



CAROLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

January 2022

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

Vol. 42, Issue 1

The Caroline Historical Society, Inc., will **NOT meet at 3 p.m. on Sunday, January 23, 2022, at the Caroline Community Services Center, 17202 Richmond Turnpike, Milford, Virginia 22514**

From the President

I regret to report, our scheduled membership meeting for January 23, 2022, must be cancelled due to recent changes regarding public meetings in county owned buildings. The current policy states all attendees must wear masks and practice save distancing due to the increased number of COVID cases being reported. The CHS board members felt cancelling the meeting would be in the best interests of all concerned. The health, safety, and welfare of our members and guests are paramount. The programs planned for the January 23rd meeting will take place on April 24, 2022.

The forthcoming year will be the start of the historical society's 54th year as we continue our goal to collect and preserve our local history. To maintain our collection of local artifacts, display them, and account for new additions, we must have additional volunteers to help operate our facility. Our normal hours of operation are Thursday through Saturday from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. to greet guests and provide tours of the historical society's exhibits and the artwork of Sidney E. King. This coming year (2022) will be a busy one for CHS with changing exhibits, rearranging our collections room, building new shelves, and planning special events. If anyone would like to become more involved with the CHS organization, come spend a few hours in the museum and arts center. If interested, call R. Wayne Brooks at (804) 513-9069 or e-mail me at wbrooks@bealenet.com

The October 2021 CHS membership meeting program was a major success with over fifty (50) members and guests attending. If you missed it, the program centered around the history of Fort A. P. Hill, the families, homes, schools, churches, and farms existing prior to the U. S. Government's acquisition of 77,000 acres in early 1941. In addition to the exhibits, an excellent power point presentation was given by John Mullen, Cultural Resource Manager at Fort A. P. Hill. Other major highlights included true life experiences related by CHS members, family members, and guests who lived on the land prior to the establishment of the military reservation at Fort A. P. Hill in 1941.

Special thanks to Terri Banks, the Directorate of Public Works, Environmental and Natural Resources Division at Fort A. P. Hill, and staff members John Mullen and Kerri Holland for preparing exhibits.



John Mullen addresses attendees at October 2021 meeting

Our Next Meeting, April 24, 2022, Is Our Annual Membership Meeting

Our next CHS membership meeting will be held on April 24, 2022. This will be our Annual Membership Meeting at which time the Annual Award will be presented to the person(s) or organization making significant contributions to the preservation of our local history. The meeting's main program will consist of two parts. Mandy Young, a faithful member of our Collections Committee, will conduct the first part. Ms. Young will discuss the progress of her ongoing project of gathering past and present photographs of homes in Caroline County. Over the last couple of years, Mandy has put together three large notebooks full of photographs of old homes no longer standing, and those still standing. Her sources of photos have come from individuals, CHS files, Library of Virginia, WPA photos and other sources. Many of these photos are still "unidentified." Ms. Young needs your help in finding out where these homes were located, who lived in the house, and history (age) of the structure. As a part of her presentation, CHS is asking members, friends, and guests to bring pictures of older homes in Caroline and allow CHS to scan or copy them as a part of this ongoing project of collecting and preserving our county's past. It is so important for our organization, and we as individuals, to make every effort to reach out to others and ask they share family heirlooms, artifacts, photographs, and other items related to Caroline County history. The CHS mission is to preserve our local history for the benefit and education of our future generations. May future generations carry forth the same principles and ideals as CHS.

The second part of the meeting will be another one of our fun "show & tell" meetings. The "show and tell" events in the past have always produced a lighter side of history for those who attend and especially the participants. So, bring an item and let's hear a good story to go with it. Updates on the county's policies regarding wearing masks in county owned buildings will be provided as they are issued to the public.

Collins Donation

Herbert Ridgeway Collins, retired curator of the Smithsonian Institution, local historian, author of twenty-six history books, loyal member of local and state historical societies, and founding



member of the Caroline Historical Society, Inc. has generously donated a life-sized cast bronze bust of himself to our organization. Displaying his bust will pay but a small tribute to a person who has unselfishly given back to his community in ways we could never repay him. CHS and the entire county owe Mr. Collins a huge debt of gratitude as he continues his mission of preserving history through his books, collections, and gifts to historical preservation groups. His decades of research and knowledge of local history has made him the "go to" person if any questions arises about when someone was born, where they lived, who they married, their children, where they are buried, and any other facts one may not find in history books. Herb continues his ongoing love for history as he nears completion of two more books on local history. Words cannot express our appreciation dedication to preserving our local history. We should "count our blessings."

Bronze Bust of Herbert Ridgeway Collins

Holiday Open House and Art Sale

On December 11, 2021, the Caroline Historical Society, Inc., and the Sidney E. King Foundation of the Arts held a Holiday Open House and Art Sale. The art sale consisted of over twenty pieces of artwork by Sidney E. King. His artwork consisted original paintings, sketches, and prints. Guest Artist was well known local talent, John Wayne Edwards who displayed and sold several original paintings and prints of his work. Everyone attending enjoyed the festive atmosphere, Christmas cookies, warm cider, hot chocolate, and coffee. We appreciated all those who attended and their purchases of the artwork. The artwork of both artists will remain on sale through January 2022.



CHS Holiday Christmas Tree



Guest Artist, John Wayne Edwards



“Whistling Swans” by Sidney E. King – For Sale

I would personally like to thank the following members of the historical society, Kathy Burchell, Kathy McVay, Trish Taylor, Niki Booker, Kay Brooks, and Tim Terrell who helped host, provided refreshments, and made the Holiday Open House/Art Sale a successful revenue producing event.

CHS Teams with Caroline County School System

In February 2021, the Caroline Historical Society was contacted by Becca Schieber, Instructional Specialist Science/Social Studies, with the Caroline County Public Schools, about CHS collaborating with them and providing information on local history. The Caroline County School System, much to our delight, has instituted a course on local history for fifth graders. This is a key step in teaching students more about the history of the environment in which they live. One of the recent educational activities involved a sort of “hands-on history” project.

Each student selected a person(s) from Caroline County's history, performed research, and constructed a figure out of various materials to represent the person(s) from our past. CHS has the honor of displaying 11 of these works of art history at the Caroline Historical Society, Inc.



Richard & Mildred Loving



Penny Chenery & Secretariat



Queen Caroline



John Penn



John Wilkes Booth

CHS congratulates the Caroline School Board; Superintendent, Dr. Sarah Calveric; and Becca Schieber, Instructional Specialist for instituting local history in the classrooms.

CHS also congratulates the students on their educational "hands-on" local history artwork.

Please stop by the Caroline Historical Society, Inc., in the Sidney E. King Arts Center at 121 Main Street, Bowling Green, Virginia 22427 and view the students' history art projects

Who Was John Penn from Caroline County, Virginia?

This country boy from rural Caroline County, not known by many, established himself as a true patriot, advocating freedom from the British rule prior to and during the Revolutionary War. Caroline County can be proud of its native son's patriotism, courage, personal sacrifices, and overall accomplishments in creating and signing the documents to free the United States of American from British rule.

John Edmund Penn was born in Caroline County, Virginia, on May 17, 1741, near Port Royal, Virginia. He was the son of Moses Penn and Catherine Taylor Penn and their only child. He



John Penn

attended local schools in his early years. As he turned 18 years of age, his father passed away and John studied law with his well-known uncle, Edmund Pendleton, of Caroline County. In 1762, after working with several of Virginia's finest lawyers, including his uncle, John Penn became licensed to practice law in Virginia. On July 28, 1763, he married Susannah Lyne of Caroline. This marriage brought forth two children over the years, William (who never married), and a daughter, Lucy. Lucy Penn (daughter) married John Taylor, another famous individual from Caroline County, who was taught law by the famous Edmund Pendleton, just like his father-in-law, John Penn.

After 12 years of practicing law in Virginia, John Penn and his family moved close to Williamsboro, Granville County, North Carolina. His reasons for moving appear to have been political as he had strong feelings against the British rule. Penn quickly became popular and recognized as a leader. In 1775 he was elected to the North Carolina Provincial Congress and to the Continental Congress in which he served until 1780. He was a member of the North Carolina delegation for the 1776 signing of the Declaration of Independence and one of North Carolina's signers of the Articles of Confederation, while serving on the Board of War. As with other delegates to the Continental Congress, Penn did not receive a salary, only occasional reimbursement for travel expenses. This lack of revenue caused economic stress on his family and business affairs. In 1781, within a year after retiring from Congress, Penn served as the "Receiver of Taxes" for North Carolina before finally retiring in 1784. John Penn, formerly of Caroline County, Virginia, passed away in 1788 at the age of forty-seven and was buried on his estate near Island Creek, in Granville County. His remains were relocated to the Guilford County National Park in 1894, to be alongside his fellow delegate, William Hooper.

Our John Penn, not to be confused with the grandson of William Penn, who was famous in Pennsylvania, should be remembered for his major accomplishments in creating the United States of America. To briefly summarize his accomplishments:

1. Served in the Continental Congress for six years (representing North Carolina).
2. Signed the Declaration of Independence.
3. Signed the Articles of Confederation.
4. Signed the Halifax Resolves (the North Carolina Constitution).
5. A "major influence" in North Carolina during the final years of the Revolutionary War.

References:

1. Wingfield, Marshall, *A History of Caroline County, From its Formation in 1727 to 1924*
2. David McCullough, (descendant), *Article on John Penn* dated 2008
3. Website, *Revolutionary War and Beyond*
4. Web site, *us.history.org*
5. Internet, *Wikipedia*

R. Wayne Brooks, President

WANTED: Items on Local History

The Caroline Historical Society, Inc. (CHS) is seeking items of local history to expand our current collection. Anyone desiring to donate, loan, or allow CHS to copy, please contact R. Wayne Brooks by e-mail at wbrooks@bealenet.com or (804) 513-9069. CHS is a 501(c)(3), historical preservation organization and donations are tax deductible.

New Members:

Mickey Tingle – Ladysmith, Virginia – Life Member
Kathy Harris – Fredericksburg, Virginia – Individual
David and Melissa Martin – Woodford, Virginia – Life Member
Anna Porter – Beaverdam, Virginia – Individual
Laverne Bates Coghill – Bowling Green, Virginia – Individual
Patsy Grace and Nicholas Daniels – Sparta, Virginia – Family

Donations:

Herbert Ridgeway Collins – life-size bronze bust of Herbert R. Collins, Founding Member of CHS
Susan and Jeff Sili – WW II & Korean War bunk beds, field organ, desk, lanterns, other items
Gordon and Margie Barlow – monetary donation
George Martin – monetary donation
Dale Brittle – vintage farm tools
Anna Porter – monetary donation
Diana Delgado – vintage photos, newspaper clippings of WW II veterans from Caroline County

Reminder on Payment of Annual Membership Dues:

If you have not paid your annual “family” or “individual” membership dues for **2021** or **2022** or **prior years**, please forward payment to:

Caroline Historical Society, Inc.	Individual membership – \$15.00 per year
P.O. Box 324	Family membership – \$20.00 per year
Bowling Green, VA 22427-0324	

There are a number of members who are several years behind on membership dues, individual letters will be going out within the next 30 days as a personal reminder of past due payments. If any member is unsure about their status, please contact me at the e-mail address or phone number listed below. All membership dues are to be paid in January of each year.

General Contact Information

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