



NEWS AND NOTES

from

The Fauquier Historical Society

Vol. 2, No. 1

WARRENTON, VIRGINIA

Jan./Feb., 1980



—Virginia State Library Photo

This Works Progress Administration photo from the early 1930's shows Ivy Hill when it was owned by members of the Blackwell family. Now in ruins, the house still stands off Rt. 17 just north of Warrenton. Plans call for a subdivision to be built in the area.

Ivy Hill Dates Back To Late 1700's

By Bob Barron

The Fauquier County Board of Supervisors recently approved a subdivision called Ivy Hill on Rt. 17 north, just beyond Highland School. Like Warrenton Lakes, the Ivy Hill subdivision will become homes for new and old citizens of Fauquier alike.

The name "Ivy Hill" however, is not something created by a developer to sound esthetically pleasing. Instead, the name dates back several centuries to an old house and farm which first belonged to the Edmond(s) family in the mid 1700's.

The Edmond, or Edmonds, family

first settled in Lancaster County, Virginia, in June of 1654 according to references in the book "Estates" in the Lancaster County Courthouse.

William Edmond of Lancaster County settled here with his brother Elias around 1741. Prince William

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Smith's Boyhood Memories Republished

By Rosanne Berkenstock

A delightful little book which offers insights into the lifestyle of Fauquier County in the late 19th and early 20th centuries has recently been reprinted.

P. A. L. (Presley Alexander Lycurgus) Smith (Jr.) first had his remembrances published in 1926. Titled "Boyhood Memories of Fauquier," the book was republished last year by A. Maxim Coppage, a genealogist and historical researcher.

The new version is annotated, indexed, and edited by Coppage. Although the reprint is a little hard to read (the type seems to glare at the reader) all of the anecdotes of Smith's younger days are included as well as other valuable information added by Coppage.

Smith was a member of the large Smith family of Fauquier. His father, P. A. L. Smith, lived at Mead Farm and was in turn the son of Walter and Catherine Morehead Smith of Mt. Eccentric near The Plains. P. A. L. Smith Sr. was married three times, his third wife being Mrs. John Heath Hunton, the former Amanda Butcher of White Hall in Loudoun County.

Their union brought nine children into the world, of which P. A. L. Jr., the author, was the last. He was born August 29, 1864. An elder brother, William Worth Smith, married cousin Lucy Lewis of Cedar Hill, and was the father of the late Judge Howard Smith, the well known Virginia politician.

P. A. L. Smith Sr. left Fauquier during the Civil War to live at his wife's home White Hall. He returned after the war as an old man and died soon after, leaving his wife the nine children.

P. A. L. Smith Jr., who also practiced law as have many members of the family, published his boyhood memories in his later years. He recounts Civil War remembrances and other stories from his parents' days, and then turns to the days of his youth.

He writes about the area surrounding his home, the land and the people, and then offers tales of trapping, hunting, picking geese, tournaments, ghosts stories, hog killing, and a variety of other day-to-day activities. The last few chapters include information on places such as Cedar Hill and Bethel.

Copies of the newer publication of Smith's book and the price are available by writing A. Maxim Coppage, 1356 Ederberry Drive, Concord, California 94521.

Calendar of Events

- Through January 31: The Defenses of Washington, Ft. Ward Museum, Alexandria, 703-750-6425.
- Through March 15: Daily Seminars at Williamsburg. Includes Williamsburg Antiques Forum, Jan. 29-Feb. 1 and the Williamsburg Learning Weekend, Feb. 7-10. Info: Seminars at Williamsburg, Mrs. Peggy Fabol, Registrar, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, VA 23185, 804-229-1000.
- The Month of February: Alexandria Salutes George Washington. Features of the month include: Feb. 16-George Washington Birthday Ball, Gadsby's Tavern; Feb. 17-Revolutionary War Encampment; Feb. 18-Parade. Info: 703-549-0205.
- February 6: Fauquier Historical Society's Program "Fauquier's History Through Its Architecture," a slide presentation and discussion by Cynthia MacLeod and Bob Barron. St. James Parish Hall, Warrenton, 7 p.m. Info: Ed Cooper, 347-2511.
- February 11-March 1: Exhibition of brass rubbings at Fauquier National Bank, Courthouse Square, Warrenton. Sponsored by Fauquier Chapter, Virginia Museum.
- February 16: Workshop on practical Victoriana, Wilson House, Washington. Info: Administrator, Wilson House, 2340 S St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008
- February 20: The History of Fairfax County. A slide show and lecture. Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Lane, Alexandria.
- March 12: The History of Fairfax County. A slide show and lecture. Richard Byrd Library, 6400 Cumberland Avenue, Springfield.
- March 20: Guitar playing and story telling by Barry Polisar. Fauquier Chapter, Virginia Museum. Info: 347-7142.
- March 27-29: Fauquier Community Theatre presents "The Fantasticks" at Highland School, 7:30 p.m. Info: 347-4740 or 347-3965.
- May 11-17: National Preservation Week. Theme "Preservation: Reusing America's Energy." To receive Preservation Week 1980 kit write: Office of Public Affairs, National Trust For Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, 202-673-4000.
- May 30-June 4: Op Sail '80. Bicentennial Operation Sail recreated for Boston's 350th Anniversary. Boston Harbor. Sponsored by New England Historic Seaport Inc., and National Trust For Historic Preservation.

The Fauquier Historical Society

P. O. Box 675, Warrenton, VA 22186

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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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Ivy Hill

(Continued from Page 1)

County records (Fauquier was part of Prince William until 1759) indicate that Richard Henry Lee conveyed 514 acres to William on the main road to Winchester for 250 pounds. This would be the present location of the house known as Oak Springs between the new section of the Northern Virginia Shopping Center and the Oak Springs Nursing Home.

Oak Springs burned and was rebuilt in 1807 by William Edmond's son, who was also named William.

Captain Elias Edmond and his wife Elizabeth Miller Edmond had a house built in same area and called it Ivy Hill. Elias and Elizabeth probably built the house in the late 1700's. One of their children was also named Elias (1754-1800).

He fought throughout the American Revolution, including some action with the Culpeper Minute Men and with his uncle, Captain William Edmond of the Fauquier Militia.

By the end of the Revolution, Elias had risen to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Shortly before 1800 he built a new brick house north of Ivy Hill which he named Edmonium. It is now known as Loretto. Elias and his wife Frances Edmond (who was also his cousin) lived there in their later years.

Between the Revolution and the mid-1800's, a number of houses were built by the Edmond family near

Warrenton. Just north of Warrenton Lakes stood a house, later called Nordix, that was built by a member of the family. The house burned in the early 1900's, and today many of those who travel along Nordix Drive have never heard of the old house.

Just north of the Nordix site is a farm now called Glannaman which was probably built around 1800 for another Edmond.

The second Elias's cousin, Elizabeth Edmond (daughter of Colonel William Edmond of Oak Springs) married Dr. James Westwood Wallace, physician to Thomas Jefferson and James Madison.

In the early 1800's, they built Conway Grove on Winchester Street in Warrenton. Conway Grove was named after Edwin Conway, apparently a friend of the early Edmond family. In his will a previous Elias Edmond left Conway "overseer of his children".

Elias willed Ivy Hill to his son, the third Elias, and the house passed to him in 1840. In 1857 the building improvements on his 886½ acre plantation jumped from \$1,000 to \$3,000. This could have been the time he built his other house, now called Hopefield. In 1868 the third Elias willed "my new brick house" to his two granddaughters.

Until the 1860's Ivy Hill must have been a prosperous plantation. Then Virginia became a part of the Confederacy, and Fauquier County suffered greatly from the effects of

the war. The fourth generation Elias became a private in the Warrenton Rifles under John Quincy Marr.

During the war, the plantation suffered great economic stress after most of the 22 slaves left Ivy Hill. Luckily the war spared the house, and the farm then passed on to another generation of Edmonds.

In 1899, Elias Edmond left his home to his nephew Garland E. James. At James' death, Ivy Hill passed to the children of Emma Blackwell, his sister, who was the wife of James DeRuyter Blackwell.

Emma's children inherited Ivy Hill and kept it until 1952 when it was sold to Philip J. Ayton by Elizabeth Carter Blackwell.

The house has been empty for many years and now stands in ruins, stripped and vandalized until it remains a shadow of its former self.

County History Book Reprinted

The popular book "Fauquier County, Virginia 1759-1959," which has been out of print for several years, is once again available for purchase.

The book was first published in 1959 through the efforts of the Fauquier County Bicentennial Committee and the Board of Supervisors. While the rest of the country had to wait until 1976 to celebrate the nation's bicentennial, Fauquier celebrated the end of its second century in 1959. The county was formed from Prince William County in 1759.

The book is divided into five parts. The first deals with the settling of the county, and the second continues with government and growth. Prominent men of Fauquier are featured in the third section which is followed by part four on early Fauquier houses. The concluding pages outline a short chronology of Fauquier's history, and list the soliders who served in the Revolutionary War, and the early marriage bonds.

The reprinted version is available in paperback from the Fauquier County Clerk's office. A copy is on display in the county record room. The books are \$3.20 each purchased from the clerk's office, and \$3.70 by mail.

What's Happening

Apologies are extended to those of you who were looking forward to the December-January issue of the newsletter. Because of the great number of activities taking place and the preparations for the holiday season, the newsletter was delayed a month. This issue combines the months of December, January, and February.

Since the last newsletter, members of the Fauquier Historical Society have participated in a variety of programs. On November 11, a group of members and their guests braved a chill and rainy day to attend the program on Bethel Church and Clifton Farm.

Mrs. Ava Lee presented a short history of the church and Bethel Academy, and before leaving the buildings, Mrs. Lucy Blackwell Jones provided anecdotes and a history of Clifton Farm. The group then visited Clifton Farm where its members saw many of the things Mrs. Jones had described.

On December 5, the Historical Society jointly sponsored a wine and cheese party with the Fauquier Chapter Virginia Museum at the new Shadow Lawn Senior Citizens Center on Culpeper St. in Warrenton. The entire first floor of the building was filled to overflowing as members and guests shared one of the first of the season's Christmas events.

On January 16, the two groups again teamed up to sponsor the first Warrenton showing of the film "Thoughts On Fox Hunting" at Airlie House. The film, created through the efforts of Tom Davenport and Harrison O'Connor, features Melvin and Peggy Poe and the Orange County Hunt. It is narrated by foxhunting authority Alexander Mackay-Smith through the words of 18th century English foxhunter Peter Beckford.

Program Planned For February 6

The Fauquier Historical Society will sponsor a special program Feb. 6 beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the St. James Episcopal Church Parish Hall on Culpeper St.

Architectural surveyor Cynthia MacLeod and county historian Bob Barron will be providing a slide presentation and discussion on "Fauquier's History Through Its Architecture". They will trace the development of the county from the homes of the original pioneers all the way through to the present day.

The slides will show various types of architectural features found in the different styles, as well as showing examples of each period that may be found in Fauquier.

For more information on the program, contact Edward Cooper, program chairman, at 347-2511 or 347-2620.

A number of new members have joined the Society in recent months, and the total membership is rapidly approaching 200.

William Parkinson's committee which has been working on plans for the restoration of the kitchen in the Old Gaol Museum is moving right along. After discussing some of the changes that its members would like to make in the kitchen, the committee is now seeking opinions from builders and other knowledgeable persons about the work.

The Society has also approved an expenditure to purchase a complete set of the original Fauquier Historical Society Bulletins. The bulletins were published from 1921 to 1924. A few residents throughout the county, as well as the Fauquier Library, have sets of these booklets, but the addition to the Society will be its first complete set.

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.

BLACKGROVE HOPPER. Mrs. George Hopper Connerat, Lookout Hill, Essex, Connecticut 06426 is seeking information on Blackgrove Hopper, born Oct. 23, 1759 in Fauquier County.

RECTOR FAMILY. Gary Dale Rector, Rt. 4, Box 298C, Cookeville, Tennessee 38501 needs information on the Rector family, particularly James Rector who was born in Fauquier in 1809.

HEATON. Dean Heaton, 682 Rustic Lane, Mountain View, California 94040 is researching the Heaton family and its history.

GRIFFITH FAMILY. Margaret Clemens, 6805 N. 16th, McAllen, Texas 78501 needs information on the Griffith family, particularly Evan and Martin Griffith.

LAWRANCE. Mrs. Draper Sircy, 504 Jackson Avenue, Carthage, Tennessee 37030 seeks information on the descendants of Edward Lawrance Sr., Parish of Leeds, Fauquier County, 1780.

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: _____

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Check appropriate membership category:

- Individual or family — \$7.50
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- Sustaining — \$25 and over
- Student — \$3
- Business — \$25