



# **CAROLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

April 2019

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

Vol. 41, Issue 2

## **SPECIAL NOTE - NEW MEETING LOCATION**

**The Caroline Historical Society, Inc., will meet at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 28, 2019 in the Caroline Community Services Center, 17202 Richmond Turnpike, Milford, Va., 22514**

### **Message from President**

Please note the new meeting location above. We welcome the opportunity to use the EOC Rooms at the Caroline Community Services Center for our quarterly membership meetings for April, July, and October of 2019. If acceptable to the membership, we are hopeful to continue the use of the facility for years to come. The County's facility is better suited for our meetings and clearly more economical. Hope to see everyone. It will be a very enjoyable meeting.

If you missed our January Annual Membership Meeting, the members present elected officers and Board Members for two-year term (2019 to 2021). The newly elected Officers and Board Members are listed as follows:

President – R. Wayne Brooks  
Vice-President – Kathy McVay  
Treasurer – Kathy Burchell  
Secretary – Dale Brittle  
Historian – Bernard Collins

Board Member at Large – Joanne O'Quinn  
Board Member at Large – Timothy Terrell  
Immediate Past President – Bernard Collins

### **Update on the Old Jail**

Permission for CHS to proceed with the application to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) requesting the Old Jail be placed on the National Register was granted by the county in 2018. The Preliminary Information Form (PIF) was completed in December 2018 and sent to the VDHR for their Internal Evaluation Committee to review. Once reviewed and approved, the PIF goes to the State Review Board for further consideration. CHS is awaiting to hear from VDHR on their recommendation to the National Park Service as to the Old Jail being placed on the National Register of Historic Places. When approved, CHS will proceed to apply for 100% grants to start design and construction to renovate the building.

### **New Exhibits**

The Exhibit Committee, consisting of Dale Brittle, Kathy McVay, and Joanne O'Quinn have been hard at work getting new exhibits ready for our visitors. Three of the display cases have been completed with two concentrating on the older schools in Caroline such as Lee-Maury School and the Rosenwald Schools. The third display highlights the Native American Indians who lived in the county and provides a mixture of artifacts from that time period. Other new exhibits will be forthcoming in the next month to include historic items from the Revolutionary War era. Colonial cooking implements, farming & farm life in the 1800s, churches and local government elections.

## School Days

The Rosenwald schools were educational facilities built with the assistance of the Rosenwald rural school building program. This program was a national initiative to enhance racial educational systems in the South by constructing better and more accessible facilities for African Americans. The program was named Rosenwald because they were partially funded through the Rosenwald Fund, a foundation established by Julius Rosenwald, an Illinois businessman and philanthropist. As a result, between 1912 and 1932, this program helped fund 5,357 new educational facilities

*Rosenwald School Building in Caroline County*



for African Americans in fifteen southern states. The Rosenwald program helped fund construction for 382 schools, teacher housing, and shop buildings in seventy-nine counties throughout Virginia. There were several Rosenwald schools built in Caroline County during this era. For further information on Rosenwald schools in Caroline, stop by and visit the current exhibit.

Lee-Maury School was located in the Town of Bowling Green and established in 1913. The school was named for two distinguished Virginians, Robert E. Lee and Matthew Fontaine Maury. The land where the school was built was donated by Dr. C. S. Webb and Mr. O. P. Smoot of Bowling Green. In its first year of operation there were 150 students and 6 teachers and by the tenth year, enrollment was up to 250 students with 80 being in the high school department. The school operated for over approximately fifty years with the high school closing in 1939 and the elementary school closing in 1959. In 1969, the local Planning Commission approved the construction of a townhouse project on the property where the school once stood. Please stop by and visit the new exhibit.



*Students and Teachers of Lee-Maury School 1923-24*

## *Caroline High School Class of 1949*



**Front Row Left to Right** – Betty Jane Carter, Evelyn Etta Edwards, Sara Dulaney Mahon, Annie Mae Southworth, Mildred Lane Puller, Joyce Rae Johnson, Evelyn Mae Elliot, Marian Alton Beazley.

**Second Row Left to Right** – Margaret Marie Tignor, Ruby Ann Bruce, Thelma Devine Farmer, Joyce Marion Blanton, Elizabeth Joan Hicks, Florence Lena Farmer, Evelyn Louise Dyson, Katherine Burt Beale.

**Third Row Left to Right** – William Franklin Upshaw, Alexander Frank Motley, Herbert Ridgeway Collins, Douglas Allen Coleman, William Francis Motley, Robert Walker Jones, William Alfred Garrett.

**Fourth Row left to Right** – Jack Perry Taylor, Edmund Royston Stanley, Albert Osbourn McEntire, Aubrey Denton Pickett, Jr., Charles Burton Collins, William Rogers Motley, Class Sponsor – Ms. Anne Buckner Conway.

*Picture & names of the Class of 1949 provided by Herbert Ridgeway Collins (Class of 1949)  
Thanks Herb!*

### **March – Women in History Month 2019**

The Caroline Historical Society extends its appreciation to the editor and staff of *The Virginia Connection* for printing six articles about the organization's "Caroline Women in History" project during the National Women's Month. It hopes the readership learned new facts about these outstanding ladies.

Those women selected this year included Ms. Louise Beazley, a centenarian; Ms. Gordon Conway, an artist and fashion designer; Ms. Joanne Blanton, whose teaching career spanned 50 years; and Ms. Maud Motley, a Caroline historian, county tour guide, and esteemed educator.

*Dale Brittle, CHS Secretary*

## CHS Program for April Membership Meeting



The program for the Caroline Historical Society's (CHS) April 28, 2019, membership meeting will consist of two major parts. The first part being general information and a brief history program with the second part being the main event. CHS is very honored to have Ed Simmons and Mac Saphir as our guests for an afternoon of good ole down home vintage folk music. Ed will be playing the banjo, and dulcimer while singing. Mac will be playing the accompanying violin and may sing along as well. It should be a very enjoyable afternoon of musical entertainment that you don't want to miss. Hope to see everyone for some great fun.

*Musicians Mac Saphir & Ed Simmons*

### **James (Jimmy) Wilson Farmer, Sr.** One new exhibit is a special "Local Hero" display to



honor Caroline resident James (Jimmy) Wilson Farmer, Sr., who proudly served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Jimmy was born on October 29, 1925, to Marshall Wilson Farmer and Myrtle Virginia Lowery Farmer in Milford, Virginia. A life-long resident of Caroline County, Virginia, he attended local schools. During World War II young Jimmy joined the U.S. Navy and participated in the D-Day invasion of France on June 6, 1944. His job during the invasion was to transport U. S. troops & equipment ashore. His landing craft sank during the operation and he had to swim to the beach. Following the D-Day invasion, Jimmy



was transferred to the Pacific Theater and participated in two major island campaigns involving amphibious landings. He received many medals and campaign ribbons for his service including one from the French Government honoring him as a Chevalier (Knight) of the Legion This award is the highest French military award of distinction. Following the World War II, Jimmy married Rose Hicks Farmer. Their family grew over the next several years with the birth of two sons, Alan Grey Farmer and James Wilson Farmer, Jr. Jimmy owned and operated Jimmy's Texaco on Main Street in Bowling Green for 34 years. James Wilson Farmer, Sr., passed away on September 9, 2018, at the age of 92.

## Communities of Caroline

The following description of the railroad stops at Penola and Ruther Glen (Chesterfield Station) was taken from the book *Wingfield's History of Caroline County, Virginia From its Formation in 1727 to 1924* by Marshall Wingfield, Published in 1924

### Penola

“Penola is situated on the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad 5 miles south of Milford and was named in honor of John Penn, of Caroline and as nearly the name Penn as possible without confusing it with an existing name in Virginia at that time. The original name of the station was Polecat, so named from Polecat creek which runs nearby. Here are stores operated by T. B. Jeter, E. M. Coleman and R. C. Richardson, and excelsior mills operated by W. R. Jeter, Caroline’s largest land owner, and Lyon and Smith. Here also are the Rose Hill Lumber Company, operated by I. D. George and John W. Clark and a flour mill, operated by George R. Jeter.”

### Ruther Glen

“When the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad was built through Caroline county, the place now known as Ruther Glen was called Chesterfield Station, from the old Chesterfield Inn on the Stage Road nearby. But confusion was often caused by mail and freight being sent to Chesterfield Courthouse, and so, shortly after the Civil War, Major Myers, then Superintendent of the railroad, renamed the place for an ancient Scottish town on the river Clyde near Glasgow.

Near Ruther Glen in Caroline is “Ellerslie” the old home of the Moncures so named from the home of Wallace in Scotland. There are a number of well known estates nearby. Here were born General Jo Lane Stern and his brother Cary Ellis Stern who became so prominent in the life of Richmond. Here also is St. Margaret’s Church. The mercantile establishments of G. K. Coleman and the excelsior plant of Mr. Coleman constitute the greater part of the business life of Ruther Glen. “

## Flashback – Old Post Cards of Caroline County, Virginia

Does anyone remember the Southern Cupboard Restaurant on Route 1 south of Carmel Church? This was a busy place as were many other Caroline restaurants, motels, and motor courts before



Interstate 95 was opened in the early 1960s. While this one was demolished years ago, many of the other old businesses still exist but are in poor condition. A few are being used for something other than originally designed. Interstate 95 caused most if not all of these small businesses to cease their operation. Back of postcard states “A Fine Place to Eat” owned and operated by Mr. & Mrs. Fred Sparer.

Woodwards House was another restaurant located on Route 1 in Caroline County that was impacted by the opening of Interstate 95. This photo postcard is dated 1948 and on the back it states the restaurant is located 35 miles north of Richmond, Virginia. “Famous for Smithfield Ham and Chicken Dinners, serving the traveling public for over 35 years.”



*Woodwards House Restaurant*

**Donations:** Catherine McDonald – 1800s spinning wheel, butter churn, tobacco basket

### **New Life Members:**

Sharon and Kent Farmer, Port Royal, Va.

Carl Martin, Bowling Green, Va.

Jim and Mary Jo Fickle, Chapel Hill, N.C.

**New Member:** Joyce Lassiter, Glen Allen, Va.

**Reminder:** If you have not paid your annual dues, please mail to the Caroline Historical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 324, Bowling Green, VA 22427-0324. Individual - \$15.00, Family - \$20.00, and Life Membership - \$200.00 – Thank you.

**Refreshments for Meeting:** If anyone would like to bring something for refreshment time, such as cookies, brownies, snacks, soft drinks, water, etc., see contact information below.

### **Dates to Remember**

April 28, 2019 - CHS Membership Meeting, 3 p.m., Caroline Community Services Building.

July 28, 2019 - CHS Membership Meeting, 3 p. m., Caroline Community Services Building

October 27, 2019 – CHS Membership Meeting, 3 p. m., Caroline Community Services Building

### **Caroline Historical Society, Inc., General Contact Information**

R. Wayne Brooks, President—[wbrooks@bealenet.com](mailto:wbrooks@bealenet.com) Cell Phone (804) 513-9069

Facebook—Caroline Historical Society, Bowling Green, Va.

Web Site—[www.carolinehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.carolinehistoricalsociety.org)

Location—Sidney E. King Arts Center, 121 Main St., Bowling Green, VA 22427

Mailing Address—P.O. Box 324, Bowling Green, Virginia 22427-0324

Hours of Operation—Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Special tours by request