



## **CAROLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

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**The Society will meet at 3:00 p.m., on Sunday, July 24, 2016, at the Kilwinning Crosse Masonic Lodge located at 102 Chase Street, Bowling Green, Virginia 22427**

The guest speaker at our July meeting will be Hal Stuart, author of a book on early Virginia sectional furniture. He will also say a few words about his home, Providence Plantation.

### **Message from the President**

If you were unable to attend our April meeting, you missed an enjoyable event that included many interesting “show and tell” items. The majority of the items were related to Caroline County history and generated lively discussions. In addition to the “show and tell” program, the winning raffle ticket number was drawn for the signed and numbered limited edition Joe Umble print entitled “Early Snow.” The winner was Ms. Kerri Holland, a resident of the area with a keen interest in local history.

We congratulate Kerri on winning the print and for everyone’s participation in the fund-raiser which earned us approximately \$500.

The guest speaker at our July meeting will be Hal Stuart, author of a book on early Virginia sectional furniture. He will give a brief presentation on his recent book and his home. Hal lives with his wife at Providence Plantation, also known as the Fogg House, near Newtown, in King and Queen County. The main house was built about 1826 and altered around 1840. It is a two-story, three bay, brick house with Federal style design influences. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2009. Hal will have copies of his book available for sale at the meeting. See page 6 for more information on Hal’s book.

With the 4th of July celebrations behind us, I would like to take a few minutes to reflect on the history behind our special document that is the basis of our way of life in the United States. Here are a few interesting historical facts: July 4, 1776 is considered our Birth of a Nation. It was on that date the Second Continental Congress announced, through the Declaration of Independence, the 13 American colonies were no longer a part of the British Empire. That document was created primarily by Thomas Jefferson, who was a member of the committee assigned to draft the document for approval by Congress. The committee consisted of Benjamin Franklin (Pennsylvania), Robert R. Livingston (New York), John Adams (Massachusetts), Roger Sherman (Connecticut), and Thomas Jefferson (Virginia). The bulk of the work was completed by Jefferson and reviewed by the committee before being adopted by Congress on July 4, 1776.

Upon approval by Congress, the committee was directed to print the document in the earliest time frame. The committee obtained the services of a well-known printer by the name of John Dunlop. Under the supervision of the committee, Dunlop printed approximately 200 copies of the hand-written document on the night of July 4, 1776. The next day, copies of the Declaration

of Independence were sent out to all 13 colonies, Gen. George Washington, and the British government. This first version (Dunlop) was officially adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, but was not signed by Congress at that time. One of the widely held misconceptions about the Declaration of Independence is that it was signed on July 4, 1776.

On July 19, 1776, Congress voted the Declaration of Independence be “engrossed” or hand written on parchment with the title added and requiring every member of Congress to sign. John Hancock, president of the Continental Congress, was the first to sign followed by the other members of the Congress. In all, 56 members of Congress signed this final document by August 2, 1776. While not the first, this signed version is considered the primary document and the one copied over the years.

In January 1777, Congress commanded Mary Katherine Goddard to print the “authentic” signed version of the Declaration of Independence for distribution. This version is known as the “Goddard” version.

Copies of the “Dunlap” and “Goddard” versions are very rare and usually found in museums or private collections. There are 26 copies of the “Dunlop” version and 9 of the “Goddard” version known to exist. The last “Dunlop” version sold brought over \$8 million, some would consider the words in the document “PRICELESS.”—*Wayne Brooks*

## Roadside Historical Markers in Caroline County

Check out [www.MarkerHistory.com](http://www.MarkerHistory.com) to see all the roadside historical markers in Virginia. Check “Location Search” to find and select “Caroline” to see the roadside markers in Caroline County.—*Bernard Collins*

## Report from the Collection Committee

The Historical Society has recently received a donation from the town of Bowling Green. Six oak chairs, furnishings at Town Hall from the USO years, are now located in our community meeting and display room in the Sidney King Arts Center. They have low, curved backs which provide comfortable arm rests. On the bottom of the seat there is a stencil reading “Heywood-Wakefield Co.” These historic furnishings are a significant improvement from the folding chairs previously used. Unfortunately, they make the folding table they surround look extremely shabby and we are interested in securing a more suitable conference table. The room will accommodate a table up to 8 feet long and 3 feet wide. Oak would be preferable, but any well-made wooden table would be considered. Members’ input is solicited and tips on good prospects for purchase or donation will be welcomed.

Recently we have been working with some map collections which have been rolled up in storage for a very long period of time. We are attempting to flatten them before moving them into one of the flat file cabinets donated by Wayne Brooks to the Collins Room at the Caroline Library. There is a set of architect’s plans for the Circuit Court building, a set of maps of the A. P. Hill area, and one of the Sparta area, undated but very old.

Our working hours are from 11–3 on Fridays and we do double duty with the Sidney King art collection during that time as well, welcoming any visitors to the Arts Center. CHS members are welcome to drop in to view our collection and search for items of interest to them. We believe preserving and protecting these artifacts and informational items on Caroline County are a very significant aspect of our Historical Society. The committee members are Kathy Burchell, Carolyn Roth, and Mandy Young.—*Carolyn Roth*

### **Memories of Things No Longer Seen in Caroline County**

My memories go back in Caroline County, Virginia, to the 1940s. Things I remember seeing that are no longer seen or seldom seen in Caroline County in 2016 are listed below:

Five train stations where train steam engines passed by belching black coal smoke. A Trailways bus traveling through Caroline County picking up passengers on U.S. 301. Taxi cabs waiting for riders in the town of Bowling Green.

Many people walking the sidewalks by the stores on Saturday nights before television. Pay telephones located outside in a glass enclosed booth.

Gasoline for 19 cents a gallon at Kidds Fork in 1948—5 gallons and a coke for a dollar. Pulling into a service station and seeing the attendant coming out to put gas in the car. Automobile drivers sticking their arms out of the window to give turn signals.

Gravel roads with people traveling in a wagon pulled by mules or horses. A two-room school building heated by a wood stove. A teacher with two grades in the same room.

A man hauling ice in a truck and stopping by twice a week to sell you a block of ice. Milk in glass returnable bottles delivered to your door. Coca Cola in glass Coke bottles.

Mules used in the fields pulling a plow or mules being worked in the vegetable gardens. Two men at handle ends of a cross cut saw cutting wood.

Tobacco growing in the fields or barns used to cure sun-cured chewing tobacco. Shocks of cut corn stalks in fields or hay shocked around stakes with pitch forks. Large vats used for brining cucumbers or a factory used to process sumac for dye.

Excelsior mills by the rail lines receiving barked pine four-foot logs on short bed trucks. Dairy farms with the milk cows grazing in the pasture. A post office in a country store.

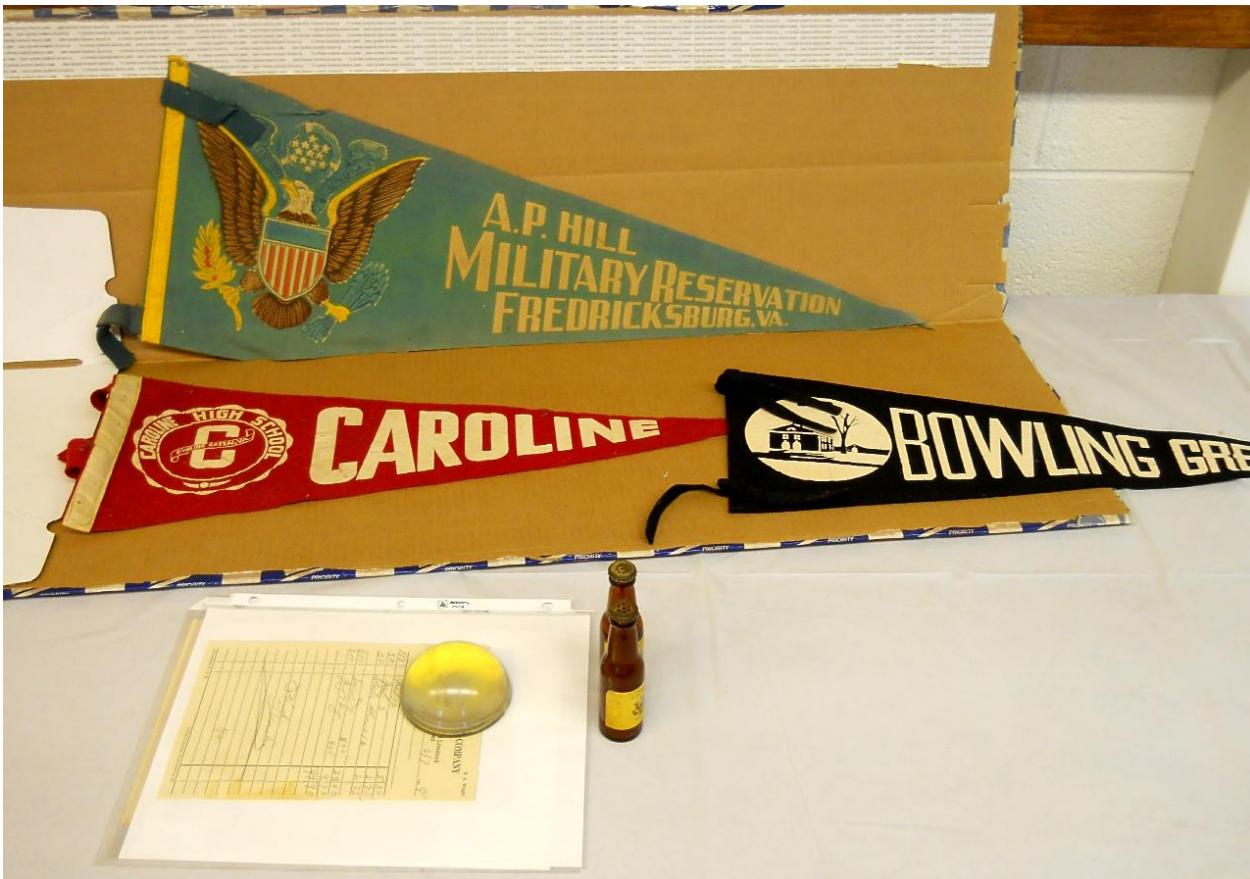
A churn in the kitchen or a washboard in a wash tub. Root cellars used to store potatoes. Hand-held fans in church pews. May poles in school yards. Cane reed fishing poles.

Metal barrels in the yard used to heat water by fire to be used when hogs were killed. A milk cow grazing in the yard restrained by a chain attached to an iron stake. Quail flocks fly up with a flutter and whistle “Bob White” in the spring.

Colorful red, blue, and yellow birds that chirp and dart about in the forest.—*Bernard Collins*



Seven CHS members with their "Show and Tell" items at the April meeting.



A sampling of items brought to April's "Show and Tell" meeting.

## A Brief History of the Caroline Light Artillery—1861–1865

As the clouds of the War Between the States formed after the firing on Fort Sumter South Carolina, the Virginia State Convention adopted an ordinance of secession on April 17, 1861.

Volunteers from all over the Commonwealth of Virginia answered the “call to duty” and signed up with various regiments of infantry, cavalry, and artillery being formed on the local level.

The Caroline Light Artillery was one of several companies of volunteers formed from Caroline County. The various companies raised in the county became parts of the 47<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry, 30<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry, 9<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry, and the Caroline Light Artillery.

The Caroline Light Artillery was organized by Capt. Thomas Rowe Thornton in Bowling Green, Virginia, in June 1861. Prior to the war, Captain Thornton, a Virginia Military Institute graduate, was a teacher at Rappahannock Academy, close to Port Royal, Virginia. The members of this unit included many familiar local names such as Beasley, Brooks, Chinault, Dillard, Garrett, Schools, and Thornton.

The unit’s first duty was at Camp Magruder, near Richmond, Virginia, in July 1861. After several months of duty, they were shipped to South Carolina as a part of the coastal defenses. From November until August 1862 they served as a field artillery battery at several locations between the cities of Savannah, Georgia, and Charleston, South Carolina.

The Caroline Light Artillery returned to Virginia in the fall of 1862 to assist in the defenses around Richmond. Upon their return to Richmond, the Caroline Light Artillery was assigned to Lightfoot’s Artillery Battalion and remained under their command for the remainder of the war. They became a vital part of the Richmond defenses and participated in several expeditions to turn back Union advances directed at Richmond. In December 1863, the unit consisted of 6 artillery pieces, 121 men, 85 horses, and 21 mules.

In May 1864, the Caroline Light Artillery participated in the Battle of Drewry’s Bluff, just south of Richmond on the James River. The battle ended with the Union Navy ships being turned back and the city of Richmond being saved in part by the efforts of the Caroline Light Artillery. The boys from Caroline County suffered several wounded and one killed during this action. They continued to be a part of the outer defenses of Richmond until April 1865 at which time they marched to Appomattox Courthouse with Gen. Robert E. Lee’s army. On April 9, 1865 the war ended and the Caroline Light Artillery was disbanded. The thirty-nine remaining members of the unit traveled back to Caroline County. One of the members of this unit, who returned home after serving four long years of war, was my Great-Grandfather, Festus Brooks.

Statistics from the 4 years of war: roster included 243 men, 2 were killed in the line of duty, 10 died of disease, 10 were wounded, 1 captured, 10 transferred, 9 discharged, 21 deserted.

More detailed information on the history of the Caroline Light Artillery may be found through the National Archives, Library of Virginia, Caroline Library, and in the book entitled “The Caroline Light, Parker and Stafford Light Virginia Artillery” by Homer D. Musselman.— Wayne Brooks

## **“Virginia Sectional Furniture: 1800–1860” by Hal Stuart**

Book Synopsis: The book is a field study chronicling eight years of research on antebellum sectional furniture. All of the sectional settees and sofas found to date, 15 examples, were made in Virginia from just after the founding of the early American Republic up to the Civil War. Below is an example of a sectional sofa, ca. 1830. Currently, no other nineteenth century sectional furniture is known to exist outside of Virginia, such as the sectional sofa below.



*Virginia sectional sofa, unknown maker, ca. 1830, origin Port Royal, VA.*

### **Why the Book is Important:**

1. Sectional furniture is an outgrowth of military campaign furniture. Military campaign furniture gave inspiration to nineteenth century Virginia sectional furniture because of its practicality, durability, and portability. It was furniture of high utility not high style for the “big houses.”
2. There are interesting overlaps between original known owners of sectional furniture and Virginia’s landed gentry, many of whom were also in the state’s militia or in federal service.
3. There are two distinct types of Virginia sectional furniture, shop-made and factory-manufactured. Shop-made sectional furniture was further advanced through the manufacturing processes of Green & Brothers Steam Furniture Works of Alexandria, Virginia, beginning about 1835.
4. The Civil War ended further sectional furniture development in the nineteenth century because of the scale of war’s devastation in Virginia and throughout the South. Necessary furniture eclipsed convenient furniture as the South’s economy struggled. Furniture styles changed, too.
5. My study dispels the myth sectional furniture was an original creation of high Modern Era designers, such as La Corbusier and Gilbert Rohde. Their sectional furniture designs of the early twentieth century were original, just not the first. They did not know the sectional furniture form was realized more than 100 years earlier in central and northern Virginia.

The book is 215 pages in length with more than 120 color images featuring 15 documented Virginia sectional furniture examples. The book was printed by Steuben Press and is priced at \$60.