



CAROLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

October 2021

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

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The Caroline Historical Society, Inc., will meet at 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 24, 2021, at the Caroline Community Services Center, 17202 Richmond Turnpike, Milford, Virginia 22514

From the President

The CHS membership meeting will be held on Sunday, October 24, 2021, at 3 p.m. in the Caroline Community Services Center, 17202 Richmond Turnpike, Milford, Virginia 22514. This meeting has been much anticipated after being postponed last April due to the COVID-19.

Kathy McVay, vice president, has planned a great program of local history for our October 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 for the military training base now known as Fort A. P. Hill. These special guests will discuss their 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. Exhibits will include vintage photos of people, homes, churches, maps, and other items of interest from the 1930s and 1940s timeframe.

As a part of this program, Fort A. P. Hill staff has worked many hours on preparing an interesting and educational Power Point program on the history of the military training facility starting back in 1941. Their program will include facts on the history of how and why Fort A. P. Hill was created in Caroline County, Virginia. I urge all CHS members to bring a guest to the meeting and learn more about our local history during these difficult years. Refreshments will be served!

CHS July Membership Meeting

Our July 25th meeting of the Caroline Historical Society, Inc., was held at Rock Stop Farm. The owners, Philip and Kathryn Fitzhugh, extended an invitation for us to visit their home at 22335 Hicks Landing Road at Rappahannock Academy for a tour starting at 3 p.m. We were given a fantastic tour of the recently renovated home, originally built around 1791. Although warm outside, the inside tour was "cool" in more than one way. Great tour and refreshments, fun time.



Thanks Philip & Kathryn!

Rock Stop Farm owners Philip and Kathryn Fitzhugh

Photo by Joe Parker

A History of Queen Caroline of Ansbach, Caroline County's Namesake

Have you ever wondered where Caroline County's name came from? Maybe the following will provide some insight on the history.

Caroline of Brandenburg-Ansbach was born Wilhelmina Charlotte Caroline on March 1, 1683. Her parents were John Frederick and Eleonore Frederick of Brandenburg-Ansbach. Her father was the Margrave or ruler of a small German state, the Principality of Ansbach. Caroline was orphaned at a young age and her guardians were Frederick, Elector of Brandenburg, and his wife, Sophia Charlotte. Frederick and Sophia became king and queen of Prussia in 1701.

Caroline, as a young attractive woman, was courted by several suitors such as Archduke Charles of Austria, a candidate to be king of Spain, and George Augustus, the third-in-line to the British throne. She finally married George Augustus in 1705. Their first child, Prince Frederick, was born in 1707 and their last child (eighth) in 1724.

Queen Caroline, wife of George II

On the accession of George I (George Augustus' father) in 1714, George Augustus automatically became Duke of Cornwall and Duke of Rothesay. Soon after these events, George Augustus became Prince of Wales and Caroline became Princess of Wales at the same time. When her husband became Prince of Wales in 1714, they moved to Britain with her two daughters.



Despite George Augustus' several mistresses, Caroline's marriage was successful, and she was known for her marital fidelity. Voltaire once wrote fondly of her by saying "I must say that despite all her titles and crowns, this princess was born to encourage the arts and the well-being of mankind; even on the throne she is a benevolent philosopher; and she never lost an opportunity to learn or to manifest her generosity." King George I died in 1727, and George Augustus became George II, King of Great Britain and Ireland, thus making his wife, Caroline, Queen Caroline, who reigned for 10 years.

Caroline County, Virginia, became a county in 1728 and was named in honor of Queen Caroline, who became Queen of Great Britain and Ireland in 1727. During Queen Caroline's last pregnancy, a hernia developed causing Queen Caroline a great deal of suffering for many years. Due to her untreated condition, Queen Caroline died in November 1737. Her husband, King George II, died in 1751, 23 years later, and was buried next to her.

Resources: Wikipedia and other Internet sources

Special Gift to CHS

On Thursday, September 23, 2021, the Caroline Historical Society, Inc. (CHS) was pleased to receive a fantastic eighteenth-century portrait of the likeness of Queen Caroline. The kind and generous gift was donated in the name of Mildred and John Boddie, Virginia residents. The painting has been a cherished possession of the Boddie family for many years. The portrait of our county's namesake now resides in a prominent place in the historical society for all to view.

A great treasure to have in our collection, we are truly thankful to the Boddie family. Come see our new addition to local history.

CHS President receives 18th century portrait of Queen Caroline, from Mr. and Mrs. John Boddie



The Naming Commission – Fort A. P. Hill

The Naming Commission is a United States government commission created by the United States Congress in 2021 to rename military assets that have names associated with the Confederate States of America. The Naming Commission is mandated by Section 370 of the United States National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (NDAA), Public Law 116-283, enacted on January 1, 2021. Within three years of enactment, the United States Secretary of Defense is required to implement a plan developed by the Commission and to “remove all names, symbols, displays, monuments, and paraphernalia that honor or commemorate the Confederate States of America or any person who served voluntarily with the Confederate States of America from all assets of the Department of Defense.

If anyone desires to voice their opinion on renaming Fort A. P. Hill or any other base included on the federal list, you may do so by going to a special Web site set up just for public comment.

Please use the following Web site if you care to make name change recommendations for the military bases in question. <https://www.thenamingcommission.gov>

Introducing Women in Caroline History

This is the last installment of our local women in history for 2021. For the sixth year, the Caroline Historical Society, Inc., honors outstanding Caroline women who have become successful individuals in their professional careers and/or made contributions to improve the community. Over the years, the public has been asked to recommend names of women they believe worthy of consideration.

Dale Brittle, CHS Secretary/Historian

Women in Caroline History - Helen “Penny” Bates Chenery

Helen “Penny” Bates Chenery was born on January 27, 1922, in Westchester County, New York. From her early years, Penny loved horses, thanks in large part to her father, Christopher Tompkins Chenery, he being named after his grandmother, Emily Sophia Tompkins Chenery. Penny marveled at the athleticism and grace of horses, having once said, “I really believe they are noble.”

In 1936, when Penny was 14 years of age, her parents purchased The Meadows, a 2,000+ acre estate in Doswell, later creating the Meadow Stable, one of the most successful Thoroughbred breeding farms in the country.

Penny’s early adulthood was remarkable as she exited Smith College in 1943, working as an assistant at a company that designed landing craft for the Normandy invasion. Before the invasion, however, Penny decided to volunteer for the Red Cross, and traveled to France in 1945 as a “Doughnut Girl” to aid exhausted soldiers as they prepared to head home. Her ability to relate to others no doubt aided her as she entered the public eye of the horse racing community in later years. Penny then attended Columbia University’s business school, one of 20 women in her class, where she met her husband John “Jack” Tweedy. The couple had four children, and lived in the Denver, Colorado, area.

In 1967, much changed in Penny’s life: her mother, Helen Clementina Bates Chenery died in late



Breeder of Secretariat Penny Chenery, left, and her daughter Kate Tweedy arrived on the red carpet at the 138th running of the Kentucky Derby on May 1, 2010.

1967, her father’s health was failing, and her two siblings planned to sell the formerly profitable Meadow Stable, as it was now losing money. Penny agreed to take over management of stable operations, with the help of her siblings and her father’s business assistant. Penny commuted monthly from Colorado to Virginia, and few in the business took her seriously. For several more years, Meadow Stable continued to lose money. The tide began to turn in 1971 when her colt, Riva Ridge, won 2-year-old of the Year. Just before Penny’s father’s death in early 1973,

Riva Ridge won the 1972 Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes, and Secretariat, the chestnut Thoroughbred born in 1970, was named 1972 horse of the year by the Thoroughbred Racing Association. Secretariat was gained in a losing coin toss! Penny lost out on the first foal, The Bride, produced by Bold Ruler and Penny’s broodmare, Somethingroyal. Secretariat, the yet-unborn, Bold Ruler and Somethingroyal foal, would go to Penny next year. Remarkably, after Secretariat’s naming as horse of the year at age two in 1972, Penny deftly orchestrated a plan to syndicate Secretariat before any of his Triple Crown victories. Penny called on the new head of Claiborne Farm in Paris, Kentucky, the son of her father’s longtime associate, Bull Hancock. Bull Hancock had just passed on, and 23-year-old Seth Hancock, fresh at the helm, took a chance on Secretariat. The transaction yielded an opportunity to settle Meadow Stable’s estate taxes without liquidating the farm’s bloodstock, at an unprecedented price of \$6.08 million and contractual terms called for him to race for Meadow Stable in 1973. In a few short days, young Seth Hancock pulled off the transaction with both known clients and new investors. The rest, as they say, was history, as

Secretariat became a Triple Crown Winner in 1973, also gracing the cover of Time Magazine. Secretariat was the most celebrated racehorse of all time and the only non-human ranked among ESPN's 50 Greatest Athletes of the 20th Century.



Secretariat meets Penny Chenery's first champion, Riva Ridge, at Claiborne Farm

Photo Credit: Claiborne Farm

In a 1972 interview, Penny had said that her role was not at all unusual for a woman, stating, "A number of women run racing stables. It actually precedes women's lib." Penny referenced the late Isabel Dodge Sloane, who was mistress of Brookmeade Farm in the 1920s in Upperville, Virginia.

After Secretariat's retirement, Penny became an ambassador for Thoroughbred racing and continued after Secretariat's death in 1989. Penny became the first female president of the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association. She was one of the first women admitted to The Jockey Club and helped found the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation, dedicated to saving Thoroughbred horses no longer able to compete on the racetrack from neglect, abuse, and slaughter. Penny established the Secretariat Vox Populi award which honors racing's most popular horse each year, as well as the Secretariat Foundation, which supports a variety of charities in the racing community. Penny was honored in 2006 with the Eclipse Award of Merit for her lifetime contributions to the Thoroughbred industry and has advocated for research and equine care advancement, along with banning use of performance-enhancing drugs in horse racing. Helen "Penny" Bates Chenery died on September 16, 2017, at her home in Boulder, Colorado, at the age of 95.

Resources

Newspapers.com, The Montana Standard, Butte, Montana, "Penny Chenery, owner of Triple Crown champ Secretariat, dies," by Beth Harris, AP Racing Writer, September 2017

Newspapers.com, The Star-Democrat, Easton, Maryland, "Chenery, owner of Secretariat, dies at 95," WPNS, September 2017

Newspapers.com, The Miami Herald, Miami, Florida, "Christopher T. Chenery, 86, Owned the Derby Winner," UPI, January 1973

The New York Times, New York, New York, "Secretariat Is Horse of Year, Topping La Prevoyante in Poll," by Steve Cady, December 1972

The Bee, Danville, Virginia, "Helen Chenery Tweedy Rapidly Gaining Prominence; Owns Race Horse, Riva Ridge," by Christine Darg, Richmond Times-Dispatch, June 1972

Claiborne Farm, "The History of Claiborne Farm," August 24, 2021, <https://claibornefarm.com/history/>

Barbara C. Lagasse, CHS Life Member

Quotes on History

“History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

“The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history.”

George Orwell

“No volume of history is insignificant, even the worst chapters. Especially the worst chapters.”

Terri Guillemets

“You don’t change the course of history by turning the faces of portraits to the wall.”

Jawaharial Nehru

In Search of Local History: The Caroline Historical Society, Inc. (CHS) is seeking items of local history to expand our current collection. Anyone desiring to donate old photos, documents, etc., please contact **R. Wayne Brooks** at wbrooks@bealenet.com or (804) 513-9069.

New Members:

Jacqueline Stanley – Beaverdam, Virginia

Shannon Elder – Woodford, Virginia

Jacob Elder – Woodford, Virginia

Gloria Bolecek – Woodford, Virginia

Elizabeth Smart Fay – Ruther Glen, Virginia

Donations:

18th Century Portrait of Queen Caroline – Gift from Mildred and John Boddie

Portraits of Chester Novell Pitts (1851-1929) & his wife Lelia Jane – Gift from Kimball Tenser

Monetary donation for NRHP Plaque to go on the Old Jail – Gift from Tim Terrell

Monetary donation for NRHP Plaque to go on the Old Jail – Gift from Kathy Burchell

Monetary donation for computer program upgrade to allow multi-users – Gift from Beth Fay

Reminder

If you have not paid your dues recently, letters will be sent out soon as a reminder to those who are behind. Please forward payment to:

Caroline Historical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 324

Bowling Green, VA 22427-0324

Individual membership – \$15.00 per year

Family membership – \$20.00 per year

General Contact Information

R. Wayne Brooks, president – wbrooks@bealenet.com Cell phone (804) 513-9069

Facebook – Caroline Historical Society, Bowling Green, Va.

Web Site – <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