



CAROLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

October 2022

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

Vol. 42, Issue 4

NOTICE: Change in Meeting Date

The Caroline Historical Society, Inc., will meet on Sunday, October 30, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. at Fort A. P. Hill for a Tour of Historical sites.

From the President

At the time of this writing, October is fast approaching, much to the relief of many, fall weather will soon be upon us. It has been a busy year thus far for CHS, time has gone by so quickly and I would like to thank our CHS volunteers who have taken their personal time to help with new displays, inventorying our donations, providing tours for the CHS exhibits, and just being available in times of need. Without their assistance and dedication to keeping local history alive we would not be able to open our doors three days a week. CHS is also blessed to have so many generous individuals who have made monetary donations and gifted three-dimensional objects that include books, letters, photographs, documents, uniforms, and other objects pertaining to the history of Caroline County and its citizens. I would especially like to thank the Caroline County Board of Supervisors for their continued support of our efforts to preserve, protect, display, and promote Caroline County's history.

Correction to the July 2022 Newsletter

In the July 2022 CHS newsletter, I incorrectly identified the lady in the photograph below as Ella Webb (1857-1898), Dr. Charles Shepherd Webb, Sr.'s (1846-1935) first wife. The lady in the photo is Dr. Charles Shepherd Webb, Sr.'s second wife, Mary Camper Webb, who was Frances Webb Burch's grandmother. Dr. Webb's first wife, Ella, passed away in 1898. Dr. Webb and Ella Webb's daughter, Margaret Webb, was born in 1889. Dr. Webb remarried in 1900 to Mary Camper. The child in the picture is Margaret Webb, daughter of Dr. Webb and Ella Webb. Mrs. Frances Webb Burch now living in Richmond, Virginia, donated the picture of the Webb family home, formally located on the west side of Main Street in Bowling Green, Virginia, across the street from the Old Courthouse.



Mrs. 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 this picture. I apologize to Mrs. Burch for any confusion I may have caused by not identifying the Mrs. Webb correctly. The Webb home was removed many years ago..

Notes on 1918-19 Spanish Flu Pandemic

I was asked if there were any figures on the deaths in Caroline County from the 1918-19 Spanish flu. The world-wide Spanish flu pandemic was estimated to have killed between 20 and 50 million people. From the information researched, state and local officials documented approximately 300 cases of the Spanish flu in Caroline County between 1918 and 1919 with six known deaths.

October Quarterly Meeting

Our program planned for the CHS Quarterly Meeting in October 2022, will be a tour of the historical sites at Fort A. P. Hill to include the old Mica schoolhouse, Liberty Church, The Lodge, and several other points of historic interest. The Fort A. P. Hill Environmental and Natural Resources Division staff has extended an invitation to CHS and Historic Port Royal to visit those remaining historic structures and sites on the military base. Light refreshments will be available. At the time of this newsletter release, details of the exact time and location to meet at Fort A. P. Hill have not been announced. Once the information has been received, the membership will be contacted with the necessary details of the tour, time, location, and requirements for entry onto Fort A. P. Hill. This will be a unique and “rare” opportunity to visit historic sites of Caroline County seldom seen by the public. Names of those attending must be submitted to Fort A. P. Hill staff two weeks ahead of the event approval. Members and guests interested in attending, please e-mail Kathy McVay, vice president, at kmcvay1257@gmail.com or call her at (804) 366-1848 to confirm your attendance. Must have a photo ID to match name provided on the preapproved list.

January 2023 CHS Meeting

In accordance with the CHS bylaws, election of CHS officers and board members takes place every two years on the “odd” years. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CHS was unable to have its January 2021 Annual Meeting to hold the required elections. Those who were serving as officers and board members agreed to maintain their positions on the board until the next election cycle (2023). By doing so, the election of board members and officers would stay on the odd-year cycle as required by the CHS bylaws. A Nominating Committee will be appointed soon to make recommendations for various positions at the January 22, 2023, Annual Meeting. Anyone desiring to be on the Nominating Committee or to be considered for a board position or an officer, please contact me by e-mail at wbrooks@bealenet.com or by cell phone at (804) 513-9069. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the time of the meeting in January 2023.

As stated in the CHS bylaws, the OFFICERS of the corporation shall consist of following officers and two directors at large, to be elected by majority vote, on odd years, at the Annual Meeting held on the fourth Sunday in January at 3:00 p.m., for 2-year terms. Positions available: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Historian, Board Member at Large (2), and the Immediate Past President.

I am mentioning the upcoming election now to make sure all members have adequate notice to consider becoming part of the team to plan, manage, and implement the missions and goals of our organization. I am hopeful members will step up and get involved as an officer or board member.

Volunteers

CHS can always use volunteers to help with tours of the historical society exhibits and Sidney E. King Foundation art displays. Here is your opportunity to participate. CHS needs to increase its membership and our membership needs to become more active in the activities, events, and inventorying our collection. One can also help with the inventorying and cataloging of items donated from local families. If you like history, here is your opportunity to have a “hands-on” experience by examining artifacts from the past. Fantastic way to get involved and work with other members to keep our organization moving forward. We need to keep our museum open.

R. Wayne Brooks, President

Photos of History Tour Groups Visiting CHS in June 2022

During the month of June, CHS hosted two separate historical bus tour groups at our museum, the arts center, and the Old Courthouse. Here are two pictures from their visit, space was not available in the last newsletter for these and other pictures.



Tour guide/author Gordon Rhea and CHS Secretary-Historian Dale Brittle



Members of the tour group

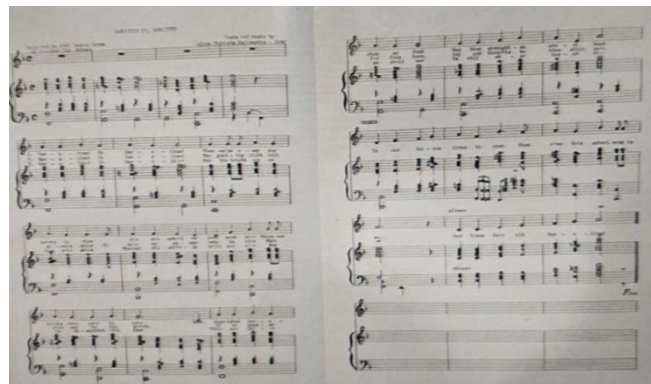
Thanks again to Susan Minarchi, Clerk of the Court, for allowing the tour of the Old Courthouse and Ray Campbell for conducting the Courthouse tour. CHS received at least a dozen compliments on the exhibits. We are hoping for return of the tours next year.

Donations

In the July 2022 issue of the CHS newsletter I mentioned two donations from Jo-De Davis. One being the sheet music of the song “I’ll Take You Home Again, Kathleen” signed by the author, Thomas Paine Westendorf (1848-1923). Pictured at the left is the sheet music signed by Westendorf, who was born in Bowling Green, Virginia. Ms. Davis also donated the original words and sheet music to the Caroline High School song written by her maternal grandmother, Alice Richards Dejarnette. A copy of the original words and sheet music are shown below.



Sheet music signed by the author, Thomas P. Westendorf



Sheet music and words of “Caroline, Oh, Caroline” written by Alice Richards Dejarnette

Donations (continued)

Long-time Caroline Historical Society, Inc., (CHS) Life Member, Carolyn “Cookie” Davis holds a recent donation to our organization. The painting was from an “anonymous” donor. The painting is of the “Old Mansion” home in Bowling Green, just on the southern edge of the town. The “Old Mansion” originally called “The Bowling Green” was built around 1741 and is privately owned. The local artist was Victorine Collins, and the painting is dated 1971. A welcomed addition to our collection of local artifacts and artwork.



Carolyn “Cookie” Davis holding the painting by Victorine Collins

Interesting Facts – Who was Charles Bridges (1672-1747)

Who was Charles Bridges and why was he important in Caroline County, Virginia, history?

Charles Bridges, a painter, was born on April 2, 1672, in Northamptonshire, England, where he was christened in the parish of Barton Seagrave and was the son of John Bridges and Elizabeth Trumbull Bridges. He married Alice Flower on August 4, 1687, at Saint Marylebone, near London. His marriage produced at least three children, a son and two daughters. There is no record of when Mr. Bridges became a painter, but it appears he had formal education or training in art. He arrived in Williamsburg, Virginia, in 1733, as a widower, with all three of his children. With letters of introduction, he met James Blair, Lieutenant Governor William Gooch, and William Byrd II. One of his daughters died in Williamsburg on August 24, 1736. After the death of his daughter, Mr. Bridges moved to Hanover County, Virginia. During his stay in Virginia, Bridges completed a handful of documented portraits (not signed) of prominent Virginia families including *William Gooch, Mrs. Mann Page II and Child, William Prentis, Augustine Moore, Mrs. Augustine Moore and Child, Mann Page II, John Bolling, Jr., William Byrd’s children, and James Blair*. His paintings can be found at Washington and Lee University, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, and the Virginia Historical Society. He became the first documented painter in Virginia from 1735 to 1744. Charles Bridges, although known for his portraits, painted non-portraits, as was the case with other colonial painters. In 1739, the magistrates of Caroline County hired him to paint a mural of the King’s Arms on the interior wall of the first courthouse located in an area between Kidd’s Fork, Ideal, and Shumansville. The county paid Charles Bridges 1,600 pounds of tobacco for his artwork. It is believed this “first” official courthouse was built around 1731-32. Records indicate the Bridges’ painting and the courthouse were damaged during the fire of 1742 which destroyed the jail. Unfortunately, the true fate of the Bridges mural is unknown, a copy or facsimile does not exist. It was several years before additional lands was purchased and the courthouse rebuilt. The courthouse building would go through several more relocations before being constructed around 1830 in Bowling Green. Charles Bridges returned to England in 1744 and died in 1747.

Sources/References: *Colonial Caroline, A History of Caroline County, Virginia* by T. E. Campbell
Internet: *Wikipedia*

Donations

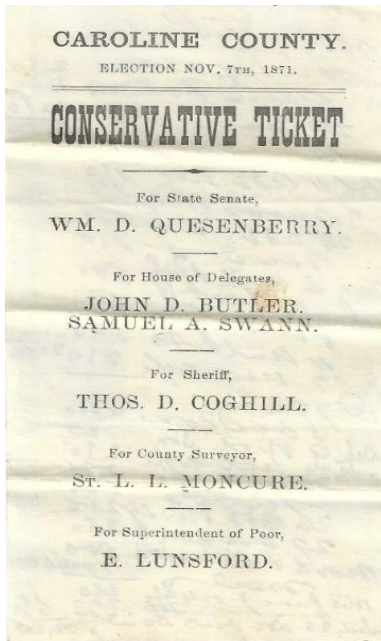
CHS recently received an interesting collection of Caroline County photographs, letters, and documents from early 1800s to 1960s. Below are several pictures, selected from the diverse collection. Thank you, Lloyd (Pete) L. Covington, Jr., for sharing and saving items from your family's past.



*WW I photo of Clyde Carr,
son of Herbert Carr*



Emma and Inez Donahoe

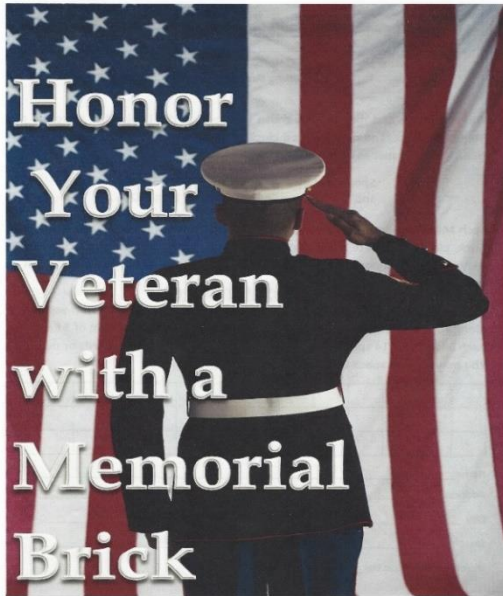


*November 1871 local political flyer
for Conservative candidates*



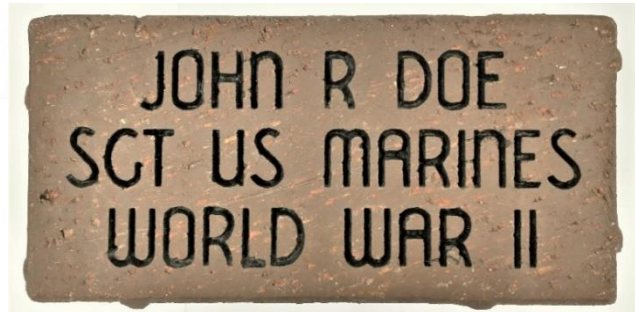
Pendleton School event 1957

Remember Your Veterans



November 11, 2022 (Veteran's Day) is fast approaching and what better way to honor a veteran than buying a brick and having it engraved with his or her name and their service information. Pick up an application at the Caroline Historical Society, Inc., 121 N. Main St., Bowling Green, Virginia, complete and return with payment to have your brick installed around the Veteran's Clock on the Bowling Green Courthouse Lawn. The cost of having a brick engraved and installed is currently \$100. These personalized bricks make an ideal gift to our veterans or to those men and currently serving in the United States Armed Forces. These bricks are also a fitting memorial to those veterans who have served their country and passed away over time. Let them be not forgotten.

Sample brick



New Life Member – Patricia Holt

Donations

Lloyd Covington: local family pictures, letters, & various documents from 1800s & early 1900s

Frances Webb Burch: booklet *A Brief Autobiography of Dr. Charles Shepherd Webb, Jr.* (1932)

Alan Banks Family: monetary donation

Edythe West: monetary donation

Carolyn Williams Robinson: monetary donation

Facebook – Caroline Historical Society, Bowling Green, Virginia.

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

General Contact Information

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

CHS Quarterly Meeting – October 30, 2022.