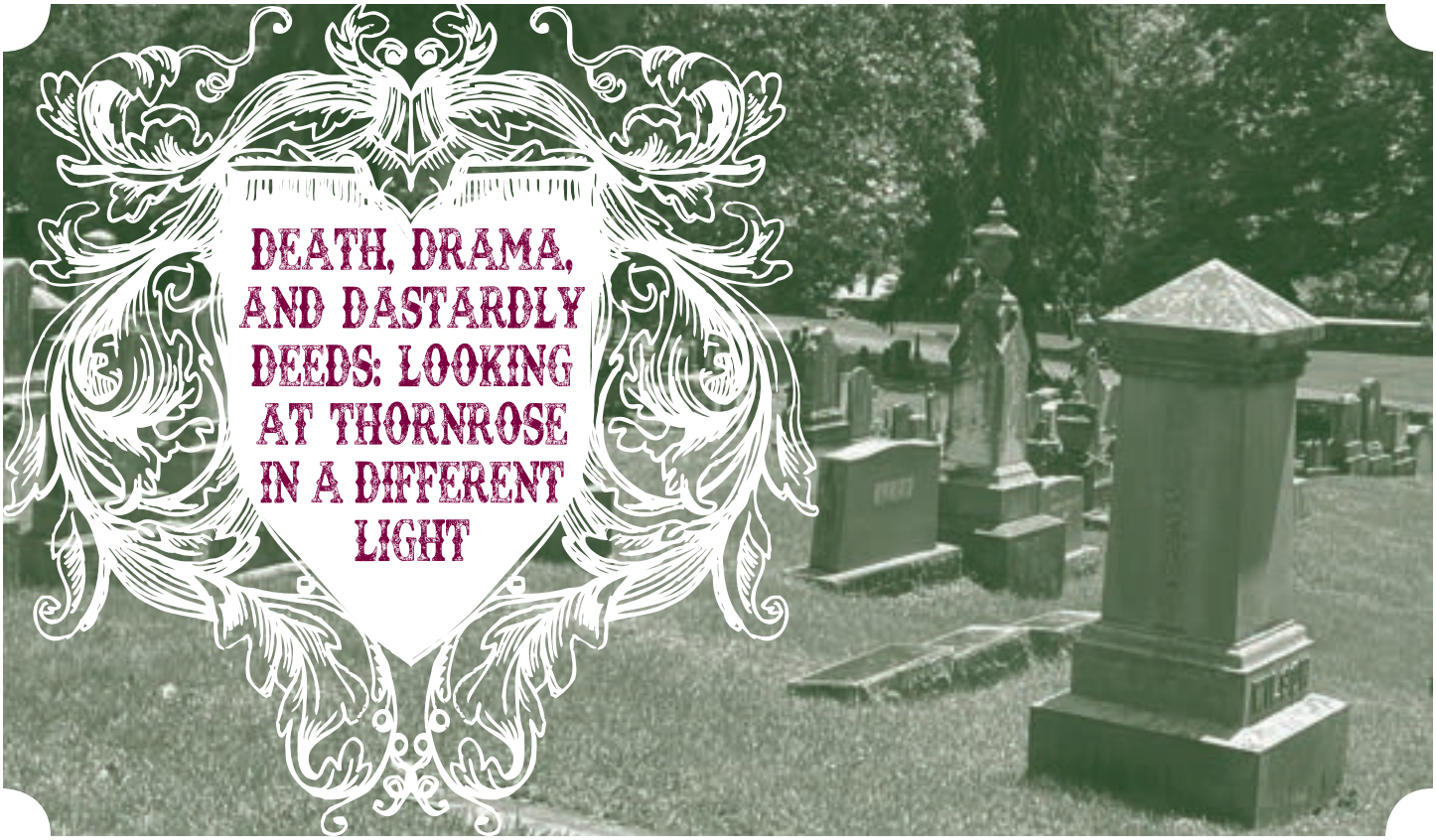
Volume 36, Issue 1, Summer 2026

Augusta Annals

A newsletter published three times a year by the Augusta County Historical Society



Who: ACHS, Thornrose Cemetery Company

What: Fall Walking Tours

When: Saturdays, 4 and 5 p.m., October 2026 (3, 10, 17, 24)

Where: Thornrose Cemetery, 1041 West Beverley Street, Staunton, Va

Program: "Shadows, Secrets, and Sin: The Dark Side of Thornrose"

Cost: $20/person

Most often, truth is stranger than fiction - and in Thornrose, a cemetery that has never been haunted, the real stories of some buried there are far more grotesque and grislier than any ghost story could ever be. So, in October, the Augusta County Historical Society and Thornrose Cemetery will present "Shadows, Secrets, and Sin: The Dark Side of Thornrose." Guided evening tours will offer an extraordinary glimpse into the lives and deaths of individuals whom few people know anything about today, but whose stories of tragedy, violence, and murder filled newspapers, courtrooms, police reports, and eyewitness accounts throughout Staunton's early history.

- Learn about a well-known Buffalo Gap sawmill owner who staggered through this tiny community and within minutes was dying on the snow-covered road with his throat slashed wide open.
- Be shocked about the story of the quiet, eccentric cabinetmaker who was discovered days after his murder lying in a pool of blood inside his workshop, his skull crushed to a pulp beside the very hammer believed to have killed him.
- Discover how a respected young fireman died in the dirt outside a Staunton brothel after a masked group attempting to "teach a lesson" burst through a door, and a gunshot exploded in the darkness.
- Listen to the shocking 1853 story that describes how the drowned body of a newborn infant was pulled from a Staunton stream, leading to scandalous accusations and a courtroom drama that placed the baby girl's unwed mother in the crosshairs.
- Hear about the Staunton native living in Youngstown, Ohio, who was wracked with mental instability and had a history of violence, threats, and abuse. Upon returning home from a prayer meeting with his wife, and in the quiet of their home, he turned a shotgun on her and then himself in a murder-suicide that horrified these two communities.

continued on page 2

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

Dear Members and Supporters of ACHS,

I must begin with my heartfelt thanks. The year 2026 is not even half over and it has already been a momentous one for the Augusta County Historical Society, all because of you. Your talents, donations, time, and dedication to our shared history are what make all the work of the ACHS possible.

By popular demand, we extended our exhibit on Dwight "Joe" Bell and the other incredible artists who have come from or drawn inspiration from our Valley. If you haven't had a chance to see it, be sure to catch it before it's gone at the end of July!

We were pleased to host Mike McCray at our Spring Meeting this May for a talk on his fascinating book about Route 11. It changed my view of a road I drive everyday and helped shine a light on the interesting history that may be right beneath our feet (or tires).

This spring saw the return of a treasured tradition; the placing of wreaths for the fallen members of the armed forces of Augusta County, Staunton, and Waynesboro at the Augusta County Courthouse. Spearheaded by local Veterans of Foreign Wars posts, the ACHS was honored to be in attendance this past Memorial Day, the first time this ceremony had taken place in more than 20 years. The resumption of this ritual is a welcome addition to the many memorials and ceremonies that recognize the sacrifices made by our area's service members in so many of our nation's conflicts.

I'd also like to express my sincere gratitude to our departing archivist, Donna Huffer. Her work and research in the ACHS archives have enabled us to better understand our history, not to mention the many wonderful articles she has written for our annual *Bulletin*. She will be sorely missed.

As we continue to commemorate the 250th anniversary of our independence, keep an eye on the ACHS. We'll soon be unveiling our brand new website, providing a streamlined way to learn about local history, join us for events, and delve deep into the ACHS archives and collections. There are more events, talks, and exhibits coming soon, and we couldn't do it without you!

Sincerely,
Andrew Phillips
ACHS President

DEATH, DRAMA, AND DASTARDLY DEEDS: LOOKING AT THORNROSE IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT

continued from cover page

These lurid stories and more await you . . . Participants will tour some of the oldest portions of this beautiful cemetery. Don't miss the opportunity to experience the dark side of Thornrose that lies just below the surface. Due to the subject content of this program, it is not recommended for anyone under the age of 18.

Guided tours will take place rain or shine on Saturdays in October, at 4 and 5 p.m. Tours last approximately an hour. Sturdy walking shoes are a must. **Tickets are required and can be purchased through ACHS beginning August 15**. More information will be available then.

Thornrose has been owned and operated by the Thornrose Cemetery Company since its inception in 1849. The cemetery remains active and is open to anyone who wishes burial there among those many city and county residents who lie at rest beneath its grassy slopes.

Lucinda Cooke, ACHS Newsletter Editor

ACHS UPCOMING CALENDAR

On-going through July 31, 2026	"Artists Everywhere: Dwight Joe Bell & Valley Artists" will continue to be featured in ACHS's History Gallery, R.R. Smith Center for History and Art. This exhibit includes Bell's colorful art, characterized by simple lines and relatable subjects, as well as other Valley pieces including work by famous artist Grandma Moses. Free to the public, Tues-Fri 1-4 p.m., Sat 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., Sun 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Fri. & Sat. Aug. 28-29, 2026	The 2nd annual "Horse-Drawn Heritage Days, Middlebrook, Va.," will take place at the Middlebrook Community Center/Ballfield, 54 Cherry Grove Road, Middlebrook, Va., Aug. 28-29. The public is invited to come out and enjoy a chuck wagon dinner on Friday night (pre-ordered tickets), farm team/single horse exhibition, demonstrations, historical presentations, horse drawn vehicles and farm implement display, and more! Stay tuned to Middlebrook Horse Drawn Heritage Days Facebook page for more information.
Saturdays, 4 & 5 p.m. Oct. 2026 (excluding Oct. 31)	Don't miss this opportunity to see Thornrose Cemetery in a different light. ACHS presents, for the first time, "Shadows, Secrets, and Sin: The Dark Side of Thornrose." This guided walking tour features some of the grotesque and grisly history that lies beneath the cemetery grounds – more than any ordinary ghost tour could provide. Additional information will be available later this summer. Tickets will go on sale Aug. 15. $20/person. These tours are recommended for adults and are not for the squeamish or fainthearted. See article in this newsletter.
Mid-Nov. through Dec. 2026	"Gifts of History" will be featured in the History Gallery throughout the holiday season. This annual fundraiser has been a popular attraction, offering gently used books, art, household décor, holiday decorations, and more. Sales help us raise money for our programs, exhibits, archives, and research. Don't miss the opportunity to purchase a "re-treasured" gift.

For more information, e-mail the ACHS office adminachs@augustacountyhs.org or call 540-248-4151.

Looking for Knightly Mill Bridge Info

An iconic landmark in northern Augusta County near New Hope will soon disappear. The 182-foot long steel truss bridge on Knightly Mill Road, built in 1915, will be removed this summer and replaced by a new bridge. The single span, pin connected camelback truss bridge was one of five steel bridges that once crossed the Middle River. It was one of many steel truss bridges built in early 20th-century Augusta County as part of the "Good Roads" movement. The historic bridge reached the end of its service life in 2024 and has been closed to traffic since then.

Because the bridge has historical significance, ACHS is working with the Virginia Department of Transportation to ensure that the history of the bridge, the nearby mill, and the surrounding community are all preserved.

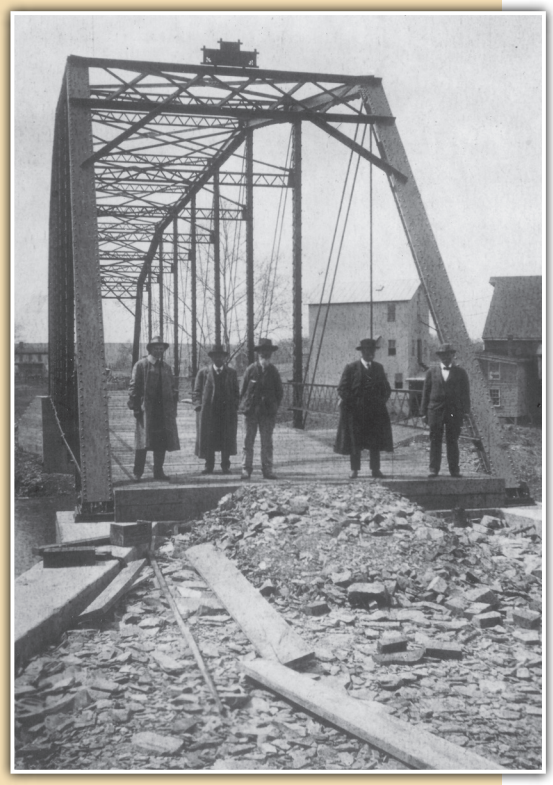
On July 14, at 7 p.m., representatives from the Society will be at the Mount Sidney Ruritan meeting to talk briefly about the bridge and to ask the public to share any stories and information that they might have about the bridge.

You can help us as we work to gather the history of the bridge and all the communities and people that lived and traveled along the river starting with the Native Americans and including the early settlers, Civil War soldiers, farmers, families, and visitors up to and including present day.

Do you have special stories or photos of the bridge, the mill, or the river? How important was the bridge in your everyday life? Do you have receipts or other items from the mill? Is the bridge or the mill mentioned in any family letters or diaries?

If you have information and stories to share or items that we can copy, please contact Nancy Sorrells at lotswife1959@gmail.com or 540-292-4170 or Glenn Hanger at shadyacresfarming@yahoo.com or 540-490-1506.

ACHS board members Glenn Hanger and Nancy Sorrells



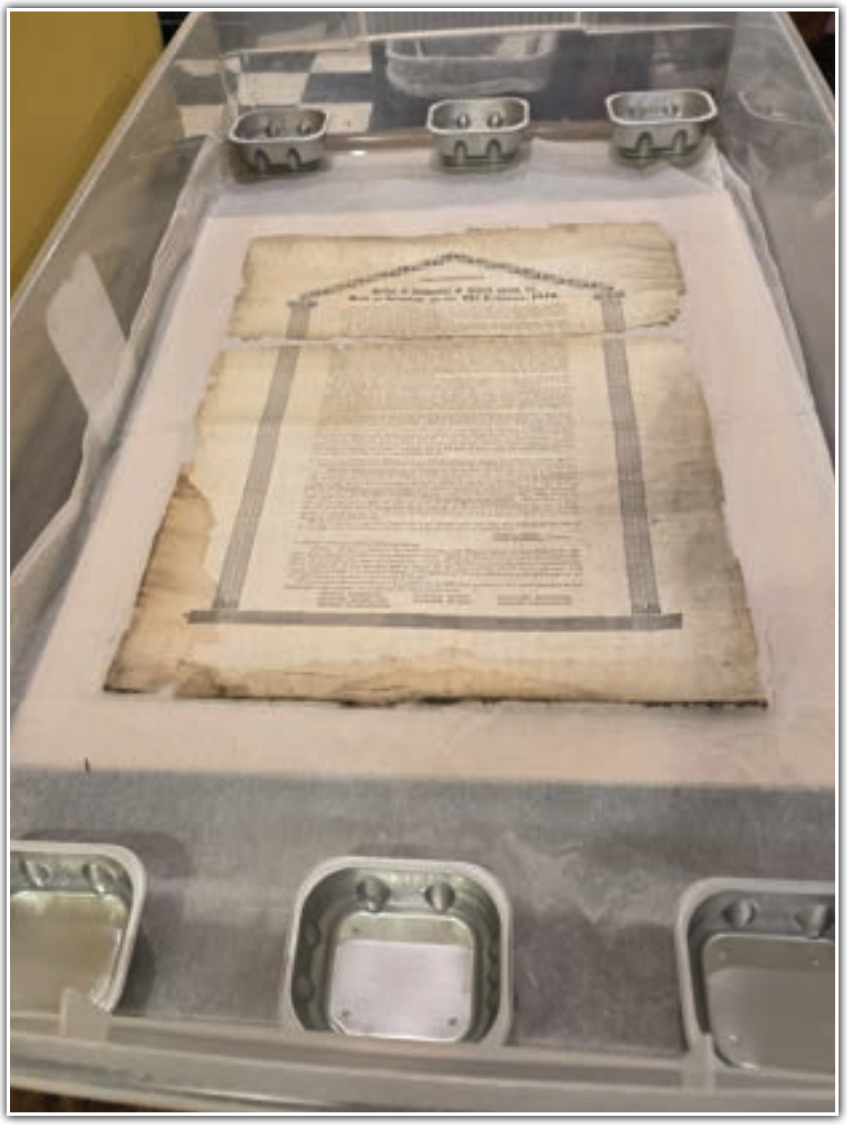
Augusta Resolves Document Comes Home

You would have been living under a rock for the last year to not know that on this Fourth of July America will be celebrating a big birthday – 250 years of independence from England. Now step into a time machine and go back to Augusta County in the 1770s.

By the time the colonies shocked the world with the Declaration of Independence, the people of Augusta County were already deeply committed to the Revolution. In fact, in February 1775, a full 16 months before THE Declaration, the freeholders of Augusta County had sent a document called the Augusta Resolves to the Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia offering "the assurances from the brave and spirited people of Augusta, that their hearts and hands shall be devoted to the support of the measures adopted, or hereafter to be taken, by the congress, for the preservation of American Liberty, give us the highest satisfaction, and must afford pleasure to every friend to the just rights of mankind."

Although the words in the document have been transcribed in official records, no original manuscript or printed broadside of the Augusta Resolves exists. However, sometime around the 50th anniversary of American Independence, in the 1820s, a copy of the document was reprinted as a broadside on silk, a popular technique at the time. How many were printed and the exact occasion of the printing remains a mystery. In fact, even the existence of the early 19th century reprint of the Resolves was unknown until the 1970s when one showed up at a yard sale in Missouri where descendants of the Lewis family of Augusta County had migrated after the Revolution.

Thanks to the work of the historical society and the DAR in 1986, that copy now hangs in the Augusta County courthouse and has recently been conserved and digitized. In the years since, two more copies of the silk broadside were discovered. Then last year another very fragile framed copy appeared at an auction in Knoxville, TN. With help from several ACHS supporters, the Society was able to purchase the framed Resolves document and bring it home.



ABOVE: Getting the spa treatment – This copy of the Augusta Resolves, only the fourth copy of the revolutionary Augusta County broadside known to exist, was printed on silk in the 1820s, about 50 years after it was originally drawn up and sent to the Continental Congress in 1775. Obtained by the ACHS board at auction last summer, the document underwent intensive conservation treatment earlier this year beginning with spending three days in a hydration chamber in order to return moisture to its ancient dried out fibers. (Photo by Newbold Richardson)

However, the early 19th century silk broadside, in its original frame with original glass, was showing its age. The printed silk was extremely fragile and desiccated. There was a complete horizontal break across the upper third of the document and water and soot damage around the edges.

Once the document was back in Augusta County, the next step was to have the extremely fragile document properly conserved. To do that we relied upon two of the best textile and document conservators around – Newbold Richardson of Past Crafts, LLC who is one of the premier textile conservators in the country, and Gary Eyeler of Old Colony Shop in Alexandria who is an archival framer and historic documents expert.

Together they analyzed and conserved the Augusta Resolves and gave our fragile and historically valuable piece of local and national history a new lease on life.

In order for conservation work to begin, the document needed to be removed from its frame, but it was too fragile to be handled directly and was clinging to the glass by static electricity. To begin conservation, Newbie, as she is called, had to turn the Resolves, while still on the glass, face down, and cover the entire piece with acid free tissue and then flip the entire piece including the glass back over onto a rigid piece of acid free mat board.

The entire piece was then placed in a hydration chamber for

continued on page 5

Memorial Day Ceremony

A special Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony was held Monday, May 25, 2026, at 8 a.m. at the War Memorial Plaques located on the front of the Augusta County Courthouse in Staunton. The plaques honor area service members killed during WWI, WWII, and in conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. The day began with the Posting of Colors (VFW Post 10826) and the Pledge of Allegiance (DAV). That was followed by a Presentation of Wreaths (DAR & VFW Posts 2216 and 7814) and a ceremonial reading of selected names from each plaque. The event ended with Taps (VFW Post 10826/ Stonewall Brigade Band) and a Benediction (VFW Post 7814).

The organizations with representation included Beverley Manor DAR (with wreath), VFW Post 2216 (with wreath), VFW Post 9339, VFW Post 7814 (with wreath), VFW Post 10826, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion Post 13, Augusta County Board of Supervisors, Staunton City Council, Waynesboro City Council, and the Augusta County Historical Society.

LEFT: Colonel (Retired) Melissa Patrick, VFW Post 7814, placed a commemorative wreath in honor of area service members killed during WWI, WWII, and in conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan.
RIGHT: ACHS board members who attended the Memorial Day ceremony in front of the Augusta County Courthouse (left to right), Sheila Ahmadi, Andrew Phillips, Linda Petzke, Glenn Hanger, Nancy Sorrells, and Alex Davis. (Photos by Sheila Ahmadi and Nancy Sorrells)

Augusta Resolves Document Comes Home *continued from page 4*

three days to help the fibers regain strength. Despite hydration, the document was still very fragile so Gary Eyeler, who has experience working with similar silk printed documents from the time period, cleaned the silk using a pouncing powder and gentle air blowing and brushing before encapsulating the entire document. He then repaired the frame and reframed it, while augmenting the entire piece inside and out with conservation materials.

We are grateful to everyone from start to finish who brought the Augusta Resolves home and back to life — from our board who insisted that the Resolves must come home to Augusta County, to those patrons who agreed to provide financial support, to the online auction experts who helped us navigate that crazy digital world, and especially to Newbie and Gary who gave our fragile piece of history a new lease on life.

The results are amazing and soon everyone will be able to see so for themselves. It is our hope that the refreshed Augusta Resolves will be on display in the ACHS History Gallery alongside the Zechariah Johnston chairs before the summer is out — just in time for them to join us in a "Revolutionary Celebration."

Nancy Sorrells, ACHS Board Member

Do You Have Back Issues of Our Newsletter?

It's hard to believe, but it has been more than 30 years since the first issue of *Augusta Annals*, the ACHS newsletter, rolled off the presses as the sidekick to the Society's annual *Augusta Historical Bulletin* that has been published since 1964. The two publications complement each other well – the *Bulletin* (originally published twice a year but now published annually in book format) is a publication filled with historical essays, research papers, and presentations. Essays range in length from just a few pages to upwards of 30 pages or more. By the 1990s, as the Society became more active beyond simply holding two meetings a year, the idea was launched to have a newsletter that could include notices of upcoming events and happenings and provide shorter snippets of historical information in a timelier fashion. Dr. James Patrick (Jim), who served as president from 1993-1995 really embraced the idea of launching a newsletter and the first issue became a reality in 1996, mainly because of his support of the project.

Dr. Ann McCleary (1995-1997) followed Dr. Patrick as president and helped turn the newsletter idea into reality. Dr. McCleary's father, John McCleary, was a professional artist and he drew the banner featuring a wagon for the top of the newsletter's front page. The name, *Augusta Annals*, was a reference to the book *Annals of Augusta County* by John Wayland. The newsletter launched in 1996 with Nancy Sorrells as editor. The newsletter has been published two to three times a year since then.

In 2009 Lucinda Cooke took over as newsletter editor and served for about a year before stepping away at which time Nancy Sorrells returned as editor. Cooke returned as editor for the Fall 2012 issue and has continued as editor to this day. To date those two individuals are the only two people who have served as newsletter editors.

The original newsletter was black type with black and white photos and printed on gray paper. It was laid out in house by Sorrells. Sorrells and Cooke began working with graphic designer Marc Borzelleca to bring a new, more dynamic look to the newsletter, redesigning the banner and making the newsletter a two-color, black and maroon, printing on white paper. The last issue to feature the old banner with the wagon was the Summer 2008 issue, Vol. 14, Issue 2. In 2024, as a celebration of the Society's 60th anniversary (Diamond Jubilee), the newsletter featured colored photographs, which has continued to this day.

Recently Lucinda and Nancy teamed up with ACHS Archivist Alexandrya Click to inventory and digitize all the back issues of *Augusta Annals*. Reading the back issues provides a fascinating trip down memory lane for those interested in learning more about the history and activities of ACHS. Soon those digital copies will be posted on the Society website for all to read.

In the meantime, though, we realized that there are some gaps in our back issues. We are asking long-time members to go through their own files and archives and see if they have copies of what might be missing issues. If you have one of the missing issues, we would love to borrow it to scan and return to you so we can have a more complete collection of *Augusta Annals*. If you locate one of the missing issues, please contact ACHS Archivist Alexandrya Click at archivist@augustacountyhs.org.

Here's a list of issues that we are looking for:
2003-2004 Volume 9, issue 3; 2010 Volume 16, issue 2; 2010-2011 Volume 16, issue 3; 2011-2012 Volume 18, issue 1; 2011-2012 Volume 18, issue 3; 2012 Volume 19, issue 2

Nancy Sorrells, ACHS Board member

BELOW: The front page of Volume 1, Issue 1 of Augusta Annals, *published in September of 1994. Interestingly enough, the Society is still working hard on preserving the history of the Glebe more than 30 years later. That first issue was four pages in length.*

September 1994
Vol. 1, issue 1

Augusta Annals

A semi-annual newsletter published by the Augusta County Historical Society

Society launches Landmarks Committee

Augusta County's architectural heritage is something that we all treasure. We have a very rich collection of architecture ranging from farmsteads to small villages and towns, many of which have historical or architectural significance to our community. The county also has a significant archaeological heritage of both prehistoric and historic sites. Recognizing this, the Augusta County Historical Society has established a "Landmarks Committee" to document and help protect our cultural resources.

In recent years, many of us have been concerned about the loss of our architectural heritage. When we look around the county, many older buildings are being razed and others are threatened by neglect or development.

This past spring, the Board decided to expand the activities of the Landmarks Committee and to undertake more activities and projects relating to our historic sites and structures. The committee would like your input about any potential projects that you feel the society should consider. Please feel free to contact any of the committee members with your thoughts and ideas. Remember that we are all volunteers, and will only be able to do as much as our time allows. If you are interested in helping us, and even serving on the committee, please let us know.

Committee members are: Ann McCleary, chair; Katherine Bushman, Faye Cooper, David McCaskey, Sue Simmons and Nancy Sorrells.

Clean-up of Glebe Cemetery begins

On a forested hillside a few miles southwest of Staunton lies one of Augusta County's oldest landmarks. The "Glebe Burying Ground" was once a public burial ground for the locality, and at least 50 former Augusta County residents are buried there. The cemetery is located on what was once the glebe land, a 200-acre farm which the area taxpayers were required to provide for Augusta's official Church of England rector.

For more than a century after the glebe farm and cemetery passed out of the public domain in the early 1800s, the burial ground was maintained by the T.J. Thompson family, owners of the surrounding former glebe farm. Beginning in the 1930s, some maintenance assistance was provided by a local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and in the 1970s the cemetery was cleared by a number of Boy Scouts as an Eagle project.

Last winter, Augusta County Historical Society members Crawford Patterson, John Davis, Hawkins Coleman and David McCaskey repeated the Scouts' efforts, cutting the brush that had grown in the intervening years and familiarizing themselves with the best route to the cemetery. The fence built by the Thompsons many years ago is doing a reasonable job of keeping cattle out of the cemetery, although it needs some repair where windfalls have caused damage.

This summer, Patterson and McCaskey returned to the Glebe Cemetery to pay more attention to the tombstones. A DAR pamphlet from 1930 provides the words from the stones, but does not give the feel of the place. Much of that feel is the contrast between different areas in the cemetery - on the one hand there are solid, machine-cut monuments from

(See Glebe, page 4)

Rubbings from glebe tombstones

Fall Meeting at Folly Mills church

The fall meeting of the Augusta County Historical Society will be held at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Folly Mills on Sunday, Nov. 6 at 2 p.m. Nancy Sorrells will speak on the history of the church, which is celebrating its 75th birthday. The church is located on U.S. Rt. 11, approximately two miles south of Staunton.

Johnston Chairs Draw Attention

As regular readers of this newsletter know, we at the Society have been spending time thinking about Augusta's very own founding father, Zechariah Johnston, and how we can let everyone know about his important contributions to America's story. Johnston, for whom Staunton's Johnson Street (yes, the "t" has been accidentally dropped) was named, was born in Augusta County and died in Rockbridge County. He was a farmer, staunch Presbyterian, soldier in the Revolutionary War, teammate of Thomas Jefferson as the pair guided the passage of Virginia's Statute of Religious Freedom, representative in Virginia's General Assembly, and, most importantly, instrumental in convincing Virginians to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

Back in the spring of 2022, when we were already on the ZJ History trail, the Society was contacted by out of town descendants of Zechariah Johnston. It seems that three of the founding father's chairs had been passed down through the family and those descendants now wanted to return the chairs to their "roots" in Augusta County. One of the family members dropped them off while on her way to Florida and so they became valued pieces in the ACHS collection.

Last year we contacted Ray Pine, who lives near Mount Crawford, about the chairs. Ray is one of the country's leading craftsmen and an expert cabinetmaker/joiner. The chairs spent the winter with Ray while he studied and repaired them, and gave them a general "tune-up." Now they are back home at ACHS.

Ray is putting together a more extensive report on the chairs for us but has already informed us of how impressed he was by them, noting that the sturdy plain chairs appeared to be from the same craftsman or same workshop as another chair that also has connections to the Zechariah Johnston family. It is possible that the Society's three chairs were half of the "six walnut chairs" listed in Johnston's estate inventory after he died.

ACHS plans to put the chairs on display in the very near future. Watch for more information about the chairs on Facebook, in the exhibit, and in the *Bulletin*.

Nancy Sorrells, ACHS Board member

ABOVE, TOP: Cathy Paunov, descendant of Zechariah Johnston, stands with the trio of Johnston family chairs that she and her family donated to ACHS in 2022.
ABOVE, BOTTOM: Cabinetmaker Ray Pine stands in his workshop with one of the Johnston chairs that he recently finished working on.

ACHS Welcomes New Board Members . . . and a Returning One to the Board

Misti Furr | Class of 2028

Misti Furr is a career museum educator and public history specialist, from the Frontier Culture Museum.

A Staunton-area native, Furr has worked in museums and historical sites for 28 years. Her professional path was shaped early by her time at Colonial Williamsburg, followed by Virginia State Parks, the National Park Service and Preservation Virginia. Furr is an active member of the Virginia Association of Museums, where she has presented panel discussions for multiple conferences.

Furr approaches her work with unwavering commitment to historical accuracy, built on scholarship and collaboration. She firmly believes in the principles of asking questions about archaeology, primary sources, and oral histories in order to craft an approachable on-ramp to the (sometimes) toughest parts of the so-called "American Journey."

Furr is a staunch living history advocate who recognizes that cultural memory and community are available to us if we know how to look.

Vera Hailey | Class of 2028

Vera grew up on an Augusta County farm and is a lover of history and collector of stories as she "listened to the old people" including her paternal grandfather, who was born in 1891.

She retired as a magistrate from the Supreme Court of Virginia and established an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) practice providing mediation, conflict coaching, group facilitation and training. She mentors law school students through judging ADR competitions.

Vera is particularly interested in Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind (VSDB) history as a foundation board member and owns properties in several Staunton historic districts. You may have crossed her path at the Smith Center for History and Art, volunteering or supporting ACHS events. She enjoys traveling and has a daughter who attends Stuart Hall. ACHS welcomes her back!

Charles (Kin) Yancey II | Class of 2027

Kin moved to Waynesboro in 1955 where his father was City Manager for 29 years. He can trace his roots way back in Augusta, Albemarle, and Nelson counties. His grandfather was a county administrator for Augusta County in the 1930s and served as Chairman of the Waynesboro School Board when the current high school was built in Waynesboro. Kin graduated from that high school in 1970. He attended Blue Ridge Community College, focusing on business administration and was accepted to the UVA School of Commerce. His career included working as an office manager for the DuPont plant in Waynesboro prior to entering the financial services industry in 1977 with Prudential, selling insurance and investments. Kin later worked for Barger Insurance in Waynesboro before joining the financial planning firm, Kane & Yancey. He went into solo practice in 1990 and is now partially retired.

Kin has served on the board of a number of non-profit organizations, including United Way, Waynesboro Heritage Foundation, and Rotary. His hobbies include history, antiques, postcards, and vintage electronics. He has been married to Debbie Marriott (originally from PA) since 1976. They have two daughters, Olivia Lockier and Mary Shaffer, and one grandchild, George Shaffer III. Kin and his wife live in Fishersville, Va.

Do you love art, history, architecture, and people? Then become a Smith Center Ambassador!

The R.R. Smith Center for History & Art is home to the Augusta County Historical Society, Historic Staunton Foundation, and the Staunton Augusta Art Center. Our historic building, once an important railroad hotel and now a thriving cultural center, includes art and history galleries, classrooms, archives, conference space, a garden, research libraries, a lecture room, and offices for non-profit cultural organizations.

The R.R. Smith Center is always looking for art and history lovers alike to join our volunteer team! Having support from the people in our community is an important part of our success. If you're looking to get more involved with local artists, learn more about our area's history and architecture, get a first look at our new exhibits, and see how a gallery or non-profit works, reach out to get started!

Be the face of the Smith Center!

One of the most important ways that you can help the Smith Center and all the partners in the building is to be a Smith Center Ambassador at our front desk. The only way the exciting art and history exhibits can be open to visitors is if there is someone at the desk greeting visitors. You can be that person who directs folks to the current exhibits, enlightens them on the history of the historic building, and connects them to the other organizations in the building. A few hours a month make all the difference!

To learn more and fill out a volunteer interest form, visit https://www.rrsmithcenter.org/volunteer

We can't wait for you to join our Smith Center team.

Augusta Annals

published three times per year by the Augusta County Historical Society
P.O. Box 686, Staunton, VA 24402
(540) 248-4151
www.augustacountyhs.org
Maitlyn Ritter, office manager
email: adminachs@augustacountyhs.org
office: Smith Center, 20 S. New St.
Staunton, VA, 24401

Andrew Phillips, president
Ray Wright, past president
Lucinda Cooke, newsletter editor
iamcindy@comcast.net

The ACHS Individual dues are $45, Family dues are $65, Student dues are $20, Institutional are $100.
Members receive invitations to the semi-annual meetings, an annual banquet, the Stuart Speaker Series, notices about other special Society events and activities, and discounts on Society books, and some programs and tours. The dues include your exclusive digital copy of the *Bulletin*. Print copies are $15 extra per year.

To become a member, send your check to: Augusta County Historical Society, Attn.: Membership, P.O. Box 686, Staunton, VA 24402-0686, or join on-line at www.augustacountyhs.org.

Membership dues are payable in full upon joining. You will receive any current newsletters and *Augusta Historical Bulletin* published during your year of membership. Subsequent dues will be billed annually on the anniversary date you joined.

Augusta County HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 686 • Staunton, VA 24402-0686
540.248.4151 • augustacountyhs.org

Return Service Requested