



NEWS AND NOTES

from

The Fauquier Historical Society

Vol. 7, No. 1

WARRENTON, VIRGINIA

Winter 1985

Warrenton Baptist Church Restores Steeple

The early history of the Warrenton Baptist Church revolves around one John Smith who, at age 17, had been baptised on the banks of the James River.

Upon arriving in Warrenton in the late 1840s, Smith found that the town lacked a Baptist Church, so he joined the already established Broad Run Baptist Church at New Baltimore.

Determined that Warrenton should have a Baptist Church, he gathered twelve local Baptists who met with him in the present Odd Fellows Building on Main Street. At the time this red brick building was known as Miss Swift's schoolroom.

The congregation was formally organized on August 24, 1849, with 28 members — 19 white and 9 colored. The Sunday School was organized the following year.

The first pastor of this new congregation was Cumberland George, an itinerant preacher who travelled more than 25 miles, once a month, on the third Saturday and Sunday, for more than ten years.

The Early Church

The congregation needed a more permanent meeting house, and in 1849 Judge William H. Gaines gave them a 105-foot square lot on Main Street, upon which they built Warrenton's first Baptist Church.

Built of brick by contractor Henry L. Carter, the Church was 30 by 50 feet, with the pulpit at the northeast end and galleries on three sides. It was completed and dedicated in late 1849 and was the first church in Warrenton in which colored people were allowed to worship. An entry in the Minute Book instructs that "this house shall not be used for any politi-

cal purpose."

After ten years the little church was in need of repairs and was also becoming too small for the growing congregation. The Deacons appropriated \$10,000 for the building of a new

church. To help finance the project Pastor W. D. Thomas obtained \$4,000 in subscriptions from outside of Warrenton.

(Continued on Page 2)



Fauquier Democrat Photo

Steeple is painted after restoration.

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Baptist Church

(Continued from Page 1)

The old church was torn down in 1860, and in 1861, the basement of the new building was covered over and made ready for use.

During the Civil War the congregation entered into contract with the Confederate Army for use of the structure as a hospital, a purpose it served throughout the war.

When Warrenton was occupied by the Union Army the hospital was used by the Federals for their wounded. During the occupation the seats were used for making splints and coffins and the building was "greatly defaced and injured."

Decades later, in 1908, the United States Court of Claims awarded the church damages to the amount of loss during the War.

The Struggle Rewarded

While the war was going on, church meetings were very rare in Warrenton. This delayed the completion of the new church until 1867.

In the minutes of May 5, 1868, is the following entry: "For nearly two years we have been struggling against many difficulties to complete the upper room."

In a letter to the *Religious Herald*, H. H. Wyer states: "By the blessing of God we have erected one of the

most beautiful, convenient and comfortable houses in the State. It was planned by Mr. Sloan, an architect of Philadelphia, and built under a contract by Brother John R. Spilman of this place, who has few superiors as a finished workman."

Upon the paying of all indebtedness the church was dedicated and local Methodists and Presbyterians were invited to worship with the congregation until their own churches could be repaired.

The completed structure is a



Fauquier Democrat Photo

The completed church.

rectangular red-brick building, two stories high. The lower windows are small with slat shutters, while the upper windows are very large and have stained glass in them, but no shutters.

The lower floor is the Sunday School room and the Church meetings are held in the large sanctuary on the second floor, which has a gallery at the back. There is a hall on the first floor, entered from the front door with steps leading to a similar hall on the second floor.

The richly-detailed steeple, with its slender tapering spire rising from an elaborately decorated base with a three-arched louvered opening on each face, was added in 1870.

A pipe organ was installed in 1879 for \$700. In contrast, a new pipe organ was installed in 1982 for \$69,170.

Strict Discipline

In 1879 members were assessed by the Deacons, according to their ability to pay, amounts which, when totaled, would meet ongoing expenses. If a member failed to pay the assessment he was called upon for an explanation.

The congregation was controlled by strict discipline. Two ladies were brought before the church for dancing, and had to apologize and promise not to repeat the offense. In 1879 several members were dismissed for "drunkenness, illegitimate sex relations, dancing and otherwise walking irregularly."

In 1880 the pastor's salary was raised from \$800 to \$900 per year.

Changes Over The Years

The church roof was severely damaged by a tornado in 1880, partially damaging the steeple. In 1906 the organ and choir loft were moved from the back gallery to a place behind the pulpit.

Since 1945, as the congregation increased, several alterations and additions have been made.

As the steeple began to deteriorate, the congregation discussed replacing it. Upon examination in November 1984 the steeple was found to be in need of only minor repairs.

These were made, and with a new coat of paint and the addition of lights around its base, this steeple, one of the landmarks of Warrenton, will last another hundred years.

—Isabelle S. Palmer

Gov. Spotswood's Enchanted Castle

Volunteers will be welcomed at Governor Spotswood's Enchanted Castle next Spring. The dig is located in a development site across Rt. 3 from the Germanna Community College campus.

Alexander Spotswood was born in 1676 and served as governor of Virginia in Williamsburg from 1710 to 1722. Sometime prior to 1714, he purchased some land at the very edge of "civilization," the area we now make our homes.

The Immigrants

Professor Bob Hodge, the unofficial historian of the Germanna area, recounts this brief chronology:

Governor Spotswood had two purposes in mind when he acquired the land.

He saw it as a site for a fort to protect the colonists in Tidewater Virginia from Indian attacks, and he wanted to develop the iron ore resources known to be in these foothills.

In 1714, he brought over about a dozen families from Germany, who had signed up as indentured servants for three years, in return for their transatlantic passage. These Germans built a fort and started mining iron ore.

Apparently they got right to work, and all went well, for when the governor's "Golden Horseshoe" expedition explored the frontier in 1716, they stopped off and held church services there. Their description of the people and their way of life is contained in the explorers' journals.

After their three years were up, these Germans moved to Fauquier County, where they settled "Germantown,"¹ near Midland. (The last house there was destroyed in 1923.)

In 1717, Governor Spotswood hired 40 more German families to work his land. Since these people were already in Pennsylvania, their length of service was only two years.

But they continued the tradition, manning the fort, developing the iron mines, and clearing the land. When their indentured service time ended in 1719, they moved to Madison County, where they established the Hebron Lutheran Church.

A third group of Germans, also from Pennsylvania, took their place, and in 1722, they too moved away,



Photos by Prof. Robert Hodge

Tiled hearth in one of four fireplaces on central chimney.

this time relocating in the valley near Harrisonburg.

Descendants of all three groups today make up the Germanna Foundation, which assured itself a place in history by donating 100 acres of land on which Germanna Community College now stands, as a memorial to their ancestors.

"Spotsylvania"

During these early years, Gov. Spotswood showed his personal love for the land by beginning to build a mansion house on the property.

In 1721, when the local population had swelled to the point that his neighbors wanted to form a new county, separating from the old Essex

County, Spotswood gave them one room in his home to be used as a court house, and let them use part of his name for the new county: Spotsylvania.

Back in England, "times were a-changing," as they say, and in 1722, the new king, George, replaced Spotswood as governor of Virginia.

This gave him the opportunity to return to Spotsylvania full time and to devote his energies to finishing his castle, and to show his continued devotion to his former sovereign, Queen Anne. The names *Germanna* and *Rapidan* are but two examples.

The Enchanted Castle

What kind of house did he build? This is only beginning to come to light as the excavation continues. It is known that Spotswood designed and completed the Governor's Palace and other elaborate buildings in Williamsburg. So, he could have done no less on the home he built for himself and his family.

The foundation of the mansion was built of heavy, dressed field stone, faced by brick. The roof was covered by slate, some found with nails still intact, imported from Wales.

When William Byrd, owner of the palatial Westover, visited there, he was so impressed that he gave it the name Enchanted Castle.

However, Byrd did not think much of the landscaping. He criticized



Elaborately carved stones marked doorways and windows of the castle.

Gov. Spotswood

(Continued on Page 3)

the lack of flowers on the three terraces leading down to the river!

As happens to everyone, Alexander Spotswood died, in 1740. His wife and children moved away, and in 1750, the house burned; the brick walls and chimneys collapsed. The land reverted to agriculture.

Location a Landmark

More than two centuries later, the Virginia Landmarks Commission became interested and conducted a test dig on the property. The extent of the brickwork and 250-year-old china pieces they found were enough to permit the state to register the site as a landmark.

In 1980, a second test dig was conducted, and the site was included in the national register, as well.

In 1983, developer John "Munk" Reynolds bought the property and set about planning a 50-home subdivision. But as luck would have it, the site he chose for his own home there was the exact spot which Gov. Spotswood had chosen for his mansion centuries before.



Photos by Prof. Robert Hodge

One of 150 Eighteenth century clay pipes found so far in the mansion.

The Orange County Historical Society then entered the picture, and pleaded with Mr. Reynolds to postpone his own house-building plans. The "Enchanted Castle" was now a "threatened" archeological site, and

emergency measures had to be taken.

A brief "Salvage Dig" was undertaken in July 1983. The findings were so extensive that funding was extended; the work was continued into 1984. Grants have been requested and individual donations are being accepted, to purchase the property, and to pay for expert researchers.

The Gordonsville Historical Society has purchased three acres, including the house site, but would like to buy six more, to include most of the dependencies.

Much Still Uncovered

Only a small portion of the main house and dependencies has been uncovered. Most of the excavation was done by 100 or more volunteers — ranging from high school students to senior citizens — with only four paid "experts."

Presently the site is covered with plastic and straw to prevent winter damage to the priceless antiquities. But come Spring (about 1 May) a decision will be made to continue the research. Visitors and workers will then be welcome.

Prof. Hodge stresses that volunteer diggers must be responsible; mature adults are preferred. Young children are discouraged. It must be

remembered that "digging" is conducted with small trowels and sieves, following a strict grid pattern, and marking the exact location of anything found.

—Howard Holschuh

Reprinted from *The Voice of Experience*, January 1985. By permission Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services Center.

'News and Notes, Vol. 3, No. 3



One of two firebacks probably cast in Spotswood's one iron works; shows portrait of Queen Anne, identical to one in the home of the president of William and Mary College.

Anyone interested in supporting the acquisition of this property may contact The Treasurer, Historic Gordonsville, Inc., P.O. Box 542, Gordonsville, VA 22942.



Annual Meeting

The Fauquier Historical Society annual meeting will again be held at Airlie House.

The date is June 20th.

Cash bar at 6:30; dinner at 7:30.

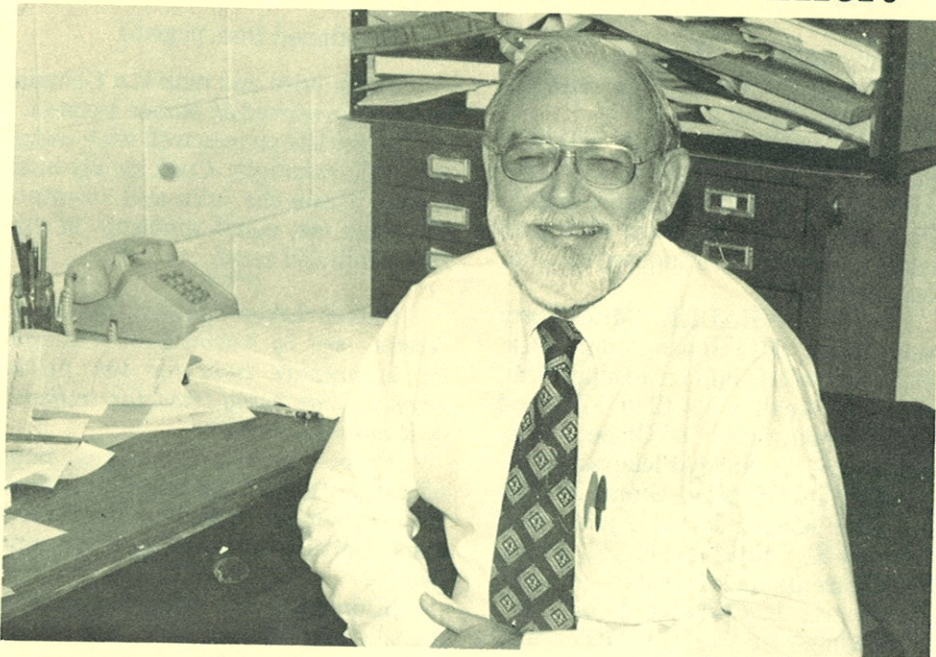
Program chairman Bill Sudduth will welcome suggestions for a speaker for either this meeting or any subsequent meetings.

Reservation information will be mailed at a later date.

Please plan on attending.



Prof. Hodge Leads Excavation Effort



Biology Professor Bob Hodge at his desk at Germanna Community College, in Orange County.

Photo by Howard Holschuh

Assistant Professor of Biology Robert Hodge is the Germanna Community College representative and the mainspring behind the discovery and excavation of Governor Spotswood's "Enchanted Castle" in a development site across Rt. 3 from the college campus.

Bob, as he is known to his friends, was born Oct. 7, 1929, in Kansas, where he earned his Master's Degree in Biology from Kansas State Teachers' College. He moved to Virginia in 1953 and taught high school Biology until 1970, when he joined the original staff at Germanna.

Bob soon developed an interest in Paleontology, the study of fossils and early life forms. He has spent three summers in Colorado excavating and studying 40,000-year-old bones, and spent one summer prowling around an old Nevada lake bottom, where he discovered fossils of fish estimated to be 21 million years old!

He was invited to join an expedition to Zaire in central Africa, where he uncovered and identified three early Hominids, early ancestors of modern man.

His work, in effect, paralleled the paleontological research conducted by Dr. Leakey and his family in Kenya. But Bob's were the first such specimens found in Zaire.

Bob's other hobby is reading old newspapers and indexing the names which made news so long ago. In addition to a nearly complete index of names in old Culpeper newspapers, Bob is researching papers in his home state of Kansas, and some in the Northern Neck of Virginia. Some of his indices are available in local libraries; others are for sale.

Bob was a natural choice, because of his interest in antiquities, to be appointed last April as the Germanna College representative on the Spotswood discovery.

He hopes to continue the work next Spring, at which time he will welcome any and all who want to support the research.

Until that time, he says, the whole site is "Off Limits" to everyone.

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Please Return To:
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Notes from:

Martha Washington's Rules for Cooking

To cure a bald head wash it every night with a strong solution of rosemary and tie in a flannel.

To cure the itch, wash the parts affected with strong rum.

For Mad Dog Bite: Plunge into cold water for twenty days. Mix ashes of trees soil with hogs' lard and anoint as soon as possible. This has cured many and particularly a boy bit on the nose.

To Boil Eels: A common dish in colonial days.

Clean the eels and cut off their heads; dry them and turn them around on your fish plate; boil them in salt and water; make parsley sauce to serve with them. *Martha Jefferson.*

A Harvest Drink: Five gallons of cold water, spring water preferred. One half gallon of molasses, one quart of vinegar. To this add, while stirring, two ounces of powdered ginger. *Served at Gunston Hall.*

To Roast a Rabbit Hare Fashion: *This is the famous Colonial hare receipt.*

First, catch your hare; lard it with bacon, roast it as you do a fowl with stuffing in the belly; and it eats very well.

For nettle rash rub the parts with parsley . . . or . . . fermented brandy.

(Continued on Page 6)

Name: _____

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() - Individual or family - \$10 () - Student - \$3
() - Contributing - \$15 () - Business - \$25

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 genealogical or historical 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. Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.

BLACKWELL. Mrs. Faye B. Breshears, 202 Rolling Hills Place, Lancaster, TX 75146, seeks info on Blackwells, presumed to have come from Culpeper or Fauquier County; moved to Laurens County, South Carolina, before 1800.

HEFLIN. Mrs. Mary Heflin Turner, Rt. 1, Box 36, Lexington Park, MD 20653, seeks info on George Walter and Mary M. Bowling Heflin, Walter Allen and Effie Elizabeth Jones Heflin. Male members born at Grove Church, Fauquier.

HINSON, GOUGH. M/M William Henson, Jr., 902 Monrovia Dr. Clinton, MO 64735 are seeking info regarding Charles Hinson, b. ca. 1755/60, Fauquier Co., son of Robert and Mary (Peak) Hinson, and wife Nancy Gough. Their children: James Hinson, b. ca. 1784, m. Mary "Polly" Dulin, 30 Dec 1806 M.B., Fauquier; Mary "Polly" Hinson, m. James McCabe, 17 Dec 1828, Fauquier; and

possibly others. Present family named spelled Henson from mistake on birth certificate.

LAWRENCE. G. Thomas Bishop, Jr., 205 Walnut Ave., Colonial Heights, VA 23834, seeks info on Thomas A. Lawrence, born 1825 near Salem or Marshall, Fauquier Co., m. Frances Weeks.

NEALE/NEALLE. Mrs. Mary Anna Frank, 6014 S. Kingston, Tulsa, OK 74135, needs info on Joseph Neal, Benjamin Neal, wills filed 1784 and 1785. Joseph, father of Chloe, Catey and Joseph, m. Nancy Pickerall 1803.

ROBERTS. Mrs. Emma B. Pollock, 211 King Edward Apts., 4609 Bayard St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213, needs parents and ancestors of Richard Roberts, b. 1755 vicinity of Kellys Ford, Culpeper Co. His father may have been Joseph Roberts.

SMITH. Albert Belanger, Little River Farm, RFD 1, Brentwood, NH, 03833, wants info on George W. Smith, b. Fauquier 1833 or 1836. Parents James and "Nelley" Janet Browning Smith, married ca. July 1820.

STRIBLING. James S. Corbitt (Ret.), 118 Gardner Ave., Martin, TN 38237, seeks info on Thomas Tibbetts Stribling, b. Fauquier 4 Dec 1784, son of Benjamin and Ann Tibbetts Stribling. Benjamin Stribling owned a grant in Leeds Manor. Is interested in exact tract.

Rules for Cooking

(Continued from page 5)

Prune juice and milk is a Colonial drink often served at Mount Vernon.

Cover the prunes well with water and soak overnight. Cook slowly until tender. Drain the juice and sweeten. Mix with an equal quantity of top milk. Chill and serve.

Calves Liver: *This is the same receipt used by Aaron Burr's daughter to prepare liver for her father when he was being tried for treason, in Richmond in 1807.*

Parboil liver five minutes, pour off the water and cut in small pieces. Add thickening, butter to season and eggs. Garnish with bacon strips and parsley.

Kidney stew is improved by adding a little wine.

The juice of tomatoes is excellent for removing fruit or wine stains from linen tablecloths. Also for cleaning hand stains.

Old Age: *All family remedies were taken from a book kept by Martha Jefferson.*

Take tar-water morning and evening. (Tried.) Or chew cinnamon daily and swallow. These will renew strength of former years.

Edited by Ann Parks Marshall
—1931

The Fauquier Historical Society

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