



CAROLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July 2020

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

Vol. 40, Issue 3

MEETING CANCELLED

The Caroline Historical Society, Inc., will NOT meet at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 26, 2020, in the Caroline Community Services Center, 17202 Richmond Turnpike, Milford, VA 22514

From the President

Just want to start off by saying I sincerely hope everyone, their families, and friends are safe and have not suffered in any way from ill effects of the COVID-19 virus. In the past few months, we have experienced negative changes in our way of life, daily routines, work, recreational activities, education, and social gatherings due to this worldwide deadly virus. It may not be over but appears to have lessened to some degree. I hope and pray everyone remains in good health and continues taking the necessary precautions to keep themselves, family members, and friends safe.

Due to this invisible enemy, COVID-19, I regret to say we must cancel the Caroline Historical Society, Inc. (CHS) quarterly membership meeting scheduled for July 26, 2020. The CHS board of directors are very much concerned about the health of our members and guests who may have planned to attend meetings during this crisis. It is in the best interests of all concerned to continue following the guidelines established by local, state, and federal governments regarding the ongoing pandemic. Everyone's personal safety is the main concern. Our collections and exhibit areas in the Sidney E. King Arts Center at 121 Main Street, Bowling Green, Virginia, will remain closed to the public until further notice.

It can be said we are all living and experiencing history during the COVID-19 period. There have been many flu and other types of epidemics in recent times, but none to compare to the seriousness of the "Spanish Flu" of 1918. I thought it would be interesting to provide a brief history of this flu epidemic and how so many nations of the world suffered from that deadly virus.

The "Spanish Flu" Epidemic - 1918

This world-wide epidemic has been called one of the deadliest in recorded history. The estimated number of global deaths ranged from 17 to 50 million and may have reached as high as 100 million.

The name "Spanish Flu" is said to have come from the fact the flu was transmitted from France to Spain in the last months of 1918. There are several theories of where and how the pandemic started. Records indicate it may have started in the United States after an Army cook, Albert Gitchell, became ill on March 4, 1918, at Camp Funston, Kansas. Within a few days over 520 soldiers were reported ill. The flu spread quickly to other states and other countries as the U.S. entered World War I and sent American troops overseas. Due to the close quarters shared by soldiers, it quickly spread through the ranks of the various armies stationed in the cities and towns

as well as on the battlefield. The flu spread even faster as wounded soldiers were hospitalized, became prisoners, went on leave, or returned home.

There were four so-called waves of this flu pandemic, first being in the spring of 1918, second in the fall of 1918, third in January 1919, and the fourth in the spring of 1920.

Estimates of those infected by the "Spanish flu" were placed at 500 million or about one-third of the world's population. The number of deaths in the United States was estimated between 500,000 and 850,000 or about 28 percent of the population. The symptoms of those who became sick or died were typical of most flu illnesses including fever, sore throat, headaches, with some experiencing loss of various senses, and nose and ear bleeding. In most all cases, the person infected died from bacterial pneumonia, which is a common infection caused by influenza.

Program for Next Membership Meeting—Date to be Announced

Kathy McVay, vice president, has planned a great program of local history for our next meeting. She has invited several residents who lived in a part of Caroline County prior to the U.S. Government's purchase of 77,000 acres in 1941. These special guests will discuss the life as they knew it prior to their move and the formation of Camp A. P. Hill Military Reservation. Their first-

hand accounts will provide a vivid picture of the good times and bad times spent in the small communities of Upper Zion, Delos, Naulakla, Lent, Brandywine, and others. The meeting will also include a presentation by several staff members from Fort A. P. Hill on the history of how and why Fort A. P. Hill was created in Caroline County, Virginia.

Please contact Kathy McVay at (804) 633-5731 or (804) 366-1848 if you have any related photos or documents you would like share for this meeting.

LOUDOUN TIMES-MIRROR, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 24, 1941

Leave Caroline Home To U. S. Army



FORMER LOUDOUN MAN AND SON pictured above, make ready to give up their home in Carolina County, Va., for training grounds for the United States Army. Thousands of others, just as reluctant, must find new homes and make new plans for the future.

In the picture are Stanley Tiffany Presgraves, tobacco farmer with his 2½ year old son, Jimmy Presgraves. The youth tugs at a century-old trunk which will carry some of the Presgraves' belongings away from their home, Upper Zion, when the Army makes camp in Caroline County.

Mrs. Presgraves, mother of Jimmy, is the former Lucille Jones, long a member of the faculty of the Lincoln High School. Mrs. Presgraves was born in this county, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Presgraves, of Lincoln. He has been a resident of Caroline County for the past five or six years.

More than state-wide interest attaches to the proposal of the Federal Government in its announced intention to take about one-third of Caroline County for a maneuver area and field artillery range.



Pictured: James (Jimmy) Presgraves, 2½ years old, and his father, Stanley Tiffany Presgraves, prepare to leave their home at "Clay Hill" farm in the Upper Zion area of what is now Fort A. P. Hill

Brief History of Fort A. P. Hill: As the clouds of war were approaching the United States in 1940, the U.S. Army started looking for a land area large enough to accommodate large scale military training. This concept was necessary to parallel the “Protective Mobilization Plan” of increasing the U.S. military forces from 280,000 to an armed force of four million men and women.

Representatives from the U.S. Army viewed and recommended Caroline County as the best possible site for the training facility. Due to budget constraints, the initial request of 109,440 acres was reduced to just over 77,000 acres. In May 1941, the military started moving in to start training and residents had to start moving out. By May 1942, all the land had been acquired. As a result of the government’s land acquisition, 2,319 Caroline residents had to move to other locations. This included 151 white families and 149 colored families. The land acquired also included ten schools, eight Baptist Churches, farming operations, numerous businesses, and generations of priceless family memories.

I invite all members to bring a guest(s) to this meeting and hear the personal stories and learn more about the history of our county and Fort A. P. Hill. Exhibits will include vintage photos of people, homes, churches, and farm life from that era of Caroline’s history. Refreshments will be served. Stay tuned to our Facebook page, Caroline Historical Society, Bowling Green, VA, and our Web site www.carolinehistoricalsociety.org for updates.

**R. Wayne Brooks, President
Caroline Historical Society, Inc.**

WOMEN IN HISTORY MONTH 2020 – 2nd Installment

Women’s History Month had its origins as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed a law establishing National Women’s History Week. After being petitioned by the National Women’s History Project, Congress designated the month of March 1987 as “Women’s History Month.” During the next several years, attention to women’s history grew. Women’s history information became part of the history curriculum in schools and colleges across the nation. Since 1995, Presidents Clinton, Bush, and Obama have issued a series of annual proclamations sustaining this designation.

The Caroline Historical Society, Inc. (CHS) has just completed its yearly March project which provides insight into the contributions made by three outstanding women from the county. March is designated as National Women in History Month. Over the past several, Caroline County residents have recommended names of local women whom they believe worthy of this honor.

This year we are proud to announce the names of the three local ladies being honored: Miss Elizabeth Pitts (featured in our April CHS newsletter), Mrs. Jesse Garlick Rollins, and Mrs. Pearl Young Reynolds. These ladies represent a cross section of historical periods, geographic regions, and significant contributions. Mrs. Jesse Garlick Rollins is being featured in this CHS newsletter and Mrs. Pearl Young Reynolds will be featured in our October newsletter.

Over the years, dozens of names have been submitted. In 2015, Mrs. Mary Adams, Ms. Helen Hull Jacobs, Ms. Mae Brooks, and Mrs. Kathy Hancock were honored with articles about each appearing weekly in *The Caroline Progress*. In 2016, Ms. Dorothy Hamm, Mrs. Virginia Wright Durrett, Ms. Clara Lee Smith, and Mrs. Dorothy Roy were selected. Captain Sally Tompkins, Mrs. Cleopatra (Cleo) Coleman, Mrs. Carolyn Lane, and the three CHS Collection Committee

volunteers were chosen in 2017. In 2018, Ms. Carolyn (Cookie) Davis, Ms. Leeanne Laden, Mrs. Pauline (Polly) Campbell, and Mrs. Kay Brooks were selected and in 2019 Ms. Gordon Conway, Ms. Louise Beazley, Ms. JoAnne Blanton, and Ms. Maude Motley were highlighted. These women represent a cross section of historical periods, geographic regions, and significant contributions. *The Caroline Progress* closed its doors in March 2018. In 2019 the Internet made it possible for the Caroline Historical Society to continue its posting of significant county women in history. The articles honoring these three ladies for the year 2020 will appear in the April, July, and October CHS newsletters and on the CHS Web site.

Caroline Women in History is an ongoing project and research continues as names are submitted. The public is encouraged to submit names with short biographical statements as to why the person should be considered to receive this honor. If any person is interested in working on this project with Dale Brittle, CHS secretary, they may contact her directly. Recommendations are placed in a "Caroline Women in History" binder located in the CHS museum at the Sidney King Arts Center in Bowling Green and may be viewed by the public during the center's hours of operation Thursday through Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Dale Brittle, Secretary
Caroline Historical Society
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March 2020

The Following Article is the Second of Three Articles on Women in Caroline History - 2020

JESSIE GARLICK ROLLINS

Jessie Garlick Rollins is the third eldest child of Taylor and Goldie Garlick, born in King William County. She attended first grade at Hamilton Holmes Elementary School and by the second grade the family had moved to Caroline County. There Jessie attended Dawn Elementary School. Four years later, Jessie graduated from Bowling Green Sr. High School, formerly Union High School, south of Bowling Green. Jessie was one of eight children and grew up with a grandmother and mother who demonstrated the importance of education. Jessie Garlick attended a one-room schoolhouse through the seventh grade and went on to be the valedictorian of her class. According to Jessie, "she told stories of how she had to walk to school and sneak to ride a bus, or her grandmother speaking at school board meetings asking for a bus to travel a few more miles to help children get to school". These remembrances served as foundations of inspiration in her life.



Jessie remembered her mother's saying, "dress your mind now, you can dress your body later," and were words of inspiration. Her mother expected no less than doing your best as well as taking advantage of opportunities to learn about anything and everything.

Jessie Garlick Rollins

Ms. Garlick attended adult education classes in the evenings and Jessie remembers the many hours she spent helping with her “timed” typing tests, a skill that made her ready to accept a secretarial position at Dawn Elementary School and retire after thirty-eight years as secretary at Bowling Green Elementary School.

Jessie remembers there were few high school electives outside of the basic courses offered in the 1970s. She dreaded the idea of taking home economics classes. However, her mother insisted a class of home economics be included each of the four years in high school.

She was the eldest girl in the family and helped with family chores her entire life. She did not feel this class would offer anything she did not already know. However, according to Jessie, “this could not have been further from the truth.” The curriculum introduced her to educational skills and leadership opportunities that prepared her for the various “hats” she would wear in her adult life.

As a class officer, Jessie ran for state vice president of Future Homemakers of America (FFA). She did not win, but said “the experience was life changing.” It was the first time Jessie spent a weekend in a hotel, the first of many dresses she would make, and the first time she gave a presentation before a room full of people. She would later go on to serve as the state president of the Alumni Chapter of the FHA.

Community service is a major component of Jessie’s life. She is an advocate for children in Caroline County. From P.T.A. president to Girl Scout leader, to her work on countless committees, and 4H Leader developing a sewing club to teach the art of sewing to others. Jessie said “she is now in her 36th year of attending 4H camp in the beautiful mountains of Front Royal, Virginia, where I have taught photography, outdoor cooking, and sewing. I am president of the Caroline Promise BoD and chair of the Caroline County Complete Count Committee. These roles allow me to work alongside others who are champions for the children of our community



Jessie Garlick Rollins

The Caroline County Public Schools are fortunate to have Jessie as an experienced volunteer who has served for over 40 years in numerous capacities starting at Dawn School and currently as Title 1 parent involvement coordinator at the Parent Teacher Resource Center. She works with parents to create activities to help them work better with their children, especially in reading.

In 2003, Jessie completed the requirements to be “Highly Qualified” according to the No Child Left-Behind Act. Jessie Garlick is married to Jerrel Rollins and is a mother of five children. She has six grandchildren and a houseful of nieces and nephews. She mentioned she has been “blessed to have my grandchildren have the experience of knowing their grandmother as the fifth generation of her legacy.” Her birthday quote is from the 91st Psalm, “Do all the good you can, to as many as you can, for as long as you can,” are the words of wisdom she planted in their hearts.



Jessie with her daughter Jo Wanda Rollins-Fells

According to Jessie, “one of the greatest things you can do in life is serve your community and be deliberate about making a difference in the lives of those you meet along the way. I believe we impact the future by the way we take care of our children. Every child is deserving of having someone who cheering them on from the sidelines and I strive to be that cheerleader for my own, their friends, and every child that I encounter.”

*Jessie with her granddaughter
Jordyn Rollins-Williams*



*Dale Brittle, Secretary/Historian
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March 2020*

Recent Donations:

From: Ms. Gladys Bales Sanders – Book – *John Garrett Green: the Ancestors and Descendants of and Their Westward Migration* by Gladys Bales Sanders.

From: James Presgraves, Jr. – A large collection of letters, photos, histories, and various documents from the Motley, Jones, Broaddus, Boulware, Atkisson, and Buckner families.

Note: CHS has been contacted by the great granddaughter of noted portrait and landscape artist of the 19th century John James Potter of Culpeper County, Virginia. It is her desire to photograph his artwork in hopes of preserving his legacy. If anyone has knowledge of any his paintings, please contact R. Wayne Brooks at wbrooks@bealenet.com or (804) 513-9069.

2020 Dues Reminder: Individual - \$15.00, Family - \$20.00, Life - \$200
Please mail to following address: CHS, P.O. Box 324, Bowling Green, VA 22427-0324

General Contact Information

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