



# **CAROLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

July 2015

Caroline County, Virginia

Vol. 35, Issue 3

**The Society will meet at 3 p.m., Sunday, July 26, at the Port Royal Town Hall, 419 King Street, Port Royal, Virginia 22535, one block east of Main Street, which is U.S. 301**

CHS members have been invited by Historic Port Royal to visit the recently opened Doctor's Office Museum and Portrait Gallery located in the Town Hall. The tour is schedule to begin at 3:00 PM in the Port Royal Town Hall.

## **Message From the President**

Hope everyone is doing well and enjoying these warm days as the summer slips away. Our Caroline Historical Society (CHS) collection continues to grow each month and our Collections Committee members work hard every week to assure all new items are properly inventoried and letters of appreciation sent out to the donors. Another ongoing project is the conversion of the existing VHS videos of interviews with long-time residents providing their memories and childhood experiences growing up in Caroline County. These interviews were conducted by several teams of CHS members who filmed and interviewed dozens of residents approximately 15 years ago. The VHS tapes are being converted to DVDs at zero cost, except for the minor expense of the blank DVDs. The conversion to DVDs will extend the life of the video histories and keep alive the stories that would have otherwise been lost. My compliments to the CHS members who conducted the interviews. A job well done!

In other news, in lieu of our normal meeting scheduled for July 25<sup>th</sup>, CHS members have been invited by Historic Port Royal to visit the recently opened Doctor's Office Museum and Portrait Gallery located in the Town Hall. The tour is schedule to begin at 3:00 PM in the Port Royal Town Hall. The tour will be both interesting and educational for all those attending. There is no cost for this event other than gas to get there. Please come out and join us at Port Royal for this event and hopefully members can get together afterwards for food and refreshment at the local waterfront restaurant.

For our October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, we have planned another event you do not want to miss. Kilwinning Crosse Masonic Lodge 2-237, located in Bowling Green, Virginia, has invited the members of CHS to attend an open house to include a program on its 260-year history and a tour of the building. In addition to the program and tour there will be exhibits of rare Masonic memorabilia dating back to the early 1750s. This event is scheduled to begin at 3:00 PM on October 24, 2015. There is no cost for this event.

Be sure to mark this date on your calendar, great opportunity to hear about local history and view historical items rarely available for public viewing. More information to come in next newsletter.

Remember, CHS is always looking for donations of items related to our local history. Items such as old photos are welcome additions to our collection.

Please stay active in our organization, we need your support and participation.—*Wayne Brooks*

### **Louise Jeanette Beasley**

Miss Louise Beasley, 104 years old, passed away June 1, 2015. Miss Beasley was a long-time member of the Caroline Historical Society, which was formed in 1968. She served as secretary when Winston Woolfolk, the first president of the society, served. She was a loyal member and regularly attended the Society meetings until she moved to senior living in Chancellor's Village in Fredericksburg. She looked forward to receiving the CHS newsletters and paid her annual dues for forty-six years. She was interviewed and a record of some of her memories was published in the April 2012 CHS Newsletter.

### **CHS Collection Additions**

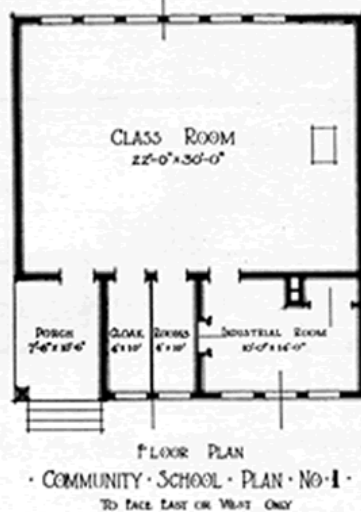
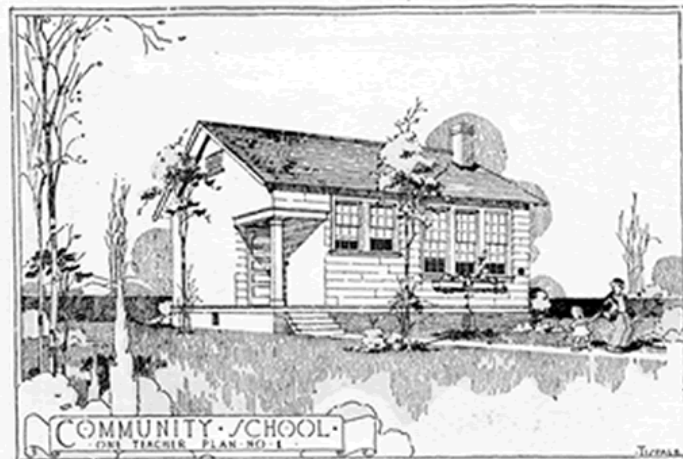
Through the generosity of Gary R. Wilson, Director, Caroline County Economic Development & Tourism, the Society has added copies of five early Caroline County documents held in the Library of Virginia in Richmond. The five documents are dated from July 1802 to May 1804. These copies will be a great asset to our CHS collection and we greatly appreciate the thoughtfulness in making this donation to our organization.

### **Rosenwald Schools in Caroline County**

In late February 2015 Preservation Virginia cohosted a Virginia Rosenwald School Initiative meeting at John Tyler Community College, Chester campus. Kathy Burchell, Treasurer and member of the Caroline Historical Society Collections Committee and Dale Brittle, Historian, attended the meeting to learn about Rosenwald schools in Virginia.

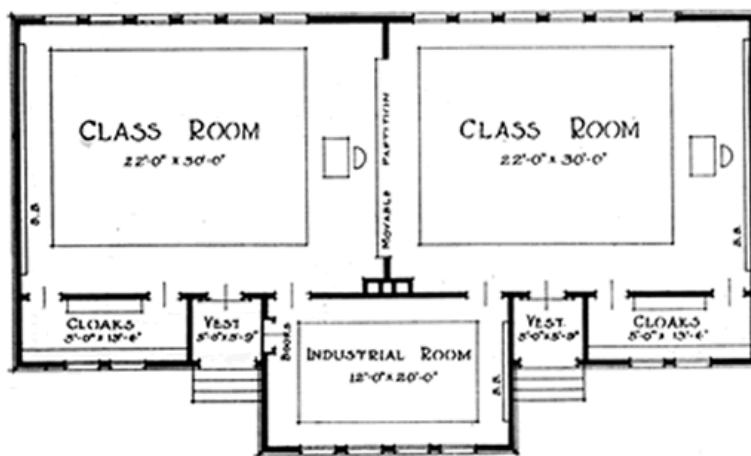
One hundred and thirty persons, representing Virginia communities, Rosenwald school alumni, preservationists, art historians, researchers, and those interested in learning more about the schools in the Commonwealth were brought together to hear about state-wide programs which are being developed to preserve these buildings.

According to Dr. Alyce Miller, Associate Professor of History at JTCC, "The era between the Civil Rights movement, the Rosenwald Rural School Building Program provided critical educational opportunities to African Americans in the South. Though this initiative begun by Booker T. Washington, who supported the need for industrial training and education for Negroes, and Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears and Roebuck and Company and who wanted to aid rural communities in the South, more than 5,000 Rosenwald schools were built, including 367 in Virginia. It is estimated that nationally only 10–12% of these schools remained standing in 2013."



Of the 367 schools built in Virginia, nine (marked with an asterisk) were built in Caroline County and two survived into the 1960s. It is thought none of the buildings exist today. Three additional schools received other Rosenwald funds. According to the “Record of Negro School Buildings in Caroline County, Table 4,” schools in the Bowling Green School District receiving Rosenwald funds were: Sycamore\* (1918), Free Mission\* (1915), Mt. Zion (1915), St. James\* (1917), Bowling Green (1912); the Port Royal District schools were Delos\* (1923), Zion Grove (1922), Glenridge (1930); and the Reedy Church-Madison Districts schools were Cassia\* (1919), Ruther Glen\* (1921), and McDuff\* (1925). Ezra School\* was not listed in the school board report, however the year of construction was listed in “The Rosenwald Schools of Virginia” Web site as 1921–1922.

In the late 1890s the Caroline County Sunday School Union worked to establish a secondary school for Negro children. The first building was a frame structure which housed a girl’s dormitory, classrooms, and chapel. In 1903–04, the Bowling Green Industrial Academy was chartered. The school was turned over to the Caroline County School Board in 1914 and the name was changed to Caroline County Training School. In 1921, a frame building was constructed with Rosenwald funds and in 1928 the name Union High School was proposed.



FLOOR PLAN No 20  
 TWO TEACHER COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
 TO FACE EAST OR WEST ONLY

According to the U.S. Department of Interior's National Register of Historic Places (Jericho School), Rosenwald funds mandated standards in order to receive assistance. One standard dictated the proposed lot for school construction be at least 2 acres. Also the architecture of the school must follow one of the designs outlined in the Rosenwald fund publication, "Community School Plans." These plans became widely available and popular and schools not receiving Rosenwald funds could construct buildings using Rosenwald designs. The National Register (pg. 3, Secs. 7, 8) defined the Jericho School in Caroline County "as an example of an early-twentieth century, one room school ... and demonstrates the overarching influence of the Rosenwald Fund on school construction. ..." Built in 1917, it was constructed on a one-acre lot. "The Ruther Glen School about 3 miles east of Jericho was a one teacher school and built following the Rosenwald design. The McDuff School, after which many Jericho students, attended was located just off U.S. Route 1 about 2 miles northeast of Jericho School. This was a two-teacher school and followed the Rosenwald two-teacher plan."

Although no Rosenwald school buildings are known to exist in Caroline County in 2015, the Jericho School is representative of the Rosenwald school type. Its placement on the National Register of Historic Places is a significant step in providing insight into the education and ethnic heritage for African Americans in Caroline County.—*Dale Brittle, Historian, Caroline Historical Society*

#### *Resources*

Preservation Virginia, <[agarmom@preservationvirginia.org](mailto:agarmom@preservationvirginia.org)>, “Virginia Rosenwald School Project.”

“Saving Virginia’s Rosenwald Schools” meeting at John Tyler Community College, Chester, VA, February 20, 2014.

Fisk Online Database <http://rosenwald.fisk.edu/>

“Record of Negro School Buildings in Caroline County, Table 4,” Caroline County Public Schools.

“Memories of Union High School ... 1903–1969,” Marion Woodfork Simmons, Burtonsville, MD, 2011.

“Education, Academics, Schools” by B. Collins, 2012.

“Caroline County Rosenwald Schools.” Web site:  
<http://www.2vedh.virginia.edu/schools/Caroline/index.html>

“Jericho School, Caroline County, VA,” U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places, Sections 7, 8; Site No. DHR–File No. 016–5014, pp. 3–8; 2003.



## Caroline Historical Society Fund Raiser



*"EARLY SNOW" by local artist Joe Umble*

The Caroline Historical Society will be 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 24<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" x 16<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" 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 will be on sale beginning August 15 for \$5.00 each and sales will continue until the drawing for the winner is held at the Caroline Historical Society's meeting on January 23, 2016. Tickets will be available from Society officers and other locations to be announced later.