



# **CAROLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

January 2023

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

Vol. 43, Issue 1

**The Caroline Historical Society, Inc., will meet on Sunday, January 22, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the Caroline Community Services Center located at 17202 Richmond Turnpike, Milford, Virginia 22514**

## **From the President**

Another year has passed, and I must say overall it has been a good year. It is encouraging to have members, friends, and new acquaintances realize the importance of preserving their family photos, documents, books, artifacts, and other memorabilia by donating them to the Caroline Historical Society, Inc. (CHS). We must not allow our national, state, and local history to become lost, forgotten, changed, or erased from history books, memoirs, official records, family photos, or collections. There are some around who tend to say, “I don’t care about history,” or “just toss it in the junk pile.” This happens too often and so many important pieces of family and local history lose their way to the new generation’s way of thinking. The younger generation does not realize or just does not care about preserving our past. I hope CHS’ efforts to preserve and exhibit history convince them otherwise. As a historical preservation organization, we must look forward to our history.

I would like to thank the CHS board members, society members, and especially our volunteers who have dedicated so many hours of their personal time to volunteer at the Sidney E. King Arts Center greeting visitors for CHS and the Sidney E. King Foundation for the Arts. Their dedication to keeping our museum and arts center open has made a positive impact on sustaining our goal to promote and preserve local history. Without their assistance and commitment, we would not be able to open our doors three days a week.

As I have said before, I cannot thank the Caroline County Board of Supervisors enough for their continued support of our efforts to preserve, protect, display, and promote Caroline County’s rich history. We are profoundly grateful for their continuing support, and it is comforting to know they understand the need to keep our local history alive.

## **October 2022 CHS Quarterly Meeting**

For those of our members and friends who were unable to attend the CHS October Meeting (Tour of Fort A. P. Hill historic sites), I must apologize. The response from those desiring to attend was far more than expected and a considerable number had to be turned away due to a maximum limit established. Again, I am sorry. CHS is hopeful the tour of Fort A. P. Hill sites will be offered again next year. Everyone attending thoroughly enjoyed the tour and the hospitality displayed by Lieutenant Colonel Duffy and the Fort A. P. Hill Environmental and Natural Resources Division staff. CHS would welcome the invitation for a return visit to the historic Fort A. P. Hill sites. Thanks to all who made it a successful tour.



*CHS members & friends at Fort A. P. Hill*

## CHS Annual Meeting, January 22, 2023 Main Program



The Caroline County Cemetery Group will give a brief presentation at our January 22, 2023, meeting about their ongoing project, the *Oliver Cemetery*, a forgotten and neglected historic African-American Cemetery located off Route 639 on the property of St. Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church in Ladysmith, Virginia.

The members are a diverse group from the community with a deep commitment to preserve our local history and pass it on to future generations. The speakers will share their research and how they are reaching out to the community for assistance in identifying the individuals buried in *Oliver Cemetery*. Their program will include plans for access through a highly wooded area, details on documentation, restoration, and preservation. They will also discuss the importance of promoting its historic significance through educational means for the benefit of future generations.



Please join us to learn more about the unknown *Oliver Cemetery*, a truly history mystery, and its importance as a piece of Caroline County history. This should be a remarkably interesting and educational presentation.

*Photo of the Oliver Cemetery on the lands of St. Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church off Route 639, Ladysmith, Virginia*

### **Election of Officers and Board Members for 2023 – 2025, CHS January Annual Meeting**

In accordance with the CHS bylaws, election of CHS officers and board members takes place every two years on the “odd” years. Members of the Nominating Committee have put together a list of candidates for the slate of officers and board members and they will be presented at our January 22, 2023, Annual Meeting. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor for all Officers and Board Members at Large at the time of the election meeting in January 2023. To be elected, there must be a majority vote from the membership present for each of the candidates being nominated.

As stated in the CHS bylaws, the OFFICERS of the corporation shall consist of the 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.

## Courthouse Lawn Renovation and Explorations

Brief history of the Caroline County Courthouse: Built between 1830 and 1835, it is a 2-story, 4 bay brick temple type, and is classified as a Jeffersonian Roman Revival style. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service in 1973. The building is still used as a courtroom. Tours of the old courthouse must be scheduled in advance and coordinated through Susan Minarchi, Clerk of Court.

Over the past several months, you may have noticed a great deal of activity going on in front of and around the old Courthouse on Main Street in Bowling Green. The county decided it was time for a “facelift” to the courthouse lawn, trees, and landscaping. County ground crews received numerous compliments on their excellent work maintaining the courthouse lawn. This past summer was difficult due to the lack of rain and the inability to water the grass to the degree needed. With this issue in mind, the county decided to completely restore the grounds by replacing and adding new sidewalks, designing an irrigation system, removing dying, diseased, and



dangerous trees, planting new trees and shrubs, mulching, regrading, and seeding the grounds. This work was recently completed by a combination of contractors hired by the county and county field crews. Additional work will take place in the early spring to include the replacement of the Sidney E. King mural damaged by a summer storm this past year, installation of new historical signage, and reseeding as needed.

### *Caroline County Courthouse lawn during the recent renovations*

Now I have your attention, you are wondering what does this have to do with the Caroline Historical Society, Inc. (CHS)? Well, whenever there is construction going on around a historic building or in an area of historic significance, there is an opportunity for uncovering and saving history. Fortunately for us, we were able to be involved in trying to save artifacts of local interest prior to the completion of the proposed work.



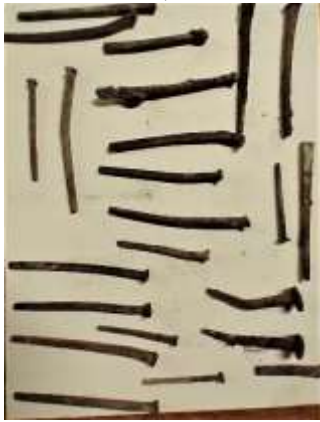
*Various modern coins found in one day*



*Large piece of cast-iron wood stove*



When the initial work started on the courthouse lawn, I asked county staff if the entire lawn area was going to be disturbed and they said “yes.” Here was an opportunity for CHS to explore, uncover, and save pieces of local history. This opportunity would never occur again in our lifetime. On behalf of CHS, I requested permission from the county to relic hunt the disturbed areas on the courthouse lawn with the understanding any items found of historic nature would go to CHS and relic hunting would not take place while contractors or county staff were working. My request was approved by the county along with the understanding a county staff member would be a part of the team. With this agreement, the exploration and search began on November 4, 2022.



*Vintage cut nails*



*Large U.S. one-cent piece*



*Various artifacts found*

The cultural resources exploration team of David Sadler (county staff) and myself spent hours, after the workers left for the day, locating, scratching, digging, and uncovering various artifacts. We had a small window to conduct our search and we had to make the best of it by going after hours or on weekends when work was temporarily shut down. It was a worthwhile endeavor and items from our local history were located and cataloged for our collection.



*David Sadler holds a piece of a wagon spring found during hunt*



*CHS member, Kerri Holland records location of items found on the lawn*

Artifacts located in the disturbed areas included modern coins (quarters, dimes, nickels, and pennies), a large quantity of cut nails, pieces of broken China, one complete vintage bottle (see photo), pieces of cast-iron parlor stove (dated 1873), two Civil War carbine bullets (see photo), large one-cent piece (made between 1793-1857) date not visible, various pieces of unidentifiable



cast iron, a clay marble, piece of a harmonica, vintage metal door plate, large metal button early 1800s or late 1700s, token from a public transportation company in Philadelphia, PA, piece of a main spring from a wagon, part of a horse shoe, and many modern “pop” tops along with a few not old soft drink cans. Enormous quantities of broken bricks were found in several spots. The brick pieces need further research as to age and why they were under the ground. Bricks were uncovered in an area in front of the old jail, along with numerous cut nails and pieces of a cast-iron wood stove. The ground, nails, bricks, and the pieces of the wood stove appeared to have been burned. Not sure if this was the site of the jail in the late 1800s. A remarkably interesting



assortment of artifacts overall. Some items provide a little more history about the courthouse area and others offer more questions. CHS appreciates the county allowing us to try and save artifacts that may have never been recovered. All items located during the cultural resource’s exploration will be retained by the Caroline Historical Society, Inc., for further study and cataloging,

***R. Wayne Brooks, President  
wbrooks@bealenet.com***

## **Twelve Years of Public Education in Caroline**

In 1947, Caroline County started a plan to increase the number of years of public education from 11 to 12 years. Children coming from the 7th grade at Sparta, Edmund Pendleton, and Lee Maury Grade Schools were in a new 8th grade class at Caroline High School with a new curriculum. Students who had been in the Freshman class moved on to the Sophomore class and there was no one in the Freshman class spaces and only a few students (students who failed or new students moving into Caroline) graduated in 1951. The first class of 38 students who attended public school for a total of 12 years after starting the 8th grade in 1947, graduated from Caroline High School in 1952.

Union High School and C. T. Smith High School followed a like plan to increase classes to 12 years. Now, with Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten, some attend public schools for 14 years or more.

Eight of the 38 Caroline High School students who graduated in 1952 are still living: Larry Russell Motor, Franklin Delano Pickett, Mary Scott Broaddus (Haley), Winifred Elizabeth Burrus, Terolise Campbell (Phend), Eleanor White Gouldin (Lam), Lois Blanche Seal (Taylor) and Elizabeth Anne Upshaw (Wright).

***Bernard Collins, December 2022***

## Agriculture and Shop Classes of Caroline High School in 1949

There were 34 students who were enrolled in the agriculture and shop class.



**Front Row L to R:** 1 thru 4, Russel Schools, Wayne Beazley, Peter Swain, Wesley Satterwhite, 5-?, 6 Lewis “Mickey” Chenault, 7 David Wright, 8-?, 9-?, 10 Luther Wright, 11-?, 12-?, 13-?, 14 Gene Selph, 15 Casey Jones.

**Top row L to R.** 16 Charles Mitchell, 17-?, **John Q. Peers, Agriculture and Shop Teacher**, 18-?, 19 Franklin Collawn, 20 Al McIntire, 21-?, 22 Hampton Dishman, 23-?, 24-?, 25 Bob Allen Kay, 26 Richard Alvis, 27 Franklin Pickett, 28-?, 29-?, 30 Eddie Lee Pickett, 31 George Cecil, 32 Bernard Collins, 33-?, 34-?.

Bernard Collins and four other members of the Caroline High Class of 1952 contributed to providing names of the individuals in the above photograph. Can you name the unknowns?

*Bernard Collins, December 2022*

### Reminder - Annual Dues

If you have an Individual Membership (\$15.00 a year) or Family Membership (\$20.00) your annual dues must be paid in January of each year. Dues may be paid by check and mailed to:

**Caroline Historical Society, Inc.**  
**P. O. Box 324**  
**Bowling Green, Virginia 22427**