



# **CAROLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

October 2020

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

Vol. 40, Issue 4

## **MEETING CANCELLED**

**The Caroline Historical Society, Inc., will NOT meet at 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 25, 2020, in the Caroline Community Services Center, 17202 Richmond Turnpike, Milford, VA 22514**

### **From the President**

Due to this invisible enemy, COVID-19, I regret to say we must again cancel the Caroline Historical Society, Inc. (CHS) quarterly membership meeting scheduled for October 25, 2020. The CHS board of directors are greatly concerned about the health of our members and guests who may have planned to attend meetings during this crisis. It is in the best interest of all concerned to continue following the guidelines established by local, state, and federal governments regarding the ongoing pandemic. Everyone's personal safety is our 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. I wish I could say when will open again and conduct our membership meetings. While closed, several CHS members are changing current exhibits and taking the necessary precautions of safe distancing.

Our Annual Meeting is normally planned for the fourth Sunday of January of each year at 3 p.m. In addition to being our annual meeting, it is also time for the election of new officers and board of directors for the Caroline Historical, Inc. The officers of CHS consist of (a) president, (b) vice president, (c) secretary, (d) treasurer, and (e) historian. The board of directors shall consist of the officers, the immediate past president, and two directors elected at large by the membership. Officers and board members serve for two-year terms. If anyone is interested in serving as a CHS officer or board member starting in 2021, please contact me and I will pass your name on to our Nominating Committee.

The annual meeting is also the time we present the CHS Annual Award. This award is presented to an individual, group, business, or organization that has made major contributions toward protecting and preserving local history within the past year. Anyone who may have a recommendation for this award, please contact Kathy McVay, our vice president and chair of the CHS Annual Award committee.

As mentioned in the previous CHS newsletter, Kathy McVay has planned a great program of local history for our next meeting, still unsure when. 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. 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.

**Wayne Brooks, President**  
**Caroline Historical Society, Inc.**  
[wbrooks@bealenet.com](mailto:wbrooks@bealenet.com)

## **WOMEN IN HISTORY MONTH 2020 – 3rd 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 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 was featured in the July CHS newsletter and Mrs. Pearl Young Reynolds is 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 appointment during this time while the facility is closed to the general public. We regret any inconvenience this may cause during this temporary closure of our exhibits and historical research material.

***Dale Brittle, Secretary/Historian***

Caroline Historical Society

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## THIRD OF THREE ARTICLES ON WOMEN IN CAROLINE HISTORY

### Pearle Young Reynolds

Pearle Reynolds began her track career at Graham High School in Bluefield, Virginia. There competition was mostly informal meets with other schools in county. At the College of William and Mary, track was mostly intramural, and her career was “unattached” with no club affiliation, paying her own expenses as years went along.

*Free Lance Star* Lifestyle editor Carol Anderson interviewed Pearle in December 1976 and wrote an extensive article about the William and Mary track star who broke world records and was inducted into the William and Mary Hall of Fame. She was only the second woman in history to receive this honor.

According to her son, Dr. Herbert Reynolds of Hershey, Pennsylvania, “My mother and father, Pearle Maupin Young and George Audney Reynolds led remarkable lives as independent young people in the early 1900’s; she as an accomplished athlete and student, and he as an aspiring physician. After being married in 1936, they became even more remarkable as parents and pillars in the Bowling Green community.”



During Anderson’s interview, Pearle said “receiving the honor was a surprise even though I starred in several sports in college and in 1933 established world records in the 50-yard dash and the 50-meter run. It was an interesting phase of my life, but not the type of life you would want to stay with. I never had it in my plans to be a star, just to see how far I could go.”

### *Pearl Y. Reynolds, W&M track star in 1930s*

Herbert wrote a memoir of his mother in which he and his sister, Evelyn, were surprised to learn their mother reached the “heights of competitive track and field decades earlier during her 20’s. Mother set national collegiate track records in a variety of events as a student athlete at the College of William and Mary, in Williamsburg, where she earned her B.S. degree in Physical Education and Biology in 1933. From 1929 to 1931 her records included a time of 6.2 seconds in the 50-yard dash; nine seconds in the 75-yard dash; 8 seconds in the 60 yard hurdles (two feet high); a length of 17’2” in the running broad jump; and a height of 4’11-3/8” in the running high jump. In the high jump, Pearle and ‘Babe’ Didrikson, perhaps the greatest female athlete ever, were the only two women athletes who executed the ‘western roll’ technique which was cutting edge for its day. With the nickname ‘Speedy,’ Pearle stood just five feet one inch, but as the record shows, could jump almost as high as she was tall.”

Her track and field accomplishments were such that in the spring of 1932 Pearle was on her way to qualify for the Olympics held in Los Angeles that summer. “At the Brooklyn Games she was favored to win the 50-meter dash, however a Polish sprint champion named Stella Walsh,

was running in the USA where she sought American citizenship. She also won the 200-meter dash.”

“As a graduate student at Columbia University Pearle earned her M.A. in 1933, with a degree in Physical Education and ran track for the Newark Athletic Club. During the National AAU competition in Madison Square Garden she won the 50-meter dash in 6.8 seconds, setting a new national record and was a member of Club’s 400-meter relay team which won with a time of 50.45 seconds, also a national record.” A front-page *New York Times* photo showed Pearle winning the 50-meter dash at the Women’s National Track Championship, the next day on February 25, 1933. According to Herbert, this win became her stellar victory.



### ***Pearle Young Reynolds – retirement years***

After college, Pearle became a faculty member at Mary Washington College where she taught Physical Education. In 1936 she married George Reynolds. Her children praise her as a model



homemaker and mother and community volunteer. She chaired the first bloodmobile, taught first aid classes, was organist at St. Asaph’s Episcopal Church, a position she held for many years, and a member of the Caroline Music Club. Other activities included membership in the Caroline Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, a Masonic appendant body open to both women and men. She became an honorary member of Delta Kappa Gamma International Society, Beta Eta Chapter, a society for women educators in the Fredericksburg area.

### ***Pearl Y. Reynolds being inducted into W&M Hall of Fame***

Her daughter Evelyn remarked, “Mother was a leader in her church and community all while she worked as my father’s secretary and ‘nurse’ helper for 45 years. When her parents married “my father had a fledging medical practice and mother helped him grown his business. She actually was a pretty good ‘doctor,’ too.” Pearle died on March 12, 2001.

#### **Resources**

“The Life and Times of Herbert Young Reynolds, M.D.”: Chapter 3: Depth of Gratitude For My Mother and Father, by Dr. Herbert Y. Reynolds, 2019

**Caroline Progress**, “Pearle Reynolds in W&M Hall of Fame,” by Jim Hall, December 1976

**The Free Lance Star**, “Former Trak Star Recalls Record Events,” by Carol Anderson, December 1976

Evelyn Reynolds Staples, personal notes and conversations, March 2020

***Dale Brittle, Secretary/Historian***



## FLASHBACKS

Thanks to Mary Tod Haley Gray for sharing a copy of *The Caroline Echo* newspaper dated Thursday, August 9, 1906. Price of the newspaper was 50 cents per year! The main story was about the unveiling of the Caroline County Confederate Monument on July 25, 1906. A great article from long ago. I also found the below stories from the same newspaper very entertaining.

“A band of Gypsies passed through here this week.”

“Sheriff Gill tells us he only has two prisoners in jail and that they will not remain very long.”

“Dog days are almost over but the umbrella fixer is still on his rounds.”

“Jones’ Enormous Shows and Frontier Exhibition will exhibit at Milford on the 15<sup>th</sup>.”

## Old Route 1 in Caroline County

The two Caroline County postcards below provide a step back in time to the late 1940s and early 1950s. This was a time before Interstate 95 when Route 1 was the main highway between Maine and Florida. Businesses such as gas stations, restaurants, motor courts, tourist homes, small cabins, and other places of interest popped up along Route 1 in Caroline County like mushrooms. It was the best of economic times for local businessmen until Interstate 95 was completed in the early to mid 1960s. Time has past and those bustling businesses died out and the structures slowly deteriorated. The remnants can be seen as one rides North and South along stretches of Route 1. You may find several of these buildings being used in some fashion but the “good ole days” have sadly disappeared.



### *Rainbow Lake Tourist Court, Route 1 south of Carmel Church*

Cotler’s Cozy Cabins, Woodford, VA. Phone Ladysmith 2264, 17 miles south of Fredericksburg, VA. U.S. 1. This post card is post marked 1952.



**NOTE:** Little remains today of this facility.

### *Cotler’s Cozy Cabins*

## One of Our Historic Churches

Photo post card, postmarked 1909, of the Shiloh Baptist Church located at 127 South Main Street in Bowling Green, Virginia. The church was established in 1866 and the present structure, a Gothic-Revival design, was built in 1895. It has a small bell tower and wood shingles. The church continues to maintain a devoted congregation.



*Shiloh Baptist Church (colored)--Bowling Green, Va.  
Dunn Bros Co., Publishers.*

### ***Shiloh Baptist Church***

### **Recent Donations:**

**From:** James Presgraves, Jr. – An interesting collection of letters, photos, and various documents dating from the Presgraves and Motley families who lived in the Upper Zion area of Caroline County.

### **Dates to Remember:**

January 24, 2021 – Annual Meeting, Caroline Historical Society, Inc. (tentative - COVID-19)

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

### **General Contact Information**

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

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

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

Hours of Operation—Closed to the public until further notice