



NEWS AND NOTES

from

The Fauquier Historical Society

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WARRENTON, VIRGINIA

Spring 1984

The Genesis of Fauquier

In Celebration of our 225th Anniversary

Fauquier's derivation as a political unit may be traced to the period of borough representation in the General Assembly before the division of the colony into counties had been effected.

"The political units in Virginia were at first separate settlements, named variously cities, towns, hundreds and plantations." These existing units were accepted by the London Company as the basis of the boroughs provided for in its "Orders of Government," pursuant to which the first General Assembly of Virginia was convened August 9, 1619.

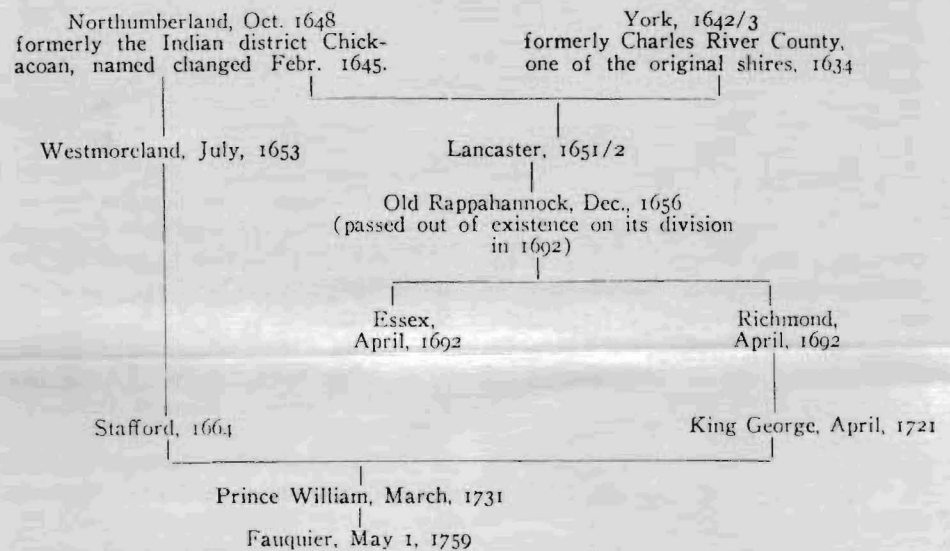
Under this system "Yorke," presumably a borough, appears to have been represented in the Assembly of 1632/3.

Counties as political divisions were not recognized until 1634, when, by Act of Assembly, eight so-called *shires* were created to "be governed as the shires in England. And lieutenants to be appointed the same as in England, and in a more especial manner to take care of the war against Indians." The act also provided for the election of sheriffs, to have the same powers as were held by such officers in England, and for the election of sergeants and bailiffs, should their services be required.

In the division into shires, "the name Charles River was given to the area approximately embracing the former political unit called Yorke" and including territory on both banks of the river which the Indians called Pamaunkee, but to which the colonists had given the name "Charles."

Shires Abandoned

The use of the term *shire* was ap-



parently soon abandoned, and we find Charles River "County," the name of this original shire, was changed back to York in 1642/3. At this time also the Pamunkey, below the confluence of the Mattaponi, became known as the York River.

Lancaster County was formed from York and Northumberland prior to January 1, 1651/2, at which date the first court for Lancaster was held.

Northumberland, an "original county" comprising that portion of the colony afterwards known as the Northern Neck, was created by Act of Assembly, October 1648. It included the territory lying between the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers, the Indian name of which was *Chickacoan*, and was first mentioned as a county in an act of February 1645, from which Hening¹ concludes that it was formed by action of the Governor and Council. Its creation

was subsequently confirmed by the General Assembly.

Westmoreland County was formed from Northumberland in July, 1653, but was afterwards re-united with Northumberland "for civil and military" purposes by an Act of March 1661/2.

Stafford was formed from Westmoreland prior to May 27, 1664, when the first court for the newly created county was held. Hening states that Stafford was first mentioned as a county in an act of 1666, and that "in Mercer's abridgement, title 'Counties' it is said to have been established in 1675."

Returning to Fauquier's York-Lancaster line of derivation, the original Rappahannock County was formed from Lancaster by an act of December 1656 and named for a tribe of Powhatan Confederacy ("people of

(Continued on Page 2)

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Individual or Family Membership	\$10.00 per year
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Genesis of Fauquier

(Continued from Page 1)

the alternating stream") formerly occupying that region. This county is now referred to as "Old Rappahannock," it having become extinct on its division into Essex and Richmond Counties in April 1692.

The present Rappahannock County was formed from Culpeper on the headwaters of the river from which it takes its name in 1833.

King George County was created from Richmond April 23, 1721, by an act of November, 1720.

Formation of Fauquier

Fauquier's two lines converge in the establishment of Prince William County "on the heads of Stafford and King George," March 25, 1731, by an act of May 1730.

Before the formation of Prince William, the northward extension of Richmond, and afterwards that of King George County, followed the eastern bank of the Rappahannock river to its source in the Blue Ridge and included the territory drained by its tributary streams. Stafford covered all the country between the Potomac and its natural western watershed.

This division caused the north and south boundary line between these counties to turn abruptly west where the head of the Rappahannock drainage is reached (approximately

the present village of Marshall), and, passing between the Cobbler Mountains, to follow the southern drainage of Goose Creek, a tributary of the Potomac, back to the head springs of the Rappahannock.²

By an Act of Assembly, October, 1776, after both Prince William and Fauquier had been created, the territory jointly occupied by the counties of Stafford and King George was redivided, the northern portion extending from the Rappahannock to the Potomac, being allotted to Stafford and the southern portion to King George.

Fauquier became a county May 1, 1759, having been taken from Prince William by an act passed February 22nd of that year.

The Act

The text of this act follows:

An Act for Dividing the County of Prince William.

I. Whereas many inconveniences attend the county of Prince William, by reason of the great extent thereof, and their remote situation from the court-house, and the said inhabitants have petitioned this present general assembly that the said county be divided: Be it therefore enacted, by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council and Burgesses, of this present General Assembly, and it is hereby enacted, by the authority of the same, That from and immediately after the first day of May next the said county of Prince-William shall be divided into two distinct counties, that is to say: All that part of the said county that lies above a line to be run from the head of Bull run and along the top of the Bull run mountains, to Chapman's mill,³ in Broad run thoroughfare, from thence by a direct line to the head of Dorrel's run, and from thence by a direct line till it intersects the nearest part of the line dividing Stafford and Prince-

William counties, shall be one distinct county, and called and known by the name Fauquier: And all that other part thereof below the said bounds shall be one other distinct county, and retain the name of Prince-William.

II. And for the due administration of justice in the said county of Fauquier, after the same shall take place, Be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That after the said first day of May a court for the said county of Fauquier be constantly held by the justices thereof, upon the fourth Thursday in every month, and shall be by their commission directed.

III. Provided always, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to hinder the sheriff or collector of the said county of Prince-William, as the same now stands entire and undivided, from collecting and making distress for any public dues or officers fees which shall remain unpaid by the inhabitants of the said county of Fauquier at the time of its taking place, but such sheriff or collector shall have the same power to collect or distrain for the said dues and fees, and shall be answerable for them in the same manner as if this act had never been made, any law, custom or usage to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

IV. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That the court of the said county of Prince-William shall have jurisdiction of all actions and suits both in law and equity which shall be depending before them at the time the said division shall take place, and shall and may try and determine all such actions and suits, and issue process, and award execution against the body and estate of the defendant or defendants, in any such action or suit, in the same manner as if this act had never been made, any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding."

Lt. Gov. Francis Fauquier

Fauquier County was named for Francis Fauquier, Lieutenant-Governor of the colony of Virginia from 1758 until his death at Williamsburg in 1767.

Campbell' says of him, "He was generous and elegant, an accomplished scholar and a man of great abilities. He was, however, excessively addicted to gaming and by his example extended a disastrous rage for play in the colony." That this weakness, however, on Governor Fauquier's part was a venial one in the eyes of the colonists, may be inferred from Jefferson's statement that "he was the best beloved of the colonial governors."

—Reprinted from Fauquier Historical Society Bulletin No. 2, 1922

1. Hening, William Waller. *The Statutes at Large* - Being a collection of all the laws of Virginia from the First Session of the Legislature in the year 1619 - 1792. 13 vols.

2. The dividing line between Richmond and Stafford counties in the territory now included in Fauquier has been established by Mr. Fairfax Harrison from a study of Northern Neck grants.

3. Now known as Beverley mill.

4. Campbell, John Wilson, *History of Virginia*.

Francis Fauquier

Francis Fauquier was a man in his fifties when he was appointed Lieutenant-Governor and Commander in Chief of Virginia in 1758.

He was born in London in 1703, the son of Huguenot doctor who had fled to England after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685, when the persecution of French Protestants was resumed. His father married Elizabeth Chamberlayne, daughter of a London merchant, and five children were born to them.

Dr. Fauquier was a talented man who held several positions in his adopted country. In 1696 he became financial agent to Thomas Neale, Minister of the Mint, and then Neale's Deputy for Mint Affairs. Dr. Fauquier continued as Deputy to Isaac Newton, Neale's successor in 1699.

He was elected Director of the Bank of England in 1716 and remained in this position until his death in 1726.

He left a good-sized estate to his wife and children. Francis inherited as his share 5,000 pounds capital stock in both the Bank of England and the South Sea Company, and 15,000 pounds in joint stock of the South Sea Company where his father's brother was a director.

Life in England

After his marriage to Catherine Dalston, daughter of a Cumberland baron, Francis resigned his commission. In 1730 he established his home in Hertfordshire, although he maintained his contacts with the British capital.

Two sons, Francis Jr., and William, were born after they moved to the country where they lived for many years, with occasional visits to London.

Like his father, Francis was a man of many interests. He developed a taste for science, and in 1753 was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. He loved music and played several instruments.

Always interested in finance and economics, he served three terms (1748-1757) as a Director of the South Sea Company. It was during this time that he published in 1756 his *Essay on Ways and Means of Raising Money*

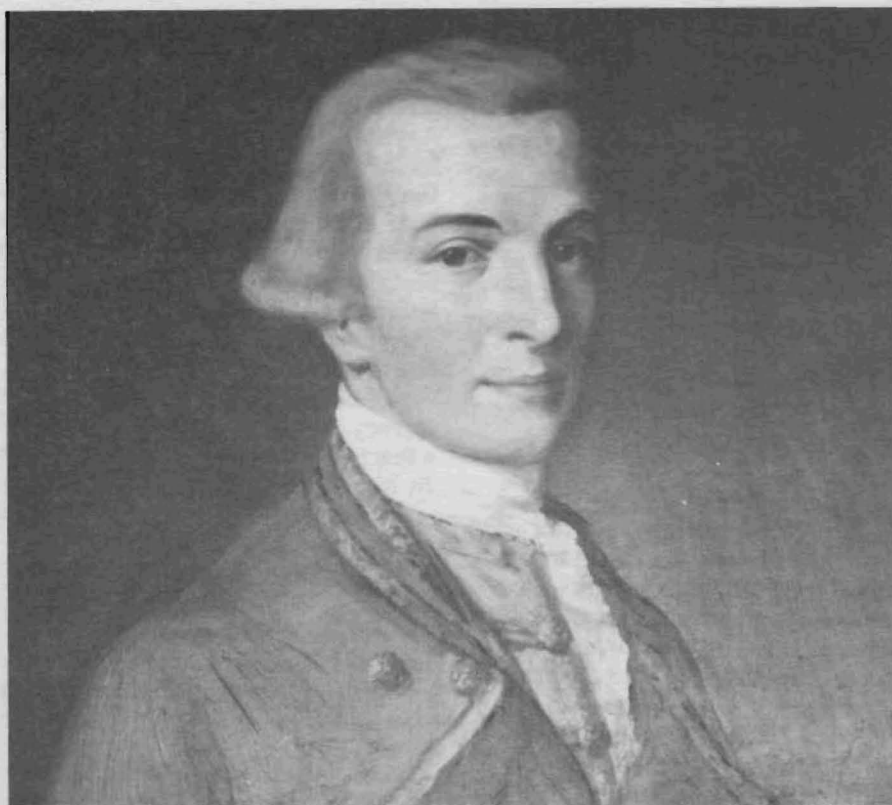


Photo by Marshall Hawkins

FRANCIS FAUQUIER, ESQ. F.R.S. 1704-1768

This portrait, painted by M. Leslie Bush-Brown in 1924, was copied from a miniature of Fauquier when he was a young officer in the British army. It was presented to Fauquier County by the Fauquier Historical Society and hangs in the old courthouse.

for the Support of the Present War without Increasing the Public Debt. In this work, designed to guide the British government in financing the "Great War for Empire" against France, Fauquier showed his concern for the poor by advising against a tax on necessities, proposing instead a graduated type of capitation levy.

Although the government did not accept this idea, his pamphlet went through three editions in two years and made such a favorable impression on authorities that it probably helped in his appointment as Lieutenant Governor of Virginia.

Fauquier himself felt that he owed his position to George Montagu Dunk, Earl of Halifax, and President of the Board of Trade, then the principal maker of colonial policy.

Also, his connections with the London financial world and his family background helped in his appointment.

Lt. Gov. Fauquier

When Fauquier arrived in Virginia in June 1758, the French and Indian War had been going on for two

years. His title of Lieutenant Governor meant that he served as deputy to General Jeffrey Amherst, British military commander in America. Gen. Amherst, busy with strategic and logistical duties elsewhere, never came to Virginia; therefore, many responsibilities fell upon Fauquier.

For the next five years much of his time and effort was given to the support which the colony of Virginia was supposed to contribute to the fighting on the frontier. Militia had to be recruited and money raised to pay for supplies and maintenance.

After the danger of French attack in the west was relieved, consultations with the Indians were carried on to prevent attacks on the settlers beyond the mountains, and to promote the continuation of the profitable fur trade.

Economic problems in the colony at this time were legion. Hard currency was scarce. The Board of Trade in London regulated all imports and exports and trading could be done only with the Mother Country.

(Continued on Page 4)

Francis Fauquier

(Continued from Page 3)

The main source of income was tobacco. When harvests were poor the planters were heavily in debt to the London merchants. To relieve this situation the colony began to issue paper money based on the current value of tobacco, to be redeemed by future taxes within ten years.

This was opposed by the London merchants who demanded payment of colonial debts in specie.

Times of Discord

Aggravating this situation after the war was over was the Stamp Act; passed by Parliament to raise revenue to help pay the costs of the war and maintain British troops in America to protect the frontiers from Indian attack.

The House of Burgesses protested this law, which required the use of official stamps on business and legal documents, as well as such articles as college diplomas and playing cards.

Fauquier had earlier advised his superiors in London against efforts to collect revenue directly in America. In October 1763, a riot nearly occurred when George Mercer, who had been appointed collector for Virginia, arrived in Williamsburg. Fauquier made his presence known, and due to the respect and love which the colonists felt for their governor, he was able to conduct Mercer to safety and the mob dissolved. Soon after this Mercer abandoned his office and no stamps were sold in the colony.

But the governor's troubles were not over with the repeal of the Stamp Act in 1766. The next year Parliament passed the Townshend Act which levied import duties on paper, paint, glass and tea. Again the colonists protested, and in 1768 the Virginia Assembly declared that Parliament had no right to tax the colony.

The stress which Fauquier endured during the last years of life due to the continual tension between England and the colonies undoubtedly caused his final illness, and led to his death in March 1768.

Throughout his governorship Fauquier was able to maintain a good working relationship with both his Council (men appointed by the Crown) and the House of the Burgesses, as well as his superiors in London.

In many ways Francis Fauquier was a man ahead of his time. His concern for the insane led him to urge the Assembly to establish a mental hospital in Williamsburg. He had served on the board of such a hospital in London. Much to his disappointment, the Assembly refused to act during his lifetime, but in 1770 passed the legislation to establish an asylum in Williamsburg, the first of its kind in North America.

Fauquier also disapproved of slavery, although as Governor he had a few slaves in the Palace as servants. In his will he stated that the slaves were to have six months after his death to choose new masters.

They were to be sold at 75% of their market value. If they had not chosen within the six month period, his executors and close friends were to be allowed to buy them also at the discount price.

Colonial Society

Fauquier had good friends among the leaders and the intellectuals of the colony, including Professor William Small of the College of William and Mary and the learned lawyer George Wythe.

Through them Thomas Jefferson, then a student, was introduced to the palace circle. Jefferson attended many of the intimate dinner parties and musical evenings, enjoyed so much by the governor.

Jefferson later commented that "at these dinners I heard more good sense, more rational and philosophical conversation, than I had ever heard before." He considered Fauquier one of the ablest colonial governors.

Throughout his term of office Fauquier continued his scientific studies, keeping a daily record of the Tidewater weather and preparing a report of a hailstorm in Williamsburg which the Royal Society published in 1759. Like all men of his time, he enjoyed playing cards for money. He did not lose large sums, as he left a good-sized estate to his heirs.

Francis Fauquier was buried in the north aisle of Bruton Parish Church at Williamsburg, following a simple service which he had requested in his will "to be without any vain Funeral Pomp and as little expense as Decency can permit; Funeral Obsequies being apparent to me to be contrary to the Spirit of the Religion of our Blessed Saviour."

He was very much mourned by

the colonists, who realized that they had lost a good friend and a spokesman for their interests at a time when tension was increasing between England and America.

Perhaps one of the greatest tributes paid to him was the fact that at the time of the Revolution, the citizens of Fauquier County did not decide to change the name of the county, as was the case in Shenandoah County, renamed when the people there rejected the memory of Lord Dunmore.

Throughout his life Francis Fauquier exemplified the best qualities of an Eighteenth Century gentleman; always loyal in his duty to the Mother Country, yet possessing an open mind to the needs of the colony which he governed. He contributed much to the political and intellectual life of England—and America.

—Anne Brooke Smith

The President Reports:

The Old Gaol Museum will open for the season starting on April 21st, under the direction of John Cheatwood. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday. We would like to have at least two docents on duty at all times. Members who would like to volunteer their help please call John at 347-3108.

The Museum exhibit committee, composed of John, Sue Scheer, Jean McGuire and Lucy Jones, is planning several special exhibits for the coming months.

Included will be dolls, maps and early china. Members who may have an item they would like to temporarily loan to the Society for the exhibits should call any member of the committee.

On Old Town Festival Day in Warrenton, Saturday, May 19th, the Museum will host a book sale and autographing session by Nancy Chapplear Baird for her book *The Journals of Amanda Virginia Edmonds: Lass of the Mosby Confederacy, 1857-1867*. You are all invited to meet Mrs. Baird and share in her knowledge of Fauquier County.

Reader's Corner

The Virginiana Room has recently purchased *The Official Papers of Francis Fauquier, Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, 1758-1768*, edited by George Reese, Professor of Humanistic Sources at the University of Virginia.

This three volume edition of his papers is the only complete collection of the papers of a royal governor of Virginia. It is also the first such collection to be edited in accordance with today's standard of scholarship.

Fauquier's official papers mirror the preoccupations of the governor of the largest, most populous, wealthiest, and most influential of the colonies in North America during the critical decade of 1758-68, and provide valuable information about Virginia's economy and society during this period.

Recently, the Fauquier County Public Library acquired the early Fauquier County court records on microfilm. This addition to the Virginiana collection will be a valuable source for anyone doing genealogical or historical research. Because the library's hours extend beyond the open hours of the records room at the courthouse, the researcher will have more time to study these early documents. The library has two microfilm readers, and two microfilm reader/printers on which to view these records and make copies if necessary.

The seventy-five reels include: deed books from 1759-1866 and grantor and grantee indices for deeds from 1759-1914; will books from 1759-1865 and the index of wills, A-Z, 1759-1920; minute and order books from 1759-1865, chancery order books from 1831-1867; marriage bonds and returns for 1759-1854, including an index; a marriage register for 1854-1906; register of births 1853-1896; register of deaths 1853-1896; other births and deaths 1853-1860; a muster roll 1861-1865; land causes 1809-1850; miscellaneous records from 1759-1807; and land tax books and lists of tithables.

The library is open Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

—Ava Lee

New Book on Civil War

Booth, Louise, *Waiting for the Moment*. 228 pp. \$22.00.

Society member Louise Booth of Villa Park, California, has recently published an interesting book reflecting the inevitable waiting time soldiers have always experienced; in this case, for a horse, a gun, the paymaster, or a letter from home. Often plagued with intestinal illnesses, they spent most of the time waiting until the glorious moments when they dashed into battle.

The story covers the life of Basil Jewell, Indiana farmer and Union officer, and his Company G, 11th Indiana Cavalry. The commentary includes the home front struggle between the Unionists and Copperheads in Sullivan County, Indiana, and the Northern Alabama-Middle Tennessee Campaign (Oct. 1864-Jan. 1865). The battles at Allatoona, Georgia, and Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee, are also described.

Basis for the work are the letters of Jewell and his company commander, which were family keepsakes for 120 years.

At the time of the war most of the men of Sullivan County had been born in Kentucky, sons of parents who were native Virginians.

Included is a genealogy section containing 45 surnames and allied families of the men of Company G, around whom the story line revolves.

Mrs. Booth's own ancestors came from Virginia. She is a descendant of the Hitts of the Germanna Colony. Her great-great-grandfather, Pleasant Cox, takes the family line to 1636, to the James River and 3000 acres of

land between Berkeley and Shirley Hundreds. Another family line was connected with the Siege of Yorktown.

Last summer Mrs. Booth spent several days in Warrenton, and was assisted in her research by the Society and Ava Lee of the Virginiana Room.

For further information write Mrs. Booth at 18551 Via Bravo, Villa Park, CA 92667.

Annual Meeting

The Fauquier Historical Society annual meeting will be held at Airlie House on Thursday, June 7th. Cash bar at 6:30, dinner at 7:30.

The speaker will be Dr. George Brown Oliver of the Randolph-Macon College history department.

Reservation flyers will be mailed in April. Hold the date open!

Journey to Richmond

Bill Sudduth, program chairman, reports that there are seats available for "A Day at Museums" on Thursday, April 26th. We will visit Agecroft House, Confederate Museum, Valentine Museum and Battle Abbey of the Virginia Historical Society.

The bus will leave Northern Virginia Shopping Center (behind the Marshall National Bank) at 8:00 a.m. and will return by 7:00 p.m. Bring your lunch and enjoy Springtime in Richmond. Fee: \$16.00. Call Bill Sudduth, 347-4094, for information or send your check to him at P. O. Box 767, Warrenton.

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Please Return To:

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

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Check appropriate membership category:

- () - Individual or family - \$10
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- () - 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 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.

GRAYSON. Mrs. Madeline A. Ford, 1525 Minutemen Cswy, #101, Cocoa Beach, FL 32931, seeks info on Frederick William Spence Grayson, probably born 1798 to 1806. Needs date and place of birth, marriage and death and where interred. He was the grandson of the Rev. Spence Grayson.

KANE/CANE, RUSSELL. Mrs. Edward Russell, 555 Rosewood Drive, Roseburg, OR 97470 is searching for information on the parents of Emily Kane/Cane, who is listed in 1860-1910 census. She m. John Russell in Fauquier ca. 1849-50. Needs death certificate or cemetery record.

MORROW. Wayne T. Guthrie, 4828 Oakwood Ave., Downers Grove, IL 60515 wants info about James Morrow (1786-?), who lived at Eppingham Farm, near Owl Run (Calverton) from 1825-?. Where and when did he die? Where is he buried? What was the maiden name of Priscilla, believed to be his 2nd wife? Are there any descendants of James Morrow in Fauquier County?



Twelfth Night organizer John M. Cheatwood reads William Carlos Williams' "The Burning of the Greens."



Mr. Fuzzbuzz, a barrister in Dickens' Pickwick Papers, as portrayed by Hedley Hepworth.



Society members enjoying musical renditions by Madeline McNeil, playing a hammer dulcimer, accompanied by guitarist Seth Austin, at the Twelfth Night celebration held Jan. 6 at Airlie Lodge.

The Fauquier Historical Society

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