



CAROLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

January 2024

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, January 28, 2024, in the Caroline Community Services Center, 17202 Richmond Turnpike, Milford, VA

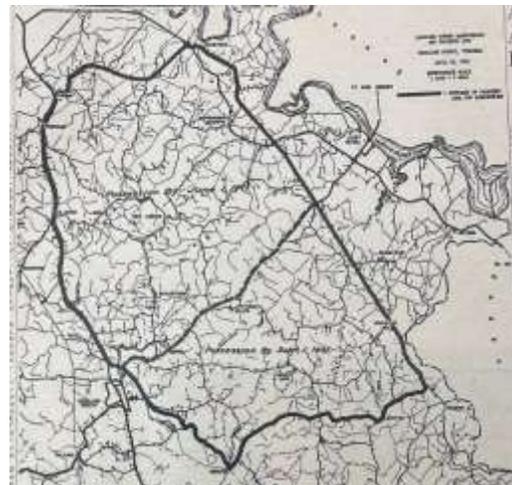
The Establishment of Fort A.P. Hill and Its Effects on a Small Community

Hello everyone, my name is Jacob Martin and I'm a History Major at the University of Mary Washington. Throughout this past semester at school, I have been working on and completing my Senior Thesis. For the focus of my thesis, I wanted to cover something that was close to home and had affected my family as well as many others in the county. So, for my thesis, I decided to cover the establishment of the A.P. Hill Military Reservation, which is now known as Fort Mary Walker, and how its development affected residents in the area. My paper discussed how life was affected for a community located within Caroline County following the Great Depression and leading up to the United States' involvement in World War 2.

Throughout the vast history of Caroline County, many events have changed and shaped the way of life for residents. Caroline has seen the devastation of several wars, fires, and development, as well as many other struggles and obstacles. One big change was when the A.P. Hill Military Reservation was established. The government would purchase between 70,000 to about 77,000 acres of what was considered some of Caroline's most fertile and important land. This area was made up of several little towns and communities, in which residents had a strong focus on church, family, community, and education. Families who lived in this area had been here for generations and in some cases had received their original land grant from the king or were able to purchase or acquire land from their former slaveholder



Jack Delano photograph of pre-fabricated Housing



Proposed Boundary

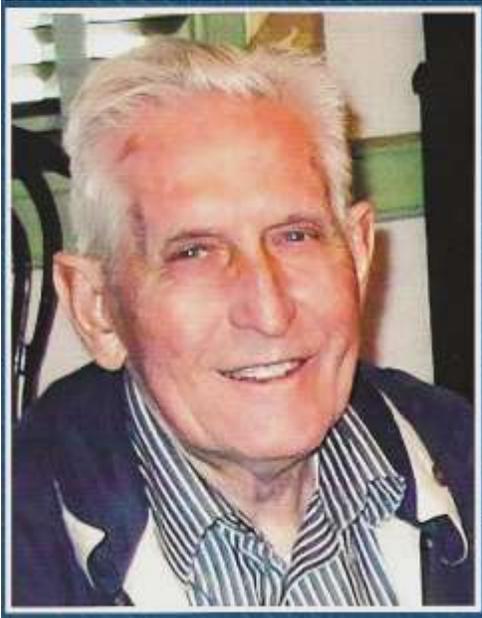
following the end of the Civil War. While I talked about a majority of families within the area, my paper's main focus was on how the establishment of the Fort established and enforced more racial and segregation boundaries that this community had never seen before the government stepped in. If you would like to hear about some of what happened during this time in Caroline's history, please come out to the Historical Society's quarterly meeting in January. I will be presenting some of my findings and research about what went on and happened during this very traumatic time.

Charter Member of the Caroline Historical Society Herbert Ridgeway Collins

Loss of Beloved CHS Member, Herbert Ridgeway Collins

It is with overwhelming sadness to report that Herbert Ridgeway Collins, age 91, and founding member of the Caroline Historical Society, Inc., passed away quietly at his home in Caroline County, Virginia, on October 21, 2023.

Herb was born August 29, 1932, at his ancestral home, "Green Falls," in Caroline County. He



Herbert Ridgeway Collins

was the son of the late William Joseph Collins II and Dorothy Joseph Collins. His brother, William Joseph Collins III, preceded Herb in his death. After his graduation from high school in 1949, Herb continued his education at the Richmond Professional Institute (R.P.I.), now Virginia Commonwealth University (V.C.U.), in Richmond, Virginia. Following college, Herb entered the United States Army and spent his military career stationed in Washington, D.C., working at the Pentagon.

***High School
Graduation 1949***



Following his honorable discharge from the U.S. Army, in the 1950s, Herb was employed by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. He continued his professional career at the Smithsonian for over 30 years, retiring in 1991 as Curator Emeritus, Smithsonian Institution. One of his greatest accomplishments, while at the Smithsonian, was the establishment of the National



Postal Museum.

Herb possessed a keen interest in the preservation of history, especially pertaining to Caroline County, Virginia. Through Herb's efforts, his 1700s home, "Green Falls," was approved to be on the National Register of Historic Places.

Herb was one of the founding members of the Caroline Historical Society, Inc., when established in 1968. As a board member, he was contributory to the society's growth and success over the years.

Herb Collins, U.S. Army 1950s

Herb was also instrumental in the establishment of Historic Port Royal, Inc. (HPR) and through his generous donations HPR has become a highly respected museum of American and local history. Herb held membership in at least five other historic preservation organizations in our area. He received honors from the Virginia Genealogical Society for his assistance in establishing their organization and contributing to their overall success.

No one can deny his dedication to preserving history as indicated by the hundreds of hours spent researching properties, official records, bibles, pictures, and personal interviews to author over twenty books. A partial list of his books is listed below:

1. *Presidents on Wheels*
2. *Bible Records of Caroline County, Virginia*
3. *Wills of the U.S. Presidents*
4. *Threads of History – Americana Recorded on cloth 1775 to the Present*
5. *History and Genealogy of the Collins Family, Caroline County, Virginia*
6. *Cemeteries of Caroline County, Virginia – Volumes 1, 2, 3*
7. *Country Crossroads*

Through his contributions, Herb has demonstrated his desire to promote and preserve our history thus benefiting the overall welfare and education of our residents, historical societies,



churches, civic organizations, individuals, the Caroline Library, and our local government. One example of his generosity involved the transfer of ownership of Herb's personal book collection to the Caroline Library. This fantastic collection contained hundreds of reference books on Virginia and local history. Herb's contributions are priceless to our community, and he will never be fully appreciated. Herb has left a legacy future generation will not be able to match.

Herb Collins with a portion of the White House China Collection donated to Historic Port Royal, Inc.

This article is but a small tribute to one who deserves so much more for his dedicated service to our community, state, and country. A truly remarkable individual who wanted our past kept alive for the future.

Rest in peace my friend, we are eternally grateful for your generosity, kindness, and knowledge.

R. Wayne Brooks, CHS Board Member

Highlights from the October 2023 CHS Meeting

At the October meeting of the Caroline Historical Society, Ray Campbell presented a PowerPoint demonstration entitled “The Beginnings of Bowling Green.” The program was delivered over the course of about an hour. After researching this topic, Ray revealed new insights into the Hoomes family of Caroline County and how their holdings throughout the county related to the founding and growth of the town of Bowling Green. He also delivered information about the first entrepreneurs who began the development of the town. The show was comprised of over one hundred pictures and illustrations.



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Unfortunately, time did not allow for a complete and thorough search of every lot in Bowling Green, however, the program was a beginning into new insights about our town.





Caroline History Quiz

The October Quiz confirmed John Taylor is the only U.S. Senator from Caroline, John Penn from Caroline signed the Declaration of Independence, and Edmund Pendleton was the first Chief Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court.

Three new questions follow:

1. Who was granted an 11,760-acre land grant which became Newmarket Plantation?
2. Who was in command at Fort McHenry in Baltimore during the War of 1812 when the “Star Spangled Banner” (American National Anthem) was written while British ships bombarded the fort?
3. Who wrote and published “Colonial Caroline, a History of Caroline County Virginia”?

Answers

1. John Baylor III received a land grant in 1726 which joined the large land holdings of Edmund Pendleton near the first court house and jail in Caroline. Baylor attended Cambridge in England near the Newmarket horse race center and named his property Newmarket. Baylor owned top racehorses. The property stayed in the family for years. Robert E.B. Baylor was a judge in Texas and founded Baylor University in Texas.

2. Lt. Colonel George Armistead, the grandson of John Baylor III was born at Newmarket. Armistead joined the Army in 1799 and distinguished himself during the Siege of Fort Niagara. When Major Armistead was in command of Fort McHenry, the war was not going well for the U.S. The British invaded Washington and torched the White House and President Madison fled. Many places surrendered to avoid destruction. On September 13, 1814, the British fleet bombarded Fort McHenry with some 2,000 mortar shells through the night and the U.S. flag was still flying in the morning and the British were turned back. The National Anthem was written by Francis Scott Key. Armistead was later promoted to Lt. Colonel. A historical roadside marker on Lt. Colonel George Armistead on US 301 at Newmarket was dedicated by the Caroline Historical Society on November 2, 2014.

4. Elliott Campbell wrote and published “Colonial Caroline, a History of Caroline County Virginia” in 1954. This 561-page book is the main source of Caroline history before the Revolutionary War. Many records were destroyed during the Civil War, so the court Order Books were a major historical source. Thomas Elliott Campbell attended the University of Richmond and obtained his Law Degree from the University of Virginia. He worked in New York and Boston. He Served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1933 until 1942. He served in the Army in Alaska in World War Two. He worked in the Courts in Korea in 1946 and 1947. He had a Law office and drive-in theater in Milford. He served two terms as Clerk of the Caroline Circuit Court and died in office in 1964.

More details may be found in “Caroline History, Virginia History, Facts and More” by Bernard Collins, Historian, Caroline Historical Society.

Upcoming anniversaries in 2024

6 June 1944 - 80th anniversary of D-Day

The largest invasion fleet in the history of warfare landed on five beachheads in Normandy, France. Known as Operation Overlord, Allied forces hoped to liberate Western Europe from Nazi control. The invasion was a success and Hitler's forces were defeated within a year.

July 1914 - 100th anniversary of the start of WWI

The first of two World Wars witnessed during the 20th century, the Great War changed the nature of warfare and reshaped the geopolitical landscape forever.

1 September 1939 - 85th anniversary of the start of WWII

Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany triggered the Second World War when his forces invaded neighboring Poland. Two days later, Britain and France declared war on Germany. The largest and bloodiest conflict in human history lasted six years.



How to pay your dues, make a purchase, or make a donation to the Caroline Historical Society utilizing your PayPal account

From your **PayPal account** here's how to send money:

1. Click [Send & Request](#) at the top of the page
2. Enter e-mail address (carolinehistoricalsociety@gmail.com) and click **Next**.
3. Enter the amount, choose the currency, add a note if you paying dues, making a purchase, or making a donation and click **Continue**.
4. Select "**Sending to a friend.**" (**This allows us to receive the total due without fees taking out it**)
5. Select how you want to pay and click **Next**.
6. Review the information and click **Send Payment Now**.

Membership Dues Reminder for 2024

If you have not paid your 2024 dues, please forward payment to:

Caroline Historical Society

P.O. Box 324

Bowling Green, VA 22427-0324

Individual membership – \$15.00 per year

Family membership – \$20.00 per year

Life membership – \$200 for life

General Contact Information

Kathy McVay, President – cell phone (804) 366-1848

E-mail: carolinehistoricalsociety@gmail.com

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

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