



NEWS AND NOTES

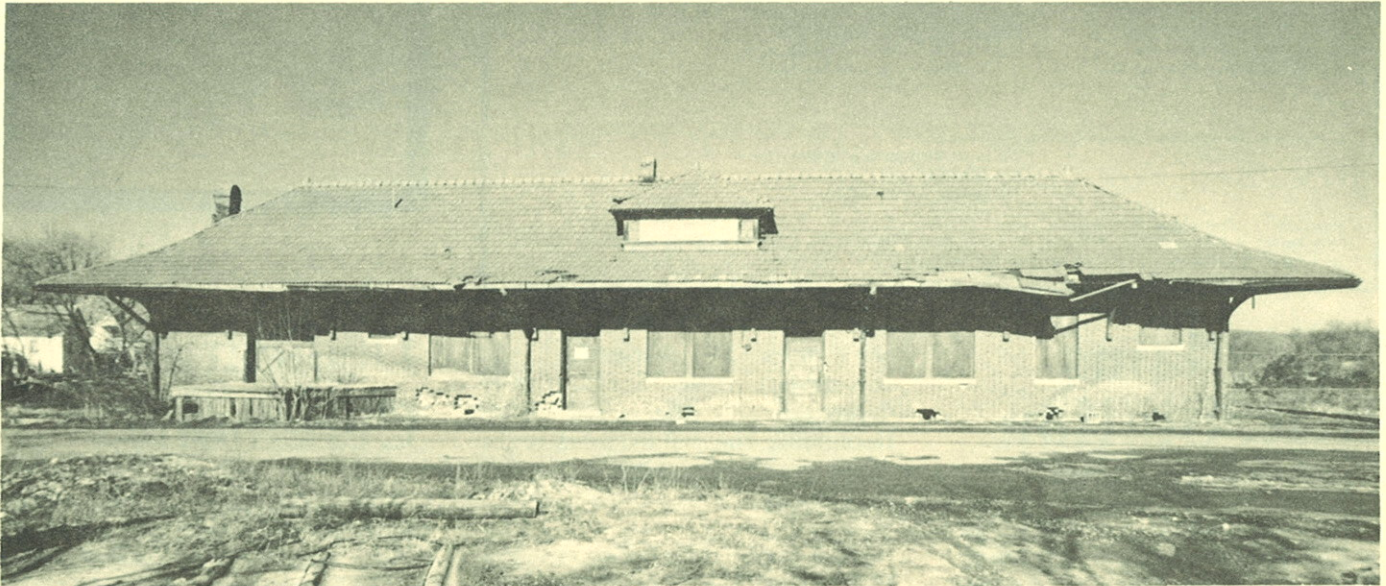
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The Fauquier Historical Society

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WARRENTON, VIRGINIA

Fall 1980



—Photo by M. H. Skeans

Southern Railway Depot at The Plains

Effort Underway To Save Historic Depot

Ordered built in 1914 by noted historian and then Southern Railway president Fairfax Harrison, the fate of the train line's abandoned passenger depot at The Plains now rests with other historians.

Architectural historians with the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission are studying the depot to determine whether it should be included on the state, and possible the national, register of historic structures.

Less than two years ago, however, the depot seemed doomed to destruction.

Southern Railway for several years had sought a buyer of the large brick depot with its ornate tile roof. Several parties in The Plains entertained the thought of buying and renovating the depot, but negotiations with the railway

never could be worked out to everyone's satisfaction.

The railway officials wanted the depot removed from its location of more than 60 years. But the potential buyers wanted to use it at its present site. As an alternative, the railway officials said, the depot could remain, but only if certain restrictions were agreed to by the buyer. None of the buyers felt they could afford to comply with Southern's request.

Then, in January 1979, ownership of the depot fell to Louis P. Lohr of Front Royal, a Southern employee. Lohr was given the depot on the condition that he remove it within 60 days.

Lohr planned to raze the depot, salvaging materials for sale. But soon after he began dismantling the building's roof, a small group of men, headed by R. deTreville

Lawrence, Charles T. Matheson and others, decided to save the depot. It was, they felt, a significant part of The Plains' history that should not be lost.

So they negotiated with Lohr and purchased his rights to the depot for \$3,000. Then the real work began for the small Save The RR Station Inc. committee.

Members of the group had to retrieve from Lohr the roofing tiles he had removed from the depot. They also had to find philanthropists willing to donate money or materials toward restoration of the passenger station.

Saved from the wrecking ball, the depot, without its roof intact, faced another enemy—the weather.

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The Fauquier Historical Society, Inc. is a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Dues and contributions are tax deductible.

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Dues are as follows:

Individual or Family Membership	\$10.00 per year
Contributing Membership	\$15.00 per year
Sustaining Membership	\$25.00 and over per year
Business Membership	\$25.00 per year
Student Membership	\$ 3.00 per year

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The Plains R.R. Station

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Lohr agreed, as a condition of sale, to return the roofing tiles to The Plains depot. The new owners, having achieved a non-profit, non-taxable status, began raising money to restore the building. So far they have raised more than \$1,500, but an estimated \$3,500 more is needed.

Whether the depot is deemed an historic landmark by the landmarks commission is crucial to the Save the RR Station efforts. If the state commissioners approve the depot for an historic landmark designation, the Save the RR Station members can apply for a grant, awarded on a 50-50 matching basis, to defray restoration expenses.

Chances are good that the depot will be included on the state landmarks register. Architectural historian Richard C. Cote, an employee of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, inspected the depot in August. Railroad depots like the one in The Plains are "rare, almost like fossils," he said. "The commission is favorable to including depots on the register, especially in Virginia," he said. "There just aren't that many around. Many of

the ones in Virginia, and throughout the South, were destroyed in the Civil War. Rebuilding the rail systems really didn't get started until the turn of the century."

During his initial visit to The Plains, Cote said it was crucial for the depot's roof to be restored before winter. Unprotected from the elements, the building might not last another year, he said.

Even if the depot does not qualify as an historic landmark, Lawrence and Matheson still hope to restore the station to its former importance to The Plains. It would take more money from private pockets, however, to fulfill their dreams.

Plans are not definite for future use of the depot, but Lawrence has said he would like to see it house professional offices and a museum. Public offices for officials of the town also might be located in the depot.

Contributions to the depot restoration effort can be mailed to Save The RR Station Inc., P. O. Box P, The Plains, Virginia 22171. All donations are tax-deductable.

- David Lyne

In Memory of

M. Louise Evans

William N. Hodgkin

Joseph A. Jeffries

Charles E. Jeffries

Whose interest and effort in collecting, organizing and publishing records from generations past have left a rich heritage for the citizens of Warrenton and Fauquier County.

Dedication Ceremony

On Sunday afternoon, September 28, over 60 members and guests attended the dedication of the bronze plaque honoring four local historians and the display case presented in memory of Daniel P. Wood.

Among the out-of-town guests were Mrs. Helen Jeffries Klitch of San Antonio, Texas, daughter of Charles Jeffries, Mrs. Camilla Jeffries Patton of Lynchburg, Virginia, granddaughter of Joseph Jeffries and Dr. Raymond K. Brown of New York City, a cousin to Miss Louise Evans.

Mr. Jennings Flathers introduced historian John Gott of Arlington. In his delightful talk Mr. Gott called himself a disciple of the historians who were being honored and stated that they "have made our community a better and more exciting place to live".

The plaque was presented to the Society by Mrs. Klitch and was unveiled by Mr. William Parkinson, former Sheriff S. S. Hall and Mr. Charles Madison, assisted by president Dr. Robert Anderson.

After the ceremony the guests were served refreshments and invited to tour the Old Gaol Museum.

Profiles

M. LOUISE EVANS. 1887-1966. Born in North Carolina, Louise Evans moved to Warrenton with her family in 1904.

While working for John B. Grayson as bookkeeper and doing a little newspaper work for him, she heard that Thomas E. Frank had started a local paper, The Fauquier Democrat. She approached Mr. Frank for a job and, at the age of 18, when few girls of her station had jobs, she was hired to write personals at a salary of \$1.50 per month. That was when she, in her own words, "first got her fingers in the Democrat ink, and her heart and interest in the paper." Thus began an association of several decades which has given Warrenton and Fauquier a wealth of historical and human interest writings.

At various times, in these years, she continued in her accounting interests and at one time established an office of public stenographer. But her greatest interest was the newspaper. At first she wrote only the personal items but, by 1915, when Mr. Frank was busy elsewhere, she had become local editor and business manager, a post she held for several years. Later, although she held other jobs, she continued to write for the Democrat and at times was its major contributor.

At one time she was the Warrenton correspondent for the Associated Press and several metropolitan papers, covering area sporting, social and general news.

In 1948, under the byline "The Old Timer," Miss Louise began the first of a series of articles of reminiscences about the town, county and the people who lived here. Her bright intellect, sense of humor and her youthfulness of spirit gave her writings a spontaneity which resulted in a lasting freshness and charm.

DR. WILLIAM N. HODGKIN. 1890-1961. Despite the demands of a busy and dedicated professional career, Dr. Hodgkin was always active in the civic life of Warrenton and Fauquier County.

In World War I he was a member of the Fauquier Medical Examining Board and, in World War II, a member of the dental advisory committee to the national Selective Service Headquarters.

Dr. Bill, as he was known to his friends and patients, was the third generation of his family to practice dentistry in Warrenton. A charming, affable man, he always had a warm and pleasant smile for everyone he met. From 1921, when he was named treasurer of the Virginia State Dental Association, he became increasingly prominent in state and national dental circles, representing the American Dental Association at international meetings.

He was a member of the Town Council for 22 years, a member of the Fauquier Board of Zoning Appeals and a member and past president of the Warrenton Rotary Club. Deeply interested in history, he served as chairman of the Fauquier Bicentennial Committee and played a leading role in compiling and editing "Fauquier County, Virginia 1759-1959," published for the bicentennial in 1959.

It had been Dr. Hodgkin's intention to write a history of dentistry in Virginia but he died before this could be accomplished. He left such a wealth of historical writings and information that these notes became the source for the treatise "100 Years of Dentistry in Virginia," published by the Virginia Dental Association. The volume was dedicated to Dr. Hodgkin and remains as a lasting memorial to his life of dental accomplishment.

JOSEPH A. JEFFRIES. 1840-1919. Joseph Jeffries was born on Belleair Farm within a mile of Warrenton on December 30, 1840. At thirteen he entered Dr. Stephens' Drug Store where, as an apprentice, he had to master botany. He was required to make trips in the spring and fall into the fields and woods to gather roots,

bulbs and barks. He then dried and cured them; some were sold in bulk for home brewing and some were ground in an iron mortar for making tinctures and decoctions.

He joined the Warrenton Rifles at the outbreak of the Civil War and went to the front under Captain Marr of Warrenton, the first officer to be killed in the Confederate Army. During this period he took an examination in pharmacy before the Confederate States Board and was sent to Danville, where he was put in charge of the medical supplies of the State of Virginia. He served for the duration of the war and rose to the rank of First Lieutenant in the reserves.

In 1865, upon his return to Warrenton, he rejoined his former employer in a full partnership. In 1876, he purchased the building and business. This resulted in the establishment of Jeffries Drug Store which was carried on by three generations of the family until 1948.

A self-made man, Joseph Jeffries had a great thirst for knowledge and was one of the best informed men in the County. He was identified with every effort for the business and moral improvement of the community. A high integrity marked his actions and on matters of right he was outspoken almost to the point of bluntness.

In his "Fauquier County's Hall of Fame" he gave the names and main events in the lives of over one hundred illustrious citizens of the County. His historical sketches, written with accuracy in a compelling style, have preserved a great deal of the valuable data on the history of Fauquier which otherwise would have been lost.

CHARLES E. JEFFRIES. 1882-1961. Mr. Charlie, as he was affectionately called by his many friends, was a lover of children and young people, a kind gentleman of the old school who was known for his humor and generosity to those in need—a true Southern gentleman with a multitude of friends.

The youngest child of the six children of Joseph Jeffries, he was born in the former Jeffries Drug

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Profiles

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Store, now the Fauquier Pharmacy, on Main Street.

He attended Bethel Military Academy and studied engineering at the University of Virginia. Following graduation he worked as an engineer, building railroads in West Virginia and Alabama, returning to Warrenton to help his father in the drug store. As pharmacists were not required to have a license at that time, he learned pharmacy from his father.

He was athletic and played football on town teams. At one period, he belonged to the Warrenton Rifles during the conflict on the Mexican border. He was instrumental in organizing the first Warrenton Volunteer Fire Department and served as one of its first chiefs. As a member of the Town Council for many years, he strove to improve his town. During and after World War II he served on the Fauquier Selective Service Board and was a member of the Fauquier County Bicentennial Committee.

Mr. Jeffries sold the drug business in 1948, and though he retained the building it was sold after his death, leaving the Jeffries' hands after three generations of ownership. After his retirement he devoted his full time to the pursuit of his hobby—Warrenton and Fauquier history—becoming an authority on the subject.

Mr. Charlie left a valuable legacy of old pictures, papers, articles of history and reminiscences which he authored and many publications relating to the town and county which he loved.

DANIEL P. WOOD, 1893-1976. A Warrenton businessman and civic leader for more than half a century, Dan Wood devoted his life to his town and county. He went to high school in the frame building on Academy Hill (High Street) and studied at Georgia Tech for a year.

In 1914 he joined his father in the operation of D. P. Wood & Co., a hardware and lumber business at

the corner of Lee Street and what is now Third Street. He served with the Warrenton Rifles on the Mexican border in 1915-1916. In 1917 he enlisted in the Medical Department of the U.S. Army and went to France in July of that year. He transferred to the Field Artillery in 1918 and was commissioned a second lieutenant, returning to Warrenton in 1919.

He served his community in many ways, endearing himself to the townspeople by his integrity and gracious, gentle manner. He was a member of the Warrenton Baptist Church where he was Sunday School superintendent for many years.

He was a member of the Town Council for 21 years, a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals, a former president of the Chamber of Commerce, a past president of Rotary and a director of the Association for Greater Warrenton, the forerunner of the local Chamber of Commerce.

In 1963 he sold out the stock of his hardware and locked the door. The building remained vacant until recently when it was renovated into offices and shops.

Mr. Wood loved to fish and "went fishing every chance he got," a neighbor said. He had a dry wit and a sense of humor of the ridiculous which was exemplified by his frequent competition in the Rotary Club's "liar's contest" which he won in 1974.

—Isabelle Palmer

Reader's Corner

The Fauquier County Public Library has available for the public some of the writings of the beloved Fauquier Countian, M. Louise Evans.

Miss Evans, who began working for The Fauquier Democrat in 1905, wrote a column in later years entitled "The Old Timer." In 1955 several of these columns were combined to form a delightful book "An Old Timer in Warrenton and Fauquier County, Virginia." As noted by the editor of the book, Charles F. Knox, Jr., about his selection of columns for the collection, he chose those "which would give the reader the full benefit of the Old Timer's wide range of historical interest, her delightful style, and the charm of those personal reminiscences which carry a nostalgic note."

The library has one copy of this book which can be checked out; another copy is kept non-circulating so it is always available to be enjoyed at the library.

The Fauquier Library is also privileged to have Miss Evans' personal clippings of all of her writings in scrapbook form. They may be used by the public in the library's Virginiana Room with permission from the Virginiana Librarian, Ava Lee. The first two of this four volume collection have been indexed to make them more useful for research. —Ava Lee



—Photo by Jennings Flathers

Mrs. Roberta Hodgkin Casteen, Mrs. Camilla Jeffries Patton and Mrs. Helen Jeffries Klitch.

Join Us

Membership categories in The Fauquier Historical Society are listed on the form below. Membership statements will not be mailed, therefore members are reminded to renew their financial participation if they have not already done so. New members are invited to join the Society.

Membership dues are tax deductible.

There are a few extra copies of the Summer 1980 Newsletter which can be ordered by members who may not have received their copy in the mail. Please notify the membership chairman.

We would also like to suggest that members check The Fauquier Democrat for announcements of Society activities throughout the year. Whenever possible, announcements are made in the Newsletter, however, activities are often planned after an issue has been mailed. Any requests for information regarding activities may be addressed to Mr. Jennings Flathers, program chairman. Phone: 347-7386.



-Photo by David Lyne

Assessing the soundness of the abandoned Southern Railway passenger depot in The Plains, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission architectural historian Richard C. Cote, architectural historian Cynthia McLeod, who has conducted a survey of historic structures in Fauquier County, R. deTreville Lawrence Sr. and Charles T. Matheson, who are working to restore the depot, meet with The Plains Mayor Michael Thompson to discuss the building's future.

MOVING?

Please print your new address below:

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Please Return To:

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Warrenton, Virginia 22186

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

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Check appropriate membership category:

() - Individual or family - \$10

() - Contributing - \$15

() - Sustaining - \$25 and over

() - Student - \$3

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How would you be willing to help the Society this year?

Can You Help?

News and Notes will contain in each issue a list of as many persons as possible who are conducting historical or genealogical research on persons or places related to Fauquier County. To be included in this column write The Fauquier Historical Society, P. O. Box 675, Warrenton, Va. 22186.

BRUCE. Mrs. Lorna K. Arnold, 250 Sycamore Rd., Salinas, CA 93905 is trying to establish parental proof between Lewis Bruce and Curtis Henry Bruce. Lewis and Mary Ann Bruce are listed in the 1850 census in Ashby District. He is listed as a miller and the couple had children born in Virginia from 1839-1858.

RECTOR. The Rev. Lyndon J. Farwell, S. J., P.O. Box 519, Los Gatos, CA 95030 is seeking information on Henry Rector who came to Fauquier in the 18th Century from Germany. His son's name was, possibly, also Henry Rector. His grandson, William Henry Rector was born in Fauquier Dec. 4, 1806.

DAY. George H. Day, 4722 First St., N., Arlington, VA 22203 seeks information about Deborah Long Day who was born in Warrenton in the beginning of the 1800's, possibly in 1808. She married George Polis on Feb. 26, 1828.

HANBACK. Dan L. Dunlap, 111 Division St., Mendota, Ill. 61342 is looking for the parents of Lewis Hanback and wife Barbara who migrated from Shenandoah Co., Va., to Champaign Co., Ohio about 1806. Believes they were related to Hanbacks of Fauquier.

LINTON. Mrs. Louise M. Poole, Rt. 7, Box 525-B, Roanoke, VA 24018 is looking for a list of the men from Fauquier who signed the Oath of Fidelity around 1776. Specifically the name of Linton, such as Samuel, Jeremiah, Zachariah.

McCORMICK. Virginia C. Senior, 8309 Lowell, Apt. 1, Overland Park, KA 66212, is seeking a possible relationship between Charles N. McCormick, who sold a portion of his Washington Farm to a Hugh McCormick in 1837, and her ancestor William McCormick whose father died in 1852. He had a sister Mary.

PURSLEY. Mrs. Ralph Shelter, 5233 Crooked Finger Road N.E., Scotts Mills, Oregon 97375 requests any information on anyone bearing the name of Pursley. Has been able to trace her family back to the birth of Jesse Pursley in Virginia.

TAYLOR. Richard H. Taylor, 641 Terrace Lake Drive, Columbus, Indiana 47201 is looking for the parents of Henry Taylor who was born in Fauquier sometime around 1850.

SQUIRES. John C. Squires, 31 Big Rock Road, Rye, N.H. 03870, seeks information on Elizabeth and Sarah Squires of Fauquier. Elizabeth was born March 30, 1746. Her son Asa Squires, was born May 12, 1785. Sarah had a son Eligah/Elijah, who was born in Fauquier in 1787. He married a Miss Ertin of Fauquier.

Old Recipes Wanted

The Loudoun Museum is compiling a collection of recipes of the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and would welcome contributions from our readers.

The recipes wanted are those which were actually used in Loudoun County during that period. Each recipe should be accompanied by the name and a short profile of the person who used it.

Please mail to Miss Jeanne Klitgaard, Curator, Loudoun Museum, 16 West Loudoun Street, Leesburg, VA. 22075.

The Fauquier Historical Society

P. O. Box 675, Warrenton, VA 22186

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