

REPORT BY PHS PRESIDENT

I reported at the last meeting that the Pittsylvania Historical Society was taking steps to try to get approval of a historical highway marker for the county to honor a distinguished county native, the honorable Claude A. Swanson, who was a congressman, Governor of Virginia, U.S. Senator and Secretary of the Navy.

We have received sufficient funds to pay for the marker, and I am happy now to tell you I am confident that the Virginia Department of Historical Resources will give approval for the erection of a state marker in honor of Claude Swanson.

A special dedication ceremony for erecting the marker in this county will be held this summer.

MAY IS MONTH TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP

This month, May 1992, is the month to renew your membership in the PHS, and it's the time to send in your dues.

I believe you can take pride in having 478 paid members in this Historical Society because a large membership provides better service for its members. I hope you will not drop out because we need to keep everyone.

Please send renewal (\$10) right away to: Jeannette Brown, membership secretary, Route 1, Box 8K6, Chatham, VA 24531. Phone (804) 432-2607.

PHS VICE-PRESIDENT NAMED LAUREAT

The Pittsylvania Historical Society is proud to have this Society's Vice-President Frances Hallam Hurt named a "Laureate of Virginia" by the Cultural Laureate Foundation that honors outstanding Virginians.

Mrs. Hurt received this special recognition for her many years of community services. The ceremony was held in Richmond featuring an address by the Governor of Virginia.

LIVE SCULPTOR SPEAKER AT MAY MEETING

"A live sculptor at work "will be the subject for the PHS May 18th quarterly meeting.

We are privileged to have Vernon Geyer as our special speaker for the meeting on Monday, May 18. He is a geologist by profession, and has turned his talents to sculpturing.

He is being praised for his brilliant work and striking likeness of his chosen subjects. Mr. Geyer promises to bring his sculpting instruments and samples of his work to go with his commentary on his work. Don't miss this - Monday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the old 1813 Clerk's Office at the back of the town office building.

OFFICERS OF PHS

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Preston Moses, President | Jeannette Brown, Membership Secty. |
| Frances Hurt, Vice-President | Katherine Buck, Corresponding Secty. |
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"THE PACKET -- Published by the

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 1206 -- Chatham, Virginia -- Phone (804) 432-5031

Distinguished Native Son**Claude Swanson of Pittsylvania**

By Henry H. Mitchell

Thirteen years a Congressman, four years a Governor of Virginia, 23 years U.S. Senator, six years Secretary of the Navy, and hailed as among the greatest who ever served in any of these offices, surely Claude A. Swanson's record from 1893 to 1939 qualifies him as Pittsylvania County's most renowned public servant.

Claude A. Swanson was descended from 17th century Swedish immigrants. The first of his forebears to live in Pittsylvania County was a William Swanson who had settled here in the mid-1700s.

Claude's great-grandfather William Swanson served in the legislature during the early 1800s and was instrumental along with Whitmell P. Tunstall in the establishment of the Richmond and Danville Railroad.

Claude's father John Muse Swanson was born on the Swanson homestead on Pigg River near Swansonville in 1829. He engaged in tobacco manufacturing, selling "Swanson's Twist" throughout the Southeast until 1876 when tobacco prices plummeted due to overproduction.

After that time, he relied for income on farming, assisted by his family of seven children including young Claude.

John Muse Swanson had served during the last seven months of the Civil War as a Confederate cavalryman and was married to Catherine Rebecca Pritchett of the Brosville area.

Claudius Augustus Swanson (later called Claude) was born on March 31, 1862, the third son. At six-years-old, he enrolled as a student of the famed and brilliant teacher Celestia Parrish.

A witness to first his mother's failing health (she died when he was 11) and his father's failing business, he is reputed to have resolved to rebuild the family's fortunes.

At 15-years-old, he went to work for \$30 a month as a public schoolteacher. Within two years, the legislature drastically cut education funds in order to retire debt left over from the war days, and Swanson lost his job.

He then enrolled in 1879-80 at the new Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College in Blacksburg. After one year, he returned to Danville to work as a grocery clerk.

During 1882-1885 he attended Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, where he not only met both his future wives (Elizabeth and Lulie Lyons'



Claude A. Swanson
1862-1939

widowed mother rented rooms to students), but also was recruited into Democratic politics by Richard Beirne, owner of the Richmond State newspaper.

Graduating in 1885, he moved on to law school at the University of Virginia, finishing a two year course in only one year and emerging a debating champion.

In 1886, he began the practice of law at his home in Swansonville, then moved his office to Chatham in 1887 and continued there for five years.

By 1887 he estimated that he had already achieved "a phenomenal success in the practice of law."

In 1888 he saved \$4,000 from which he paid off all his college debts and invested \$2,500 in Danville's Riverside Cotton Mill.

In 1892 he was elected to the first of seven consecutive terms of Congress. Taking his seat in 1893, he soon led the fight for rural free delivery of mail and the parcel post system.

He also advocated federal aid to states for highways and played a significant role in changing the organization and procedures of the House of Representatives.

Swanson was married December 11, 1894 to Elizabeth Deane Lyons. (After her death in 1920, he was later married in October, 1923 to Elizabeth's sister Lulie Lyons Hall. He had no children.)

In 1903 he and Elizabeth purchased Eldon, a large home just east of Chatham built by James Whittle in the 1830s. For the rest of their married life, the Swansons maintained a home at Eldon as well as in Richmond or Washington as his political career dictated.

(Editor's note: See the next edition of the Packet for a look at life at Eldon through the eyes of Elizabeth Swanson.)

In 1905 Swanson was elected Governor of Virginia. His four-year term was marked by great expansion of the power of the executive branch in Virginia government, which had previously been dominated by the legislature.

Swanson used his new executive clout to organize the state government to provide better education, roads and public health and agricultural services and to reduce public debt.

On August 1, 1910 Swanson was appointed to fill the vacant U.S. Senate seat left by the death of Senator John W. Daniel. He later was elected to four more terms.

He became a central figure in controlling Democratic Party policy in the Senate. Swanson's reputation for getting things done in the Senate came from his ability to forge alliances of normally competitive groups, the trust he inspired from his colleagues (he infallibly lived up to his word), and his remarkable self-effacement.

Not one of the many pieces of legislation which he shepherded to enactment bore his name. He let others take the credit of accomplishment. He was reputed to never have forgotten a face or name, and his friendships were many as a result.

Adding to his charisma, Swanson's anecdotes, political epigrams, down-home proverbs, and general good humor were legendary throughout his long public career.

Possibly Swanson's greatest interest during his Senatorial years was the

U.S. Navy. He was convinced, in the face of strong isolationist sentiments, that a strong navy was essential for survival of the nation and for the possibility of world peace.

On March 3, 1933, Swanson resigned his Senate seat to accept appointment as Secretary of the Navy in Franklin D. Roosevelt's original cabinet.

During the next two years he succeeded in getting Congressional approval for construction of a greater tonnage of warships than in all the previous 12 years combined.

In 1935 Japan openly violated treaty agreements with regard to naval armament, and Swanson asked and received authority for more construction.

When he died in office on July 7, 1939, just eight weeks before Hitler's armies invaded Poland to touch off World War II, the United States was well on the way to constructing the most powerful navy in the World. Without Swanson's efforts to this end, it is recognized that the Pearl Harbor disaster two years later would have probably paralyzed both the Navy and the nation.

Members of the United States Senate so greatly loved and respected Swanson that, when he died six years after leaving the Senate, they honored him with a state funeral in the Senate chamber. He was buried in Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia.

(Author's note: This article was made possible by Mr. Charles C. Hall of Augusta, West Virginia, grandson of Lulie Lyons Hall Swanson. Mr. Hall graciously provided me with numerous early newspaper articles about Claude Swanson, plus several biographical sketches. Also of great help was Claude A. Swanson of Virginia: A Political Biography by Henry C. Ferrell Jr., 1985, The University Press of Kentucky.

Mr. Hall also wrote down the following anecdote: "While Swanson was out of town, the Main Street Methodist Church Sunday School in Danville had appointed Claude its representative to a city-wide meeting. Claude took the innovative step of memorizing his address and delivered it with such talent that Mr. James G. Penn and three of his friends (R.W. Peatross, John Cosby and John Wyllie) offered to pay for Claude's education at seminary. Refusing the offer of a gift, the young clerk asked to borrow enough money at interest for a degree at Randolph-Macon and a course in law at the University of Virginia. The counter offer was accepted, and Claude left his clerk job at the store of Mr. John W. Carter and went to Ashland."

Mr. Hall further comments, "The story is not new, but what may make it of interest to the (Pittsylvania) Historical Society is that while I was doing research on the Swanson family in the Genealogy Room of the Danville Library, I met a local lady who informed me that she had a copy of a letter that Claude Swanson had sent to her grandfather thanking him for loaning the money for his college education. I did not get the lady's name, but I left her my card, and she was to send me a copy of the letter when she came across it again. Unfortunately, I have not received the copy; would you be interested in inquiring of your members who this person might be and how we might get a copy of the letter?"

The Day The Yankee Prisoners Were Marched Through County

It was in the summer of 1864 - the waning months of the War Between the States - that the Army prisons in Lynchburg became crowded with Yankee soldier-prisoners. It was decided to send some of the prisoners to Danville to be held in the large tobacco warehouses there.

It was necessary to march the northern soldiers by foot from Lynchburg about 80 miles south to Danville. The prisoners had to be marched along the highway, there being no other means of transportation.

Since most of the southern men were with the Confederate Army at the front, it was difficult to get enough men to guard the Yankee prisoners as they were marched from Lynchburg south to Danville.

The Confederate officer Captain Derbic in charge of the march sent couriers ahead to notify the citizens that the prisoners were coming - and everyone was asked to turn out along the route of the march to help guard the Yankees as they passed through.

It was on Sunday when some 3,000 reached the county seat of Pittsylvania County, and they were marched through on Main Street of the little town and were gazed upon by a large crowd of citizens, mostly women who had assembled to see them.

The day being very hot, the local citizens had placed barrels of cool water along the street for the thirsty men to drink.

One of the prisoners stopped to quench his thirst, and a guard struck him and ordered him to move on. A lady standing nearby, severely rebuked the guard for his cruelty whereupon the Yankee soldier was allowed to drink as much as he wanted. As the Yankee marched on, he looked back and said: "God bless you lady - not all southerners are bad."

It was nearing nightfall when the prisoners, who were tired, worn and hungry, crossed the Banister River three miles south of Chatham. They camped in the field across from "Banister Hall" (called Oakland) then the home of the widow of Jesse Carter.

The neighborhood people for miles around, having heard of the coming of the soldiers, brought what provisions they could scrape together, to help in the feeding of the hungry men. Also crowds followed from Chatham to help with feeding the prisoners.

Among those who came to the camp was Col. Rawley W. Martin bringing a buggy full of provisions - which he said were for the prisoners because he told he had been a prisoner and knew just what it meant.

Many of the women said they brought food to the Yankee soldiers because they said they hoped northern women would feed the southern boys when they were prisoners in the northern prisons.

The well in the yard of the home of Mrs. Carter was noted for its generous supply of clear, cool water - it being 74 feet deep. But the thirsty Yankee prisoners soon drank it dry, and they had to wait to let it refurbish its supply. In the meanwhile, water had to be brought from the nearby Banister River for drinking purposes.

Early the next morning the march was continued. Most of the soldiers

were in sad conditions, their clothes ragged and their feet bare and bleeding.

As each Yankee marched out, he was given a hockcake of bread that had been baked during the night. They eagerly grasped the food to sustain them on their long march.

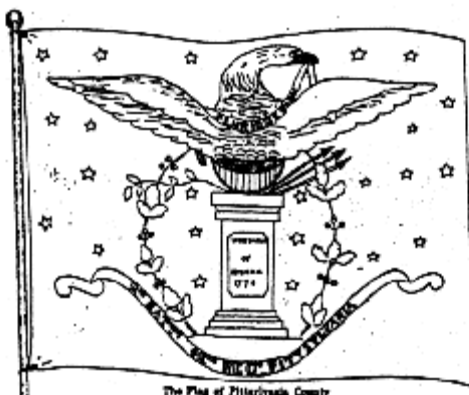
When they reached Danville, the Yankee soldiers were placed in the tobacco warehouses which had been converted into military prisons.

(This is an excerpt from an article written by Miss Mamie Petty who lived at Banister Hall and described the conditions during the war.)

Pittsylvania Has The Only County Flag In America

Pittsylvania County, the largest county in Virginia by area, officially has the only county flag in the United States, according to historians who say it was created in 1821.

The date of its creation is based on the fact that the banner bears 23 stars, one for every state in the union (at that period of time). The 23rd state, Missouri, was admitted to the Union in 1821 - so the flag undoubtedly came into being at about that time, historians contend.



The Flag of Pittsylvania County

The Flag of Pittsylvania County

The first and only flag was painted in oils on white taffeta. Several shades of color are observed in the original flag (which now hangs in a glass enclosure in the Pittsylvania County, Virginia courthouse.)

The county flag was used in battle during the War Between the States but disappeared at that time and was not returned to this county at the end of the war.

It was in 1919, Mrs. Maud Clement was in the State Library in Richmond while in search of information for her book "The History of Pittsylvania County." The state librarian told her about a county flag that had been sent to the library for safe keeping during the reconstruction.

Mrs. Clement immediately recognized it as the lost Pittsylvania County flag.

It was through her insistence that the flag was brought back "to the place where it belonged - Pittsylvania County."

However, with the ravages of time, the flag had become extremely fragile. A delegation headed by Mrs. James S. Jones persuaded the Board of Supervisors to have the old flag restored to its original glory at an art shop in Richmond and was framed in an air-tight glass case.

It is now on display in the courtroom of the historical courthouse at Chatham. Just imagine the stories it could tell, if it could only talk!

Pittsylvania's Salt Agent: Unsung Hero of Civil War

Like a wolf from his lair, Union General George Stoneman stole out of his camp at Cumberland Gap, Tennessee on December 12, 1864 and rode eastward.

His mission: Destruction of the Confederacy's largest salt works at Saltville in Southwestern Virginia.

The handsome New York cavalryman felt up to the task and approached it with alacrity. After all, he was fresh off a successful Southern tour with General William Tecumseh Sherman's wrecking crew.



Confederates try to hold off attack by Yankees at Saltville.

Twice before, including a raid two weeks after Gettysburg, the Union Army made passes at Saltville and the nearby Austinville lead works only to suffer ignominious defeat at the hands of Rebel troopers.

Stoneman was taking no chances this time with 5,500 troops in his column.

Pittsylvania County citizens would get to know General Stoneman very shortly. As one of the hated commanders of Military District One, he supervised Pittsylvania County during the dark days of the Reconstruction with his hand picked "Carpetbaggers."

Athwart Stoneman's route at Saltville, sat 1200 rag tag, ill-equipped Confederate defenders under General John C. Breckinridge, a former Vice-President of the U.S. They were no match for the invaders who were experienced in "scorched earth" tactics.

They spent two days putting the salt works out of commission. This was George Stoneman's 1864 Christmas present for General Grant.

Modern Americans have difficulty imagining a salt shortage. However, some historians argue that the Confederacy's salt shortage shortened the war as much as any other factor.

Union strategists saw the importance of salt early and quickly cut off all supplies outside the Confederacy. Strict rationing of the vital element became necessary all over the C.S.A.

It is said that whereas 200 pounds of salt cost only a dollar at Saltville in 1860, its cost soared to a dollar a pound by 1864. The Confederacy and the Commonwealth of Virginia reacted to the crisis by: (1) strict rationing; (2) impressing the Saltville works; and (3) by requiring that all counties purchasing salt furnish two laborers for the Saltville works.

The shortage caused widespread suffering over the South as soldiers and civilians alike were sometimes forced to subsist on rancid meat. As the shortage worsened on the home front, it became common practice to boil the earth from smokehouse floors in order to garner a few grains of the precious mineral.

The Pittsylvania County Court reacted to the shortage in due fashion. It

appointed a SALT AGENT in early 1862 whose responsibility it was to procure the county's ration from Saltville - 150 miles away.

James Arthur Lovelace, age 24, was only recently discharged from the military with a disability when the Court tapped him for the task. He was well connected as the son-in-law of William M. Tredway, who was destined to serve in the U.S. Congress and on the Circuit Court bench.

It was a good appointment since he appears to have worked diligently to insure that county citizens received their share of one pound of salt per person per month for all uses.

Lovelace was authorized to convey laborers to Saltville for work in the salt works only weeks before Stoneman's raid.

Records do not explain how he did it, but the intrepid Lovelace evaded the Yankee calvary somehow; delivered the laborers to the salt works; put Pittsylvania's ration of salt on the train for Lynchburg and finally delivered it by wagon to Competition and Danville ahead of Stoneman's predators.

Because of the competence and dedication of some unsung heroes like James Lovelace, life on the home front was made more bearable.

He was the first and only Salt Agent ever hired by Pittsylvania County and performed his job so well that a Court Record Book entry shortly after Appomattox authorized Lovelace to sell the excess salt.

Although his deeds were overshadowed by those of his friends on the battle front, his performance was an impressive one and by all accounts, he was one of Pittsylvania's unsung heroes of the Civil War.

(Note: The above is excerpted from Herman Melton's book: "PICKS, TRACKS AND BATTEAUX: INDUSTRY IN PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY 1750-1950," which is scheduled for release in late 1993.)

TEN STATES HAVE TOWNS OF CHATHAM

Chatham -- what?

It could be Chatham, Alaska; Chatham, Illinois; Chatham, Mass.; or Chatham in Michigan, or in Mississippi, or New Jersey, or New York, or Pennsylvania, or Ohio -- or Chatham, Virginia.

In the world atlas, cities that are large enough to be listed include Chatham, New Zealand; Chatham, Canada and Chatham, England.

HOW WE GOT FIVE-POINTED STARS FOR FLAG

The first flag for this country was adopted by the Continental Congress June 14, 1777 which became the official symbol of the Continental Army. It was the 13-star, 13-stripe U.S. National Flag.

The stars in the first flag were designed to have six points, but Betsy Ross influenced the flag committee appointed by Congress to abandon the six-pointed star with a snip of her scissors.

She demonstrated it was easier to make five-pointed stars. Thus, the five-pointed white star came to rest on the flag's field of blue for Old Glory.

A PLAY ON WORDS

We the unwilling, led by the unknowing, are doing the impossible, for the ungrateful.

We have done so much for so long, with so little, we are now qualified to do anything with nothing.

Historical Document Proves:**More Things Change, The More They Remain Same**

By Frances Hallam Hurt

The ups-and-downs of the Virginia General Assembly of 1804 sound a lot like instant replay when the account is read from the original parchment owned by Lewis Booth and his sister, Helen, descendants of one of the delegates, Thomas Hill Wooding.

Now residents of Westminster-Canterbury in Lynchburg, the Booths grew up in Danville where their father, Peter Lewis Booth, owned a grocery store. At his death, this precious document was found in the safe, presumably turned over to him by his kinswoman, Eliza Wooding Coles, wife of Walter.

Both Wooding and his fellow delegate, Daniel Coleman, are still part of Pittsylvania County. Wooding built Little Cherrystone, a strikingly handsome house in its day, located just off Route 832 east of Chatham. The house, now deteriorating, is said to have had "the most ornate woodwork" in Southside Virginia. It is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Daniel Coleman keeps an eye on things from the courthouse wall where his portrait hangs. He was not only a civic leader, but something of a folk hero as an express rider for the Continental Army at the age of 12. He successfully conveyed general orders dispatching troops to the aid of Gen. Nathanael Greene to bring off his classic coup of ferrying troops across the Dan to foil the rampaging Cornwallis. The family "mansion" house, as they called it, has been totally disassembled and carted away, no one knows by whom.

The detailed report from the Delegates to their constituents begins with a long tedious account "giving you a particular history ... of what we think an improper expenditure of public money."

The problem was the printer. His salary was set at \$2,700, but he managed to rack it up to \$3,887, thus firing up the Delegates.

Three other printers got into the act with bids. The Pittsylvania men voted for \$2,500, but the Senate seems to have upset the applecart, rejecting the lower figure.

The Delegates conclude, "We have been thus full on this head from the knowledge that it has gone abroad and to enable you to judge of our conduct on this head."

In other words, whatever the scuttlebutt, this is the way it was. True Pittsylvanians, they were for saving money.

The Delegates rejected a petition from Fairfax County asking to subject lands for sale for the payment of debts and quashed a proposal that a defendant be sent to jail if he could not come up with \$10 after a magistrate issued an execution for that amount.

The Assembly passed the amendment to the constitution proposed by Congress that electors designate their choice for vice president as well as president. This would prevent "the difficulty which presented itself at the last election of president and vice president which nearly involved the union

in difficulties which would have shaken it to its center."

They established the Bank of Virginia, with the State taking 3,000 shares at \$100 each.

"We are at present inundated by the notes of the Bank of the United States (and others) ... while the stockholders in those banks have all the advantages of their institutions we are subject to all the inconveniences of their paper without any of their advantages."

The more things change, they more they remain the same.

They repealed the sentence of death for arson, burglary, rape and highway robbery and set other punishment "by stripes not less than 10 nor more than 40."

With an eye on the bottom line, they write, "Either the rope or the whip will arrest most of those whose conduct subject them to the penalty of the law and of course a considerable portion of the expense of criminal prosecution will cease."

Then a final comment sounding very contemporary: "The sum of \$20,000 were appropriated last session for criminal prosecutions and, strange to tell, that sum was not sufficient."

They got in a hassle over expenditures for the James River Canal warehouse and a "manufactory of arms." "The Executive have made a long and labored defense (of expense) predicated on construction of law which we deem not less erroneous and dangerous ... They contend that though there was a prohibition in the last appropriation law; yet they have a right to 'expend sums unexpended of former appropriations for specific purposes.'"

The report ends on a note far from instant reply. "The amount of expenditures for the year ending September 30, 1803 is calculated at \$392,689.59, and the resources to meet this expense is calculated at \$475,325.72."

Who said the more things change, the more they remain the same?

IS THERE A LESSON FROM ROMAN HISTORY?

One of our readers who laments about the "terrible times" of today, sent this excerpt taken from "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" written by Edward Gibbons 205 years ago. The reader points to the similarity of the conditions of then and now that led to the downfall of Rome.

Gibbons listed five reasons, and you draw your own conclusions from history's lesson.

(1) The rapid increase in divorce; the undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society.

(2) Higher and higher taxes -- the spending of public monies for free bread and welfare programs.

(3) The mad craze for pleasure; sports, becoming every year more exciting and more brutal and more expensive.

(4) The building of gigantic armaments when the real enemy is within; the decadence of the people and the government.

(5) The decay of religion; faith fading into a mere form, losing touch with life and the so-called leaders becoming impotent to guide the people.

Dolley Payne Madison**A Belle of A Washington Hostess**

By Patricia B. Mitchell

Bright rouge, dazzling French fashions, and jolly parties were beauty marks in Dolley Payne Madison's capital lifestyle after marrying James Madison.

Dolley was born in Greensboro, then the Quaker community of New Garden, North Carolina. Widowed early, she eventually found herself living in Philadelphia with young son. It was there that wealthy Virginia planter and statesman James Madison sought her out, and after four months, wed her. Dolley then shed her drab clothes, her naturally merry personality bubbling to the surface.

Serving as Washington, D.C. hostess for President Thomas Jefferson at the turn of the 19th century, and then as mistress of the White House when James Madison was president, Dolley added fun and sparkle to the social scene in the young republic. She had been cautioned by her husband to monitor her consumption of champagne because, "If you drink much of it, it will make you hop like the cork."

She did limit herself to two glasses at a time, but the soirees which she hosted were always flowing with fine vintages and enhanced praiseworthy food.

Dolley herself was a conversation piece with her décolletage gowns; satin turbans decorated with bird of paradise feathers; and oft-used, carved mother-

PHS WELCOMES NEWEST MEMBERS

Jeannette Brown, membership secretary, says she is pleased to have received 15 brand new members for the PHS in recent weeks.

This brings up to 468 members in 36 states. We welcome our newest members who are:

Elizabeth Terry, Chatham, VA; Charles C. Hall, Augusta WVA; Mr. and Mrs. Samuel W. Swanson, Callands, VA; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Webster, Greenville, TN; Lillie D. Eaton, Joplin, MO; Dale Hylar, Route 1, Danville, VA.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Moore, Atlanta, GA; Helen V. Berry, Hunting Beach, CA; Mr. and Mrs. Van Webber, Chatham, VA; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Maxey, Chatham, VA; Mr. and Mrs. James L. McKeever, Chatham, VA.

Steven B. Harris, Route 4, Gretna, VA; Dr. and Mrs. Bandon B. Spradlin, Chatham, VA; Dr. and Mrs. R.O. Reynolds, Chatham, VA; Mary F. Mitchell, Roanoke, VA.

Mr. and Mrs. Hunt Meadows III, Chatham, VA; Dr. Marvin Winn, Chatham, VA; June I. Welsch, Muscatine, IA; Mr. and Mrs. William L. Wyatt, Chatham, VA.

Mr. and Mrs. Elton Pruitt, Chatham, VA; Mr. and Mrs. John Collins, Chatham, VA; Mrs. Dorothy H. Bennett, Chatham, VA; Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Holt, Chatham, VA; and Mr. and Mrs. Neal Ashworth, Chatham, VA.

of-pearl snuffbox. A regal five feet six inches tall, the buxom lady towered over her diminutive 100 pound, five-foot-four inch husband.

Together, though, the couple made a superb team, Dolley's effervescent charm and vitality balancing "Jemmy's" quiet wisdom.

Referring to Dolley's entertainments, Washington Irving reported a room "crowded with interesting men and fine women."

Henry Clay exclaimed in Dolley's presence, "Everybody loves Mrs. Madison!" Dolley responded, "That's because Mrs. Madison loves everybody."

Dinner guests at the Madison's enjoyed a repast skillfully prepared by French chef Pierre Roux and his staff. Individual diners were attended by a domestic who stood behind each chair, ready to serve. Dolley had an insatiable sweet tooth, and her dessert courses reflected this. She adored cake enlivened with caraway seeds and brandy.

Other favorite treats included ice cream, macaroons, preserves, raisins, apples, pears, almonds and pecans. Dolley wrote out little poems or sayings on slips of paper which were tucked in among the nuts.

One of the Madison's levees, in August of 1814, did not go quite as expected. Dolley was awaiting 40 dinner guests. A "cut-glass decanter of wine," "spits of meats," and "brimming saucepans" sat at the ready when Dolley and retinue had to suddenly flee.

British Admiral Cockburn and his men burst in with destruction as their objective. First, however, they ate the irresistible food, and then, according to an English officer, "finished by setting fire to the house which had so liberally entertained them."

(Editor's Note: The above is taken in part from Cooking In the Young Republic, by Patricia B. Mitchell, P.O. Box 429, Chatham, VA. 24531. This, and 30 other cookbook titles, are available for \$3 per copy, plus \$2 shipping per order. Retail and wholesale lists of current titles may be requested.)

MEMBERS WRITE LETTERS

I read in the Caswell (NC) Historical Society newsletter that you have an interesting publication. I would like to receive your newsletter and any list of local history or genealogical books that you may have. Please advise of price. Jane C. Scott, 437 Sunset Drive, Hallandale, FL 33009.

The Ray County Historical Society has reprinted the "1881 History of Ray County" with 818 pages and is a valuable source of early Ray County (MO) information. Kay Barchess, Ray County Historical Society, P.O. Box 2, Richmond, MO 64085.

Please send me a copy of your society's publication and let me know how much it cost to join your organization. June Welsch, Route 2, Lot 170, Muscaline IA 52761.

I do enjoy your "Packet". Keep up the good work. T.W. Millner, 1 Normill, Newport News, VA 23602.

We miss Lucille and Neil Payne and their years of hard work with "The Quill Pen." But I am pleased with "The Packet" and you are doing a great job. Linda Shorb, Box 969, Hayden Lake, ID 83835.

May 1992 Queries

(Free to members to aid others with similar interests.)

I am seeking information on the Ambrose Nelson's land which is on White Oak Mountain in Pittsylvania County and it is also known as the Crain land and has small cemetery with one tombstone marked CSA Craine. The land has two log buildings on it. Does anyone have any knowledge about the land and the age of the two log buildings. Write Sue KING, Route 2, Box 224, Calvert City, KY 42049.

BOWEN/BOWIN, George Alexander. Seeking proof of (1) birth surname; (2) date and place of birth - August 10, 1815 Orange County, VA per Bible record - and parentage - family history says James and Ann Foushee **BOWEN**, who were married June 6, 1814 in Culpeper County, VA. Were there any siblings of George? Most likely church connections - Baptist. Write: James R. **BOWIN**, 21875 Longeway Road, Sonoma, CA 95370.

Need information on John **BURCH** who came to Leatherwood Creek, Henry County about 1745, d. in Caswell County in 1790. Sons John (m. Sarah **PHILLIPS**) and Gerald who were Revolutionary War soldiers. Need pedigree chart for **BURCH** family 1600-1700. Need maiden name of Hannah **WILLIAMS**. Write: Gertrude **WILLIAMS**, Route 2, Box 30, Hale Center, TX 79041.

Am looking for information on the death of Thomas **MILLNER** who left Bedford County around 1815 and lived in Pittsylvania County until 1860 when shows up on federal census in Leakesville, N.C. living with son. In 1870 he was living with another son also in Leakesville. There I lose him. Will correspond with anyone having an interest in **MILLNER** or **NOEL** genealogy. Write: T. Wingfield **MILLNER**, Normill Landing, Newport News, VA 23602.

Seek information on following people who married in Pittsylvania County: Jesse **ASHLOCK** m. Anne **SCOTT** September 6, 1785; William **ASHLOCK** m. Sarah **SULLINS** November 7, 1785; John **SCOTT** m. Sophia **MURRY** February 28, 1782. Were Jesse and William cousins? Was Jesse married to Margaret before marrying Anne? Write: Tyson **ASHLOCK**, 1316 Wellesley Drive N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87106-1134.

Seek information on the **MACK**, **BURNETT**, **MURPHY** families. Main interest is learning parentage of Nathaniel G. **MURPHY**. John **MACK** and Sarah **BURNETT** of Prince Edward County, VA were married in Pittsylvania County September 9, 1766. Their daughter Mary (Polly) **MACK** m. Nathaniel G. **MURPHY** around 1796-1788 in Pittsylvania County. Ezekiel **MURPHY** gave power of attorney to James **BLACKELY** of Pittsylvania County August 1, 1808 to 272 acres beside Long Branch and Pole Bridge Branch. Write: Virginia J. **MURPHY**, 1705 Sycamore Circle, Manchester, TN 37355.

Looking for information on siblings of William Vaden **MCDOWELL**, who were John, Thomas, Joseph, Eunice McDowell **ADKINS**, Ella **BARBER**, Nannie **CRAFT**, Levita **RAMSEY**, Missie **DUNCAN** and Mittie **MAHAN**. Also need help on the family of John Francis Marian **BLAIR** and Mary Catherine **MAHAN**. Write: Linda Pollick **SHORB**, Box 969, Hayden Lake, Idaho 83835.

Searching for father of Benjamin E. ALEXANDRIA shown on 1850 census Halifax County, VA. Two Benjamins shown on William and Mary files 22V174 6W (1) 87/17 W (1) 296/7 W (2) 6219V4231/6V296. Believe Ben may have been son of Ben Sr. Will book 1771, Pittsylvania County. Also searching for parents of Elizabeth Witty TERRY, 1842/Guilford City, NC. Would appreciate any facts you may have on these ancestors. Write: Kathleen TERRY ARGO, P.O. Box 1631, Green CV Springs, FLA 32043-1631.

Looking for all MCCRAWS and their descendants to be included in the third edition of "It Is McCraw - Not McGraw" to be published prior to U.S. MCCRAW reunion July 17-20, 1992. If interested, contact co-editor Mrs. Gene MCCRAW, 546 McKinley Avenue, Woodland, CA 95695.

I wish to correspond with researchers on the CLEMENT family. I'm trying to trace movement of Dr. David HUNT, son of John HUNT and Sallie Tate BROWN. I think he married Ann CLEMENT. I want to establish relationship of CLEMENTS and HUNTS plus gathering CLEMENT data. Write: Robert HUNT, 105 Coral Reef Drive, Goose Creek, SC 29445.

Searching for info on descendants of Charlie Wesley RAMSEY and Mary Ann BLAIR and also want information on siblings of William Vaden MCDOWELL, also want help on family on John Francis Marian BLAIR and Mary Catherine MAHAN. I'm writing book on descendants of Alexander MAHAN and Catherine BALL. Write: Linda Pollick SHORB, Box 969, Hayden Lake, ID 83835.

NOTICE TO GENEALOGICAL RESEARCHERS

Pittsylvania Historical Society does not have the personnel to do research of a genealogical nature. It involves much time.

When research is needed in this area, the PHS suggests contacting either of the following sources:

(1) VA-NC Piedmont Genealogical Society, Box 2272, Danville, VA 24541; or

(2) Steven B. Harris, Route 4, Box 341, Gretna, VA 24557, Phone (804) 656-2814. (Mr. Harris is an efficient and capable researcher. His fee is \$6 per hour plus cost of copies and postage.)

NEW BOOKS PUBLISHED

Virginia J. Murphy of 1705 Sycamore Circle, Manchester, Tennessee 37353 writes to tell she has just published a book entitled "The Purvis Family, By George." She says it has 3,500 names connected with Pittsylvania County, Virginia.

NEW PUBLICATION

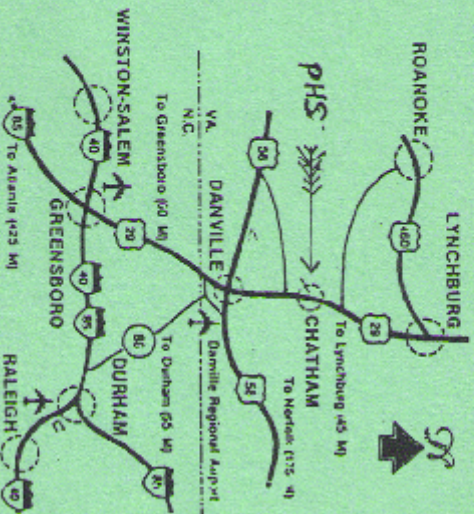
"Franklin Family Researchers Guide" is a new publication filled with research data and statistics for the benefit of everyone. Elaine Gidden, Editor, Route 2, Box 212, El Campo, Texas 77437.

MCCRAW REUNION JULY 17-20

United States McCraw reunion will be held July 17 through July 20 in Mt. Airy, N.C. Registrar: Miss Joy Rushing, 102 Gwyn Street, Mt. Airy, N.C. 27030.

THE PACKET - Box 1206 - Chatham, VA 24531

THE PACKET is the quarterly publication of the Pittsylvania Historical Society for members and those who are interested in the history of their families and the area in which they lived.



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