



CAROLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April 2016

Bowling Green, Virginia

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The Society will meet at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, April 24, 2016, at the Kilwinning Crosse Masonic Lodge located at 102 Chase Street, Bowling Green, Virginia 22427. Please note this is not our usual meeting place.

For this membership meeting members are asked to bring an item(s) of historical nature to the meeting for "Show and Tell." The item or items can be anything you may think is of interest related to Caroline County history. If you have such things as old photos, documents, farm tools, books, small furniture piece, or other unusual items you would like to share, please bring them. If you have an "old" friend bring them and maybe they will have a history tale to relate to us. This is always a fun and education part of the meeting. Please participate.

Message from the President

Mother Nature sure messed up our plans for the scheduled January meeting.

I sincerely hope everyone will be able to attend this meeting and bring one or more items of historic interest for our "Show and Tell" program. It has been awhile since we have enjoyed sharing stories, pictures, documents, and other items of local or regional history. It will also be of interest to hear a report on any new items donated to the Society. Our organization needs to reach out to our county residents and others who may have items of historic interest from Caroline County's past. By donating items to our organization, they will be preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Special thanks to our Society Historian, Dale Brittle, for her three recent newspaper articles giving tribute to local women who have contributed their time and effort to improve and maintain our quality of life in Caroline County. Great articles!

As a part of our program this time, we will draw the winner of the signed and numbered Civil War print "Early Snow" by local artist, Joe Umble. Mr. Umble passed away at the early age of 45 in December 1998 and was one of the top five Civil War artists in the country. He was known for his accuracy to historical detail and dedication to preserving history through his paintings. Joe was a history buff and a self-taught artist. In his early career, he studied under the nationally known Caroline County artist, Sidney E. King.

This print is a signed and numbered "Publisher Proof" Edition which means there are only 25 signed and numbered prints designated as Publisher Proofs (PP). The print is marked "PP" with the number of the print above the /25. e. The print measures 24¾" x 16½" and is framed on a Poster frame.

Tickets are still on sale for \$5.00 each and sales will continue until the drawing is held at the Caroline Historical Society's meeting on April 24, 2016. If you are interested in obtaining tickets

before the meeting, please contact me at (804) 633-5217 or (804) 513-9069.

We are continuing efforts to increase memberships and enhance our collections. Please take time to support our organization by volunteering your time to help with various committees, arranging displays, funding raising activities, collections, or articles for our newsletter. We need everyone's assistance to achieve our mission.—*Wayne Brooks*

New Hope Tavern



Painting by Sidney E. King showing New Hope Tavern.

The New Hope Tavern was painted in 1962 by the Caroline artist Sidney E. King using a painting of the tavern owned by Alice DeJarnette. The King painting is now on display in the King Arts Center. The tavern was an important commercial stop on the stagecoach route through New Hope in Caroline County. The name of the community, New Hope, was later changed to Bowling Green. The members of the local Committee of Safety met at the New Hope Tavern in 1775, prior to the Revolutionary War. The brick Caroline Court House was built in 1835, directly across Main Street from the New Hope Tavern. The New Hope Tavern is mentioned often in the many books on Caroline County history. The painting of the New Hope Tavern was donated to the King Arts Center by the Mahon family.—*Bernard Collins*

The 2016 Caroline Women in History Project

The Caroline Historical Society has just completed its yearly month of March project which provided insight into the contributions made by four outstanding women from the county. March is designated as National Women in History month and over the past few years, the public has recommended the names of women to CHS whom they believe worthy of recognition.

More than 50 names have been collected. In March 2015 and 2016, one woman was honored each week. Names were researched, articles were written, and then submitted for publication in *The Caroline Progress*. The Caroline Historical Society extends its appreciation to the editor and staff of the newspaper for their assistance in preparing the articles for publication.

Miss Clara Lee Smith, a leader in the Ladysmith area, Mrs. Virginia Wright Durrett, an educator and author, Mrs. Dorothy Buckner Smith Roy, a business woman from colonial times, and Mrs. Dorothy Bigelow Hamm, a civil rights leader in the 1950s and 1960s, were the women who received recognition this year. These ladies represented a cross section of historical periods, geographic regions, and significant contributions.

The Caroline Women in History project is on-going and research continues on names received. The public is encouraged to submit names with short biographical statements as to why the person should be considered. If any person is interested in working on this project with Dale Brittle, CHS Historian, they may contact her directly. Recommendations are placed in a "Caroline Women in History" binder located in the CHS museum at the Sidney King Arts Center in Bowling Green and may be viewed by the public during the center's hours of operation, Wednesday through Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.—*Dale Brittle*

Fort A. P. Hill

In 1940, the U. S. War Department concluded from the activities in Germany and Japan they needed a military installation on the east coast to support training maneuvers and an artillery range. Fort Meade, Fort Eustis, and Fort Lee did not have the land space required.

The Army study in 1940 recommended that 160 square miles of Caroline County be acquired. It included the land down to Whites Mill, to Sparta, to Milford, and up the Mattaponi River to Spotsylvania. In January 1941, a defense appropriations bill was initiated for \$1,650,000 to purchase 109,440 acres. This information was leaked by Representative Bland. Some Caroline residents spoke up against this intrusion in Caroline and it was agreed to not include the farm land by the Rappahannock. In May 1941, 430 acres were acquired and a military headquarters was established in the vacated Mica High School. The military moved in and conducted training before all the land was purchased and the civilians had been moved out. In June 1941, an exercise between Regular Army units, a red force and a blue force, was held and observed by the citizens. The exercise spilled over to the gravel roads and the land around Sparta and Kidds Fork.

In August 1941, the War Department reduced the acreage required from 109,440 to 80,371 due to budget restraints; good news for citizens in some targeted areas of Caroline. The attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, confirmed the need. By 2005, many facilities, including brick buildings, were added and many military troops have been trained here since 1940.

The last tract of land taken was recorded in the Caroline Clerk's Office on May 4, 1942. There were 534 families and 2,319 people displaced (1,315 White and 1,004 Negroes) and approximately 25 percent of the people moved out of Caroline. Ten schools were closed. Seventy-five percent of the land taken was woodland and the rest was farm land. Graves from churches and private cemeteries were moved to Greenlawn and Mt. Lawn Cemeteries

A U.S.O. building was constructed during World War II in Bowling Green (the Bowling Green town hall) and used as a place for the troops to relax and shower. A U.S.O. building for the Negro troops was built near Union High School.

The National Boy Scout Jamboree was held here for many years and brought the U.S. president and Scouts and parents from across the nation to Caroline County.

A. P. Hill Military Installation was the original name. In 1952, the name was changed to Camp A. P. Hill. In 1974, all Army bases were called forts and the name was changed to Fort A. P. Hill.—*Bernard Collins*

2016 Membership Dues Reminder

A reminder to those who haven't submitted a check for their 2016 dues to the Caroline Historical Society. Please send your payment to Caroline Historical Society, P.O. Box 324, Bowling Green, VA 22427-0324. Dues are \$15 a person, \$20 for a family, and \$200 for life membership.

Rosenwald School Research in Caroline County ... a Continuing Process

February's conference on "Rosenwald Schools in Virginia" at John Tyler Community College piqued my interest in researching schools in my own Caroline County.

I am not a native of Virginia, but a historian of the Caroline Historical Society. I asked myself these questions: What schools were built in the county and what if any school buildings still remain?

The Country School Board records indicated there were twelve Caroline schools funded and operated with Rosenwald monies. These were built between 1912 and 1930. There may be more if additional study is conducted. References used were provided by the Caroline school system, Fisk University, and University of Virginia library data bases (Jackson Davis Collection, "Black Schools in the South"), an archeologist working at Fort A. P. Hill, "The National Register of Historic Places—Jericho School," and Caroline natives who have been a part of the county population for over 60+ years. In late summer 2015, Wayne Brooks, president of the Caroline Historical Society, and I visited several school sites highlighted on an Army Corps of Engineers service map of Bowling Green dated 1964. The Cultural Resource Archeologist and Field Coordinator at Fort A. P. Hill, Rich Davis, recorded three Rosenwald sites and privies on the base: Free Mission, Delos, and Zion Grove. Documents housed in the Caroline Historical Society's files provided an introduction to this research. They were written by prominent Caroline historians and printed in various society publications.

Let's take a look at the twelve schools that were funded by Rosenwald funds and those later operated with Rosenwald monies. None of the original buildings exist today.

Bowling Green School District:

Sycamore (\$500), Free Mission (\$250), Mt. Zion (\$500), St. James (\$350) and Bowling Green (\$125).

Port Royal School District:

Delos (\$500), Zion Grove (\$700), Glenridge (\$410), and Ezera (\$800).

Reedy Church/Madison School District:

Cassia (\$500), Ruther Glen (\$500), and Mc Duff (\$700).

Rosenwald “Community School Plans” became wildly popular and many were adopted by school systems. School divisions not receiving Rosenwald funds for construction could use Rosenwald designs and apply for monies to support programs, teacher training, supplies, etc. In Caroline seventeen one-room schools were built, nineteen two-room schools were constructed, and two multi-room schools including the high school, County Training School in Bowling Green district, were built. Jericho School in western Caroline and Port Royal School in Port Royal are two buildings that exist and are supported with community funds and today function as museums.

Two schools not mentioned in the county school records were situated close to the King and Queen county line. Members of the Powhatan Federation, supported Alps and Central Point Schools in eastern Caroline and “stood firm in their native American Heritage.” Their schools operated into the late 1950s until the newly built Union Elementary School opened in Bowling Green in 1959. Both were built using Rosenwald designs.

In the early 1960s, thirty-eight Negro school buildings were recorded in Caroline. Twenty-four were sold at public auction, seven became residences or were demolished because they resided on land purchased by the government to develop Camp A. P. Hill in the late 1930s. Fort A. P. Hill property takes up about one-fifth of the county land.

What Is Next?

The CHS historian will continue her research.

- People will be contacted— those who own converted school buildings.
- Oral histories may be collected from folks who attended Rosenwald schools.
- Photographs will be taken; Vintage pictures will be collected when available.
- School sites not already recorded will be found and recorded on a county map.
- The historian will inform the public as to what new information is collected.

If persons in Caroline live near a school site, attended a one- or two-room county school, have photographs of students and schools which no longer remain standing and would like to share their stories with the Society, they are encouraged to contact Wayne Brooks or Dale Brittle.—
Dale Brittle

Caroline Historical Society Fund Raiser



"EARLY SNOW" by local artist Joe Umble

The Caroline Historical Society is conducting a fund-raising event by selling raffle tickets to win a limited edition signed and numbered Civil War print entitled "Early Snow" by the late Joe Umble of Caroline County, Virginia. Mr. Umble passed away at the early age of 45 in December 1998 and was one of the top five Civil War artists in the country. He was known for his accuracy to historical detail and dedication to preserving history through his paintings. Joe was a history buff and a self-taught artist. In his early career, he studied under the nationally known Caroline County artist, Sidney E. King.

This print is a signed and numbered Publisher Proof Edition which means there are only 25 signed and numbered prints designated as Publisher Proofs (PP). The print is marked "PP" with the number of the print above the /25. The print is signed (original signature) by the artist, Joe Umble. The print measures 24³/₄" x 16¹/₂" and is unframed. In this print, Joe depicts a squad of Confederate cavalry on patrol who were met with an unseasonable and unexpected snow storm during their mission.

This is a rare opportunity to own an example of artwork from one of America's most well known Civil War artist who called Caroline County, Virginia, his home.

Tickets are now on sale for \$5.00 each and sales will continue until the drawing for the winner is held at the Caroline Historical Society's meeting on April 24, 2016. Tickets will be available from Society officers.