**Board of Historic Resources Quarterly Meeting**

**12 June 2025**

**New Markers**

**1.) Upper King and Queen Baptist Church**

**Sponsor:** Upper King and Queen Baptist Church

**Locality:** King and Queen County

**Proposed Location:** 1693 Bradley Farm Road

**Sponsor Contact**: Joyce Mitchell, jsmitchell11@hotmail.com

**Original text:**

**Upper King and Queen Baptist Church**

Upper King and Queen Baptist Church was constituted in 1774 from Upper Essex (Separate) Baptist Church. Younger Pitts ordained in 1774 and served until 1780. The Revolutionary War put a strain on the young church but persisting under the leadership of Noel, membership had 43 members by 1779. Robert Semple was baptized in December 1789 by Theodore Noel after joining Upper King and Queen Baptist Church. Upon Noel’s death in 1813, Robert Semple was called as pastor. After Semple resigned in 1827, Andrew Broaddus served until his death in 1848. Immediately succeeded by his son, Andrew Broaddus II, serving 43 years. After the Civil War, former slaves with 300 members formed the First Mount Olive Baptist Church in 1867. This was the first colored church in the upper end of King and Queen County. The present building was dedicated 31 March 1861. With a 230 year celebration 26 September 2004 the new addition was dedicated.

**155 words/ 928 characters**

**Edited text:**

**Upper King and Queen Baptist Church**

When this church was constituted in 1774, the Baptist denomination in Virginia was rapidly expanding despite restrictions imposed on dissenters from the established Church of England. The congregation grew after the Revolutionary War under the leadership of pastor Theodorick Noel. Pastors Robert Baylor Semple (1813-1827) and Andrew Broaddus I (1827-1848), both baptized here, were influential leaders and writers who ranked among the nation’s most prominent Baptist clergymen. By 1861, when the present sanctuary was dedicated, the church had more than 600 members, about half White and half Black. After the Civil War, Black members departed and formed First Mount Olive Baptist Church.

**102 words/ 689 characters**

**Sources:**

*Minute Book of Upper King & Queen Baptist Church*, 1774-1816, 1815-1836, 1855-1897.

*History of Upper Essex Baptist Church, 1772-1997*.

Garnett Ryland, *The Baptists of Virginia, 1699-1926* (Richmond: The Virginia Baptist Board of Missions and Education, 1955).

William A. Wall, “History of Upper King and Queen Baptist Church” (n.d.).

E. Brooks Holifield, “Andrew Broaddus (4 November 1770-1 December 1848),” *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, vol. 2 (Richmond: Library of Virginia, 2001): 239-240.

William L. Lumpkin, “Writers of Early Virginia Baptist History: Robert Baylor Semple,” *Virginia Baptist Register*, no. 15 (1976): 695-705.

William S. Simpson, *Virginia Baptist Ministers, 1760–1790: A Biographical Survey* (various volumes, self-published).

**2.) James T. S. Taylor (1840-1918)**

**Sponsor:** John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History

**Locality:** Charlottesville

**Proposed Location:** 727-849 First Street S.

**Sponsor Contact**: Brian Neumann, bcn3xu@virginia.edu

**Original text:**

**James T. S. Taylor (1840-1918)**

James T. S. Taylor (1840-1918), a free Black shoemaker, grew up in Charlottesville and served as a commissary sergeant in the 2nd U. S. Colored Infantry during the Civil War. He published wartime letters chronicling Black soldiers’ experiences and protesting racial injustice within

the army. After the Civil War, he became a leader in Charlottesville’s Republican Party. He served as a delegate to Virginia’s Constitutional Convention of 1867-68, where he championed Black suffrage, civil rights, and integrated public education. In 1881, he supported the Readjuster Party, a biracial reform coalition that refinanced the state’s debt to invest in public education. He remained active in Republican politics into the 20th century, and he is buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

**117 words/ 768 characters**

**Edited text:**

**James T. S. Taylor (1840-1918)**

James T. S. Taylor, a free Black shoemaker, grew up in Charlottesville and served as a sergeant in the 2nd U.S. Colored Infantry during the Civil War. As a newspaper correspondent, he wrote wartime letters detailing Black soldiers’ experiences and protesting racial injustice. He later became a leader in Charlottesville’s Republican Party. He was a delegate to the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1867-68, where he championed Black suffrage and civil rights. In 1881, he supported the Readjuster Party, a biracial reform coalition that abolished the poll tax and invested in public education. Taylor remained an active Republican into the 20th century and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

**107 words/ 693 characters**

**Sources:**

“James T. S. Taylor (2nd USCT),” Black Virginians in Blue: <https://community.village.virginia.edu/usct/node/97>

James T. S. Taylor letters to New York *Anglo-African*, 1864 and 1865.

Christopher T. Brooks, “James T. S. Taylor (1840–1918),” in *Encyclopedia Virginia*,

<https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Taylor_James_T_S_1840-1918>

U.S. Census, 1850, 1870, 1880, 1900.

James Thomas Sammons Taylor Death Certificate, 4 Jan. 1918.

**3.) The Recorder**

**Sponsor:** The Recorder

**Locality:** Highland County

**Proposed Location:** 114 W. Main Street, Monterey

**Sponsor Contact**: Anne Adams, recorderanne@gmail.com

**Original text:**

**The Recorder**

The Recorder newspaper for Highland, Bath, and Alleghany counties established here in 1877 has offered continuous publication since its founding. Its first publishers, Philip E. Witts & George Mosian Jordan, printed the inaugural edition of four broadsheet pages 20 Oct. 1877. “We propose to devote ample space in our paper to home news,” they wrote. “… the news of [Highland] and adjoining counties.” Their first hand-operated “Washington” press was built ca. 1865. During its wagon journey from W.Va., it upset along Strait Creek nearby; pieces of type

were found for years along the banks. The press, given to the Smithsonian, honors the 49-year term of the fifth publisher Harry Burgess Wood.

**111 words/ 695 characters**

**Edited text:**

**The Recorder**

George M. Jordan and Philip E. Witts established *The Recorder* in Monterey in Oct. 1877 during a period of rapid growth for local journalism in the post-Civil War years. By horse and wagon they hauled a Washington printing press, the most popular type of iron, hand-operated press in America, from West Virginia. In use until 1903, the press was later donated to the Smithsonian Institution. Although based in Highland County, the weekly newspaper had a regional focus from its outset and later formally expanded into Bath and Alleghany Counties. Persisting despite downturns in the local newspaper industry, *The Recorder* became one of the oldest continuously published newspapers in Virginia.

**109 words/ 692 characters**

**Sources:**

*The Recorder*, 20 Oct. 1877, 15 March, 1962, 13 Jan. 1977, 24 Oct. 2019.

Lester J. Cappon, *Virginia Newspapers, 1821-1935* (New York: D. Appleton, 1936).

<https://virginiachronicle.com/cgi-bin/virginia?a=cl&cl=CL1&sp=HR&e=-------en-20--1--txt-txIN------->

*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 29 Nov. 1903, 30 June 1953.

*Richmond News Leader*, 21 Nov. 1903.

National Museum of American History: <https://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object/nmah_1199978> and <https://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object/nmah_335043>

Library of Congress, Chronicling America: “Highland Recorder,” <https://www.loc.gov/item/sn95079246/>

Letterpress Commons: “Washington,” <https://letterpresscommons.com/press/washington/>

**4.) Lucy Addison (1861-1937)**

**Sponsor:** Roanoke City Public Schools

**Locality:** City of Roanoke

**Proposed Location:** Intersection of Burrell Street NW and Orange Avenue NW

**Sponsor Contact**: Claire Mitzel, cmitzel@rcps.info

**Original text:**

**Lucy Addison (1861-1937)**

Born in Fauquier County to enslaved parents, Lucy Addison dedicated her 41-year career to education, where she was a pioneering educator and community leader in Roanoke. In 1917, Addison became principal of the Harrison School, which under her leadership became Roanoke’s

first Black high school and the largest school for Black students in Virginia under female leadership. In 1928, the newly constructed Lucy Addison High School at this location was named in her honor, recognizing her lifelong dedication to education and service. The school was the first public building in Roanoke to be named after a citizen.

**97 words/ 614 characters**

**Edited text:**

**Lucy Addison (1861-1937)**

Lucy Addison, a pioneering educator who served Black students in Roanoke for 41 years, was born in Fauquier Co. to enslaved parents. Educated in Philadelphia, she moved here to teach in 1886. She became principal of the Harrison School in 1917 and expanded its curriculum beyond grade eight, creating Roanoke’s first four-year Black high school. Accredited in 1925, this was among the largest schools for Black students in VA led by a woman. Addison sat on the board of nearby Burrell Memorial Hospital and of the Industrial Home School for Colored Girls in Hanover Co. In 1928, Roanoke opened the 19-classroom Lucy Addison High School, the city’s first public building named for a resident.

**114 words/ 691 characters**

**Sources:**

*Roanoke World-News*, 23 Aug. 1918, 11 Feb. 1925, 28 Jan. 1928, 13 Sept. 1928, 18 April 1929, 13 Nov. 1937, 19 Aug. 1952.

*Norfolk Journal and Guide*, 5 Dec. 1936, 8 May 1937.

*Roanoke Times*, 31 May 1892, 9 June, 9 Sept. 1917, 7 Jan. 1928.

*Washington Tribune*, 20 Nov. 1937.

Harrison School NRHP nomination (1982).

John Kneebone and *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, “Lucy Addison (1861–1937),” *Encyclopedia Virginia*. <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/addison-lucy-1861-1937/>

Reginald Shareef, *The Roanoke Valley’s African American Heritage* (Virginia Beach: The Donning Company, 1996).

**5.) Treble Clef and Book Lovers’ Club**

**Sponsor:** Treble Clef and Book Lovers’ Club

**Locality:** City of Richmond

**Proposed Location:** 1214 W. Graham Road

**Sponsor Contact**: Brenda Dabney Nichols, bcdn39@verizon.net

**Original text:**

**Treble Clef and Book Lovers’ Club**

The Treble Clef and Book Lovers’ Club was formed in 1908 by Mary Simpson, wife of Dr Joshua Simpson, Latin professor at Virginia Union University. Treble Clef has focused on literature and music. Notable members Dorothy Cowling became the first African American woman president of VUU, and Undine Moore, was a Virginia State University professor of music and nationally recognized 20th century composer of sacred works and spirituals. For over a century, it has hosted reading events and awarded scholarships to Hartshorn Memorial College and Endowed Scholarships and Incentive Awards to students at VUU. It is one of the oldest African American woman’s book clubs in America.

**107 words/ 676 characters**

**Edited text:**

**Treble Clef and Book Lovers’ Club**

Mary Simpson, the wife of a Virginia Union University professor, founded the Treble Clef and Book Lovers’ Club in 1908 to foster appreciation of music and literature. Black women’s clubs were popular outlets for leadership and civic engagement during this era. The club sponsored arts events, supported public education, and awarded scholarships. Members included Dorothy N. Cowling, the first female acting president of Virginia Union University, and Undine Smith Moore, who taught for 45 years at what is now Virginia State University and gained national recognition as the “Dean of Black Women Composers.” This is among the oldest operating African American women’s book clubs in the U.S.

**107 words/ 691 characters**

**Sources:**

Dorothy Norris Cowling, *Treble Clef and Book Lovers’ Club: A Pictorial History, 1908-2004 (The History of a Woman’s Club)* (Franklin, TN: Hillsboro Press, 2005).

*Norfolk Journal and Guide*, 17 March 1928, 23 Nov. 1940, 1 March 1958, 30 Nov. 1963, 5 Feb. 1966.

*Richmond Planet*, 11 Oct. 1930.

Undine Anna Smith Moore (1904-1989), Virginia Changemakers, Library of Virginia <https://edu.lva.virginia.gov/changemakers/items/show/179>

**6.) Queen Miller Home**

**Sponsor:** Friends of Miller-Jackson Institute for Historical Preservation & Education

**Locality:** City of Staunton

**Proposed Location:** 2624 W. Beverley Street

**Sponsor Contact**: Moonyene Jackson, moonyene@gmail.com

**Original text:**

**Queen Miller Home**

On this site, in the second decade of the 20th century, an African American couple William Ashby Miller and Queen Elizabeth Taylor Miller, purchased land and established the Hayes Memorial Industrial School and Orphans Home known as the Queen Miller Home. The property purchased in 1910 was an active farm, home to over 300 Black children and families and a center for formal academic studies. By word and reputation the Home became known throughout Virginia and elsewhere as a safe haven for the homeless. The Home suffered two fires. The first, in 1927, the second permanently destroyed it in 1955.

William A. Miller July 14,1874 -March 29, 1957

Queen Elizabeth February 18,1974 - May 16, 1956

**116 words/ 693 characters**

**Edited text:**

**Queen Miller Home**

William A. and Queen Elizabeth Miller, an African American couple, operated an orphanage for Black children on land they purchased here. Incorporated in 1910 and later named the Hayes Memorial Industrial School and Orphan’s Home, it was popularly known as the Queen Miller Home. The Millers nurtured and educated hundreds of children from across Virginia and beyond for more than 40 years. Queen Miller, a certified teacher with seminary training, lectured widely to raise funds, which were supplemented by sales of surplus produce from the orphanage’s farm. The Queen Miller Home, which earned a statewide reputation as a refuge for the homeless, survived a fire in 1927 but burned down in 1955.

**112 words/ 696 characters**

**Sources:**

State Corporation Commission Charter Book 73:347-349, 99:527-528.

*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 7 Feb. 1955, 1 April 1925.

*Baltimore Afro-American*, 18 July 1936.

*Staunton Daily Leader*, 18 April 1919.

*Staunton News Leader*, 10 April 1925, 11 Nov., 17 June 1927, 26 May 1928, 7 Feb. 1955, 2 June 1956, 27 Feb. 1999, 20 Oct. 2022.

*Daily News Leader*, 9 Nov. 1927, 12 Feb. 1955, 14 June 1955, 11 April 1957.

*Chicago Defender*, 19 Feb. 1955.

Annual Reports of the State Board of Charities and Corrections.

**7.) “Racial Integrity” and the Tribes of King William**

**Sponsor:** DHR

**Locality:** King William County

**Proposed Location:** King William Road/Rt. 30 at intersection with Horse Landing Road

**Original text:**

**Racial Integrity and the Tribes of King William**

The 1924 Racial Integrity Act cemented centuries of racial discrimination against Virginia’s Indigenous peoples. The tribes of King William Co., Mattaponi, Pamunkey, and Upper Mattaponi, experienced impacts for decades following the Act’s passing. Referred to as the “Paper Genocide,” the law denied tribal citizens the right to legally classify as Indian on vital records. Coupled with Jim Crow segregation, the Act forced the migration of tribal members outside of Virginia seeking more equitable opportunities. To marry a non-Native partner or for Indigenous couples to obtain marriage licenses that identified them as Indian, the Act pushed tribal members to seek marriages in other states. The Act did not pass without coordinated resistance from the King William Tribes who appealed to state legislators and the public. Tribal efforts fell on deaf ears as the Commonwealth refused to recognize Indigenous peoples in King William as legally classified Indians. Ever resilient, the Tribes continued to govern and support citizens through practicing cultural traditions, prioritizing education, and fighting for state and federal recognition.

**168 words/ 1,145 characters**

**Edited text:**

**“Racial Integrity” and the Tribes of King William**

Virginia’s “Act to Preserve Racial Integrity,” adopted in 1924 to protect White “purity,” reinforced centuries of racial discrimination against Indigenous peoples, including the Mattaponi, Pamunkey, and Upper Mattaponi of King William Co. State officials used the law to effectively define Virginians as “White” or “Colored,” denying most Native people the right to identify as “Indian” on official documents. Referred to as a “paper genocide,” this erasure hindered tribes’ efforts to gain state and federal recognition and led many tribal members to leave VA. The tribes protested these policies and continued to practice cultural traditions. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled the act unconstitutional in 1967.

**104 words/ 707 characters**

**Sources:**

Brendan Wolfe, “Racial Integrity Laws (1924-1930),” *Encyclopedia Virginia*, 7 Dec. 2020. <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/racial-integrity-laws-1924-1930/>

Tori Talbot, “Walter Ashby Plecker (1861–1947),” *Encyclopedia Virginia*, Dec. 2020. <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/plecker-walter-ashby-1861-1947/>

*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 14 July 1925.

Ashley Spivey, “Knowing the River, Working the Land, and Digging for Clay: Pamunkey Indian Subsistence Practices and the Market Economy, 1800-1900,” Ph.D. diss., College of William and Mary, 2017.

Helen Rountree, “The Indians in Virginia: A Third Race in a Biracial State,” in *Southeastern Indians since Removal Era*, ed. Walter L. Williams (Athens: University of Georgia, 1979).

Ashley Craig, “The Impact of the Act to Preserve Racial Integrity on Virginia’s Indigenous Tribes,” *The Uncommonwealth: Voices from the Library of Virginia*, 17 July 2024. <https://uncommonwealth.virginiamemory.com/blog/2024/07/17/racial-integrity-indigenous-tribes/>

Nora Birchett, “Records of a Paper Genocide,” *The Uncommonwealth: Voices from the Library of Virginia*, 13 Nov. 2024. <https://uncommonwealth.virginiamemory.com/blog/2024/11/13/records-of-a-paper-genocide/>

W.A. Plecker, “The New Virginia Law to Preserve Racial Integrity,” *Virginia Health Bulletin*, vol. 16 (March 1924).

Correspondence from W.A. Plecker to Local Registrars, Physicians, Health Officers, Nurses,

School Superintendents, and Clerks of the Courts (Library of Virginia).

**8.) Whitesville Elementary School**

 **Sponsor:** International Brotherhood of Yahshua’s Disciples

**Locality:** Accomack County

**Proposed Location:** 23459 Leslie Trent Road, Parksley

**Sponsor Contact**: Karen Y. Vicks, kvicks@vickslaw.com

**Original text:**

**Whitesville Elementary School (1926-1964)**

Constructed in 1926, the Whitesville Elementary School was a direct result of the partnership between Julius Rosenwald (philanthropist and president of Sears Roebuck and Co) and Booker T Washington (founder of Tuskegee Institute) as a part of an effort to address the chronic underfunding of segregated schools across the south. Between 1917 and 1932, the Rosenwald Fund erected more than 5,000 schools across 15 states (more than 600 in Virginia) to help to fill the education gap in the predominantly black communities. Operating on a public-private model, the initial building and funding of all Rosenwald schools required community investment. The financing of Whitesville Elementary School came from grass-roots funding including contributions from the Black Community of $1700, Rosenwald Fund contribution of $900, and other public contribution of $4,150. The Whitesville Rosenwald School operated until 1964 when African American students began to integrate with other county schools. The Accomack County Public Schools were not fully integrated until 1970.

**157 words/ 1,064 characters**

**Edited text:**

**Whitesville Elementary School**

This school was built in 1925 to serve the children of Whitesville, an African American community that had developed alongside Parksley in the 1880s. A contribution of $900 came from the Julius Rosenwald Fund, created in 1917 after Rosenwald (president of Sears, Roebuck, and Co.) and Booker T. Washington (founding principal of Tuskegee Institute) had partnered in a school-building campaign. Rosenwald funding helped construct about 5,000 schools for Black students across the South by leveraging local spending. The Whitesville school, built with $1,700 from the Black community and $4,150 in public funds, closed in 1964. Accomack County Public Schools were not fully desegregated until 1970.

**105 words/ 696 characters**

**Sources:**

Phyllis McClure, “Rosenwald Schools,” *Encyclopedia Virginia.* Virginia Humanities (7 Dec. 2020).

Rosenwald Schools in Virginia MPD (2004).

Fisk Rosenwald Database

Cara Barton, “Historic Parksley, Virginia: A Self-Guided Walking Tour” (2018).

History of Tuskegee University, <https://www.tuskegee.edu/about-us/history-and-mission>

*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 24 Sept. 1964, 1 Sept. 1970.

*Peninsula Enterprise*, 26 Sept. 1925.

**9.) Dupuy Elementary School**

**Sponsor:** Concerned Citizens of Ettrick

**Locality:** Chesterfield County

**Proposed Location:** 19700 Dupuy Meadows Drive

**Sponsor Contact**: Dorothy P. Edwards, dottiee@comcast.net

**Original text:**

**Dupuy Road Elementary School**

Seven years after Brown v Board of Education declared segregated schools unconstitutional,

Dupuy Road Elementary was built on this site as a public school for African American students.

Under Virginia’s Massive Resistance policy, African American students continued to be assigned to segregated schools. When 15 black parents requested their children transferred to the white Ettrick Elementary, the Virginia Pupil Placement Board denied their request. The families filed a class-action suit (McLeod versus the County School Board of Chesterfield), and the Federal District Court ordered the students admitted. The county, under pressure to fully integrate its schools or lose federal funding, adopted a desegregation plan. In 1968, Dupuy Road Elementary became Ettrick Elementary School Annex, serving all area students K to 2 until its closure in 1988. In 2020, Chesterfield County demolished the building and donated the land to Maggie Walker Community Land Trust to redevelop for affordable and accessible homes.

**150 words/ 1,014 characters**

**Edited text:**

**Dupuy Elementary School**

Chesterfield County opened this school for African American students in Jan. 1962, more than seven years after the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Brown v. Board* decision. After several Black students applied to attend all-White schools but were assigned to Dupuy by the state Pupil Placement Board—which frequently acted to preserve segregation—the families sued in federal court with the assistance of the Virginia NAACP. *McLeod v. Chesterfield* led to the county’s first enrollment by Black students in a previously all-White school in Nov. 1962. Chesterfield adopted a “freedom of choice” plan in 1966 and fully desegregated in 1970. Dupuy became an annex to Ettrick Elementary and was demolished in 2020.

**110 words/ 697 characters**

**Sources:**

Winkfield Franklin Twyman Jr., “The History of Public School Segregation in Chesterfield County, Virginia” (Special Scholars Thesis, University of Virginia, 1983).

*Norfolk Journal and Guide*, 3 Nov. 1962.

*Richmond News Leader*, 27 Nov. 1962.

*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 16 Aug. 1962, 18, 19 Nov. 1962, 12 March 1970, 14 Jan. 2018.

“Bradley v. School Board of Richmond, Virginia, 338 F. Supp. 67 (E.D. Va. 1972),” <https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/district-courts/FSupp/338/67/2182321/>

Desegregation of Virginia Education, <https://dove.gmu.edu/index.php/tag/dupuy-road-school/>

**Replacement Markers**

**1.) Blandford Church and Cemetery QA-11**

**Sponsor:** DHR

**Locality:** City of Petersburg

**Proposed Location:** Crater Road at Blandford Church

**Original Text:**

**Blandford Church and Cemetery**

The brick church on Well’s Hill, now known as Old Blandford Church, was built between 1734 and 1737. The British General Phillips was buried in the churchyard in 1781. In the cemetery is a monument to Captain McRae and the Petersburg Volunteers, who at Fort Meigs in 1813 won for Petersburg the name of the “Cockade City of the Union.” Soldiers of six wars rest here, among them 30,000 Confederates.

**70 words/ 399 characters**

**Edited Text:**

**Blandford Church and Cemetery**

Blandford Church opened in 1737 as the primary church of Bristol Parish, and its north wing was added in 1753. Largely abandoned by 1806, the sanctuary fell into ruin. In 1819 the town of Petersburg acquired the property and adjacent land for use as a public cemetery, enlarging an existing burial ground. Interred here are British Maj. Gen. William Phillips of the Revolutionary War, two governors of VA, and thousands of Confederate dead. A monument honors Capt. Richard McRae and the Petersburg volunteers who won renown during the War of 1812. The local Ladies Memorial Association restored the church as a Confederate memorial and commissioned 15 stained-glass windows from Tiffany Studios in NY.

**113 words/ 701 characters**

**Sources:**

Blandford Church NRHP nomination (1972)

Blandford Cemetery NRHP nomination (1992)

“Blandford Church and the Ladies Memorial Association,” Historic Petersburg Foundation: <http://www.historicpetersburg.org/blandford-church-and-the-ladies-memorial-association/>

John O. Peters, *Blandford Cemetery: Death and Life at Petersburg, Virginia* (Historic Blandford Cemetery Foundation, 2005).

**2.) Battle of Hampton Roads W-84**

**Sponsor:** Hampton Convention & Visitor Bureau

**Locality:** City of Hampton

**Proposed Location:** Chesapeake Avenue/Route 167, just west of intersection with LaSalle Avenue

**Original Text:**

**First Battle of Ironclads**

In Hampton Roads, southward and a mile or two offshore, the Virginia (Merrimac) and the Monitor fought their engagement, March 9, 1862. The day before the Virginia destroyed the Cumberland and Congress, wooden ships of Union Navy.

**37 words/ 230 characters**

**Edited Text:**

**Battle of Hampton Roads**

About 3.5 miles south of here on 8-9 March 1862 occurred the first engagement between ironclad warships. On the battle’s first day, the Confederate ironclad ram *Virginia* sank two major warships and threatened the rest of the Union fleet in Hampton Roads. USS *Monitor*, an experimental ironclad,arrived that evening to defend the grounded USS *Minnesota.* The next day, the two ironclads fought for four hours, and the battle ended in a draw. This naval engagement led to a revolution in warship design by proving the power of iron over wood.

**91words/ 539 characters**

**Sources:**

“The Battle of Hampton Roads,” Mariners’ Museum: <https://www.marinersmuseum.org/learn/explore-topics/uss-monitor-story/#battle>

“The Battle of Hampton Roads,” Naval History and Heritage Command: <https://www.history.navy.mil/our-collections/photography/wars-and-events/the-american-civil-war--1861-1865/css-virginia-destroys-uss-cumberland-and-uss-congress--8-march-1.html>

“Civil War Naval Operations and Engagements: Hampton Roads, Virginia, 8-9 March 1862,” Naval History and Heritage Command: <https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/wars-conflicts-and-operations/civil-war/cw-operations-and-engagements/1862-civil-war/hampton-roads.html>

Brandi K. Oswald, “Ironclad Navies: The USS Monitor and CSS Virginia during the Civil War,” National Archives: <https://unwritten-record.blogs.archives.gov/2018/03/08/an-ironclad-navy-the-uss-monitor-and-css-virginia-during-the-civil-war/>

“Hampton Roads: Monitor vs. Merrimack,” American Battlefield Trust: <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/hampton-roads>

**3.) Death of 2d Lt. James “Big Yankee” Ames B-40**

**Sponsor:** VDOT

**Locality:** Fauquier County

**Proposed Location:** US 17/Winchester Road near intersection with Crooked Run Road (Route 831)

**Original Text:**

**Death of 2d Lt. James “Big Yankee” Ames**

Sergeant James F. Ames of the 5th New York Cavalry deserted the Union army in Feb. 1863 and joined Lt. Col. John S. Mosby’s Partisan Rangers (later 43d Cavalry Battalion). Nicknamed “Big Yankee,” Ames rose to the rank of 2d lieutenant. On the night of 8 Mar. 1863 he guided Mosby’s Rangers on the Fairfax Court House raid in which Mosby captured Union Brig. Gen. Edwin Stoughton. On 9 Oct. 1864 a Federal soldier shot and killed Ames on the road leading to Benjamin “Cook” Shacklett’s house. The Union soldier was killed by Ranger Pvt. Ludwell Lake. Jr. Ames was buried nearby in an unmarked grave. Mosby said of Ames, “I never had a more faithful follower.”

**117 words/ 658 characters**

**Edited Text:**

**Death of 2d Lt. James “Big Yankee” Ames**

Sgt. James F. Ames of the 5th New York Cavalry deserted the Union army in Feb. 1863 and joined John S. Mosby’s Partisan Rangers (later 43d Cavalry Battalion). Nicknamed “Big Yankee,” Ames rose to the rank of 2d lieutenant. On the night of 8-9 Mar. 1863, he guided Mosby’s Rangers on the Fairfax Court House raid in which Mosby captured Union Brig. Gen. Edwin Stoughton. On 9 Oct. 1864, when Mosby was in this area to disrupt railroad repairs, a Union scout shot and killed Ames northeast of here at a farm along the road from Delaplane to Upperville. Ranger Ludwell Lake Jr. then shot Ames’s likely killer. Ames was buried near where he fell. Mosby wrote of Ames, “I never had a more faithful follower.”

**126 words/ 703 characters**

**Sources:**

James F. Ames Combined Service Record

*The Memoirs of Colonel John S. Mosby*, ed. Charles Wells Russell (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1917)<https://docsouth.unc.edu/fpn/mosby/mosby.html>

*Mosby Vignettes*, vol. 3, 1994.

*Richmond Dispatch*, 16 June, 21 July 1901.

“A Mosby Primer: John Singleton Mosby, His Rangers, and The Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area”

([https://static1.squarespace.com/static/560b12b7e4b0b03fb6fb1623/t/63e52110186072676cde8f80/1675960596502/HtGG+2023.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/560b12b7e4b0b03fb6fb1623/t/63e52110186072676cde8f80/1675960596502/HtGG%2B2023.pdf))

*Confederate Veteran*, 30:308 (1922).

**4.) General Lee’s Headquarters QA-7**

**Sponsor:** DHR

**Locality:** City of Petersburg

**Proposed site:** West Washington Street at intersection with Lafayette Street

**Original Text:**

**General Lee’s Headquarters**

Three blocks north and a half a block west is the Beasley House where General Robert E. Lee had his second headquarters in 1864 during the siege of Petersburg. He moved thence to Edge Hill to be in closer touch with his right wing. “ ”

**44 words/ 231 characters**

**Edited Text:**

**General Lee’s Headquarters**

The Beasley House, on High Street three blocks north and half a block west of here, served as Gen. Robert E. Lee’s second headquarters during the Siege of Petersburg. He relocated there on 1 Nov. 1864 from Violet Bank, a plantation house across the Appomattox River, because falling leaves had left that property exposed. In the following weeks, Lee inspected the lines on his right wing amid growing concerns about the insufficient size of his army. On 23 Nov. he moved his headquarters to Edge Hill, about two miles west of Petersburg.

**92 words/ 537 characters**

**Sources:**

Petersburg Old Town Historic District NRHP nomination (1980) <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/VLR_to_transfer/PDFNoms/123-0097_Petersburg_Old_Town_HD_1979_Final_Nomination.pdf>

Walter H. Taylor, *Four Years with General Lee* (1877): <https://leefamilyarchive.org/history-reference-books-taylor-4yr-11/>

*War of The Rebellion*: Serial 087 Page 0908 OPERATIONS IN SE. VA. AND N. C. Chapter LIV. <https://ehistory.osu.edu/books/official-records/087/0908>

Douglas Southall Freeman, *R. E. Lee: A Biography* (New York and London: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1934) [https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Gazetteer/People/Robert\_E\_Lee/FREREL/3/28\*.html#ref140](https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Gazetteer/People/Robert_E_Lee/FREREL/3/28%2A.html#ref140)

Violet Bank NRHP nomination (1974). <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/VLR_to_transfer/PDFNoms/106-0003_Violet_Bank_1974_Final_Nomination.pdf>

Clifford Dowdey and Louis H. Manarin, eds., *The Wartime Papers of Robert E. Lee* (DaCapo Press, 1961).

Lee to daughter, 6 Nov. 1864. <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/2323/2323-h/2323-h.htm>

**5.) Cape Charles Elementary School WY-73**

**Sponsor:** Cape Charles Rosenwald School Restoration Initiative, Inc.

**Locality:** Northampton County

**Proposed Location:** Route 641/Old Cape Charles Road, north of Cassatt Parkway

**Original Text:**

**Cape Charles Colored School**

Constructed in 1928, this school opened about 1930 for African American children in Cape Charles during legalized segregation. The building was constructed with contributions from the local African American community, the State Literary Fund, and the Julius Rosenwald Fund, established in 1917 to build schools for African American students in the rural South. Staffed by three teachers and a principal/teacher, the school housed grades one through seven, and was a center for educational, social, and cultural events for the African American community. Under Principal Jesse L. Hare, the school closed in 1966 when Northampton County Schools were consolidated four years before their integration.

**103 words/ 697 characters**

**Edited Text:**

**Cape Charles Elementary School**

Local African American activism led to the construction of this school in 1929. Financial support came from the Rosenwald Fund, established in 1917 after Booker T. Washington partnered with Julius Rosenwald in a campaign to build schools for Black students in the rural South. The local African American community, the Town of Cape Charles, and the State Literary Fund also contributed. Staffed by three teachers and a principal/teacher, the school housed grades one through seven and was a center for educational, social, and cultural events. Under Principal Jesse L. Hare, the school closed in 1966 when Northampton County Schools were consolidated four years before their desegregation.

**106 words/ 689 characters**

**Sources:**

Cape Charles Rosenwald School NRHP nomination (2023): <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/182-0003_Cape_Charles_Rosenwald_School_2023_NRHP_FINAL.pdf>

Fisk Rosenwald Database

**Applications Under Consideration for September Board Cycle**

Below are summaries (not the actual texts) of the 13 marker proposals that we received at the last application deadline. These summaries have not undergone the same rigorous fact checking that a marker text would. Some applications lacked sufficient source material to verify the information in their proposed texts.

**1. Gilbert’s Restaurant (Pittsylvania County)**

The Rev. Robert Gregory Gilbert opened this business ca. 1945 as a gas station, store, tourist home, and café for Black patrons during the segregation era. Gilbert ran it with his wife, Arzelia, until their son Robert Lee Gilbert and his wife Sandra took it over and operated it primarily as a restaurant from 1971 until 1999. The building served as a haven for the local community and Black travelers. Among those who stayed or dined here are Fats Domino, Lloyd Price, The Singing Siamese Twins Yvonne and Yvette McCarther, James Earl Jones, and defense attorneys for the 1949-1951 Martinsville Seven case.

**2. Blue Ridge Parkway (Nelson County)**

The Blue Ridge Parkway is the longest linear park in the U.S., stretching for 469 miles through 29 counties in Virginia and North Carolina and linking Shenandoah National Park with Great Smokey Mountains National Park. It is recognized internationally as an example of landscape and engineering design achievements with a roadway that blends into the surrounding landscape. Congress authorized the project in 1936 and placed it under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. The work was carried out with the help of several different New Deal agencies.

**3. TransAmerica Bicycle Trail (Botetourt County)**

Cycling became popular with young Americans in the 1960s. Four cycling enthusiasts planned Bikecentennial 76, in which thousands of people rode across the county to celebrate the country’s bicentennial in the summer of 1976. The route between Oregon and Virginia, planned by Lys Burden, became the 4,250-mile TransAmerica Bicycle Trail, officially designated as U.S. Bicycle Route 76 in 1982. It passes through 23 counties and four cities in Virginia, with a terminus at Yorktown.

**4. Patrick Central School (Patrick County)**

Late in the 1940s, as federal courts were requiring the equalization of segregated schools, the African American community in Patrick Co. campaigned for a consolidated school to replace inadequate facilities. Patrick Central School opened in 1952 to provide public education for all African American students in the county, grades 1-12, offering a full high school education for the first time. The school was closed in 1966, when the county fully desegregated its schools to comply with federal guidelines.

**5. Antioch Rosenwald School (Mathews County)**

Local African American women urged the men of their community to build a log school in 1869. A newly formed church soon began using the building for worship services. In 1926, the school was replaced with a new building supported in part by the Rosenwald Fund. The Black community contributed $3,700 toward its construction. The school closed in 1948.

**6. Danville Canal and the Roanoke Navigation Company (City of Danville)**

The canal was built in 1794. Under the auspices of the Roanoke Navigation Company, a joint effort by Virginia and North Carolina to improve regional waterways, 50 enslaved laborers enhanced and improved the canal between 1822 and 1825. The 3/4-mile canal featured three lower locks with basins and a 900-foot stone upper lock and wing dam, facilitating transport around the Great Falls in Danville and fostering regional trade and economic development along the Roanoke River and its tributaries.

**7. Dr. Elbyrne Grady Gill (1891-1966) (City of Roanoke)**

In 1926 Gill founded the Gill Memorial Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital in Roanoke, believed to be the first such specialty hospital in the state. Through the hospital, he hosted annual spring congresses for physicians that attracted specialists from across the U.S. These conferences featured renowned faculty, some of whom were Nobel laureates, and offered the first post-graduate courses for ophthalmologists and otolaryngologists in the US. Gill was president of Lions International in 1943-44. In 1957, he established the first eye bank in Virginia.

**8. Cypress Chapel Christian Church (City of Suffolk)**

According to tradition, this site became a regular place of worship ca. 1750. The Anglican Upper Parish of Nansemond County completed a sanctuary here in 1760. The Anglican church declined during the Revolutionary War, and Methodists began using the building. About 1795 this congregation followed Rev. James O’Kelly in breaking from the Methodist Church and became one of the first churches of the Christian denomination in Virginia. It hosted important meetings of the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference in 1819 and the Christian Church, South, in 1858. The Rev. William B. Wellons, pastor from 1846 to 1872, was one of the denomination’s most prominent ministers.

**9. Cypress Baptist Church (Surry County)**

Cypress Baptist Church, one of the oldest African American Baptist churches in Surry, was organized in 1866 under the leadership of Irene George, aided by Amelia “Mother” Howard, an Episcopalian sent by the Freedmen’s Bureau to organize Black churches. In the spring of 1867, the congregation worshipped at the Old Brick Cypress Church near Dendron, which was originally owned by an Episcopalian congregation. In 1874, Irene George purchased the land where the church stands.

**10. Quarter Place (Charlotte County)**

Located a quarter of a mile from Patrick Henry’s home at Red Hill stands the Quarter Place, the section of the plantation where three generations of enslaved and post-Emancipation African Americans lived and labored for nearly 150 years. The space’s focal point is Quarter Place Cemetery, where about 150 people were buried between 1794 and 1937.

**11. Gibson’s Fort (Lee County)**

Gibson Station, Virginia, is named after Maj. George Gibson, who was born in Ireland, immigrated to America, and served as a major in the Revolutionary War. In 1786, Gibson moved his family to what is now Lee County and built a fort to protect his family. In 1890, the Louisville and Nashville Railroad built a line through this area and changed the name of the community from Gibson’s Fort to Gibson Station.

**12. General Anthony Wayne’s Rappahannock Crossing (Fauquier County)**

Gen. Anthony Wayne and 800 men of the Pennsylvania Continental Line arrived on the northern bank of the flooded Rappahannock River on 7 June 1781. They forded the river the next day and joined with Maj. Gen. Marquis de Lafayette and his troops in Culpeper County on 10 June. The combined forces numbering approximately 4,000 men then pursued British Gen. Cornwallis to Yorktown and greatly contributed to Cornwallis’ eventual surrender on 19 Oct. 1781.

**13. Walnut Hill Historic District (City of Petersburg)**

The Walnut Hill Corporation, led by several of Petersburg’s most prominent businessmen, platted a suburban development on former farmland just south of the city in 1912. The neighborhood grew quickly as a result of the region’s economic development in the first half of the 20th century and reflected a variety of architectural styles. Annexed by the city in 1921, this became Petersburg’s primary neighborhood for upper- and middle-class White residents. The Walnut Hill Historic District is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.