

# CAROLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Caroline County, Virginia

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**The Society will meet at 3 p.m., Sunday, November 2, at Newmarket Plantation, 17325 New Market Lane, Milford, Virginia 22514, which is 3 miles south of Bowling Green on U.S. 301.**

The Caroline Historical Society will have its quarterly meeting on the grounds of Newmarket Plantation to mark the installation of a historical marker there (seen below) by the Virginia War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, working with the Virginia Department of Historical Resources, honoring Lt. Col. George Armistead. Lieutenant Colonel Armistead was born at Newmarket Plantation in 1780 and went on to fame as the officer commanding Fort McHenry in Baltimore during the bombardment by the British fleet in 1814. In event of heavy rain, the ceremony will be held at the Caroline County Community Services Center, 17202 Richmond Turnpike, Milford, Virginia 22514. PLEASE NOTE THIS IS NOT THE USUAL SOCIETY MEETING DATE OF OCTOBER 26, BUT A WEEK LATER.



## Newmarket Plantation Plays Another Roll in History

*Kathy Burchell, Dale Brittle, and Bernard Collins introduced Lt. Col. George Armistead's descendant to Newmarket Plantation on September 15<sup>th</sup>.*

In late summer, Mary Bradford Ivey contacted the Caroline Historical Society for information on her great-great grandfather, Lt. Col. George Armistead, a native of Caroline County. Armistead was born at Newmarket Plantation in April 1780.



Allen and Mary told of their recent weekend adventure at Fort McHenry National Monument. Their entire family attended the celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of “The Star Spangled Banner” commemorative event. Francis Scott Key wrote the poem during the bombardment of Fort McHenry by the British Navy. Armistead was given command of the fort in June 1813 and remained in command until his death in April 1818.

Following the group’s discussion at the Sidney King Art Center, Kathy and Dale escorted the Iveys to Newmarket Plantation, just south of Bowling Green off Route 301. Robbie Caruthers, owner of the Baylor Farm, graciously showed the group one of the few remaining buildings from Armistead’s day, the brick kitchen. He pointed out the remaining slave quarters and gave directions to the Baylor memorial, burial grounds, and a circle of oak trees planted in the 1700s.—*Dale Brittle.*

## **Society Committee Begins Its Work**

The Caroline Historical Society (CHS) is preparing to honor outstanding Caroline County women during National Women's Month in March 2015. Dale Brittle chairs a committee of four women which provides the workforce. Other committee volunteers are Kay Brooks, Mary Madison, and Pat Morris. The committee invites members of the Caroline County community to assist them with the task of nominating qualified women. The mission statement provides the direction for the nominating and selecting processes.

*“The criteria for selecting a woman is recognizing a Caroline County resident, past or present, who went on to become a successful individual in her career in her county, state, or country. Her outstanding accomplishments have contributed in some way in a field such as medicine, politics, government, education, the arts, athletics, literature, technology, or the Armed Forces.*

*“The project will be on-going and women may be added at any time. National Women's Month is celebrated in March of each year. The Caroline Historical Society would like to recognize several women in 2015. It is the committee's task to help them do so. The project will require collecting names, researching and documenting data, and writing brief essays for each individual. A photograph or drawing of individuals would personalize each nominee. All contributions will become the property of the Caroline Historical Society.”*

CHS encourages county residents to help in the nominating process. Submitted names with short biographies may be sent to any member of the committee or to the Chair, Caroline Women in History Project, P.O. Box 681, Bowling Green, VA 22427-0681.—*Dale Brittle, Chair, Caroline Women in History Project.*

## **A Note From the Editor**

I have taken over as editor of the newsletter after helping Carolyn “Cookie” Davis get the last few issues out and learning the ropes. I have been in the printing industry in the Washington, D.C., area since 1964. I retired from the U.S. Government Printing Office in 2009 where I was a printer/proofreader. I am also the assistant editor of the *Military Collector & Historian*, the journal of the Company of Military Historians. Hopefully my past experiences will help with our newsletter.

Currently the Society has 105 members/organizations receiving our newsletter which is sent out four times a year. All members are mailed a printed copy and those for whom we have an e-mail address receive an e-mailed copy in addition to their printed copy. The e-mailed newsletter has color photographs in it while the printed version has black and white photos. If you would rather receive just the e-mailed version of the newsletter, please let us know. This would help us lower our printing/ mailing costs and avoid raising the dues in the future. I can be reached at [XXIIPC@AOL.COM](mailto:XXIIPC@AOL.COM) or you can let any Society officer know if you want to receive the e-mailed version of the newsletter only. The next newsletter will remind you to renew your membership in the Society for 2015. Please let us know with your renewal if you want to continue receiving a printed copy of the newsletter, you would rather receive just the e-mailed copy, or receive it both ways.—*Timothy G. Terrell.*

## The Map Road to Caroline History

If you study the maps of Caroline, you can see the changes made as times passes.

Sidney King prepared a map to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Caroline County. It reflected the early rolling roads used to transport tobacco to Port Royal for shipment to England **in the 1700s** and the stage coach road through Caroline going north and south and the names of taverns located along these routes. It also showed the name and location of the early Anglican churches with political power which were where deeds and land surveys were filed. It also reflected the location of the first Caroline court house and the St. Mary's Parish, Drysdale Parish, and the St. Margaret's Parish.

**In the 1860s**, Confederate Army engineers prepared maps for use in the Civil War. The Caroline map shows the railroad lines and names of the rail stations established in the 1830s. It also reflects the lines of the existing roads and the wider lines depicted the main roads. The wider line old "Kings Highway" from Bowling Green went down Sparta Road off on File Road by Edmund Pendleton's home, Edmundsbury, on the way to Williamsburg. It was still the major road at this time and was the first north-south road through the county. The map also identified some of the larger communities. The more interesting details were the dots that depicted homes with the last name of the occupants listed by the dots.

**A 1918 map prepared** by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, in cooperation with the War Department, gives another perspective. By 1918 there were over 70 public schools in Caroline for colored and white children and many were one, two, and three room schools. This map shows there locations and some are named, Ruther Glen, Ideal, etc. Some had numbers such as School No. 8 Colored. Some schools were identified for "white" or "colored." The Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac (R F & P) rail line is identified.

**A 1936 map** of Caroline County prepared by the Virginia Department of Highways has over 275 spots identified by lines and numbers. Using a code, it tells you the name of each spot location in Caroline. This map is on file at the Library of Virginia. The map identifies roads by Virginia Highway numbers. Route 2 runs from Hanover to Spotsylvania and Route 207 runs from Carmel Church to Port Royal. U.S. Highway 1 and U.S. Highway 301 were built in Caroline in the 1930s. U.S. Route 1 is shown on this map but U.S. 301 had not been added to this 1936 map.

**A 1949 map** of Caroline prepared by the Virginia Department of Highways is unique in that it has a black dot for every farm unit in Caroline including the farms that were in Fort A. P. Hill. You may locate the black dot where you use to live. It also shows the roads, including many unpaved roads, that were identified as "unpaved satisfactory," "unpaved unsatisfactory grades," "partially improved for dry weather use," and "unimproved not recommended for motor vehicles." Remember that many people did not have paved roads or electrical service until after World War II ended in 1945.

Many old roads were abandoned. After World War II, many people still used their teams of mules and wagons to travel. Many people helped maintain roads to their farms and homes. Paths

and roads connected farms and homes. As soon as the county or state took over the maintenance of roads, the quickest outlet to a state road was used and other roads were abandoned. As small farms back off the state roads were abandoned, many of these access roads were no longer maintained by landowners except for farming or timber harvest. Many old abandoned sunken roads with old road banks are in the forest.

**A 1959 Map** of Virginia was issued by Texaco Oil and could be picked up at the Texaco gas station if you needed to go on a trip. Caroline County still had a high number of post offices located in communities at country stores. Zip codes were not initiated until 1963. You could look at the state map of Virginia if you were coming from North Carolina to see a person at Cedon, Burruss, Lauraville, DeJarnette, Bagby, etc. You could look on this state map and find this place. You will not find this detail of community names on state maps today. Many of these communities where the post office and country store closed now have no roadside signs to show the name of the community.

**Real Property Maps** of Caroline were developed by the **1960s**. These maps can be found on the Caroline Web site under the Commissioner of Revenue. These maps reflect the property lines of tracts of land and identify each tract with a tax map number. The maps also show streams and route numbers of the roads. These maps also show bench marks (BM) located throughout the county. These bench marks were set in cement by the U.S Geological Survey for the Department of the Interior. For instance, BM 180 shows it was set in 1947 and the site is 108 feet above sea level.

**In the 1990s**, the emergency telephone call to 911 was further enhanced when the county grid map was prepared so each location would have a four- or five-digit number identification. The state roads also were given road names for examples: Golansville Road, Tidewater Trail, Selph Lane, etc. The numbers were attached to these road names to provide a mailing address and location such as 21559 Kidds Fork Road, Bowling Green, VA 22427. An emergency call from the home telephone hooked to the telephone line will show the emergency-call operator on the console where to send the emergency vehicle. The county maps now show the road route numbers and the names of the roads. These addresses can be used to find directions to places by using Map Quest, GPS, or On Star and you do not need to know the name of the community.

**The 2001 County Map** issued by the Virginia Department of Transportation highlights the streams in the county. It shows all the rivers, ponds, creeks, swamps, runs, and branches with their names and they are highlighted in blue on the white background.

**The Historic Caroline County Map** issued by the Caroline Economic Development Office shows the names and location of historic homes, buildings, and sites in Caroline.

**From above at Google Earth** on the Internet, you can see Caroline County. Enter the address "Caroline County Virginia" and view the road names, route numbers, waterways, fields, and buildings.—*Bernard Collins*.



## Baltimore Memorials to Lt. Col. George Armistead



The above photo shows the Armistead memorial near the Visitor's Center at Fort McHenry. The people gathered around the memorial were there for the "Star Spangled Spectacular," the celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombardment of the fort and the writing of what became our National Anthem. The memorial below is located on Federal Hill in Baltimore.

