

Southampton County Historical Society

Franklin, VA

Founded 1964

Courtland, VA

MARCH 2009

NEXT PROGRAM:

WHEN.....SUNDAY, March 22, 2009

WHOTHE HONORABLE DANIEL T. BALFOUR

WHAT.....”MOVIES FOR 20 CENTS, WITH A NICKEL LEFT FOR JUJUBEEES”

WHERE SOUTHAMPTON CO. ADMINISTRATION BLDG,COURTLAND

TIME.....3:00 PM

“Movies for 20 cents, with a nickel left over for Jujubees” has a subtitle: “A look back at growing up in Franklin in the late 40’s and 50’s”. Dan will talk about what he remembers about the Franklin scene and what boys his age were doing in church, school, community, and other activities. He will also summarize what was good and bad back in those days, and how things have changed. He may even divulge some long-kept secrets about breaking a teacher’s yardstick and then raking yards with a teacher’s broken yardstick, and other such events!

Please come and invite others to come. Visitors are ALWAYS welcome. Whether you grew up in Franklin or Southampton, or elsewhere, you will find a common thread with his recollections. It promises to be a program of interest to all, whether you are older or younger than this time frame.

New Property!

The new property still awaits the logger’s arrival, but hopefully it will be soon. This 7 acre tract next to the Museum of Southampton History will add versatile road frontage to our property. The plan is to clear the dry part and use it for parking. With the economy, there is little demand for forest products at present.

Down Home Day

Down Home Day is scheduled for April 25th, 1-5 pm. Jimmy Ricks’ “Shiloh Grass” Bluegrass Band will perform during the afternoon. The grist mill will operate and have freshly ground corn meal available. Volunteers will be cooking samples of cornbread for visitors to enjoy. The saw mill will operate several times during the afternoon as well. The museum now has TWO printing presses, and they both will be demonstrated. The Archives Room in the Museum of Southampton History building will be open from 1:30-4:00. Antique tractors and cars will be on display. The petting zoo will feature clean, gentle farm animals, and sheep shearing will be demonstrated periodically throughout

the afternoon. Food and drinks will be available for

purchase. Admission will be \$3 for adults, \$1 for school age children. As always, that admission fee includes a tour of the museum and Heritage Village. Plan to come and enjoy a pleasant afternoon of country fun in Courtland!

Heritage Day

Save the date! Heritage Day 2009 will be held on **September 19th**. Please mark your calendars now so that you won’t miss it!

Digitized Records!

Rick Francis, Clerk of Court, Ken Brantley, genealogy consultant, and Southampton County have undertaken a project to make Southampton the first county in the NATION to have all its records from 1749-1880 digitized, indexed, and put online. Brantley, from Georgia but with ties to the county, reported that Virginia has some of the greatest genealogy gems there are to be found, buried in the courthouses. He was most impressed with the legible handwriting of our former clerks. He digitized 125-130 books, the oldest in the county’s records room. The total number of pages: over 58,000 to be abstracted, hundreds of thousands of name entries and the many landmarks

identified in the various deed records. The names will include every man, woman and child identified therein, including Will Books, Court Order Books, Court Minute Books, Deed Books, and Marriage Books as well as other miscellaneous documents.

He has been ably assisted, daily, by full-time volunteer **Mrs. Bruce Saunders**, representing the SCHS. Brantley said her diligence in maintaining a log of the books and pages digitized has been an important element during the project, and her efforts have expedited the work. She has been really excited about the project, stating that the Order and Minute Books have been there over 200 years and have never been indexed and they found Voter Books from 1902, with not only the names but the birthdates as well, and they found a Guardian Account Book in one of the Will Books.

The records will eventually be put online on the county clerk's website, which is attached to the Southampton County web site, with a link also to the SCHS web site.

Rick is requesting volunteers to index the CD's on which each book's records are recorded. The task entails listing all the names used in a particular book and then Brantley will use a software program that will create the index. Volunteers have already committed to doing quite a few. If you can volunteer, please call Rick Francis at 757-653-2200 or visit www.rootsweb.com/~vaschs or <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/southamptonhistory/>

Rebecca Vaughan House

The Southampton County Historical Society initiated its Rebecca Vaughan House restoration project to effectively present the 1831 Southampton County Insurrection. The project's goal is to restore and interpret the Rebecca Vaughan House so that it can serve as the focal point for driving and walking tours associated with Nat Turner's Rebellion.

We are working with Traub architectural firm in Raleigh and Liggett Landscape and Design on plans for both the Museum of Southampton History and the Rebecca Vaughan House. A preliminary plan is attached.

Annual Beef BBQ

The Ag & Forestry Museum is planning its annual Beef Barbecue dinner on Saturday, May 9th, 5-7 pm. The cost of the tickets has been reduced to \$10 from last year's \$12. Tickets will be available from all museum committee members.

The Ag Museum committee meets the 4th Monday night of each month at 7:30, and almost always at least one or two new members sign up. If you'd like to get involved, feel free to come to the meetings!

Website Back Up!

A while back, **Cliff Hedgepeth** gave up his volunteer job of webmaster for the Southampton County Website, <http://rootsweb.com/~vaschs/>. After trying unsuccessfully to find someone to take his place, I recently went back to him to see if he would take the job back if we could pay him. He replied that he wouldn't do it for pay, but he would do it for free, so if you see him or visit our website, please thank him! He works at the Franklin Library Monday-Thursday, 2-8 pm where he is working on their

genealogy section and local history section.

Our book order form is on our website, so if you'd like to order books, feel free to print off a copy.

New Book!

Ulysses P. (Pete) Joyner, Jr. of Orange, VA has written a new book, "From the Pagan to the Nottoway, the Occupation of the land by the Europeans 1607-1800". We have a limited number available at the Ag & Forestry Museum. They are \$20 plus \$5 shipping from Lynda Updike, 33335 Statesville Rd., Newsoms, VA 23874. The book includes sketches of original land patents in Isle of Wight and Nottoway Parish of Southampton County. Joyner said, "I had hoped to complete sketches of more Southampton patents, but age and health make it impossible. I hope someone will continue my efforts." What you may not know is that he has already sold enough copies to cover the cost of printing and donated the rest of the books to the Southampton County Historical Society! The book is NOT COPYRIGHTED and is a NOT-FOR-PROFIT project for the benefit of those who may be interested in the history of the early settlement of the south side of the James River in the area of the present IOW and Southampton Counties, and its contents may be copied for non-commercial purposes but may not be reproduced for commercial use. He is also the author of "Joyner of Southampton" and "They Crossed the Blackwater". The latter is available at the Ag Museum or by mail order.

Mr. Joyner has also left some very interesting large maps where he superimposed the patents on the US Geodetic Survey Maps. These will be available for you to see at Down Home Day and other times in the Archives Room.

Another New Book!

While You're Up, A Memoir by **John M. Camp, Jr.**, edited by **Susan Block** with his son **Robert H. Camp** as copy editor, has been published, and the first printing has already sold out. The most expedient method of getting a copy is from amazon.com. The book is very well written and most interesting reading. It's one of those books you just can't put down until it's finished!

In the book Jack Camp talks about his early life, his work experiences with Camp Manufacturing Co., his family, home life, hunting and fishing experiences, among many other topics. The book includes many family photographs as well. Of special interest is a chapter of excerpts from letters he sent his mother during World War II.

Upcoming Programs

In June ***While You're Up*** copy editor Robert Camp will review his father's book for us! The date is tentative at present. Then, in September, Rick Francis will conduct a Nat Turner bus tour. Newsletters will arrive prior to each event. We have two special events to look forward to!

Old Obituaries

Not only has Bruce Saunders been busy in the Courthouse, but she and Matt Harris, Monitor of Rootsweb for Southampton have started a webpage of old obituaries. Each has to be re-typed, not photo copied. She has the permission of The Tidewater News to put the old ones

online, has copied 1906-1921 and all of the 1950's from microfilm. She's requesting any prior to 1960 right now, Franklin and Southampton only. The website is [www.http://usgwarchive.net/va/southampton/obits.htm](http://usgwarchive.net/va/southampton/obits.htm) If that doesn't work, you will find her email address later in this newsletter. Do you wonder what she does in her spare time?

Dues Notices

Membership chairman Don Richards sent out dues notices earlier in the year and many of you have returned your dues. We had to raise dues for the first time ever to \$15 from \$10 for individual memberships, but for couples the amount is \$25. If you have not paid your dues and wish to continue your membership and receive the newsletter, please mail them to him at Richwood Graphics, 209 N. Main St., Franklin, VA 23851. If you don't know whether you have paid or not, you can call him at 757-562-3299.

Sympathies

We extend our sympathies to our members who have lost loved ones. Richard and Linda Edwards lost his mother, Mrs. Doris Holcombe Edwards Bradshaw. Mrs. Margaret Woodley Bishop lost her husband, F. Rollins Bishop.

Gen. Mahone's Descendent

On Feb. 12, 2009, Mrs. **Marie Mahone Finch "Scootie" Kipper**, age 89, of Norfolk, passed away. She was the great-granddaughter of Confederate General William Mahone, who led the Battle of the Crater in Petersburg and later became a Virginia senator and built the first railroad in Virginia.

Veterans History Project

Gilbert and Ann Porter, 236Southampton Rd., Franklin, VA 23851, phone 757-562-6760 continue to enthusiastically chair a committee to collect and submit personal stories and other documents from America's war veterans, and those American civilians who served in support of them.

The goal is to honor those who served, and learn about the past through the first-hand accounts of men and women who lived through extraordinary times.

They need more people to fill out the forms and more volunteers to help make the contacts and to interview and record information about our veterans willing to share their memoirs.

The Veterans History Project collects stories from men and women from all branches of service. The project also documents the contributions of civilians, such as war industry workers and medical volunteers, who served in support of the armed forces.

For the information to go to the Library of Congress they need multiple pages of information. **To qualify there must be ten pages of memoirs for each application.** However, for the applications without that much data, we **still want them for our permanent records** so the information can be preserved for our future generations. Please don't stop asking for information!

If you've intended to fill out a form, PLEASE do it! Please tell others to fill out the data also!

VA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

The Virginia Genealogical Society presents "Secrets for Successful Research on April 18, 2009 at the Library of Virginia in Richmond. This one-day conference features four interesting and informative lectures on Virginia research and records by nationally known genealogist and lecturer Barbara Vines Little, CG. For info email vagensoc@aol.com or go to www.vgs.org.

In Search of Historic Southampton Co.

Carolyn Keen has just been chosen to receive APVA Preservation Virginia's 2009 Award for Outstanding Historic Preservation Research! The review committee was particularly impressed with her longtime devotion to historic preservation in Virginia's Southside, especially the digital image database she has compiled. Congratulations!

She is compiling info for a book on local country stores. If you have any photos or info about any, or their merchants, please contact her at VAhistorichouses@aol.com or 757-357-2173. So far she has data on 200 stores, over 60 are in Southampton.

Tidewater News Editorial

"Southampton County has a diamond in the rough. And it's sitting patiently in Courtland, waiting for the money needed to bring it back to its earlier splendor. It is the Rebecca Vaughan House, and, as most people around her know, it was one of the sites that played a role in the 1831 Nat Turner slave rebellion. Specifically, it was the last place where whites were massacred by slaves who were participating in the revolt."

"Few buildings from that time frame still exist, which makes the house all the more special.

Although that event stokes different feelings and emotions today, few would disagree that the rebellion was a pivotal event in American history and helped to bring about the demise of slavery.

We would like to see the Rebecca Vaughan House restored to its 1831 appearance. The county's historical society needs grant money from the state and donations to make this happen.

Its restoration would be a wonderful complement to the Agriculture and Forestry Museum across the street and would help better tell the story of Nat Turner and the people who lost their lives – both white and black- during the rebellion." (December 5, 2008)

DVDs Available

The Nat Turner tapes have been available for several years as four VCR tapes. We still have a few of those left. However, we now have a shipment in the DVD format. You may call Milton Futrell at 757-653-2123 for ordering information.

VA Historical Society News

"Houston, we have an African American History website for teachers". Astronaut Leland Melvin helped the Virginia Historical Society inaugurate its latest web-based resource, "Linking to Our Past: Documenting the African American Experience in Virginia." The web pages, designed to be used by teachers, include letters, paintings, diary entries, teacher registers, broadsides, speeches, sketches, and other materials from the Society's collections that help reveal the richness of Virginia's African American

History.

For more than 175 years, the Virginia Historical Society has been the steward of our state-- and often national--history. Headquartered in Richmond, the VHS is the Official State Historical Society and features award-winning exhibitions that are entertaining and educational for visitors of all ages. For more information feel free to call 804-358-4901 or visit www.vahistorical.org.

Dendron Cookbook

The Dendron Historical Society has a new cookbook for sale. **A Taste of Dendron...Cooking with Memories** is now available for \$25 each plus \$5 postage and handling from the Dendron Historical Society, P. O. Box 308, Dendron, VA 23839.

With each recipe that was submitted, a memory of Dendron had to be included. It is a wonderful history book of the Surry Lumber Co. and their railroad which came into Southampton County.

For questions please contact Gayle Lanier at 757-899-6451. Or you can pick up a copy at the Newsoms Peanut Shop from Nancy Bunn.

The Dendron Historical Society also has pen and ink prints by Kevin Spain of the Surry, Sussex and Southampton Railway's original Engine No. 2 and Engine No. 6 for sale in their museum. The numbered and signed prints are 8.8 x 11.5" and cost \$20. Call Gayle Lanier for more information.

Mahone's Tavern

The Urquhart-Gillette Camp # 1471, Sons of Confederate Veterans in Southampton County is having an auction to raise money for the Camp and Mahone's Tavern on Saturday, April 18th beginning at 10 am at the Courtland Ruritan Building, consisting of new, used, and antique merchandise donated by businesses and individuals in the area. The Jerusalem Chapter of the UDC will also be holding a silent auction to raise money for their many projects. Food and beverages will be for sale during the day. For additional info and a list of items for sale, go to AuctionZip.com or to make a donation, feel free to call Tommy Simmons or Warren Simmons.

Mahone's Tavern and Museum, Inc. was made official on December 12, 2008 by the State Corporation Commission. On December 29, 2008 the property was transferred from the benefactor to the newly established entity. The Urquhart-Gillette Camp became the sole member and the single share stockholder. The benefactor has agreed through March 2009 to continue to match all donations. To find out details, call Tommy Simmons at 653-2613.

Old Tidewater News Issues

Tommy Simmons asked that I remind you that you can now go to the Rawls Library in Courtland or the Campbell Library in Franklin to view old issues of the Tidewater News on microfilm now but you have to order them ahead of time. It takes a day or so to get the microfilm in. The project is still to be finalized, but you can go back as far as 1906 and read the news items, gossip columns, etc. Even the old ads are interesting.

Chippokes Event

Please note the new dates for the Chippokes Steam

& Gas Engine Show. It will be held on May 30-31, 2009.

Volunteers needed

How many times have we said, "I wish I had talked to so and so with a tape recorder running to find out about life in the old days? Well, now is your chance to sign up to do just that. We have some suggested questions to ask, and recommend that you supplement with your own as well. Or, if you're willing to answer the questions about yourself, either on a tape or written out, we'd like to have that as well. To find out more, or to sign up, please call Lynda Updike at 757-654-6785.

Special Memberships

We are grateful to the following for their:

Life membership:

-Mrs. Irene Darden Field

Sustaining membership:

-Sol W. Rawls, Jr.

-Kyle Purvis, Jr.

-Allen Story

-Jeffrey Hines

-Steve Stewart

-Mr. & Mrs. Robert Powell, III

-Dr. William Dunstan, III

-E. R. M. Coker

Contributing membership:

-Dr. Judy Pantelides

-James T. Story, III

-The Hon. Daniel T. Balfour

-Mrs. Flora F. Williams

-Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Worrell

-Lewis Story

-Mrs. Gayle Urquhart

-Ms. Patricia Rawls

-Mrs. William Rhodes

-Russell Sawyer

-Floyd Smith

-Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wier

-Clyde Parker

-Jerry Pond

-Mr. & Mrs. Jack Pittman

-Mrs. Mary Kay Miller

-James Musgrave

-Mr. & Mrs. Roy Lassiter

-Mrs. Madeline Marks

-Mrs. Ora Marie Lambert

-Mrs. Patricia Hartman

-Robert Heeren

-Mrs. Helen K. Hill

-Ollie Hines

-Watt Jones

-Mrs. Lil Francis

-Ms. Cheryl Falter

-Mrs. Virginia Brooks Daughtrey

-Mrs. Mary Louisa U. Bryant

-Mr. & Mrs. Ryland Beale

-Mrs. Dorothy C. Beale

-Sam Beale

-Leland Beale, Jr.

Additional contribution:

- Mr. & Mrs. Warren Simmons
- Mrs. Nancy J. Snidow
- Mrs. Anne Kitchen
- George Hehrken
- William Felton, Jr.
- George Councill
- Mrs. Judy P. Davis
- Mrs. Aldia Carter

Welcome New Members!

We're pleased to have the following new members:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| -Mrs. Lucinda Howell Glover | Raleigh, NC |
| -James Ream, Jr. | Mims, FL |
| -Mrs Joyce Parham | Capron, VA |
| -Mike McManus | Boykins, VA |
| -Glenn Bridges | Franklin, VA |
| Burton Bradshaw, Jr. | Franklin, VA |

Gift Memberships

A really great way to get others involved in the Southampton County Historical Society is through gift memberships. The following received 2009 gift memberships:

<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Donor</u>
Lee Kello	Ms. Martha Kello
Janet Howell	William & Helen Howell
Bill & Jackie Howell	William & Helen Howell
Jackie G. Howell	William & Helen Howell
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Simmons	Mrs. Patty Simmons
Dr. John D. Sykes, Jr.	Allen Story
Mrs. J. David Sykes	Allen Story
David Fuller	Carolyn Bunn & Brenda Barnes
Jessie Ellsworth	Mrs. Nancy Nagle-Bolio
Cullen Dunstan	Allison Harrell
Carlton Cutchin, Jr	Gil & Ann Porter
James Ream, Jr	Nancy Jean Turner
Mrs. Joyce Parham	Mrs. Helen Gillette
Chad Felts	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Felts
Burton Bradshaw, Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. Burton Bradshaw, Sr.
Glenn Bridges	Mrs. Shirley Wentz

Donations Received

- Camp Foundation (Bobby Worrell)
- Camp-Younts Foundation (Gil Walker)

In memory of Thelma and Elijah Joyner:

- Nancy J. and Vince Snidow

In memory of John & Erma Raiford:

- Dr. Judy Pantelides

For Rebecca Vaughan House:

- Dr. William E. Dunstan

For Ag & Forestry Museum / Heritage Village:

- Camp-Younts Foundation (Paul Camp Marks)
- Ruth Camp Campbell Foundation (Paul Marks)
- Camp-Younts Foundation (John. M. Camp, III)
- Courtland Ruritan Club

2007 Christmas Ornaments

Southampton County's 2007 Committee had a

limited number of gold Christmas ornaments made to commemorate the 400th birthday of our country. The really attractive ornaments contain the county seal and the dates 1749-2007. They are still for sale at the Chamber, Peanut Patch, and various places around the county & Franklin. They make wonderful Christmas gifts for local folks as well as those who have moved away. They originally sold for \$12 but have been reduced to \$10.

County Flags

The Ag Museum also has a few of the Southampton County flags available for sale. They too feature some of the symbols found on the county seal. For \$35 they make nice gifts as well as for personal use.

Query

Gayle Lanier is looking for a student listing for Franklin Military Academy, which was at the corner of Lee and Norfleet Streets. If you can help her, call her at 757-899-6451.

Gayle also is looking for proof as to who her great great grandfather James Frederick Boykins' parents were and where they were born. Her father, Charles Clyde Boykin, Sr is son of Charles Judson Boykin, son of James Thomas Boykin, son of James Frederick Boykin. If you can help, please get in touch with her.

Miss Annie West of Airfield

William Tennis of Hampton sent us a copy of a letter and envelope from E. O. Parsons of Room 2, Windsor Academy, postmarked April 2, 1896 to Miss Annie West of Airfield, Southampton Co., Virginia. Miss West was is grandmother. She married William C. Perkins.

"Cottonwood Lawn"

William Tennis also sent a photo of Mr. and Mrs. Garland Davis, Mrs. Raynor Stephenson Davis, Mrs. Annie West Perkins, and Minge Perkins Tennis, his mother. The photo was taken at "Cottonwood Lawn" in Ivor. He seeks info on the Davis family and also on Cottonwood Lawn. He can be reached at 757-850-1515 or wctennis@widowmaker.com

Web Addresses

The Society's homepage is at <http://rootsweb.com/~vaschs/>. Be sure to visit it often. Bruce Saunders, who capably responds to genealogy queries is now at bs4403@verizon.net. Lynda Updike is updikes@earthlink.net

Gift Suggestion

Looking for a gift for someone who already has EVERYTHING? How about a gift membership in the Southampton County Historical Society for just \$10. A gift acknowledgement will be sent to the recipient. Simply send your check, made out to the Southampton County Historical Society, to Mr. Don Richards, at Richwood Graphics, 209 N. Main St., Franklin, VA 23851 with all the particulars.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Obituary of Miss Mattie Tyler, 1929
- Very preliminary plan, Museum of Southampton History
- Photo from 1985 Franklin Historic Calendar

Mrs. Lynda Updike

March 4, 2009

President: Southampton County Historical Society

Dear Ms Updike:

As you may know, the Brantley Association of America which I head, has undertaken the project to digitize and to facilitate the indexing of the early court records of Southampton County for the purpose of genealogy research as well as the advancement of historical research in the county. While the digitizing of these records is nearing completion, the indexing of these will take a monumental effort. There are some 58,000 pages of which will be abstracted, hundreds of thousands of name entries and the many landmarks identified in the various deed records. The names will include every man, woman and child identified therein from 1749 through the mid 1880s. The records include, Will Books, Court Order Books, Court Minute Books, Deed Books and Marriage Books as well as other, miscellaneous, documents. While it is a sizeable elephant, we are very encouraged with the progress seen in the first few weeks. Although we have not formally announced the project until this writing, we have digitized over 46,000 images and have acquired volunteers to index 11 of the some 120 court books. This represents nearly 10% of the indexing required and we reiterate that these volunteers have responded only from "word of mouth" and since we first arrived in Courtland on February 11th.

We are hopeful that members of the Southampton County Historical Society will want to join in this remarkable project. Southampton County will, as far as I know, be the first County in America to have all its records indexed from the mid 1700s through 1880. We are appreciative of the insight and support of Probate Officer and Clerk, Mr. Richard Francis who is a native of this early Virginia County and recognizes the potential discovery of historical sites and the identity of many persons otherwise lost in the presently un-indexed records, found particularly in the Court Order and Minute books.

Realizing the valiant effort of the participants, Mr. Francis has stated that within the covers of the respective Court Books will be forever shown the

names of the participants who take part is the great undertaking. Along with the ancient clerks and Court Officers whose entries go back to 1749, will be noted those who will have labored to bring from obscurity, many names, families and landmarks of early Southampton County. It is fascinating enough to be able to read and extract the names from the early books and to get a glimpse of the lives and events of our forefathers here, but to be able to become part of history ourselves by this effort and the recognition of the custodians of these remarkable records, is truly astonishing.

We are truly appreciative of Society member Bruce Saunders who has been "on seen" with us since our arrival and has guided us in locating the older books. Her diligence in maintaining a log of the books and pages digitized has been an important element during the project and her efforts have expedited the work. Bruce and Mr. Francis are among those who have volunteered to be "Book Project Managers" and will index, themselves, at least one book each. These are among the same books which have lain in the Courthouse, without and index, for well over 250 years.

We formally solicit the assistance also of your members, the members of the Southampton County Yahoo Group and other interested parties associated with the Historical Society. Please provide our e-mail and mailing address to these and make this letter available on your WEB site. We do hope many will take part in this historic venture.

Sincerely,

J. Kenneth Brantley

President: Brantley Association of America
4650 Oakleigh Manor Dr
Powder Springs, GA 30127

brantleyassoc@bellsouth.net