



NEWS AND NOTES

from

The Fauquier Historical Society

Vol. 1, No. 1

WARRENTON, VIRGINIA

August, 1979

A Beginning . . .

This month marks the beginning of a new publication offering "News and Notes" from The Fauquier Historical Society. This bi-monthly newsletter is one of the first of many changes and activities being initiated by the Society this year.

In it you will find features on people and places in Fauquier County—both stories relating to the past and those providing information on things being done in the present. The newsletter will try to keep the Society membership informed on activities of the Old Gaol museum, new donations or special exhibits, persons doing research in Fauquier history or genealogy, new books of local interest, special northern Virginia activities of interest to local residents, and any other activities of the Fauquier Historical Society. A calendar of events will be a regular part of each issue.

While the newsletter will help keep Fauquier residents advised of what's going on in their own county, it will also serve as a source of information to those Society members who no longer live in this geographical area, but who wish to retain their ties with Fauquier. Although this first issue is being mailed to everyone on the Society's mailing list, only members will receive the next issues.

While the newsletter committee already has many suggestions for possible feature stories for future issues, contributions from other writers are also welcomed and encouraged. Anyone with news items or features to be included in the newsletter should contact the editor or mail their articles or information to The Fauquier Historical Society, P. O. Box 675, Warrenton, Virginia 22186.

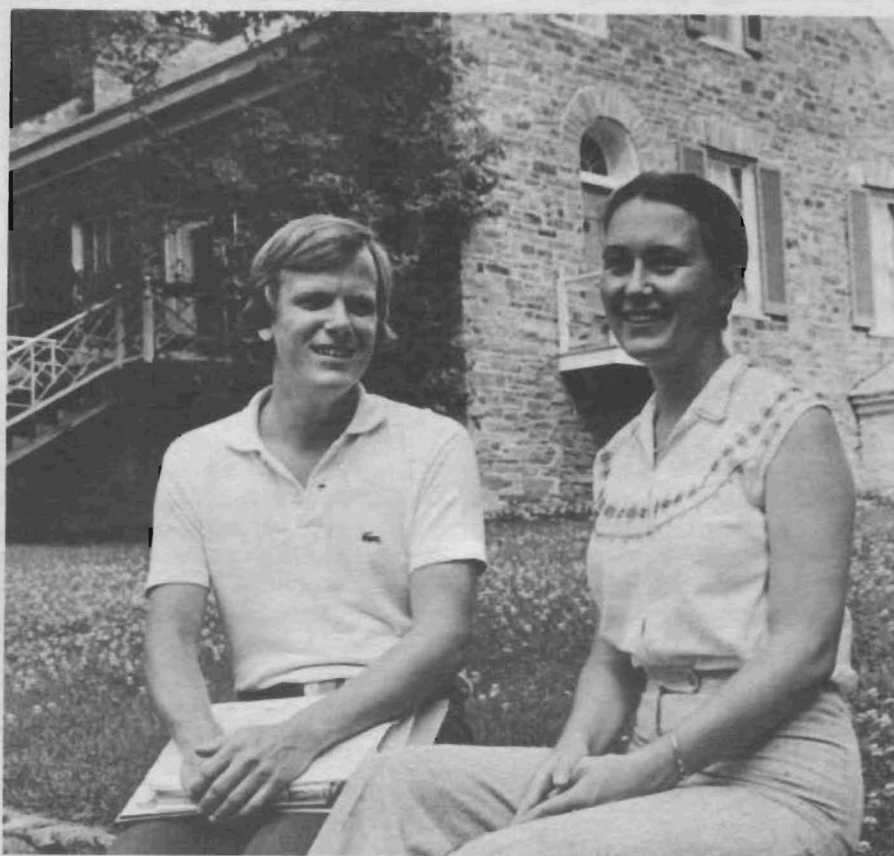


Photo By Rosanne Berkenstock

County historian Bob Barron and architectural surveyor Cynthia MacLeod on Culpeper Street.

Survey Provides Clues To Fauquier's Past

By Rosanne Berkenstock

How many times have you driven over Fauquier County's roads and found yourself asking, "I wonder what that old building over there used to be?" Or driven by a well-kept but obviously old house and wondered who built it and when?

After the research currently being conducted by Cynthia MacLeod and Bob Barron is completed, the answers to many of these vague questions may well be readily available. They are conducting an architectural survey of the old and unique buildings of Fauquier County.

MacLeod, a graduate of Duke University, says she has always been interested in architectural history. After a year away from school, which included time spent working as a carpenter to discover how buildings were put together, she entered graduate school at the University of Virginia to pursue a master's degree in architectural history. She completed her course work last year, and in September began working in Fauquier County.

Although she was hired by the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission in Richmond, MacLeod

(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.

Dues are as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Individual or Family Membership | \$ 7.50 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, John B. Adams, The Plains.
Vice President, Marshall Wallach, Warrenton.
Secretary, Mrs. John Lainhart, Warrenton.
Treasurer, Mrs. Meade Palmer, Warrenton.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

John B. Adams, The Plains.
Dr. A. R. Anderson, Jr., Warrenton.
Mrs. Ronald Berkenstock, Haymarket.
Alex C. Beverley, Marshall.
Mayo Brown, Upperville.
Edward Cooper, Warrenton.
Mrs. Richard M. Cuts, The Plains.
Hunter deButts, Jr., Upperville.
Jennings H. Flathers, Gainesville.
Charles Harris, Warrenton.
Thomas D. Jones, Warrenton.
Mrs. John Lainhart, Warrenton.

H. P. Monroe, Goldvein.
Mrs. Robert K. Neilson, Warrenton.
Mrs. Meade Palmer, Warrenton.
H. M. Pearson, Remington.
Mrs. Frances Ritter, Warrenton.
Col. David Rumbough, Warrenton.
Mrs. Alyce Russell, Catlett.
Douglas Smith, Warrenton.
Mrs. H. Wade Stinson, Warrenton.
Mrs. James Timberlake, Jr., Warrenton.
Mrs. Charles G. Turner, The Plains.
Col. Marshall Wallach, Warrenton.

Correspondence regarding membership should be directed to:

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

Newsletter Editor: Rosanne Berkenstock, Green Hill, Haymarket, Va. 22069.

Direct material for newsletter to the Editor, 347-4222, 754-7385.

Newsletter committee: Rosanne Berkenstock, Bob A. Barron, Ava Lee, Mary Stuart Banks.

Annual Meeting

Members of the Fauquier Historical Society met June 20 at St. James Parish Hall, Warrenton, for the society's annual membership meeting.

Committee reports and the election of a new treasurer and eight members of the board of directors provided the bulk of the business at the meeting. New or reelected directors are: Mrs. Robert K. Neilson, Col. David Rumbaugh, Douglas Smith, Mrs. Wade Stinson, Mrs. Charles Turner, Dr. Robert Anderson, Mrs. Ronald Berkenstock, and H. P. Monroe.

John Adams will continue as president of the society, with Marshall Wallach as vice president, and Mrs. John Lainhart as secretary. Mrs. Meade Palmer was elected treasurer.

William Parkinson, who guided the restoration of the Old Gaol into the present museum, gave background information on the restoration. He explained the changes made and restorations done, and mentioned some of the fine articles that are on exhibition there.

Members learned of plans for a bi-monthly newsletter from Rosanne Berkenstock. She briefly explained some of the types of material the newsletter would contain, and its expected format.

Alex Beverley told the society that he and his son-in-law have recently prepared a slide show with

sound narrative which has been installed upstairs in the Old Gaol Museum.

Parkinson told the group of a recent meeting he had attended at which officers at Vint Hill Farms had expressed an interest in the history of their Army post. Vint Hill has already prepared a historic study of the post, and the Society decided to offer its assistance in their work.

Architectural historian Cynthia MacLeod and county historian Bob Barron told the society a little about the work they are doing surveying the buildings of Fauquier County. After their research is finished, they hope to publish a book which will provide information on many of the buildings they have visited.

Survey Provides Clues To Fauquier's Past

(Continued from Page-1)

is actually paid by a grant administered by the Rappahannock-Rapidan Planning District Commission. While most of her time is spent in Fauquier County, she also occasionally researches and surveys buildings in other areas of the planning district.

Barron, on the other hand, is a native of Fauquier County. He delights in pointing out that he was "born right on the main street" of Warrenton at the old Physician's Hospital, now the District Nursing Home. He grew up with a love of

local history, and eventually earned a degree in history from Mary Washington College. Research on the old gold mines of Fauquier led to his publication of a booklet on gold mining.

Funds for Barron's current position were obtained from a special donor in Fauquier County. He is employed by the county as part of the Parks and Recreation Department, and began his work in January. In his job as county historian, Barron assists MacLeod with her surveys and researches many of the old buildings using tax records, deeds, wills, and any other factual information he can find.

Cindy and Bob keep track of all the houses surveyed so far by marking them on topographical maps. Sometimes they survey a house together, or more frequently she does the actual on-site work while he spends his time researching at the record room or library.

MacLeod will first ask the owner or residents of each house what they know of its history. She photographs the outside from several vantage points, and also takes pictures of any distinctive features on the inside. She measures its dimensions and sketches a floor plan, as well as examining the construction. The type and make of nails, saw marks, construction of rafters, framing methods, style and construction of doors and paneling all provide clues to the age of a particular building. She also looks for evidence of fine craftsmanship such as beading on paneling or carved mantels, but also does not overlook houses of more simple construction that are equally as old.

Cindy will note the additions and changes made in each house, and any outbuildings or cemeteries on the property. When her survey is finished, she will complete an inventory form, identify the photos, and mark the negatives which will be filed at the Virginia State Library in Richmond.

Not all of the buildings she visits will be researched by Barron. Only those they consider especially important or those that they have questions on will warrant having extra time spent on more extensive research.

MacLeod estimates that she has surveyed 450 buildings since she began her job. Other buildings, such

as those in the Town of Warrenton, in Upperville, and many near Markham have already been briefly surveyed in past years.

At the end of the project, MacLeod estimates that about 1000 buildings will have been inventoried. They include all pre-Civil War structures and any of noteworthiness built since that time. As many as possible will be included in a book they hope to compile.

Can You Help?

News and Notes will contain a list each month 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 contact Ava Lee at the Fauquier County Library, Courthouse Square, Warrenton, Virginia 22186, 347-3401.

FLETCHER FAMILY. Gary Fletcher, 1602 E. Third St., Wichita, Kansas 67214 is seeking information on Gibson Fletcher who was born in Virginia in 1775. He married Rhoda Heflin on May 11, 1799 in Fleming County, Kentucky.

PROUDFOOT FAMILY. Dorsey A. Proudfoot, 2812 Jackson Avenue, El Paso, Texas 79930 needs information on the early life of John Proudfoot. He married Leanor Hitt, of German descent, and they lived in Fauquier County prior to 1803. Seven children were born to them here. They moved in 1803 to Harrison County, Virginia which is now part of West Virginia.

LANDSTREET. David McCandlish, 181 Burlington Avenue, Rochester, New York 14619 would like any information on the Rev. John Landstreet who resided in Warrenton around 1855. Information on his birth, death, marriage(s) or where he was a minister would be appreciated.

WALLER FAMILY. Thelma R. Waller, c/o Red Bird Hospital,

Beverly, Kentucky 40913 is tracing the genealogy of the Waller family. Her great grandfather Aldridge Waller was born in Virginia on October 10, 1822. He moved to Kentucky from near Warrenton. His parents may have been Charles and Elizabeth Waller.

SKINKER FAMILY. Rosanne Berkenstock, P.O. Box 117, Haymarket, Virginia 22069 is researching the Skinker family of Fauquier County with specific interest in the Spring Farm branch and those who owned land at Haymarket in the 18th and 19th centuries. Would like to review old letters, diaries, farm account books, etc.

Museum Now Open

The Old Gaol Museum opened for the 1979 season in April, and will continue to be open two days a week through October. Mrs. Frances Ritter will be overseeing the museum and she will open it for visitors each Wednesday and Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m.

The museum opened in 1976 through the dedicated efforts of William Parkinson and a host of other volunteers. It houses many items of interest that have been donated, and special exhibits are on display several times a year. If you have any items that you would like to donate to the museum, call one of the following: William Parkinson, 347-7650; Alex Beverley, 364-2072; or John Adams, 253-5273.

Committees Forming

The Board of Directors of the Fauquier Historical Society decided at a special meeting July 18 to hold directors' meetings regularly on the second Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. at the Old Gaol or other designated location.

Volunteers are still needed for some of the committees that were appointed at the meeting. If you are

interested in helping, or have suggestions to make, contact the chairman of the committee you prefer.

Program: Edward Cooper, 347-2511, or 347-2620.

Publications (such as annual bulletin): William Parkinson, 347-7650.

Youth and Schools: Ava Lee, 347-7805 or 347-3401.

Newsletter: Rosanne Berkenstock, 347-4222 or 754-7385.

Museum: William Parkinson, 347-7650.

Museum Docents: Frances Ritter, 347-3699.

Publicity: Rosanne Berkenstock, 347-4222 or 754-7385.

Membership: Leah Cooper, 347-2511 or 347-2620.

Special Exhibits: Barbara Stinson, 347-2476.

County Historic Landmarks: Meade Palmer, 347-1685 or 347-1273.

Encampment, Open House

Members of the Fredericksburg Artillery held a reenactment of a Confederate encampment June 23 at Auburn (Neavil's) Mill near Casanova as part of an open house celebration hosted by Earth Design Associates.

The mill, renovated during the past few years by Earth Design, was open to visitors throughout the day. Barry W. Starke hosted the event.

Join Us

Membership categories in the Fauquier Historical Society are listed on the form below. Present members are encouraged to renew their financial participation if they haven't already done so, while new friends are invited to join the Society. Membership dues are tax deductible.

Please Return To:

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

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Check appropriate membership category:

- Individual or family — \$7.50
 — Contributing — \$15

- Sustaining — \$25 and over
 — Student — \$3
 — Business — \$25

READER'S CORNER

Like To Read? Start With Local History

By Ava Lee

Do you have some youngsters in the house who are getting bored with summer activities? Perhaps your grandchildren are visiting for a few weeks. For a change of pace, now might be a good time to introduce them to a little local history.

An excellent way to start off is a trip to the Old Gaol Museum. After spending some time browsing there, walk across the street to the Fauquier County Public Library. The library has in its Virginia Room a very good collection of Fauquier County histories, maps, pictures and other items to tempt a youngster's interest in history.

Downstairs, in the children's section, are several good biographies on some famous Fauquier Countians. *John Marshall* by Teri Martini and *John Marshall: Boy of Young America* by Helen Albee Monsell are just two about our famous Chief Justice of the United States, John Marshall.

The Violent Years by Patricia Kahn is the story of Simon Kenton, a little known hero of frontier settlement, who was born near The Plains. He left Fauquier County at the age of 15. It was not long before he became a scout and aide to a very famous American frontiersman, Daniel Boone.

A well known person from the Civil War era was Colonel John S. Mosby. Although he was not born in Fauquier County, many of his escapades during the War were on Fauquier soil. After the end of the War he settled in Warrenton and opened a law practice. One particularly good juvenile biography of his life is by Anne Welsh Guy entitled *John Mosby*.

Northern Virginia Heritage will appear three times a year—February, June and October.

Among the articles in the June issue is one on Edward Carter Turner of Kinloch at The Plains. The article contains many excerpts from Turner's Civil War diary, as well as an overview by Henriques which ties Turner's passages together.

Subscriptions are \$5 for one year. For information, or the journal's guidelines for potential authors, contact Peter Henriques in the history department at George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, Virginia 22030.

Calendar of Events

- Now to August 19 - Renwick Gallery, Washington, D.C. Exhibit of photos and text showing recycling of old buildings and historic places.
- August 11 - 19th Annual Jousting Tournament. Leeds Ruritan Club grounds, Hume, 3 p.m. Information: 364-1347.
- August 11-12 - Ft. Ward Park, Alexandria. Civil War Living History Day, Civil War re-enactment. Information: 703-750-6425.
- August 12 - Native Basketry and Straw Dolly Workshop, Belle Grove, Middletown, Virginia. Information: 703-869-2028.
- August 18-19 - August Court Days. Crafts exhibitions, entertainment, old fashioned fun and events. Leesburg. Information: entertainment committee - 777-4428, crafts committee - 777-2947.
- August 25 - Wine Festival and Vineyard Tour. Grape stomping, wine films, crafts bazaar, wine growing seminar. Middleburg area. Information: Vinifera Wine Growers Assoc., The Plains, Virginia 22171, 703-754-8564 or 703-687-5327.
- August 25-26 - Lucketts Fair. Crafts exhibits, tour of local churches, country music. At old Lucketts School. Information: 777-3533.
- August 27-September 1 - Fredericksburg Agricultural Fair, Fredericksburg Fairgrounds. Information: 703-373-1776.
- September 8 - Upstairs & Downstairs In The Victorian House. An introductory workshop for the homeowner and restorer. Philadelphia, Pa. Experts will discuss the practical aspects of reviving Victorian buildings. Information: The Victorian Society, East Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. 19106.
- September 8 - Militia Muster Day. Marching and firing demonstrations. Carlyle House, Alexandria. Information: 549-2997.
- September 8-9 - 18th Century Encampment of the First Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line. Sully Plantation near Centreville, Va. Information: 703-437-1794 or 703-471-7382.
- October 3-7 - 33rd Annual Meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. San Francisco, Calif. Information: National Trust, 748 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Special Program!

Gold Mining in Fauquier. Sun., Sept. 23, 2:30 p.m. Rain date: Sept. 30. We will meet at Monroe's store at Goldvein and later visit the Franklin Mine near Morrisville. Wear old clothes, bring a pan, small pick or shovel to search for gold. Bring the family! Info: Ed Cooper, 347-2511 or 347-2620.

Donation

Early this year, H. M. Pearson, retired educator from Remington, donated a canal boat anchor to the Fauquier Historical Society. The anchor, which Mr. Pearson believes to be at least 180 years old, was given to the Society to be displayed at the Old Gaol Museum.

The Fauquier Historical Society

P. O. Box 675, Warrenton, VA 22186

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

History Journal Makes Debut

Through the efforts of Dr. Peter Henriques, assistant professor of state and local history at George Mason University, a new journal focusing on the historical richness of the Northern Virginia area has recently made its debut.