Bedford Museum and Genealogical Library

Spring 2019 Issue, A Semi-Annual Publication

2. Irving Berlin, composer, in WWI uniform
3. Sheet music for Irving Berlin’s Song “Oh! How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning”
4. Lillian Claffey in Red Cross Uniform in WWI & Bedford VA Native
5. Example of a Stanley Steamer Car, similar to one that Lillian rode in when she was a little girl
6. Red Cross Nurses during the Spanish Influenza of 1918—See WWI Story on Page 24
# Table of Contents

Bedford War Between the States Museum Grand Opening .......... Page 3
Visitors Near and Far, Compliments, and Donations ............... Page 4-5
Law Enforcement Exhibit Grand Opening .......................... Page 5
‘Fridays at the Museum’ .................................................. Page 6
2018 Train Season ......................................................... Page 7
Shirley Wheeler’s Retirement Party ..................................... Page 7
Women’s History Month Writing Contest ............................ Page 8-9
Pictures with the Bedford Museum & Genealogical Library .. Page 10
The Sledd Brothers ........................................................ Page 11
The Lovelace Family ....................................................... Page 12
Alease Faulkner Brown: Last Teacher of Everett School ....... Page 13
Ball Room Tragedy Circa 1883 near Bedford, Virginia ......... Page 13
Fancy Farms: Historical Significance ................................ Page 14
Civil War Hospitals & Doctors in Liberty, Virginia .......... Page 16-17
Cool Pictures taken in and near Bedford, Virginia ............... Page 18-20
Ned Marshall’s Family History and Genealogy .................... Page 21
World War I Nurse: Lillian Claffey .................................. Page 22-23
A Record of the Mead Family .......................................... Page 24
World War II Flight Nurse: Evelyn Kowalchuk ................. Page 24-27
Memorial Day Remembrance: Wiley Fowler & Sgt. Charles L. Scott... Page 28-29
Mr. James M. Daniel ...................................................... Page 30
Thelma Kidd Stories ...................................................... Page 30-31
Museum Property Record ................................................. Page 31
LIVING LIBERTY
RETURNS—2019

Bedford War Between the States Museum
Grand Opening — Many items have never before been on display
Memorial Day weekend May 24 - 26, 2019

Meet General Robert E.
Lee and his Generals
including Bedford native
Brigadier General William
R. Terry of Oakwood.

Two great presentations at the Bedford Museum
& Genealogical Library’s new
War Between the States Museum

- Meet and greet the Generals, at 10:30 A.M.
- “Hoop Skirts and Hair Pins: A Woman’s Lot in
  the 1800s” & Mrs. Francis Burwell of Avenel at
  12:30 P.M.

WAR BETWEEN THE STATES ENCAMPMENT

Large encampment just outside of town on a beautiful farm. Artillery
demos and period dance on Saturday night, General Lee and his
staff on duty and a chance for the public to witness life in camp
during the war.

Periodic firings of a 12 pound Napoleon cannon.
Several battles Saturday afternoon. Public welcome.

Period wedding on Friday night at the childhood
home of Confederate
General William R. Terry.

Period dance Saturday night
at the encampment.

Memorial Service on
Sunday afternoon at 2
P.M.

For more details go to Facebook:
“Living Liberty Returns” or Bedford War Between the States Museum
Questions: Email- BCCM-info@bedfordvamuseum.org
Phone—(540)586-4520

Sponsored by the Bedford Museum and Genealogical Library, Bedford
Rifle Grays— Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 1475, and the General
William R. Terry United Daughters of Confederacy Chapter 580.
Visitors Near and Far

We get over 3,000 visitors every year. At our front door we have a sign in sheet for our visitors to sign on arrival. I thought it would be neat to give a little shout out to our visitors and the places they travelled from to visit us here in Bedford, VA. So the next time you come for a visit make sure to sign our guest book and you might be featured in our next newsletter.

Thank you for visiting:
Henry, Owen and Daniel Gnbley from Raleigh, North Carolina
Fabide Cereia Umana from Costa Rica
Ciarra Pollard from Baltimore, Maryland
The Lapresto’s from Goodview, VA, Indianapolis, IN, & Bucharest, Romania
Chris Crowder from Riva, Maryland
Kewalin Chaichanawitchalit from Bangkok, Thailand
Tyler Stephens from Suffolk, Virginia
Janet Ivey from Houston, Texas
Michael & Megan May from Pilots Mt., North Carolina
Maret Saarlo from Singapore
Brooks Gregoy from Clinton, South Carolina
Savannah Lee from San Diego, California
Robert Underwood from Abbeville, Georgia
Brad Pollard from Champaign, Illinois
Susan from San Jose, California
Seth Moore from Shirley, Massachusetts
Les McIntosh from Horseheads, New York
Monica Fatzel from Montezuma, Iowa
Dwight Orange from Moneta, Virginia
Brad & Libbey Thompson from Union Hall, Virginia

Again thank you to all our great visitors we love getting to meet and work with you! Come again soon.

****

Compliments

I have been here every year for 3 years and have been to lots of history places all over and you guys are the most helpful and know your stuff more than any other place. And it doesn't seem like a bother to help someone. — H. Milton Patton

I wish I had relatives here because this museum, would be an excellent, friendly resource. — Genealogy Student

Thank you so much for all of your help in finding the elusive Marinda Jones. I hope the enclosed donation will help you and your staff to continue your research and historic preservation. — Susan Hellman

Just enjoyed reading the new newsletter and you do a wonderful job in producing it. — Susie Jones

I am very grateful for the research completed by Evelyn Franklin. Thank you so much for your help! — Evelyn Urquhart

****

Genealogy Classes

As many of you know the museum teaches a beginners genealogy class every month. We are pleased to announce in addition to our beginner’s course we have added an advanced Ancestry class and an Ancestry DNA course.

Recently we changed our schedule for our monthly classes. Every first and second Saturday, unless otherwise noted, classes will begin at 9:30 - 12:00 and the advanced classes will run from 1:00 - 3:00 on those same Saturdays.

We only accept the first ten that sign up due to limited space in our library. To sign up for our beginner courses or our advance courses please call us at 540-586-4520.

****

Genealogy students learn about DNA and its relationship to researching family history.

****
Law Enforcement Grand Opening

By: Noelle Woodcock

On March 23rd, 2019 the Law Enforcement Exhibit had its grand opening and the chief of police, Todd Foreman, and Tim Hayden who is running for the position of Sheriff of Bedford County were in attendance. Also, in attendance were Ken and Linda Parker, Tim Black, Alicia Williams and her daughter. Mike and Leslie Mehaffey, and Milton Graham. The following are pictures of the Law Enforcement Exhibit and the people who attended the event.

Donations Received

Here are a few donations that the museum has received recently. Thank you for giving these historical items to the museum.

Pre-civil war and civil war era medical books and textbooks by: AF Wood and Minnie Lowry (1820-1900's) given by Jacqueline S. Nowak. Located on Third Floor Exhibit.

A carving of the Hillsville court house where the murders occurred in 1912. Floyd Allen was one of the shooters. He carved this while waiting on death row. Donated by Bush, Bill and Carol and it is located on the Second Floor Hallway with the Law Enforcement Exhibit.

Below is one page of the many letters written from Gordon Deacon while he was stationed in Norfolk to his mother Mrs. William Allen Deacon (Annie Walton Deacon) during World War I. His Mother lived in Lynchburg and Roanoke, VA during WWI. Letters are 100 years old and provide neat insight to what it was like as a solider during WWI. Donated by Jackie Parker.
The Bedford Museum and Genealogical Library

and their annual sponsor Bedford Elks Lodge No. 2844

are proud to present

‘Fridays at the Museum’

Join us this summer as we learn about GOVERNMENT

These free events are geared for children between 2nd and 6th grades.

We will be touring various facilities in our area including:

* Bedford County Fire Dept.
* Bedford County Courthouse
* Bedford Sheriff & Town Police Depts.

Earn points throughout the summer to “spend” at our picnic on Aug. 9 at Falling Creek Park!

Meeting 2-3:30 each Friday from May 31 to August 9

201 E. Main St. Bedford, VA 24523

540-586-4520  www.bedfordvamuseum.org
ATTENTION!

Groupon Membership: if you purchase a membership to the Museum through Groupon, please call us with the confirmation number. Groupon does not give us any information on the individual who made the purchase, so we have no way of thanking you or giving you the correct credentials for the website and membership. Thank you!

****

Train Season 2018 Recap

Every year we collect new or gently used Teddy Bears for the Teddy Bear Brigade with Gleaning for the World. These Teddy Bears are gifted to children all around the world and each year we are so pleased with the outpour of support. Every year we fill up at least one barrel sometimes we have filled several. So thank you to all you have donated to this cause during our train season.

Train set up for people of all ages to enjoy during the holiday season

A view of the train going through downtown Bedford

****

Shirley Wheeler’s Retirement Party

By: Noelle Woodcock

Shirley Wheeler retired at the beginning of this year after being a trusted and valued employee for the past fourteen years. And before that she was a volunteer at the museum since 2001. Shirley as an employee was responsible for book sales, the gift shop, parking, etc.

Since she did so much for the museum and the community she was given a retirement party held in her honor. Board members, volunteers, and employees came out to celebrate the time she dedicated to the museum. She was an integral part of the Bedford Museum family and we look forward to her visits and future involvement in the museum. We hope you enjoy retirement!

Pictured above is the group of board members, volunteers, and staff that gathered together to honor the work Shirley has accomplished here at the Museum.
Women’s History Month Writing Contest

By: Jennifer Thomson

The Bedford Museum and Genealogical Library’s annual Women’s History Month essay contest celebrated the 400th anniversary of the Virginia House of Burgesses this year by encouraging children in the second to eight grade, to write about a woman that is or was in Governmental power.

There were only a handful of essays from third to seventh grades, but they were very well written, and it was very hard to choose the winners. Every one of our contestants received a small goodie bag and a certificate from the Museum. However, thanks to our great sponsors; The William R Terry United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Bedford Rifle Grays Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Taylor Wilson Auxiliary Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and an alumnus of the program, we were able to come up with our finalist.

Third grader, Maddie Roop of Bedford Elementary wrote about Michelle Obama and seventh grader Lillian Wong of Staunton River Middle wrote about Eleanor Roosevelt were the runners up each receiving $15 each.

Prizes were handed out at the awards ceremony on Saturday March 30th at the Bedford Museum and Genealogical Library. There were two Grand Prize winners, Abigail Harvey a third grader, who is home schooled, who wrote about Queen Esther and Meredith Muncher a sixth grader, at Brookville Middle who wrote about the first female mayor in the US, Susanna Salter. They each received $50.

Jillian Folkkening, a third grader, who is home schooled, wrote about Joan of Arc, Brayden Darnell a fifth grader at Bedford Elementary, wrote about Michelle Obama, and Zoe Silva, a seventh grader at Staunton River, wrote about Margaret Thatcher, all first place winners each receiving $25 each.

Third grader, Maddie Roop of Bedford Elementary wrote about Shirley Chsholm, fifth grader, Colton Manning at Bedford Elementary wrote about Susanna Salter, and seventh grader Lillian Wong of Staunton River Middle wrote about Eleanor Roosevelt were the runners up each receiving $15 each.

The ‘Fridays at the Museum’ Children’s program this summer will continue to highlight the 400th Anniversary of the House of Burgesses by learning about local government. Children coming out of 2nd grade to entering 7th grade are invited to join us, most Friday’s in the summer starting on Friday May 31 and running until August 9 (except June 8, and July 5) at 2 pm. Please contact the Bedford Museum & Genealogical Library for more information.

Esther: Brave and True

By: Abigail Harvey, 3rd Grade

I chose Queen Esther as the woman in government that I admire. Esther was a Jewish girl who was raised by her cousin, Mordecai. Esther became Queen of Persia when King Ahasuerus held a beauty pageant. The king saw Esther’s beauty and made her Queen.

The helper, Haman, convinced the King to make a decree for all the Jewish people to be killed. Queen Esther went to the King...
and pleaded for the lives of her people. She loved her people so much that she went before the King uninvited. This was not allowed and would have resulted in her death. However, instead of killing her the King listened to her and changed the decree. I admire Queen Esther because she showed great bravery and love for her people. Being a great leader means putting the good of the people above your own; that’s what Queen Esther did.

****

Susanna Madora Salter

By: Meredith Muncher, 6th Grade

After researching several women in our government, I chose to write about Susanna Salter, the first female Mayor in our country.

Susanna Madora Kinsey was born in Ohio on March 2, 1860 and then moved to Kansas with her Quaker family in 1872. Susanna attended Kansas State Agricultural College, but an illness forced her to leave just six weeks before graduating. She married Lewis Allison Salter in 1880 and moved to the little town of Argonia, Kansas.

In 1887, Kansas gave women the right to vote in local elections if they were from a first, second, or third-class city. Since Argonia was a third-class city, Susanna was eligible to vote in the 1887 election. Susanna Salter believed strongly in prohibition and was a member of the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union. Their primary goal was to enforce prohibition laws and so the WCTU nominated candidates for the office of Mayor who held their same beliefs. A number of local men, anti-prohibitionists, did not support these beliefs and did not even want women to participate in politics. These men chose for their ballot the same candidates for office, but they added Susanna Salter as their candidate for mayor in an effort to humiliate and force the WCTU to disband. They said the idea that a 27 year old wife and mother could be mayor in an effort to humiliate and force the WCTU to disband.

They agreed to stay and run in the election. On April 4, 1887 for office, but they added Susanna Salter as their candidate for mayor in an effort to humiliate and force the WCTU to disband. They said the idea that a 27 year old wife and mother could be elected Mayor was so ridiculous that only the WCTU would vote for her and thus show just how extreme their movement and beliefs really were. Susanna didn’t even know her name was on the ballot. The local Republican Party chairman found out about the men’s “joke” and went to Susanna’s home on the day of the election. Susana could not believe her name was on the ballot, but she agreed to stay and run in the election. On April 4, 1887 Republicans voted for Susanna along with the WCTU, and Susanna ended up winning the election by a two-thirds majority, thus becoming our country’s first woman Mayor!

News of her win was covered all across the Nation and many supporters sent letters of praise and encouragement. One newspaper, the St. Clairsville Gazette, wrote:

“At the age of 27 this educated, womanly woman is performing in person the duties of Mayor. She does not fear them in the least, and is determined, by the help of God, so to conduct her office as to make it serve the best interests of the city. She is much interested in the enforcement of the prohibitory law, and in the study of the best means of suppressing and eradicating the vice that beset our cities.”

Susanna Salter only served one year as Mayor and was only paid one dollar for her work. Her duty to her town of Argonia and to her family spoke volumes about her character, and her years’ service was smooth and peaceful. She didn’t care to run for office after that year, and spent her time doing what she loved which was caring for her family. In 1887 Susanna was invited to speak at the Women’s Suffrage Association alongside of Susan B. Anthony and Rachel Avery. On November 10, 1933, she was honored by the citizens of Argonia with a bronze plaque in the public square, donated by the Woman’s Kansas Day Club. Susanna Salter passed away in 1961 at 101 years old.

I admire Susanna Salter because she spoke up for what she believed in herself when others around her did not, and she persevered. Susanna turned what some said was a “joke” into a lifelong achievement. She never backed down and she served her duty with confidence and strength, all the while continuing to care for her growing family. I’m proud that Susanna Salter was our country’s first female Mayor. She helped lead the way for women in government. I only hope that I will be able to have as much confidence as she did, and believe in myself and my abilities when faced with something new and challenging.

References

- (http:www.kshs.org/p/kansas-historical-quarterly-susanna-madora-salter/1306)
- Genealogy Bank- “Prank Leads to Election of Nation’s First Woman Mayor” -by Tony Pettinato. April 4, 2017.

****

Memorial Day Weekend Program

Come join us this Memorial Day Weekend Friday through Saturday for a combined Living Liberty and Grand Opening of our new War Between the States Museum on the third floor of the Museum. We are excited that the 17 new display cases that were installed last year are filling up quickly and will be ready for visitors at the end of the month!

Complete coverage of this event and opening will be in the November Newsletter. More information on the event on the flyer on page 3 of this newsletter and our Facebook page!

We hope to see you there!
Pictures with the Bedford Museum & Genealogical Library

I want to take the time to share some pictures of the Bedford Museum & Genealogical Library. The building has witnessed so much history since it was erected in 1895. The pictures below show the history of the how the Bedford Museum/Old Masonic Lodge came to be built and the history it has witnessed through the years.
Minority businesses were being urged to seek certification within their arena of operation to improve their economic status in a highly competitive world. That was the advice of the National Minority Business Council, Inc., noting that certification makes companies more competitive.

One such local business was 4-S Construction, Inc. of Forestville, MD which was owned and operated by the four Sledd brothers. Thomas H. Sledd, Sr. served as President; Louis J. Sledd was Executive Vice President; Melvin M. Sledd, Sr., as Vice President; and Clarence D. Sledd, Jr. as Secretary-Treasurer.

Since being founded, 4-S Construction became a real family affair. In addition to the brothers operating the company, three of their children (two sons and a daughter) were among the 25 employees. Carpenters by trade, the brothers originally consulted the Small Business Administration (SBA), then began their business and eventually incorporated their operation.

“With any business you have your ups and downs but we’ve been consistently growing,” said Marilyn Sledd who is Clarence’s daughter. She was the company’s office manager. She said 4-S is a SBA “8a certified” company which handles Department of Defense (DOD) Government contracts involving renovation and new construction. The firm has also worked for NationsBank, Prince George’s County, the Metro Transit Authority (METRO) as well as the Metropolitan AME Church—one of the oldest African American churches in the nation.

Certified is the process of filing detailed reports on the status of a business from its minority ownership to its ability to do the job. Such certification is often requested, particularly by government agencies, seeking to contract with minority firms. In fact, it was noted, many companies will not deal with minority businesses unless they are certified.

The four Sledd brothers were born in Big Island, VA. They are the sons of the late Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Sledd, Sr. They have one sister, Celestine Sledd Haulsey. All of them were educated in the Bedford County School System. The family was members of the Sharon Missionary Baptist Church in Big Island, VA. They relocated to Washington, DC in the 1950s. The 4-S Construction Company was organized a few years later in Prince George’s County in Maryland. The company closed in 2004 and was sold after many years of dedicated service to the Washington DC Metropolitan Area.

The brothers learned early in their teens to not be afraid of hard work. They set and accomplished many goals while in business. The brothers were loving, loyal and very respectable to one another.

Their working days always ended with a firm hand shake and a BIG BEAR HUG. Louis Sledd is the only brother living along with his sister, Celestine Sledd Haulsey. Since the closing of the business Clarence Jr., Thomas and Melvin have passed.
The Old Lovelace Place on Windy Gap Mountain

By: Amy Martin Wilson

At least seven generations of the Lovelace family had lived in the old house located in the Red Valley section of Windy Gap Mountain, up from nearby Burnt Chimney in Franklin County.

After the last member died, a decision was made to hold an auction to dispose of the home and contents.

We were not able to attend the auction in 1989, but did go to the preview the evening before, as I love old houses and history. This place had both!

While there, I was given a copy of a flyer announcing an open house which had been held in June, 1976. Fortunately, the family had saved some copies of the brochure.

The following is an exact transcription in its entirety from that flyer, which gives us a peek into the history of the home.

****

THE LOVELACE FAMILY

AND

MEMBERS OF THE RED VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WELCOME YOU TO “LOVELACE PLACE”

Saturday, June 26, 1976, 10 a.m.—5 p.m.
Sunday, June 7, 1976, 2 p.m.—5 p.m.

About 1750 Jeremiah Early received a royal grant for several thousand acres of rich, rolling valley land along the upper waters of Gills Creek located in what is now northeast Franklin County, at the foot of Windy Gap Mountains and known as the Red Valley Section. This land stretched from windy Gap Mountain towards Burnt Chimney. A house once stood in the front yard of the Lovelace home. Members of the Early family lived there and this was the old Early homeplace.

Jeremiah Early gave some of his fast acreage to his son Jubal who in turn passed it on to his son Joab. Joab became the father of two sons—Henry and Jubal Anderson Early who was a renowned Civil War Officer.

Jubal Anderson Early served as a Lt. General in the Northern Virginia Army. He was born in a log cabin 1/2 miles from “Lovelace Place” across 110. The cabin has since fallen down but the remains are still there.

Rock stones mark graves in the Early cemetery which lies alongside the Lovelace driveway. General Early was buried at Lynchburg, Virginia; however, his war horse was buried in the Early cemetery. Only one stone in the cemetery is marked and that is of the grave of Major Samuel Hale who was the son of General Early’s sister.

Moses G. Booth acquired about 400 acres of land at $5.00 per acre from Joab Early on March 3, 1834. Mr. Booth was wealthy and reportedly had 100 slaves. The original plantation took in most of Windy Gap Mountain and the first road over it into Roanoke was cut by Mr. Booth’s slaves. This road is not known as State Route 116 and was designated Jubal Anderson Early Highway.

When Mr. Booth was ready to construct a house for his young bride, he recalled his travels abroad and used decorative devices he had seen in Italy. The Greek Revival home was built on a grand scale by Seth Richardson around 1840 who also built the Red Valley United Methodist Church in 1867. The ceilings are 12 feet high in the ten-room home with windows measuring 8 feet 10 inches by 4 feet which seem to be sized perfectly for the 20 by 20 feet square rooms. The L-shaped house as two halls, each with a stair leading to identical halls on the second floor.

The beautiful plaster work in the living room and front hall was done by an Italian plasterer. Mr. Booth imported from Italy. Some of the ornamentation has fallen; however, elaborate cornices and rosettes still remain.

Each room has its own fireplace. An imported black Italian marble mantel stands in the living room. Throughout the house wooden mantels and baseboards were painted to look like marble.

At Moses G. Booth’s death some of his slaves were left small farms. Seth Richardson had been given a large tract of land for building the house. The remaining land and house was sold by Mr. Booth’s executor to M.R. Allen, who lived there about five years. At his death the estate was inherited by his son W.J. Allen who sold to Robert A. Lovelace in 1890.

Robert Lovelace, his wife, a maiden aunt, a grandmother and the Lovelace’s three children Sallie, Robert B., and Peachy moved in. The house became the birthplace of six more Lovelace’s—James, Martha, Evelyn, William, Thomas and Mary. It was “Miss Sallie” who named their home “Lovelace Place” after their ancestors’ home in England.

Little has been changed about the house. The House had never been painted or wallpapered until the Lovelace’s took possession. The kitchen has been modernized and oil heat was added. Their parents’ furnishings are used today by Thomas (Mr. Tom) who presently owns and runs the 175 acre farm and his sister Martha Haynes (Miss Matt) who runs the house. The third living Lovelace child Mary Peck (“Mamie”) now lives in Fincastle.

Among the many items and mementos of interest on display are a hand-sewn wedding nightdress and slave-made quilts. Much history is here. Stories abound. A plantation ghost has his abode on the side of the mountain overlooking the house and the “Early Light” is still remembered and talked about.

****
The Last Teacher of Everett School:
Alease J. Faulkner Brown
By: Marion Banks

In 1953 Ms. Alease Faulkner became the youngest instructor to teach at Everett School. Fresh out of Winston-Salem State Teacher’s College. She stayed in the home of the late Rev. John B. Henderson, until she found other housing.

She was firm but not as “fearful” as the previous teacher Paul Guarrells who was fresh out of the Marines and conducted his class as such. Not having or not knowing homework, misbehaving, being late for class and being disrespectful were not permitted.

Under her instruction the largest group of students graduated at one time: The six were: Earl Anderson, Frank Henderson, Hellen Anderson, Curtis Braxton, James Read and Payton Poindexter. The graduation exercise was held at St. Paul Baptist Church.

In 1957 Everett School was closed. Mrs. Alease Faulkner-Brown was the last teacher to teach there.

Obituary of Alease Faulkner Brown

Alease Juanita Faulkner Brown, 88, and known to family and friends as Juanita was born in Alton, VA, and entered eternal life on September 23, 2018. She was the youngest of three children born to Belt and Nannie Faulkner.

Juanita spent her formative years in West Virginia, and spoke about mountains and mountain scenery often. After the death of her grandmother, she moved with her family back to Alton, but never forgot her mountain home. She accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior at New Ephesus Baptist Church, Halifax, Va.

Juanita graduated from the Halifax Training School and went on to earn a BA at Winston Salem State Teacher’s College, followed by a MA from New York University. She married the love of her life James H. Brown shortly after her graduation from NYU. She always used to joke that, she met her blind husband on a blind date. To this union was born one daughter, Lillie Juanita. Later, after the death of her husband she accepted Jacqueline Shelton Reeves into her home.

Juanita was a devoted member of Diamond Hill Baptist Church where she was a Sunday School teacher, and worked with many committees. She faithfully attended until health prevented her. Her favorite activities playing pinochle (she was a member of several card clubs), participating with the Neighborhood Watch, which she introduced to Lynchburg. Her other organizations were the NAACP, and the Singles Club. She was also devoted to Education, teaching for over 30 years. After retirement she began tutoring students, which she loved.

Juanita was preceded in death by her husband James H. Brown, her siblings Hurley Malcolm Faulkner, Winifred Cornell Harris, and a beloved aunt who was raised by her parents, Vernice Mormon. She leaves to mourn her loss two daughters, Lillie Brown McNeill (William) and Jacqueline Reeves (William); two grandchildren, James McNeill and Alesha Reeves; nephews, Jerome (Jerry) Hicks who was her favorite, Whitney Harris (Sharon) and Charla Nanette Crews (Michael). Jerry always stayed with his beloved Aunt Neat and Uncle Jimmie in the summers and Momma always used to say, “We had Jerry before we had any of you.” As well as a host of great-nieces and nephews, cousins and very good friends; Marion Douglas and most especially Arnold Fleshman Jr. (Arnie), who faithfully visited almost every day.

****

Daily Evening Bulletin
San Francisco
January 9, 1883
Ball Room Tragedy

Lynchburg, Va., January 9th.—At a Ball in Bedford County Saturday night, a young lady Adele Read, said to Scott Clayton, who was (?) (?), that he was not calling them currently. Clayton made some sharp response, which was resented by one of Miss Read’s admirers, Armistead Barksdale. The (?) called Clayton out, hot words passed, and Barksdale drew a knife, sprung (?) Clayton, and inflicted a horrible gash from the right eye and back of the neck, severing (?) jugular? and causing (?) death. The scene in the ball room was sickening—women in fancy ball dresses (?) and falling into pools of blood, (and?) a regular (?) followed among the (?) of the two men. Barksdale escaped unobserved, and (wandering?) to another part of the county, borrowed a gun from an acquaintance, and completed the tragedy by shooting himself through the (bowel?).

****
Converted Hospitals During the Civil War

By: Noelle Woodcock

Liberty or Bedford housed two Confederate hospitals during the Civil War and the hospitals would help many wounded soldiers who came from the battlefields. The two hospitals had previously been schools but then were converted to hospitals during the Civil War. The two schools were Campbell House which would serve as a Confederate Hospital from 1861-1865, and the Piedmont Institute.

There would be two main doctors who would be recognized for their abilities within these two hospitals, and those doctors were Dr. Benjamin Blackford and Dr. Henry C. Sommerville. These two doctors would help many wounded soldiers recover from their injuries on the battlefield, but they would also lose many who were past the point of survival.

In this story I will talk about the two converted confederate hospitals in Liberty, Virginia, and the two doctors who served and treated the soldiers at these hospitals.

Piedmont Institute

The Piedmont Institute was a school before it was closed in order to be converted into a confederate hospital during the years of the Civil War.

During the Civil War (1861-1865), Piedmont Institute, on May 1, 1862, was established as a Confederate Army hospital. This hospital consisted of two large wards and five small wards. Other hospital buildings were constructed, adjacent to Piedmont, to achieve a 200 bed capacity. The hospital was still operational on April 4, 1865 and no date for closing the hospital had been found.

Fancy Farms: Historical Significance

Typed as Written

Despite being fast with a torch, Maj. Gen. David Hunter of the Union Army didn't burn Fancy Farms when he led his troops over the Blue Ridge mountains to Lynchburg in 1864. Andrew Donald was a member of the Glasgow Scotland firm known as the Robert Donald Co. As early as 1776 Andrew lived at New London on a plantation purchased from Tom Calloway, the tract containing 937 acres. In addition to his importing he raised tobacco and wheat. His office and warehouse was at Richmond and when a ship load came in he traveled horseback to Richmond to meet it. After the Revolution all the Scotch and English importers, refusing to renounce allegiance to King George, left the country but Donald took the oath of allegiance to the United States and remained at “Fancy Farms” where he tried to start another industry, sheep raising on the hills and mountains sides. These sheep were imported thoroughbreds and it is said the sheep, in this country were until about 1865 or 70 the offspring of Donald's sheep.

Recent Picture of Fancy Farms, with an addition to the right of the original building.

Civil War Surgeons helping the wounded on the front lines; depicted by Winslow Homer (1862)
The Piedmont institute was turned into a military hospital in order to treat the most severe cases. The 500 soldiers who succumbed to their injuries in the hospitals at Liberty were buried on Piedmont Hill surrounding the Piedmont Institute.

It is amazing to see what the Piedmont Institute (now Bedford Columns) looked like to the eyes of the people living in Bedford during the Civil War, and how much it has changed. However, you can still tell what it looked like before its renovations, and the building still has the historical charm of when it was built in the mid 1800s.

Campbell House

Campbell House was built in 1810, and it was a Baptist Meeting House until 1850. The house would then become the Campbell Institute until 1861, and then it would become a Confederate hospital from 1861-1865. After the Civil War it would be used as a personal residence until it was demolished in 1930.

The Campbell House was converted into a military hospital by the Confederate government, and was used for the severe cases that came from the battlefront.

Old Prescription Recipe

Below are two pictures of an old prescription Recipe. Dated June 21, 1917. This copy was filed at Delorme Drug and Co. Inc. in Charleston, S.C. Medicine has come such a long way and it is neat to find a pharmacist's recipe for a prescription.

It would be neat to know what ailments this prescription was intended to treat!
Liberty, Virginia:  
Civil War Hospitals & Doctors  
Bedford Civil War Hospitals  
1861-1865  
Typed as Written

Bedford’s Contribution to the Civil War did not only pertain to the able-bodied men that the country supplied for the Confederacy. Bedford (Liberty) was to become an important railroad junction that supplied the Southern armies with supplies they needed and transported the healthy, wounded and sick to and from the battlefronts. The importance evolved from the fact that Bedford was astride the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad Line. Due to this location and the Union’s inability to effectively penetrate the Shenandoah, Bedford became a commodity that the Confederacy was to take full advantage of. It was noted that Bedford was an ideal place for a “Confederate Hospital Complex”.

Of the surgeons and caretakers that came to Bedford, two of the most notable were Dr. Henry C. Sommerville and Dr. Benjamin Blackford.

This is a map from: Gray’s New Map of Liberty, Bedford County, Virginia and it shows all the locations of the hospitals in the town of Liberty during the Civil War.

Of the soldiers who found care in Bedford hospitals, over 500 died and a total of 707 confederate soldiers were buried in the Piedmont Hill Cemetery. Theses soldiers were later exhumed and given a permanent burial at the Longwood Cemetery in Bedford. A lasting memorial was erected as a reminder of their sacrifice to the beliefs they had and the states they fought to protect.

Cemetery Revelations: Graveyard sleuth details Confederate burials

Bedford was the location of two military hospitals, two churches and several warehouses that cared for the wounded. Both the Episcopal and Baptist church served as secondary hospitals. Piedmont Institute cared for the most severe cases and Campbell House took cases of lesser severity. Tobacco warehouses near the train depot cared for those who could not be accommodated in the hospitals. Over 500 Confederate soldiers died in these hospitals before the war ended in April 1865.

****

A Profile of Benjamin Blackford  
Typed As Written

Born: Sept. 8, 1834
Died: Dec 13, 1905

Dr. Benjamin Blackford entered the Confederate Army April 23, 1861 and left Colonel Garland’s command for Manassas Junction. In May, 1861 he was appointed surgeon of the 11th Virginia Infantry, when Garland’s command was formed into a regiment. He established hospitals at Culpepper and Front Royal where he remained surgeon in charge until March, 1862. When Gen. Johnston’s army was falling back from Manassas he was on duty at Gordonsville. In May, 1862 he was ordered to increase hospital accommodations in Farmville, Danville, Lynchburg and Liberty and on completion of this transferred his hospital stores...
and staff to Liberty, Virginia where he stayed until the end of the war. After the war he resumed practice in Lynchburg. He was elected president of the Medical Society of Virginia and in 1889 was elected superintendent of the Western Lunatic asylum at Staunton, now known as the Western State Hospital.

April 20, 1863 studied as attentively as circumstances would allow for two months, during this time I had an attack of jaundice which greatly hindered my progress. I left Liberty June 1st for Richmond and arrived there after a fatiguing ride on the morning of the 2nd. On Wednesday I was examined and wrote an essay - the subject of which was phthisis pulmonalis.

This was a day of great mental exertion and anxiety. I felt much depressed about the result of my examination. The next day on going to the Surgeon General’s office - to my great surprise I found that the board had reported favorably in my case. This was exceedingly gratifying as many older and more experienced had been unsuccessful. I was ordered to report to the Surgeon General who ordered me to report to Medical Director Carrington with orders to report to duty at General Hospital, Liberty, Va.

June 11, ’63 In charge of a ward of 140 patients at this post (Liberty). I find it very laborious to attend so many patients. Before I get through my morning visit I am so wearied and exhausted that I can scarcely stand. I frequently have to sit down on some patient’s bed and rest a while - still I am fond of my profession and take much interest in doing all in my power to alleviate the suffering of the sick and wounded.

Friday, Oct 9, 1863 I am entirely at leisure-have but three or four patients.

March 2nd, 1864 I received a paper from Medical Director’s Office this morning requiring me to report to Surg. Owen in Lynchburg for duty.

Sommerville Diary

Typed as Written

Dr. Henry C. Sommerville was first a steward and later a physician in the Piedmont Hospital in Liberty from June 8, 1862 until his transfer on December 27, 1863. His notations are found in his diary located at the Virginia State Library in Richmond, Virginia. Below are some of his more poignant description of his life in Liberty.

Friday, July 4, 1862 my duties are not irksome but confining and responsible. We have 7 buildings in this place occupied as hospitals making one general hospital under the superintendence of Surg. Benj. Blackford, who by the way is quite a gentlemen. We accommodate about 700 sick, the larger portion are Georgian. Our patients are characteristic for their ignorance and stupidity.

Diarrhea, debility and rheumatism are the prevailing complaints. There are several cases ophthisis, pneumonalis, and dysentery. Very little fever - or surgical disease.

April 7th– preparing myself for an examination before the army medical board for assistant surgeon in the provisional army of the confederate states.
Historical photos taken in and around Bedford, Virginia

Thought it would be fun to look at old pictures taken in and around Bedford, Virginia. The following photographs were found in our database here at the museum and I thought it would give you a glimpse into Bedford’s past as a town and as a community. These pictures give you an idea of what the people who lived here before us did in their free time, where they worked, and what events they attended in the town.

Photo taken near Bedford, Women drinking out of a stream

Photo taken in Bedford County about 1890 from Graham Clayton’s father’s glass plates
Photo of Bedford Milling Company employees, T.T. Oliver was the owner. 2nd row, left is William Terry Walker. Picture taken circa 1905.

Picture of the Iron Lung; helped people breath who had polio
Employees of the Mitchell Canning Factory at Irving in Bedford County; Circa 1910

Photo taken in front of Bedford County Courthouse while a speech was given. A number of the men are dressed in WWI uniforms. The brick paved street is clearly visible.
Ned Marshall’s Family History

By: Noelle Woodcock

Ned Marshall’s ancestors migrated from England and his first ancestor, Edward Marshall, Jr. would come to the United States at the age of nineteen. Edward Marshall migrated over on a boat with only two possessions to his name, a fox terrier and one chest. Ned’s grandfather came over the United States for a new beginning, he did not get along well with his step-father, Edward Baring-Gould. Ned mentions this man a lot in the stories he tells about his family’s past. One story he told was about Edward Baring-Gould’s love for travel and how he was actually in France when the French Revolution broke out in May of 1789. Also, Ned mentioned in the interview that is great-grandfather was the author of “Onward Christian Soldiers”, which he wrote in 1864. Ned’s great-grandfather would use a peta stool when writing such material as music.

Ned Marshall’s grandfather Edward Marshall, Jr. would settle in Charlemon, Bedford County, Virginia in the late 1800s. Ned’s grandmother was married to Edward Marshall, Jr. on June 7, 1882 in a little English Episcopal Church in Charlemon. The Reverend Mr. Wharton of Liberty, Virginia would officiate the ceremony.

It was amazing to be able to hear the history of Ned Marshall’s family, and how one person coming to America could influence his descendant’s lives in the future.

Edward Lionel Marshall Jr.'s Genealogy

  Born: 1934

* Edward Arthur Marshall Sr. (Ned’s Father)  
  Born: December 13, 1900  
  Death: March 9, 1981

* Oshie Marie Settle (Ned’s Mother)  
  Born: 1910 in West Virginia  
  Death: 1977 in Florida

* Dr. Edward Lionel Marshall Jr.  
  Born: Feb 1st, 1861 in Exeter, England  
  Death: 1929

* Dorothy Cooper Joliffe  
  Born: March 14, 1862 in Shepherd’s Bush, UK

* George Settle  
  Born: 1878 in West Virginia

* Mary Garten Settle  
  Born: June 24, 1875  
  Death: December 3, 1955

* Edward Lionel Marshall Sr.  
  Born: In England  
  Died: In England

* Lavinia Maitland Snow  
  Born: Exeter, England

* Dr. John Joliffe  
  Born: In England

* Mary Robin Joliffe

* James Garten

* Mary Weikle

* Joel D. Settle

* Charlotte Darlington Settle

* James Joliffe

* Hannah Joliffe

* Joel Settle

* Milla Settle

* John Darlington

* Ruth Ingram Darlington

* Margaret Ingram

* Benjamin S. Ingram
“It’s you who saved me,” the officer later told the nurse.

“Here are all these sick people, and I had to work as a guard, too,” she said.

Another of her charges, a soldier accused of stealing the payroll, escaped, however.

“I last saw him running down the road.”

One year after the war ended, Mrs. Claffey and other medical personnel faced another challenge. The flu epidemic of 1918, which ranks as one of the worst scourges in history, killed thousands in the United States. The nurse worked around the clock to save patients, but little could be done.

“There were no antibiotics. They didn't know what to do for it,” Mrs. Claffey said. “People just dropped over like flies.”

After he’d had his tonsils extracted, Mrs. Claffey accompanied a grandson of wealthy philanthropist Andrew Mellon to the family mansion as a private duty nurse.

“I stayed with him 24 hours a day,” she said.

“I ate with the help. They had everything. We were fed well, but part of the stuff, I didn’t know how to eat.”

Artichokes were among the then exotic edibles a the Mellon home.

“That’s not something grandpa grew in the garden,” Mrs. Claffey chuckled. “We didn’t get past green beans.”

Gaslights—which a man lit each evening and snuffed the following morning—illuminated the nighttime streets and homes of her childhood. Mrs. Claffey said her parents’ house was the first in her neighborhood to be outfitted for electricity, a marvel of technology and a memorable occasion for everyone.

So too, was the coming of the horseless carriage.

“I remember my first car ride. I was around 10 years old. It was in a Stanley Steamer,” an automobile powered on hot water vapor. “The streets were mud and all of the horses got scared.”
Babies were born at home, ushered into the world by a doctor who rode to his patients on horseback. So deep was the snow on the day Mrs. Claffey’s twin siblings were born in 1896, the attending physician had to find his way to the house by following fence posts.

“The twins weighed nine pounds apiece. The doctor challenged all the other doctors in the area to deliver twins weighing as much as they did.” Mrs. Claffey said.

By today’s standards, Mrs. Claffey’s salary as a nurse was modest.

“$25 a week in those days was good money,” she said. “A loaf of bread cost 10 cents, a pound of hamburger, 25 cents and the same for a pound of butter.”

Her most noble mission as a nurse came later in life, when she tended her husband, William, in his final illness. He died five years ago, at the age of 89. Mrs. Claffey was 92, but still had the stamina to lift her spouse from his bed.

“The Lord gave me strength enough to take care of him, too,” she said softly.

D-Day 75th Anniversary

This year marks the historic 75th Anniversary of the storming of the Beaches of Normandy and what is known as D-Day.

The town of Bedford made the ultimate sacrifice as men from Company A stepped off the barges and unto the beaches that fateful day on June 6, 1944.

Bedford said goodbye to 19 of their own that day and would wake up on June 7th to the telegrams bringing news of Killed in Action, Missing in Action and Wounded in Action to so many families of this small town.

This year the National D-Day Memorial will be remembering those men and the millions of others that served and brought freedom back to Europe and preserved the freedom of America.

Such events will include speakers, parades and veterans for this monumental anniversary. This anniversary is especially important because as the years continue our veterans will become fewer and fewer.

So, if you are not local and cannot support the efforts of the National D-Day Memorial here in the town of Bedford I would strongly encourage you to see what events might be happening in your locality and join in on the remembrance of the Invasion of Normandy.
A Record of the Mead Family

By: Duane Curtis Mead

2nd great grandson of John Howard Mead

December 30, 2018

A Record of the Mead Family was originally compiled by Charles E. Borden and appears to have been used for genealogical documentation by a Mrs. M.L. Stover of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Francis Scott Chapter, which they received on October 20, 1938. Mr. Borden apparently lived during the same time frame as John Howard Mead (1821-1889).

A clue to who Charles E. Bordon was is given on page 23 where it is reported that he lived in Wilmington, North Carolina and on page 40 that he lived in 1897. Another clue is on page 33 where he pens in that Col. William Mead (1727-1805) was his great grandfather. Other than these clues, I don’t know who these people are, a third edition will be released with this information.

The original typewriter document, bonded in hard cover, does not seem to have been published. Charles E. Bordon’s corrective notations are shown in blue Bradley Hand ITC font. Also, on the front page, a Daughters of the American Revolution clerk wrote some notations that is also shown in blue Bradley ITC font.

This is being called the second edition because of light editing that was done to the original work. For example, if Bedford was mistyped as Bedford then it was corrected to Bedford since it is believed that was the original intent. Another example of an edit is on page 108 where the surname of the Rev. Alexander Gordon was spelled Fordon and of course it should be Gordon. However, if words were misspelled due to the way people of the time spelled a word, then those words were not corrected. Also, the content of all the original pages have been maintained; so, if someone wanted to reference the original book, the page numbers will be correct.

A side not about the corrections to the original work. Modern people may not appreciate the difficulty of typing on an old typewriter while trying to transcribe handwritten letters. This appears to be what be exactly what Charles E. Borden did for us. It is not easy and I greatly appreciate Charles E. Borden for this work that he produced; errors and all.

Page one does start off abruptly by displaying a deed record. One would think that an introduction about Charles E. Borden or the Mead family would be a first page; but that was how it was done.

Speaking of the Rev. Alexander Gordon, his letter begins on page 106 and he emphasizes that our patriarch William Mead that came to this country could not have been the William Mead who was the friend of William Penn and we need to take that to heart because there are a number of false genealogical records that have our patriarch William, Mead as being the husband of a fictitious Elizabeth Sarah Fell and that is not true. William Penn’s friend, William Mead’s wife was a Sarah Fell. Our patriarch William Mead’s wife was Elizabeth and that is all we know about her.

Charles E. Borden was a very sure that this Mead family is descended from the Rev. Matthew Mead (1630-1699) and writes on page 25, “This assertion, I am satisfied, could be confirmed, but it would cost considerable time and money to do it.” What we do know is this question has gone unanswered for more than a century.

Charles E. Borden was bamboozled if our surname is spelled Mead or Meade (page 25). Our patriarch William Mead’s surname was definitely Meade and not Meade. It definitely stayed that way through the time of his grandsons, Col. William Mead (1727-1805) and Robert Mead (1750-1825). It was many, but not all, of Robert Mead’s descendants who lived in the North during the Civil War who changed the spelling of their surname to Meade after the Civil War probably to show their relationship to the war hero, Gen. George G. Meade, who we are not even related to because Gen. Meade is of Irish descent and the Meade family is of English descent.

The reader will find many interesting tidbits of information such as the Mead mansion in Bedford, Virginia (page 95) and another one in Augusta, Georgia (page 76). If anyone would like to see the mansion in Bedford, they won’t be able to because the Yankees burnt it down. The Yankees burnt down other Meade relics and family history as well. John Howard Mead said that they were a “sacrilegious foe” (page 95).

Another interesting find was the John Howard Mead had been researching the family and kept meticulous records and photos for 25 years. Those records are nearly entirely lost today.

Robert Mead (1750-1825) descendants’ might be taken aback when on page 29 it is written that “nothing can be found relating to him,” but don’t despair because this is Robert Mead’s Uncle Robert Mead. Honestly, I was not aware of this uncle, either.

****

World War II flight nurse: Evelyn “Chappy” Kowalchuk

Typed as Written

A Bedford County woman who was one of the only 500 flight nurses to serve in World War II died Sunday night.

Evelyn Kowalchuk, of Huddleston, died just more than a week after turning 93, said April Cheek-Messier, co-president of the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford.

Kowalchuk was honored in a ceremony at the memorial in May 2012 during a dedication of a commemorative plaque recognizing the role of flight nurses during the war.
She was among a panel of WWII veterans who spoke to a large crowd during a Feb. 13 event at the Bedford Area Welcome Center where she spoke of the “tearing of heart and soul” to treat the wounded soldiers at D-Day a few days after the invasion.

In 1946 she was honorably discharged and two years later she married. She was a mother of two and a life member of the Flight Nurses Association and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

For her military service she was awarded the Air Medal, the ETO Ribbon, the French Legion of Honor and the American Theatre Ribbon and was credited for serving in campaigns in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe.

In an interview in her home in Huddleston last May, Kowalchuk spoke of her flight nurse years as a “different life” but one she had fond memories of despite horrific experiences in battle.

“As many times as I repeat myself with these stories, I visualize it in front of me… and it still hurts to see,” she said during the interview.

The women were very close and kept in touch many years after the war, she had said.

The memorial and friends would remember Kowalchuk, nicknamed “Chappy,” for her dedication and achievements but also for her smile, Cheek-Messier said.

“In an interview in her home in Huddleston last May, Kowalchuk spoke of her flight nurse years as a “different life” but one she had fond memories of despite horrific experiences in battle.

“As many times as I repeat myself with these stories, I visualize it in front of me… and it still hurts to see,” she said during the interview.

The women were very close and kept in touch many years after the war, she had said.

The memorial and friends would remember Kowalchuk, nicknamed “Chappy,” for her dedication and achievements but also for her smile, Cheek-Messier said.

“Her sense of humor and her ability to silence a room as she spoke, her quick wit, her wonderful chuckle and the way her eyes lit up as she talked of those ‘ladies’ who gave their all,” she said. “It was a true blessing to have known her.”
Evelyn Kowalchuk (top row, far left) with her graduating class of the 818th Medical Air Evac Transport Squadron.

Evelyn is pictured holding a framed photo of her in her WWII uniform

From The News and Advance
“A D-Day nurse relives memories”

By: Michelle Kennedy
March 16, 2000

Typed as Written

Evelyn Kowalchuk recalls her memories from WWII as a flight nurse. She talks about the horrors she witnessed on the front lines and still so many years later the memories are just as vivid, as if they happened yesterday. The following article goes into detail about those experiences.

She sat silently for a moment, her face grew pensive as she returned to “that” place. A foggy mist covered her crystal blue eyes and there was no one else in the room, just the melodic chiming of the coo-coo clock distant in the background. Her hair now gray and cheeks gently brushed with the lines of old age, revealed the story of a woman who has been through something, Evelyn sat back in her chair and sighed. “I always get emotional when I talk about this.”

Evelyn Kowalchuk is one of many nurses that had been sent over to Europe during World War II. She has been certified as a nurse for only one year, yet in her heart loomed the desire to enlist. Kowalchuk had applied to the different branches of the armed forces, but to her surprise hadn’t received a response. Weeks passed by, still there was nothing.

“I wondered what was going on and I found out my mother had been ripping up any letters that arrived with government seal on them. She didn’t want me to join the service, she wanted me to be a wife and mother like my other two sisters.” she said.

Evelyn pursued her dream. She went to Bowman Field in Kentucky for her training and in 1943 was sent overseas.

“I had never even been in a plane, in fact many of the girls hadn’t, but it is something we knew we had to do,” she said. “My father was so proud of me when I left and I was also proud that day.”

Even the most extensive training could not have prepared the soldiers and nurses for the horrors they would encounter. The harsh reality of war would shock the young patriots as they stepped out onto enemy soil. There was no turning back, they had chosen to fulfill a duty to God and country no matter what the consequences were.

The young Ukrainian nurse, who had trained for nursing in a small hospital in Newark, NJ, was not prepared for the gruesomeness she would see.

“Even the worst case in a emergency room could not compare to the injuries we encountered on the beaches,” Kowalchuk said.

The stench of death filled the air and followed the nurses from beach to beach. It was a rigorous pattern to endure, but it became their life. The C47 planes would land on a small bulldozed strips carved out in the sand. The hum of motors would barely drone out the sound of the heavy artillery and bombs going off nearby. Propellers would continue to spin, kicking up the sand on the beach, blinding those loading up the first batch of wounded men.

The harsh pattern tired the nurse to the point of exhaustion. Each squadron was required to take one day of rest because of the “vividness” of what they had seen was still fresh in their minds. “You just couldn’t sleep.” Kowalchuk said. “In training they never told you about the real war with the arms and legs shot off, but you were living this horror on a daily basis.”

Fear came with each new mission. The paratrooper’s planes would fly overhead, and each nurse from the 818th squadron...
would stand and just watch them in silence, no murmurs of whispers, just the utter stillness of what was to come, knowing the next day they would follow.

Every day was “physically and emotionally draining to the body and soul.” It was a war both men and women were thrown into and not prepared for. Anxious boys were sent overseas right out of high school to join their fellow American on the front line.

“Oh how the Germans slaughtered some of those poor boys, they were just kids, so young,” Kowalchuk said.

The “boy scouts” and football heroes,” still bright eyed and ready to conquer the world, would fill every corner of the plane, wounded and dying. Kowalchuk recalls seeing fear and confusion on their faces as they would cry out for the comforting arms of their mothers.

“There was this one time I let a young soldier, who was bleeding to death, just rest his head in my lap while I sang him an old Ukrainian lullaby. He just needed to feel that closeness,” she said.

Over 50 years have gone by, but the memories of the war still tiptoe through the corners of Kowalchuk’s mind. She rarely speaks of her experiences but thinks of them every day, hoping tomorrow’s generation will do the same.

There was a patriotism among all of us and we were proud to serve,” she said. “Family and thoughts of home were always foremost on the mind when you were there, we knew the importance of a free country and that is why we went.”

There are over a thousand veterans dying every day and along with the dwindling number fades another memory, soon only the faint whisper of the souls lost in the war will be the voice gently reminiscing the past.

As she smiles, the glimmer of the sun shines off the lake water and through the window catching the reflection of tears in her eyes. Even now when she speaks of what she and many others endured years ago, the emotion catches her and without warning she is a captive of her past.

“Doesn’t the future always have to be built on the past? It will never entirely be forgotten, but it can be softened and little by little more bearable,” Kowalchuk said.

****

Display Spotlight

Below is a quick look at one of the displays that is new to the second floor. On page five we did a story on the opening of this new exhibit, but wanted to make sure that one of the case was shared. This particular case is of the Sheriff’s information and a spotlight of the service of Michael Mehaffey.

And the last picture looks at some of the early equipment used. Including, a fingerprint kit and fingerprint camera.

If you are in town make sure to check out this temporary display and learn more about Law Enforcement in Bedford County.

****

Evelyn Kowalchuk is one of the veterans honored in this event for veterans of the 315th Troop Carrier Group, they were stationed at RAF Spanhoe during WWII.

As she smiles, the glimmer of the sun shines off the lake water and through the window catching the reflection of tears in her eyes. Even now when she speaks of what she and many others
Memorial Day:
Remembering those who have served our country
By: Noelle Woodcock

Memorial Day is dedicated to remembering and honoring those who have served and sacrificed to protect our freedom. We should always be indebted to the military for their bravery and courage in war. It takes a special kind of individual to serve in the military and they must possess a warrior spirit. Soldiers have the courage to keep on fighting even if it means sacrificing themselves for their country. They believe in a cause greater themselves and they will not give up on that cause. We should take memorial day to remember those who have served and remember those who we have lost.

“We are forever indebted to those who have given their lives that we might be free.” - Ronald Reagan

“All who are buried here understood their duty. All stood to protect America. And all carried with them memories of a family that they hoped to keep safe by their sacrifice.” - George W. Bush

Here are two local men who served and sacrificed to protect our country.

February 10th, 2010
By: John Barnhart

Typed as Written

This article was featured in the Bedford Bulletin and is titled “The Forgotten War: Veterans recall service in Korea.” The article talks about one man’s experience as a truck driver during the Korean War. He talks about enduring the bitter cold in Korea, hearing machine guns and artillery batteries on the front lines, and how his girlfriend sent him a Dear John letter while he was overseas.

Many Veterans of the Korean War call it America’s forgotten war. It came between World War II and Vietnam and its veterans are often overlooked.

There are a number of them in the Bedford area and one of them is about to retire from the Bedford Bulletin. Actually it’s a second retirement. Wiley Fowler, who turned 79 late last year, worked at Rubatex for 38 years before taking a part-time job at the Bulletin.

Fowler was born in Lynchburg, but came to Bedford to live with his grandparents after his mother died when he was 7. He reported for service in the United States Army on January 10, 1952, after receiving a written invitation from Uncle Sam.

“My birthday came on Dec. 18 and I got my greetings the same week,” Fowler said.

He was sent to Ft. Ord in California for boot camp, followed by four weeks of school, where he learned to drive heavy trucks. Fowler said that, after boot camp, he was given three choices—infantry, cooking school, or truck driving school. He was 21 and liked the idea of driving a big truck, so he chose truck driving. Once he got to Korea, he learned that was a wise choice.

Fowler was assigned to the 485th Engineer Dump Truck Company. The men were shipped to ‘Yokohama, Japan, encountering a typhoon on the way.

“I was just hoping it didn’t sink,” Fowler said, recalling the time. “You’ve got all kind of thought.”

After a few days in Japan, they were shipped to Korea, where their trucks were waiting for them.

At the time Fowler got there, in the summer of 1952, U.S. forces were advancing northward and Army engineers, operating just behind the front line, built roads and bridges to help supplies move to the troops. He was armed with an M1 carbine, the weapon issued to troops, such as truck drivers, whose primary duty was not combat infantry. Combat infantry carried the longer M1 Garand.

Vehicles moved at 5 mph over narrow dirt roads.

“it was an endless sea of dust,” he recalled.

The engineers worked during daylight hours, then withdrew farther to the rear at night. Not too far, however. The men could hear small arms and machine guns fire from the front. Sometimes heavy artillery batteries nearby would open fire on enemy lines.

“That would shake your bed when it went off,” he said.

Korean was noted for bitter cold, but the thought that comes first to Fowlers mind when he recalls that time is the smell. The Koreans would use human racks, they had tents. The ground was frozen solid and they pitched the tents on the frozen ground, setting up folding wooden beds inside. The tents were equipped with heaters and Fowler said the legs of the beds would sink into the ground at night as the heaters thawed the frozen earth. The men slept in sleeping bags.

While frostbite didn’t pose the threat to the truck drivers that it did the infantry, the winter weather still created problems. Korea is mountainous and the narrow, now snow-covered roads could give even the big trucks problems. Fowler recalled one time when he came close to sliding off the road and going over a mountainside.

It was during this time he understood why choosing truck driving school was such a good idea. He had to go to an aid station after
getting his hand caught in a truck door. While there, he saw infantrymen being brought in from the front line with hands or feet blown off.

Fowler said that the last project they built before the armistice that ended the fighting took effect, was a bomb shelter for a general. He said it was part of the preparations for a big push.

“I was on guard duty when the cease fire happened,” he said. “I didn't hear a gun fire all night.”

Fowler was discharged from active duty in October, 1953. He said that men who had been drafted for the war were released from active duty quickly, although they were still liable for call-up for a period of eight years. Fowler said that he was almost called up for the Suez Crisis in 1956. He received a preliminary notice, but was not actually called to active duty.

Service in Korea made one major change in the direction his life took. He had been dating a young woman before he was drafted. He felt like they should wait until after he completed his military service before getting married. She, however, didn't.

“She sent me a ‘Dear John letter,” he said.

At least this wasn't as bad as what one fellow soldier had to deal with. Fowler said that he knew one man who got home and found his wife with another man.

“When he left, he wasn't drinking,' Fowler said. “but when he got back, he was drinking.”

Fowler adjusted to being summarily dumped. After returning home, he met another young women and they eventually married. He and his wife, Evelyn, have two children: Ronald Fowler, who lives in Bedford, and Nancy Clark, a nurse-practitioner who works in Maryland.

The News & Advance
Friday, August 30th, 2013

Obituary of Sgt. Charles L. Scott
Typed As Written

Sergeant Scott was a selfless man who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the service of his country. He would be killed in the battle of Chosin Reservoir in the Korean War. He would finally return home to Lynchburg, VA in 2013 as a part of the Korean War Project.

Sgt. Charles L. Scott, of Lynchburg, died Saturday, December 2, 1950, at the age of 20. He was a member of the U.S. Army, C Company, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, in Korea. He is survived by his 98 year old mother Frances H. Dresser, of Lynchburg.

Born Thursday, July 31, 1930, in Buena Vista, Va., Charles was a son of the late Elwood M. Scott.

In addition to his father, Charles was preceded in death by his grandparents, Lola and Mike Hogan and Bess and Stonewall Scott; and his half brother, Douglas E. Scott.

In addition to his mother, Charles is survived by his sister, Patricia D. Goff, of Lynchburg; his half-brother, Donald W. Scott, of Hartville, S.C.; his niece, Vicki G. Dodson and her husband, Donnie, of Richmond, Va.; his nephew, Charles D. Goff and his wife, Lia, of Goochland, Va.; cousins Jim Jenkins, of Four Oaks, N.C., and Archie Crawford of Partlow, Va., and numerous other cousins.

Charles grew up in Lynchburg, graduating from Boonsboro High School in 1948. On August 24th, 1948, Charles joined the army and was sent to Fort Jackson, SC for Basic Training. On Dec. 9th, 1948, he was sent to Japan aboard The U.S. Army Transport General E.T. Collins, arriving in Japan on December 24, 1948. He was then deployed to Korea. The Battle of Chosin Reservoir took place between November 27 and December 13, 1950. The battle was fought over some of the roughest terrain and during some of the harshest weather conditions of the Korean War; temperatures plunged to 35 degrees below zero. Charles paid the ultimate price during this battle - his life. In 1954, as a part of Operation Glory, some war dead from the U.S. and Korea were exchanged. Charles’ remains were included with this exchange.

****
Below is a neat story about a very famous banjo player, James M. Daniel and what the people of Bedford thought of him. This article ran in the Bedford Bulletin, year unknown.

What the “Bulletin,” Bedford City, Va, thinks of Mr. James M. Daniel.

Bedford’s famous banjo player, Mr. James M. Daniel, comes from a family of musicians. His sister and four brothers were noted for their musical talent, all having fine voices and being expert performers on various musical instruments. At one time the “Daniel Quartet,” composed of Mr. James M. Daniel and three of his brothers, was famed throughout their native and adjoining counties for their sweet music.

James M. Daniel with his banjo, however, was celebrated far above the others. He began playing when a boy of ten or twelve years of age, and a few years later was recognized as the most skillful performer in his neighborhood. Later he enjoyed the acquaintance of the Swinney Brothers, the most famous banjo entertainers of their time, and they taught him all their music. He showed himself an apt scholar, and it was soon discovered that the pupil surpassed the masters.

Mr. Daniel has always kept up his practice. He was a member of a famous glee club during the Civil War, and a collection was taken up by the soldiers to purchase the finest banjo that could be procured, and many a day’s hard toil of march and battle was brightened at its end by the jolly, rollicking music of the “old banjo,’ which made the Boys in Gray forget their troubles and cares for a time.

Most of the music played by Mr. Daniel is unpublished in any form; it has been handed down from musician to musician, and he is probably the only man now living who has a “complete” repertoire of the old-time plantation melodies.

His first appearance in Bedford some years ago, taking part in a local entertainment, did not merely create a sensation, but raised his auditors to the highest pitch of the wildest enthusiasm, and he was repeatedly encored until the curtain had to be lowered to abate the excitement for the remainder of the entertainment to be carried out. A most conclusive proof of his wonderful skill and a splendid tribute to his immense popularity was recently shown—after dozens of appearances before the Bedford public—by his enthusiastic reception at his entertainment here not long ago.

Mr. Daniel’s banjo music is so thoroughly imbued with the spirit of the living, breathing old-time Southern plantation that the hearer is likely to imagine himself actually present at some ante-bellum “big house” when the expert musicians of the plantations have been called up to entertain the guests.

Personally, Mr. Daniel is one of the most likeable of the true type of Old Virginia gentleman. Assistant cashier of the People’s Bank and town recorder, as well as high in the councils of the Masonic fraternity, he is known to everyone, and to know him is to be his friend. His life has been spent giving pleasure to others, and with his banjo he is one of the most delightful entertainers in the land.

As a banjo player he is in a class by himself. No other man now living can play the banjo as he does. He stirs the warm, red blood in your veins until your nerves tingle, and your only wish is to dance and shout with the glee that fills you.

Other banjo players claim to give an imitation of the old-time banjo player Mr. Daniel does not imitate; he is the real thing itself.

****

Below is a story as told by Thelma Kidd. I thought this would be perfect as we have left the winter where we attempted to fight the cold and stay warm and we are headed for the heat of the summer as we attempt to stay cool.

Keeping warm (in Winter) and cool (in summer)

By: Thelma Kidd

In winter it seemed to me most time and effort was spent trying to keep warm. Of course, the house was not well insulated and for fuel we depended upon the woods, and it took work to bring it to the wood shed ready to use. This labor was usually furnished by Papa and my brothers. Then, even after it was split into usable lengths for fireplace, heaters and cook stove, it needed to be done daily. Sometimes in bad weather, we stockpiled an extra supply on the side concrete porch.

Usually, the wood box by the cook stove had to be replenished daily, summer and winter. I remember one time when that was Reuben's job (and he was barefoot), I decided to play a joke on him. It was getting to be dark and I set two mousetraps in his path in the dining room. When he entered with an armful of wood, he stepped from one trap to the other. Whether he dropped the wood or not, however, I thought it was quite funny, but he didn't.
We used tin "hot blast" heaters in several bedrooms. I have built fires for quick heat using some paper and kindling with a little kerosene added and would be frightened at the speed with which it took hold. It still amazes me that with so many different inexperienced "firemen," a major fire disaster did not occur. For many years when we were small, the major source of heat was the fireplace in the living/bedroom and the cook stove in the kitchen.

In the hot summer time, keeping cool was also a problem with no air conditioning inside. Of course, as children we could hardly wait to shed our shoes. It was a privilege. And the boys who worked at raising tobacco, tomatoes, corn and wheat shed their shirts. They got very brown and I wonder now that they have not all developed skin cancer.

On the very hot days the "menfolk" would seek the shade of the many trees on the lawn for their dinner time siesta nap. And when conditions were right for a dip, the swimming hole furnished a refuge.

****

Below is part two of the history of the property the Museum stands on today. Parts will continue in the next several newsletters until the completion of the history. This history was compiled February 15, 1988 by Peter Viemeister. Typed as written.

1841 County is governed by 42 Justices.

1840's James Leftwich operates Eagle Tavern.

1844 Licenses issued to 5 lawyers.

1845 Armstead Otey sells lot 16 to Jacob Fizer, with the business known as Eagle Tavern.

1847 Completed last year, new St. John's Church is dedicated.

1847 Licenses issued to 13 lawyers.

1848 Lodge Secretary is Daniel Aunspaugh

1850 Number of licensed lawyers drops to 11.

Dr. John A. Otey, son of the Captain, is elected Mayor

1852 First railroad train comes through Liberty. Virginia & Tennessee. A modest depot/station is built at the foot of Court St, on land belonging to Dan Aunspaugh and Mr. Johnson. Depot Agent is Thomas Johnston.

Telegraph lines set up along RR right-of-way.

1854 Eagle Tavern/Leftwich's Hotel destroyed by fire.

1855 Quarles and Steptoe own the Bedford House, on site of Bell Tavern. Musical and theater events are held here.

1855 Ammon Ferguson buys old Eagle Tavern, reopening it and calling it Ferguson's Hotel. A guest from Atlanta wrote that "we were never better accommodated."

1857 Jessed Hopkins is operating a tavern on the north sized of the railroad tracks, opposite the depot.

1858 William C. Hewitt buys Hopkins House from Jesse Hopkins and renames it Hewitt Hotel.

1860 Number of lawyers declines to 9.

1864 Union troops damage Liberty in Hunter’s Raid.

Bedford House is still in business.

General Hunter has lunch at the old Hewitt Hotel, now called Liberty House.

1869 With the Civil War behind, Virginia tries to reconstruct.

Bedford famous son, Gen. William R. Terry, is now manager of Liberty House.

1872 A new station is build near old one, opposite Liberty House.

1874 Creditors foreclosure; A.F. Ferguson goes bankrupt. John R. Thurman and L.A. Sales are Assignees.

Abram Powell buys the Hotel.

1874 Ammon Powell agrees to let Ferguson continue living in two rooms of the hotel. Rent is set at $15 per month.

DB 74 p252.

1876 Two lots on Court Street sold to John Caddle. DB 48 p 408.

1877 L.A. Sale, the surviving Assignee in the bankruptcy of A.F. Ferguson, reports the sale of the Ferguson Hotel to James M. Matthews and J. R. Steptoe. May 18.

1879 Steptoe relinquishes his interest in the hotel to Matthews. June 13. Place becomes known as Modoc Motel.

1880 In October, fire breaks out at the Modoc, alarmin neighbors and frightening children. The editor of the Bedford Star writes “...this sink hole of iniquity will destroy the eastern end of town, is an eastwind is blowing.”

1881 Modoc property is purchased by the partnership of James M. Matthew and John W. Wright. Place is known Modoc Hotel. Deed Book 53 Page 365.

1883 Matthews and Wright sell a lot to the Mayor and Common Council, 56 feet 2 inches along Main Street and 120 feet 2 inches back along Court Street to the 20 feet alley, along the alley to property line of J. Gorman, and then parallel back to Main Street. Deed October 10, 1883.

1884 Fire destroys most buildings on Bridge Street.

1886 Bedford House...