

# NEWS AND NOTES

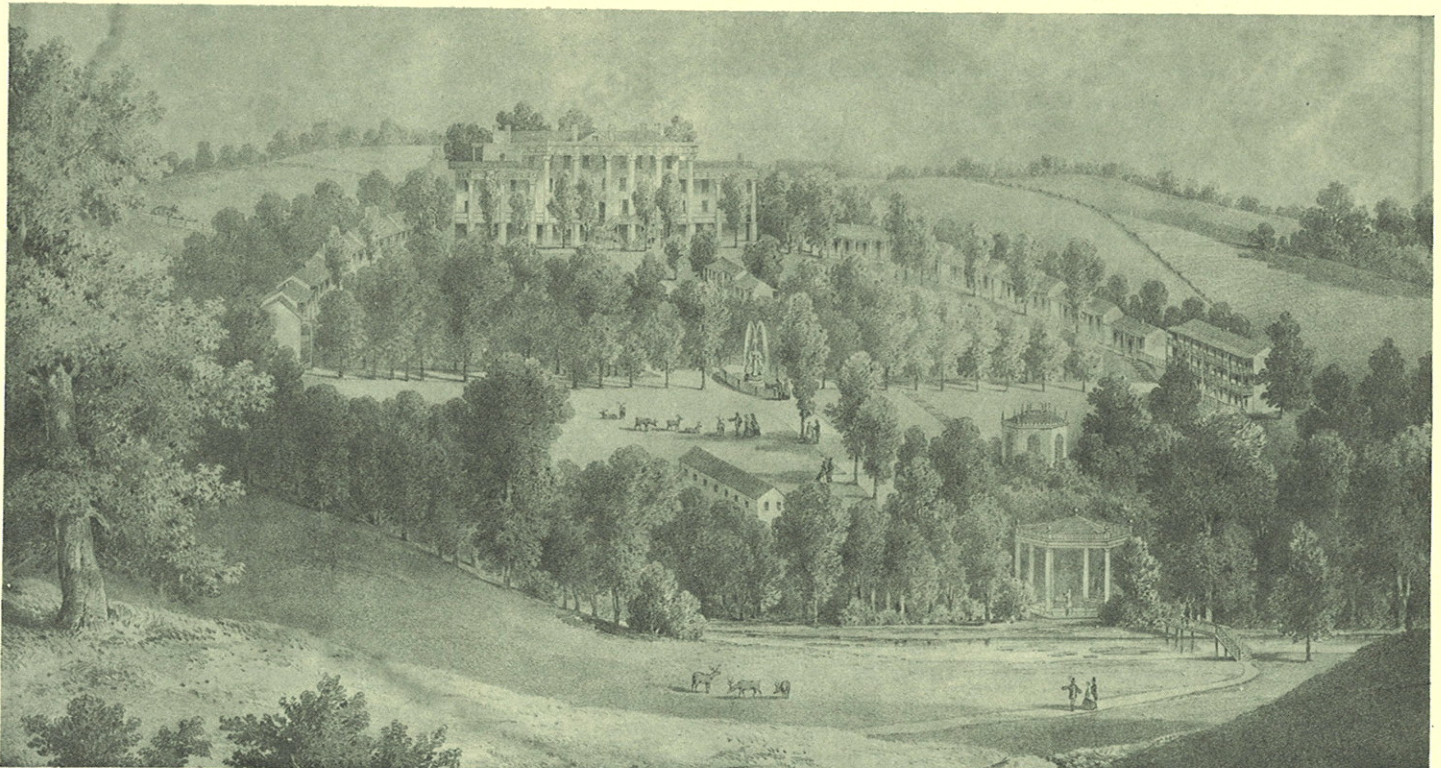
from

## The Fauquier Historical Society

Vol. 7, No. 2

WARRENTON, VIRGINIA

Spring 1985



FAUQUIER WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS

Courtesy Fauquier Club

From a Lithograph by Ed Beyer dated 1857

## Six Weeks in Fauquier

*Written in 1838, to a gentleman in New England by a visitor. From a pamphlet under this title published by Samuel Colman, No. 8 Astor House, New York, 1839.*

The traveller from the North having arrived at Washington, D. C., at five A.M., and proceeding in a southwesterly direction, enters Virginia, passing through Fairfax and Prince William Counties, into Fauquier County, and arrives at the Fauquier White Sulphur Springs, fifty-six miles from Washington, at about three o'clock, P.M.

He will find nothing of particular interest on the road from the metropolis to these Springs. He passes, however, several extensive and well

cultivated farms; fine herds of cattle, browsing in the pastures, while rich fields of corn, rye, and wheat are seen extending, at times, from the roadside, and covering hill and dale, as far as the eye can reach.

That, however, which affords the most delight, in the way of scenery, is a view, as he ascends a hill near Centreville, of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the lofty and spiry peaks of which, far in the distance, give a picturesque and beautiful effect to the landscape.

### The Sulphur Springs

The medicinal qualities of the Sulphur Springs at this place were known and highly appreciated, long before they were open to the public.

While the virtues of the water remained in comparative obscurity, the resort of those living in the neighborhood caused such an interruption to the farming operations of the proprietor, as induced him, after every other endeavor to keep out crowds of visitors had failed, to fill up the spring.

But so clearly had its value been established, by the comparatively partial trial of its virtues, that the estate was purchased by Hancock Lee, Esq., one of the present stockholders, with a view of making it a place of public resort.

As the waters were becoming more and more celebrated each year, for their health-restoring qualities,

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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.

Newsletter published bi-monthly beginning August 1979. Published quarterly beginning September 1980.

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**Fauquier Springs**

*(Continued from Page 1)*

more extended operations, and a greater outlay of capital will soon be necessary, to accommodate the visitors who throng thither.

Hundreds were turned away during the last year, (1837) for want of accommodations; and such was the crowd at that time, that five gentlemen who insisted on stopping, willingly made their "down beds" on a billiard table!

These valuable waters and grounds are now owned by an incorporated company, under the title of the "Fauquier White Sulphur Spring."

The real estate which, with the improvements and personal property, constitute the principal stock of the company, consists of about two thousand nine hundred and thirty-four acres of land, divided by the Rappahannock River into two parts, of about one thousand seven hundred and fifty acres on one side of the river, and about one thousand one hundred and eighty-four acres on the other.

The Fauquier White Sulphur Spring establishment consists of an elegant brick pavilion, which including the wings, is one hundred and eighty feet in length by forty-four feet in width. It is four stories high.

In the basement story is the dining room, one hundred and forty-four by thirty and capable of accommodat-

ing four hundred persons. The kitchen and servants' hall are on the same floor.

The second story comprises a ball-room, one hundred feet by forty, ladies' drawing room, reading-room, office, etc.

The two upper stories contain about seventy lodging-rooms.

Across the street, and directly opposite the Pavilion, stands what is called the "new building," which is also built of brick, four stories high, one hundred and five feet long, and thirty wide. This building contains about seventy lodging-rooms.

There are, also, about ninety cabins, or rooms, separate and distinct from the Pavilion and new building, together with very large and recently

erected stables and sheds, capable of accommodating a very great number of horses and carriages.

**A Congenial Place**

The first impressions of the stranger on arriving here, especially if it be his first visit to a watering place in Virginia, cannot be otherwise than agreeable.

The friendly shake of the hand, the true Virginia welcome, "right hearty" and sincere, which he receives from the principal manager, will cause him to feel that he is not a stranger in a strange land.

The elegant Pavilion, its spacious piazza and beautiful columns; the rows of neat one-story brick cabins, with their shady coverings; the grounds, too, so tastefully arranged, the green lawns, sequestered shades, board walks, neat summer-houses, and cool fountains.

**Sulphur Water**

The Sulphur Spring, surmounted by a tasteful octagonal pavilion, and supplied with seats, is situated in a verdant valley, about one hundred and fifty yards from the dining hall.

It is mostly visited at morning and evening, when it presents a scene of beauty, cheerfulness, and rational mirth, mingled with entertainment and instruction.

According to analysis, the water is impregnated with sulphate of magnesia, phosphate of soda, and sulphurated hydrogen.

The temperature of the water is fifty-six degrees Fahrenheit, or ten and a half degrees Reaumur.

It has a strong sulphuric smell,

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THE LAWN, 1895

and the taste being not unlike the odour arising from the yolk of a hard boiled egg is not, perhaps, at first very agreeable to the palate of a gourmande.

With some reluctance, and, possibly, a few wry faces, two or three glasses may be drunk during the first day.

This disagreeable taste, however, is soon changed to the most impatient longings; and even a strong appetite for the water, 'til anon, five or six tumblers full before breakfast, or twenty glasses during the day are not considered an immoderate dose.

Having drunk freely of the water for about ten days, the system, if formerly considerably impaired, becomes sensibly renovated. The water operates purgatively and diuretically; the cuticular pores being opened, perspiration (especially if the mercury stands at ninety degrees) flows easily and copiously.

Report saith, that any gentleman having used the spring for three weeks, can, by rubbing his nose against a stone wall, immediately light his cigar thereat; or any lady or pretty miss, having staid the same time, can light her candle by the action of her fore-finger on a pine table, so fully impregnated with sulphur does the free drinker of these waters in a short time become!

But this may be scandal.

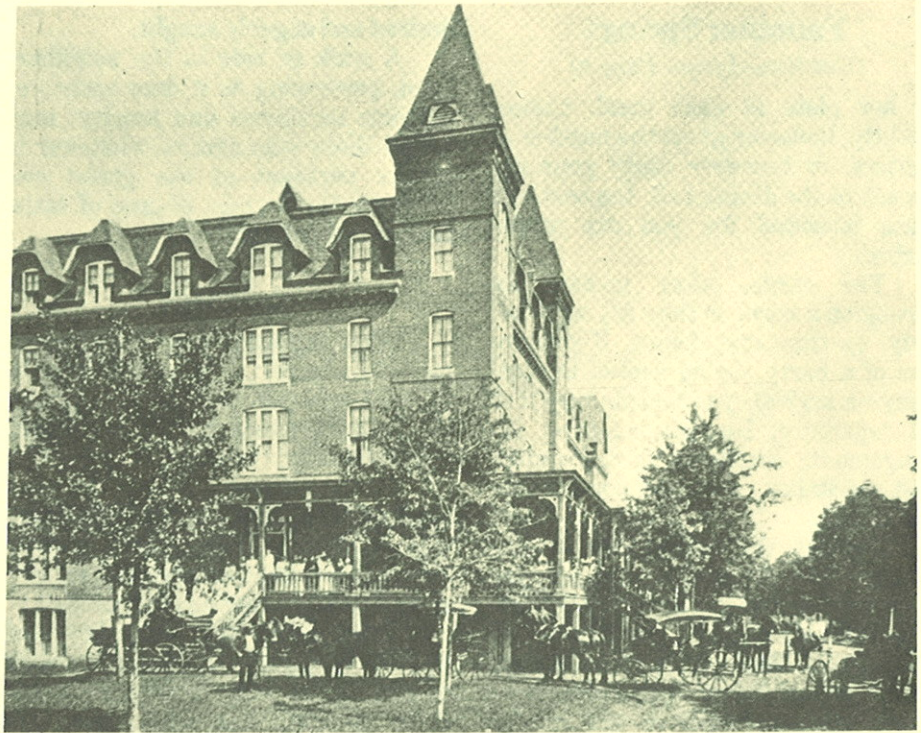
It is said, and perhaps, correctly, that the waters of Fauquier are not as strong (the component parts being the same) as those in Greenbriar County. Consequently, they may not act so soon or so powerfully on the system as the latter.

But compared, in other respects, with those waters, the Fauquier Springs are in deservedly high repute as an alternative, and the more gradual cure they generally effect.

### Heathful Regimen

Nor does he drink the sulphur water, except to quench thirst, in the middle of the day; it is his practice to drink, in bed, two or three glasses, brought by the servant soon after daylight, when he enjoys a refreshing and delightful slumber of one or two hours.

His morning and evening meal consists of black tea, bread and butter. After breakfast he walks, if he can, to the spring; drinks, in the course of half an hour or so, four or five glasses of water; takes moderate



Photos from Museum Collection

### THE HOTEL, 1896

exercise, walks, rides, plays at quoits, or makes one in "a match game" among the highly respectable company that frequent the ten-pin alley.

At noon, on clear and warm days, he takes a sulphur bath, at one hundred degrees, returns, soon afterward, to his cabin, and takes "a nap."

At dinner he confines himself to boiled rice, tomatoes, and other vegetables, a delicate slice of roasted mutton or beef; observing this rule, however, not to drink wine, nor to eat pastry, puddings, or dessert of any kind, fruit only excepted.

At about sundown he drinks three or four glasses of water, avoids exposure to the evening air; and thus day after day, he continues to do.

### Living At The Springs

The terms of boarding at Fauquier are, per day, \$2.00, children and servants half price; per week \$10; per month \$35; for two months \$65; for the whole season, about three months, \$80.

The dimensions of the cabins are about fifteen feet square, and eight feet in height. As each cabin has a fire-place, a door and window in front and in the rear, they are easily ventilated, or rendered otherwise comfortable.

There are a large number of dou-

ble cabins, which are very convenient and desirable for families or invalids, for whom they are more especially intended and reserved.

The breakfast hour is half past seven o'clock, dinner two o'clock, tea half past seven o'clock. The first bell rings half an hour previous to each meal.

It is only necessary to state, with reference to the quality and number of dishes, etc., provided for the table, that the caterer and supervisor of this department is Mr. Bronaugh, who, for nine months in the year, officiates in the same capacity at Gadsby's in Washington.

He is in every respect fit and suitable for this important situation. Gentlemanly in his address, attentive and prompt in the discharge of his duties, he displays not a little of "the ruling passion," a desire and determination to please and render comfortable, if possible, the most fastidious guest, so characteristic of every one connected with the establishment.

The table, under such a practiced eye, is the very pattern of neatness. Every thing in the way of arrangement and attention, progresses as quietly, as methodically as in a private family.

The name of every boarder, being written on a card, is placed on his

*(Continued on Page 4)*

## Fauquier Springs

(Continued from Page 3)

or her plate at each meal. Consequently, however great the number of visitors, or however tardy your approach to the dining hall, the seat and plate intended for you are undisturbed.

The cards, after meals, are strung on a wire, as they lie, successively, on the table; hence, if you are one of a party, being seated in company on arrival, you remain together 'til departure. By this excellent arrangement, confusion is prevented, and sociability, ease and comfort are promoted.

Besides the attractions of this place, which I have attempted partially to describe in these communications, the associations connected with the spot are hallowed by recollection that some of Virginia's noblest sons were wont to drink at the crystal pool, to inhale the invigorating breeze, to mingle in the scenes, and to admire the landscape of Fauquier.

The venerable Marshall, it is said, was much benefitted in health by the waters of Fauquier, and repeatedly offered his certificate of the fact to the proprietor of the establishment.

After a residence of some days at these Springs, the society and recreations lose, with some visitors, somewhat of their attraction of novelty, and become, to a limited extent, stale and uninviting. Other scenes and objects, as they give rise to new sensations and fresh trains of thought, are

desired and eagerly sought.

A walk or ride in the neighborhood, possessing as it does scenes of peculiar loveliness and beauty, may afford those who admire whatever in nature partakes of the grand and beautiful the highest degree of satisfaction and delight.

### The River

Who, familiar with the topography of Fauquier, does not delight, in the cool quietude of morning, to cross the Rappahannock by the footbridge that overhangs its waters?

Or at sunset, when the last beams of day linger on the sky, and a soft, mellow, golden light is thrown over hill and dale, on tree and flower, and all things living and inanimate?

Then, with the buoyancy and frolicksomeness of childhood, to roam in the fields and forests near the river, beneath the lofty trees, the bushes and vines that border upon and beautify its waters!

The Rappahannock, though sometimes impeded in its course by copsewood, winds its way gracefully and quietly to the ocean; now overshadowed by towering oaks, pines and sycamores, and now presenting its glassy mirror to the sky.

To some the northern bank of the river may be more attractive. Singularly wild, beautiful and enchanting is its scenery.

At one moment, the path runs meanderingly near the river; anon, it steals away to green pastures and cultivated grounds, or leads beneath the

shade of melancholy boughs, where the forest trees, waving their tops, and rustling their green leaves, invite one to repose on the moss, and odouriferous turf, beneath their clean and far-spreading branches.

When the forests shall be cleared of underbrush, wider and more level paths laid out, and seats erected, Fauquier will offer the visitor such a succession of walks, as will equal, if not rival, those which delight the New Yorker at far-famed Hoboken, the Bostonian at Brookline, or the Philadelphian at Fair Mount.

Those who seek this favored spot from enfeebled health, require, as they find themselves rapidly advancing to convalescence, no great effort of imagination, to fancy it more lovely and enchanting than the fabled charms of the valley of Rasselas.

### Visitors Arriving

We have, at this present writing, upwards of six hundred visitors at Fauquier. Every carriage and stage coach comes full of passengers. There are five arrivals at least, to one departure. Not less than three hundred and fifty visitors have arrived within three days!

Every stage coach from Washington to Fauquier is engaged, as I am credibly informed, for the next week.

The company will soon be too numerous for the chairs. A pallet of straw may soon satisfy the belle, a blanket, settee, or even a newspaper, the beau, as a place of repose.

Health and disease, fashion and ugliness, old maids and maidens, little girls, boys, and stripling youths, fathers and grandmothers, the "lately engaged," and the "newly married," widows and widowers, lawyers, divines, doctors, quack-dentists, writing-masters, artists and horse-jockies, merchants, students, clerks, and fops, are each represented at Fauquier.

*"The languid eye, the cheek  
Deserted of its bloom,"*

dyspepsia, gout, consumption, rheumatism, in short, almost every disease and affection enumerated in the long list of human ills, come and drink, one and all, with the same positive and negative hopes and fears of benefit or cure.

### Still More Come

The accommodations for visitors  
(Continued on Page 5)



BETHEL ACADEMY TRACK TEAM AT THE PAVILION, 1903



DRINKING AT THE SPRING

**Fauquier Springs**

*(Continued from Page 4)*

at this watering place, though hitherto considered abundantly ample and extensive, will be found, in the course of a few days, entirely too limited for the reception of the company that will arrive.

The manager has relinquished his private apartments, and the ladies' drawing-room is filled with cots for the convenience of visitors.

The Saloons and Halls, the Piazza, the public walks and rides, alike resound with the interesting hum and buzz of an intelligent, agreeable and fashionable company.

A disposition on the part of every individual, to contribute to the general happiness, is manifested by a general participation and enjoyment of the recreations and pleasures of the place.

The ladies, dear creatures! now at Fauquier, are distinguished and admired for their intelligence, modesty, gentility and beauty.

Besides Virginia's most choice and beautiful flowers, the rarest gems of beauty, from the counties of Henrico, Albemarle, Spotsylvania, Lancaster, Fauquier, and others, are here, also pretty misses, beautiful, fascinating, blooming girls from the cities of New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, together with the fair and lovely, the gay and interesting daughters of Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, and Alabama.

There are few scenes upon which I have gazed with so much delight and

rapture, as that presented occasionally, at sunset, from the top of the Pavilion.

The undulating surface of the country, the pleasing alternation of hill and dale with here and there a cleared and cultivated spot, dotted with a neat habitation, the rich and varied combination of pasture and woodland extending for miles.

And then, the long and majestic line of the Blue Ridge Mountains, bounding the western prospect, their conical and pyramidal shapes, assuming a deeper and deeper azure tint as evening approaches.

How rapturous would have been the sensations of Claude, or Poussin, who painted as if their pencils were dipped in the rainbow, at seeing some of these autumnal sunsets!

\* \* \* \* \*

**APPENDIX**

The following facts, with regard to "The Fauquier Springs," at Warrenton, Va., have been kindly furnished the editor of this little volume<sup>1</sup> by one of the directors.

The Fauquier White Sulphur Springs are owned by a company of individuals, chartered by the Commonwealth of Virginia, entitled the F.W.S.S. Company; the officers and agents of which are at present as follows:

Isham Keith, President

**Directors**

John Baker

Robert Scott

Erasmus Helm

Robert E. Lee

Thomas Green

William McCoy

Daniel Ward, Superintendent.

John T. Bronaugh, Manager of the Dining Room.

Thomas Marshall Graham, Manager of the Lodging Department.

Many improvements are in rapid progress, and the visitors, this season, will find them very far advanced.

Among these, may be mentioned the erection of elegant and commodious bathing establishments, complete in all their arrangements and to be constantly supplied with the Sulphur Spring Water, of any desired temperature.

The architecture of this building is to be Gothic, and will form an additional ornament to the Springs.

—Excerpted and edited by John T. Toler from *Fauquier Historical Bulletin No. 1*, August 1921.

<sup>1</sup> *Fauquier Historical Bulletin No. 1*, August 1921.

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The Fauquier Historical Society, Inc.  
P. O. Box 675  
Warrenton, Virginia 22186

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Check appropriate membership category: ( ) - Sustaining - \$25 and over  
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( ) - Contributing - \$15 ( ) - Business - \$25

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

## Grant Awarded Museum of the Confederacy

The Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, has received a \$72,879 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the development and installation of a major permanent exhibition and accompanying interpretive catalogue entitled "The Jefferson Davis Family and the Ritual of the Lost Cause."

Opening in June 1985 in the White House of the Confederacy, currently being restored to the 1861-65 period, the exhibit will present the "First Family" of the South and show the museum's important role in the Southern Lost Cause movement through materials used by the women of the Confederate Memorial Literary Society in the founding and daily operation of the museum of the 1890s.

The Museum of the Confederacy is located at 1201 East Clay Street and is the oldest museum in Richmond.

### *Editor's Note:*

Because of the wealth of information about Fauquier Springs, our story will be continued in the Summer issue, Vol. 7, No. 3.

## 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 his column write The Fauquier Historical Society, P.O. Box 675, Warrenton, VA 22186. Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.*

ANDERSON, JEFFRIES. Society member Steven R. Jeffries, 4800 Erie St., College Park, MD 20740, is seeking info on Anderson/Jeffries marriages in Fauquier. Anderson/Jeffries' mother was an Anderson. He m. Mary Gordon, 25 Aug 1788. Bondsman: James Headley. Also info on marriages: Peyton Anderson to Polly Jeffries, 15 Dec 1810, dau of John Jeffries; Cornelius Andersen to Ruth Jeffries, 22 Jan 1821, ward of Ruben Jeffries.

DEARING, NEALE. Mrs. Norma White, Rt. 1, Box 376, Bismark, AK 71929, is researching Matthew Neale family of Fauquier. Martha Neale b. ca. 1787 Fauquier. Statistics of son Matthew unknown. Family moved to Kentucky.

FRANKLIN, ARMSFIELD. Glen D. Cunningham, 230 Bergen Ave., Jersey City, NJ 07305, seeks info on the 1828 slave trading firm of Franklin and Armsfield. John Armstrong directed affairs in Alexandria and had a representative in Warrenton. Operated in the late 1840s or 50s.

WOOD. Society member Mrs. Maxine Rickard Halprin, 10532 SW 115 Street, Miami, FL 33176, seeks info on Lewis and Sarah Calvert Wood, documented in Fauquier in 1823.



## Annual Meeting

Dr. Evelyn Pugh, Professor of History at George Mason University, will be the featured speaker at the annual meeting at Airline on June 20th.

Interested in women in history, Dr. Pugh will talk about the celebrated Mrs. Macaulay and leaders of the American Revolution.

Mrs. Macaulay was the author of an eight-volume *History of England*, written from a Whiggish point of view, which Americans found quite congenial. She was acquainted with John and Abigail Adams, James Otis, Mercy Warren and Benjamin Franklin. She made a special trip to Mount Vernon to visit George Washington and later corresponded with him.

The meeting, black tie optional, under the direction of program chairman Bill Sudduth, will begin with a cash bar at 6:30 p.m.

Dinner at 7:00 will be followed by a short business meeting conducted by President Willard Lineweaver. Price of dinner is \$11.00.

Reservation flyers will be mailed to members in a few weeks.

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## *The Fauquier Historical Society*

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