



# **CAROLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

October 2023

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

Vol. 43, Issue 4

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

## **October 22, 2023, Quarterly Membership Meeting**

Guest speaker for the CHS October Quarterly Meeting will be former Caroline County Clerk of the Court Ray C. Campbell. In Mr. Campbell's presentation he will discuss creation of the Town of Bowling Green through the partitioning or division of the Hoomes family properties which originally consisted of a 3,000-acre land grant. Learn more about the land, family, the Old Mansion, and selection of the courthouse site. This "fresh" perspective will provide additional information on the town's early beginnings and the family who set things in motion for its development. Join us for an informative program by an individual who I consider an expert in this type of historical research.

Ray C. Campbell, often called "Ray C.," is a noted author, long-time resident of Caroline County, a Life Member and former president of the Caroline Historical Society, Inc. A familiar face to



many in and around Caroline County, Ray was born in Richmond, Virginia. His family moved to Caroline County in 1950. During these younger years, Ray developed a keen interest in local history by listening to stories told by his grandmother, father, and his uncles, T. E. Campbell and Robert C. Doswell. This knowledge and the desire to learn more about local history encouraged him to pursue a career in helping to preserve historical documents of our county.

***Ray C. Campbell***

Ray attended Caroline County public schools until 1965, after which he transferred to Christ Church School where he graduated in 1967. He continued his formal education at Hampton Sidney College, graduating in 1971. His interest in history followed him in his professional career. Fortunately for Caroline County, he was elected as the Caroline County Clerk of the Court, serving in that capacity for 24 years. During his tenure, Ray modernized the office equipment and record keeping while obtaining special grants for the preservation of records. Following his retirement in 2015, Ray continued researching, assisting, and encouraging his wife, Kimberly Curtis Campbell, the author of many books on the families and history of Caroline County. Ray has published several books on Caroline, including "A Constructed Census of Caroline in Colonial Times," Volumes One through Seventeen of the Caroline County Land Books. "Ray C." is a valuable member of our organization and we are honored to have him as our guest speaker for the meeting.

## Town of Bowling Green – Now and Then – Program for October 22, 2023



### Caroline History Quiz

Can you name the men from Caroline County, Virginia, who:

1. Served as a U.S. Senator representing Virginia?
2. Signed the Declaration of Independence?
3. Served as the Chief Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court?

Find the answers to the quiz in this Newsletter.

*Lee Maury High School class in the 1920s – Do you recognize anyone?  
Formerly located in Bowling Green on northeast corner of Milford Street and Anderson  
Avenue. Donated by Mrs. Frances Webb Burch (Life Member)*



*Photo left, taken in the USO building,  
now Town Hall, in 1949 or 1950, at a  
formal dance.*

*Front row left to right.:  
Jane Chapman, Betty Scott Borkey,  
Roger Gray (uniform), Joan Elliot,  
Walter Franklin Borkey.*

*2<sup>nd</sup> row:  
Dick Moncure, Gill Garrett,  
Frances Webb Burch (elbow on table)*

*In the back: John Dudley Hudson,  
and Tommy Daughtery.*

*Photo donated by Mrs. Frances Webb Burch*

## Need your Help – Can You Identify the Mystery Lady in the Photo?

The young gentleman in the picture to the right was a well-known local resident, Gordon Elwood Smithers. A family member of Gordon's found this vintage photograph of Gordon with an attractive young lady. The family is trying to find out if she was a relative or a high school sweetheart. The picture appears to have been taken during high school years, possibly in the early 1940s. Gordon, born 1925 in Mayo, Maryland, was raised on a dairy farm just outside of Bowling Green, Va. He attended Caroline schools before serving in the U.S. Army's 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne during WW II. Returning home after the war, Gordon married Daisy Lee Pitts of Caroline County, Va., in February 1947. The lady in the photo is NOT his wife, Daisy Lee Pitts. Sadly, Gordon passed away in 2012.



*Gordon E. Smithers &?*

If anyone has an idea of who this young lady might be, please contact the Caroline Historical Society, Inc, and help solve this "history mystery."

Contact Information: e-mail [carolinehistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:carolinehistoricalsociety@gmail.com) or call (804) 366-1848

## July 23, 2023, Joint Meeting with Historic Port Royal, Inc., Big Success

On July 23, 2023, members of the Historic Port Royal, Inc., provided an excellent program on their collection of original White House china from various U.S. presidents. A large crowd enjoyed the presentation and the delicious cake!



## Caroline History Quiz - Answers

1. John Taylor from Caroline served Virginia as a United States Senator.
2. John Penn, after moving from Caroline to North Carolina, was one of the three delegates from North Carolina signing the Declaration of Independence.
3. Edmund Pendleton served as the first Chief Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court. He died October 26, 1803, at age 82 in Richmond after his last court case concerning the church glebes.

Edmund Pendleton was probably the most prominent and influential person in Caroline County history. He was born on September 9, 1721, shortly after his father's death. His mother was left to raise seven children. Included below is a sketch of his achievements.

He was an apprentice of the Clerk of the Caroline Court at age 14 and became familiar with the law. He passed the exam in Williamsburg at age 20 in 1741 and was authorized to practice law. He served as a lawyer and judge in Caroline, Essex, Williamsburg, and Richmond.

He increased his land holdings trying to gain back land his grandfather, James Taylor, owned. He accumulated six square miles with land from Kidds Fork Road extending on both sides of File Road and Pendleton Road past the Sparta Fire Station including Lake Holly. His home, Edmundsbury, was located on File Road. The old Taylor cemetery is located by Sparta Road. His water-wheeled grist mill was located at Collins Mill Pond and he often rode by the mill on his horse going to the first Caroline courthouse nearby.

John Taylor and John Penn were kin to Pendleton. When these two young men lost their fathers, Pendleton took them in at Edmundsbury to help them complete their education.

In 1752, Edmund Pendleton was elected as one of two members from Caroline to serve in the House of Burgesses in Williamsburg. The King of England appointed the Governor of Virginia during this period. Pendleton was elected each term and four others, including John Baylor (New Market), served with him until the House was closed in 1776 (Revolutionary War).

Pendleton served on the Committee of Correspondence sending letters to other Colonies on joint efforts to gain tax relief from England. In 1774, Pendleton traveled by horseback for four days with George Washington, Patrick Henry, and four others to Philadelphia to the first Congress leading to the Declaration of Independence. In 1775, Pendleton was at St. John's Church in Richmond when Patrick Henry (to become first Governor of Virginia) gave his "give me liberty or give me death" speech.

Edmund Pendleton led the Virginia Committee of Safety to gather men, arms, uniforms, ammunition, rations, and salt for Virginia forces during the Revolutionary War.

Edmund Pendleton, Thomas Jefferson, and George Wythe reviewed English common law, statutes, and rules and laws adopted by the Virginia House of Burgesses and formulated the new laws and civil codes to be used in Virginia.

In 1777, Edmund Pendleton fell from his horse and dislocated his hip. He used crutches for the rest of his life and traveled by horse-drawn carriage. In 1779, the Court of Appeals (Virginia Supreme Court) was established, and Pendleton was named president (Chief Justice), a post he would occupy for 24 years until his death 1803.

Pendleton was buried at his home, Edmundsbury, and later in 1909 moved to Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg to recognize his great service to Virginia. His home, Edmundsbury, burned in 1931. Several homes built on his lands are still in use. A Virginia Historical Roadside Marker in memory of Edmund Pendleton is located on the east side of the U.S. 301 north bound lane near the Sparta Road (Route 721) intersection.

**More complete accounts on John Taylor, John Penn, and Edmund Pendleton can be found in “Caroline County, Virginia, History, Facts, and More” by Bernard Collins.**

*Bernard Collins, Historian, Caroline Historical Society, Inc.*

*Old Store on Riva Ridge Drive west side of Route 301 in the southern part of Caroline County, Va. Does anyone have information on the former owners and when it was in operation as a store or post office?*



*The office of Dr. Thomas L. Scott was located next to his home, called “Greenwood”, Caroline County, Va., near Bagby. Dr. Scott practiced medicine at this location in the 1840s and 1850s.*

*Photo taken in the 1920s.*

### **General Contact Information**

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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

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### **Upcoming Events:**

Annual Bowling Green Harvest Festival – October 21, 2023 – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Location:** Town of Bowling Green, VA 22427

October Quarterly Membership Meeting – October 22, 2023 - 3 p.m.

**Location:** Caroline Community Services Center, 17202 Richmond Turnpike, Milford, Va. 22514