



NEWS AND NOTES

from

The Fauquier Historical Society

Vol. 8, No. 1

WARRENTON, VIRGINIA

Winter 1986

Indentured Servants and Their Contributions



Courtesy Genealogical Publishing Company.

England used its prisons as a vehicle for clearing its large cities of people without work, even as a way to banish gentry and members of the nobility out of favor. As shown in this old engraving, prisoners were often led in chains — as indentured servants — to ships waiting to sail to America.

A friend once remarked that he would like to work on his family's history but was afraid he might find that his ancestors were indentured servants, and well he might.

Authorities claim that from one-third to two-thirds of the Europeans who settled in the regions from New York southward between 1607 and 1750 were indentured. They came by the hundreds of thousands from England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Germany and Switzerland.

This new land to which they came was of unparalleled beauty on a stupendous scale. The forests were massive with trees pointing skyward, the

lowest branches 60 to 80 feet from the ground.

The great American eagle, soaring on high, could see the seemingly endless rivers filled with a great abundance of fish.

Overhead flew great flocks of geese, ducks, swans and other fowl while the marshes contained herons, woodcocks, rails and various kinds of gamebirds for the table.

Add to all this such animals of the woods as deer, elk, bear, squirrel, with buffalo in the more open places. It is no wonder that Captain John Smith exclaimed, "It is a veritable paradise."

Compare this land of promise to the conditions in Europe during the 17th and 18th centuries: England, for example, with at least half its population living with inadequate food and shelter, some in squalor; Ireland and Scotland, where a large percentage of the population had been killed by invading armies. Southern Germany had been burned and plundered, and high taxes had left the peasants destitute.

These desperate people needed America, and America needed them.

(Continued on Page 2)

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.

DUES:

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

OFFICERS:

President: J. Willard Lineweaver
Vice President: H. Gary Heath
Secretary: Mrs. Fred A. Groghan, Jr.
Treasurer: William E. Sudduth, Jr.
Corr. Secretary: Mrs. Herbert N. Heston

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John H. Bartenstein, Warrenton
Judge W. W. Carson, Warrenton
Edward N. Cooper, Warrenton
David C. Gerrish, Sr., Marshall
John K. Gott, Arlington
Mrs. Fred A. Groghan, Jr., Marshall
H. Gary Heath, Warrenton
Mrs. Herbert N. Heston, Warrenton
Mrs. William H. Hume, Hume
Robert Jacobs, Warrenton
Mrs. Edward J. Jones, Warrenton
Mrs. Norman G. Jones, Warrenton

Mrs. Lewis F. Lee, Jr., The Plains
J. Willard Lineweaver, Warrenton
Chilton McDonnell, Warrenton
Robert C. McGuire, Warrenton
Mrs. Warren S. Neily, Warrenton
Mrs. Meade Palmer, Warrenton
James E. Rich, Jr., The Plains
Col. D. H. Rumbough, Warrenton
Mrs. Julian W. Scheer, Catlett
Harold R. Spencer, Warrenton
W. E. Sudduth, Jr., Warrenton
W. N. Tiffany, Jr., Warrenton

Ex-Officio Member: John B. Adams, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Correspondence should be directed to:
The Fauquier Historical Society
P.O. Box 675
Warrenton, Virginia 22186

Telephone:
(703) 347-5525

Newsletter Chairman and Editor: Isabelle S. Palmer.

Newsletter Committee: John H. Bartenstein, Edward N. Cooper, John K. Gott, Audrey L. Jones, Dr. Aileen H. Laing, Ava Lee, Susan S. Nelson, Isabelle S. Palmer, Anne Brooke Smith, John T. Toler.

Indentured Servants

(Continued from Page 1)

The Northern Colonies

New England, an area with many rivers, good harbors, small farms and industries, wanted young men who would train as apprentices to learn a trade, and had little need for shipload after shipload of indentured servants, as did Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and South Carolina.

Records show that a small number of servants did arrive at Boston, Massachusetts, and Newport, Rhode Island.

While the Dutch owned New Netherland, later New York, the colony operated under the patroon system, with a few individuals owning large plantations. The Dutch government sent them indentured servants called "free-willers," good workers who came to the New World on their own.

The tenant farmers, however, were forced to take convicts, paupers and young children from the poor houses supported by the government.

The convicts were indentured for seven years, but the "free-willers" could be sold for as much as possible and had to work out their own length of service with the "owner".

During the time the Dutch held New Netherlands, New Jersey, considered a part of it, also used the patroon system. Separated from New

York by the English, the system of using indentured servants remained much the same, except that New Jersey was more generous in granting land to the servants, once their service was finished. However, neither colony attracted a great number of indentured servants.

The Southern Colonies

Of the four southern colonies, South Carolina, with Charlestown as the best harbor, was the largest importer of indentured servants.

The arrival of the ship, *Carolina*, at the mouth of the Ashley River in 1690, marked the beginning of the colony. Aboard were "gentlemen" who wished to trade for furs with the Indians.

Later, colonists arrived from Barbados with their indentured servants. They also introduced black slaves to the colony. The need for agricultural hands to work in the fields increased as more immigrants arrived from both Barbados and Europe, and the Protestant Huguenots, who fled from Roman Catholic France by way of England to escape persecution.

When a ship arrived from Madagascar in the Indian Ocean bringing rice, a new, profitable crop was introduced into the colony. With the new prosperity, more agricultural hands were needed.

With the growth of the harbor, white servants were in demand as artisans, mechanics, craftsmen and as

overseers for the black slaves working in the rice fields.

German and Swiss immigrants arrived and were sold into service for as much as £36 each, with tradesmen bringing larger amounts. Advertisements in newspapers listed servants with such occupations as carpenters, bakers, stonecutters, collectors and others. Trained indentured servants sold for more money and had shorter indenture periods in South Carolina than in Virginia.

North Carolina wanted and needed indentured servants, but since the colony was not as prosperous as its neighbors, it could not pay as much. The colonists offered the ship captains less for transportation and gave the servant less when he regained his freedom.

Even though North Carolina grew tobacco, it could not match Maryland and Virginia. During the 18th century, the pine forests brought in the most revenue through the sale of such products as tar, pitch, resin, turpentine and lumber.

North Carolina would have brought in more indentured servants, but the blacks were a better investment to work in the forests and tobacco fields; therefore, North Carolina never had a large number of indentured servants.

Georgia, the last of the colonies to be settled, had almost no indentured servants. One ship is known to have brought indentured servants which sold for as little as £4 each.

"BroadSides" Distributed

About this time "BroadSides," printed circulars containing advertisements, appeared in the British Isles and Germany describing the glories of the New World and the advantages of living in this new land.

The people of all these countries were worried about the voyage, the new land, but most fearful of the unknown. "Spirits" were employed in England to round up and coerce the poor, the idler, the jobless, and the destitute, detaining them by force, if necessary, to await the next ship to America.

The "Spirit" made his living in this manner, and the ship's captain made his by selling these individuals to plantation owners for £10 or £20.

In Maryland and Virginia, these servants were highly prized for clearing land and working in the fields.

(Continued on Page 3)

England, anxious to empty its slums and prisons of undesirables, dispatched countless shiploads of its *lesser convicts* (much too harsh a word for many) to the West Indies and the American Colonies, especially Maryland and Virginia.

Some of these "convicts" were guilty of nothing more than stealing a loaf of bread when hungry or an item worth as little as a shilling.

Young people, especially young men, would be arrested and hastily tried and sentenced and placed aboard a ship for America.

With poorly kept records in Maryland and Virginia, plus the fact that very few of these individuals could read or write, little is known about their contributions to American life.

In Maryland, most of the ships carrying indentured servants for sale docked at Annapolis, while in Virginia it is thought that the ships may have stopped at individual loading platforms of the plantations along the great rivers and the Chesapeake Bay.

It is known that some came as far north as Alexandria and the now-abandoned port of Dumfries.

The Plight of the Irish

Some authorities claim that nearly 80% of the Irish population was killed by the invading armies of Oliver Cromwell in 1649. The survivors were pushed westward to occupy the poorest land in Ireland. Many starved to death, wandering the countryside looking for work and food.

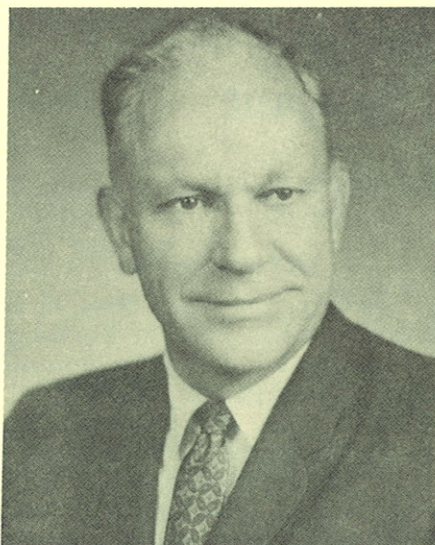
Orphans were abandoned with no means of support. In 1660, the English forbade the Irish to trade in woolen cloth or to export wool.

With starving people wandering the island and children without home or food, the Irish wanted a new home. By 1850, over one million persons had been exported to America.

The Scottish Highlander

The Scottish Highlanders, also tied to farms with poor soil and conquered by superior armies of England, were looking for a way out.

They responded quickly to William Penn's "Broadships" and were dispatched to America, where they and the Welsh were welcomed. Since they were large and burly, of good character and considered good workers, they brought the highest prices for the sea captains who transported them.



JENNINGS H. FLATHERS

Cromwell had already defeated the Roman Catholics, whom he hated, and now had to overcome the Protestants as well. The fact that the Scots were ready to leave pleased the sea captains and the dishonest European and American agents.

The Germans

Southern Germany should have been a wonderful place to live during the 17th century, except that during the Thirty Years War (1618-1648), the armies of Germany, Austria, Spain and France used the provinces for plunder and destruction.

The fine German peasants, ruined by poverty brought on by war, looked for a way out. When they read William Penn's "Broadships" they were eager to start a new life in America.

The "Newlanders," the name given to the agents sent out from Rotterdam, used all their devices to entice the unsuspecting Germans. The German immigrants carefully packed chests with food, clothing and other necessities. Most took whatever money they had, to pay their passage across the Atlantic.

The Long Grueling Trip

During the voyage, the immigrants lived under terrible conditions: sea sickness, fevers, heat, cold, scurvy, boils, and nearly every related condition brought on by overcrowding and lack of food. The trip was hardest on the women and children, many of whom died and were pitched overboard without ceremony.

At the end of the wretched voyage, only those still able to pay for

their passage could go ashore. They then had to bargain as to how long each would have to work to earn his freedom.

In the selling, wives were separated from husbands and children were sold away from their parents.

A New Life on Their Own

The wounds and injuries of the past began to heal as there were marriages, children and grandchildren who knew of suffering only in stories passed from generation to generation, finally forgotten unless recorded in a diary or family history.

The advantages of a free life in a new country healed the wounds, and when the call was sounded for the young and able to fight against the tyranny of the Crown, the young Americans responded.

The former indentured servants, their sons and grandsons crossed the Delaware with Washington. They fought bravely at Trenton, Guilford Courthouse, Cowpens, Brandywine, Monmouth and suffered at Valley Forge.

They were with Washington as he hastened to trap Cornwallis at Yorktown, and they were part of the Virginia Militia that marched the defeated British away from the coast to Winchester, Virginia, and Frederick, Maryland.

They carved a notch for themselves along the eastern seaboard before they headed westward, after the winning of the American Revolution and the signing of The Treaty of Paris.

They crossed through the Cumberland Gap to find homes in the Bluegrass region, and floated down the Tennessee River to establish Nashville. Their descendants died in the fall of The Alamo and defeated the Mexicans at the battle of San Jacinto.

Others moved into the rich prairies of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, and followed the slow-moving oxen into Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota, to form the wagon trains that conquered the west.

It can be said that these former indentured servants and their descendants mounted the ridgepole which supports the United States of America.

—Jennings Flathers

This article has been condensed from The SAR Magazine, Sons of the American Revolution, Summer 1984, by John Toler.

Edward Flathers, Indentured Servant

The author's Revolutionary War ancestor, Patriot Edward Flathers, had been an indentured servant. Here is an interesting account of his life.

As Edward Flathers reached his late teens, he and his brother, Benjamin, were grabbed from the streets of London, hastily thrown into prison and quickly placed aboard ships bound for America.

Benjamin was sent to the West Indies and Edward to Virginia. Since Edward lived in Prince William County until after the Revolutionary War, he probably landed at the now-abandoned port of Dumfries.

What at first must have seemed like a dastardly trick to Edward was actually a blessing. It removed him from an overcrowded city, where he had no future, and placed him in a new land badly in need of young men like himself.

In America, he became a member of the Virginia Militia, and went on to become a prosperous farmer.

Since virtually no records exist of his service in the Virginia Militia, Edward's pension application papers, dated 1832 in Danville, Hendricks County, Indiana, provide valuable information regarding his early life in America.

No information on who purchased Edward as an indentured servant has been found, but it may have been James Grimes of Alexandria, who figured in the early history of the Methodist Church in that city.

Upon finishing his years of servitude, Edward served for Grimes as a substitute in the Virginia Militia.

When he finished, he served a second conscription, this time for Shedwick Dent. His pension papers state that during both periods he "was marched to Occoquan Creek in Prince William County on the business aforesaid: to wit, cutting out a road for General George Washington's troops to march from Pennsylvania through Virginia."

After an interval, Edward served again in the Virginia Militia, this time substituting for James Sinclair of Fauquier County.

He trained briefly in a company under Colonel Elias Edmonds, in a meadow near Warrenton, before

marching to Yorktown to join Washington's forces.

Orders Recalled

In his pension application, he recalls the orders given at Yorktown: "Fire once but do not fire a second time, but charge with bayonets. . . ' After the siege of Yorktown, I was ordered to march to Winchester to guard the British prisoners under officers Colonel Elias Edmonds, Major Welch, and Captain Thomas Sharpe."

Of the 6000 British and German prisoners, half were imprisoned at Winchester and the remaining in Frederick.

After arriving in Winchester on November 5, the tired and weary Virginia Militia turned their prisoners over to a fresh unit organized from the counties of that area.

By virtue of their service, Edward and his fellow compatriots felt their names should be added to the honor roll of the ". . . Founders of American Liberty, those who fought at Yorktown."

Final Settlement

Including his journey back home to Prince William County, Edward had walked nearly 500 miles while performing his military service.

He soon married and started his search for good land, first in what is now West Virginia. Then he and his family walked again, this time through the Cumberland Gap and into Kentucky.

Disappointed that the good land had already been taken, he remained there until Indiana was opened for settlement. Edward Flathers, his wife, four sons and two daughters and their husbands settled in Hendricks County in Indiana.

He lived to 92 years of age, and his wife to 94. They and other members of his family are buried in a private cemetery near his home.

—Jennings Flathers

**Annual Meeting
June 5th, Airlie**

Fairfax County Events

Do you want to escape the present? If so, escape to Sully and Colvin Run Mill in Fairfax County, during 1986 to enjoy the fun of life in a simpler time.

Spend a day on an early 19th-century farm, sample the tastes of open-hearth cooking, pick out the antique car of your dreams, learn all you want to know about historic mills, and take a sack of freshly ground flour from the restored operating gristmill.

Everyone will enjoy the games, music and relaxed atmosphere of old-fashioned country life tucked away in the midst of bustling highways and airports.

An admission fee is charged to tour the sites and both museums are open for group tours by advance reservation. The times and dates of the programs may change, so please call ahead to confirm the information.

During the season, sites are open daily except Tuesday. Call (703) 579-5241 for information.

APRIL 20-26: GARDEN WEEK IN VIRGINIA — Sully. Special programs celebrate the importance of Gardens in Virginia. Admission fee. 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Call: (703) 437-1794.

MAY 9-11: HISTORIC MILL SYMPOSIUM — Colvin Run Mill. Reservations required. Speakers on milling and old mills. Admission fee. Call: (703) 759-2771.

MAY 17-18: PLANTATION DAILY LIFE — Daily routines of life on an early 19th-century farm are demonstrated. Music, crafts, children's activities are part of the fun. Admission fee. 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Call: (703) 437-1794.

JUNE 8: ANTIQUE CAR SHOW — Sully. Over 350 antique cars displayed on the grounds, a flea market, Dixieland band, and more promise a fine time. Admission fee. 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Call: (703) 437-1794.

JULY 9, 16, 23: WEDNESDAY EVENING CONCERT SERIES — Colvin Run Mill. Bring a picnic, a blanket to sit on and a friend. Admission fee. 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Call: (703) 759-2771.

(Continued on Page 6)

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.

CALLIS. Donald E. Todd, Star Rt. 3, Box 248, Judsonia, AR 72081, wants info on Francis Callis of Bourbon Co., KY, son of Francis Callis of Cople Parish, Westmoreland Co. Fauquier will dated 6 Sep 1769, proved 27 Feb 1770. Seeks final settlement of estate.

HENDERSON, WOOD, POINDEXTER. David M. Sullivan, 84 Pleasantdale Road, Rutland, MA 01543, would like to know if the following persons left family in Fauquier: 1st Lt. Charles A. Henderson, USMC, lived in Warrenton when he resigned from Marine Corps after the end of the Civil War. Fielding Poindexter was in newspaper business in Warrenton according to 1910 census, m. Lottie Mason. Also Lottie's sister Momonia Wood and her son Page Mason Wood.

HIGGINS. Mrs. Martha Higgins Klee, 1933 Hawaii Ave. N.E., St. Petersburg, FL 33703, questions if any family connection between John and Augustine Higgins who had a grant of 110 acres at the mouth of Deep Run and John Higgins, known to have been in the area in early 1700s.

JETT, ROBINSON. Mrs. Dorothy C. Van Leesten, 149 Worcester St., Boston MA 02118, seeks info about the Jett family of Rappahannock Sta., Va., ca. 1850. Especially info on Julia Anna (Jett) Robinson, b. ca. 1850, m. Edward Robinson ca. 1870. Children: Ethel Tremaine, Hezron Robert and Cora Collette. Also general knowledge about Rappahannock Sta., Va.

JOHNSON. James R. McKittrick, 34 Wake Road, Eatontown, NJ 07724, is researching Elizabeth Johnson, b. 14 Oct 1771, Fauquier, m. John George Collard before 1798.

JONES. Mrs. Grace E. Harper, 790 W. 4th St., Fallon, NV, seeks info on James Fitzgerald Jones and Anne Lewis Marshall. Anne was grandau. of Chief Justice John Marshall and

daughter of Thomas Marshall. Their son Fielding Lewis Jones was b. at Oak Hill 16 Mar 1854.

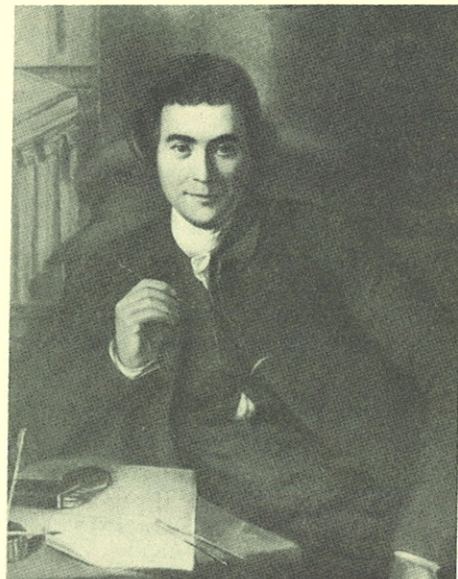
JONES. John F. Dunn, 116 East 8th St., Peru, IN 46970, needs marriage records of Revolutionary Soldier George Jones and wife Mary Rhoades Jones. George b. 4 Oct 1753; Mary b. 11 Apr 1760. Married either in Pr. Wm. or Fauquier.

RECTOR. Kimberly Downey, Rt. 1, Lot 92, Oakdale Est., Decatur, IN 46733, needs info on Minifred Jamezin Rector, formerly of Fauquier, b. 27 Nov 1793. Was 2nd wife of John Buchanan. Needs dates of her death and parents' and grandparents' names.

STRIBLING. Wm. R. Stribling, 2852 Niagara St., Cincinnati, OH 45239, wants info on his ancestor Samuel Stribling who moved to Kentucky in early 1800 from Virginia.

TIPPET. Mrs. Maurine Dewey Brown, 44229-B Kaweah River Dr., Three Rivers, CA 93271, seeking info on James A. Tippet, b. Fauquier 18 Mar 1812. May have been half Indian.

TOMPKINS/THOMPkins. Mrs. Audrey H. Carver, 1 Nassau Rd., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, seeks info on the parents of John, Henry, Christopher and Fortunatus Tompkins. John d. 1802, will filed Fauquier, Will Book #3, pg. 403, m. Peggy Smith, dau. of Samuel Steele, in 1800. In 1804 she m. William Hunton, Jr., a member of Broad Run Baptist Church.



Courtesy of the Board of Regents of Gunston Hall.

William Buckland, *carpenter and joiner*, came from England on an indenture to complete Gunston Hall (1755-1758) at Lorton, Virginia. It is likely that the exterior walls were up before Buckland arrived and that he was responsible only for the splendid interiors and unique porches.

Their Service

Seven ex-indentured servants served in the 1629 Virginia Assembly.

Fifteen served in the Maryland Assembly of 1637-38.

Charles Thomson, a former indentured servant, became Secretary of the Continental Congress.

Matthew Thornton signed the Declaration of Independence.

William Buckland completed Gunston Hall for George Mason.

(Continued on Page 6)

Annual Meeting June 5th, Airlie

Please Return To:
The Fauquier Historical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 675
Warrenton, Virginia 22186

Number in family membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Check appropriate membership category:

() - Individual or family - \$10

() - Contributing - \$15

() - Sustaining - \$25 and over

() - Student - \$3

() - Business - \$25

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

Fairfax County

(Continued from Page 4)

AUGUST 17: ANNUAL QUILT SHOW — Sully. Contemporary quilt makers and sellers gather on the grounds for a "clothesline" quilt show. An exhibit of antique quilts inside the house completes the show. **RAIN-DATE: AUGUST 24.** Admission fee. 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Call: (703) 437-1794.

SEPTEMBER 13, 14: THE MAGIC OF MILLING — Colvin Run Mill Park. Celebrate the magic of this restored operating 19th-century gristmill with master craftspeople as they demonstrate their crafts. Talk to the miller about how corn, wheat, and rye are ground. Sample some of the products made from the flour. Admission fee. 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Call: (703) 759-2771.

OCTOBER 11, 12. HARVEST DAYS — Sully. Traditional crafts, food preservation, games, music and demonstrations of harvest activities provide a fun fall outing. Admission fee. 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Call: (703) 437-1794.

NOVEMBER 14, 15: CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE — Dranesville Tavern. The tavern opens to the public for this sale of expertly hand-crafted items by some of the finest artisans in the area. Free. 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Call: (703) 759-5241.

DECEMBER 12, 13: AN OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS — Colvin Run Mill Park. Holiday greens

decorate the Mill, Miller's House, Barn and General Store during the festivities. Storytelling by the bonfire, ornament making, yuletide music, and of course, Saint Nick, make this a tradition for many. Admission fee. 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Call: (703) 759-2771.

28: A SOLSTICE CELEBRATION — Sully. Fireworks, a bonfire, candlelight, music, and hot cider bid farewell to the old year in the manner of the early 19th-century. Come join the fun. Admission fee. 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Call: (703) 437-1794.

The historic sites are closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. An admission fee is charged for special programs. All programs will be held rain, sleet, snow, or sun.



(Photo: Jennings Flathers)

Edward Flathers' grave (second from left) is located in the Flathers Family plot in Gentry Cemetery, Hendricks County, Indiana. Note the Revolutionary War marker.

Reader's Corner

The Virginia Historical Society published a new reference book last fall that should be of interest to many of our readers.

Now for the first time, the Society offers for sale a reference book about its most important manuscript resources. The *Guide to the Manuscript Collections of the Virginia Historical Society* provides a summary description and comprehensive name and subject index of some twelve hundred collections.

Researchers who wish to gain an overview of the Society's manuscript holdings will find this reference work invaluable. Individuals and institutions may order copies at \$10 each, plus \$1 postage and \$0.40 Virginia sales tax.

Orders should be sent to the Publications Office, Virginia Historical Society, P.O. Box 7311, Richmond, VA 23221.

Their Service

(Continued from Page 5)

Charles Wilson Peale, the son of an indentured school-master, became the famous Revolutionary War portrait painter.

Benjamin Franklin, the mastermind of the Treaty of Paris, had a maternal grandmother who was the daughter of an indentured servant.

The Fauquier Historical Society

P. O. Box 675, Warrenton, VA. 22186

Nonprofit Org. U. S. Postage PAID Warrenton, Va. Permit No. 109
