

CAROLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

January 2015

Caroline County, Virginia

Vol. 35, Issue 1

The Society will meet at 3 p.m., Sunday, January 25, 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.

Start the new year off right by attending the January meeting of the Caroline Historical Society. This is a very important meet for the members. The slate of officers for 2015–2016 will be discussed and the Society will present its annual award.

Message from the President

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as the president of the Caroline Historical Society for the past two years. I have always had an interest in Caroline history and often wondered what happened and what life was like at old plantation homes, small homes of people who were frugal and farmed with one or two mules, old ice house pits near ponds back in the woods, and old abandoned sunken roads found when walking through the woods of Caroline. I majored in history at the University of Richmond and I have been active in the Caroline Historical Society since I retired from the Air Force in 1986.

We are lucky there are numerous books on Caroline history and have read some of these books many times over the years. I encourage you to visit the Sidney King Arts Center on the courthouse grounds in Bowling Green to see the art and the displays in the Caroline Historical Society before they are changed. I pass on my grateful thanks to the members who worked hard to catalog our Caroline Historical Society artifacts, arrange our display cabinets, schedule speakers, and publish our quarterly newsletters.— *Bernard Collins*

Caroline Historical Society Annual Award

Carolyn Roth has been selected to receive the Caroline Historical Society's annual award for the year 2014. The award will be presented at the meeting on January 25, 2015. Carolyn will be the featured speaker and will tell us about some of her activities since becoming a member of the Caroline Historical Society. The book by Carolyn, *A Guide to Historic Bowling Green, Virginia*, will be available for purchase.

Carolyn Roth

Carolyn was born in Boise, Idaho, and lived there until 1960. As a child, she was interested in her Western heritage and was captivated by the sight of an old "settler's cabin" reconstructed at the local zoo. On family journeys she looked for evidence of the Oregon Trail and imagined Indians coming down from the hills. Having lived away from Idaho for most of her life, she now regularly travels back to nourish her Western roots. Most recently she enjoyed a Cattle Dog competition at her cousins' cattle ranch.

She attended the College of Idaho for 2 years, then married and spent the next 20 years living in Hawaii, California, and Virginia. While living in northern Virginia with her children in school, she returned to college, acquiring a bachelor's and master's degree in psychology from George Mason University. She began teaching psychology at Northern Virginia College and continued her education, resulting in a Ph.D. in conflict analysis and resolution. She retired in 2004, after having moved to Caroline County in 1993.

Carolyn always loved old houses and was charmed at her first visit to Bowling Green. She stopped at Maynard Penney's office and left thinking of the town as a future retirement location. However, in less than a month Maynard told her about a "nice old house" on Main Street the owner was thinking of selling. She could not resist the appeal of the house and its owner, Lucy Dunnington, and the resulting purchase pleased them both and led to a meaningful friendship.

Due to Lucy's influence, the first Caroline County organization Carolyn joined was the Friends of the Caroline Library. Her interest and participation in that group led to her serving as president for 8 years, including the move of the library to the Community Services building. The second organization she joined was the Caroline Historical Society, where she became a life member and has served as secretary for the past 8 years. Being interested in the history of the county and its citizens, in 1997 she headed a committee to conduct an oral history project. They started with a list of 40 long-time residents of the county to be interviewed and a committee of 12 CHS members to conduct the interviews. This project continued for several years and the tapes of the interviews are now part of the CHS collection.

Membership in HELP Bowling Green resulted in Carolyn's opening of her home on their Holiday Candlelight Tour and she served on that committee for several years. She also shared her yard and garden with the community during the town's Art and Garden Walk. She was coordinator for the Bowling Green Visitor Center from 2004 until its closing and spearheaded the development of the park area next to the building through the courtesy of Union Bank and Trust. Having become interested in the Old Jail dating to the time it housed the Historical Society's museum collection, in 2011 Carolyn succeeded in securing a grant from the Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region. The \$5,000 grant allowed the organization, Citizens for Caroline Historic Preservation, to replace the badly deteriorated roof of the building. The stated purpose of CCHP was "Preserving the Past for the Future."

From her interest in what life in Caroline County was in past years, Carolyn undertook to write the kind of book she likes to read about localities she visits. She outlined her plan to CHS and the Board voted to pay for the publication of the result, "A Guide to Historic Bowling Green, VA." The book was published in 2007 and features photos and information about events and change in the town since its inception in 1837. The book is available at the Sidney E. King Arts Center and the Caroline County Visitor Center and all proceeds go to the Caroline Historical Society.

Since 2010, when the Society's collection was brought out of storage and housed in the Courthouse Annex, Carolyn has worked with a committee to document, categorize, and care for the objects and books, documents, and photos. They work on a regular weekly basis labeling artifacts, preserving important documents and articles, and maintaining computer records of the entire collection. A printed record of the CHS collection policies and entire holdings is called "The Everything Book" and is kept in the CHS processing room in the Sidney E. King Arts Center, adjacent to the CHS museum display room.

Another current volunteer activity for Carolyn is working with the Herbert Collins Virginia Collection housed in the Caroline Library. This valuable collection of historic and rare books is in process of being cataloged and recorded as a research asset in the library's holdings.

Carolyn clearly deserves to receive the Caroline Historical Society Award for the year 2014 for her continuing efforts over the years to promote and foster the history of Caroline County. Her Bowling Green book provides a rich resource of the history of the Caroline County seat. The new roof installed on the Old Jail helps preserve that historic structure for future use. Her charmingly restored home adds to the historic ambience of Main Street, Bowling Green, and her participation in various open houses and garden events demonstrates her commitment to sharing the past with the present. Her dedication as a volunteer with the Caroline Historical Society and the Caroline library are a testament to her commitment to enhancing and preserving the history of Caroline County.



CHS President Bernard Collins addresses the audience at the November dedication of the roadside historical marker honoring Lt. Col. George Armistead, hero of the bombardment of Baltimore's Fort McHenry during the War of 1812.

CHS “Caroline Women in History” Committee at Work

Since October 2014, the Caroline Historical Society's committee, “Caroline Women in History,” has collected names, discussed potential candidates, developed strategies in selecting women for their outstanding accomplishments, and met on a monthly basis. They have conducted research and interviews in gathering first-hand accounts for documentation.

Committee members are Kay Brooks, Dale Brittle, Mary Madison, and Pat Morris. These women are working diligently to prepare selectees for National Women's Month in March 2015. Others selectees may be honored at other times during the year.

The names with documentation will be reviewed and approved by the Caroline Historical Society board of directors. It is anticipated these women's stories will be submitted to the CHS newsletter editor and to *The Caroline Progress* for publication.

More than 75 names have been submitted. It is a daunting task to consider researching each one. All names will be placed in a “CHS Caroline Women in History” binder which will be located in the Society’s museum and open for the public to view. Collection of data is on-going, so information will be added as collected. If anyone desires to assist with research and documentation, they may contact Dale Brittle, chair of the committee.—*Dale Brittle*

Slate of Officers for Election

The following members have been nominated to serve as Society officers for 2015 and 2016. The election will be held at our meeting on January 25, 2015. Nominations may also be made from the floor.

President	Wayne Brooks	Vice President	Cleo Coleman
Secretary	Jean Hunt	Treasurer	Kathy Burchell
Historian	Dale Brittle	At Large	Ken Newman
Past President	Bernard Collins	At Large	Lynwood Broaddus

Do We Have Your E-Mail Address?

If you haven’t already done so, please send your e-mail address to our newsletter editor at XXIIPC@AOL.COM.

Having your e-mail address will enable us to send your Society newsletter by e-mail with any photographs in color. If you request, we will still send a hard copy by U.S. mail as we realize some members may want a hard copy for their collection. Using e-mail also allows us to send information on upcoming events of interest to members that come up between regular newsletters.

“Caroline County, Virginia, Estates, Residences, and Historic Sites”

The above 140-page book by Herbert Ridgeway Collins was published in 2012. This book contains many photographs and descriptions of Caroline County historic sites, estates, and places arranged in alphabetical order with the first being “Aberdeen” and the last shown “Zoar Baptist Church.” It took years to collect and compile the old photographs, facts, and information on these places from deed books, wills, chancery court cases, newspapers, etc. This book can be purchased at the Caroline County Library for \$40.00. The proceeds from the sale of this book go to the library.

The book can also be ordered by mail from the library by sending your name and address along with a check for \$45.00 per copy to the Caroline County Library, P.O. Box 9, Bowling Green, VA 22427-0009.



Wreaths presented at the Armistead marker dedication by the Virginia War of 1812 Society and the Virginia War of 1812 Commission. The Virginia War of 1812 Society also provided the fifteen-star flag for the ceremony.

About Bowling Green

Major Thomas George Hoomes was granted 3,000 acres by the British Crown in 1667 and it included the land he named Bowling Green after an ancestral estate in England. The home “Old Mansion” was built about 1742 as determined by the owner, Steve Nicklin. A few years ago, Nicklin called the home “Bowling Green Farm” as it was called years ago. The Hoomes family and their descendents owned the place until Miss Annie White placed the property in a perpetual rights of preservation with the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission in 1969. The Hoomes family owned some of the finest race horses brought to Virginia and in early times the racing of horses, betting, and the sale of horses in Bowling Green provided an interesting entertainment. Colonel John Waller Hoomes, who served in the Virginia Senate and owned Old Mansion, died in 1805. The early main roads from the west and south joined in Bowling Green to proceed east to Port Royal so tobacco could be shipped to England and goods received and distributed.

The first court house and jail was built between Shumansville, Kidds Fork, and Collins Pond in 1729. As the population grew in the county, John Hoomes presented a petition to the Virginia Assembly in 1803 to move the court house to Bowling Green, a more central location in the county. The present old court house on Main Street was built about 1835 and the old Pauley jail, built in 1900, is still standing.

Bowling Green was incorporated in 1835 and has served as the county seat for many years. The railroad coming through Milford in the 1830s and the building of U.S. 301 through in the 1930s greatly improved the travel access to Bowling Green.

Many of the old buildings, including the Star Hotel, the New Hope Tavern, the Lawn Hotel, the Bowling Green Female Seminary, Bowling Green Academy, the Caroline court house, the Bowling Green town hall (old USO building), and churches, have interesting histories.

Bowling Green had two major fires in 1905 and 1955. The 1955 fire destroyed the quaint business section with apartments built above the businesses.

The weekly papers were the Caroline Sentinel and the Caroline Echo followed by the Caroline Progress which began in 1907.

Two detailed books have been published on Bowling Green. "Historical Record of Bowling Green 1667–1970" was published by Ralph Fall in 1970. "A Guide to Historic Bowling Green, Virginia" by Carolyn Roth was published in 2007.

Copies of this Bowling Green history are available in the Sidney King Art Center on the display case with Bowling Green artifacts and photographs.



The 1835 Caroline County, Virginia, Court House.