



NOTE – CHANGE IN APRIL MEETING

The Caroline Historical Society will meet at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 21, 2018, in the John J. Wright Educational and Cultural Center Museum at 7565 Courthouse Road, Spotsylvania, VA 22551.

Program for April 21, 2018, Membership Meeting

At the January 2018 Board of Directors meeting, the board voted to change our regular April meeting date, time, and location so the membership would be able visit the John J. Wright Educational and Cultural Center Museum in Spotsylvania County. Their museum opened in 2010 and traces the development of the African-American education system in Spotsylvania County through hundreds of items on exhibit. Spotsylvania and Caroline Counties are very similar in that they both started their education systems with one-room school houses. The museum is located in the John J. Wright Middle School which was built around 1910 as the county's first black high school. Please come out and enjoy an afternoon of history detailing the development of the county's schools and their African-American Heritage Trail. We hope to be able to get together afterward and eat at a local restaurant as a group.

Message From the President

It is my sad duty to report the death of one of our faithful members, a friend, and life member of CHS, Mrs. Noreen Terrell, who recently passed away. Noreen was the wife of Tim Terrell, one of our CHS board members. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Tim and his family.

News Update. The CHS Board of Directors recently reviewed updates to the CHS bylaws as proposed by Board Member Tim Terrell. The updates are basically revisions to the format and minor wording changes. The suggested changes will be presented to the CHS membership for comments and final approval at the July 2018 CHS membership meeting.

In other news, CHS will be working with the town of Bowling Green in cosponsoring a Big Band Dance at the Bowling Green town hall on September 22, 2018. The music will be provided by the Fredericksburg Big Band and several 1940s big band dance clubs will be invited to attend. This event was a huge success last year and everyone who attended enjoyed the good times listening and dancing to the sounds of 1940s big band music. Additional details on the ticket cost, times, and related activities will be forthcoming in future correspondence. I would like to ask members to contact me if you would like to volunteer your services the night of the dance or with the preparations. Remember the September 22, 2018, date.

Our January meeting was highlighted by Ms. Kimberly (Kim) C. Campbell's presentation entitled "The Tale of a Tailor." Everyone thoroughly enjoyed her discussion of local tailor Thomas W. Valentine, his customers, and details of fashions during the 1850s. It was a most enjoyable and educational afternoon. In addition to her informative program, Kim donated a 4-volume set of her *Caroline County, Virginia "Lost Wills" and Related Records from Other Sources* and a copy of *Dozens Dillardards – The Dillardards of Caroline County*. We greatly appreciate the donation for our research and reference library.

CHS Members enjoyed the program by Kim Campbell at the January 2018 meeting.



Donation of Original Caroline County Militia Flag

What a surprise for CHS at the January 2018 meeting. We were very fortunate to have been presented with a World War I era flag belonging to the local Caroline County Volunteer Militia. The flag was carried by former militia member Eddie Coghill, who also served as the Clerk of the Court in Caroline for many years. The flag was inscribed with the characters “V.R.M. CO. 17 CAROLINE” which stands for Virginia Reserve Militia, Company 17, Caroline. It is our understanding this unit was formed as a local defense force during World War I while Virginia National Guard units were deployed in France. We extend our sincere appreciation to Susan W. Minarchi, current Clerk of the Court, for her most generous donation. CHS is very thankful to have such fantastic piece of Caroline history in the CHS collection. Thank you, Susan!

Close up of the flag.



Susan W. Minarchi presents VRM flag to President, R. Wayne Brooks.

Donation of Woolfolk Family Musket to CHS

The January membership meeting of CHS brought another surprise donation. Kathy McVay and Pat Morris, representing the Caroline Museum and Cultural Center and Margie and Gordon Barlow, presented CHS with the Woolfolk Family musket from the Revolutionary War era. This flintlock musket originally belonged to Caroline County native 1st Lt. John George Woolfolk of Mulberry Place. The musket was passed down over the years and remained in the Woolfolk family for approximately two hundred years. In 1968, Winston Woolfolk, a direct descendant of 1st Lt. John George Woolfolk, having no heirs, gifted the musket to Caroline native Gordon Barlow. Mr. Barlow accepted the gift with the understanding the history of the musket would be preserved and it would remain in Caroline County. For the past few years, the musket had been in the care of the Caroline Museum and Cultural Center. Recently, the owners, Margie and Gordon Barlow, officially contributed the Woolfolk Musket to the care of the Caroline Historical Society, Inc., for preservation and display. We are truly honored to have this “one of kind” piece of Caroline history in our collection. CHS extends its sincere appreciation to Margie and Gordon Barlow for their thoughtfulness and desire to preserve our local history. In their letter of contribution, Mr. Barlow states “I hope this musket will become an important reminder of the commitment and sacrifice the men and women of Caroline County made in the founding of America.” A special clear display case will be built for a permanent exhibit.

Kathy McVay and Pat Morris present musket to CHS president.



A history provided with the musket states that 1st Lt. John George Woolfolk was an officer in the Caroline County Militia prior to the start of the Revolutionary War. This local militia unit served with a Virginia Regiment throughout the war and participated in numerous battles including the surrender of the British at Yorktown. The exact origin of the musket has not been pinpointed but there is evidence it could be of French origin or it may have been fabricated in Virginia and paid for by the local

county Committee of Safety. It was the responsibility of the local Committee of Safety to provide firearms to the militia troops during that time period. Research on the musket continues in hopes its origin can better defined.

Close-up of the Woolfolk musket.



Donation of Lee-Maury School Photos

CHS greatly appreciates the recent donation from Ms. Frances Webb Burch of several student class pictures from the Lee-Maury School taken around 1917. A great addition to the CHS collection. — **R. Wayne Brooks, President, wbrooks@bealenet.com (804) 513-9069**

Notes on Sparta High School

The education of Caroline County's residents relied heavily upon private academies and one-room schoolhouses throughout the nineteenth century, few funds being available. The planning for Sparta High School started in 1908, when a group of residents gathered at Salem Church to consider building a high school for their community. Within four years of being built, the school enrollment had grown to a point the school board had to add two additional rooms on the back of the building. The original two-story building burned in 1917 but was rebuilt by 1919 and reopened as a twelve-room school. The building survives today as an apartment complex.

A Piece of History from Sparta High School

An artifact from Sparta High School was recently located. Remember that Sparta High School was the first high school built in Caroline County in 1909 by the citizens of Sparta. The school and grounds were donated to the Caroline County School Board. Edmund Pendleton, Lee Maury, Micah, and C. T. Smith High Schools were built soon after.

Sparta High School had a shop useful to the young men in this agriculture setting and had a home economics department. They were a proud bunch and a hardback book *Sparta High School 1909-1939* was published in 1939 after Caroline High School was built just south of Bowling Green. This was the only book published on high schools in Caroline until *Memories of Union High* was published by Marion Woolfolk Simmons in 2011.

David Cooper, local resident, recently attended an estate auction in Spotsylvania County. He purchased a dark wooden plaque shaped like a shield with a small chain so it could be hung on the wall. The plaque was 12-inches high and about 9-inches wide with a metal face etched with the following words.

**Sparta High
County Championship
Basketball Baseball
1930-31 1930-31**

Sparta High School sports plaque.

Sparta High School competed with other county schools to win this plaque. The Sparta High School book mentioned other years when they excelled. "My mother played basketball at C. T. Smith and she told me they played basketball outdoors on hard dirt with the baskets on poles in the ground." Clarence "Soup" Campbell lived next door to Sparta High School in the home with his parents where Dr. Campbell had his office. "Soup" Campbell was the captain of the Sparta baseball team for four years and he was 16 years old in 1931. "Soup" Campbell excelled in sports at Hampton Sydney and played professional baseball with the Cleveland Indians until his career was interrupted by World War II.



Where has this plaque been for years? Maybe a proud athlete who played for Sparta had it? I attended grade school in the Sparta building in 1946 and 1947 when the basement and first floor were used. The third floor had a stage and auditorium but was seldom used. I do not remember any high school artifacts there in 1946. — *Bernard Collins/March 2018*

Caroline County Civil War Veterans

The 30th Virginia Infantry published by Robert K. Krick in 1983 is a very good book. The 30th Virginia Infantry had ten companies formed in Stafford, Spotsylvania, Fredericksburg, and Caroline Counties. Company E, Caroline Grays, Company F, Bowling Green Guards, Company “G”, Chilesburg Light Infantry, and Company H, Sparta Grays, were formed in Caroline. The 47th Virginia Infantry had ten companies formed from Stafford to Middlesex Counties and Company “E” was the Port Royal Guards. There were soldiers from Caroline serving in other 47th Companies. The 9th Virginia Cavalry had ten companies from Stafford to Lancaster Counties with Company B, Caroline Light Dragoons, with one hundred men. See the books in the Caroline Library or look up the units on Google.

I became interested in these veterans when researching the location of Kirkwood Post Office, which was open from 1860 until 1866 near the location of Shumansville. The men were so proud to have the first post office in the area and said they were from Kirkwood, Virginia, not just Caroline or Spotsylvania. The book reflected their age, from Kirkwood, Virginia, in Company H (Sparta Grays), occupation, wounded, KIA, deserted, POW, and sometimes the date of death, where buried, name of kin, or if they applied for a pension in old age.

I used the 1860 census and Confederate Civil War map of Caroline, which listed the last name and where they lived by the dot on the map. I determined that some lived on the farm where I grew up or in old homes and places nearby. Phillip S. Farmer, age 44, lived on 28 acres where my brother and I raised tobacco. Farmer did not own slaves. He was serving with the Sparta Grays when the Union troops stopped by his home where his wife and three daughters, ages 16, 13, and 10, lived. Troubling? More U.S. citizens were killed in the Civil War than in World War II—an amazing fact and tragedy. — *Bernard Collins / March 2018*

History Brief—Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Episcopal Church, located in the northern part of Caroline County, sits on the southeastern corner of Fredericksburg Turnpike (Route 2) and Pepmeier Hill Road (Route 610), approximately two hundred yards south of the Corbin Post Office. During the War Between the States, General A. P. Hill’s Division spent the winter of 1862-63 close by on property that is now a part of Fort A. P. Hill. The church was overflowing with troops for Sunday services during that time. Grace Episcopal, designed in the Greek Revival style, was built in 1834 and is one of the oldest surviving Episcopal churches in the country. The church was built by three important Caroline County families, William I. Dickerson of “Chestnut Valley,” Samuel Gordon, of “Santee,” and William Penn Taylor of “Hayfield.” The church ceased operations in the early 1940s. There is a small grave yard near the church with approximately 22 graves of local families such as Hall, Gordon, Dickenson, Corbin, Yerly, and several others. Burials took place between 1854 and 1986.



*Grace Episcopal Church,
Corbin, Virginia.*

Figure 31 Photograph of Grace Episcopal Church (16-11), (Jeff Stodghill, PMA, 1991.

Earth Day Event – Fort A. P. Hill – April 26, 2018

Fort A. P. Hill is again sponsoring their Earth Day event on Thursday, April 26, 2018, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at their Beaverdam picnic area. This event will have more than 60 exhibitors with displays geared toward youth oriented educational subjects such as the environment, cultural resources, and local history. Students from 11 local schools (grades 4-8) are invited and between 1,800 to 2,100 kids and teachers are expected. The Caroline Historical Society has agreed to participate and will have two tables with local items of historical interest.

Program for July 22, 2018, Membership Meeting

Steven Price, local author, has agreed to provide the program for our July membership meeting. The topic will be on a native Caroline County veteran, Stephen E. Garrett, who fought in World War I. Mr. Price has recently released a book, *Soldier, Oh, Soldier*, about Mr. Garrett's war experiences between 1917 and 1918. Stephen E. Garrett was the grandson of Richard Garrett, who owned the "Locust Hill" farm in Caroline where John Wilkes Booth was mortally wounded in April 1865. This should be a very interesting program on one of Caroline's veteran sons. Please put this date on your calendar.

Dates to Remember

- **April 26, 2018** – Fort A. P. Hill – Earth Day – CHS will participate
- **July 22, 2018** – CHS Membership Meeting
- **September 22, 2018** – Big Band Dance at Bowling Green Town Hall
- **October 28, 2018** – CHS Membership Meeting

Annual Dues

As a reminder, please pay your annual membership dues, if you have not already paid. The dues for a regular (individual) membership are \$15 for the year and \$20 a year for a family membership. Life membership is a one-time cost of \$200. Please consider investing in a life membership. A CHS membership would make a great gift. Checks may be made out to "Caroline Historical Society" and mailed to Caroline Historical Society, P.O. Box 324, Bowling Green, VA 22427-0324.