



NEWS AND NOTES

from

The Fauquier Historical Society

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WARRENTON, VIRGINIA

October, 1979

Pioneers Once Moved West, Now Descendants Looking Back

By John Gott

Anyone who works with the Fauquier County records and receives queries from family genealogists soon realizes the westward movement pattern.

During the Revolution a number of Fauquier natives had an opportunity to see Kentucky and Ohio and came home to praise what they had seen and the opportunities offered by settling this rich land, unbroken by a plow.

Many of them did not wait for the conclusion of the war or the end of the Indian troubles to move to the new land which was almost free for the taking.

One noted Fauquier Countian, Simon Kenton, who went to the "Dark and Bloody Ground" before the Revolution, is often mentioned in the Fauquier records as having "scalped" trees as markers for his fellow countians.

Once he was certain the Sheriff of Fauquier held no warrant for his immediate arrest, he came home to the Bull Run Mountains and moved his family and neighbors, lock, stock and barrel, to Kentucky, via the Ohio River from Pittsburgh.

This migration continued until late in the 19th century, as land to subdivide among heirs became increasingly less available in Fauquier. The Marshall Syndicate had purchased the Manor of Leeds from Lord Fairfax's heirs and the lessees were ready to move on.

The older families suffered from the land shortage to be divided among heirs and the lessees' tenure on the land was very shaky. Some leases were executed for a definite number of years, but most were for "three lives" - the lessee, his wife and a child or younger relative (brother, nephew, niece, etc.)

This was no ownership in fee simple - sooner or later the term of the lease would expire and the proprietor would reclaim the land.

As families grew, the decision was made for a son or daughter and her husband (few ladies ventured out on their own, except Elizabeth Glascock Lemmert who founded Elizabethtown, Ohio, now Perryton), to go west and take advantage of the vast unsettled land.

The parting must have taken on funereal aspects - there was little or no thought of family members ever seeing each other again on this earth. A few letters from the west have survived and some families in the west have saved letters "from home", but they are rare.

The generation on the move might settle in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana or Illinois, but they remained Virginians, from Fauquier County. Generations following the emigrant will recite - "my great great-grandfather always said he was from Fauquier County."

In some cases they left behind a brother or relative reluctant to take the risk, or with ties impossible to break, who was willing to buy out their interest in the old home.

After 150 to 170 years the descendants of these pioneer families are beginning to look back. Armed with very little information other than what Grandpa "always said...", the letters pour in. Unfortunately, we Virginians kept very few vital statistics. That responsibility was given to the Established Church - the demise of which, after the Revolution, meant the end of the recording of parishioners' births, marriages and deaths.

Fauquier County is doubly a

victim to the disestablishment of the Church. The records of Hamilton and Leeds Parishes were thought so insignificant that the pages were used as pipe lighters in the Clerk's Office!

In many cases family names which the searchers are trying to locate no longer exist, or are known to have existed, in Fauquier. Many came and leased land without taking the time or trouble to record the document, and soon moved on.

The 'root' seekers whose ancestor had a grant, rather than a lease, are the fortunate ones. For all intents and purposes this land was held in fee simple. The grantee, as a rule,

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Society to Visit Clifton, Bethel Church

The Fauquier Historical Society's November program will feature Bethel Church and nearby Clifton Farm.

Society members will meet at Bethel Church on Rt. 628 at 1 p.m. Nov. 11 where Mrs. Ava Lee will provide some of the history of the old building. Visitors will then be able to tour the church.

From Bethel Church the group will continue up Rt. 628 to Clifton, the 18th century home of Major Joseph Blackwell. The original log cabin, later used as a kitchen, is the oldest building on the property, with the main house dating from the 19th century. Mrs. Lucy Blackwell Jones, a descendant of Major Blackwell, will provide a history of the buildings.

For more information on the Society's November field trip contact Edward Cooper, program chairman at 347-2511 or 347-2620.

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

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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.

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.

KENDALL FAMILY. Mrs. M. Kendall Marcus, 1729 Swinburne Ave., Crofton, Md. 21113 is seeking any information about the Kendall family.

HEFLIN FAMILY. Donald L. Heflin, 123 Kathy Ellen Dr., C-2, Vallejo, CA 24590 hopes to publish a genealogy on the Heflin family. He is seeking all types of family data.

MARSHALL FAMILY. Ward M. Gray, 16306 Pine St., Minnetonka, Minn. 55343 is seeking information on Thomas Marshall who migrated from Fauquier to Muskingum County, Ohio about 1828. Thought to have had brothers John and Simon who also went to the same county.

DOWDALL FAMILY. Mrs. William Rifenburg, 1118 Ben Road, Modesto, CA 95351 is seeking information on the family of Brawner and Alice (Holmes) Dowdall who were married in Fauquier on Jan. 24, 1788.

COOKSEY FAMILY. Miss Pearl O. Smith, 3000 Spout Run Parkway, Arlington, VA 22201 is interested in obtaining data on Philip Cooksey

and wife Mary, who died 1836 in Fauquier. Lived in vicinity of Pleasant Vale Church, Delaplane.

O'BANNON NEWSLETTER: Anyone interested in this old Fauquier family can subscribe to The O'Bannon Genealogist, a newsletter edited by Mildred S. Ames, 2491 N. Hwy. 89, #64, Ogden, Utah 84404.

DIXON FAMILY. John K. Gott, 4515 N. 17th St., Arlington, VA 22207 is seeking the descendants of Maj. Henry T. Dixon and wife Annie E., son of Turner and Maria (Turner) Dixon of "Vermont", Fauquier County.

STEWART AND THORNBERRY FAMILIES. Margaret E. Smith, 420 Brown, Osawatomie, KS 66064 needs information on the Thornberry (Samuel and John) family and on James and William Stewart (Stuart) in Fauquier before 1770. William Stewart was the father of Ann who married Elijah Thornberry on Dec. 2, 1793.

HAMRICK FAMILY. Allen L. Hamrick, 3908 Tara Hall Drive, Jacksonville, Florida 32211 is seeking information on John Hamrick of the Manor of Leeds 1777, or any other Hamrick in early Fauquier.

ROACH FAMILY. Mrs. Stanley R. Weber, Rt. 4, Pontiac, Ill. 61764 is searching for any information on Littleberry Roach. He may have been married to Ailsey Kemper,

daughter of Henry Kemper of Germantown.

NEVILLE FAMILY. Those interested in the Neville family might want to contact members of the Society of John Neville Descendants. The Society publishes a newsletter and many individual members conduct their own research on the Neville and related families. For information write: Robert S. Jett, 2223 Trescott Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32303.

Mosby Program Planned At GMU

A special evening devoted to John Singleton Mosby, Confederate Civil War hero, has been planned for Oct. 19 by the Northern Virginia Association of Historians.

The program "The Gray Ghost Reconjured" will be held at the Fenwick Library at George Mason University beginning at 7:30 p.m. A special exhibit featuring Mosby artifacts, books, photos, etc. will be displayed at the library from Oct. 19 to 26.

Both Pat Jones, author of Ranger Mosby, and Beverly Coleman, Mosby's grandson, will be speaking during the lecture and discussion Oct. 19. The program is being held in conjunction with the first regular meeting of the Northern Virginia Association of Historians.

For more information contact Peter Henriques at George Mason University, 323-2553.

Historians Unite

An organizational meeting held May 11 attracted 116 persons to help form the Northern Virginia Association of Historians. Professors, teachers, writers, librarians and a host of others interested in history have joined the new group.

Plans for the future call for a newsletter, meetings, workshops, and other special functions. For more information write or call the Department of History, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, Va. 22030, 703-323-2242.

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When in Culpeper, stop by the Culpeper Cavalry Museum on Davis St. just off Main St.

READER'S CORNER

Visit The Library's Virginiana Room

By Ava Lee

At first glance the small room at the back of the Fauquier County Library may look like an office. But despite the fact that the staff members must use the room for clerical duties, it is essentially the library's Virginiana Room.

The room is especially set aside to house a fine collection of books, pamphlets, newspapers, magazines, and microfilm dealing with Virginia, and particularly Fauquier County.

Because of the significant role Fauquier County played in the history of our country, it is important that there be a centrally located place for this information. By maintaining the collection in a room separate from the main collection, patrons are able to find all materials on Virginia and Fauquier County in one place.

The room also eliminates the need to lock up special materials because the collection is easily supervised by the library staff.

The Virginiana Room is well used. New people moving into Fauquier County are usually anxious to learn the history of their new locale. Older residents acquiring additional property are interested in knowing if it has any historical significance.

Students of all ages use the collection for research for term papers or school projects. In addition to the use by local patrons, the Virginiana collection is used by people outside the county as well. People from over thirty states have come to the library in the last two years to use the special collection. In the past year 136 mail requests for historical or genealogical information have been received.

Basically, the collection includes histories of many of the 96 counties in Virginia, books on famous homes

and gardens in the state, biographies of well-known Virginians, books on areas of Virginia involved in the American Revolution and the Civil War, and a complete set of the current Code of Virginia.

There is also a 39 volume set of the writings of George Washington and an 18 volume set, Papers of Thomas Jefferson. If a patron is interested in information on white water canoeing or caving in Virginia this, too, would be found in the Virginiana Room. General genealogical resource materials are included in this collection with particular emphasis on Fauquier County.

Probably the most frequently used material in the Virginiana Room is that on Fauquier County. For general reading there are several good histories available. In 1959 a book entitled Fauquier County, Virginia 1759-1959 was compiled by the Fauquier County Bicentennial Committee. It has excellent background information on the settlement of the county, its early government, and its growth. A special section of the book features many homes of historical interest.

A companion volume, The Years of Anguish, Fauquier County, Va. 1861-1865, was compiled by Emily G. Ramey and John K. Gott for the Fauquier County Civil War Centennial Committee.

Gott, who has a very active interest in Fauquier County history, collaborated with Thomas Triplett Russell in compiling an extensive book on the part Fauquier County played in the Revolutionary War. This book, Fauquier County in the Revolution, was published in 1977. Circulating copies of each of these books are available for two week loan.

Other books on the county which circulate are Sketches and Illustrations of Fauquier County by

Annie G. Day, The Foothills of The Blue Ridge in Fauquier County, Virginia compiled by Clara S. McCarty, and Maps and Notes by B. Curtis Chappelle, Esq., Women of the Debatable Land by Alexander Hunter, and An Old Timer in Warrenton and Fauquier County, Virginia by M. Louise Evans.

Ava Lee, the Virginiana Librarian, is available to assist with historical and genealogical research. Those unable to visit the library personally can reach Mrs. Lee by phone 347-3401 or by mail addressed to her at the Fauquier County Library, 2 Court House Square, Warrenton, Va. 22186.

Book Review

THE ARTIFACT HUNTER'S HANDBOOK, by Michael Hudoba. Contemporary Books, Inc., Chicago, 1979. 163 pages. Appendices, index, illus. \$5.95 paperback.

Michael Hudoba of Leeds Manor at Hume has always been an avid outdoorsman. Along with his love of hunting and fishing, Hudoba also developed a love of artifact hunting at an early age. He continued his interest in artifacts throughout his career as a columnist for Sports Afield, and since his retirement from the magazine he has produced *The Artifact Hunter's Handbook*.

Hudoba's book provides a
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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

Pioneers' Descendants Now Looking Back

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left a will or if he died intestate, his estate was settled by an administrator and the transactions are recorded.

These records, deed books, marriage bonds and will books exist intact from 1759 to the present. Fauquier County has been blessed with a series of clerks who devoted special interest and care to the preservation of the public records. We have also been blessed not to have had a devastating fire or souvenir-hunting Union soldiers.

The marriage bonds are complete, however, those marriages solemnized merely by "posting banns" were lost with the Parish records. Many know for certain that an ancestor was lawfully married, and to whom, but they must have used the alternate to obtaining a marriage bond, which involved a bondsman, assuring the Governor that the marriage would take place.

The marriage bonds which do exist from 1759 to 1854 have been published by Nancy Chappellear, and John K. Gott in "Early Fauquier County, Virginia Marriage Bonds" (1965).

Mrs. Nancy (Chappellear) Baird has also collected and published "Fauquier County, Virginia Tombstone Inscriptions" (1970). The will books have been abstracted and published by John K. Gott in "Abstracts of Fauquier County, Virginia Wills, Inventories and Accounts, 1759-1800" (c1976).

At present this contributor is abstracting the Deed Books from 1759 to 1800. Several hands are also preparing a map of Fauquier showing the bounds of the first land grants from the Proprietor. This is a Herculean undertaking, but, using the superb example set by Mrs. Beth Mitchell who did the Fairfax County grants, it is hoped his project will eventually become a reality.

Artifact Hunter's Handbook

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general guide which is sure to whet the interest of the novice artifact hunter. Early chapters skim archeology and introduce the reader to artifacts and restrictions of

artifact hunting. His book continues with a chronological study of artifacts from the American Indian through chapters on colonial, settler and pioneer artifacts, war relics, treasurers from old privies and wells, and concludes with information on nostalgia and recent artifacts.

Hudoba recommends what the artifact hunter should wear, how to go about hunting, and where to look for particular types of artifacts. He also takes the time to direct his readers to other books on subjects of interest to hunters of specific types of artifacts such as old bottles or Civil War relics.

The book is liberally illustrated with 69 photos, most of which show different types of artifacts and locations where they may be found. Two large appendices list historical and archeological resources and provide a state-by-state listing of archeologists and publications.



Photo By Rosanne Berkenstock

H. P. "Pat" Monroe shows members and guests of the Fauquier Historical Society his techniques for panning gold Sept. 30 during the Society's gold mining program.

Calendar of Events

- Oct. 19: The Gray Ghost Reconjured. An evening devoted to John Singleton Mosby. Program begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Fenwick Library at George Mason University. Fairfax. Mosby exhibit Oct. 19 to 26. Information: 323-2553.
- Oct. 20: Aldie Festival. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. rt. 50 east of Middleburg.
- Nov. 1 and 3: Christmas Decorations Workshop. Belle Grove. Middletown. Info: 703-869-2028.
- Nov. 1-5: Christmas at Oatlands. Near Leesburg. Reservations required. Info: 703-777-3174.
- Nov. 11: Fauquier Historical Society visit to Clifton Farm and Bethel Church. Meet at church at 1 p.m. Information: Edward Cooper, 347-2511 or 347-2620.
- Nov. 17-18: Society For Commercial Archeology. Features the influences the automobile and highway have had on the American landscape. Museum of History and Technology, Washington, D.C. Info: SCA-79, 2214 Cathedral Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008.
- Nov. 23: Christmas Shop opens at Belle Grove. Middletown. Info: 703-869-2028.
- Dec. 9, 11: Carols By Candlelight. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Woodlawn Plantation.
- Dec. 17, 15: Carols By Candlelight. 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Woodlawn Plantation, Mt. Vernon, VA. Fee. Info: 703-780-3118.
- Dec. 16 to 23: Christmas at Belle Grove. Middletown. Info: 703-869-2028.
- Jan. 27-Feb. 1: Antiques Forum at Colonial Williamsburg, Info: Registrar, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, VA 23185.

The Fauquier Historical Society

P. O. Box 675, Warrenton, VA 22186

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