



CAROLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

October 2018

P.O. Box 324, Bowling Green, Virginia 22427

Vol. 39, Issue 4

**The Society will meet at 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 28, 2018, at the
Kilwinning Crosse Masonic Lodge located at 102 Chase Street,
Bowling Green, Virginia 22427**

Message from the President

This has been a very busy summer with CHS and we have more coming up before the end of the year. Check out the calendar of events on the last page. Good news item, CHS has received permission from the Caroline County Board of Supervisors to proceed with an application to the Virginia Department of Historical Resources requesting that the “old” jail at the courthouse be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. This approval would open up opportunities in the future for possible grants to rehabilitate the historic structure. CHS will be changing exhibits in January 2019, if you have not seen the World War I and II displays there is still time left.

Program for October Meeting

Our guest speaker for the October 2018 membership meeting will be Ms. Jane Conner. Ms. Conner’s presentation will cover the history of Government Island in Stafford County, Virginia. Stone quarried from this island was used in the construction of the U.S. Capitol and the White House. Ms. Conner is a graduate of the University of California, a teacher, author, and avid preservationist with many awards in that field.

Ms. Conner recognized Government Island as being an integral part of our nation’s history and since 1979 she has been fighting against its development. Her efforts were rewarded in 1998 when the Stafford Board of Supervisors purchased the island. Through her efforts, the U.S. Congress approved the island as a National Historic Site. In November 2010, Stafford County opened Government Island as a county park.

Ms. Conner has received many distinguished awards for her community service involving historic preservation and teaching.

Several of these awards were for efforts in saving Government Island. Jane was president of the Stafford Historical Society when Wal-Mart tried to build on the site of George Washington’s boyhood home and worked to have the store move down the road.

She has written three books, *Birthstone of the White House and Capitol*, *Lincoln in Stafford*, and *Sinners, Saints, and Soldiers in Civil War Stafford*. She refuses any proceeds from her books and contributes all book revenues to the Stafford County Museum Fund.

CHS applauds Ms. Conner for her tireless efforts in historic preservation and we look forward to her presentation on Government Island at the October 28th meeting.



Jane Conner

CHS 50th Anniversary Continues

The Caroline County Board of Supervisors chairperson, Nancy Long, presented a “Resolution” to CHS members at the Board’s September 11, 2018, meeting in recognition of our 50th anniversary.



Edmundsbury Post Office

The following article was taken directly from the book, *People, Postoffices and Communities in Caroline County, Virginia 1727-1969*, pages 124-125. Compiled by the Rev. Ralph Emmett Fall.

“EDMUNDSBURY - This was a post office named for the home of the Honorable Edmund Pendleton (1721-1803), located near File (about 2 miles southwest of Sparta). Pendleton was one of Caroline’s great Statemen. In 1734-1735, he was bound an apprentice to Col. Benjamin Robinson, Clerk of Caroline. He began the practice of law in 1741 until his death 62 years later, and gained these distinctions: 1752-1774, Burgess for Caroline, at Williamsburg; 1775, President of the Virginia Convention, & Virginia Court of Appeals; twice appointed a member of Congress. In 1777, he fell from his horse, & walked on crutches the rest of his life. In 1788, he was President of the Virginia Convention which considered the adoption of the Federal Constitution. Pendleton later recalled that his accomplishments were without classical education or family connections, but from diligent self-study.

“Pendleton died at age 82, Oct. 26, 1803, & was buried on his home grounds. On June 19, 1907, the mortal remains of Pendleton, his two wives, & infant child were re-buried in Bruton Churchyard, Williamsburg, in the presence of his great-great-niece, Miss Charlotte Pendleton; the Rev. W. A. R. Goodwin, rector of Bruton Church; & H. M. Pegg, undertaker of Bowling Green.

“On May 9, 1807, John L. Pendleton became postmaster of EDMUNDSBURY, Caroline’s 9th postoffice, & gave bond for \$1,000, a great amount indicating a large volume of business. On Oct. 1, 1807, he made his first quarterly returns. The postoffice was discontinued in 1813.”

VISITORS FROM ITALY RESEARCH LOCAL WORLD WAR II HERO

Claudio Ghiotto, his wife, and two daughters live in a small town of Vo, Italy, located in the Province of Padua about 31 miles west of Venice and approximately 12 miles from the town of Padua. Why would this family want to visit Caroline County and the town of Bowling Green?

It all started a little over a month ago when Mr. Ghiotto e-mailed the town of Bowling Green asking for a local contact in order to obtain information on a Caroline County native, Lt. Thomas Haigh. Lieutenant Haigh was a B-24 bomber pilot in the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War



II and assigned to the 15th Air Force, 376th Bomb Group, 512th Bomber Squadron. His bomber was shot down on a mission near Mr. Ghiotto's hometown of Vo, Italy, in December 1943. Three crew members were killed by German fighter planes during the initial attack. As the plane was going down, Lieutenant Haigh ordered the remaining six crew members to bail out. Lieutenant Haigh died in the crash. The six crew members who bailed out were captured by the Germans and placed in prison camps. Lieutenant Haigh was awarded the Air Medal and Purple Heart posthumously.

*Claudio Ghiotto, wife Claudia Pittarello,
Daughters Anna and Emma Ghiotto*

Mr. Ghiotto is researching and collecting data on the mission, planes, and crew members involved in that U.S. bombing mission. A town staff member contacted a local resident, Ms. Susan Sili, who in turn contacted Dale Brittle, Historian of the Caroline Historical Society (CHS). Through e-mails, Mr. Ghiotto explained he was going to be visiting the United States and would like to come to Bowling Green for further research. Everyone agreed to meet Friday, August 24th, at the Caroline Historical Society to view CHS's extensive military collection of Lt. Thomas Haigh.

CHS members brought out the Haigh Collection that included his medals, military photos, air log book, telegram of his death, and other documents for all to view. The Ghiotto family took many photos of the Haigh Collection and were given copies of the official battle report, wartime photos, and other documents. Newspaper clippings documenting Tommy's life and fateful flight over northern Italy were also brought out and copied for them.



Lt. Thomas Haigh

Kathy Burchell and Dale Brittle spoke with the family about the Haigh Collection and Dale's trip several years ago with Barbara Hylton to visit Tommy Haigh's grave in Florence, Italy.

Mr. Ghiotto's goal is to compile the war records of Lt. Thomas Haigh, his mission, crew members, and those of the nine other U.S. bombers lost that day over the skies of Papua Province, Italy, and develop a book in their honor.

The Ghiotto family had a full day in Bowling Green with their research, a tour of the Caroline Historical Society and lunch. Specials tours of the old courthouse in Bowling Green and the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., were arranged by Jeff and Susan Sili and 1st District Congressman Rob Whitman.



CHS hopes to hear from them in the future and possibly obtain additional information on Lt. Thomas Haigh's final mission through their local records and first-hand accounts. Special "Thanks" to Jeff and Susan Sili, Dale Brittle, and Kathy Burchell for their hospitality and willingness to help the Ghiotto family while visiting Caroline County.

Lieutenant Haigh, 2nd from left, front row

The above article was compiled from notes taken by Dale Brittle during the visit.

CHS Exhibits

In cooperation with the Sidney E. King Arts Center, the Caroline Historical Society has placed two medium size glass display cases in the large gallery room containing Sidney King's Civil War murals. The display cases contain various artifacts from both Union and Confederate soldiers. In addition to the artifacts, there are two mannequins dressed in reproduction Union and Confederate uniforms. The uniforms and artifacts in the display cases provide visitors with a three-dimensional view of the equipment, uniforms, weapons, and other items represented in Mr. King's murals.



The Caroline Historical Society, Inc., is sponsoring an art history exhibit of local artist Joe Umble. Mr. Umble was a Caroline resident who unexpectedly passed away 20 years ago. At the time of his death he was nationally known for his Civil War paintings and prints. He was also a student for three years under another famous local artist, Sidney E. King.



The exhibit will consist of approximately 20 original oil paintings and limited-edition prints. The artwork will be on exhibit through October with a special Open House set for Saturday, October 13, 2018, at which time Mr. Umble's family members will be present from 12:00 -3:00 PM.

Welcome New Members

Major Scott Moser—Bowling Green, VA Tony Ares—Ruther Glen, VA

Deborah Toms—Bedford, VA

Happy Birthday Wishes to Long Time Members of CHS



Cleo Coleman

The month of August was a time to celebrate birthdays for two of our long-standing members, Cleo Coleman and Herbert Ridgeway Collins, pictured in the photos, both celebrated their 86th birthdays at a party, on Saturday, September 1st given by Historic Port Royal, Inc., where they also hold memberships. CHS extends birthday wishes and our appreciation for their dedication to preserving our local history.



Herbert R. Collins

Flashback

In 1957, the Commonwealth of Virginia hosted an eight-month long celebration known as the “Jamestown Festival” to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the founding of the colony at Jamestown. Caroline County participate in this celebration by having several major events. A small museum was opened in Bowling Green during the celebration that held items from the county’s local history. Pictured in front of the museum are Mrs. F. H. Borkey and Sidney E. King standing outside of the first Caroline County Museum.



Caroline County Schools of Yesteryear. Can You Identify?



Recent Donations to the Caroline Historical Society

Caroline Museum and Cultural Center – \$1,085.00 donation
James Presgraves – 200 early 1900s letters of Dunn family of Caroline County, VA
Kathy McVay – 3 glass display cases
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Seay – monetary donation in memory of Patricia Garrett
Mr. Bernard Collins – 1930-31 Sparta High School Sports Plaque

Dates to Remember

September through October 2018 – Joe Umble Art Exhibit & Sale
October 28, 2018 – Sunday – Quarterly Meeting of CHS, 3:00 PM Masonic Lodge
December 8, 2018 – Saturday – Holiday Open House & Local Authors Book Signing 2-5:00 PM
December 8, 2018 – Saturday – Annual Bowling Green Christmas Parade, 6:00 PM
January 27, 2019 – Sunday – CHS Annual Meeting, 3:00 PM Masonic Lodge

Caroline Historical Society, Inc., General Information

R. Wayne Brooks, President – wbrooks@bealenet.com – Cell Phone (804) 513-9069
Facebook – Caroline Historical Society, Bowling Green, Va.
Web Site – www.carolinehistoricalsociety.org
Location – 121 Main St. – Bowling Green, Virginia 22427
Sidney E. King Arts Center Schedule – Thursday, Friday, & Saturday, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

