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250 YEARS

From Cricket Hill to The Hook; from our ancient roots to the struggles of today; our counties are part of the national story and the ongoing quest to form a "more perfect union."

INSIDE:

TJ and Rosewell, *2C;* **Battle of Cricket Hill,** *7C*; **Battle of the Hook,** *20C*; **Gov. John Page,** *26C*; **Beatrice Bobo, leader,** *30C*; **Holly Knoll's place in history,** *41C*; **Carter Family,** *50C*; **Faithful election officials,** *54C*.

Did Jefferson write the Declaration of Independence at Rosewell?

BY SARA LEWIS
THE FAIRFIELD FOUNDATION
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Every family story contains a kernel of truth. Over time, memories grow, details blur, and what seems plausible becomes accepted as fact. Historians call this "confabulation"—unintentional misremembering. It is how legends are born.

One of Gloucester's most enduring legends claims that Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence at Rosewell, the grand brick manor now ruins overlooking the York River.

One such legendary story appeared in a 1934 Gloucester Gazette article written by Commodore Charles H. Fahs, who recalled tales told by his grandfather, Joseph Lilly Deans (1811-1881). According to family lore, Jefferson sat in Rosewell's elegant Blue Room, drafting the Declaration among distinguished friends before carrying it to Philadelphia, where it was "practically adopted unamended."

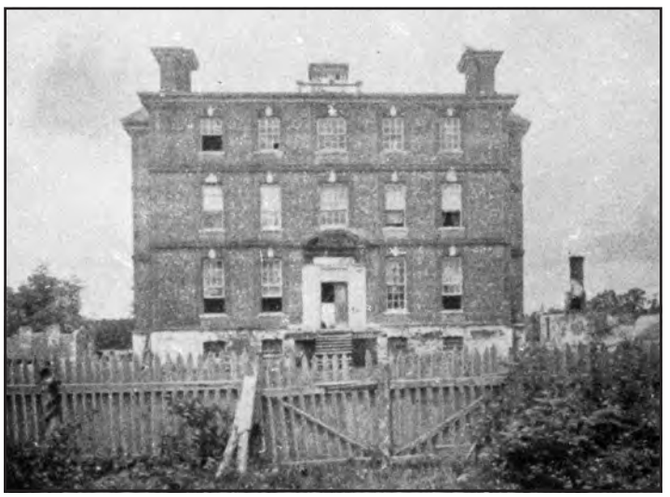
It is a wonderful image. There is just one problem: it isn't true.

Curious to test the tale using the latest research tools, I asked the voice assistant in my kitchen whether Jefferson wrote the Declaration at Rosewell. To my surprise, Alexa said yes. Her source was an editorial note attached to the 1894 memoirs of Thomas Jefferson Page, grandson of John Page, Jefferson's close friend and the owner of Rosewell.

But a little digging revealed that the claim rested not on historical evidence, but on old reminiscence.

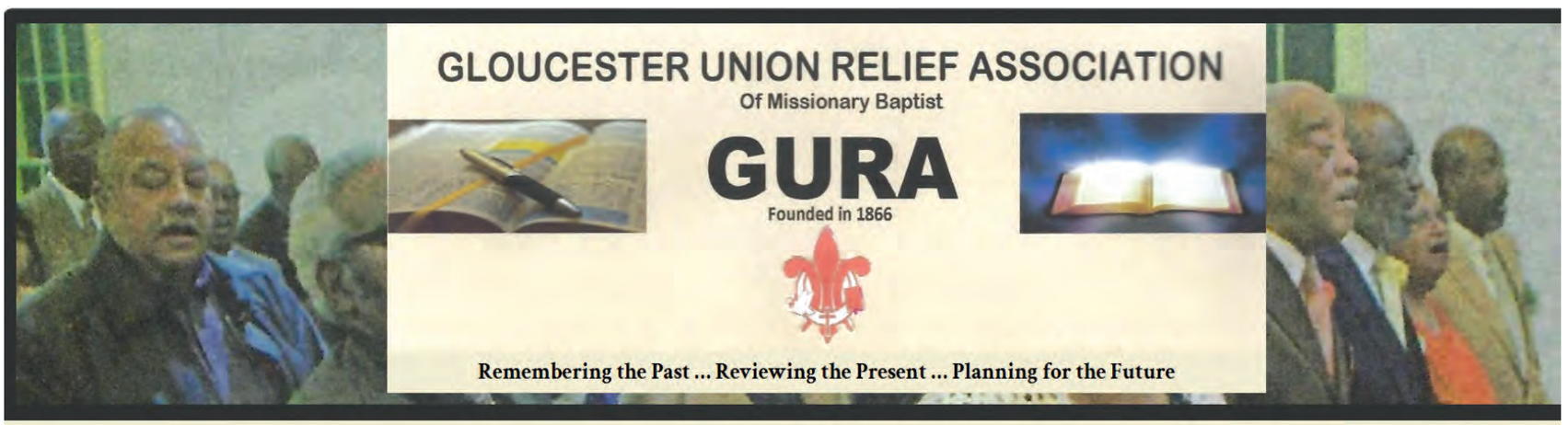
The documented story is far less romantic, but much

SEE **DECLARATION,** PAGE **4C**



FILE PHOTO

Thomas Jefferson's lifelong friend and confidant John Page lived at Rosewell, shown in this photograph before the 1916 fire which destroyed the Gloucester mansion. The friendship gave rise to a story that Jefferson wrote the Declaration while visiting there.



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Go to "Gallery" to see Holy Week 2026 Communion Pictures

June 22-26 ... GURA Vacation Bible School at Shepherdsville Baptist Church

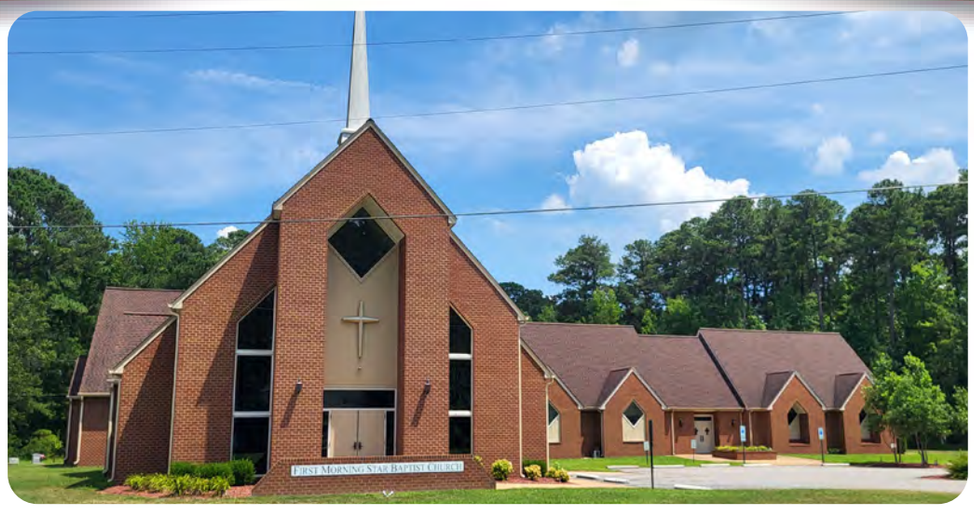
August 3-7 ... Gleaning, Morning Glory, New Mt Zion, Shepherdsville & Zion Poplars Joint Revival at Gleaning, 7pm Praise & Worship; 7:30pm Revival

September 2-4 ... First Baptist, First Morning Star & The First United Joint Revival at TFUBC, 7pm Praise & Worship; 7:30pm Revival

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DECLARATRION: *Legend grows up around Jefferson writing document at Rosewell*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2C)

more reliable. In June 1776, Jefferson was in Philadelphia, staying in a rented brick house now known as Declaration House. There, with his enslaved servant Robert Hemmings nearby, he drafted the first version of the Declaration.

And he did not work alone.

Jefferson was one member of the Continental Congress's Committee of Five, including John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and Robert R. Livingston, who were tasked with writing the document. Adams reportedly persuaded Jefferson to write the first draft by telling him, "You can write ten times better than I can." Flattery, it seems, was as effective in 1776 as it is today. Once drafted, Franklin and Adams made significant edits.

Congress then revised the document extensively, deleting about a quarter of Jefferson's original text, including a passage condemning the slave trade. Jefferson grumbled, but his soaring phrases survived, among them the immortal assertion that "all men are created equal." He sent a copy of his original Declaration to his friend John Page, so he could compare it with the edited version.

So, did Thomas Jefferson write the Declaration of Independence at Rosewell?

No.

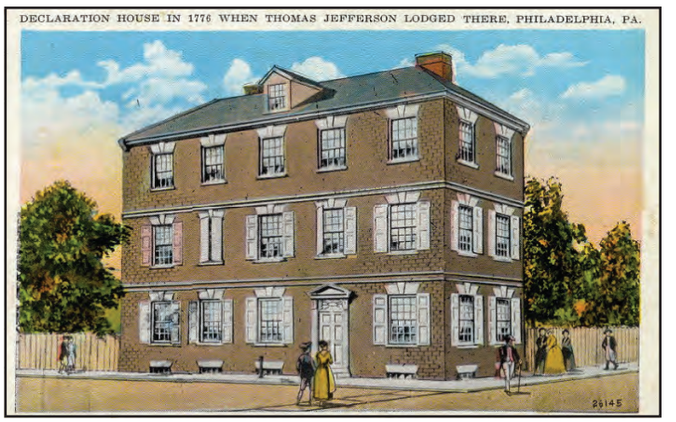
But Rosewell still played an important role in Virginia history as the home of John Page (1744-1808), Jefferson's college friend and lifelong confidant. We remember them for their political roles, but their surviving letters were more personal. If Rosewell's walls could talk, they would surely have stories worth telling.

Just not this one.

FOUNDATIONS

The Declaration of Independence is the ring-bolt to the chain of your nation's destiny...the principles contained in that instrument are saving principles.

Frederick Douglass, 1852



Jefferson arrived in Philadelphia to attend the Continental Congress in May 1776. He sought quiet lodgings for serious thinking and writing, so rented the furnished second floor of Jacob Graff's newly-built home on 7th and High (Market) streets on the outskirts of the city. A postcard in the collection of The Athenaeum of Philadelphia portrays the house surrounded by open fields. His enslaved man Hemmings likely slept in the attic or in the hallway outside of Jefferson's bedroom. The house was demolished in the late 19th century but was reconstructed in 1975 for the nation's Bicentennial. It was closed in 2013. Declaration House in Independence National Historical Park is being restored for reopening for the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

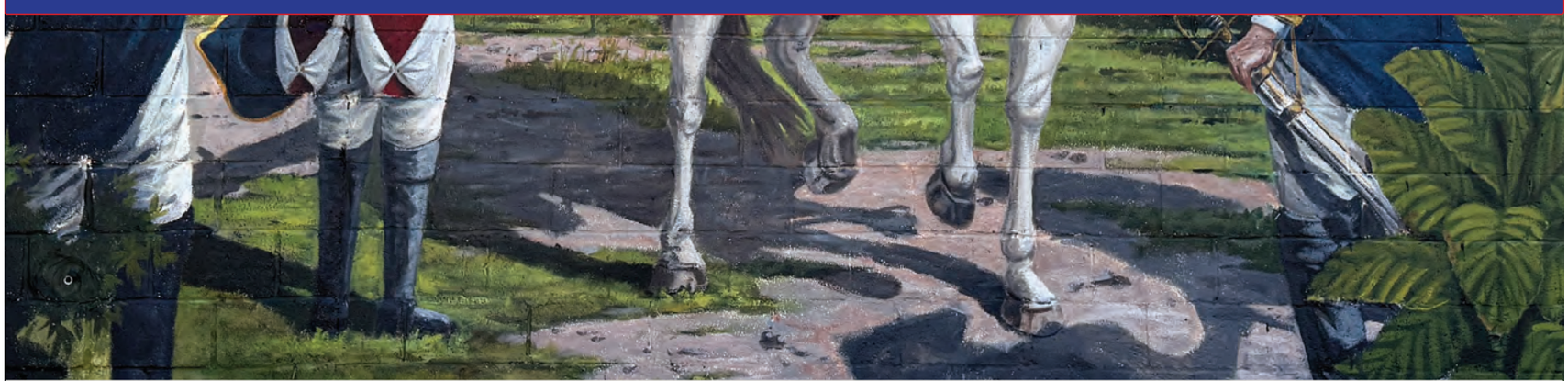


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What's in a name? Mathews County's 250th celebration

BY MICHAEL RHODES
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Mention the "Battle of Cricket Hill" to people outside the immediate vicinity of Mathews County, and you are likely to be met with a puzzled look.

Mention the name "Captain Louis d'Ohicky Arundel," even within Mathews County, and you may receive an equally blank stare. Yet, despite their relative obscurity today, both played a remarkably significant role in Virginia's contribution to securing American independence during the Revolutionary War.

Let's begin with the name "Cricket Hill."

By the spring of 1776, Virginia Patriots had been skirmishing with the Virginia's last Royal Governor, Lord Dunmore, British forces, and Loyalists for a year. Lord Dunmore's base of operation was off-shore aboard ship, under protection of the British Navy. In fact, he had amassed a floating city of close to 100 ships of Loyalists seeking refuge from the ongoing conflict.

Conditions were crowded on board the ships, and

SEE CRICKET HILL, PAGE 10C



Artillerists reenact the Battle of Cricket Hill. The pivotal engagement ended in Royal Governor Lord Dunmore leaving Virginia.

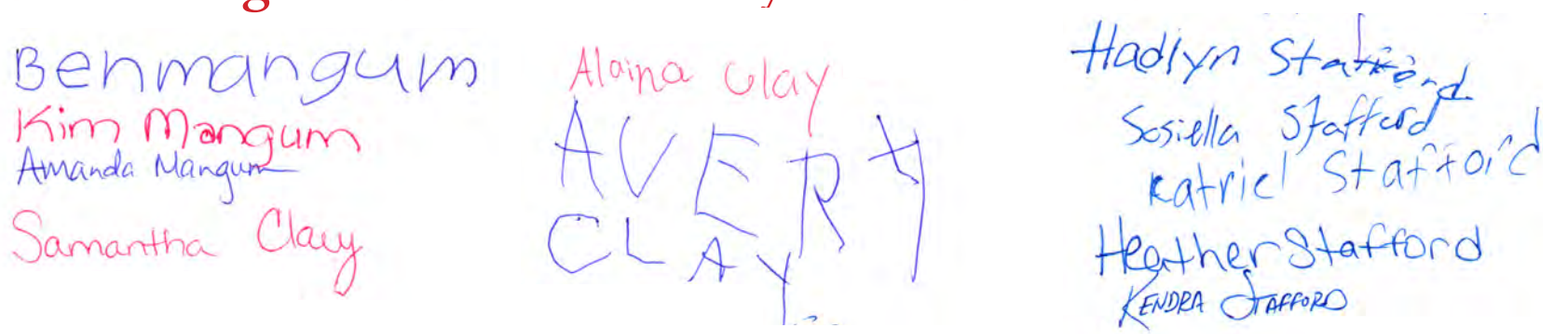


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The Daughters of the American Revolution is a nonprofit, nonpolitical women's volunteer service organization dedicated to promoting historic preservation, education and patriotism. Any woman 18 years or older may join the DAR by documenting her lineage to an ancestor who aided the cause of American independence through military, civil or patriotic service.

For more information about our local DAR, contact our Cricket Hill Chapter Regent at mahewit@gmail.com. If interested in learning more about DAR membership, contact our Cricket Hill Chapter Registrar at cclynch5@icloud.com.

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CRICKET HILL: *The end of Dunmore's rule in Virginia*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7C)

there was constant suffering from lack of fresh water and provisions. Small pox and other diseases were running rampant.

Lord Dunmore's flotilla headed up the Chesapeake, seeking a place where they could disembark, find provisions and recuperate. At the end of May they arrived at Gwynn's Island. Located near the mouth of the Piankatank River, it offered more than 1,400 acres of land with an abundance of fresh water, livestock and fishing.

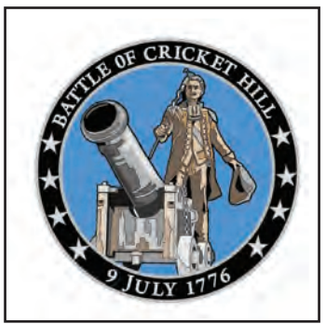
Ever vigilant Patriot forces on the mainland had been shadowing Dunmore's flotilla as it moved up the Chesapeake Bay. When Dunmore arrived at Gwynn's Island, the Patriots set up their base of operation directly across the water, where the channel narrows to less than 200 yards at present-day Hudgins. Patriot forces included the 7th Virginia Regiment and elements of the local Gloucester County militia and minute companies.

Dunmore's greatest military advantage was the British war ships in his flotilla. They were heavily armed with cannon. The Patriots lacked naval support, so had no effective means of a naval engagement. But what they did have was a determination to keep Dunmore from coming ashore on the mainland side. To this end, they began building earthworks along the water's edge for two batteries of cannon.

For six weeks, Dunmore fired cannon volleys at the Patriots, while the Patriots returned fire with persistent, though largely ineffective musket and rifle fire. Local tradition has it that Lord Dunmore, looking across the water at the Patriots, condescendingly remarked "Look at the little crickets on the hill!" Thus derives the proud claim of the locals that this was the "Battle of Cricket Hill."

So, what about this Captain Arundel fellow?

He was a French volunteer who sought a military commission from the Continental Congress at the beginning of 1776. He had been a professional



A challenge coin commemorating the Battle of Cricket Hill.

SEE CRICKET HILL, PAGE 11C

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CRICKET HILL: *A pivotal battle in the early days of the American Revolution*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10C)

European military officer, including service as a lieutenant of artillery. Major General Charles Lee recognized Virginia's artillery deficiencies and assigned Arundel as Captain in 1st Regiment Continental Artillery. Within a month, Arundel was deployed to Cricket Hill.

Despite constant bombardment, the "crickets on the hill" were busy building two separate cannon battery positions. The upper battery, on the site of present-day U.S. Coast Guard Station Milford Haven, mounted two 18-pound cannons ("18-pound" being the weight of the cannon ball). The lower battery, on the site of present-day Morningstar Marinas, mounted five smaller cannon.

When Brigadier General Andrew Lewis arrived on site to inspect the cannon, to his surprise and satisfaction, he noted that the 18-pound cannons were aimed directly at Lord Dunmore's flagship, barely 500 yards away. Seizing the opportunity, on the morning of July 9th, Lewis ordered all seven cannons to open fire.

This bombardment lasted about two hours, inflicting much damage on Dunmore's flotilla and shoreline defenses, and striking fear and confusion in the hearts of the Loyalist forces.

After this relatively brief onslaught, Dunmore conferred with the accompanying British admiral, and decided they could not defend the island. In particular, the British admiral sought to protect the British warships under his command. So as quickly as they arrived, Dunmore and the British weighed anchor, and sailed away from Gwynn's Island. This marked the end of Dunmore's quest to maintain control of the colony of Virginia.

The next day, some 200 Patriot forces paddled over to the island to confront any remaining Loyalist forces. Sadly, what they found was an estimated 500 dead or dying Loyalists abandoned by Dunmore.

SEE **CRICKET HILL,** PAGE **16C**

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Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, 1791

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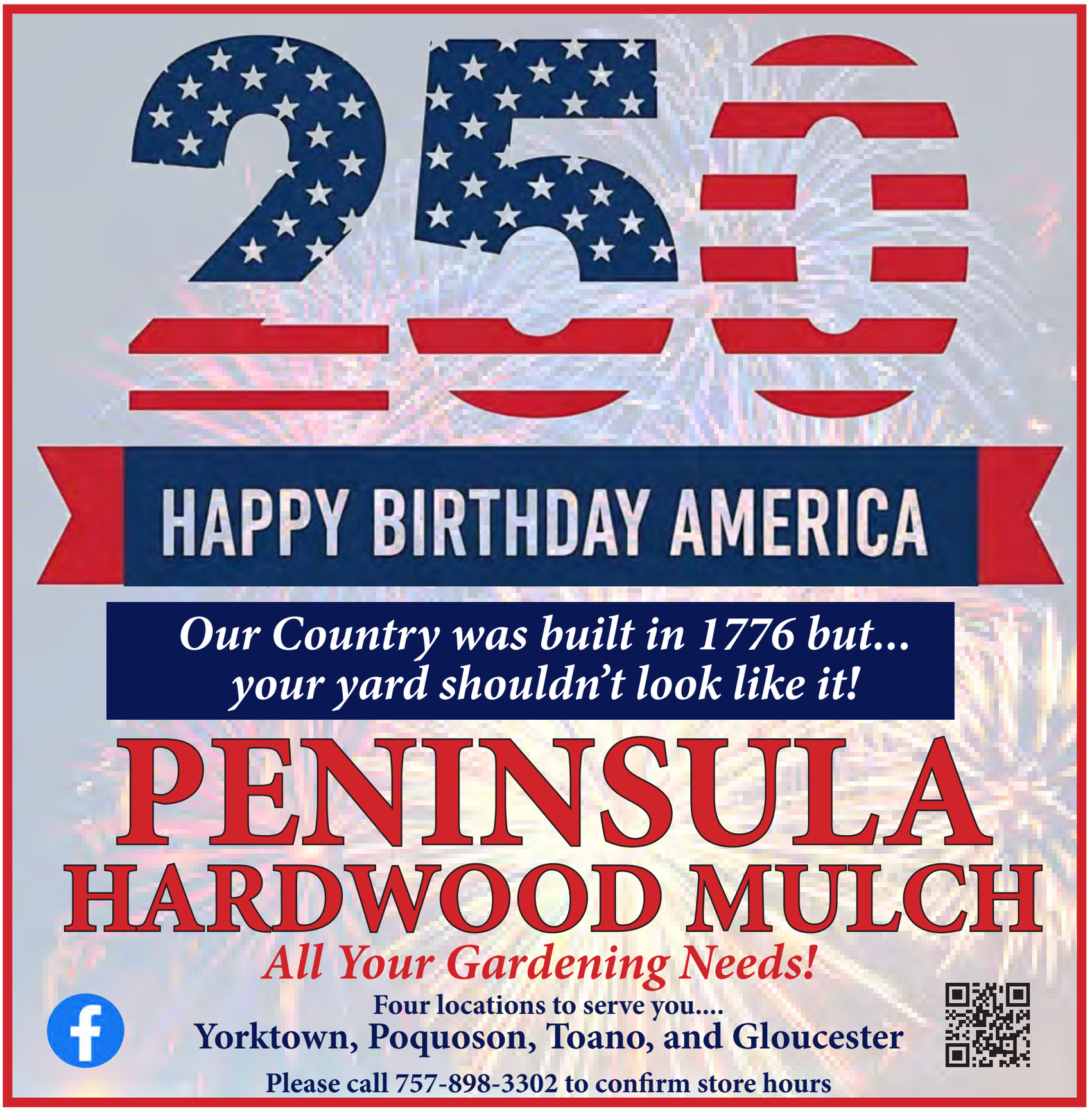
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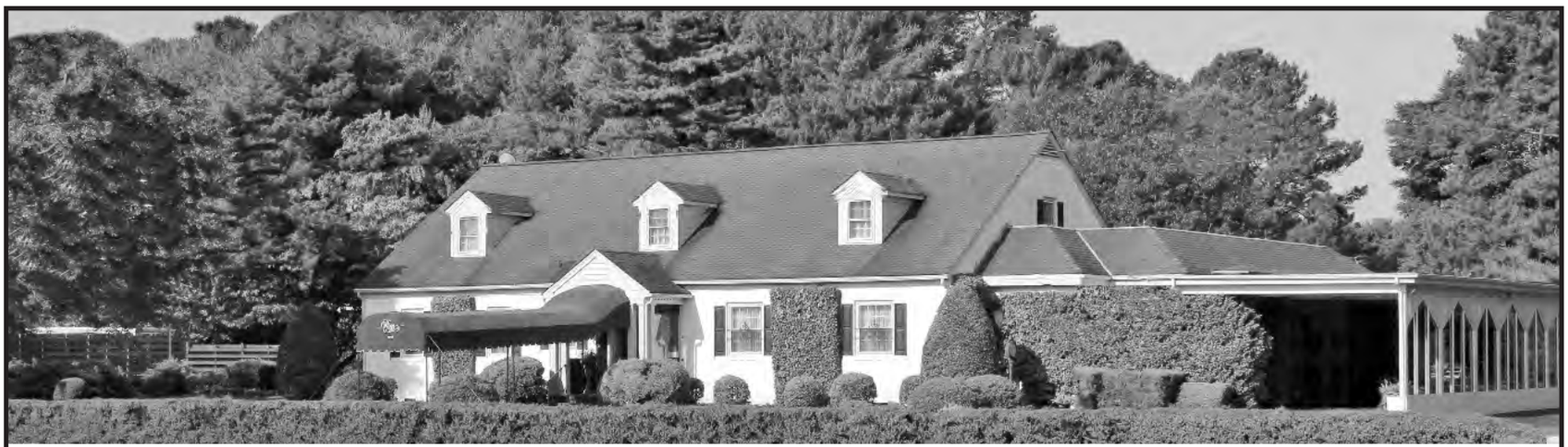
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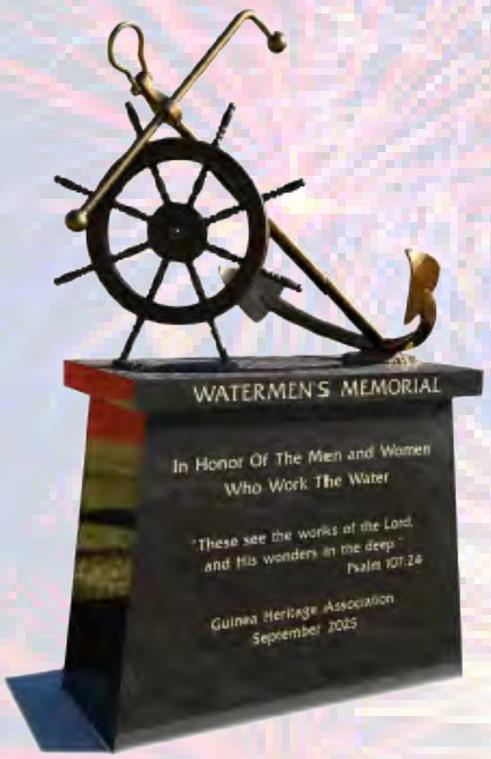
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CRICKET HILL: *Mathews County found itself at the center of a major conflict in 1776*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11C)

Captain Louis d'Ohicky Arundel's story, however, did not end with the victory.

It was a common expedient at the time to make mortars out of hollowed out logs wrapped with steel bands. There was one of these mortars at Cricket Hill. Against the advice of surrounding Patriots, Captain Arundel chose to fire the wooden mortar. It blew up and killed him. Captain Arundel became the only Patriot casualty of the battle, and is believed to have been the first volunteer French officer killed in action in the American Revolution.

One final note: Captain Arundel's middle name was "d'Ohicky." It has been suggested by some that perhaps the term "doohickey" traces its origins to Captain Arundel's tragic experience with a makeshift mortar.

Local 250 goings-on

From Thursday, July 9 through Sunday, July 12, Mathews VA250, with its cohosts, Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution, and U.S. Daughters of the American Revolution, will host celebrations of the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Cricket Hill.

Thursday, July 9 will be "ceremony day" with dedication of a memorial to Captain Arundel, and a new Road to Revolution interpretive sign, followed by a formal SAR/DAR ceremony. French and American Color Guards will participate. Andrew Lawler, author of "A Perfect Frenzy," will be one of the featured speakers.

Friday, July 10 will be "set up" day for the reenactors.

Saturday and Sunday, July 11 and 12, will include battle reenactments, a vendor fair, interpretive demonstrations, and dockside tours of the Luna, an eighteenth-century reproduction schooner.

All of these celebrations are free and open to the public. For more information, open our brochure via this QR code.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rhodes is past president of the Richard Henry Lee Chapter, Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution. Originally chartered in 1976, the chapter recently celebrated its 50th anniversary.

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Third Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, 1791



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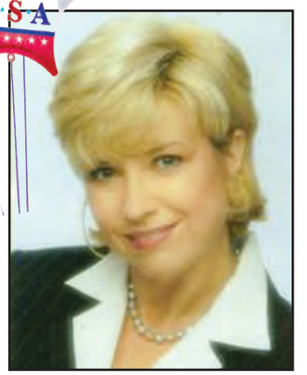
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What happened to vessels that didn't survive Battle of Cricket Hill?

BY ELSA VERBYLA

A witness to the British evacuation of Gwynn's Island counted 96 ships that sailed away, carrying Lord Dunmore and removing English authority from Virginia for good.

Witnesses said at least 100 vessels had arrived from Norfolk six weeks earlier with the royal governor, his family, his loyalists and supporting troops and sailors.

Reports of the action of July 9-10, 1776, in the Battle of Gwynn's Island, also known throughout history as the Battle of Cricket Hill, accounted for the loss of an English schooner in Barn Creek.

Martha McCartney, author of "Mathews County, Virginia: Lost Landscapes, Untold Stories," wrote that five of Dunmore's tenders and one ship were burned after the battle; some were driven ashore by a storm before they could leave.

More vessels arrived than departed, as also documented in "The Governor's Island" by Peter Wrike. What happened to the remainder?

An expedition in Milford Haven in April 2018 tried to find out. Archaeologists Brendan Burke of St. Augustine Lighthouse and Adam Park of Search Inc. performed a remote sensing survey in the waters of Hills Bay. They used a marine magnetometer and side scan sonar in a grid pattern to look for evidence of Governor Lord Dunmore's Floating City.

Tom Edwards of Gwynn, who is a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and director of the Gwynn's Island Museum since 2015, took some of the search party out; colleague Ray Procopio volunteered his services also.

Edwards is doubtful that the survey turned up any great discovery. He said recently, "Regarding the exploration work done in Hills Bay looking for remains of Dunmore's or Tory vessels, nothing noteworthy found. One anomaly found on our scopes turned out to not be a vessel, just something shaped like an old wood hull."

He never heard back from the survey team, which had promised further contact if anything promising showed up. Perhaps the number of arriving or the number of departing vessels was a miscount; perhaps the thrifty local people salvaged and reused many timbers and fittings lost in the shallow waters; or perhaps something is still out there awaiting discovery, covered by shifting sands.

Even after 250 years, there is probably more to be learned about the Battle of Gwynn's Island.






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Battle of the Hook: The largest cavalry engagement of Revolutionary War

BY LT. COL. LEWIS H. "BUCKY" BURRUSS
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Gloucester County (including Kingston Parish—now Mathews County) played an important role in the American Revolution, beginning even before the Declaration of Independence was signed, when the militia were called up to respond to the occupation of Milford Haven and Gwynn's Island by Lord Dunmore's forces in May of 1776. Their success at the Battle of Cricket Hill in July ended British rule in Virginia and halted significant British operations in Virginia for nearly three years.

When the British did re-

SEE **BATTLE OF THE HOOK,** PAGE **22C**



FILE PHOTO
American troops, led by their musicians in reversed colors (red with blue facings) march off the field during a reenactment of the Battle of the Hook in 2008 Battle of the Hook reenactment.







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BATTLE OF THE HOOK: *Tarleton's Rangers handed a defeat in Gloucester*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20C)





FILE PHOTOS

A couple more scenes from a 2008 reenactment of the Battle of the Hook that was held in Gloucester.

turn in strength in 1779, their efforts included a number of foraging and scouting efforts by boat at New Point and around the Mobjack Bay. They were repulsed by the Gloucester militiamen, particularly those from Kingston Parish under the command of Colonel Sir John Peyton, the only American with a hereditary English title to fight on the side of the patriots during the Revolution. The Kingston militiamen's actions earned them the nickname "Kingston Bloodhounds."

When Cornwallis's forces moved to occupy and fortify Yorktown and Gloucester Point on Aug. 1, 1781, the first shots fired in the Yorktown campaign came from the Gloucester militia, including from artillery fired by Samuel Eddins. John Page, then commanding the Gloucester militia (later the Governor of Virginia), immediately moved the main militia encampment up to the northern end of the county near the King and Queen line in the vicinity of Prodigal plantation.

British and Hessian troops, including Lt. Col. John Graves Simcoe's Queens Rangers, occupied Gloucester Point and began fortifying the positions there. Simcoe's troops included a number of loyalists from Gloucester. (Interestingly, two of the loyalist Rangers were Hudgins brothers, William and John, from Kingston Parish.)

They immediately began foraging operations in the county, taking livestock and grain to feed Cornwallis's besieged forces in Yorktown. Captain Johann Ewald, one of the Hessian officers, reported finding some 500 head of cattle at Abingdon Church. Colonel Page had ordered them to be collected there so they could be herded up to northern Gloucester to keep them out of the hands of the British, but instead, the enemy herded them to the vicinity of Gloucester Point for their own use.

Page did little to stop the British foraging, and they were even able to raid the sawmill on Timberneck to get lumber to build their fortifications. But when Brigadier General George Weeden arrived in early September, sent to Gloucester by Washington to bottle up the Crown forces at the Point, he stationed the Virginia militia at several locations in and around Gloucester Court House. From there, he was able to begin operations to stifle the British raiding parties, and, in fact, conducted a raid to recover some of the pastured livestock.

Weeden also tasked Lt. Col. John Mercer to select, from among the approximately 1,500 Virginia militia, a corps of experienced soldiers who had served in the Continental Army, and "such likely young men who volunteered

SEE **BATTLE OF THE HOOK,** PAGE **23C**

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EVENT SCHEDULE

8 AM	Yorktown Independence Day 8K/5K Run/Walk - York High School
9 AM	Patriotic Parade - Water & Main Streets
11AM	The Fifes & Drums of York Town 50th Anniversary Performance - Victory Monument
11 AM-6 PM	Family Games & Kids' Activities (sponsored by Riverwalk Landing Business Association) - Riverwalk Landing
1 PM	Hot Dog Eating Contest and Cupcake Decorating Contest (courtesy of Carrot Tree Kitchens) - Riverwalk Landing Stage
2 PM - 4 PM	The Liberty Dolls - Riverwalk Landing Stage
2 PM-6 PM	Balloon Artist - Riverwalk Landing
4 PM	Event Parking Opens - Corner of Cook Road and Ballard Street
6:30 PM	The Fifes & Drums of York Town Performance The Reading of the Declaration of Independence Sounds of Liberty Bell Ringing Ceremony - Riverwalk Landing Stage
7:30 PM	Good Shot Judy - Riverwalk Landing Stage
9:15 PM	FIREWORKS Display - Over the York River

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Arrive EARLY to ensure parking! Evening event parking opens 4 PM at Yorktown Battlefield and closes at capacity!
- Walk to event: 1+ miles (over uneven terrain/hills).
- Handicapped parking for special needs guests + one escort, 4-7 PM at Yorktown Middle School.
- Beach Picnic Area closed to vehicular traffic all day.
- Alcoholic beverages prohibited; BBQ grills restricted to Beach Picnic Area.
- Pets not recommended.
- Yorktown restaurants & the Patriotic Food Pavilion at the Waterfront available for food/drink purchases.
- Yorktown Trolley runs 10 AM to 5 PM.

BATTLE OF THE HOOK: *A British forage mission turns into a full-scale battle*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22C)

their services." He ended up selecting and training about 200 men, designating them Grenadiers. Included among them were some 80 members of the Gloucester militia, largely from Kingston Parish.

In late September, as the siege of Yorktown commenced, Washington and Rochambeau sent the Legion of the Duc du Lauzun to Gloucester to help keep the British bottled up, and to prevent the Cornwallis forces from escaping across the York River. They also sent Brigadier General Choisy to command the allies in Gloucester, and reinforced them with 800 marines from French Admiral Comte de DeGrasse's fleet. Meanwhile, Cornwallis sent Tarleton's British Legion and his cavalry from Yorktown to Gloucester to assist his forces there.

Then, on the morning of Oct. 3, 1781, Tarleton was leading a "grand forage" with some 300 cavalry and a company of infantry out of Gloucester Point, just as Choisy was moving his forces south to better besiege the Crown forces. At the front of the Allies was Lauzun and about 150 hussars. A short distance behind him was Mercer and his Grenadiers about 160 strong.

The English had completed their forage, leaving a rear guard to cover their return to their lines. Just south of Seawell's Ordinary, Lauzun's lead element encountered Tarleton and his rear guard, and a brief skirmish of the French advanced guard and Tarleton's dragoons occurred, which resulted in Tarleton being unhorsed when a hussar's lance struck the horse next to his. He was nearly captured by the French, but his dragoons quickly moved to rescue him.

Both commanders formed their cavalry on line for a charge, and what followed was the largest, though brief, cav-

SEE **BATTLE OF THE HOOK,** PAGE **24C**



FILE PHOTO

Lt. Col. Lewis H. "Bucky" Burruss, the author of this piece, participates in a kickoff event for a 2013 Battle of the Hook reenactment in front of Gloucester's Warner Hall.





BATTLE OF THE HOOK: *British forces retreat and eventually surrender at Yorktown*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23C)

alry engagement of the Revolutionary War, called the Battle of the Hook. Lauzun's cavalry, numbering as many as 300 hundred horse, charged Tarleton's British Legion and attached Queen's Rangers, which numbered nearly the same. Tarleton had deployed infantry to protect his flank, and they were able to break the Allies' charge, and Lauzun fell back to reform.

As Lauzun had no supporting infantry on the field yet, Mercer and his 160 Grenadier militia ran forward and formed forward of the French cavalry, and engaged both the British cavalry to their front, and the enemy infantry advancing on their left. Their intense fire repelled the cavalry, and one of the Grenadiers—thought to be Sergeant John White of the Kingston militia—killed the officer at the head of the British infantry, and their advance was stopped within a 100 yards of the Allies. White reported that he fired 13 rounds of musket fire—probably six or seven minutes of constant fire at close range, which was firestorm of musketry in those days. Mercer reported that there were fewer than a 100 rounds of ammunition left among his men.

By then, Lauzun had reformed to charge, but as he advanced, Tarleton ordered a retreat, and they withdrew in defeat back into their lines at Gloucester Point. The Crown forces never ventured far from their lines for the rest of the campaign. And with their sources of forage gone, and the investment of their position by some 3,000 Allied troops, their fate was sealed.

On the 19th of October, 1781, after Cornwallis surrender the bulk of his army in Yorktown, the Allies in Gloucester took the surrender of some 1,050 men and 308 horses in the final surrender of British forces in America.

EDITOR'S NOTE: A 1959 Gloucester High School graduate, Burruss served 22 years in the U.S. Army Special Forces, including Vietnam's Mike Force. An original Delta Force member, he participated in operations in Grenada, Iran and the Middle East. Highly decorated, he received the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, and the U.S. Special Operations Command Lifetime Achievement Award. Now retired, the Gloucester resident has since taken up a second career as an author, writing several acclaimed novels, including "Mike Force" and "All That Matters," as well as numerous pieces for the Philadelphia Inquirer.




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Remembering Gov. John Page

BY CHEYENNE FENTON



Philip Page, a descendant in the historic Page family, has dedicated numerous hours to his research of John Page of Rosewell, at right, giving lectures and presentations of the governor's life. Philip Page is also vice president of the Gloucester Historical Society.

Gloucester's Page family has been going strong since the days before the American Revolution. And they're still a major part of the community today.

Perhaps the most prominent of these is John Page. Virginia's 13th governor, John Page was born at Rosewell Plantation in Gloucester in 1743.

"The first thing I'll say is, when you read something about John Page, you've got to ask yourself which John Page are you talking about," said Philip Page, vice president of the Gloucester Historical Society and a descendant of John Page of Rosewell's uncle, John Page of North End [now Mathews County].

"There are plenty of John Pages … the Governor, or John Page of Rosewell, John Page of North End, John Page the immigrant," and so on, he said.

Losing his mother at a young age, John Page was raised predominantly by his grandmother, Judith Carter. "Judith Carter was the daughter of Robert 'King' Carter, who was probably the wealthiest man in Virginia," said Philip.

His grandmother was likely the most influential person in John Page's life, and instilled in him a deep adherence to the scriptures. "She was very much his spiritual mentor and that became a very defining point for John Page," Philip said.

The Page family was part of the House of Burgesses, which John Page would later become a member of, helping to found the College of William and Mary, where he attended grammar school, Philip said. This allowed for him to live in the president of the school's home, who also was his private tutor.

During his time at grammar school, John Page was wandering through the library and came across the Deed of Gift, written by his great-great-grandfather, referred to as immigrant John Page, to son Matthew Page, explained Philip.

In the 200-page document, "there was a section, specifically a paragraph in there that talked about how you treat people," he said. "Not just people in general, but specifically to the slaves—you treat them

SEE GOV. PAGE, PAGE 27C



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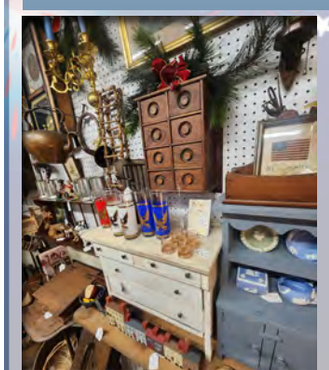


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GOV. PAGE: *Remembering John Page, born before the Revolutionary War at Rosewell*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26C)

with respect."

This became an integral part of John Page's beliefs throughout his life, along with his ideology of "the American Mission," in which he believed in the importance of caring for the poor and oppressed.

As his father was disappointed with the education in England at the time, John Page continued at William and Mary for college, where he roomed with Thomas Jefferson. Though the two sometimes had conflicted beliefs, specifically on the separation of church and state, they remained friends throughout their lives, said Philip.

Where Jefferson believed in the separation of church and state, John Page believed it was the churches' responsibility to care for the people and without a taxing power, there would be no money in the church to do so.

In 1763, John Page graduated from William and Mary, marrying Frances Burwell not long after.

Twelve years later, the Revolutionary War began, during which John Page was an officer, holding the position of head of security, explained Philip. He gathered a militia in Gloucester, taking off for Williamsburg to join Patrick Henry in getting back stolen ammunition.

In 1776, Patrick Henry was sworn in as Governor of Virginia, but fell too ill to serve, resulting in John Page filling in as acting governor, said Philip.

During this time, a period of enlightenment took hold where people began to look towards logic and reason, rather than faith. However, the Great Awakening was still a large movement in the colonies, urging people to look to faith, over logic and reason.

"John Page embraced both of them," said Philip. "He did not view the two as contradictory. He saw them as being a unit, because if God created the universe, he created logic and reasoning."

In 1780, he was elected to Virginia's House of Delegates and five years later became a delegate to the first convention of the Episcopal Church. He was elected to Congress in 1789, two years after the death of his first wife.

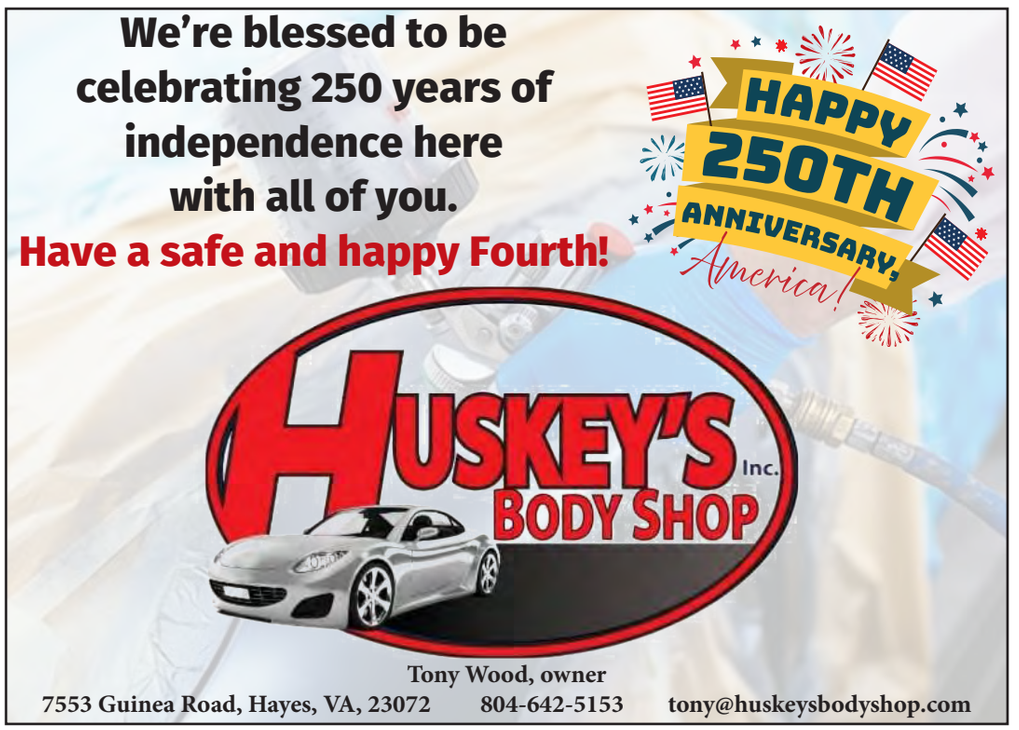
A year later, John Page married Margaret Lowther, an early American poet, and the two were known to write love letters and poems back and forth, Philip said.

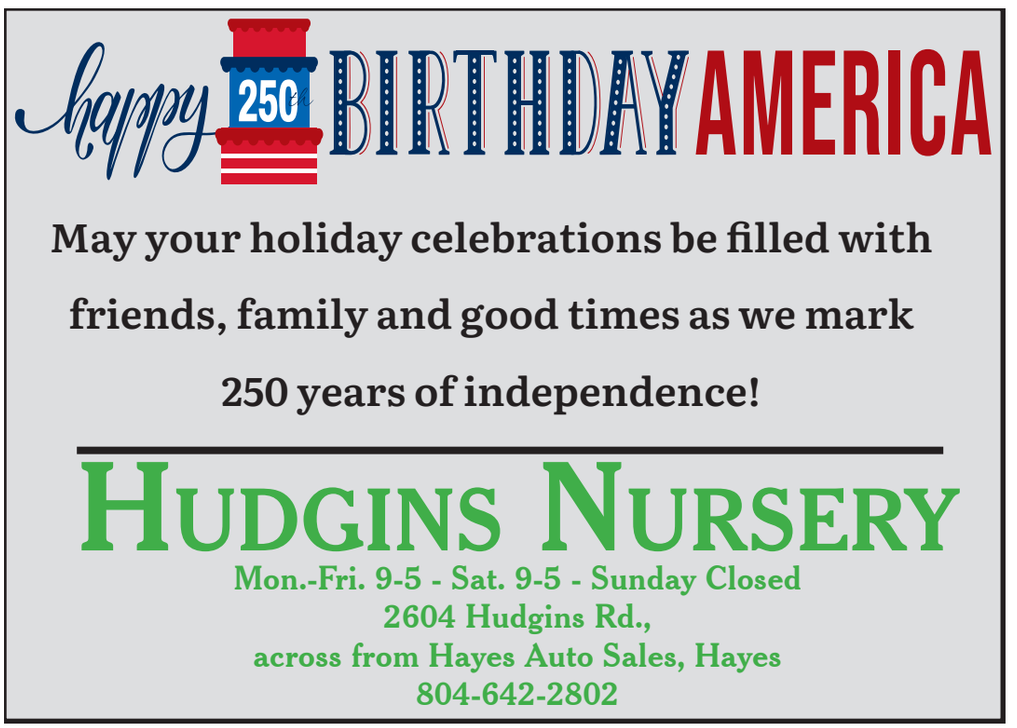
Around this time, St. George Tucker, a judge, law professor at William and Mary, and good friend of John Page, wrote a dissertation proposing the abolition of slavery. "John Page provided a lot of input on that … They were very close friends," Philip said.

In 1803, John Page was elected as the 13th Governor of Virginia and served three consecutive one-year terms, before accepting a position as Commissioner of Loans for the state.

After his death in 1808, Rosewell was vacated and Margaret rented what is now known as the Thomas Everard House on Palace Green Street in Williamsburg, said Philip. Eventually, Rosewell was sold and not quite 100 years later was destroyed in a fire in 1916, though some of its brick work still stands.

The Fairfield Foundation has worked to stabilize and preserve what remains of Rosewell and visitors are able to stop by and see the craftsmanship of the building.





In Memory and In Honor of the Children of Ann and Robert Hall and Their Service in the Revolutionary War in the Virginia State Navy and Virginia Militia

The family farm was in Kingston Parish, Gloucester County, Virginia
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Children of Ann and Robert Hall

Elizabeth "Betsey" Jordan Hall, 1754
Married Francis Brown – Served three years in the Virginia State Navy as Steward on board the HENRY

Ann "Nanny" Hall, 1756
Married Perter Foster - Served three years in the Virginia State Navy as Carpenter's Mate on board the HENRY

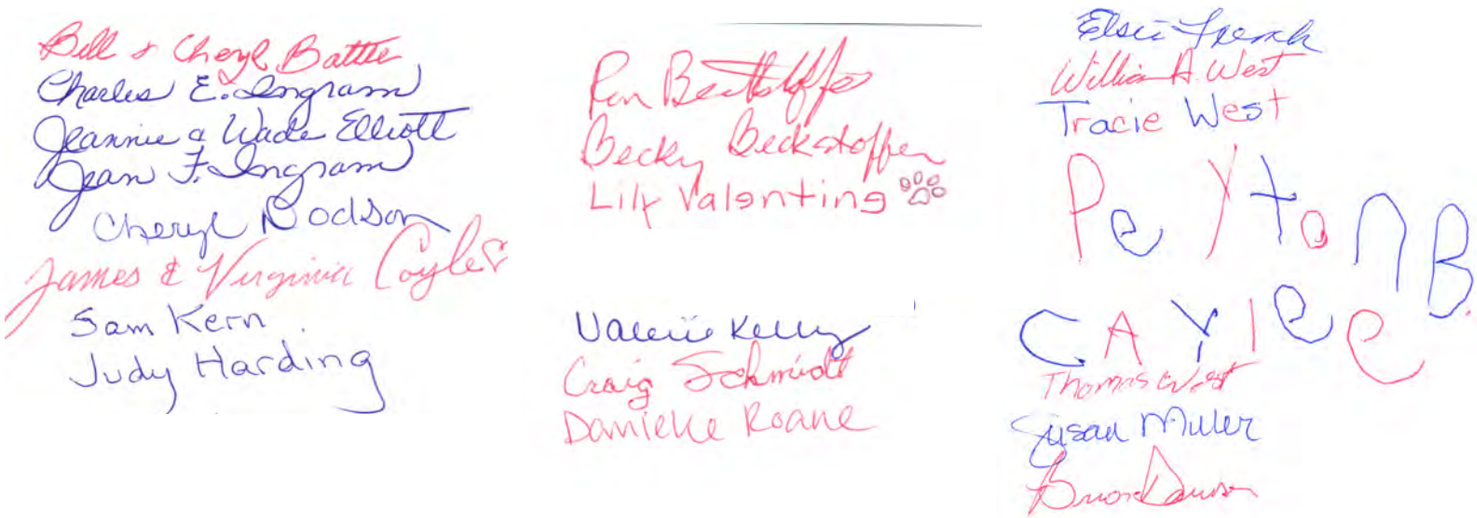
Robert Hall, Jr., 1758–1786
Joined the Virginia State Navy in 1776, age 18 as a Seaman on board the HENRY became Master's Mate in 1778 and was promoted to Sailing Master in 1779 on board the TARTAR. No record of marriage.

Spencer Hall, 1760–1793
Joined the Virginia State Navy in 1776, age 16 as a Seaman on board the HENRY Served three years on the HENRY and TARTAR. Became an owner and captain of three schooners home ported in Salem, Massachusetts, the POLLY, MARY ANN, and UNION. Married Mary Cottee Ober in 1781.

Joyce "Joicey" Hall, 1763
Married Mathis Gayle – Served three years in the Virginia State Militia

Thomas Hall, Sr. 1764–1840
Entered the service in 1779, age 15, Served three years as a private in the Virginia State Militia. Became a shipbuilder of schooners on the East River including the SARAH ANN, the THOMAS HALL, and the ALEXANDER. Married Mary Gayle in 1790.

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PHOTO COURTESY DENISE COOKE

Always stylish and dignified, Beatrice Bobo was dedicated to her community and to her students.

The woman who helped Mathews avoid a race riot

BY SHERRY HAMILTON

Peaceful little Mathews County has never been known as a hotbed of racial tension. However …

A shooting on Saturday, Aug. 23, 1980 threatened to break the serenity of the community and explode into violence. Had it not been for the actions of one well-respected woman, Beatrice Bobo, then the president of the Mathews Chapter of the NAACP, that might very well have happened.

The shooting occurred after Mathews deputy John Thorne stopped Susan resident Michael

SEE **BEATRICE BOBO,** PAGE **31C**

BEATRICE BOBO: *Dedicated to her community and her students*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30C)

Saunders Johnson, 23, in the ABC Store parking lot on suspicion of drunk driving. According to then-Sheriff Hugh Jordan, a scuffle ensued, and Thorne was knocked down and was being beaten when he fired the shot that ended Johnson's life.

Word of the death spread, and it didn't take long for a crowd of more than 100 people, both black and white, to gather at the ABC Store, then move to the Mathews Sheriff's Office on the Historic Court Green where witnesses to the shooting were being questioned.

Jordan called for assistance from other agencies and 40 Virginia State Police officers showed up, along with officers from the Gloucester and Middlesex sheriff's offices.

Several Mathews residents who knew Bobo well reminisced recently about what happened next. Raymond Willis said that "black people got in an uproar" and that Sheriff Jordan drove to Bobo's house and "asked her to come and settle them down."

Cynthia Hayes, who lived in the same neighborhood as Bobo and was 15 years old at the time, said she remembered watching Bobo get in her car and drive away. Cynthia and her sister Pam walked to the intersection of Chapel Neck Road and Route 14 and watched as "car after car after car" of state troopers drove toward town.

"We were frightened to death and fearing the worst," she said.

Denise Cooke, Bobo's great-niece, said she was away on business in Houston at the time and knew nothing about what was happening. She only learned about it when she met a Houston friend for dinner and he told her that "there's a big riot and unrest in your county." The story had gone national. She called home and her father told her about it.

"He was one of the angry people" who gathered on the court green, said Cooke. "He told me one of the Johnson boys was shot and killed by a deputy and my great-aunt had been

SEE **BEATRICE BOBO,** PAGE **32C**



FILE PHOTO

Beatrice Bobo, at right, leaves the Mathews Sheriff's Office with NAACP State Director Jack Gravely after dispersing the crowd that had gathered to protest the shooting death of a black man by a deputy sheriff.

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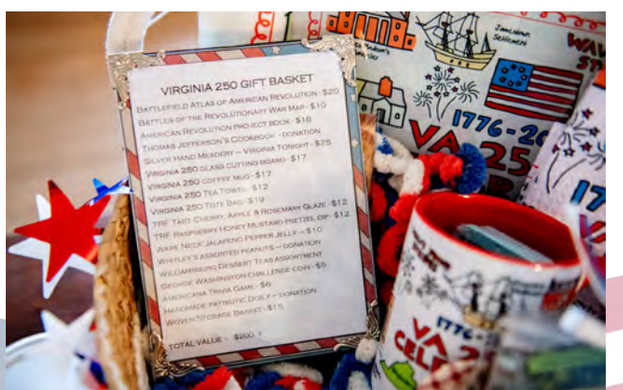
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BEATRICE BOBO: *Dedicated to her community and her students*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31C)

down there and settled things."

According to the Gazette-Journal (Aug. 28, 1980 and May 17, 2001), Bobo related that she had told the crowd, "You can't win this way, by taking the law into your own hands."

"All the people were in a rage to do something," Bobo said, "But I said, 'you can't be that way. We have to do things slow.'"

"She got up in front of everybody and calmed them down so we didn't have a riot," said Willis.

"We were so relieved when we found out she was fine, and so brave that she calmed a crowd that was angry," said Hayes.

To help further ease the situation, Bobo coordinated a march to be held the following day, from the court green to First Baptist Church on Route 198. An estimated 300 people showed up to march, led by the executive director of the Virginia NAACP, who drove from Richmond to participate. The deputy was charged with murder, but the Mathews grand jury ultimately did not indict him.

It wasn't really surprising that the sheriff had called on Bobo, at the age of 79, to calm the angry crowd. She had long before established herself as a leader in the community. Born Beatrice Lee in 1901, Bobo attended school locally up until the seventh grade, then went to Smallwood Institute, a boarding school in Claremont, Virginia, before continuing her education at what is now Virginia State University, graduating in 1925 or '26.

After graduation, she began teaching at Hicks Wharf School in Cardinal, then left for a higher-paying job in North Carolina. There she met William J. Bobo. The two were married and moved to his home in Spartanburg, South Carolina to teach. In the late 1940s, they moved to Mathews, where Bobo continued her teaching career, first at Hicks Wharf School, then at Battery Public School, then Thomas Hunter School, which taught black children through the 12th grade. At some point, Mr. Bobo became a thing of the past; none of those interviewed recalled ever meeting him.

What they recalled instead was Mrs. Bobo's kindness and generosity, always delivered with a measured amount of directness, firmness and

SEE **BEATRICE BOBO,** PAGE **36C**



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1 PM	Hot Dog Eating Contest and Cupcake Decorating Contest (courtesy of Carrot Tree Kitchens) - Riverwalk Landing Stage
2 PM-6 PM	Balloon Artist - Riverwalk Landing
4 PM	Event Parking Opens - Corner of Cook Road and Ballard Street
6:30 PM	The Fifes & Drums of York Town Performance The Reading of the Declaration of Independence Sounds of Liberty Bell Ringing Ceremony - Riverwalk Landing Stage
7:30 PM	Good Shot Judy - Riverwalk Landing Stage
9:15 PM	FIREWORKS Display - Over the York River

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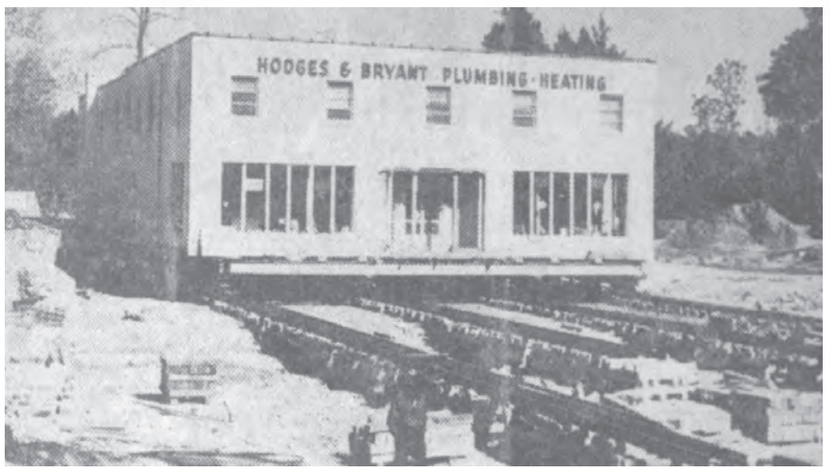
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Constructed a Memorial Garden at Edgehill Town Center honoring Charter Members Ellis Hall and Bob Marble









"Service Above Self"

BEATRICE BOBO: *Dedicated to her community and her students*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32C)

strength.

Willis thought of Bobo, who was his fourth-grade teacher, as very family-oriented, but nevertheless "a strict business person. She didn't do a lot of playing around."

"She was very well-spoken," he said, "and she always pushed a good education. Everybody loved and respected her."

Willis and his family were active in Emmaus Church, where Bobo was a pillar. He went to her home often to talk over programs they might want to have. She was a Sunday School teacher and the church clerk, he said, adding, "She did everything."

As president of the NAACP, Bobo encouraged Willis to be active and follow in her footsteps, and he did so, serving as president of the organization for a number of years.

Hayes said that Bobo would often call neighborhood children into her house to converse with them about such subjects as the value of an education. One day, when Hayes was 8 or 9, Bobo called her over and told her she had a beautiful voice and should receive training.

A couple of years later, Bobo talked to Hayes's mother and arranged for those lessons. She paid for them herself, and she picked Hayes up every week and took her to them. As a result, Hayes joined the youth choir at church, then the Mathews High School Choir, then the Hampton University Choir, at one point singing for Vice President and Mrs. George H.W. Bush at the Kennedy Center.

"It was all as the result of Mrs. Bobo," said Hayes.

As a neighbor of Bobo's, Hayes spent "many an evening in her kitchen" and often went with her to mostly-adult events such as the Baptist Convention and NAACP meetings. And Bobo planned trips for the children of the church, taking them to Baltimore, Buckroe Beach, an amusement park. When she got too old to go on the trips herself, Bobo continued to plan them.

"We looked forward to Vacation Bible School," said Hayes. "She made it fun."

Cooke recalled time spent at Bobo's house a little differently than did Hayes.

"We would go there in the summer, and she always made us clean the silver," she said. "The teapot, sugar and creamers, pitcher, and her beautiful silver dinnerware."

Hayes laughed at the memory, agreeing that she, too, had cleaned Bobo's silver, but it was done "while having a conversation."

A visit to Bobo's house also might mean pulling the weeds out of her garden, playing in the park she had created with plantings and seating areas, and enjoying the wide expanse of lawn she carefully tended.

Both Hayes and Cooke attended Hampton University at the urging of Bobo, who helped them with their applications and financial aid. Cooke had graduated from Mathews High School as the first black valedictorian, and "it was a really big thing for Mrs. Bobo," she said. "She really encouraged children to get an education."

Hayes, who became an educator herself, said her mentor was "the epitome of leadership."

"A good leader also serves," she said. "She worked hard at everything she did."

Cooke recalled the early 1970s, when none of the businesses in downtown Mathews had black employees. Bobo decided to do something about that, and she visited various businesses, encouraging them to hire black people. As a result, Cooke got a job at the former Philco dealer, located in what is now the library annex; Shirley Matthews got a job at Richardson's Drug Store; and Randolph Davis got a job at the A&P Grocery Store.

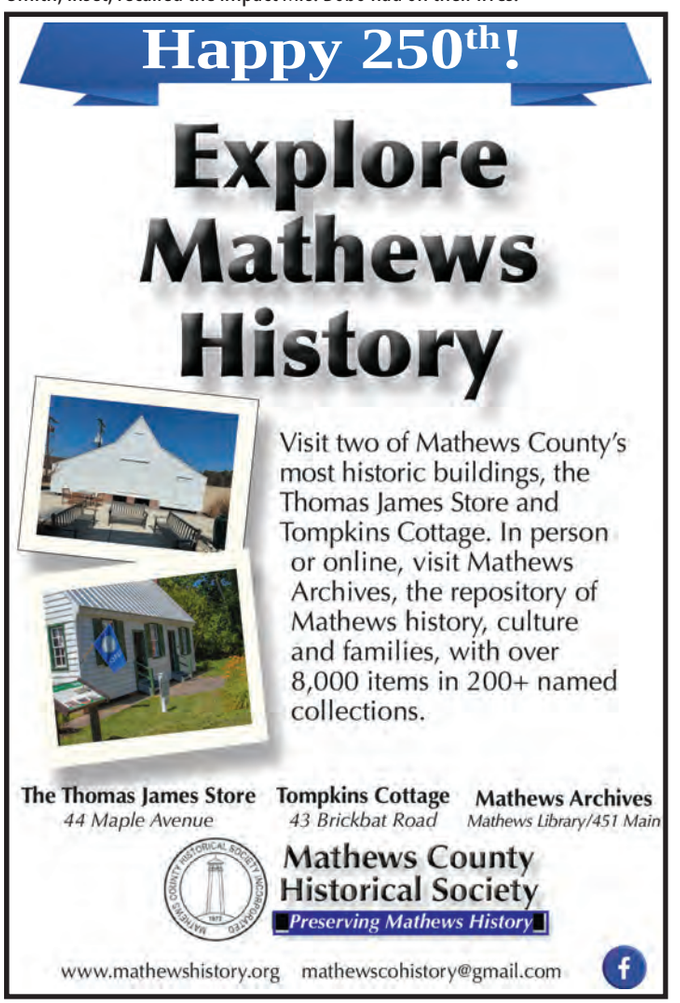
The two women recalled Bobo's generosity in opening her home to new teachers in Mathews, giving them a place to stay when they knew no one; her dislike of collards; her self-discipline when it came to resisting the sweets that she loved; and her lack of cooking skills

SEE **BEATRICE BOBO,** PAGE **38C**



SHERRY HAMILTON / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Mathews residents, from left, Cynthia Hayes and Raymond Willis, along with Denise Cooke, great-niece of Beatrice Bobo, and Mathews resident Desmond Smith, inset, recalled the impact Mrs. Bobo had on their lives.






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BEATRICE BOBO

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 36C)

and tendency to feed everyone baked everything, along with the drink Tang, which, she would remind them, "the astronauts drank up on the moon."

Cooke said she couldn't have a conversation about Bobo without mentioning her love of fashion and the way she always wore fashionable suits or dresses, matching shoes and handbags, and hats. During last year's Women's Day at Emmaus Baptist, the theme was "Women in Hats," said Cooke, and at least five women wore hats that had come from Bobo's extensive collection, given out after her death.

Not only did Bobo enjoy being fashionable herself, but she made sure her nieces and nephews had nice things, taking them shopping at such stores as Miller and Rhoads and Thalhimers in Richmond.

"She said quality matters because quality lasts," said Hayes.

Both women admired and loved Mrs. Bobo, who is engraved in their memories and on their hearts.

Desmond Smith

One other person shared his memories of Bobo—former Mathews School Board member Desmond Smith. A resident of Bobo's neighborhood, he recalled being invited into her neat and clean home just to sit down and talk. The conversation was always about important issues, he said, with education being "a big thing" and him feeling as though he was "expanding my knowledge about things beyond Mathews."

He, too, recalled those Sunday school outings, when it was just Bobo and a group of kids because "if you were with Mrs. Bobo, everybody knew you were okay." He especially recalled a visit to the Arthur Ashe facility in Richmond, where he and his friends got to meet Ashe's wife and daughter, along with the child actress Raven Simone of "The Cosby Show." Bobo bought him Simone's signed book, and "she fed us out of her own pocket," he said. Although Bobo had no children of her own, he said, "All the kids of the church were her family … She always wanted to help young people find their way."

Smith credited her with playing a big part in his dual careers in ministry and education.

"She made me curious about God and the Bible, but really curious about everything," he said. "It was good to see a woman who was a quiet leader. She was so nice and frail, but also very strong."

Smith credited Bobo with building a foundation for the community so that "we kind of had a road map—we knew what to do because of it." He said Bobo tended to "raise everybody up—bring everybody along," and that has been his mindset, as well, because of her.

"It takes a village to raise a child," he said, "but really, she was a village for me."

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Holly Knoll in 2025, when it was open for the annual Garden Tour sponsored by the Garden Club of Gloucester and Mathews.

Historic Holly Knoll played a key role in the civil rights movement

BY CHEYENNE FENTON

Together, the Gloucester Historical Society and the Woodville Rosenwald School Foundation created the video, "A Short History of Holly Knoll," reflecting on the history of the historic building on the banks of the York River in Gloucester.

For this video, the Rev. E. Randolph Graham of the Woodville Rosenwald School Foundation and Philip Page of the Gloucester Historical Society, sat down with Civil War historian Dr. Wesley Wilson in the living room of the Moton Conference Center, on the property of Holly Knoll.



FILE PHOTO

Dr. Robert Russa Moton.

After happening across Holly Knoll by accident one day with his wife, Wilson recognized Pat Patterson, out on the front lawn during a celebration. Patterson lived down the road

SEE **HOLLY KNOLL**, PAGE **45C**

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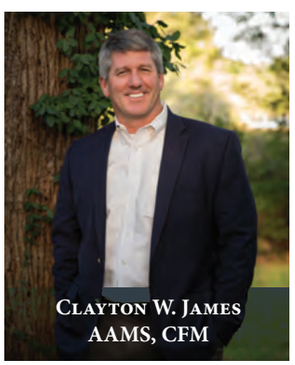
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HOLLY KNOLL: *Home played a key part in the civil rights movement*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 41C)

from the property and invited the Wilsons back to his home to visit.

The couple ended up purchasing the home next to Patterson and, after retiring from the military and starting a consulting business around 1988, Wilson was led back to Holly Knoll as a conference space for education primarily oriented to African Americans, he explained.

Wilson rented space at Holly Knoll, which was owned at the time by the United Negro College Fund. In his research of the building's history, he found that his own use for the building matched its past use.

According to Wilson, Dr. Robert Russa Moton was looking for a home to purchase as he was planning to retire from his position as President of Tuskegee University, then Institute, in Alabama.

Moton's second wife, Jennie Booth, was from Gloucester, and he followed her back to the area, said Wilson. "He bought quite a bit of property," he said. "This property [Holly Knoll] and property from here down to Hickory Fork Road, but this was the site—he gave it the name Holly Knoll, that he wanted to build a house on."

According to Wilson, as Moton got older and started facing some health problems, he began training a professor from Tuskegee—who was also his son-in-law, Dr. Frederick Douglass Patterson—to become his replacement as the university's president.

An interesting detail about Holly Knoll that Wilson pointed out is that it was actually entirely built by Hampton and Tuskegee students. "The thing that amazes me is that its structure, in large, is still as it was as they built it in 1935," he said.

"They built it as a work-study project because that's what most of the African American, HBCU [Historically Black Colleges and Universities] as we now know them, did," he said. "They trained the students for working careers … They were training people to be grunt laborers, to be workers and managers of sites—the men primarily. So that's how this house got built."

According to Wilson, Moton only lived five years after the house was built and had not spent much time in it. Wilson explained that many people question why Moton purchased the properties and built the house if

SEE HOLLY KNOLL, PAGE 46C

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HOLLY KNOLL: *Home played a key part in the civil rights movement*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 45C)

he was nearing the end of his life.

His answer was that Moton realized how spread out black university and college presidents were and that they needed a support system for when times got tough.

"So, he said he wanted this house and this property to be an area where the black presidents of these universities could come and just relax, kick up their feet, or communicate with each other—even collaborate, you know," Wilson explained.

Holly Knoll became a safe solace for the strategic thinking of the people for the civil rights movement, he said. They needed a place that was private, remote and protected, like Holly Knoll, with the forest, agricultural land and the river ensuring no one could sneak up on it easily. "People were coming here for the civil rights movement—coming down the river, to my understanding," said Wilson.

"They would get off the train up around Richmond or at West Point, come down to the river, particularly white folks under the cover of darkness, join in the conversation, join in the planning, and then under the cover of darkness, get out of there. And for the black people, they could kind of merge into the community, so they weren't as obvious as the white people."

The property also gave birth to the United Negro College Fund, according to Wilson. "It makes sense that the United Negro College Fund was born here, because this is the first time and only place where all of these black college presidents could come together and develop a strategy," he said.

Holly Knoll also serves as a site where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spent time, though he did not actually write his "I Have A Dream" speech under the historic oak tree on the property, known as the King Oak, as legend has it. "King, by his own admission, he sat there and his main interest, sitting on that bench under the oak tree, was to dream," said Wilson.

"Not to write a speech, but to think about the things he wanted. And it's interesting, because he was thinking about—King—about the same things that Moton was thinking about. Saying, 'I've got to bring these folks together,'" Wilson said.

"I think the important thing of this property is not that any particular event came from the

SEE **HOLLY KNOLL,** PAGE **49C**

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HOLLY KNOLL: *Home played a key part in the civil rights movement*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 46C)

property—the thoughts of the events, the possibilities, the probabilities, the scheming, the dreams, the change."

The Higher Education Act under Bill Gray also began at Holly Knoll, said Wilson.

Under William H. Gray III, who retired from Congress and became president of the UNCF, parts of the property were sold off. According to Wilson, two things were happening to cause this.

One, the property wasn't needed in the same way it was previously, as communication and travel were easier and less urgent. And two, the properties were beginning to become a financial drain on the UNCF, which owned Holly Knoll after Patterson.

"The success of what happened in this room allowed basically for the demise of this facility, because now you could go out anywhere—and this became very expensive to maintain," Page summarized.

"So, the success actually was doomed for this building, because now the vision is still great, but the need is not there any longer," added Graham.

Now, however, keeping Holly Knoll running is exceptionally important, as it gives a view into an important part of the past, Wilson said.

"So, this place is still a strategic think tank, but we have to maintain it so that vision of Moton's doesn't die," said Graham.

"I think that for this building—more than any other place else that I can think of in the country—the originating dream is still here," said Wilson. He compared Holly Knoll to the historic oak tree outside.

The roots of the tree started an estimated 200 years ago and if you were to chop them off, the branches would die. "So, we've got to nurture the roots in order to keep that branch alive," he explained.



Philip Page, from left, Dr. Wesley Wilson, and the Rev. E. Randolph Graham sat down together in the living room of the Moton Conference Center to walk through the significant history of Holly Knoll.

"So, we have to maintain this building to keep that vision alive," said Graham.

"We've got to keep this vision and maintain these properties, because all of the properties contributed as we evolved," Wilson said. "They didn't all come up at the same time, but they all came up for the same reason, and that was to allow us to gather in a safe and comfortable environment."

When asked by Graham what Wilson wanted viewers to take away from the video, his answer was simple: "Holly Knoll will always be here," he said. No matter the circumstances, the history and importance of the building will live on.

Today, under the leadership of Charles and Kay Coles James, Holly Knoll is home to The Gloucester Institute which, its website states, "It is our mission to train and nurture students that are emerging leaders across the country. TGI continues the work and memory of Dr. Robert Russa Moton.



One Gloucester family's story from enslavement to achievement

BY CALLIE LAUBACKER

In Gloucester County, one family's story stretches from enslavement and the Civil War to civil rights activism, education reform, entrepreneurship, and migration across North America.

The story begins during the Civil War.

Two brothers, James Carter and Andrew Carter, were enslaved at Shelly in White Marsh, near Gloucester. When Union forces at Fort Monroe began accepting formerly enslaved people seeking refuge, the brothers escaped across the water and enlisted in the United States Colored Troops.

"They stole themselves," Dianne Carter de Mayo, a direct relative, explained.

The brothers fought for the Union Army throughout the South, eventually serving as far away as Florida. Family memory holds that when Confederate forces surrendered at Appomattox Court House in 1865, Union soldiers in Florida celebrated by firing cannons. One of the brothers reportedly stood too close to the blast and suffered a permanent hearing injury, later receiving a Union pension for his military service.

But another branch of the family's Civil War story unfolded in a more complicated way.

Gabriel Carter was initially taken into Confederate service by the Page family, who had enslaved him. Yet family history shows that Gabriel eventually gained enough freedom of movement to travel independently throughout Gloucester County, fishing and harvesting oysters from local waterways.

Officially, he sold food to nearby plantations. However, according to descendants, he helped supply food across the

SEE **ONE FAMILY'S STORY,** PAGE **55C**



CALLIE LAUBACKER / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Dianne Carter de Mayo and Sam Carter-Shamai speak on the rich local history of their ancestors.

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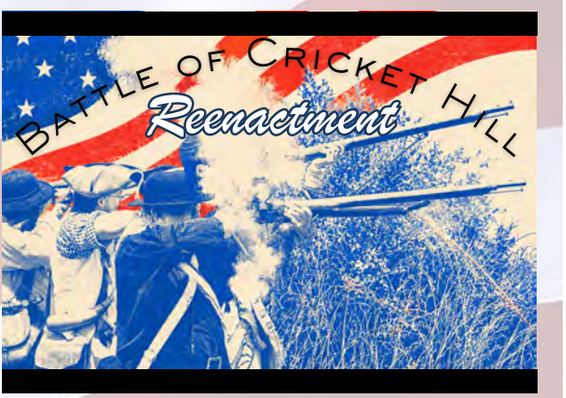
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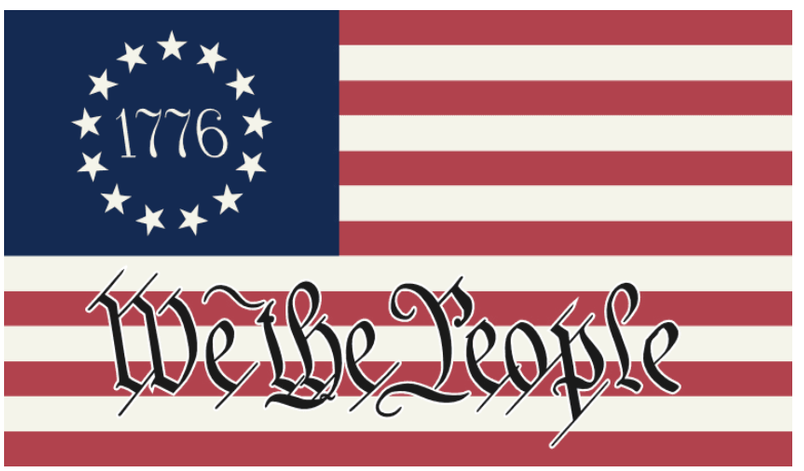
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Ripley, John
Ripley, Richard
Robins, John
Robins, Thomas
Robins, William Sr.
Robins (Robbins), William
Robinson, Benjamin
Robinson, John
Robinson, William
Rootes (Roots), John
Rowe (Row), Benjamin
Royston (Roystin, Roystone), Conquest
Sadler (Saddler), John
Sadler (Saddler, Richard
Sadler (Saddler), Robert
Saunders (Sanders), Seeley (Celey, Selie)
Sears (Sayres, Seayres), John
Sears (Sayres, Seayres), John
Sears (Seears, Sayres, Seayres), William
Sellers (Cellers), William
Shackelford (Shackleford), Benjamin
Shackelford (Shackleford), Francis
Shackelford (Shackleford), George
Shackelford (Shackleford), James
Shackelford (Shackleford), John
Simpkins, James
Singleton, John
Singleton, Joshua
Smith, Isaac
Smith, Isaac
Smith, John
Smith, Thomas Sr.
Smith, William
Steder (Stedder), James
Steder (Stedder), John
Stevens (Stephens), Henry
Stevens, Richard
Stokes, Lewis
Stubbs, John
Stubbs, Thomas
Tabb, Augustine
Tabb, Philip
Tabb, Thomas
Thomas, George
Thomas, James
Thomas, Lewis
Throckmorton (Throgmorton), Albion
Throckmorton (Throgmorton), Mordecai
Throckmorton (Throgmorton), Robert
Throckmorton (Throgmorton), Warner
Thruston, John
Thruston, Robert
Tompkies (Tomkies), Charles
Tompkies (Tomkies), Christopher
Tompkins, Robert
Toyer (Toger), Peter
Treackle (Trekle, Trickle), William
Turner, John
Waddle, Mordecai
Watlington, Armistead
Watlington (Wadlington), John
Watlington, Paul
Watlington, Rowland
Watson, John
West, Nathaniel
Wharton (Whorton), John
White, Abraham
White, Edward
White, Jessee
White, John
White, Richard
White, Richard
White, William
Whiting, Beverley
Whiting, Francis
Whiting, Henry
Whiting, John
Whiting, Thomas
Williams, William
Williams, William Jr.
Willis, George
Willis, James
Willis, John
Wills, George
Wilson, Thomas
Wyatt (Wiatt), John Edward
Wyatt (Wiatt), Peter
Yates, William Jr.



Excerpted from, Gloucester and Mathews Counties' Revolutionary Participants, by Martha W. McCartney

Keeping the electoral wheels rolling for decades

BY SHERRY HAMILTON

There is perhaps nothing more quintessentially or patriotically American than serving one's community as an election official.

Two local election officials, Easby "Buddy" King of Gloucester, and Mary Marshall of Mathews, have decades of such service under their belts, with no plans to stop anytime soon.

King, a Maryland native, retired from a 33-year career at Xerox in 1999 and moved to Gloucester along with his wife, Eileen. Shortly after moving, the two went to the registrar's office to register to vote, and Eileen, who was then-registrar Carole Sekula's cousin, happened to mention that her husband had served for 10 years as an election official in Maryland.

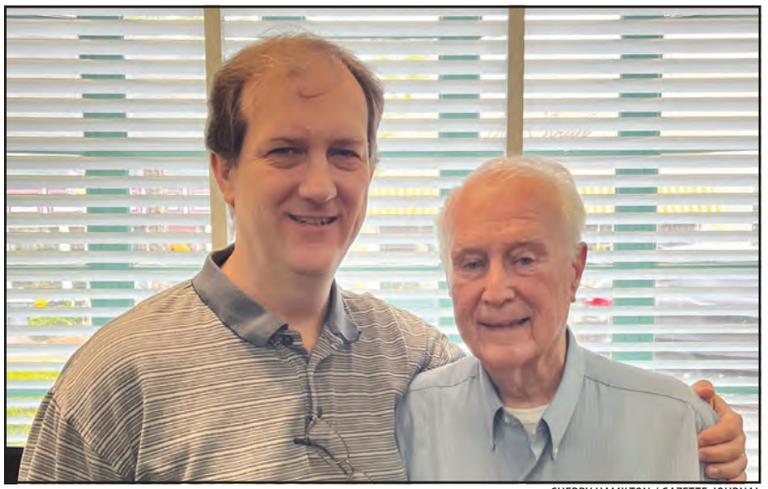
"By the time I left," said King, "I was signed up to work the polls."

At that time, the registrar's office was on the court green, he said, and it was equipped with three desks, one for Sekula, one for her only employee, and one for a volunteer, who happened to be Sekula's mother.

"There was barely room to turn around," he said.

The voting machines in Virginia were exactly like the ones in Maryland when King first served. The voter stepped inside a booth and pulled a lever to close the privacy curtain, then used toggle switches to cast their ballots directly into a machine. There was no paper trail. Later,

SEE **ELECTION OFFICIALS,** PAGE **58C**



SHERRY HAMILTON / GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Easby "Buddy" King of Gloucester, at right, has been an election official in Gloucester County for 26 years, since the first year he moved here. His son James has followed in his footsteps, serving as an election official in the Petsworth District for over a decade.

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ONE FAMILY'S STORY: *From enslavement to achievement*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 50C)

river to Union troops.

"He got paid in gold," Carter de Mayo recalled.

After the war, Gabriel reportedly used that money to purchase the plantation where he had once been enslaved.

Following emancipation, the family turned toward land ownership and institution building.

Gabriel's son, James, became a farmer in Shelly and helped establish an early black lending cooperative named the Gloucester Building and Loan Association. The organization loaned money to black residents so they could purchase farmland and homes during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

According to family accounts, by the 1910 and 1920 census periods, black landownership in Gloucester County exceeded that of white owner-operated farms in some areas. Unlike neighboring counties where sharecropping trapped families in debt, Gloucester developed a sizable black landowning class.

"There was very little sharecropping here," Carter de Mayo explained. "Land is the only thing they're not making any more of" is something Carter de Mayo's great-grandfather would say, urging black residents to purchase land.

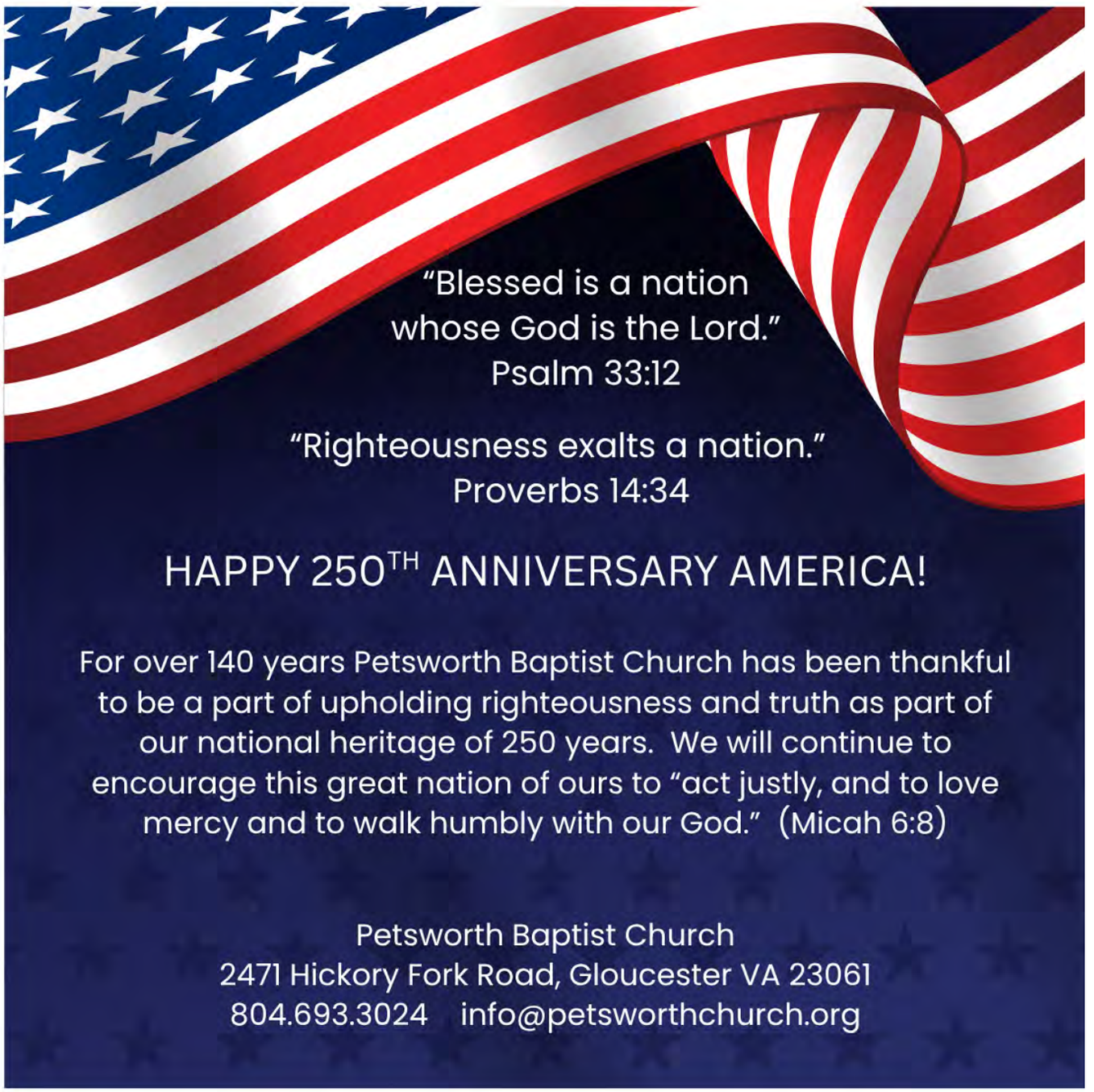
The association reportedly issued loans at 6 percent interest because "it was simple enough to calculate in your head," Carter de Mayo said.

During the Great Depression, when banks across the country collapsed, the Carter family said the organization remained stable, giving black residents continued access to credit at a time when many Americans lost everything.

Yet descendants stress that this success was never the result of one person acting alone. The lending association involved partnerships among several prominent black families in Gloucester, including the Walkers, Prices and Carters. The family specifically points to the overlooked labor of women, especially a matriarch named Sarah, who managed records and bookkeeping operations that held the organization together.

In public memory, however, much of the recognition went elsewhere.

SEE **ONE FAMILY'S STORY,** PAGE **56C**



ONE FAMILY'S STORY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 55C)

One of the most prominent historical figures connected to this story was T.C. Walker, Gloucester's influential black attorney, educator and political leader. Walker's name appears on schools and historical markers throughout the county, and his autobiography presents him as a singular architect of black advancement in the region.

But Sam Carter-Shamai, a direct family member, argues the fuller story is more collaborative.

"What you see in official history is often the story of the 'great man,'" Carter-Shamai said. "But great men never act alone."

Instead, cousins Carter de Mayo and Carter-Shamai describe a deeply interconnected black community whose success depended on a collective effort from the community.

George Nelson Sr. helped establish Gloucester's NAACP chapter in the 1940s as black residents challenged unequal school conditions under segregation.

At the time, Virginia operated under the doctrine of "separate but equal," established by the Supreme Court's 1896 decision in Plessy v. Ferguson. In practice, black schools throughout the South often suffered from severe neglect.

Carter de Mayo described dangerous conditions in Gloucester's black schools, including contaminated water supplies and inadequate facilities, recalling exhibits at Bethel Church documenting how students attended schools with unsanitary conditions while white schools received greater investment.

The local NAACP filed lawsuits demanding that Black schools receive genuinely equal resources.

Those legal efforts contributed to the construction of T.C. Walker School.

Archival records and oral histories occasionally differ on exactly who pushed hardest for educational reform and who received public credit afterward.

Carter-Shamai, an urban planner and historian of the family's migration patterns, has spent years comparing oral histories with official archives, dissertations and records.

"What I realized," Car-

SEE **ONE FAMILY'S STORY,** PAGE **57C**





ONE FAMILY'S STORY: *From enslavement to achievement*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 56C)

ter-Shamai explained, "is that institutions preserve one lens of history. They preserve property records, crime records, military records, the stories of important men. But family archives preserve something else."

One uncle who remained in Gloucester spent years writing a family memoir tracing their history to Gabriel and the Civil War. Another relative, who eventually migrated from Virginia to Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, New Haven, the Canadian Arctic, and finally Toronto, Canada, unknowingly created a second archive through decades of letters mailed home to friends and relatives.

After his death, friends returned those letters to the family.

Together, the documents reveal two parallel stories, one of a man who stayed rooted in Gloucester County, and another of a man who carried Gloucester's history across North America.

The family's history illustrates how oral storytelling itself becomes a form of historical preservation.

Many details survive not through official records but through conversations around kitchen tables, handwritten memoirs, and intergenerational memory. Descendants now see preserving those stories as an act of historical recovery.

Carter-Shamai said he is concerned with recovering the contributions of black women whose labor often disappeared from formal archives.

"We've shifted from the story of one man's singular genius," Carter-Shamai explained, "to a story about community effort held together by the intelligence and labor of black women."

Carter de Mayo and Carter-Shamai's ancestors fought for the Union while another ancestor maneuvered within Confederate structures. They built financial institutions in an era designed to deny black wealth. They challenged segregated schools while navigating rivalries within black leadership itself.

And throughout it all, they documented their own lives when official institutions either ignored them or reduced them to partial truths.

Carter-Shamai works to "hold institutional archives and community memory together."

That process reveals the gaps between public history and lived experience.

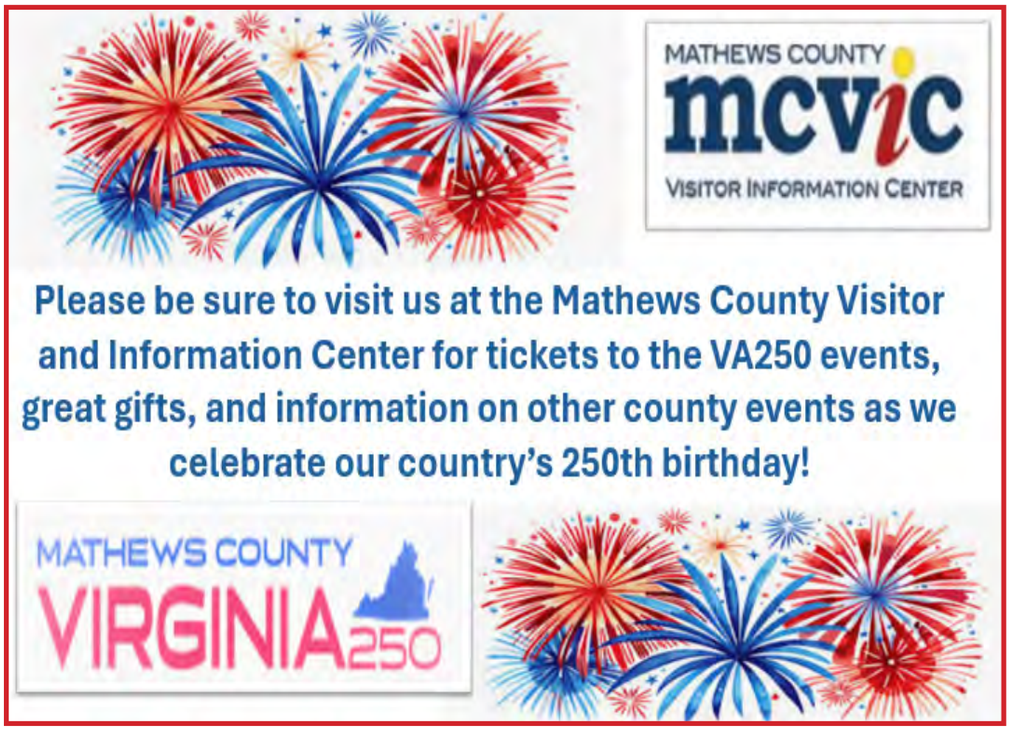
Oftentimes, black communities appear only briefly during slavery, the Civil War, or the civil rights movement before disappearing again from the narrative. But local oral histories tell a different story, one of continuous labor, organizing and adaptation across generations.

From self-emancipated soldiers crossing the river to Fort Monroe, to black farmers lending money during the Depression, to civil rights organizers demanding equal schools, to descendants piecing together archives across continents, their history traces a long struggle for land, education, and belonging.

FOUNDATIONS

True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 1957





ELECTION OFFICIALS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 54C)

Gloucester switched to using paper ballots once again.

For the first 21 years, King worked the polls in the Petsworth District at Salem Precinct in Petsworth Elementary School, his own polling place. After a few years, he became assistant chief election official, then a few years later he became precinct chief, serving in that capacity for a decade. As the precinct's chief official, King would be responsible for putting the election machines together and getting them up and running, making sure the books and computers were on-site, assigning people to their stations, and handling any situations that might arise, such as a voter being in the wrong precinct or a ballot being rejected by the machine because it's marked wrong.

King recalled working the polls during the Republican primary election

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ELECTION OFFICIALS: *Keeping the polls open for the voters*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 58C)

in 2011, when an earthquake hit Louisa County and caused tremors for hundreds of miles, including in Gloucester.

"We felt the tables, chairs and desks move, and we saw the light fixtures moving on the ceiling," he said. "The first thing we did was question whether that really just happened. Was that me, or did everybody else in the room feel it too?"

King and the assistant chief had all the other election officials and the few voters who were in the building exit and kept them outside until they could make sure everything was safe. But the two of them stayed in the building to make sure the machines remained secure. He said they called the registrar's office for instructions, but it took a half-hour to get through because "so did every other chief."

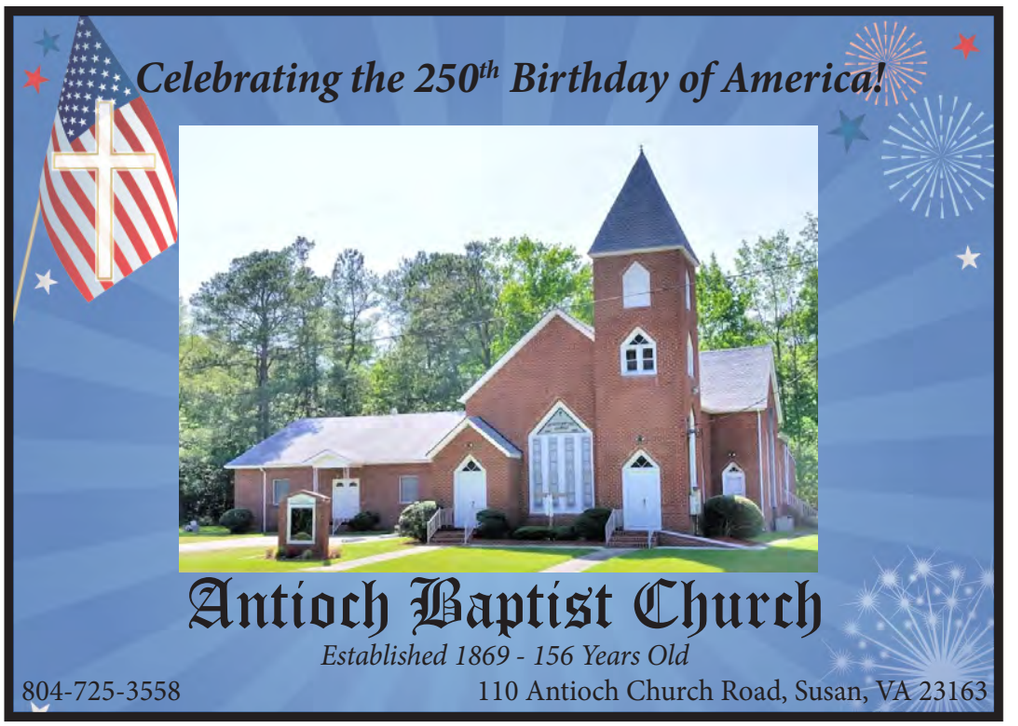
"I kept looking at faces," said King, "and everybody had that 'What was that?' look." Eventually, they were cleared to allow voters back inside and resume the election.

During the entire 26 years King has served, he said there has only been one recount. The election chiefs were all asked to run every ballot through the machine again, he said, hand-feeding each ballot. He couldn't recall if the tally was exactly the same, but said, smiling, "We didn't have to go back and do it again."

King said that the voters at Petsworth were good

SEE ELECTION OFFICIALS, PAGE 60C







ELECTION OFFICIALS: *Keeping the polls open for the voters*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 59C)

people who always took things in stride and didn't get excited if there was a long line or some other delay.

"There's never been a critical or crisis situation," he said, "but there's always the concern that people have a good experience."

The same has held true since 2020, when early voting went into effect and King was assigned to work at the registrar's office during the 40-day early voting window rather than at a particular polling location. Instead of just one long day, King now serves multiple days, but usually just a four-hour shift rather than all day. During this year's primary, he said, he worked 18 or 19 days. But the office today is modern and spacious and pleasant, he said, "the difference between night and day."

King said that Gloucester Director of Elections and General Registrar Bobbi Morgan "goes the extra mile to make sure everything is done right and that the voter can feel good about voting in Gloucester."

One point of pride for King is that his son, James King, decided to become an election official over a decade ago, and he also continues to serve—in the Petsworth District at Salem Precinct in Petsworth Elementary School.

Mary Marshall

Mary Marshall, 79, has spent over three decades serving the community as an election official, beginning in 1993, when Jeanette Tomlinson was the voter registrar. She has always worked in the Westville District polling station, first at the historic courthouse on Court Street and later at Thomas Hunter Middle School.

Marshall recalled the large books prepared by Tomlinson that were the record-keeping method In the '90s. She said she and fellow election officials Muriel Brooks, Ann Davis and Marnee Bell would get to the historic courthouse at 5 a.m. and Tomlinson would have everything ready—the book, ballots, pens, and voting booths. With some elections, people would be lined up outside the door, she said.

Eventually, the voting precinct moved to the school, but the voters remained the same, often Marshall's neighbors.

"It's always good seeing the voters every time," she said. "Some you only see once a year."

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ELECTION OFFICIALS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 60C)

She particularly enjoys seeing students of her husband's, the late Kenneth Marshall, who passed away last year.

Marshall recalled some of the chief election officials she has served under—Clayton Moughon, Ted Broderson, Dave Shuber—as well as their election routine of setting up the machines the day before. She said she has served primarily as an election greeter, meeting the people, checking to make sure they're in the right district, and giving them a sample ballot to peruse while waiting to vote.

"It's always a pretty good group," she said of the voters. "I enjoy doing it."

Marshall said she also serves as an election official because "I think it's one of my duties."

"It helps the community," she said.

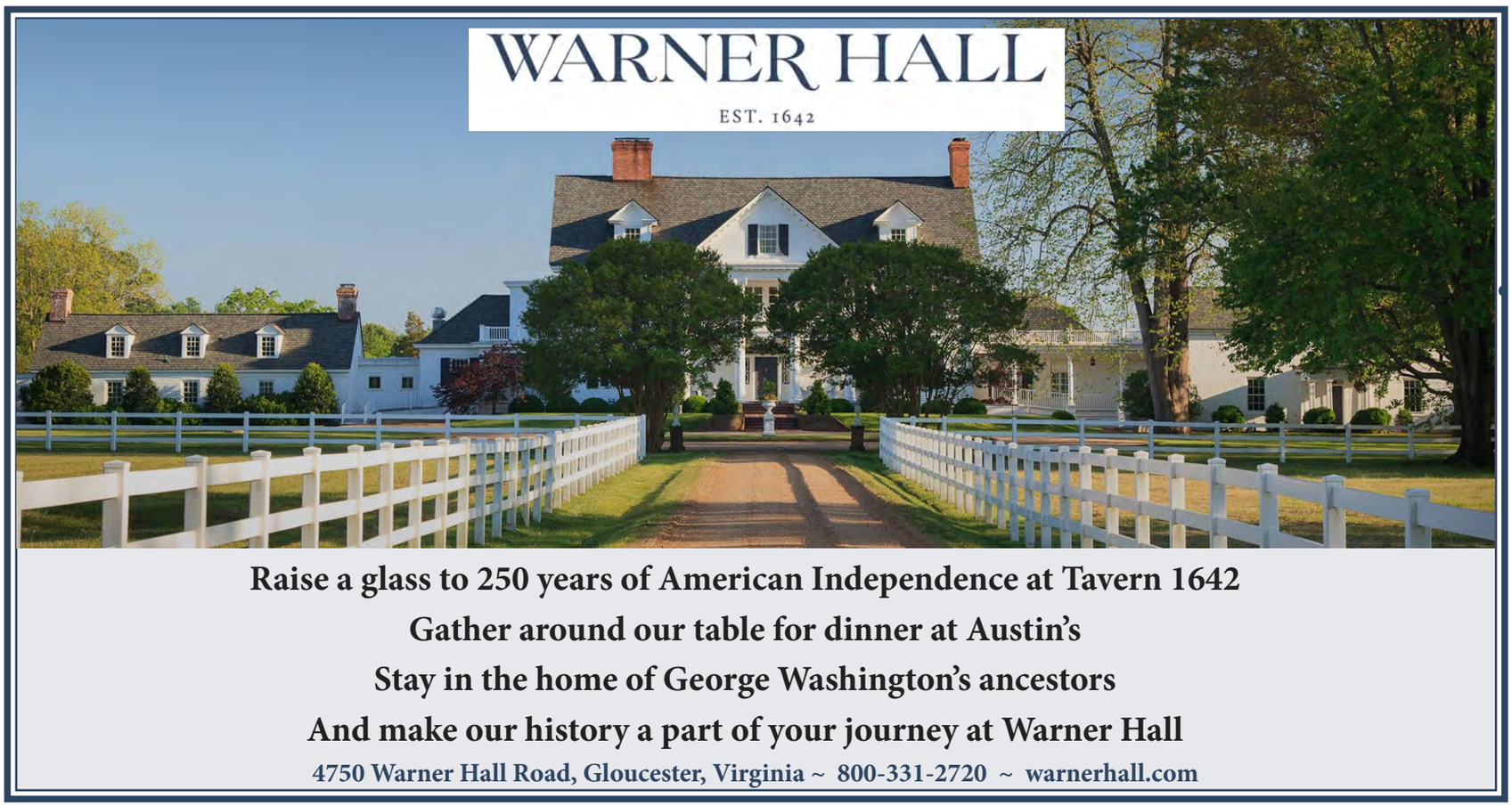
Marshall emphasized that people should vote.

"So many people don't vote and then talk about how it turned out," she said. "That's not good. You need to vote. It's a right you have."



Mary Marshall of Moon has been an election official in Mathews for over three decades, since 1993 when the Westville District voted in the historic courthouse on Court Street. She doesn't plan to stop any time soon.

SHERRY HAMILTON / GAZETTE-JOURNAL



Revolutionary War flags flown to inspire patriotism

BY DAVID VERGUN
PENTAGON NEWS SERVICE

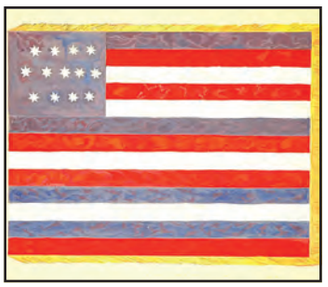
The American flag is a symbol of freedom and patriotism, but before the Continental Congress adopted the first official flag in 1777, many other flags were flown.

As America celebrates 250 years of freedom, here's a look at a few of the various United States flags flown during combat by soldiers, sailors, Marines and militia during the American Revolutionary War.

Today, the American flag, also known as the Stars and Stripes and Old Glory, serves to unite the nation and inspire patriotism. Although military units have their own colors, all fly the American flag higher, giving it the most prominent position.



The Hopkinson flag



The Serapis flag

The Hopkinson flag

Most historians agree that Francis Hopkinson was the designer of the first official American flag. On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress adopted the Hopkinson flag, calling it the Stars and Stripes.

Since there were only 13 states then, the design featured 13 stripes and 13 six-pointed stars arranged in rows on the field of blue. He also designed a very similar flag for the Navy, which looks similar to today's flag because the red stripes are located at the top and bottom.

The Hopkinson flag was first carried into combat during the Battle of Brandywine, Sept. 11, 1777, just outside Philadelphia.

The Serapis Flag

Featuring 13 blue, red and white stripes and 13 stars, the Serapis flag design is similar to the Hopkinson flag except for the arrangement of stars and the blue stripes.

The flag has an unusual origin story: it was named for the Royal Navy frigate HMS Serapis.

The Serapis engaged the American warship USS Bonhomme Richard under the command of Continental Navy Capt. John Paul Jones in the North Sea near England on Sept. 23,

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REVOLUTIONARY FLAGS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 62C)

1779.

The battle resulted in the capture of the Serapis. Jones's ship was badly damaged and sank, so he sailed the Serapis to the neutral Dutch port of Texel without a flag—technically making him a pirate.

Benjamin Franklin, then an ambassador to France, was asked to provide a flag that Jones could use. Once created, the flag diffused the diplomatic tension, and Jones was released by the Dutch.

The Serapis flag was one of the first flags of the United States, although it was never used in an official capacity. It is used to this day on the USS John Paul Jones, a missile destroyer commissioned in 1991 to honor the famous captain. It is sometimes called the Franklin flag in honor of the Founding Father who helped create it.



The Betsy Ross flag



The Grand Union flag

The Betsy Ross Flag

Betsy Ross was a professional upholsterer in Philadelphia from the early 1770s until she retired in 1827. While there is no historical evidence, many people believe she designed the American flag. During and after the war, Ross made a variety of military flags over the course of 50 years.

The Betsy Ross flag is similar to the other flags in that it has 13 stripes and 13 stars on a field of blue, but rather than rows, her design includes five-pointed stars arranged in a circle.

The Grand Union flag

Also known as the Congress flag, the Cambridge flag and the Continental Union flag, the Grand Union flag is the first national flag of the United States; it was flown from 1775 to 1776.

The Grand Union flag consisted of 13 red and white stripes with the British Union Jack located in the area now occupied by stars. The flag was first flown by Continental Navy Lt. John Paul Jones on Dec. 3, 1775, on the USS Alfred.


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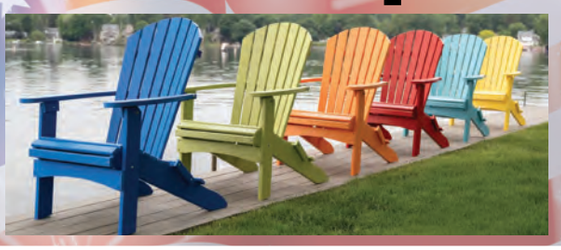
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