



# **CAROLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

October 2016

Bowling Green, Virginia

Vol. 36, Issue 4

**The Society will meet at 3:00 p.m., on Sunday, October 30, 2016, at the Kilwinning Crosse Masonic Lodge located at 102 Chase Street, Bowling Green, Virginia 22427. Please note this is not our usual meeting day.**

The guest speaker for our meeting will be Arthur (Art) H. Taylor III, who will discuss a variety of history-related subjects entitled “Hanover County Potpourri, Hanover County Society, and Hanover Happenings.”

## **Message from the President**

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well and all have enjoyed the warm summer days.

Our guest speaker, Art Taylor, has served as president of the Hanover County Historical Society and is well known for his work in genealogy and historic preservation throughout Hanover County. Art helped spearhead the preservation of the Beaver Dam railroad station and getting land donated for the opening of the current Beaver Dam Museum.

One of Art’s favorite items to collect is Virginia-made old wooden beams and horse-drawn plows and parts. Some of these type plows include those made by Starke Southern, Watt Plow Co., Boy Dixie Plow, Crescent Plow, Boy Clipper Plow, and others. Several examples of these plows were recently on display at the Virginia State Fair. His plows are on temporary loan to the Caroline County Agricultural Fair and were exhibited as part of the County Heritage Display.

Art retired for the Virginia Department of Transportation several years ago and lives in the Beaver Dam area of Hanover County. We look forward to welcoming Mr. Taylor at our meeting and hearing what sounds to be a most interesting presentation.

In accordance with the bylaws, nominations and election of new officers will take place at our January 22, 2017, meeting. Society officers up for election include the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and historian. The officers and board of directors serve for two-year terms. The board of directors consists of the elected officers, immediate past president, and two directors elected at large. Please think about serving in one of these positions or on one of our various committees.

If anyone has suggestions or ideas for changing our current exhibits at the Sidney King Arts Center, please contact me, an officer, board member, or committee member.

One of the main purposes of the Caroline Historical Society is to collect and display artifacts and other historic items relative to our county and surrounding community’s history. We are always looking for items of local historical significance.—*R. Wayne Brooks.*

## **Jean A. Hunt**

I regret to report the recent loss of one of our beloved members. Jean A. Hunt passed away on September 27, 2016. In addition to being a member of the Caroline Historical Society, Jean faithfully served as our secretary for many years. Jean was also a member of St. Mary's Annunciation Church in Ladysmith, Virginia, and also attended St. Anthony's Catholic Church in King George County. We will miss her greatly and our heartfelt sympathy goes out to her husband Jerry, children, and grandchildren.

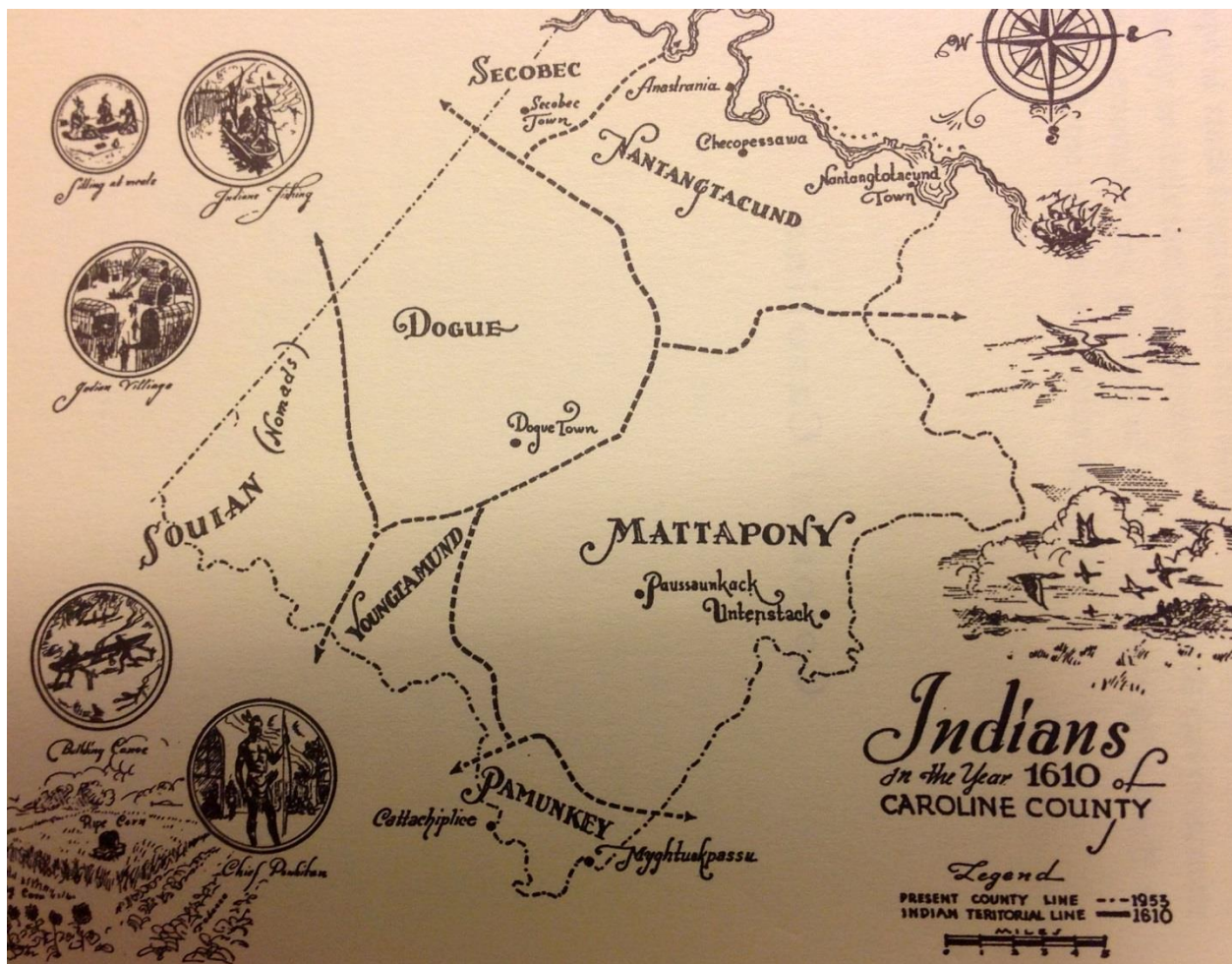
### **A Brief History of Native-American Tribes in and Around Caroline County**

The history and origin of Native Americans (Indians) in Virginia dates back approximately 30,000 years. Evidence found, such as stone-carved projectile points and tools, indicates these early inhabitants were hunters, fishermen, and to some degree, farmers. The Indians on the east coast of the United States are identified as Eastern Woodland. They were further classified in three cultural groups based on their language, Algonquian, Iroquoian, and Siouan. The Algonquian-speaking group covered the eastern part of Virginia including Caroline County. This area of Virginia was known as the Powhatan Confederacy Nation (Tsenacomoco) and was ruled by Chief Powhatan (Wahunsonacock). The Powhatan Nation was composed of between 30 and 34 tribes and stretched from the lower James River to the Potomac River. The Indian population in Caroline County around 1607 was estimated to be approximately 2,000. There were eight various Indian tribes located within Caroline County at the time Jamestown was established. Those tribes included the Mannohoc, Secobec, Nantangtacund, Dogue, Youngtamund, Pamunkey, and the Mattaponi. The Dogue Indians had a village in the area of what is now Milford on the Mattaponi River. Milford was known as Doguetown for a number of years in honor of the tribe. There were at least eight other Indian villages located in what is now Caroline County during the early 1600s.

The Indians in our area lived in structures called "longhouses." These structures were constructed of strong saplings limbs bent over forming a long archway, some up to 100 feet in length. They were covered with tree bark or animal skins. In warm months they would roll up or remove sides for air circulation. Inside the shelters were elevated cots covered with animal hides.

Indians were warriors, hunters, fishermen, and farmers. Food sources included wildlife, buffalo, deer, turkeys, small game, and fish. The women planted and harvested corn, squash, and beans as well as gathering fruit and berries.

The Indians' main weapons were the bow and arrow. Bows were carved from wood such as ash, hickory, oak, or what was common in their area. Bow strings were made from animal tendons or homemade twine string. Arrow shafts were wooden as well, made from cedar, oak, poplar, etc, with carved stone projectile points attached to the arrow by means of twine, rawhide, or catgut. The fleshings or feathers on the end were from buzzards, hawks, eagles, etc. These fleshings helped guide the arrow and stabilize the arrow in flight. Tomahawks or hatchets were shaped by hand from river stones. Primitive as these weapons seem, they were very effective in providing food and protecting members of the tribe.



One of the major tribes, located just north of Caroline County, was the Patawomeck tribe. The Patawomecks made their home in a place called Passapatanazy in Stafford County, Virginia, close to the Potomac River. The King of Patawomecks was Chief Wahanganoche, believed to have been killed in Caroline County on his way home from Williamsburg, Virginia, after being released from jail.

During the early 1600s, the controlling tribe of the Powhatan Confederacy was located southeast of Caroline County and ruled by Chief Powhatan. Chief Powhatan's daughter was the famous Pocahontas. Pocahontas was born in 1595 and was kidnapped while at the Patawomeck village in 1613. She went on to meet and marry one of the English colonists, John Rolfe. Pocahontas and John Rolfe would move to England where she died from small pox in 1617 at the age of 21. Her marriage to John Rolfe helped maintain peace between the Indians and the colonists. Chief Powhatan died in 1618 and his half-brother, Opechancanough, became chief of the tribe in 1619. While chief, Opechancanough made war on the colonists and was responsible for the massacres of 1622 and 1644. In 1666, the colonists declared war on the Patawomeck and other tribes in and around Caroline County. By late 1669, the Indian population was slowly disappearing through devastating raids by the Virginia militia and ongoing wars between tribes. As the Indian population decreased, the settlement of Caroline County by the English settlers increased. Since that time, many of the Native American tribes in Virginia have totally disappeared. There are only 11 tribes officially recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Pamunkey and

Mattaponi tribes are the only tribes that maintain their reservations from the 17<sup>th</sup> century colonial treaties. The Pamunkey Indian tribe is the only Virginia tribe to be officially recognized by the federal government. This was finally accomplished in 2015. There are approximately 3,500 to 4,500 Native Americans enrolled as tribal members in Virginia-recognized tribes.



*Projectile points (arrowheads) found in Caroline County along the Mattaponi River on the author's farm.*

The Pamunkey Indian reservation is located in King William County, adjacent to Caroline County, and contains approximately 1,200 acres. The Mattaponi Indian Reservation is located near West Point, Virginia, and consists of approximately 150 acres. Visitors are welcome to visit both reservation museums and view exhibits on Native American history and culture. For further information on the history and culture of Native Americans in Caroline County or Virginia, check with your local library or the Virginia State Library.—*R. Wayne Brooks.*

### **Update on the “Loving” Movie**

Release of the movie is scheduled for November 4, 2016, in Virginia. The movie, partially filmed here in the county, tells the story of Richard and Mildred Loving, a local interracial married couple, who were arrested here in 1958. At that time, interracial marriages were prohibited in Virginia under the Racial Integrity Act of 1924. Finally, on June 12, 1967, the Supreme Court of the United States determined, by unanimous vote, states could no longer prohibit interracial marriages. This court's decision nullified the Racial Integrity Act of 1924 and ruled that Virginia's antimiscegenation statute violated both the Due Process Clause and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

## **Lt. Col. George Armistead**

*The remarks below were given by Bernard Collins when the Caroline Historical Society took part in the dedication of the historical marker honoring Lt. Col. George Armistead at Newmarket Plantation on November 2, 2014.*

The Virginia War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, working with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, has placed a historical marker along U.S. 301, near the entrance to Newmarket Plantation, to honor Lt. Col. George Armistead, who was born here.

George's grandfather, John Baylor III, established Newmarket Plantation in 1726, one year before Caroline County was formed. His mother was Lucinda (Baylor) Armistead. George Armistead was born April 10, 1780, at Newmarket Plantation during the Revolutionary War.

His grandfather died in 1772. His grandmother, Frances Lucy Baylor, who had 12 children, was still living at Newmarket Plantation. There were over a hundred people, including slaves, living on the plantation. The midwife who helped Frances Baylor have her children may have helped Lucinda Baylor Armistead give birth to her son George at Newmarket.

The Revolutionary War was in progress. The Declaration of Independence had been declared in 1776. The capital of Virginia was moved this same year in 1780 from Williamsburg to Richmond to move it away from territory controlled by British forces. One year later, General Lafayette led American forces south through Bowling Green on April 27, 1781, to confront British General Cornwallis. (A historical marker on the court house lawn denotes this fact.) Cornwallis pushed Lafayette back through Hanover County on May 30, 1781, (noted on a historical marker on U.S. 301 in Hanover) and people fled Caroline County, including Edmund Pendleton. (A historical marker on Pendleton is on U.S. 301 near Newmarket.) Gen. George Washington and General Rochambeau marched through Caroline County on September 13, 1781, on the way to Yorktown. (Washington-Rochambeau Route signs near Newmarket mark this route.) General Cornwallis was defeated at Yorktown in October 1781 with help from the French fleet. This victory turned the tide of the Revolutionary War.

George Armistead entered military service in 1799, when he was 19 years old. He rose through the ranks while serving in New York, the Arkansas Territory, and at Fort McHenry in Baltimore. He served to defend the United States from British intrusion during the War of 1812 and distinguished himself during the siege of Fort Niagara in May 1813. He carried British flags captured at the siege to President James Madison. (Armistead may have known Madison as John Baylor III owned the 6,500-acre Greenwood Farm in Orange County adjoining James Madison's home. The Bayers spent the summers at this farm in Orange.)

Maj. George Armistead was then placed in command of Fort McHenry, located in the outer harbor of Baltimore, Maryland. He had a large U.S. flag, 42 feet by 30 feet, made which he hoisted to fly at Fort McHenry. The war had been in progress for about two years when the British invaded Washington and torched the White House and the capitol on August 24, 1814, after President Madison fled from Washington. Many places, including Alexandria, surrendered to the British to avoid destruction. The war was not going well for the United States.

About three weeks later, the British fleet started bombarding Fort McHenry on September 13, 1814, with mortar bombs and Congreve rockets. On September 14, 1814, the U.S. flag was still flying and the British had been turned back. The battle of Fort McHenry took place 200 years ago.

Francis Scott Key, a lawyer being detained on a British ship, saw the U.S. flag still flying at early dawn and was inspired to write a poem. "The Star Spangled Banner" became America's National Anthem in 1931.

The British were turned back and this turned the tide of the war. George Armistead was promoted to lieutenant colonel for his leadership and he was widely recognized as a true American hero. He continued to serve at Fort McHenry until he died at the young age of 38 on April 25, 1818, survived by his widow, Louisa Hughes Armistead, and four children. He was given a military funeral with full honors and buried in Old St. Paul's Cemetery. Two large monuments honor Lt. Col. George Armistead. One stands at Fort McHenry and the other atop historic Federal Hill, overlooking the Baltimore waterfront.

The Armistead family members had served in positions of honor in early Caroline County history. Lt. Col. George Armistead had five brothers, all of whom also served in the War of 1812. He also had a famous nephew, Brig. Gen. Lewis Addison Armistead, who served in the Confederate Army and was killed at the battle of Gettysburg in 1863.

The flag, which Armistead had made to fly over Fort McHenry, was kept in the Armistead family until it was turned over to the Smithsonian Institution in 1907.

"Guardian of the Star-Spangled Banner," published in 1999 by Scott Sumpter Sheads, a historian with the National Park Service, provides an interesting history of Lt. Col. George Armistead and Fort McHenry. Janet Carter, who was living at Newmarket Plantation, had Scott Sheads come to the Caroline Historical Society meeting in July 2000 as the guest speaker. His remarks at the meeting are recorded in the July 2000 CHS Newsletter.—*Bernard Collins*.



*Members enjoy Hal Stuart's talk on Virginia sectional furniture at the July meeting.*