



# NEWS AND NOTES

from

## *The Fauquier Historical Society*

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WARRENTON, VIRGINIA

Summer 1981

## Germantown, Fauquier's First Settlement

During the administration of Colonial Governor Alexander Spotswood, three German colonies were established in Virginia. The first, consisting of 12 families numbering about 42 persons, arrived in 1714. They came from Nassau-Siegen, a part of Westphalia and its environs.

They came as indentured servants, bound to work for six or seven years in iron mines on Governor Spotswood's estate in Spotsylvania County. It did not take these master ironworkers long to determine the inferiority of the ore they found there. But they were still ambitious, thrifty Germans who saw a brighter future in land – the rich, red clay of the Piedmont held more promise than a vein of poor grade iron ore. They had left a land-poor principality in Germany and here was land, as far as the eye could see, almost for the taking.

They first had to be naturalized, which they did in Spotsylvania County Court. Henceforth, they were Englishmen, subject to the Crown and English Law – there was none of the modern cry to preserve the culture of their origin and their national characteristics. To survive they learned English and even had their names Anglicized.

Their names were as follows: Jacob Holzclaw (became Holtzclaw), his wife and two sons; Herman Fischbach (became Fishback) and wife; John Fishback and wife; John Camper (became Kemper) and wife; Johannes Merten (became Martin) and wife; John Spellman (became Spilman) and wife; John Huffman and wife; Joseph Cuntz (became Coons), his



Photo courtesy The Fauquier Democrat.

Home of Tilman Weaver, Germantown. Built about 1721, it was the oldest house in the County when it was torn down by its owner, around 1923, because he tired of people coming through his cornfield to look at it.

wife and two children; Jacob Richter (became Rector) his wife and son; Milchert Brumback and wife; Tilman Weber (became Weaver) and Ann, his mother; Peter Heit (became Hitt) and wife.

The surveyor of the Northern Neck was given orders to survey for the trustees (members of the Colony) of the Germanna colonists a grant in what is now Fauquier County, where they removed about 1720.

They named the village German Town, which they formally laid out on their 1805-acre tract, not far from the present day Midland, on Licking Run. They divided the tract in 12 equal portions. Instead of building homes at a distance from each other, they remembered

how homes in Germany were clustered into a village for safety in times of danger. Being on the frontier they must have considered the possibility of danger from wandering Indians.

Dr. Benjamin C. Holtzclaw and the late Dr. Woodford B. Hackley made an extensive study of the area in 1961 and located the exact boundaries of the town and the lots held by each family. Their study is available from the Memorial Foundation of the Germanna Colonies in Virginia (Box 693 Culpeper 22701).

As the families grew and the land available for granting became non-existent, the scions of these hardy Germans began to leave

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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.  
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Dues are as follows:

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

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The Fauquier Historical Society  
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## Germantown

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Germantown. The Kempers were the first to leave, taking up a large grant on Great Run, known as 'Cedar Grove' (now called 'Clovelly').

The Weavers, Holtzelaws and Rectors moved further toward the mountains in upper Fauquier. The entrepreneur of the Germantown migrants was John Rector.

In 1731, Charles Burgess of Lancaster County received a grant for 13,000 acres. This vast tract extended from the present town of Marshall to Rt. 50 and from Goose Creek to Little River. He died in 1732 and the tract was inherited by his two daughters, whose sons, Captains Burgess Ball and Burgess Smith divided the tract.

They sold a major portion of their holdings to John Rector. After establishing himself, his family and his Germantown relatives and friends, Mr. Rector divided the tract into lots, almost square, of about 200 acres each. In 1772 Rector had the General Assembly establish Fauquier's oldest incorporated town which he called Maidstone, after the village in the County of Kent, England, the home of Thomas Lord Fairfax. However, the inhabitants persisted in referring to the town as "Rector's Town" and the name

stuck.

All these first colonists belonged to the German Reformed Church, the great German branch of the Presbyterian family of churches.

When they left Siegen, their Pastor, Rev. Henry Hauger, accompanied them. He was a well educated man who lived to a great age, dying in 1737. After Pastor Hauger's death, Jacob Holtzelaw read the lessons in German and taught the school at Germantown. Unable to secure the services of another Reformed minister, the people became allied with the Baptists, Methodists and Presbyterians.

John Rector supposedly established a Reformed church at Rectortown but, by 1781, after at least two visits by Bishop Asbury, the Methodist Church had been established.

After the Revolution, in which cause the Germantown families were well represented, the lure of the western lands was too much to resist. Representatives of the 12 Rectortown families have settled in every state of the Union, making worthy contributions wherever they resided in politics, education, the ministry and business.

In 1956 a memorial foundation was incorporated as the Memorial Foundation of the Germanna

Colonies in Virginia. It is a non-profit organization to collect and publish information relating to the Germanna Colonies, to acquire and develop property suitable for preserving historical sites and interest, and to aid in bringing together the descendants of the pioneer colonists.

The Corporation once owned 270 acres, 'Siegen Forest', of the original Germanna tract. Approximately 100 acres of this was given in 1969 to the State of Virginia for the erection of the Germanna Community College. By authority of the Virginia State Highway Commission, Route 3, from Culpeper to Fredericksburg in 1959 was designated GERMANNIA HIGHWAY. This highway borders 'Siegen Forest' and traverses the area where the first colony of 1714 was settled by Governor Spotswood.

The annual meeting of the Memorial Foundation of the Germanna Colonies, Inc., is held at 'Siegen Forest' the third Sunday in July each year. All members and interested persons are invited to come and bring a picnic lunch. — John Gott

## Annual Meeting

Seventy-five members and guests attended the annual meeting of The Fauquier Historical Society on Wednesday, June 17, at Airlie.

After an excellent dinner a short business meeting was called to order by President Dr. Robert Anderson, Jr.

After the reading of the treasurer's report, Meade Palmer, nominating committee chairman, presented a slate of candidates for the Board of Directors. New board members elected were: John H. Bartenstein, Warrenton; Mrs. Lewis F. Lee, Jr., The Plains; and John K. Gott, Arlington.

Nominated for reelection to the Board were: Jennings H. Flathers, Gainesville; Thomas D. Jones, Warrenton; Charles H. Harris, Warrenton.

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# Historian Links Success of Democracy To 18th Century 'Tradition of Service'

Virginia political leaders of the 18th Century, representing less than five percent of the white population, carried into office a belief in the rights of individuals, said Dr. Raymond Bailey, speaking June 17 at the annual meeting of The Fauquier Historical Society at Airlie.

The Northern Virginia Community College professor, addressing a capacity crowd, credited the 18th Century aristocrat's belief in a duty to serve the people, rather than using office for personal gain, as the main reason the democratic "experiment" succeeded.

Describing early Virginia as an agrarian colony with relatively few towns, Dr. Bailey said as few as 40 families represented the economic, social, religious and political power.

In addition to holding positions of public office, the men controlling the destiny of the young colony also wore many hats in their private lives – plantation owner, lawyer and merchant.

The basic element of government in the 18th Century Virginia, and the source of power and influence for the early leaders, was the county court where members of the gentry sat as justices of the peace. The justices were appointed by the governor, rather than elected. The same men appointed justices often attained higher office in the Council, predecessor to the state Supreme Court, or in the House of Burgesses.

Both the Governor and the 12-member Council were appointed by England; members of the House of Burgesses were elected. The Council members, Dr. Bailey said, were drawn from "the most powerful Virginia gentry." From 1680 to 1776, about one-third of all Virginia councillors came from only nine families – Page, Burwell, Byrd, Carter, Custis, Harrison, Lee, Ludwell and Wormeley.

"They were so intermarried that, in 1715, for example, seven of the 12 councillors were Burwells or

their close relatives," Dr. Bailey said.

Dr. Bailey focused on the political lives of two prominent Virginians, William Byrd II of Westover and the legendary Robert "King" Carter, to illustrate the gentry's rise to power and responsibility.

The grandson of a London goldsmith, young Byrd began his climb to social prominence at an early age. Born in 1674 at the Virginia estate of his father, William Byrd II went to England at the age of seven, staying there for 10 years to acquire a formal education and the social graces that would prove so important later in life.

Having returned to Virginia a cosmopolitan man, Byrd II began his rapid ascent to power shortly after his father died in 1704, leaving an estate of 26,000 acres. He served a few years as a Burgess and later was appointed to the Council. But perhaps the most singular honor bestowed upon him was his appointment to the Royal Society, the most influential scientific society in the world.

In 1728 he served on a joint commission which surveyed the disputed North Carolina-Virginia boundary. Seven years later, in 1735, he completed Westover, his magnificent brick home considered today as one of the Nation's finest examples of Georgian architecture. The home housed a personal library of more than 3,600 books, the largest in Virginia. When Byrd II died in 1744, he left an estate of 179,000 acres, proof of his industriousness and hard work.

Although he increased his land holdings almost sevenfold, Byrd II's wealth could not rival that of the powerful "King" Carter who left an estate of more than 300,000 acres, 700-1,000 slaves and 100 horses. A powerful councillor who seemed to cherish wealth, Carter also responded to the "call to the service" that went with his position as a social and political "king."



DR. RAYMOND C. BAILEY

Although Carter was not loved by all – he was given the epithet "Robin" as indication of his love of possessions – he did carry out the duties of his office, Dr. Bailey said.

Carter was a man of opposites, sometimes greedy, sometimes generous, sometimes vain, sometimes level-headed.

But because he, like Byrd II, grew up in the Enlightenment period, when all men were believed to have certain natural rights, Carter helped uphold the 1606 Virginia charter which said Virginians "shall have and enjoy all liberties, franchises and immunities ... to all intents and purposes as if they had been abiding and borne within this our realme of England."

Byrd II and Carter, as members of the Council, carried out the tradition of gentry service and responsibility to the people, said Dr. Bailey, a tradition that is found nowhere else in the world.

"That is one reason our democracy, although not perfect, works here and fails in so many other parts of the world," he said. – David Lyne.

# April in Paris

More than 1500 persons turned out April 25 to celebrate April in Paris, honoring La Fayette for the part he played in the defeat of the British at Yorktown and the renaming of the little village of Punkinville in his honor.

In spite of the very cold and windy day, the hospitable residents of Paris mingled with the visitors, and the children of the village danced and played games in the street.

The Morris Dance Team, whose members came from Fauquier and surrounding counties, danced to their gay music and the tinkling of the bells around their legs.

Morgan's Riflemen, of Winchester, camped on the outskirts of the village and offered everyone bowls of venison stew which simmered in a large iron kettle over an open fire.

The John Wesley Service in the Paris United Methodist Church was a fitting opening for the celebration. It was in the church that one of the highlights of the day occurred. The music of the James Stewart Faith Gospel

Singers of Aldie was as fine an example of Gospel singing as could be heard anywhere, and, certainly, this writer wished that the doors could have been opened wider so everyone could hear.

Five homes were open for the house tour. The Historical Society and the many visitors thank the owners for this unique opportunity and for their gracious hospitality.

The Board of Directors and the members of the Society especially thank Mr. and Mrs. C. Reed Thomas of Ovoka Farm for the use of their land for the running and viewing of the coaching and driving marathon, and for the many things done by Mr. Thomas to make the day a success.

Without the patrons and sponsors, the demonstrators, the dancers and the singers, the drill teams, the many helpers and the residents of the village of Paris this celebration could not have been possible.

The Fauquier Historical Society extends deepest thanks and appreciation to everyone.



Photo by Isabelle Palmer

Charles M. Harris, Society Vice-President, talks about his collection of old tools with visitors at April in Paris.

## Treasurer's Annual Report

Fiscal Year -  
June 1, 1980 to May 31, 1981

CASH ON HAND AND IN BANKS: June 1, 1980

Fauquier National Bank	\$1,081.71
Jefferson Savings & Loan	2,132.22
Post Office Deposit	42.17
Total:	\$3,256.10

INCOME:

Membership	\$2,260.00
Contributions	1,141.99
Interest	103.69
Refund	5.20
Airlie Dinner Meeting	1,098.00
April in Paris - Balance	
General Admission	1,610.00
Total:	\$6,317.88

EXPENDITURES:

Salaries - Docent	\$ 626.31
Utilities	159.54
Postage	118.93
Office Expense	295.46
Kitchen Restoration	1,928.95
Display	212.20
Printing	740.42
Insurance	178.00
Repairs & Maintenance	152.21
Telephone	259.06
April in Paris - Balance	
General Admission	1,610.00
Airlie House-Dinner Meeting	797.68
Honorarium	25.00
Post Office Deposit	100.00
Total:	\$7,203.76

CASH ON HAND AND IN BANKS: May 31, 1981

Fauquier National Bank	\$ 592.14
Jefferson Savings & Loan	1,735.91
C & P Tel. Deposit	150.00
Post Office Deposit - Balance	47.45
Total:	\$2,525.50

## Annual Meeting

Continued from Page 2

Mrs. Joan Staiko, membership chairman reported a total of 161 single and family memberships. Thirteen memberships are from Virginia localities outside Fauquier County and thirteen from outside Virginia, with ten states - from Florida to California - represented.

The meeting was then turned over to Jennings Flathers, program chairman, who introduced guest speaker Dr. Raymond C. Bailey, professor of history at Northern Virginia Community College.

## Traditions of Southern Living

The Fairfax County Park Authority's Division of Historic Preservation, beginning Sunday, August 16 is presenting a five-week program of lectures, tours and feasting entitled "The Traditions of Southern Living."

The program, built around a photographic exhibition, "Decorative Arts of the South, 1650-1820," and sponsored by the Southern Arts Federation, will be held August 16 through September 20 at historic Dranesville Tavern in Dranesville.

To accompany the exhibit, the Division of Historic Preservation has assembled furniture, textiles, silver, stoneware and more from its own collection and those of nearby museums and private collectors.

The exhibit will be open to the public noon-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays and during the week by appointment. Admission to the Tavern is \$1 for adults and \$.50 for children ages 15 and younger.

In addition to the Dranesville Tavern exhibit, the Traditions of Southern Living program will include a series of lectures designed to explore the cultural traditions of 17th, 18th and 19th centuries in Virginia and Maryland. The lectures, followed by a catered picnic box lunch, will be held from 10 a.m. until noon at historic Cabell's Mill in Centerville on four consecutive Saturdays: August 22 and 29, and September 5 and 12.

The lectures will be open to the public by reservation only. Space is limited. The fee of \$15 per

person includes the lecture, box lunch, tickets to the exhibit at Dranesville Tavern, and admission to the historic sites of Sully and Colvin Run Mill on the day of the lecture. Reservations may be made for all four lectures at \$55 per person.

The final event of the program will be an Antique Appraisal Day from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. on September 19 at Sully Plantation. Professional appraisers will give oral appraisals of visitors' antiques with a limit of three items per person. The fee for the appraisals is \$3 per item.

For reservations or information concerning any of the activities associated with the Traditions of Southern Living program, call Dranesville Tavern at 430-3576 or 430-2095.



Photo by Isabelle Palmer

Donna Sylvester of the Waterford Weavers Guild cards raw wool at April in Paris.

## Our Correspondents

Dear Mrs. (Frances) Ritter:

Thank you for coming on our field trip. We liked the stories. I think it was very interesting. Thank you again Mrs. Ritter. -M.F., E.M. and the fourth grade of Highland School.

Dear Mrs. Ritter: Our eighth grade Civics class would like to thank you for showing us the old jails in the museum. It was very interesting. We appreciate your help very much. -A.W. and Marshall Jr. High School Civics Class.

Dear Mrs. Palmer: May I congratulate you and the members of your committee for the splendid work you are doing on the newsletter. It is interesting, informative, and attractive; all in all, a most professional job. As a member who is currently living so far from Virginia, my only contact with the Society is via the News and Notes. I look forward to receiving each issue and have never been disappointed with the contents. -M.R.U., Novato, California.

Dear Fauquier Historical Society: Thank you for letting the fourth grade of Highland School visit the Old Gaol Museum. All of us really enjoyed looking at the cells, the torture chamber and the pit and all the things in the showcases. -C.L., T.B., and the fourth grade of Highland School.

The Fauquier Historical Society:

I am giving this membership to my daughter . . . to express my thanks to The Fauquier Historical Society. Your records enabled me to determine that the Ohio Kemper family, descendants of Wesley Kemper born in Fauquier . . . are direct descendants of Johann (John) Kemper who settled in Fauquier County in 1714. -R.R.W., Centerville, Ohio.

Please Return To:

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

Number in family

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?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Can You Help?

*News and Notes will contain in each issue a list 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, write the Fauquier Historical Society, P. O. Box 675, Warrenton, VA 22186. Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.*

**FELKINS.** Mrs. Lloyd E. Ricker, 2619 E Stanford, Springfield, MO 65804 seeks information on the William Felkins family or John Felkins family who lived in Fauquier in the 1780's.

**FOLEY.** May Rodgers Ungemach, 35 Verdad Way, Novato, CA 94947 is seeking information on the ancestry of Lucinda Pines Foley, b. 1803, m. Maj. Thornton P. Payne, 2 March 1830.

**HEATON.** Mrs. Marcia J. Benson, 355 23rd Ave., Vero Beach, FL 32960 seeks information on Josiah Heaton, Sr., b. Fauquier, and his wife Milly Garrett, b. Fauquier, 1794. Her parents were Richard and Carry Garrett.

**KIDWELL.** Mrs. Dorothea K. Nowell, 412 Clark St., Morgantown, W. VA 26505 seeks information on the Kidwell family as it migrated from Maryland to Virginia. Mary (?) Kidwell was listed in Fauquier 1790 census. She had a son Josiah and grandson Edmund D.

**MEIER/HERCLERODE.** Philip G. Brown, 665 River Road, Fair Haven, N.J. 07701 is searching for descendants of the Pennsylvania family headed by Issac Meier, b. 4 Jan 1730, d. 15 Jul 1770; m. Catharine Herclerode (Herchelroth) 10 June 1752. The Issac Meier House, begun by Catharine's father Valentine Herclerode in the 1750's, is in Myerstown, PA.

**O'BANNON.** Mrs. James C. Boudreau, Apt 705, 255 Dolphin Point Rd., Clearwater, FL 33515 seeks information on the birthplace of Brian Boru O'Bannon (Bryan Obanon) born either in Virginia or Tipperary, Ireland. Also birthplace of William O'Bannon, 1782-1857.

**PHILLIPS/EMBREY.** Mrs. Evelyn L. Rhodes, 5116 Edmonston Rd., #201, Hyattsville, MD 20785 is seeking information on the following: Quillie Phillips m. Elizanne Brown, b. Sumerduck. Lizanne m. 2nd husband Sanford Embrey resided in New Baltimore, Fauquier Co. Leon Jasper Phillips,

son of Quillie and Lizanne, b. 1896 m. Elsie E. Embrey, b. 1901 in Fauquier. Her parents were Edward Embrey and Mary Nancy Claxton Embrey.

**WOODYARD (WOODWARD/WOODARD).** Edward L. Woodyard, 1307 Barry Ave., #1, West Los Angeles, CA 90025 is seeking information of the Woodyard family who lived in Fauquier and Prince William Counties during the Revolution. Four brothers, John C., Presley, Jesse and William were reared in Fauquier before moving away in 1790. Their father was known as the immigrant, who settled on the Potomac River in Virginia about 1742. He was reportedly a close relation of Gen. Fitzhugh Lee and Gen. Robert E. Lee.

He also seeks information on Lewis Woodyard, m. Nussy (?), Deed Book 3, 1768 and another Lewis, Deed Book 13, 1792. They had two houses on the South Branch of Carter Run, in a corner area of the proprietary near Salem.

## Pottery Sites

Mrs. Dorothy A. Hassfeld, Rt 1, Box 51, Broad Run, VA 22014 is interested in locating pottery sites in the county if there have been any.

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### The Fauquier Historical Society

P. O. Box 675, Warrenton, VA 22186

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