



CAROLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July 2022

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

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NOTICE: Change in Meeting Date. The Caroline Historical Society, Inc., will meet in a “Joint” meeting with Historic Port Royal on Sunday, August 14, 2022, at 2 p.m. at the Caroline Community Services Center, 17202 Richmond Turnpike, Milford, Virginia 22514

From the President

The Caroline Historical Society, Inc. (CHS) and Historic Port Royal (HPR) have agreed to hold a “Joint” meeting on August 14, 2022, at 2 p.m. in the Caroline Community Services Center at 17202 Richmond Turnpike, Milford, Virginia 22514. This means CHS **WILL NOT** have our regular membership meeting scheduled for July 24, 2022. I apologize for any inconvenience, but the proposed “Joint” meeting will include an important program that could help enhance tourism in Caroline County that could benefit both organizations and Caroline County overall.

The program for the August 14, 2022, meeting will include a presentation by the Virginia Lewis & Clark Legacy Trail, Inc. (VLCLT) on the proposed Lewis & Clark Trail planned for various locations in Virginia. Stakeholders in the trail project have been inspired by the recent financial support from the Virginia General Assembly for trail signage. VLCLT members have held meetings with local historical society representatives to gather information on including certain sites in Caroline County on the proposed Lewis & Clark Trail.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition, also called the Corps of Discovery Expedition, was the idea of President Thomas Jefferson. Congress approved funding for the expedition for the purpose of surveying the newly acquired 827,000 square miles purchased from France. This deal with France was called the “Louisiana Purchase” and cost the United States 15 million dollars. The expedition took approximately two years (1804-1806) and was an immense success. Money well spent.

The Lewis & Clark team was composed of Captain Meriwether Lewis (1774-1809) and Lieutenant William Clark (1770-1838), both being Virginia born, became good friends while serving in the military together. William Clark was born in Caroline County, west of Ladysmith and became close friends with Thomas Jefferson when his family moved to the Charlottesville area. Meriwether Lewis was born not too far from Charlottesville in the small community of Ivy.

The purpose of the Lewis & Clark Trail through Virginia is to honor Virginia born Meriwether Lewis and William Clarke for their exploits while designating and promoting historic points of interest connected to their lives and travels. Once the historic locations are identified, signage, maps, brochures, and promotional materials must be funded to complete the program. It may take several years to complete but through cooperative efforts between the Virginia General Assembly, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Virginia Department of Transportation, Virginia Department of Tourism, VLCLT, various organizations, grants, and funding from local counties, cities and towns will be successful. The result will not only increase tourism but clearly provide another method to promote local, state, and national history through visual objects, signs, and written information.

CHS Annual Award 2022

Congratulations Bernard! At the April 24, 2022, CHS Quarterly Membership Meeting, it was my honor and pleasure to present the “Well Deserved” **2021 CHS Annual Award** to James Bernard Collins for his dedicated service to preserving and promoting our local history. Bernard has always enjoyed history, a retired Lt. Colonel of the United States Air Force, he graduated from the University of Richmond with a degree in history. Bernard has been a Life Member in the Caroline Historical Society since 2008. Even before becoming a Life Member with CHS, Bernard has always been active with volunteering for CHS on days at the museum and for special events. For many years he would set up a table at the Harvest Festival for the historical society or for Earth Day at Fort A. P. Hill. He has served as CHS president, treasurer, and is now on the Board of Directors as immediate past president. For over 20 years Bernard has folded newsletters, placed them in envelopes, attached stamps, and mailed approximately seventy-five newsletters out every quarter to members. CHS appreciates all your time and effort volunteering over the years at the historical society and for special events. You are always there to lend a helping hand. Bernard has even found time to write numerous articles for the CHS newsletter and to author two books on local history: *Caroline County Virginia History, Facts, and More, Volumes One & Two*.



Retired Lt. Colonel J. Bernard Collins.

CHS Volunteers Recognized

At the April CHS membership meeting, several longtime dedicated members received Certificates of Appreciation for their many years (at least 10 years) of volunteer service at the Caroline Historical Society performing duties involving processing donations, organizing files, entering items in the computer inventory, working on special projects, placing protective coverings on donated items as needed and most of all, providing tours for visitors. They made a fantastic team, and I just cannot say enough for the many unselfish volunteer hours spent maintaining the CHS Collections and being a docent for the historical society and the Sidney E. King Arts Center. Your service is truly appreciated.



*Pictured Left to Right: Kathy Burchell, Carolyn Roth, and Mandie Young.
Not Pictured: Niki Booker.*

Clerk of the Court Records – Old Records Available

In an e-mail from Susan Minarchi, Clerk of the Court for Caroline County, Va., I was informed the Caroline County Clerk's Office received a grant from the Library of Virginia which enabled their office to obtain copies of the birth and death records of Caroline County, Va., from 1856 to 1865. The copies of these records are a great resource to have in the county, especially for those individuals researching family histories. Thank you, Susan, for making CHS aware of these valuable resources now located in your Lands Record vault.

Recent Donations

Dirk Farmer (right) holds a vintage Bowling Green Volunteer Fireman's protective hat he recently donated to the Caroline Historical Society. The semi-flexible hat is made of rubberized material and has the letters "BGFD" on the front. The hat is now resting in a display case as part of the exhibit on the Bowling Green fires of 1905 and 1955. CHS member Jacob Martin has put together a great exhibit on these historic fires, so please stop by and pay us a visit.

Dirk Farmer with "BGFD" hat.



Recent Donations

CHS was truly fortunate to have received several vintage photos from Ms. Frances Webb Burch, former resident, now living in Richmond, Va. The early photos are of the former Webb family home located on the westside of Main Street in Bowling Green, Virginia, across the street from the Old Courthouse. Ms. Burch's father was Dr. Charles Shepherd Webb, Jr. (1904–1990) and her mother was Fannie Taliaferro Webb (1905-2003). Dr. Charles S. Webb, Jr., and his brothers William and Robert were born in the house shown in these pictures.



Above is the home of Dr. Charles S. Webb, Sr., on Main St. Bowling Green in mid 1890s. Pictured in the photo, are Dr. Webb, (1846-1935), his first wife, Ella (1857-1898), and their daughter, Margaret.



The same Webb home, pictured above and to the right, is on the left side of the photo and was located on Main St. adjacent to and north of the Bowling Green Hotel. The white building on right side of the picture was once used for the local post office, apartments, and offices both structures were demolished when the Southside Bank was built, now a gun shop. Pitts and Manns Real Estate building (old movie theatre) is to the right of the white building.

Point Eastern Post Office

A local resident, Joe Pitts, stopped by a few weeks ago to donate the below picture of his maternal grandparents, Luther Reins Christian (1868-1940) and Daisey Blanton Christian (1880-1946). Luther and Daisey Christian were married in 1905 and lived in the below pictured house while operating the Point Eastern Post Office out of their home. The post office, general store, and home were located at the intersection of Routes 600 and 601 in the southeastern part of the county.



Luther and Daisey Christian.

“Point Eastern,” a two-story frame home with eight rooms, was built by Edward Christian (1818-1892), father of Luther Christian, around 1860. Edward Christian, born in Hanover County, moved to Caroline County in 1852 and married Martha Ellen Mason (1839-1917) in 1857. The Point Eastern Post Office was created on February 16, 1866, when the post office, located at White Chimneys, was changed to the Christian home at Point Eastern. White Chimneys was located south of Pendleton School on the westside of Route 301. Edward Christian became postmaster of Point Eastern Post Office in 1866. He served as postmaster for 26 years. His son, Luther Christian inherited the house after his father’s death and became postmaster in 1937. Luther Christian served as postmaster for 47 years and his wife Daisey, served as postmistress for one year (1940). The members of the Christian family served a total of 74 years in the position of postmaster or postmistress at the Point Eastern Post Office. Thank you, Joe Pitts, for donating the photo.

This is the actual Point Eastern sign shown in the above photo. The sign and photo are a part of the Caroline Historical Society’s collection.



Tour Groups Visit CHS

During the month of June, CHS hosted two separate bus tour groups at our museum, the King Arts Center, and the Old Courthouse. Thanks to Ray Campbell for conducting the courthouse tour. Special thanks to Susan Minarchi, Clerk of the Court, for allowing the tour of the Old Courthouse. CHS is hopeful the tours will return in the years to come. There were over sixty visitors between the two buses and CHS received many compliments on the exhibits.

Visitors from North Carolina

On Sunday, June 19, 2022, I had the pleasure of meeting the three gentlemen pictured with me in the below photo. They were in Caroline County/Bowling Green, traveling from North Carolina, for a long overdue visit with friends and relatives. As youngsters, they visited family members in Bowling Green many times. During the tour of the historical society and the Sidney King Arts Center, the conversation included stories of their visits “back in the day.” Alan, Doug, and Scott Banks are the grandsons of the late Floyd Borkey (1895-1981) and Margaret Borkey (1908-1992). Margaret Borkey was the daughter of Edwin Sommerville Coghill, son of Edwin Ruthven Coghill (1842-1925), former Clerk of the Court.

Edwin Ruthven Coghill is Alan, Doug, and Scott’s great-great grandfather. Mr. Coghill served as a sergeant in Company “E” of the 30th Virginia Infantry Regiment during the War Between the States. Following the war, he served as Clerk of the Court for 30-plus years. After his long run as Clerk, his son E. S. “Eddie” Coghill (1875-1953), who served as Deputy Clerk, followed in his father’s footsteps, and became Clerk of the Court until his retirement.



*Left to Right: Alan Banks, Wayne Brooks,
Doug Banks, Scott Banks.*

While viewing the historical society’s exhibit on the USO activities in Caroline County during World War II, they were very pleased to find several pictures of their grandmother, Margaret Borkey, on display. Mrs. Borkey served on the USO Activities Committee. Before leaving to get ice cream at the corner of Main Street and Milford Street, the Banks family generously donated the original photo of their great-great grandfather Sergeant Edwin Ruthven Coghill. In addition to the photo, Alan, Doug, and Scott presented CHS with several books on the Coghill family history. Great additions to our collection of local history. They plan to see us in October at the Harvest Festival.



Original Photo: Sergeant Edwin Ruthven Coghill of the “Caroline Grays” Company E, 30th Virginia Infantry Regiment taken in 1861.

Presgraves Donation

Pictured below is one of the gifted items from the Presgraves family, it is one of the best single items ever donated to the Caroline Historical Society, Inc. Over the past several years CHS has received donations from James “Jim” Presgraves related to his Caroline families who lived in what is now Fort A. P. Hill. Jim was honored last year for his thoughtful donations by being presented with the CHS’ Annual Award



for 2020. Sadly, Jim passed away in March of this year. His wife, Betty Presgraves, recently donated to CHS this fantastic hand-woven Presgraves family heirloom (coverlet) measuring seven feet by ten feet. It is a remarkable piece of 200-year-old local history and CHS is fortunate to have it as a part of our collection. The patch shown in the photo contains the following words: “Grown, Shorn, Spun, Woven, Dyed and Finished by Frankie, Dollie, and Betsy Boulware, sisters of Turner, Father of James, Father of Allie, Father of Lucille, Mother of James & John Presgraves Made at “The Walnuts” Caroline County, Virginia 1812(?)

Image of Hand-woven Coverlet

New Members:

Marcella Thomas Zorn – Family – Florida
Bernice Rowe – Life Membership

Donations:

Jo-De Davis: Sheet music “I’ll Take You Home Again Kathleen” & “Caroline Oh, Caroline.”
Dirk Farmer: Vintage Bowling Green Fire Department Volunteer Safety Helmet (see picture).
Mary Scott Haley: Vintage items from Caroline High late 1940s.
Frances Burch: photos Dr. Charles Webb’s (Ms. Burch’s father) home, Main St. Bowling Green.
Betty Presgraves: Presgraves family items, photos of Motley sisters, letters, handmade coverlet.
Alan Banks: 1861 photo of E. R. Coghill in uniform & Coghill family history books.

General Contact Information

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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

Calendar of Events: Important Notice – Meeting Date: August 14, 2022

CHS/HPR meeting August 14, 2022, 2 p.m., Caroline Community Services Center, 17202 Richmond Turnpike, Milford, Virginia 22514