THE ADVOCATE

HISTORIC PORT ROYAL, INC





July 2022

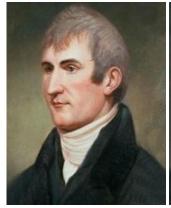
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SUMMER GREETINGS FROM HPR PRESIDENT CAROLYN DAVIS

It has been a busy time with four special History Days in May, the May 14th *Port Royal Day of History*, and lots of planning for the 21st HPR July 4th Celebration held recently with guest speakers, historical interpreters, musicians and tradesmen. Many thanks go to all who helped, especially Event Chairperson Bonnie Cannon and Kerri Holland who assisted with planning, signage, set up, etc. and filled in for me while I was out of town. My ten days in Wisconsin was a wonderful time to recover from exhaustion from the five straight days working in May without knowing I was having a severe allergic reaction to a new medicine! I took naps, read and cooked the fish Johnny caught.

My best vacation ever was the first week of May when we flew to Portland to join the American History Cruise along the Columbia and Snake Rivers on *American Song*. We saw towering mountains and tumbling waterfalls as we cruised the epic route of Lewis and Clark and visited Fort Clatsop where they spent the winter of 1806. The riverboat docked at different towns each day where we visited wonderful museums and towns along the way and saw the names "Lewis" or "Clark" on many buildings, roads, and signs. I was proud to be able to tell others that William Clark was born in *our* Caroline County, Virginia.





There was entertainment every night led by historian Dr. Bill Wiemuth, author of <u>The Lewis & Clark Expedition</u>. I was especially interested in the stories of Ben York, who was enslaved by the Clark family and an essential part of the expedition. Gift shops along the way were full of books of the trip to the Pacific and I bought several for our Museum. <u>American Slave</u>, <u>American Hero: York of the Lewis and Clark Expedition</u> by noted children's author Laurence Pringle is beautifully illustrated and has been one my favorites.

The volunteer staff of HPR and the Museum, and in particular Cleopatra Coleman and Carolyn Davis, were humbled to receive the 2022 Caroline County Public Schools Partner in Education award. On behalf of HPR, Carolyn Davis attended the lovely breakfast ceremony to accept the award. Thank you to all our educators and those who support our education system. We are happy to support our community and honored to be recognized.







May 14th Historic Port Royal's Day of History







A rainy morning could not dampen our spirits as we held our **May 14th Day of History** in combination with Belle Grove's Antique Sale and Auction. Supervisor Sili welcomed volunteers, visitors, interpreters, and demonstrators with a wonderful speech recounting HPR's efforts and contributions through the years. There were military drills, firing demonstrations, a visit from Harriet Tubman, seafaring songs, and even a friendly card game.

The **21st Independence Day** program was a wonderful day of celebration and tradition. We were blessed with nice weather and good attendance, amazing speakers and demonstrators, and great BBQ. We were so glad that Mike Newman, our Town Crier, could be there to read the Declaration in its powerful entirety. We are exceedingly grateful to the Caroline County Board of Supervisors and the Caroline County Office of Tourism for their continued support of HPR. Our amazing Event Coordinator Bonnie Cannon worked nonstop on permits, insurance, presenters, scheduling, etc. all lined up and just in time. We thank St. Peter's Episcopal Church for letting HPR to take over the church, yard, and parish house. We are indebted to those who assisted in the set up and tear down, in particular Johnny Davis an Mike Newman, and new friends Mary Davis and Dominic Amaral. Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate with us and for helping to make it a great day!

HPR's 21st Independence Day Celebration















Thank you for Celebrating with Us!

Port Royal Schools

The picture below is just one of a handful of photographs illustrating the students of the Port Royal School (1924-1959) on Main Street. Thanks to the donated time of local professional photographer Joe Parker and his talented assistant Jessica Bradshaw, these photographs have been digitally restored and we can now better see the subtle details of the children's bright faces and their best picture-day outfits. Later this month, Pastor Dobbins and several parishioners of Shiloh Church of Port Royal will be visiting Old Port Royal School. We hope this visit will help us identify some of the children in this and other pictures and we look forward to hearing their stories and memories.

Last month the Museum received a donation of several items that once belonged to one of HPR's founding members, Vivian Farish Motley. Ms. Motley attended Port Royal School on King Street (now the Library and Town Hall) in the 1930s and 40s. The school was in operation from about 1880 to 1960. The recently donated collection includes a 1941 class picture, schoolbooks, and a small satchel. Several of the children in the class picture have been identified, but there are a few blanks to fill-in. In a small pocket of the satchel, a note pad was found. Written on it were homework assignments and arithmetic problems that had been completed and checked. We thank Barbara Wisdom, of Port Royal, for realizing the historic value of these objects and donating them to HPR for posterity.

If you wish to get a closer look at these photos or would like to share any information regarding the old Port Royal Schools, we invite you to come by the Museum any Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. You can also call President Carolyn Davis at (804) 370-5285 or email HPR at HistoricPortRoyalVA@gmail.com.



Late 1930s class of Port Royal School, Main Street. We hope to get a firm date for this photo soon.



1941 class of Port Royal School, King Street.



Vivian Farish Motley's primary and secondary reading books, arithmetic workbook dated 1937-1938, book satchel, and notes. Donated by Barbara Wisdom.

The Port Royal Town Hall also houses the Portrait Gallery of notable Caroline citizens, a Native America artifact display, local memorabilia, and historical objects.



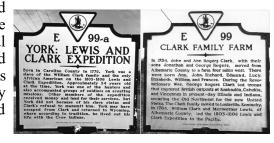
tell you when your HPR membership expires! Please Note: The printed date on your address label will

Port Royal, VA 22535 P.O. Box 233 Historic Port Royal, Inc

HPR JULY MEMBERSHIP MEETING MOVED to AUGUST 14th at 2pm. Mark your calendar!

Historic Port Royal, Inc. and the Caroline County Historical Society will have a special joint meeting on Sunday, August 14th at 2pm at the Caroline Community Services Center, 17202 Richmond Turnpike, Milford, VA (on Rt. 301 south of Bowling Green). The program will be a presentation by Peggy Crosson, President of the Virginia Lewis and Clark Legacy Trail, Inc. (VLCLT) and Jim Johnston, VLCLT Treasurer. The presenters will talk about the organization's mission and road side sign project.

Because both William Clark and Ben York were born west of Ladysmith in Caroline County, we are very pleased to show our support of this organization and its mission. New and updated roadside signage is needed in many counties and Caroline is one of the areas where signage is currently being reviewed. The 2022 General Assembly has been very supportive of this project since education and preservation are a focus, and the 'trail' benefits regional tourism. Join us as we hear more about the Corps of Discovery Expedition and the Legacy Trail's upcoming projects. To learn more about the Virginia Lewis and Clark Legacy Trail, go to https://valewisandclarklegacytrail.org.





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