors, Town Council members, and other organizations to achieve the Society’s goal of preserving and promoting the history of Caroline County.—*Wayne Brooks*

Kenneth Newman

Kenneth Newman, age 66, passed away January 30, 2015, leaving his wife Lynne, two sons, Michael and Jason, and three grandchildren. Ken was a dedicated life member of the Caroline Historical Society. He served many years on the board and as the president of the Society. He was an avid reader and Civil War historian. He was a member of the King George Historical Society and also served as that society’s president and was also a member of Historic Port Royal, Inc. He lived his early years in Port Royal and was a life-time member of Memorial Baptist Church in Port Royal. He was an avid fisherman and loved to fish with his family members. He proudly served in the Air Force from 1969 until 1972 as the crew chief on C-130 Hercules transports, serving two tours of duty in Vietnam. He worked for Purvis Ford for over 30 years before retiring last year.

Herbert Ridgeway Collins Honored by the Commonwealth

The town of Bowling Green, Virginia, invited members of the Society to attend a reception and presentation honoring Herbert Ridgeway Collins on April 2, 2015. Mr. Collins was presented with a framed copy of a resolution passed by the House of Delegates and the Senate of the Commonwealth honoring his efforts in preserving our history. The award took place during the town council meeting with the presentation being made by the Honorable Hyland F. (Buddy) Fowler, Jr., a delegate representing the 55th district (Caroline, Hanover, and Spotsylvania) of the Virginia House of Delegates.



Delegate Hyland F. Fowler, Jr., presents Herbert Ridgeway Collins a copy of the House of Delegates resolution honoring his efforts in preserving Virginia's history.

Herbert Ridgeway Collins was a major founding and charter member of the Caroline Historical Society and an author of many books on Caroline County history. Many Society members attended the ceremony and thought the recognition was well deserved.

Sidney E. King Arts Center

The National Park Service, Caroline County, the town of Bowling Green, and the Bowling Green Arts Commission opened the Sidney E. King Arts Center in 2013 and have kept it open, using volunteers, from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday. The Caroline Historical Society has a display case room in this facility and this enables the Society to display our artifacts, exhibits, and to promote the history of Caroline County. There is a need for more volunteers and we hope some of our members can help. Call Robyn Seig at (804) 633-9473 if you can volunteer one or two days a month at the center.

Update on the Caroline Women in History Project 2015

The Caroline Historical Society (CHS) committee which was tasked with finding and honoring four outstanding women from Caroline County completed its project for the 2015 year on March 31. March is designated as National Women in History month and for the first time the CHS asked the public to recommend names of county women whom they believe would be worthy for consideration.

Over 70 names were submitted and four were selected. Committee members Kay Brooks, Dale Brittle, Pat Morris, and Mary Madison researched the nominees and articles on the selectees were written and published in the *Caroline Progress* during the month of March.

Mrs. Mary Adams, Ms. Helen Hull Jacobs, Ms. Mae Brooks, and Mrs. Kathy Hancock were the women who received recognition this year. The committee's work is on-going and research continues on names previously submitted for consideration in 2016. The public is encouraged to continue providing nominees to the committee. All recommendations are placed in a "Caroline Women in History" binder located in the CHS workroom/museum in the Sidney King Art Center in Bowling Green and may be viewed by the public during the center's hours of operation.—
Dale Brittle

CHS Collection Committee Report for 2014

The Collection Committee reported the Society's holdings increased by 12 objects, the archives increased by 26 items, six collections were created by the committee, and 14 books were added to the library. The committee suggested the approximately 45 oral interviews from the Oral History Project should be converted to CDs and DVDs to better preserve them.—*Kathy Burchell*

Railroads in Caroline County

The railroad came to Caroline County in the 1830s. The five major train stations in the county with passenger and freight terminals were at Ruther Glen, Penola, Milford, Woodford, and

Guinea. Mail and merchandise were transported from the stations by horse or mule and wagons to post offices and country stores. Pictures of train stations are in the books *Caroline County, A Pictorial History* by Mary Tod Haley Gray and *One Hundred Fifty Years of History Along the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad* by William E. Griffin, Jr.

The rail lines were used by the military in the Civil War. After Lt. Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson was wounded at Chancellorsville in May 1863, he was taken to Guinea to be moved on to Richmond by rail, but died at Guinea. Guinea is now the site of the Stonewall Jackson Shrine.

The rail lines enabled Caroline citizens to open excelsior mills at all the train stations, a great economic boost in Caroline. George P. Lyon opened the first mill at Woodford in 1896 and many more mills were opened. In the 1950s, there were three excelsior mills at Penola operated by Campbell, Coleman, and Jeter. Excelsior mills provided income and employment for land owners, tree cutters, wood haulers, mill employees, and railroad workers. The excelsior was used for packing materials in glass-ware cartons and for cushion filler in furniture. The pulp wood was cut in four-foot lengths and the bark was removed in the woods by one man with a barking knife. The pulp mills closed in the 1960s and pulp wood is now shipped in full tree length by logging trucks to mills outside of Caroline County.

Working for the railroad was desired employment. Train engineers, conductors, and station masters were highly respected jobs. The railroad built homes right by the rail lines to be used by the families of their employees who maintained and worked on the rail lines and equipment. Telegraph offices were established at each station and became an important communication link in the county. In 1943, during World War II, an average of 103 trains from the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad (RF&P) passed through Caroline each day (one train every 14 minutes).

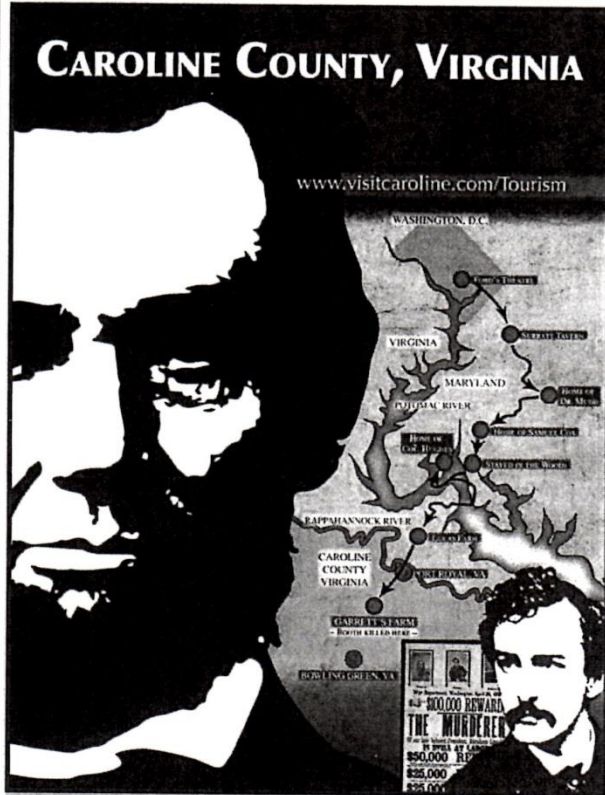


RF&P 4-8-4 “Northern” locomotive used between Richmond and Washington.

Improvements in roads, vehicles, and trucking lines decreased the demand for railroads and the train stations closed in Caroline. Freight trains and Amtrak trains still come through the county. High-speed rail lines may come in the future and there is a plan for a railroad station below Carmel Church.

The whistle of the train passing through the county can still be heard a long way on a damp still morning and bring back memories of the glories of the past.—*Bernard Collins*

Pre-Register to attend the Caroline County, Virginia
SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION of the
CAPTURE OF LINCOLN'S ASSASSIN
3 DAYS of EVENTS ★ APRIL 24-26, 2015



CAROLINE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

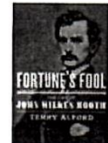
www.visitcaroline.com/Tourism

FRIDAY EVENING - April 24th
 (Exclusive to 3-Day Package purchasers only)

- Reception and Civil War overview by NPS Chief Historian John Hennessey.
- Exclusive visit to the Virginia Civil War 150th HistoryMobile.

SATURDAY - April 25th

- Breakfast & bus tour of the John Wilkes Booth and David Herold path of flight through Virginia. See their crossing site in King George County, lunch & tour stop at the Town of Port Royal, Garrett farm site, and a tour & wine tasting at the Sidney E. King Arts Center in the Town of Bowling Green.
- Reception/Dinner and guest speaker, nationally recognized Lincoln assassination authority Dr. Terry Alford, author of *Fortune's Fool: The Life of John Wilkes Booth*.



SUNDAY - April 26th

- "Lunch with Lincoln", a meal & conversation with former President Lincoln, as presented by Michael Krebs & Debra Ann Miller from "With Lincoln Productions." Krebs and Miller are Official Presenters for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum.



**Pre-Registration Fee for the
 3 DAY PACKAGE - \$125**

Included - VIP Seating at all listed events, exclusive Friday evening Reception/HistoryMobile visit, PLUS limited edition commemorative coin!

Registration Required.

Limited space - register NOW!

Individual event tickets are also available, see details on the registration form.

Use the form attached to this flyer, or see us at www.VisitCaroline.com, Twitter, or on Facebook at Caroline County Tourism.

FREE TO THE PUBLIC!
 Come to the Caroline County Visitor Center to tour the
Virginia 150th Civil War HistoryMobile

10 am - 4 Saturday, April 25th

10 am - 2 pm Sunday, April 26th

23724 Rogers Clark Blvd, Ruther Glen, VA 22546



SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE CAPTURE OF LINCOLN'S ASSASSIN

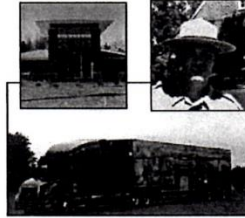
PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Friday, April 24, 2015 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. (Exclusive for 3 Day Package)

Registration & Reception Caroline County Visitor Center
23724 Rogers Clark Blvd, Ruther Glen, VA 22546
Presented by: Caroline Economic Development Authority

Civil War Presentation John Hennessey, Chief Historian/Chief of Interpretation
National Park Service - Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania
National Military Park (<http://www.nps.gov/frsp>)

VIP Tour HistoryMobile The Virginia Civil War 150 HistoryMobile
(<http://vimeo.com/74304974>)



Saturday, April 25, 2015 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Guided Bus Tour

Join us as we trace the assassin and posse's path through Virginia! Highlights include:

- ◊ Registration/Breakfast at the Caroline County Visitor Center
- ◊ King George County - Assassin's arrival in Virginia at Potomac River & through King George
- ◊ Town of Port Royal -walking tour of King Street, Brockenbrough House, Civil War era re-enactors, Port Royal Portrait Gallery, Port Royal Museum of American History, and lunch at Port Royal restaurants
- ◊ Garrett Farm site – Interpretative Program
- ◊ Town of Bowling Green - Reception & Wine Tasting at the Sidney E. King Arts Center & Main Street shopping



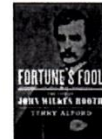
Tour begins and ends at the Caroline County Visitor Center - 23724 Rogers Clark Blvd, Ruther Glen, VA 22546

Saturday, April 25, 2015 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Dinner/Book Signing

Keynote Speaker - Dr. Terry Alford



Be one of the first to hear history professor, author, and nationally recognized Lincoln assassination scholar introduce his latest book. Dr. Alford is a co-project director for Ford Theatre's educational programs and is scheduled to present the workshop "The Hunt for Lincoln's Killer" there earlier in the week as part of their commemoration week. He also appeared on the PBS documentary *The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln*, consulted on the Steven Spielberg film *Lincoln*, and authored *Prince Among Slaves* and *Fortune's Fool: The*



Life of John Wilkes Booth. Fortune's Fool debuts this month and will be available for purchase and author's signature. Dinner will be enjoyed under the watchful eye of our famous pre-historic whale fossil in the popular Caroline County Visitor Center. (23724 Rogers Clark Blvd, Ruther Glen, VA 22546)

Sunday, April 26, 2014 12:30 - 3:00 p.m. "Lunch With Lincoln"

Enjoy a once in a lifetime opportunity to share a delicious luncheon with President Abraham Lincoln and First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln, in the form of Michael Krebs & Debra Ann Miller from "With Lincoln Productions." Listen to their thoughts on the Civil War and its end, as well as their plans for unification! Krebs has appeared as Lincoln in the 2014 film *Field of Lost Shoes*, The History Channel's *Conspiracy?*, C-SPAN's *Lincoln-Douglas Debates* and *President Lincoln's Inauguration Reenactment*, and more. Krebs & Miller serve as Official Lincoln Presenters for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum, and appear at various libraries, museums & historical societies nationwide. Event to be held in the historic Town of Bowling Green's Event Center. (117 Butler Street, Bowling Green, VA 22427.)



Pre-registration is required. Guests must present ticket at each event. Guest hereby waives, releases and holds harmless the Town of Bowling Green, the Town of Port Royal, Caroline County, Virginia and their employees from any and all claims, lawsuits, damages and liabilities arising from this event.