

THE ADVOCATE

HISTORIC PORT ROYAL, INC



October 2022

HPR Board of Directors

President ~ Carolyn Davis
Vice President ~ Bonnie Cannon
Secretary ~ Kerri Holland
Treasurer ~ Bill Henderson
Past President ~ Cleo Coleman
Trish Parker

FALL GREETINGS FROM HPR PRESIDENT CAROLYN DAVIS

It was a busy summer with wonderful guests seeking family connections with our area and sharing their stories. Some arrived in groups, others came seeking information to share. All were interested in the Old Port Royal School and many had memories from attending. What a pleasure it was to walk with them into the past! Special thanks go to Shiloh's Rev. Dobbins who called and organized a visit for members of Shiloh Baptist Church and to Meg Hodges who did the same for docents from the Essex County Museum and Historical Society in Tappahannock, and we are already booked for a bus tour from Chancellor's Village in October. Give me a call at 804-370-5285 if you have a group that would like to visit. We love sharing the local history!

It is always interesting to meet relatives of people who have lived in Port Royal. Richard Brown's daughter, Dottie McDowney came for a visit and brought pictures of her father. Mr. Brown ran the old Port Royal Sunoco Station was on Rt. 301. Lois Christie & Peggy Brown donated pictures of early buildings too. My sister and I even found a Thornton descendant from Oklahoma. She and four others with whom I share a common heritage came to visit in September! Never a dull moment here!

This Spring, we are planning to have the Caroline County 4th graders from our 3 elementary schools spend a day learning in the old fashion way at Old Port Royal School. We are proud to work with Caroline County Instructional Specialist Courtney Lander in support of SOLs and other strategic education goals. Cleo Coleman, Trish Parker and I will be the students' teachers for the day.

HPR had a booth at the Virginia Agricultural Expo in August. We greeted many of the 1300 guests to our county and told them about the Museum, School, Portrait Gallery and Medical Museum. Books were available for sale including **Secretariat** (he was Caroline County native) which we now have available in our Museum Shop. Another exciting project was the two day Yard Sale held in front of the Murray House on King Street. Many of the visitors were no idea of the preservation work that HPR does. They thought it a treat to see the unfinished inside of such an old building, and be able to buy a "treasure" too. Thanks go to all who helped and to all who donated. Cindy Fields and Barbara Wisdom made the greatest contributions but others like Lynn Norfleet, the Locklerr family and Fitzhugh family donated generously too. It was lots of work but we made over \$1,200 for HPR, and acquired a few pieces of furniture with ties to Port Royal and Virginia.

Being president of HPR for the last eight years has been an exciting adventure. In keeping with our By-laws, a new president should be selected at least every eight years (or four 2-year terms). As past president, I will remain as an ex-officio member with full voting rights. Bill Henderson and Bonnie Cannon have also served their time as Board members but will remain active with HPR as Chairmen of specific committees such as Building & Grounds and Events. Jim Heimbach, chair of this term's Nomination Committee, is currently looking for members in good standing who might serve on the HPR Board. The Nominations will be presented and voted on at the October 25 Membership meeting. Come and join us as we celebrate the many successes of HPR. Hope to see you there!



WHAT'S NEW AT THE MUSEUM?

We have been fortunate to receive some unique donations these past few months. One recent donation was this nice early school desk from an old school in Richmond. It will be a nice addition to the growing two-seater collection in the Old Port Royal School desks. With a few more we will have nice row for the smaller students. The Locklerr family donated this late 19th-century sofa. It once belonged to the Hicks family who lived at the Peyton-



Brockenbrough House. While we still have some research to do on the piece, we are pleased to add it to the Port Royal Room of the Medical Museum. Another recent addition to the Medical Museum is this large ironstone bowl. Jerry Dickinson of Essex remembers when Dr. Harris gave the piece to his father, one of Harris's fishing buddies. Jerry thought it should be returned to Port Royal and added to the Museum.



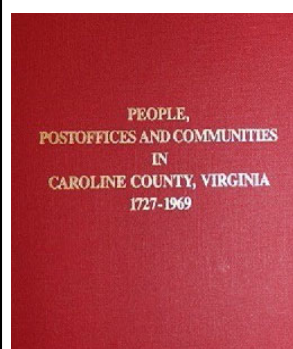
A Little Piece of History

We have recently acquired a collection of Blakemore & Norris Skinning Check tokens. Tokens like these were used at the **Port Royal Tomato Co.**, which operated during the first half of the 20th century on the Port Royal wharf, near where the Water Street fishing pier stands today. The canning business grew out of the steamboat era and provided much needed employment after the Civil War and, later, the Great Depression. It also provided income for Caroline farmers who could bring their tomato crop directly to the factory. The plant was equipped with a coal-fired steam boiler, fueled by coal brought in by steamboats. Many of the packing plants of the Tidewater Region, like Port Royal Canning Co., were built on wharfs or docks, or near the water within easy access of a steamboat landing. During the first half of the 20th century, there were about 40 different tomato canneries just in the Northern Neck area.



From the 1830s to the 1950s, it was common for businesses such as country stores, oyster shucking houses, tomato canning factories, and coal and lumber yards, to 'pay' their workers in tokens. The tokens would be used as tender at the company store or at a local general store in agreement with the company. These Port Royal skinning tokens, however, were likely used to keep track of the work done. At the end of their day, workers would be reimbursed the going amount per token, usually 5 cents per bucket skinned. To see and learn more about the Port Royal Canning Co., call or email us to arrange a tour of the Port Royal Room at the Port Royal Medical Museum, where these tokens will soon be on display.

People, Postoffices, and Communities in Caroline County, VA by Ralph Fall

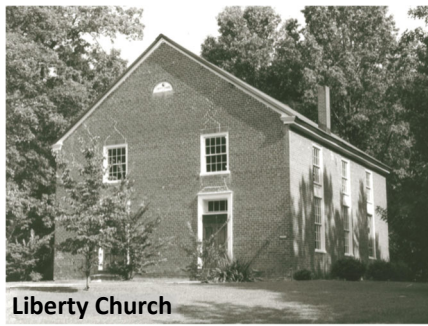


This book is full of information about people and places in our county. A called came in recently from someone seeking information on Central Point, VA. This book has 4 pages on the place! I was excited to share it with them. The community named Central Point because a house built there in 1834 was located at a "central point" of the intersection of three main roads leading to three prominent towns. Ralph Fall writes, "R.P Boyd remembered seeing, as a boy, a cedar sign-post marking the distances of either 18 or 20 miles from that point to Bowling Green, Tappahannock or Walkerton—it truly was a central point!" In 1872 Rev. Spencer Todd and Rev. H.L. Young, with the assistance of Rev. Andrew Broaddus of Salem Baptist in Sparta, established St. Stephen's Baptist Church at the crossroads. In 1924 the church structure was said to be the "largest and most costly house of worship...in Caroline County."

People, Postoffices, and Communities in Caroline County, VA is currently out of print, but we still have a few copies in our Museum Shop (\$35.00)



Mica School



Liberty Church



The Lodge

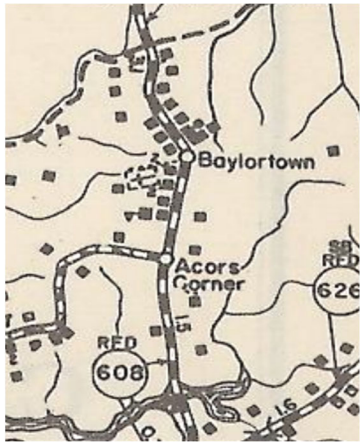
HISTORIC SITES TOUR ON U.S. ARMY GARRISON FORT A.P. HILL Sunday October 30th 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Fort A.P. Hill will host members and guests of the Caroline County Historical Society and Historic Port Royal, Inc., for a tour of historic sites on the installation. The event will start at 2:00pm at Mica School (Heth). It is about a 10 to 15min drive at from the North (Main) Gate to Mica, so give yourself plenty of time to make the 7-mile journey. After a welcome from LTC Duffy and Environmental Division staff at the old school (built 1929), installation staff will guide guests over to the antebellum Liberty Church (c. 1850), then on to The Lodge (c. 1938) overlooking Travis Lake. The last stop will be Baylortown, where Cultural Resources staff will share what has been learned during their field research.

From Mica, Fort A.P. Hill staff will guide guest to all other destinations. While on the installation, guests *must* stay with the tour group until the end of the event. Guests are asked to *not* take any photos on the installation until such time as when the guides offer photo opportunities.

Restroom facilities and water will be available at Mica and The Lodge. Light refreshments will be served at The Lodge. The Wealthy In Heart Oral History book, about life in Caroline County in the 1930s, will be available to those who wish to have a copy. An itinerary full of information on the sites will be provided to guests, as well.

For entry onto the installation, all guests will need to show their driver's license, or state-issued identification card. Garrison Security will need the full names of all guests by COB Thursday, Oct 13th, 2022.



HPR RSVP: Kerri Holland

Call: 703-380-3829

Email: HistoricPortRoyalVA@gmail.com

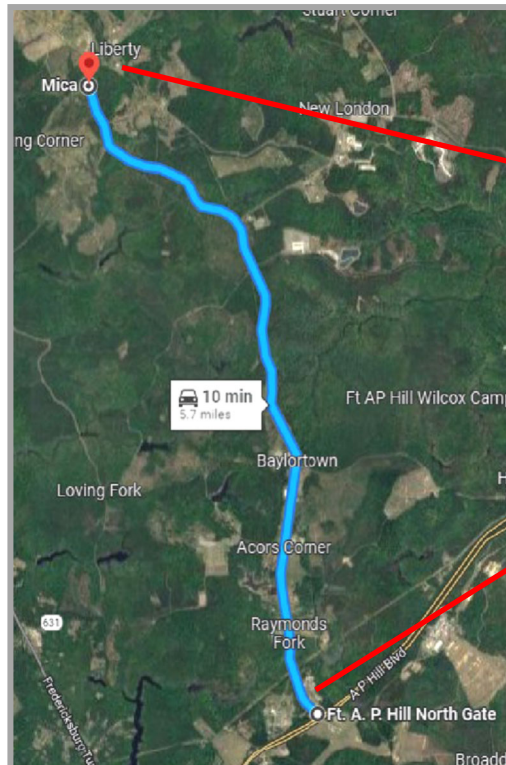
CHS RSVP: Kathy McVay

Call: 804-366-1848

Email: Kmcvay1257@gmail.com

DIRECTIONS TO HETH (MICA) FROM THE NORTH GATE

From Rt. 301, enter the North (Main) Gate: Travel passed the first gate house. Take the first right toward the brick guardhouse on the hill. Once in the guardhouse, security will scan IDs. From the Guardhouse travel down the hill to the intersection with A.P. Hill Drive. Take a right onto A.P. Hill Drive. Continue A.P. Hill Drive for 5.7 miles. Heth will be on the right. From Heth to the other tour stops, guests will be chaperoned.





HISTORIC PORT ROYAL, INC. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

YOUR MEMBERSHIP WILL HELP US RESTORE ONE OF VIRGINIA'S OLDEST & MOST BEAUTIFUL PORT COMMUNITIES!

Type of Membership *please check one*

Individual (1 year / \$25)

Family (1 year / \$45)

Lifetime (Individual or Family) \$300

Corporate (\$500)

Additional Donation of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

To join, please complete this form and mail it with your check to:
Historic Port Royal, Inc.
P.O. Box 233 Port Royal, VA 22535
(804) 370-5285
www.HistoricPortRoyal.com

HPR FALL QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE OCTOBER 25th at 7PM at TOWNHALL. Mark your calendar!

This is an important meeting, as Board nominations will be announced and voted upon this evening!

After business, we will have a special showing of the *Wealthy In Heart* video, which is a compilation of photographs accompanied by actual voices of those who remember life in Caroline County before World War II and the creation of Fort A.P. Hill. This oral history project evolved after Fort A.P. Hill LTC Michael S. Graese, Garrison Commander at the time, was invited to attend the Mica School Reunion. Mica School was one of the few schools left standing when the Army came to Caroline County. At the 2006 reunion LTC Graese was struck by the history recounted through the stories and reminiscence of the people he met. He recognized the importance of recording their stories and memories and championed a project to do just that. The oral history project began in 2007 by seeking out those willing to share their stories. It was completed in 2011 with the publication of *Wealthy In Heart* Oral History of Life Before Fort A.P. Hill.



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

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



FALL QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE OCTOBER 25th AT PORT ROYAL TOWN HALL. NEW BOARD NOMINEES WILL BE ANNOUNCED. Please try to attend. We need your vote!