

# Bedford Museum and Genealogical Library



*BEDFORD COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE (circa 1920s)*

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### ABOUT THE COVER PAGE

*Bedford Cooperative Exchange (circa 1920s)*

*The Bedford Cooperative Exchange was founded around the turn of the century by farmers who felt pricing of produce was unfair to them. In an attempt to stem this, they organized a cooperative.*

## THE ANNUAL TRAIN EXHIBIT

The annual train exhibit had another successful year. The train layout ran from Black Friday until the last Saturday in January. There were over 3,000 visitors and people came from all over. Some of the visitors this year were from Mississippi, Illinois, and Arizona. There were even some that were visiting relatives from places like Ecuador and South Africa. One individual remarked that one of his Army buddies in Germany told him to check out the display since he was coming into town.



Shortly before the exhibit was assembled, an N-gauge train layout was donated. It will be running by next season.. The train display also featured a Civil War display during Lee-Jackson Day with a Civil War era train on the tracks.



During this time of the year we also collected stuffed animals for the Teddy Bear Brigade for Gleaning for the World. We were able to deliver five garbage bags full of new and gently loved stuffed animals for children in need. In all we collected 110 teddy bears, which were sent to Guatemala.

We appreciate all those that came to see the trains. We would like to give thanks to the train club volunteers for their efforts and dedication, without them we would not be able to have the train display every year.

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## 2013 – 2014 FUND RAISER SUCCESS

The staff of the Museum would like to thank our patrons for a successful “Annual Appeal.” In November of each year we send an appeal for donations to our patrons and supporters. We were very late getting our letters in the mail and feared this might result in decreased donations, since most like to make their donations before the end of the year. Our December receipts were very low but in January, you responded overwhelmingly. We set a new record for the 2013 – 2014 cycle. These funds will be used for operational expenses and to help us with the many activities and programs we present. We have also been able to obtain several grants; however,

grants have to be used for specific purposes, such as painting, remodeling or updating computers and not for operations. Therefore, your donations are very important for day-to-day activities.

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## GREATER LYNCHBURG COMMUNITY TRUST

Over the years, the Museum has limped along with outdated computers and software. Many were donated and without them, we could not have functioned. We are deeply appreciative of those donors. All our software was outdated and, in some cases, the software would not run on some computers. In short, it was a mess.



*Stuart Fauber from the Greater Lynchburg Community Trust presents Doug Cooper with a \$5500 check to purchase all new computers and software for the Museum.*

Today, our nine computers stay very busy on a daily basis with our army of volunteers. Thanks to a grant from the Greater Lynchburg Community Trust, we have been able to replace all computers with the most up-to-date versions and with a lot of fast memory. We were also able to upgrade our server to five terabytes. All Microsoft Office software has been updated, as well as Adobe Acrobat and PastPerfect. Our data is backed up three different ways, including “cloud” storage. This ensures almost zero chance we could lose our data.

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## WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH ESSAY CONTEST

by Jennifer Thomson

On June 6 of this year, Bedford County will be honoring the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day and Bedford’s great loss that day. While Bedford will forever be connected to June 6, 1944, the sacrifice during World War II was much greater. The Bedford

Museum and Genealogical Library's annual Women's History Month essay contest depicted that sacrifice by having the theme of World War II. The contest was open for children in the second to eighth grades. The woman they wrote about must have lived between 1939 and 1946.

Children were required to have valid sources for the information. Children in second to fifth grades had to have at least one source, and those in the sixth through eighth grades needed at least two. Bonus points were added to the final score for local subjects and firsthand accounts.

There were twenty-five essays from third grade through seventh and they came from seven schools and three home-schoolers. The subject matters were very diverse, from Eleanor Roosevelt to Anne Frank and Marian Anderson. The students were very creative in their subject matters. Several students took the opportunity to highlight local women, such as Francis King Early, Ethel Foster, and Evelyn Kowalchuk.

Grand Prize winner in the elementary school grades was Danielle Syrek, from Forest Elementary who wrote about Florene Miller. Florene Miller was part of the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron.

Faith Hackworth, a homeschooler, won the middle school division with her essay on local woman Lucille Boggess. Faith was one of two that wrote on this local woman who lost two brothers on the Beaches of Normandy on June 6, 1944. They were both part of the "Bedford Boys" of Co. A, 1/116<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> Division. Both Grand Prize winners received \$50.

The first place winner in the second and third grade division was Lila Nikola, a third grader, with her essay on operatic singer, Marian Anderson. Fifth grader Sydney Houck won the fourth and fifth grade division with a fantastic essay on Ruby Bradley, the most decorated female officer of that time. Rounding out the first place winners was Daisy Montgomery, with her wonderful essay about her 100-year-old great-grandmother. Each first place winner received \$25.



*Winners of the Women's History Month Essay Contest*

Adalynn Beard, the second and third grade runner-up wrote her essay on local woman Annie Mae Witt. Andrew Isaacs was the runner-up in the fourth and fifth grade division with

his essay on WWII baby smuggler/rescuer Irena Sendler. The runner-up in the middle school grades was Ella McGinnis with her essay on Dutch Resistance worker Hannie Schaft.

Mrs. Witt, the subject of runner-up Adalynn Beard, and Mrs. Boggess, the subject of Grand Prize winner Faith Hackworth, were our guests during the reading of the essays by the finalists on Saturday, March 22, here at the Museum.

Our fantastic sponsors this year helped with our judging: The William R. Terry Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Bedford Rifle Gray's Sons of Confederate Veterans, The Taylor Wilson Camp Auxiliary of the Sons of Un-



ion Veterans of the Civil War, the National D-Day Memorial, and the Peaks of Otter Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution. Their help with judging was greatly appreciated.

### **FLORENE MILLER**

By Danielle Syrek (3rd grade)

Florene Miller took her first airplane ride when she was 8 years old with her father in a barnstormer plane. A barnstormer plane is a plane where the pilot pumps the throttle making a lot of noise and attracting the public to come and buy a ride in their plane. When Florene was flying in a plane she felt like a bird soaring in the air.

When Florene was in college, her father bought a Luscomb two-seater airplane. She couldn't wait to get home. Florene's father, Florene's older and younger brothers and Florene all flew the airplane. Her father said that he was preparing his kids to contribute to the war effort in case the U.S.A. went to war. Florene's older brother and father died tragically by crashing their plane.

Florene was upset, but that didn't stop her from continuing her flying career. She went on to get her private license, her commercial license and her flight instructor's license. She taught hundreds of men how to fly. Her and her younger brother volunteered to fly for the Army Air Corps.

In October 1942, when Florene was 21, she went to Delaware to join the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron. This group flew military planes from the factories to the airfields and overseas shipping points in the U.S. Once she was flying a P-47 and the plane lost part of its tail, part of its wing and part of a propeller. Florene was still able to get the plane to the ground safely even when she was low on gas. In 1944 this ferrying group was deactivated. They did not get their honorable discharge until 1977. She died on February 4, 2014 at the age of 93.

I admire her and want to be like her because she was smart, daring, brave and adventurous.



### **LUCILLE HOBACK BOGGESS**

by Faith Hackworth (homeschooler, middle school)

This is a story of a lady named Lucille Hoback Boggess. Lucille was born in 1929, to John and Macie Hoback. She was the sixth child of 7 children. She grew up on a farm, right across the street from Centerpoint Baptist Church in Bedford, Virginia, where they attended and her father was secretary. when interviewed Lucille said, "You would go to church to see your friends."

Miss Hoback got married in 1948, to Ralph Earl Boggess.

Two of Lucille's three brothers, Bedford and Raymond Hoback, joined Company A of the now famous Bedford National Guard. "I was about ten years old when my brothers enlisted." said Lucille (from the interview.) "On D-day, both brothers were in the first wave to attack Omaha Beach. Bedford was killed in action. Raymond was declared missing in action, a status changed a year or so later to killed in action. Raymond's remains were never found." (From the book *Bedford Goes to War*).

On July 16, 1944 a Sunday morning more than five weeks after D-day, the Hoback family was getting ready for church when Sheriff Jim Marshall, a good friend of Mr. John Hoback

came to the house. Lucille's father went out to meet the long faced sheriff. Lucille followed her father out also but her father waved for her to go back in the house. Then he summoned his wife Macie out to receive the sad news about their sons.

When they went in the house the children came in the kitchen where their parents were and their father told them that their brother Bedford was dead, then they all cried. On Monday the next day, Lucille with her sister and brother, were in the basement making ice cream hoping it would make their parents feel better, when the second telegram came saying that Raymond was missing in action. Lucille explained how she felt, "I was upset, overwhelmed, and sad." (From the interview with her.).

Pvt H. W. Crayton, a soldier from West Virginia, found Raymond's Bible in the sand of Omaha Beach and sent it to Mrs. Hoback with a note. Mrs. Hoback had given Raymond the Bible for Christmas in 1938." (From the book *Bedford Goes to War*).

The letter read as follows,

"Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hoback:

I really don't know how to start this letter to you folks, but will attempt to so something in words of writing. I will try to explain in the letter what this is all about. While walking along the Beach D-Day Plus 1, I came upon the Bible. And as most any person would so I picked it up from the sands to keep it from being destroyed. I knew that most all Bibles have names and addresses within the cover so I made it my business to thumb through the the pages until I came up on the name above. Knowing that you no doubt would want the Book returned I am sending it knowing that most Bibles are a book to be cherished."

Lucille still has the letter, the Bible, and the telegrams today. She allowed me see and hold them when we went to visit her at the National Elks Home where she now resides. Lucille still has vivid memories of those painful days even at her advanced age. Why I admire Lucille? I admire Lucille because, She prayed for her brothers each day, hoping that they would come home. Lucille reads her Bible. Miss Boggess tries everyday to be a better Christian. She bought war bonds. She and her sibling tried to comfort her parents when they were sad. How would I like to be more like her? I would like to be more like her by, praying more for my brother in the army. I would like to be more like her by helping others more. By reading by Bible more. Trying to be a better Christian.

## MYSTERY ADVERTISEMENT

By Amy Wilson

I was invited to look at a wooden case which has Liberty, VA, paper label, printed on the lid inside. It is apparently an advertisement for Opera Glasses. Across the bottom of the label: Thurman Robertson Co., Liberty, VA.



The item belonged to a woman who lived in Warrenton, Virginia who called it a spool chest and kept her silverware in it. It is not known where she got it or the age of it. It is made of Oak, 28" wide x 19" deep x 12" high, has a slight slant lift up.



## FAITHFUL VOLUNTEER



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*Malcolm Stevens presenting the boxes to Jennifer Thomson*

It has been stated many times, and it is true, we could not do what we do if not for our faithful volunteers. Some of our smaller and most valuable artifacts have not been well-

protected while on display. Malcolm Stevens is using his carpentry skills to help us with this. Shown are two cases he recently provided and he has constructed several others that are not shown. He also repaired some of our other cases and has offered to do whatever he can to be an asset to the Museum. Thank you, Malcolm. The Museum and its patrons appreciate your dedication.

## CORRECTION TO THE SUMMER-FALL 2013 NEWS-LETTER,

by Darrell Debo

The article, "Gen. Clingman at Cold Harbor" (page 17) ends on page 18 after the next-to-the-last paragraph ending with, "... like to tell you, but it wouldn't look well in print this long after it happened." The following begins on page 18 and is page 1 of a story entitled, **"The Last Days of the Confederacy, A War Experience for the Boys,"** by Clarence Debo.

It's not a Georgia possum tale but the actual experience of a boy 19 years old during the last ten days of the Confederacy. The men of middle age and old selfish croakers will not believe it, but I don't care. I don't want them to even read it, it's for the boys, and when they see that it is not a Georgia tale they will believe every word of it. I will use the first person singular because I was the boy.

On the 31st of March, 1865, after four hours sound sleep in the mud nine miles S.W. of Petersburg, with eight thousand of us under Bushrod Johnson marched out in the pine thicket in front of the breastworks and formed in line of battle. Johnson gave the order, "Forward, guide centre, double quick, march!" As we emerged from the thicket into an open field 90 yards wide we saw three solid lines of blue coats coming from the other side at a double quick, trail arms. Neither side fired till we were within 25 yards of them, then we gave them one volley. It sounded like as if you take a piece of ducking and tear it from one side to the other, only, only louder of course. There was nothing between us except a crop of your corn about knee high. Boys, that volley just covered the ground with men; it seemed like every shot found a victim. They just stampeded and never returned the fire till they rallied at their breastworks, and then came out time to run. I had just put down my fortieth and last cartridge and was putting a cap on my rifle when a shell from the enemy's guns struck my right foot and crushed it. Boys, you ought to have seen me coming out of that — my gun under my arm for a crutch and my well foot on the wounded to an old winter camp in the pine woods close by a cane-break swamp, and left us there without surgeon or a nurse. They put five of us in a log hut 8x12 and next morning Jack Stewart, Bige Douglas, and Henry Thomas were dead . . . (continue).

*(This article was written by Bedford County Confederate soldier Cornelius Debo, Pvt. 28th VA, and appeared in the Burnet Bulletin in Burnet, Texas, July 17, 1898.)*

**CARL K. OVERSTREET – U-2 PILOT**

By Jennifer Thomson



Carl Overstreet and his wife Elizabeth shared their story at our April genealogy and history forum.

On June 20, 1956, Bedford native, Carl Overstreet, climbed into a U-2 and took off from Wiesbaden, West Germany. He flew first over Belgium before turning back and flying over Wiesbaden and heading east. “Now at high altitude, he entered ‘denied territory’ where the borders of East and West Germany and Czechoslovakia met. After passing north of Prague, he (then) entered Poland (near its) border (with) East Germany and Czechoslovakia. If the aircraft was showing up on radar screens below, the hope was that the three satellite countries would have trouble coordinating their air defense reaction. (He) pressed on to Bydgoszcz before turning south-east to Warsaw and Lublin, then ... to Krakow and Wroclaw. (He then) flew directly over Prague heading southwest. ... the Rhine and the Franco-German border, before he descended to a safe landing at Wiesbaden.” ([http://www.coldwar.org/articles/50s/early\\_u2.asp](http://www.coldwar.org/articles/50s/early_u2.asp))



*Mr. Richard Bidwell, retired C.I.A. agent  
(Elizabeth Overstreet is in the background)*

That flight was the FIRST flight over Soviet airspace in a U-2

and a Bedford native was at the controls. Mr. Overstreet said, “In the next year and a half, until the end of my CIA contract, I think we pissed Nikita a bit, but I believe Ike was grateful. Besides my flights covering the Soviets, I also made photos of the Suez from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean after Nasser had it shut down in 1957. ... (and I got) some of the first pictures of Castro's Cuba in October 1962.” (<http://roadrunnersinternationale.com/overstreet.html>)



*In the foreground, U-2 spy plane*

*Lockheed U-2 spy plane was developed in secrecy in mid-1950s and could fly at record altitude to take photos of USSR. Pilot of the very first U-2 flight over Iron Curtain was Carl K. Overstreet in 1956.*

Also at the meeting was Dick Bidwell, a retired CIA agent. Mr. Bidwell used to analyze the photos taken from the U-2 planes and would interpret what he saw.

**FACTS ABOUT U-2 SPY PLANES**

by Penelope M. Sablack

According to a *U.S. News & World Report* story, “No Rest for a Cold Warrior\*,” dated September 20, 2007, by Kevin Whitelaw, the U-2 is the highest flying aircraft—over 70,000 ft. The pilots had to “wear a pressurized spacesuit, . . . breathe pure oxygen for an hour before takeoff to stave off decompression sickness.” Landings were challenging for a few reasons and one was the spacesuit. The pilot had to stall the engine a few feet above the ground. This was difficult because of the limited vision of the cumbersome spacesuit and the fact that, according to Samuel Ryals, the tail wheel moves, not the nose wheel.” To help, a sports car races behind the plane and lets the pilot know the altitude.

The U-2s of today have a greater wing span and their “classified sensors are so advanced that they use a combination of seven different bands of visual and infrared imagery to produce” photograph-like images no matter what the climate.

The next spy plane is the Golden Hawk. It is unpowered, can fly at 65,000 ft., and stay in the air thirty hours, instead of twelve hours. The Reaper aircraft can fly at 50,000 ft. and it is unpowered. Jets fly 25,000 to 45,000 ft. Lastly, the Predator, unpowered, can soar up to 25,000 ft. and is audible from the ground.



"The legendary U-2 spy plane may finally be retired," an article by Christopher Woolf, news editor of PRI's "The World," dated April 24, 2014, states: *One of the oldest tools in the intelligence toolbox is still one of the best. The original spy-in-the-sky: the U-2 spy plane. Except, the Air Force now wants to phase it out, after almost 60 years in service.*

In light of spending cuts for defense, the U. S. Army and the Air Force seem to disagree on whether or not to retire or phase out the U-2. It was originally hoped that the U-2 could escape detection of the Soviet Union's radar, but Gary Powers' failed flight proved otherwise. The U-2 is cheaper to operate than a drone, and therefore, Congress has been dragging its feet to approve the Air Force's attempts to phase out the plane..

The U. S. Army doesn't agree with retiring the plane, so says the top U. S. commander in South Korea, Army General Curtis Scaparotti who testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee that the U-2 provides unique capabilities that a drone does not.

The U-2 has other advantages over satellites and drones. One example, the earthquake and tsunami in northern Japan in 2011. A U-2 was sent to survey the damage. It was able to note the amount of damage to the reactor. It would have taken a satellite days to get into position.

According to Joel B. Pollak, columnist, his article, "U-2 spy plane blamed for ATC computer failure," May 4, 2014, explains although "the U-2 was flying at 60,000 feet, computers treated it as if it were flying in commercial airspace thousands of feet below. The effort to manage its path overloaded the "En Route Automation Moderation" computer system." Thus, the air traffic control operations in California and across the nation were disrupted.

What will be the fate of the U-2?

\*The "Cold Warrior" is Carl K. Overstreet.

Sources:

*Ryals, Samuel, Former U-2 pilot and director of research and development at Goodrich.*

<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/investigations/spy-plane-fries-air-traffic-control-computers-shuts-down-lax-n95886>

### IN MEMORIAM

*Ethel Wolfe Born, author of the book, From Horse and Buggy to High Tech, a collection of amusing stories about rural mail carriers, passed away March 26, 2014. Ethel was at the Museum and made a very engaging presentation on 14 September 2013. The history community will miss her.*

## BRITISH INVASION OF THE MUSEUM

By Jennifer Thomson

At the end of March the Bedford Museum & Genealogical Library had its own British Invasion. A film crew from England had heard about the plane crash of the B-25 on Sharp Top. They came to Bedford to talk about the crash and the possible causes of it. They were with the UK history channel, Yesterday TV. The series is entitled, "Air Crash Investigators." It is a six-part series that looks at six different WWII era crashes from around the world and tells the stories of the crews, their planes, and their participation in the war effort.



*Robert E. Key and host, Garth Bernard*

While they were here, they interviewed Bobby Key, who witnessed the crash as a young man, and June Goode, whose husband was one of the first responders to the crash scene. Jennifer Thomson, presented Bedford's history by explaining



*June Goode's husband was one of the first responders*

the artifacts of the crash housed in the Museum. The crew also traveled up Sharp Top mountain in the snow and mud to try to locate the crash site.

This was not the only British film crew to contact the Museum in recent months. There is a program in the works about the Beale Treasure. There will also be several of the Museum's D-Day photos in an upcoming PBS special entitled, "D-Day 360," which will air on May 27 at 9 p.m. Dates and times for the B-25 crash or the Beale Treasure stories are not known as yet.

**FRIDAYS AT THE MUSEUM 2014****LIST OF ACTIVITIES**

June 6<sup>th</sup> –Bo Zaryczny will share his experience as a Polish-born child under Hitler's Regime. He will talk about living in the Ghettos and his family's journey to America in the 1950s.

June 13<sup>th</sup> – In honor of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hunter's Raid, the Taylor Wilson camp of Sons of Union Veterans will explain the campaign, as well as showing the movie, *Battle of Lynchburg*.

June 20<sup>th</sup> – As we continue to talk about Hunter's Raid we will be firing off a ten-pound Napoleon cannon behind the Courthouse, and the Gen. William R. Terry Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy will present information about the War between the States.

June 27<sup>th</sup> – We will be taking a journey back in time to Avenel plantation. Re-enactors from the Booker T. Washington National Monument will be sharing a firsthand account of the activities of this important house during the Civil War and Hunter's Raid.

*July 4<sup>th</sup> – NO FRIDAYS AT THE MUSEUM DUE TO FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY*

July 11<sup>th</sup> – In honor of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day, we will be visiting the National Guard Amory in town, home of the "Bedford Boys." Co. A, 1/116<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> Division.

July 18<sup>th</sup> – As part of the celebration of the 260<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bedford County, we will learn how religion influenced the American Revolution. Our guest for the day will be a re-enactor portraying John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, a Lutheran minister turned Anglican minister turned officer in the Virginia militia.

July 25<sup>th</sup> – As part of learning more about World War II, we will be making a visit to Smyth Label/Piedmont Label, where many of the "Bedford Boys" worked before the War. They have been employing Bedford's men and women since 1919.

Aug 1<sup>st</sup> - Our last speaker of the summer will be the daughter of William H. Merriken, one of only a handful of survivors of the Malmedy Massacre during the Battle of the Bulge.

Aug 8<sup>th</sup> – We will be celebrating our summer of learning by having a wrap-up party here at the Museum. All sponsors and speakers are welcome to attend.



# The Forum

The Bedford Museum Genealogy and History Forum had its beginning at the Museum in the 1970s. It has had several name changes over the years but continues to fulfill its mission, "To serve as a medium of exchange of genealogical and historical information for Bedford and surrounding counties; It shall promote the collection and preservation of manuscripts, documents, and other genealogical and historical materials, which become the property of the Museum; and shall promote workshops, genealogy classes and publication of genealogical and historical data. The Forum may also acquire books and publications for the Museum and Genealogy Library." The Forum meets monthly (except for December and January) on the second Saturday at 1:30 p.m. The meeting is free and open to the public. We always have an interesting program and informal discussion about local history and genealogy. See a list of future programs below.

## Future Forum Meetings

**June 14, 2014** - We will picnic at the home of Wayne Foutz. This is an amazing farm with a 360-degree view of the area and the home of John Buford. The remains of Waldron's Mill are also located on the property.

**July 12, 2014** - Revely Carwile will be speaking on Quaker cemeteries and meeting houses, where and when they were built. He plans to discuss the monument at South River meeting house dedicated to two Yankee soldiers killed in 1864, it being the sesquicentennial of their death.

**August 9, 2014** - (Tentative)- Dennis Fritts will present history of the War of 1812 and relate little known facts about the war.

**September 14, 2014** - James Morrison will present his new book *Class of 1940: Coming of Age in World War II*.

**October 11, 2014** - Janice Bowling will talk about her quest to find information on her dad's service in WWII, his name was Harry Nestor.

**November 8, 2014** - Randy Lichtenberger will make a presentation on the New London Village and Museum, the plans that the Friends of New London have for the future, and how all that are interested in Bedford County history may help. He will also show artifacts that were preserved from the ground around Mead's Tavern. The tavern was built in 1763. The artifacts include pottery, metal objects, and other items too numerous to mention. All these artifacts help to tell the story about the tavern and its history.

**February 14, 2015** - Duane Mead will present the findings of his research on the Mead family.

**March 14, 2015** - Mark Creasy and Doug Cooper will present the history of Slick Rock Distillery, a legal distillery located at what now is referred to as Holy Land USA.

**April 11, 2015** - Doug Cooper and Alvin Martin will present the history of Feldspar Mines in Bedford County.

## Bedford, Va., the Home of Painless Dentistry

(Ed. Note: We are not certain of the date of the article, but we do know that it was from the Bedford Democrat. The letter was re-typed as he wrote it.)

Chicago, Ill., Nov. 3, 1938

Mr. Harrison Editor,  
Bedford Democrat.  
Dear Mr. Harrison:

I have been a long time starting this history. For history's sake of Virginia I thought best to recall about the great things that came from Virginia and dear old Bedford.

Don't forget 8 years before Marconi, the Italian, was born a radio message was sent for 18 miles in dear old Virginia, yet he, Marconi, gets the credit right in your school books, when it was Dr. Loomis, in 1866, his first message not far from Bedford, but people only laughed at him. What good is it, and he, Dr. Loomis, died of a broken heart. Why in 1895 a fine gentleman then a young lawyer from a grand old Virginia family, with a man by name of Mr. Paul Bargamin, held me in a debate there was no such animal when I lectured on radio and television. And this young man was Mr. Nelson Coles.

I knew it then only to be laughed at. It's hard to be a pioneer. In 1890 I compounded a liniment and used it successfully to extract teeth. It was so successful I just wanted to know why.

I got my friend Dr. O'Hara, a grand gentleman, Dr. Hopkins that had Bedford's big drug store. When Dr. Walter Lyle got great knowledge these two gentlemen and my self worked on my liniment one ingredient at a time. I then got a new United States dispensary and found in that book 50 years old, a French chemist knew about it too. Now think this is over 40 years ago. So, I dropped the liniment and went all over the big cities in East extracting teeth without pain.

I went to New York and to day have proof I extracted 500 teeth in one day. Many weeks a thousand. I got to be such an expert I would give \$5 to any one I hurt. I showed my discovery to doctors. Dentist etc. They said I did the work, only it was by hypnotizing the people, and in Mr. E. G. Abbott's home one time I had near a barrel of teeth. And, to day I have boiled and cleaned over 20 thousand teeth. I was the first to extract teeth without pain in New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Kentucky, Vermont, Massachusetts and your office printed me a letter head 40 years ago which read "the only man on earth that extract teeth without pain." But like Dr. Loomis with his radio I was too far ahead of the time.

Now behold a dentist in New York City in 1934, got a million dollars worth of free advertising on his new discovery formula for painless dentistry. And what do you think it is and was, in 1934 there came things I have used for 40 years, before he was born. What is now known as Dr. Hartman's discovery was discovered in dear old Bedford City 40 years ago.

Now papers are full of new discovery in Europe,

curing people by suggestions. I also introduced that over 40 years ago in Virginia. My first case in Bedford was to make a blind man see.

Bedford City has honor of having one of the first x-rays in America. It was November 1895, the German doctor got it out, and January 1896 I had one in Bedford City and first to use it in some of the biggest cities in America. And don't forget I was one of the first to introduce called chiropractic. Also osteopathy, all in Virginia and Bedford county forty years ago. Reporters get this wrong, saying Dr. Coue was the first who brought it from France. This is not true. Dr. Coue got his knowledge from Weltmer at Nevada, Missouri. Also Dr. Palmer, who called his healing Chiropractic, both classmates of mine, and I graduated the year before Dr. Coue. But I, being an American and a pioneer, was my hard luck.

To my friends I wish to say that I am in fine health and I hope they are the same. In truth, I long to end my days in Bedford. My daughter, Gladys, lives in California, and has three fine sons. I love Virginia and my heart is still in Bedford.

If this reaches you, Mr. Harrison, good luck and health to you and yours as well as all those who remember me—Nelson Sale, the Carders and others.

It's hard to be a pioneer. I, Dr. Harry DeForest, M.D., D. C., D. D. S., D. O., skilled in chemistry, toxicology, hygiene, diet, years before many doctors were born, first introduced these now famous formulas and methods in Virginia, and in dear old Bedford.

Don't forget the sign over the old store once read "G. Abbott & Son." Those were happy days.

Yours truly,  
DR. HARRY DeFOREST,  
1648 N. Clark Street, Chicago.

### BURWELL DEEDS LAND FOR COLORED CEMETERY

At the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Street (now an alley) and College St., there is a cemetery and there are no remaining stones. The following was donated by a patron.:

Mrs. Frances Burwell

Deed: September 18, 1866

1—Acre of land adjoining the colored graveyard on Mrs. Burwell's land, to the Colored Congregation, as a colored burying ground. (Present colored burying ground adjoining, to be enclosed but not to be part of the one-acre, sold.)

Bedford Court House,

Bedford, VA

Deed Bk. #43

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## HUNTER'S RAID 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

By Jeremy Loftis

The summer of 1864 found the Southern cause between a rock and a hard place. Sherman pushed Confederate forces back in the campaign to take the vital manufacturing center of Atlanta. Confederate forces did win the battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and Cold Harbor; however, these battles only proved to be minor setbacks to the Union army under General Grant. General Robert E. Lee would then find himself fighting a holding action around Petersburg and Richmond, beginning in mid-June 1864. It was around this time General Grant ordered General David Hunter to launch an attack on the vital supply depot of Lynchburg, thus depriving Confederate forces of valuable supplies.

Major General David Hunter, began to plan his route of march toward Lynchburg on June 9, 1864. Hunter sent a separate force to march toward the Orange and Alexandria Railroad to damage the tracks, in order to stop Confederate forces from slowing his march. The army under Hunter had just defeated a small Confederate force near Port Republic, which allowed for Hunter's forces to begin marching on June 10, from Staunton to the outskirts of the Tye River un-harassed. When elements of Hunter's force did reach the Tye River Bridge on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June, they were fired upon by men of Captain H. C. Douthat's Artillery armed with muskets.



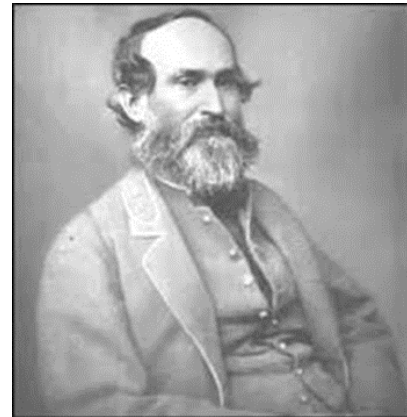
*Union General David Hunter, who would command the march on Lynchburg which was an attempt to deprive the Confederacy of valuable resources.*

Hunter's force eventually reached Lexington on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June. Hunter, instead of using this day to march towards Lynchburg, decided to burn V. M. I. (Virginia Military Institute) and Washington College, this would prove to be a costly mistake for the coming battle. Also, General John McCausland's cavalry began to cause Hunter problems, hav-

ing harassed elements of Hunter's army for several days; he had the bridge over the James River burned, thus delaying Hunter's campaign further.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of June the federals reached Liberty (now Bedford), via the Peaks of Otter. Hunter set up his headquarters at Fancy Farm, while his soldiers stole from local farms and store houses. To further compound the plunder of Liberty, infantry commanded by General George Crook destroyed the train depot and railroad track leading to Lynchburg.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of June, General Jubal Early received orders from Robert E. Lee to make his way to Charlottesville. After marching for nearly 100 miles in three days, Early's troops reached Charlottesville. It was here that Early got word from General Breckinridge that Hunter was in Liberty. It must have been at this time that Early ascertained Hunter's objective of taking Lynchburg. When morning came on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June, Early loaded half his army onto trains to complete the final sixty miles to Lynchburg; the other half of Early's army would be forced to march the rest of the way.



*Confederate General Jubal A. Early, commanded Confederate forces defending Lynchburg during the Battle of Lynchburg. He used the topography of Lynchburg to his advantage, along with employing an ingenious train ruse to win the battle.*

When Early reached Lynchburg he found that the defenses in the city were not to his liking. Cavalry units commanded by Imboden and McCausland were positioned near the Quaker Meeting House. He decided to move the defenses roughly two miles out from the city. It was in these defenses that he placed Ramseur's fresh troops, and along these same defenses he placed six cannons. Early also ordered artillery placed on strategic high ground throughout the city. Fighting, which had commenced early in the day, ceased as night began to fall. It was on this night that Early used his famous ruse. He had an engine with several box cars run up and down the train tracks thus convincing Hunter and his troops that tens of thousands of troops had arrived in the city.

At two o'clock in the afternoon of 18<sup>th</sup> of June, infantry commanded by General A. N. Duffiè attacked Early's right flank. Hunter sent Generals Crook and Sullivan on an attack that was repulsed after taking heavy musket and artillery fire. It

was after the failed attack by Crook and Sullivan that Hunter decided to retreat.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of June Early and Hunter fought a small skirmish battle in Liberty. After being defeated in this skirmish, Hunter's men began to retreat towards Bufordsville (now Montvale). Though defeated, some federals still took the time to pillage homes before they made their hasty retreat. Hunter would escape to West Virginia by way of Salem.

Hunter's raid ended in a rout. Hunter sustained a large number of casualties. Also, with Hunter on the retreat, Early was able to begin operations in the vicinity of Washington, D. C. Later in 1864 Hunter would resign his commission.

*Sources:* Blackford, Charles M. *Campaign and Battle of Lynchburg, Virginia*. Lynchburg: Warwick House Publishing, 1994.

Scott, Melvin. *Bedford Soldiers in the Civil War*. Lynchburg: J. P. Bell Company, 1970.

## THE BEDFORD BOYS IN THE 80<sup>TH</sup> DIVISION

Dr. Lee Anthony and Jeremy Loftis

In the year 1914 World War I began. In 1917 the United States in order to field army augmented with enough divisions to fight in the Great War. Many new divisions were created for WWI, each division contained 25,000 soldiers. The army tried to keep friends and neighbors in the same units, so that there would be more unity and better morale in combat.

Men were drawn from Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia to form the 80<sup>th</sup> Division. The division took as its patch the picture of a blue mountain with three peaks, each peak representing the three states from which the men were drawn. The 80<sup>th</sup> had four regiments: the 317<sup>th</sup>, 318<sup>th</sup>, 319<sup>th</sup>, and 320<sup>th</sup>. It also contained machine gun, artillery, supply units, etc. Of the Infantry regiments, the 317<sup>th</sup> contained men from the western part of Virginia, the 318<sup>th</sup> was comprised of men from the eastern part of Virginia, the 319<sup>th</sup> contained men from the western part of Pennsylvania, and the 320<sup>th</sup> contained men from eastern Pennsylvania. The artillery and machine gun units of the 80<sup>th</sup> Division were composed of men from West Virginia.



*Men of the 80th Division are trained on a machine gun just before an attack during World War I.*

After being formed in the fall of 1917, the division trained at Camp Lee, VA, during the winter months. In May 1918 the 80<sup>th</sup> Division arrived in France. These American troops of the First National Army trained with the British army near the Somme, Picardy, and Artois. In mid-August 1918 the 317<sup>th</sup> regiment began independent operations between Hebuterne, Serre, and Pusieux.

The 80<sup>th</sup> Division was sent to St. Mihiel where there was a German salient. Most of the 80<sup>th</sup> Division was in reserve during the battle; two of its regiments were sent to fight alongside the French. The next great campaign would be the Meuse – Argonne offensive.

On the morning of October 4, 1918, the 80<sup>th</sup> Division was deployed from the northern edge of Nantilleux to the road leading to Briulle. The objective was the Argonne Wood known as Bois des Argonne; the woods were located across a wide, empty farmland. The Germans had the area covered with fire from machine guns and artillery. Many shells were high explosive and mustard gas shells. The 80<sup>th</sup> next moved northward toward the objective of Sedan. Units were constantly being rotated and replenished with replacement troops and supplies. The 80<sup>th</sup> was rotated just before the armistice, which occurred on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month 1918. The division was returned to Virginia in 1919 where the troops were discharged.

With the advent of World War II, the 80<sup>th</sup> Division was reactivated at Camp Forest, TN. They would train in Tennessee and in the deserts of Arizona and California. Their next destination would be England then France.

The 80<sup>th</sup> Division landed in France on D+50, they joined Patton's Third Army in which they provided extraordinary service, along with becoming one of General George S. Patton's favorite divisions. The first major battle of the 80<sup>th</sup> Division in World War II was at Argentan, France, from which they continued fighting the Germans eastward. They were in eastern France and Luxembourg on December 16, 1944, the first day of the Battle of the Bulge. The 80<sup>th</sup> Division and Patton's Third Army broke the German siege at Bastogne. Following this, they pushed the Germans eastward through Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia. During this time, the 80<sup>th</sup> Division helped liberate three concentration camps and helped recover untold treasures from an abandoned mine in Austria. The 80<sup>th</sup> Division also holds the distinction of capturing Brenau, Austria, the birthplace of Adolph Hitler.

After World War II, the 80<sup>th</sup> Division was reconfigured into an airborne unit, however, there was insufficient airlift capability. The 80<sup>th</sup> remained an infantry division and the 82<sup>nd</sup> remained airborne. During the Cold War, the 80<sup>th</sup> made a transition to a training unit, training infantry around the world. Training included battle experience in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The two World Wars, the Cold War, and now the Global War on Terror, which we are now fighting, have been highlighted. People should remember that the "Cold War" began at the end

of World War II and lasted until the fall of the Soviet Union. Since the Cold War we have experienced Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and action in Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. One might consider that the Global War on Terror began on September 11, 2001, but it is indeed a continual war between good and evil. It is hopeful that the citizens of Bedford, Virginia, and the United States appreciate the sacrifices made for our liberty and freedom.

## THE OTHER BEDFORD BOYS

By Jeremy Loftis

The story of what happened to Company A of the 116<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division on the Norman Coast, in the early hours of June 6, 1944, is legendary. Nineteen men from Bedford County gave their lives on that day, warranting high honors and praise. However, it seems that many overlook the other men from Bedford County that fought and died on that day, this is the story of the Other Bedford Boys.



*Photo of soldiers in the 29th or 1st Infantry Division being deposited on the beach.*

Boyd E. Wilson of the Town of Bedford originally joined the service in 1938. He was a member of Company A of the 116<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division the same as the Bedford Boys. He would be transferred to the First Infantry Division in early 1942. Wilson would participate in amphibious assaults Operation Torch (North Africa) and Husky (Sicily). On June 6, 1944, he would land on the left flank of Omaha Beach. He would make it off the beach and assist in the capture of Coleville. He would fight the rest of the war without receiving any wounds. Wilson died in 2003.

Kenneth Dooley from the Thaxton area of Bedford County was drafted in April 1943. He would be trained as a loader on a 155 millimeter self-propelled cannon. On June 6, 1944, Dooley would land on Omaha beach and proceed to Vierville where he and his crew would set up their artillery piece to prevent any armored counter attacks that might occur. Later in 1944, Dooley would receive a wound that would result in numbness in part of his hand. Dooley would return to Bedford in 1946. For the rest of his life he worked odd jobs to earn a living. Kenneth Dooley died in 2006.

Joseph Danner hailed from the Town of Bedford. In 1940, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps. On June 6, 1944, he would

pilot his B-26, on multiple missions to soften up German positions. Unfortunately, Danner would not survive the war. He was killed on August 30, 1944, when his plane struck a house after a malfunction in the plane's engine, possibly an engine flameout.

Another pilot from the Town of Bedford that participated in the Normandy invasion was William Overstreet, a P-51 (fighter plane) pilot. He, like Joseph Danner, would fly multiple missions over France on D-Day. He would provide fighter support for ships depositing troops on the assault beaches, along with bombing German positions. Overstreet would survive the war, becoming an ace (meaning that he downed five or more planes) over the course of the war.

Don Parker from the Town of Bedford, served as a glider pilot on D-Day. He either landed with the 82<sup>nd</sup> or 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division on June 6, 1944. Parker, along with thousands of other paratroopers, would help draw German units away from the beaches of Normandy. Parker would assist in securing coastal villages so that seaborne troops could reassemble into units and continue fighting inland. Later Parker would participate in the fight for the cities of Carentan and St. Saveur-le-Vicomte, France. He would survive the war and reside in the Town of Bedford for the rest of his life.

William Yowell also came from the Town of Bedford. In the spring of 1942, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps. He would train in Georgia, Utah, New Mexico, Florida, and England. He flew in several missions bombing strategic targets in Belgium, France, Germany, and Holland to deprive German forces of valuable supplies. On June 6, 1944, Yowell flew in several bombing strikes in support of the invasion. Yowell would survive the war, and serve in the Korean War. William Yowell died in 1972.

John Dean from the Forest area of Bedford County joined the National Guard in 1940. He served in the 116<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division; however, he was in Company F rather than Company A. Dean would land with Company F at Omaha Beach, not far from where Company A landed. He then made his way off the beach and helped take the village of Vierville-sur-Mer, France. Unfortunately, John Dean did not survive the war. On June 17, 1944, Dean was killed by a mortar round while leading an assault on a German position, probably a hedgerow, near the strategic town of St. Lo, France.

Benjamin Hubbard came from the Huddleston area of Bedford



*Photo of a P-51 Mustang, much like the one William Overstreet flew on D-Day.*



ford County. He enlisted in the army on May 3, 1941. He, like John Dean, was a member of Company F of the 116<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. He would train in the United States and England for twenty months. On June 6, 1944, he would land on Omaha Beach, but he would not survive the landing. He was cut down by machine gun fire while advancing up the beach. He is buried in Coleville-sur-Mer, France.

Oscar Lindsay came from the Forest area of Bedford County. He enlisted in the Navy on October 14, 1942. He would receive training in Norfolk, VA, aboard the minesweeper U. S. S. Tide, as a gunner's mate. When Lindsay's ship reached European waters, he began participating in training exercises for Operation Overlord. When June 6, 1944, finally arrived, Lindsay would be put to work bombarding bunkers constructed above the beaches of Normandy and searching for mines that would hinder the invasion. Oscar Lindsay lost his life the morning after D-Day, June 7, 1944, when his ship drifted into a mine.



*The U. S. S. Tide, the ship Oscar Lindsay was sailing on when he was killed by a German mine.*

Frank William Bush was born in the Town of Bedford. He enlisted in the National Guard on February 3, 1941. He would land with the 29<sup>th</sup> Division on D-Day. He would make his way up Omaha Beach without receiving wounds, along with helping to take the village of Vierville-sur-Mer, France. Bush would be seriously wounded five days after D-Day. He would survive the rest of the war.

These men along with the men in Company A, 116<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division would have a profound impact on the allied invasion of France and on all of World War II. If not for these brave men, the world might be living under Nazi tyranny today. People should take time to honor these men for the sacrifices they have made so that the people of the United States and many other countries around the world could enjoy the liberties they enjoy today.

Source: Morrison, James W. *Bedford Goes to War: The Heroic Story of a Small Virginia Community in World War II*. Lynchburg: Warwick House Publishing, 2006.

www.ancestry.com. fold3 by Ancestry. <http://www.fold3.com> (accessed March 18, 2014).

## **FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL DAYS RECALLED BY J. P. SCOTT**

{From the *Bedford (Va.) Democrat*, April 19th, 1928}

The reminiscences of this column have recalled to the mind of J. P. Scott of his experiences as teacher during the first years the public schools were established and several sessions before that date. After studying under William F. Hurt, who Mr. Scott thinks has never been surpassed as a teacher, and at Sunny Side, he began teaching. His first experience as teacher was during the winter of 1868-1869 in a building near Body Camp and during the session following at Mt. Olivet.

During those years schools were many miles apart, roads were not hard surfaced and automobiles were not known. Many boys and girls walked three or four miles and some even farther to school. They made paths across field and through woods, seeking to shorten the distance and shun the mud of the public roads. Tutors and governesses were employed in the more prosperous families and often several neighbors would join in employing such teachers for their children, the teaching being done in one of the homes. Sometimes a room or house in the neighborhood was fitted up and a teacher secured. The teacher would then arrange with the heads of the families for the attendance of their children, a charge of \$1.00 to \$2.00 per month for each child being made. It was often the case that parents were not able to pay tuition for their children and they were deprived of schooling. Sometimes one child of a family would attend one session and one the next.

Wood and other supplies were furnished by the patrons, but each teacher supplied his own chalk. This came in big lumps and was broken into pieces small enough to be held between the fingers while writing on the black board. Blackboards were wooden boards painted black and all houses were not fortunate enough to have even that kind.

In the private schools the text books were usually those that happened to be owned by the family and the studies were confined to reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar and geography, though this last subject was not emphasized. The majority of the books used were as follows: McGuffey's readers, Davies' arithmetic, Smith's grammar, and Mitchell's geography. The writing was done from a copy set by the teacher, most often quill pens being used. Mr. Scott is of the opinion that no readers which have come since have equaled McGuffey's.

Several years before the war between the states Cedar Hill school house, near Davis Mills, was built for Mr. Broadhead, a northern gentlemen who had the reputation of being a fine teacher. As the war came on no Yankee could live comfortably in Bedford county, so Mr. Broadhead left for his northern home. It was in that building, Cedar Hill, that Mr. Scott was teaching, a private school, when the public school system was begun, the private session beginning in the fall of 1870 and the change to public school being made in February 1871.

The first superintendent of schools in Bedford county was the late Sidney L. Dunton and he prepared an examination for

those wishing to teach in the public school. Dr. Scott taught 45 consecutive sessions and holds certificates signed by every school superintendent Bedford county has had except the present one, Dr. J. A. G. Shipley. The school term in those first years was five months each year and the salary for teachers holding first grade certificates was \$30 per month.

When the free school was established large numbers of children attended school sometimes as many as sixty of all ages and all grades in a one room school. Many families, however, retained governesses for years.

The following is a list of pupils enrolled by Dr. Scott at Cedar Hill during the term beginning February 1, 1871:

Mc. W. Wilson	James S. Nichols
Mary Priscilla Wilson	G. E. Carter
Florence L. Wilson	S. S. Carter
John Wilson	John A. Smith
Robert A. Johnson	William H. Smith
William T. Johnson	Anna E. Smith
Samual D. Johnson	Martha J. Smith
Ezza J. Johnson	M. F. Smith
Ibbie M. Dowdy	M. H. Smith
Jesse D. Morgan	John W. Nance
Marcella M. Morgan	Albon Nance
Alice Morgan	J. T. Nance
Maggie W. Carter	William D. Blankenship
Sarah S. Carter	Nannie B. Blankenship
James H. Leftwich	John William Hubbard
John J. Roberts	George W. Hubbard
Tazewell Morgan	Wilber Moulton
Ewell Morgan	Hattie S. Moulton
William A. Garrett	L. M. Hurt
Sallie L. Hurt	Elizabeth M. Hurt
Lucy M. Garrett	Annie Lee Garrett
Walter B. Overstreet	Thomas T. Giles
Maggie W. Nance	Virginia F. Nance
Robert B. Nichols	Edward A. Gills
D. S. Blankenship	J. E. Carter
James C. Carter	M. S. Pule
M. Hubbard	

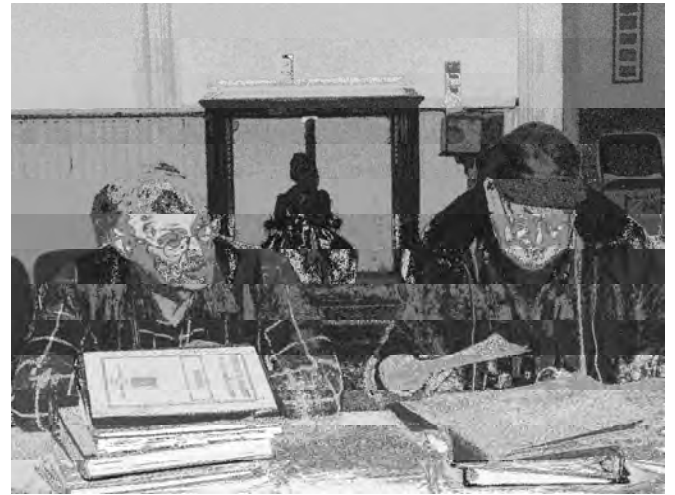
Copied by Melvin M. Scott, 19 Oct., 1937.

Source: Scott, J. P. "First Public School Day Recalled ." *Bedford Democrat*, April 19, 1928.

## WOOD/WOODS FAMILY GATHERING

By Doug Cooper

Frequently the Museum organizes family group discussions. Usually a family member will call and state they intend to visit the Museum at some future date and they ask if we know of anyone in the area that researches their surname. We gather as many such researchers as we can, set a date, bring them into our large third floor meeting room, and let them share information. Museum staff always attends and makes our extensive files available. We can also access many of the online databases real-time and help answer their questions.



*Gene Wood, representing the Northside and John Wood, representing the Southside compare notes of the two families.*

One such meeting occurred on Monday, February 24, 2014. A friend of mine recently called and said he went to Virginia Tech with Gene Wood. Gene was raised in Bell Town but his career path led him ultimately to become Professor Emeritus, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Clemson University, and he now lives in Seneca, SC. Gene wanted to come to Bedford and learn more about his family. He was raised in Bell Town but he had lost track of many of his relatives. The Museum was able to bring together a good number of researchers of Wood/Woods from both the Northside and Southside of Bedford County. Most of these researchers believe that there is a connection between the two groups but it has not been proven. Gene Wood presented his family tree:

1. Samuel Thomas Wood – b. 1855, d 1928 - Buried in Longwood – Md. Margaret K. Lyle 1876
2. Thomas Gordan Wood – b. 1878, d. 1938- Buried at Longwood Cemetery- His Wife Parthenia Carter Wood is buried at Norwood Baptist Church.
3. John Thomas Wood – b. 1909, d. 1983 – Buried in Greenwood Cemetery – Md. Gladys H. b. 1920 – Buried in Greenwood Cemetery
4. Gene Wood b. October 1940

John Wood from Southside Bedford presented his family tree:

Generations:

1. GGGGGGrandfather – Bennette Wood ??
2. GGGGGGrandfather – John William Wood – 1720 – Lived in Amherst or Albemarle County.
3. GGGGGGrandfather – Frances Wood, 1763-1844
4. GGGGrandfather – Charles Wood – 1796-1875 – Md. Elizabeth Dent Turner, March 20, 1823
5. GGGrandfather – John Thomas Wood – 1824-1878 – John



Thomas served in the 58<sup>th</sup> Infantry Co. I

6. GGrandfather – Jesse T. Wood – 1857

7. Grandfather – Claude “Milton” Wood – 1880-1949

8. Dad – John Edward Wood Sr.

9. John Edward Wood Jr.

The names of John Thomas and Thomas are repeated quite often in these two families but that alone is not unusual. According to John Wood, Charles Wood was from the Northside and he fell out with the family over politics and moved to the Southside. The common names and the story of conflict make the possibility of a connection interesting. At the meeting on February 24, the two families compared research and became very close to making the connection, but there were still a few holes. They have agreed to continue and stay in touch. If anyone has additional information on these two families, please contact the Museum.

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### ANOTHER “BEDFORD BOY”

The title of “Bedford Boy” is one that is highly respected in our community. No one would ever demean the high honor of using this title to refer to someone. I now write about 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Joshua Booth, born in Virginia but raised in Sturbridge, Massachusetts; however, his blood is Bedford blue.

In 1880 Patrick Henry Booth was living in Petersburg, VA, with a son, Magnus Booth, at age 27. Magnus was a child when the Battle of Petersburg occurred. He told the family of his recollection of a cannonball entering the house and hitting the piano. His father, Patrick Henry Booth, enlisted with the Confederate Army when he was forty years old. In 1900 Magnus Booth was living with his wife Mary in Petersburg. Mary emigrated from Ireland and married Magnus. Magnus is shown as a “Wholesale Grocer.” They had only been married two years and had two children, Watkins and Marie, aged six months.

In 1904 another child was added to the family, a son James Edwin Booth. Edwin matriculated to Randolph-Macon Academy in Bedford in 1919 where he met and married Frances Elliott. Frances’s parents were Robert L. and Angie Fitzpatrick Elliott of Baltimore Avenue in Bedford. Robert Lee Elliott’s father was Milton Elliott, who was mustered into the 2nd VA Calvary in 1862. Robert Lee Fitzpatrick was named after Robert E. Lee. In the 1930 census Robert is shown as Deputy Treasurer of Bedford. He also owned the local cinema.

Angie’s parents were William and Frances Fitzpatrick. It is their family plot in Longwood Cemetery where 1st Lt. Joshua Booth is laid to rest. Frances Fitzpatrick, nee Saunders, is the granddaughter of Daniel Green Saunders who was born in Pittsylvania County. In 1776 he moved to Bedford County and established Ivy Cliff, where he bought a used grandfather clock in 1804. A photo of this clock and more information is

included in this article. Frances grew up at the “White House” at Moneta with her father George Goob Saunders. Angie Fitzpatrick Elliott’s brother William Fitzpatrick was a deputy sheriff in Roanoke County and her sister Nelle taught elementary school in Bedford. Nelle married Col. Harry Blackburn Jordan and they built a home on College Avenue. Col. Harry Blackburn Jordan was the postmaster of Bedford, served with the A. E. F. as a lieutenant in World War I, one-time mayor, and colonel of the 116th between wars. By 1940 Edwin and Frances are living with her parents on Baltimore Avenue in Bedford and they have a son James Edwin Booth Jr. aged ten. Ed’s brother, Robert Blackburn Booth, was born across the street from the Baltimore Avenue home in 1947



*The Booth family home located on Baltimore Avenue.*

James Edwin Booth Jr., grandfather of Josh Booth, has always been an athlete. One photo shows him playing football with a friend in 1936 in the backyard on Baltimore Avenue. He was the quarterback and star on the football team at Bedford High School and we have included a photo of him ca. 1944. He continued as a teacher and football coach for forty-plus years in Virginia. He has a son John Edwin Booth, called Jack, he is the father of Marine 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Joshua Booth.

Now that we have established the true Bedford heritage of Josh, I would like to write about his love for Bedford. Although born in Virginia and raised in Massachusetts, he traveled frequently to Bedford. He traveled in 1989 from Bedford with his great grandfather and his dad to see a re enactment of the Battle of the Crater in Petersburg. It was there he was shown the location of the family home that had been shelled during the battle. His grandfather taught him to swim and sail at Smith Mountain Lake. His Uncle Bobby and Cousin Ed took him fishing at the Lake and gave him his first lessons in firearms there. But possibly his most cherished memories were his trips to the Peaks of Otter and when he would sled down the trail at Sharp Top. He was told that those were the same trails that his great-grandfather had helped to engineer with the National Park Service during the 1930s.



*An early photo of Josh sleigh riding at the Peaks.*

His is a very close knit family and they share in many events such as the annual Booth Bowl football game played by the entire family in the back yard of the home on Baltimore Avenue. Today James Edwin Booth Jr. lives in Virginia Beach and he is in possession of the clock mentioned earlier, as well as other family artifacts. But the family travels frequently to Bedford and to the home on Baltimore Avenue to reconnect.

He and his dad visited the D-Day Memorial the spring before it opened and followed that up with a two-hour visit to the Bedford Museum. During that visit at the Memorial Josh told his dad that he intended to become a marine officer and lead a platoon in defense of his country. It was on Josh's last visit that he asked to visit Longwood Cemetery where his ancestors are buried. While standing there he said to his dad, "If I do not return, I want to be buried here." No one knew at that moment what a prophetic statement he had made. On October 17, 2006, Josh paid the ultimate sacrifice for his country leaving his wife, a daughter Grace and a son Tristan, born three months after his death. On October 21, 2006, with an outpouring of support from the Bedford community, he was buried in Longwood Cemetery with his Bedford ancestors.



*Father and Grandfather. Wreaths across America 2011 where Josh was honored.*

A high school friend, Andrew Pollard, learning of Josh's interment in Bedford, organized a letter writing campaign with the students of St. John's High School in Shrewsbury, MA, where they had both attended. The letters expressed the appreciation of the sacrifice Josh had made. I was honored to be included when Andrew and his friend Marc Grabowski delivered the letters to Josh's father Jack at his grave in Longwood. They had ridden their motorcycles 1000 miles for this event. The collar and favorite play ball of Roxie, Josh's dog, was laying on the tombstone and remains there until this day.

First Lt. Joshua Booth deserves the title of "Bedford Boy."



*Drawing made posthumously of 1st Lt. Joshua Booth with his daughter Grace and son Tristan. Tristan was born 3 months after the death of Joshua.*

If you would like more information on this hero, you may want to check out the following:

Article by John Barnhart in the *Bedford Bulletin*, May 30, 2012, available at the Bedford Public Library.

A news video about the motorcycle ride to Bedford - <http://www.wusa9.com/news/article/206550/158/Motorcycle-Ride-For-A-Fallen-Friend>

An interview Capt. Matthew Tracy, commander, 2nd Battalion 3rd Marines, Echo Company, from West Hartford, CT, [http://www.syracuse.com/specialreports/index.ssf/2008/05/audio\\_interview\\_with\\_marine\\_ca.html](http://www.syracuse.com/specialreports/index.ssf/2008/05/audio_interview_with_marine_ca.html) Echo Company for Captain Tracey discussion begins on Part 1 of 6 at 5:44. Listen to all Of Part 2 – He starts talking about Josh around 7:20, but listen from the beginning of Part 2.

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For information on cemetery law, refer to the following web sites:

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+TOC570000000030000000000000>

[http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/homepage\\_general/faq\\_cem\\_presv.htm#M](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/homepage_general/faq_cem_presv.htm#M)

MORE CEMETERY STORIES

By Doug Cooper

Three years ago someone came into the Museum to report a cemetery that they did not believe had ever been recorded. The information was very sketchy as to road names, distances, etc. They reported it was at the end of a road (They did not know the name of the road.) and you could see the Smith Mountain Lake in both directions. From this we knew it was probably on a peninsula, but which one. Maxine Mitchell, who oversees our cemetery recording, drove to the area and spent some time hunting it but to no avail. The search was put on hold hoping the informer would return and give more information.

Recently another person came with the same information but again they did not know road names. Maxine gave the information to me and I agreed to try and locate the cemetery. Rodney Franklin and I, armed with GPS reader, notepad and camera, set out to solve the mystery. We first went to the general area and started driving up and down road hoping to get a glance. After wasting some time with this technique, I remembered a friend that lived in the area since birth. We went to his home and asked him a few questions. He did not know the cemetery we were seeking, but he did point us to a cemetery just in sight of his house. This cemetery had been recorded but it gave us a chance to take a GPS reading, as well as take photos of the tombstones. He also referred us to an elderly lady that had lived in the area her entire life. After more wasted time searching, we acquiesced and knocked on the elderly lady's door. You could tell she was uncomfortable and wondered why we were there. She did not know of the cemetery either.



*James H. Saunders—Son of J. A. and M. A. Saunders, born June 1, 1887, died February 16, 1909.*

After we left, we started back to resume our inefficient method of driving and looking when we saw a lady cutting her grass. I asked Rodney to stop so I could ask her. While explaining what we were looking for, another lady drove up, rolled down the window and asked, “Are you guys looking for a cemetery?” When we acknowledged we were, she explained that her mother had just called and explained to her

that strange men had been at her house looking for a cemetery. She said “I know where it is and I will lead you there.” If it had not been for the lady calling her daughter, we would never have found it.



*Mother, Melie Saunders*

Cemetery searches depend a lot on luck and this was one of those cases. The daughter explained that as a child she rode her horses through this area and remembered the house and the adjoining cemetery. The house was gone but someone is taking care of the cemetery including covering the ground with plastic to keep down the weeds and putting up a chain link fence. This is a black family cemetery with the primary name of Saunders. They may be slaves of the Saunders family prominent in this area.



*Very large and well-kept Saunders cemetery*

BURIED IN SAUNDERS CEMETERY

<i>(Double Rock)</i>	<i>(Laying Down)</i>	
L. S. Durham	Roy H. Newman	Bettie E. Durham
Oct 1829	Oct 9, 1903	Wife of
Sept 1896	April 3, 1931	Monsie Newman
		May 16, 1822
		April 1, 1942

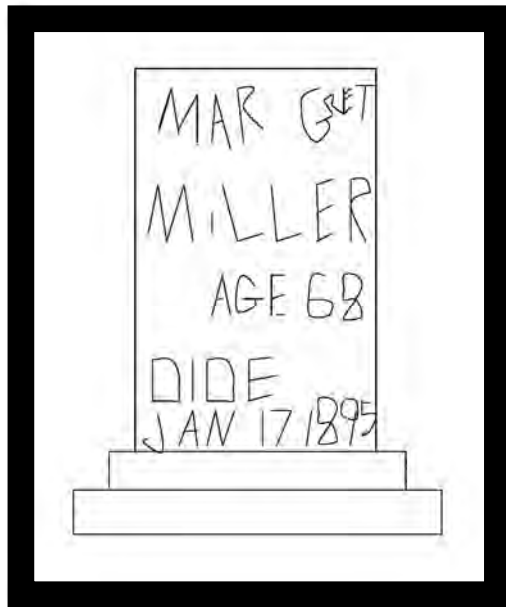
(Continued from pg. 18)

(Top of Stone)	Rebecca Durham	Otha Newman
M. E. Newman	February 1841	June 2, 1905
July 26, 1871	Oct 1903	Oct 19, 1928
Sept. 28, 1911		

### MILLER CEMETERY

Another lady reported a cemetery near her house that we did not seem to have on our list. She also lived on the Smith Mountain Lake. At first opportunity Leonard Craig and I went to attempt to locate it. The lady said it was across the road from her house. After about thirty minutes of searching I was ready to give up, go back to the Museum and try to get more information. Leonard, being a much more experienced cemetery hunter, continued to hunt on the other side of the road.

After a while he motioned for me to come. He had located the



cemetery. It was very large with 20 or more visible graves but only one readable stone. The illustration shows what we found. It was hand-carved and in very bad condition. Can you decipher it?

Since the first letters were all capitals "MAR", I thought the person may have had three initials and the first name was "Gret" and the last name was "Miller". Or maybe it was "M. A. R. Gretmiller" or maybe it was "Mr. Gretmiller". Even I could figure out that "Dide" was "Died". But again, Leonard being much more experienced quickly determined it was "Margret Miller." The census records did not offer a lot of help. Since Margret died in 1859, I looked first at the 1850 census. The closest match I got was a Samuel Miller who

lived in the area owned a female slave and her age was 60. The 1840 census did not offer any clues either. This is why we do this work. Hopefully one day in the future, someone will come to the Museum seeking information on this lady and we will be able to help. It is almost certain Margret has descendants out there somewhere and hopefully one of them will find her grave and give her the respect she still deserves.

### REMEMBERING DR. SAM RUCKER, JR

By Penelope M. Sablack

Many stories have been told about Dr. Sam Rucker, Jr., a beloved member of the Moneta community. It is hoped this article will provide a different slant on his life and the people he cared for and befriended. The Rucker cabin was on the property of a home occupied by Dr. B. H. Moulton in 1854; D. W. Parker in 1898, and in 1971, Alvin and Rita Calhoun bought the house. (Note: The Moultons and Parkers were related to the Ruckers. Dr. B. H. Moulton began practicing after the Civil War.)

The following information was received through an interview with Rita Calhoun in March 2014. The article will segue into bits and pieces of Moneta history, as well as Dr. Sam, Jr.:

The Moulton/Parker home was first built in 1700 as an inn. The house originally had seven rooms. As was the norm in those days, the kitchen was in the basement, and it has remained so. There were three levels of rooms. The house was vacant for three years before Rita and Alvin Calhoun bought it in 1971. Alvin died in 2007 but Rita continued to live there. She recently sold the house and will be moving soon, but she will keep her roots in Moneta.

The Calhouns were drawn to the house because it was off the road and they loved the architecture. There were eleven acres and Stony Fork Creek ran through the property. They had two children and planned to have two more, so, the house and property would suit their needs and plans quite nicely.



Vine-covered cabin on the right is Dr. and Mrs. Sam Rucker, Sr.'s original home and where Dr. Sam Jr. was born. The other was recently sold. The water telegraph is to the right of the house.

The house has a large chimney that separates into two chimneys; one for the kitchen and the other for the living room fireplaces. The chimney is so large that a man could pass through it. A smaller chimney provided an outlet for the back bedroom. Over the years, several renovations were made without destroying the architecture of the house. Paneling and insulation in the kitchen were placed over the fieldstone walls, which were kept intact. The fireplace was closed off, but the hardware remained, i.e., the cast iron swinging arm used to hold the cooking pots. The siding on the house was steel and not aluminum. It was added in the 1980s. [Back then, cell phone reception was not an issue.] A water telegraph, housed in a tree house, still has the original tin roof. The mechanism is still there, but not operational. The children's tree house was built around the water telegraph to keep children and the apparatus free from harm. They did not remove the poles and it still had the wooden pulley. Eleven-plus acres allowed for plenty of room for a family with four children, and three gardens. There were fruit trees, berry patches, and wild flowers and the proverbial babbling brook (Stony Ford Creek)—an idyllic place.

Several pieces of the original Jeffersonian hardware are still in use: a hand carved latch to the pantry, and the metal door ringer on the main door.

Besides covering the walls and ceiling, the integrity of the original structure remained structurally intact.

Saddest part of leaving? Rita said remembering the children enjoying their surroundings. They grew up like country kids—they breathed fresh air and ate preservative-free fresh food. She will also miss not seeing her grandchildren playing on the property or taking nature walks with them to observe nature in flowers, animals, and trees, and learn that moss grows on the north side, or observe deer tracks in the mud and the marks left on the trees during rutting season. However, the Lord has blessed us with forty wonderful years on Dr. Sam's first homestead and we are grateful.



*Rita Calhoun , last owner of Moulton/Parker home*

All four of the Calhoun children are community-oriented and/or connected to the medical field: three are in fire department

and one is in rescue squad. All are EMTs. One son was a fire chief for Moneta. He recently stepped down and is now a lieutenant.

Many accidents occurred near the home on Route 122. Rita was usually the first one on the scene. When the children got older, she allowed them to accompany her to the scene of the accidents. Their medical education began early in life.

What are Rita's memories of Dr. Sam?

He did not wear a coat and tie, and loved his chewing tobacco. Of all the doctors I've worked with, Dr. Sam was the best diagnostician. He was a very unique person. Doctors would call him in the middle of the night for his opinion. I have never known him to be wrong. He was not real stern or flamboyant; serious most of the time. He did enjoy a good laugh though. Got along well with others. He was diabetic and I often tracked him down for finger sticks. He never sent out but one bill and he accepted eggs, a side of beef, a head of cabbage or whatever as payment. Patients waited in cars in the driveway in the front of his office and he motioned to them when it was their turn. (Office behind tree.)

I only saw him briefly at Bedford Memorial Hospital. I was



*The driveway leading to Dr. Sam's office was the waiting room*



*Dr. Sam, Jr.'s office to the left of the main house*



blessed to have known him and the Lord blessed us with forty years of owning Dr. Sam's birthplace.

In his later years, after he retired because of failing eyesight, he would sit in Moneta Drug Store and visited with friends and former patients. When my youngest son was two years old, he was doing very little talking. I saw Dr. Sam in the drug store one day and asked what he thought was wrong with my boy? Dr. Sam replied, "Probably they [his siblings] do everything for him. Make him ask for what he wants." Six months later he was seen by a speech pathologist who confirmed Dr. Sam's diagnosis. (Interview March 18, 2014)



*Dr. Sam photo: Bulletin Democrat 08-05-1976*

The next person to share her memories of Dr. Sam is Ada Woodford. She was one of many in the community to assist Dr. Sam with errands. She also knew the family. Her interview was on April 10, 2014. Her memories follow:

I had an aunt who tutored Dr. Sam, Jr. in Latin II. He needed to pass the subject in order to enter medical school.

Dr. Sam was one of thirteen children, six boys and seven girls; one daughter died at an early age. All the children had a college education. All the boys went into the medical field and five of the six girls were teachers. Some branched out into other fields of work. Frances was the only RN. She served during World War II and later became her brother's office nurse and secretary. Their sister Mary was a quiet person. Even though she had her master's degree, she chose to keep house for Dr. Sam.

[Mrs. Woodford holds up her hand and points to her index, middle and ring fingers.] These fingers were his stethoscope. His fingers were so sensitive. Once he told a patient he had two gallbladders and that he needed to see a surgeon. This



*Mrs. Ada Woodford has lived her whole life in Moneta. Prior to retirement, she had worked forty-four years. Her husband Ted died in January 1997*

fact was confirmed when he had surgery. Later, as Dr. Sam's diabetes progressed, he lost the sensation in his fingers.

Dr. Sam initially saw patients in his little office to the left of the home. Later, when it was difficult to navigate, he saw patients in his parents' bedroom on the first floor. His waiting room was the front yard. Patients lined up in their cars and waited to be motioned in. If his charge was fifty cents for seeing a child, he returned twenty-five cents to them if the child didn't cry.

Our community loved him and took care of him, and he took care of us. If he needed a car, one was provided. Money for his gasoline was left at Lakers service station. Clothes were provided as gifts or payment of services. Sometimes I would pick up and deliver medical supplies he needed. He appreciated everything done for him.

Did he date? He hardly had time, but one time that I know of, he dated a woman from Franklin County. I guess he didn't have time for a wife.

His end of life was sad. As his health became worse, he went first to the VA hospital in Salem, and then to a nursing home. He had lost his hearing, his sight, his mobility, and then his life.



*Calvin P. Woodford: "Dr. Sam Jr. 's daddy brought me into this world. Dr. Sam Jr. and I were good friends."*

DR. SAM JR., as told by Mr. Calvin P. Woodford  
(Interviewed 4-10-2013)

*(Mr. Woodford also has lived in the area all his life. He is a Hokie, as are his wife, Macklyn, two sons and two daughters. They all graduated from Virginia Tech. The third son went to the College of William & Mary, and University of Virginia for his doctorate. Mr. Woodford began his career as a chicken farmer with his father and changed his career path by opening Moneta Farm & Home Center. Since his retirement, two of his sons are in charge.)*

Dr. Sam's daddy brought me into this world. My daddy and I were very good friends of Dr. Sam Jr. Every July, Dr. Sam Jr. took the month off and went fishing. He fished the James River or Big Island. Sometimes I would go with him; sometimes our daddies did, too. He loved to fish. He also loved baseball and local sports, and he went to as many games as he could.

Dr. Sam practiced medicine in West Virginia a while, but became a sole practitioner in Moneta which his daddy died in 1931. His office was in the family home and his waiting room was the front yard. The honor system was used. Everyone knew who was next. The day began early, sometimes at 4:30 a.m. He would break for breakfast and resume office hours until noon, at which time, he opened the front door and said, "That's all." Following lunch, he made his house calls. He did his own lab work. Was never in a hurry. That pretty much described him. Dr. Jantz, chief of surgery at John Russell Hospital said, "If Dr. Sam said the patient has appendicitis, it was so. There was no need for discussion."

Mrs. Rucker lived in the family home until she died. After her death, the bedroom was used as an examination room. Dr. Sam kept a notebook and recorded each visit. Billing was not done. People paid when they could—sometimes with money, but other times with food or clothes. When he needed a car, the community supplied one. Money for gas was left at Saunders (gas station, now Lakers), so he never had to worry about gas for the car.

I am the only charter member left in the Moneta Ruritan Club. I have been a member for sixty years. Our club began talks and action for the building of the Moneta Medical Center. Adjacent to the Rucker house, ten acres of land were purchased for the medical center. Two doctors were recruited for the center and the Village Family Physicians is now part of Centra. Folks loaned money or made donations to have the building erected. A perk for the first two doctors was having their school debts paid off. We were not able to get money from the government for the building of the center; however, they did outfit the building with needed equipment and put in a parking lot. Currently the Luth sisters have their practice in the building, as well as a dentist and drug store.



## THE OWL'S NEST

By Penelope M. Sablack

The property on which Dr. Sam Sr. and Elizabeth Phelps Rucker had their first home ultimately became a place of business for the Calhoun family: The Owl's Nest.

A work-related back injury prevented Alvin Calhoun's being gainfully employed. He was able to turn his artistic ability into a nationally renowned business—wood carving. Alvin painted wildlife, caricatures, and the last five years, he did commission work. His favorite woods were tupelo and bass. By replicating a chip-carved bear for the manager of Peaks View gift shop, he was commissioned to supply them with his carvings and paintings.

Rita's life began at the southern tip of West Virginia. Her parents lived there all their lives. Her father was a coal miner.

Rita became a laboratory technician and worked at Bedford Hospital, then Community Hospital in Roanoke. She met and married Alvin Calhoun in 1963. She subsequently became the breadwinner because of her husband's debilitating accident.



## BIBB HOME AT 719 LONGWOOD STREET

by Maxine Mitchell and Penelope M. Sablack



*Chip-carved bear—the beginning of Alvin's commissioned work*

Fortunately, Rita was called to return to Bedford Hospital as head of their laboratory.

As Alvin's business grew, Rita quit her job to help with his business, four children, and three gardens. After two years, Rita got a job at the post office. She retired from there after working twenty-seven years. She continued to help with the business and the painting of the wooden figures.

Three of Alvin's pieces still need to be painted. Rita will wait until after the move to her newly built home this summer before painting them. She notes that all of the children and half of the grandchildren inherited the artistic gene.

Today, Rita works at a doctor's office two to three days a week. She is busy with her move to a new home and with her grandchildren.

Another claim to fame: Disney Channel crew shot a documentary of their family life. While it took two days to document, it was only fifteen minutes long.



*An example of early carvings by Alvin Calhoun.*



Bedford is home to many incredibly beautiful homes built in the 1800s. Many have been lost to modernization, demolition or fire. On Saturday, December 15, 2013, one such home was lost to Bedford after standing since 1891. A fire that began on the ground floor near the wood stove quickly spread through the wooden structure completely demolishing it.

The Liberty Baptist Church built the home for use as a parsonage for the minister of the White Baptist Church in 1891. The history of the property, however, begins in 1859. John R. Steptoe and his wife owned the undeveloped twenty-plus acres until it passed to Dr. John W. Sale in 1868. A year later, twenty acres were purchased by Jesse H. Miller for \$2,500, who, in turn, sold the property to Lauriston A. Sale in 1872. Otterview Land Company purchased ten to thirteen acres and the home from L. A. Sales in 1890.



*All that is left of the original homestead is the sidewalk to the front door from Longwood Avenue*

The following year, ownership changed hands again. It was now known as Lot No. 4 in Block No. 1 that was sold to White Baptist Church of Bedford City for \$1,500. In 1898, the church was experiencing financial difficulties and the residence was sold to W. S. Royall, incumbent pastor, for \$1,500. He sold the parsonage property to Lizzie B. Bibb, wife of E. B. Bibb for the sum of \$2,600. From then on, it was known as the Bibb House, even though the last Bibb, Josephine Rucker Bibb, died at the age of ninety-six on March 6, 2003. Miss Bibb, daughter of Ellis Brown Bibb and Sarah Elizabeth Bush Bibb, never married. She was an English teacher for 39 years

The Victorian style home boasted of copious amounts of gingerbread and an all-wood-shingled roof. Through the years,

the gingerbread trim disappeared and the roof's wooden shingles were replaced with slate shingles. There were, according to the *Bedford Bulletin* [no date] newspaper real estate ad, "4 bedrooms, 2 baths, high ceilings, pocket doors, 2 fireplaces, walk-in pantry, main floor laundry and walk-up floored attic." Cosmetic changes/enhancements were made and they included the addition of a wrap-around "rocking chair" front porch and bay windows. [After the fire in 2013, the only viable items seen were two rocking chairs that had been thrown haphazardly in the yard, one upright, the other on its side.]

#### History of landowners:

1859	John R. Steptoe
1868	Dr. John W. Sale
1869	Jesse H. Miller
1872	Lauriston A. Sale
1890	Otterview Land Company 10-13 acres
1891	Liberty Baptist Church (White Baptist Church for parsonage)
1898	W. S. Royall (church minister)
1906	Lizzie B. Bibb (wife of Ellis Brown Bibb).
2003	The house and property remained as part of the estate until 2009.
2009	Jamie and Kim Snell

## LABELS, LABELS, AND MORE LABELS

By Penelope M. Sablack

Folks collect all kinds of paraphernalia. Some collect coins. Some collect postcards. Others collect buttons, state quarters, salt and pepper shakers, Civil War memorabilia, cigar labels, etc. There are even some folks who collect vintage labels. Labels designed to identify the contents of bottles, boxes, and cans found in grocery stores, auto parts stores, pharmacies, hardware stores, tobacco shops, etc. What brought them into being? The need to identify the product, as well as catch the attention of the prospective consumer.

Piedmont Label Co. was founded in Bedford, VA, in 1919. The company is Bedford's oldest industry in continuous operation. The company was considered to be a good neighbor and a good community citizen. They began by designing and manufacturing labels for the many tomato canneries in the area. Through the years, despite economic downturns, Piedmont Label Co. kept growing and kept turning a profit by adding one piece of equipment at a time, and adding and acquiring more space.

Dora A. Gaither has been with Smyth Companies, Inc. since 1994. She began as an artist and is now the Human Resources/Safety/Environmental person. She was hired originally to work on the nutritional boxes for the labels. According to *Bedford Bulletin*, February 2, 1994: These boxes were the first federal intervention into the label business. The *Fair Packing and Labeling Act*.



*Smyth values highly their retirees. There is an annual luncheon in their honor.*



*Packaging and Labeling Act dictated certain information that had to be contained on a label. As a result, every label being produced by Piedmont Label had to be changed.*

In 1998 Smyth merged with Piedmont Label and the company is now Smyth-Bedford. (The name Piedmont appears only on the outside of the building facing Depot Street.)

Things are not quite the same as far as the reduction of the number of employees, and benefits have changed with the times. Because of machination, work has been streamlined--total output increased and the work force decreased. The Bedford location is a sheet-fed offset production location. They use lithographic presses to produce glue-applied cut-and-stackables, as well as labels for in-mold.

## FORMER PIEDMONT EMPLOYEE:

### JAY BARNES

Employees were hired as needed at Piedmont. One of the new hires was a designer, Mr. Jay Barnes. Barnes attended Harris Advertising Art School in Nashville, TN, and Columbus Art School in Columbus, OH. There was no problem gaining employment upon graduation. His first job was with National Line Plumbing in Columbus, OH. He saw an ad in *Advertising Age* for a position in Roanoke, VA, and ended up as art director at Lynchburg Engraving for three years. His next and last job was with Piedmont Label Co. as a designer.

Barnes worked for Piedmont twenty-seven years, from 1966 to 1994. He appreciated Piedmont's benefits and leadership. The benefits included profit sharing plan and attending outside seminars and conferences. Although the company brought in Macintosh (MAC) computers, Barnes did very little work with the computers. He enjoyed working with the customer and providing illustrations and ultimately providing the final design. He felt working with the MACs was fine but there was no modulation of tone, no light and dark, and no spontaneous results.

Barnes and his wife Eunice have been married forty-nine years. They have one daughter and three grandchildren. Barnes enjoys golfing, fishing, and retirement.



*L: Barnes with first World's first U.S.D.A. Game Foods*



*R: Barnes and his wife, Eunice*

Although Barnes did not work with stone lithography, he has several samples of this type of printing in the label format.



The process was invented by Aloys Senfelder in 1798. He did it out of necessity because he could not depend on the local printer to finish his work on time. He also felt that the hand-engraved copper plates were too expensive. Out of necessity and a need for frugality, Senfelder developed a grease-based ink on Bavarian limestone. The process was labor intensive, time-consuming, and expensive. More than one specialist was needed for each project, thus the expense. Some projects took a month to complete and cost \$6,000 (in 1990 dollars).



*Stone for lithography is pictured in the middle*

However, the images remained true after many prints, whereas, the steel or copper engravings lost crispness after less than fifty runs. (Note: Currier & Ives was first U. S. company to make and sell prints produced from stone litho.)

#### **FORMER PIEDMONT EMPLOYEE:**

#### **CHARLES H. OLIVER**

Another retired Piedmont employee, Charles H. Oliver, worked for the company forty years (1949 to 01/01/1990). He worked in middle management and one of his main duties was day-to-day production of the press runs. He ensured there would be as little waste as possible when it came to cutting the labels. "The pound can labels were easier than the Vicks and Heinz Pickles, which were quite small. Instead of having one thousand labels in a stack, the smaller ones only had two hundred fifty (250)," according to Oliver.

"Yes, I enjoyed working for the two brothers, Joseph and Jesse Davidson, and William Thomas, the secretary-treasurer. They were thoughtful of the workers. The profit sharing was nice, too," said Oliver. "We looked out for each other—we were a big family. Many of us have maintained our friendships over the years."

Toward the end of his employment, Oliver was working with roll labels. He stated, "When the production of roll labels left the Bedford plant, so did I. It was time to retire."



*Various Roll Labels*

## RECENT ACCESSIONS

LOVE LETTERS  
THAXTON SISTERS AND  
STEVENS BROTHERS

The Museum is fortunate to have items donated so that history can be preserved, as well as shared. A recent acquisition included letters written to and from the Thaxton sisters to the Stevens brothers.

Stories of the Stevens twins dating the Thaxton sisters are many, romantic, as well as tragic. The Museum recently acquired the actual love letters that were written by Ray and Roy Stevens to Janie and Emma Thaxton, and vice versa. Ray and Roy were soldiers in Co. A of the 116<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and the day their unit was called up, both couples happened to be together in Mr. David L. Thaxton's general store on Dickerson Mill Road. (Mr. Thaxton was the girls' father.) The announcement said the unit was shipping out the next morning.

One of the sisters said that Roy commented, "We are going to kick those Japs asses!" Ray, on the other hand, tearfully commented, "I am going but I am not coming back." Ray did not return. He went missing in action after D-Day and later he was re-classified as "killed in action." Letters from Janie dated August 1944 were returned to her marked "DECEASED."

The Museum has all the original letters written by the four-some. Only a few have been included in this newsletter.



*Roy Stevens and  
Emma Thaxton*



*Ray Stevens & Emma Thaxton*

## Invasion Day

We had had our briefing,  
We knew what lay ahead,  
We knew we had been assigned  
To form that costly beachhead.

Our officers were with us,  
No one seemed so sad,  
The boys all talked of home,  
But mostly of mother and dad.

We loaded on our boats,  
We had not far to go,  
We knew it could not be long,  
Until that awful show.

We went across the channel  
It all seemed so quiet,  
Until we started to unload –  
That was an awful sight.

The enemy was waiting,  
Their strength, we did not know  
But from the bodies on the beach  
They quickly told us so.

The doughboys leaped from boatside  
Into the salty sea,  
To make the first landing  
On unconquered Normandy.

We heard our planes coming,  
We knew that they were near.  
We knew that we had bombers  
And paratroopers, up there.

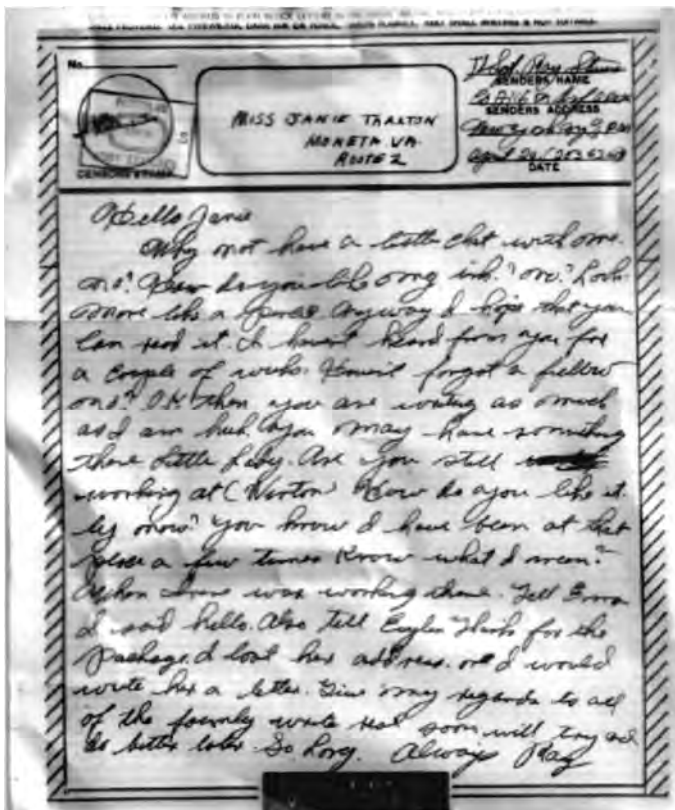
Our bombers dropped their loads,  
Our fighters came in low,  
The troopers began to fall  
And they made history show.

Our gliders were close behind them  
There is not very much to say  
Those boys were assigned a mission  
And well out on their way.

There was blood and sand mingled together,  
We knew it was bad from the start;  
When those boys came from boatsides  
A picture was stamped upon our hearts.

*(By T/Sgt. Roy O. Stevens, Bedford Va.  
and S/Sgt. Bill O. Davis, Glen Fork, W. Va.)*

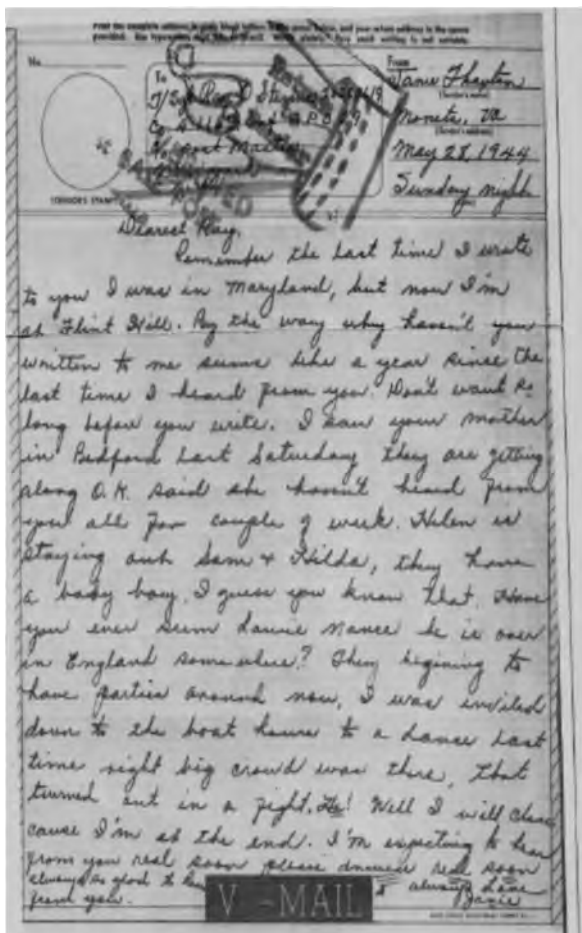




Letter from Ray Stevens to Janie Thaxton, April 24, 1944:

*Hello Janie,*

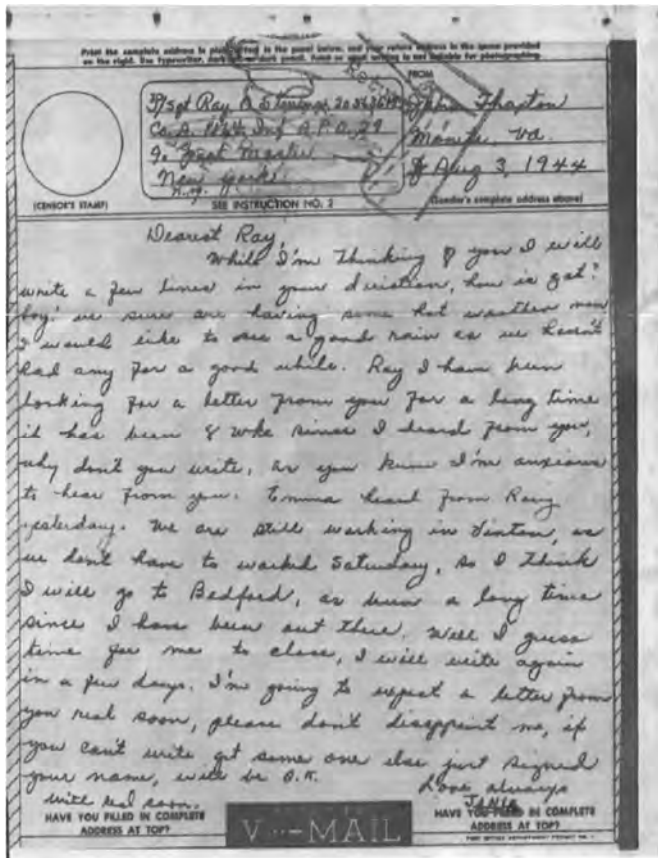
*Why not have a little chat with me no? How do you like my ink? No? More like a --- Anyway I hope I that you can read it. I haven't heard from you for a couple of weeks. Haven't forgot a fellow no? OK then you are writing as much as I am huh. May have something there little lady. Are you still working at ( )? How do you like it by now? You know I have been at that place a few times. Know what I mean? Tell I said hello. Also tell Evelyn thank you for the package. I lost her address. Or I would write her a letter. Give my regards to all of the family. Write real soon. Will try and do better later. So long. Always, Ray.*



Letter from Janie to Ray, May 28, 1944

*Dearest Ray,*

*Remember the last time I wrote to you I was in Maryland, but now I'm at Flint Hill. By the way why haven't you written to me since the last time I heard from you. Don't wait so long before you write. I saw your mother in Bedford last Saturday. They are getting along O.K. Said she hasn't heard from you all for couple of weeks. Helen is staying and Sam & Hilda, they have a busy boy. I guess you knew that. Have you ever seen Louie Nance? He is over in England somewhere? They beginning to have parties around now. I was invited down to the boat house to a danced last time right big crowd was there, that turned out in a fight! Well I will close cause I'm at the end. I'm expecting to hear from you real soon please answer real soon. Always so glad to hear from you. Always love, Janie*



Letter from Janie to Ray, August 3, 1944:

Dearest Ray,

(Talks about the weather.) Ray I have been looking for a letter from you for a long time. It has been 8 weeks since I heard from you. Why don't you write. As you know I am anxious to hear from you. Emma heard from Ray yesterday. .... Well time for me to close, I will write again in a few days. I'm going to expect a letter from you real soon, please don't disappoint me, if you can't write get some one else just signed [sic] your name, will be O.K. Write real soon. Love always, Janie

Envelope marked "DECEASED Dated 5 June 1944, from War Department. It was inside the second envelope, which was dated October 4, 1944. The inscription at the bottom notes: "The inclosed V-mail letter is returned because it was undeliverable at the address shown or to which forwarded."



[Janie wrote letters to Ray that obviously crossed in the mail. Considering the happenings of the conflict, it was difficult for the War Department to keep up with every soldier and his whereabouts. Ray was first missing in action after D-Day Invasion but was not officially declared dead until October. Janie's weekly letters to Ray were forwarded to the War Department and by the time they processed the mail, weeks had passed.

The letter and the two envelopes to the left tell the story. Janie wrote the letter dated August 3, 1944. The envelope was stamped "DECEASED" and postmarked August 9, 1944. This was sent to the Embarkation Army Post Office in New York and, in turn, was sent to Janie postmarked October 12, 1944.

In the lower left-hand corner of the envelope it states:

Envelope marked "DECEASED Dated 9 August 1944, from War Department. It was inside the second envelope, which was dated October 12, 1944. The inscription at the bottom notes: "The inclosed V-mail letter is returned because it was undeliverable at the address shown or to which forwarded."]

Camp Blanding, FA.

Co A 116 Inf  
 9 P.O. 29  
 Camp Blanding 26

Hello Janie,

I don't know if I owe  
 you a letter or you owe me  
 one. But I will take a chance and  
 write anyway. I am down in Fla. now.  
 It is hot down here. But everything is fine so  
 far we have everything almost like Fort  
 Meade. Except the Barracks are smaller only  
 hold 15 men. I sure was glad to get away  
 from N.C. that is one place that I hope that  
 I don't see any too soon.

How is every thing up there  
 in Bedford by now? I sure  
 would like to be there right  
 now. Maby I will get home  
 some time in the next future.  
 Wish me luck on that part.  
 How are you and all the people  
 lately? How are they getting along?  
 How does Josh like the army?  
 I hope that he gets along O.K.  
 Where is he at anyway. Tell him  
 to write to me down here in Fla.  
 I am sending you my address  
 and hope you will use it.  
 See in a while.

If you see any of the folks  
 tell them that I am O.K. and  
 getting along just fine. Don't  
 know when I will get home  
 again. It is hard to tell just  
 what will happen down here.  
 I never plan anything it is no  
 use. I guess you are getting  
 tired of the mess so I  
 will just lay waste to one  
 some time and let  
 me hear from you.

Love Always  
 Ray

Hello Janie,

I don't know if I owe you a letter or  
 you owe me one. But I will take a chance  
 and write anyway. I am down in Fla. now.  
 It is hot down here. But everything is fine so  
 far we have everything almost like Fort  
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How is every thing up there in Bedford by  
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 Maby I will get home some time in the near  
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 my? I hope that he gets along O. K. Where is  
 he at anyway. Tell him to write to me. Down  
 here is Fla. I am sending you my address.  
 And hope you will write me in a while.

If you see any of the folks tell them that I  
 am OK. And getting along just fine. Don't  
 know when I will get home again. It is  
 hard to tell just what will happen down  
 here. I never plan anything it is no use. I  
 guess you are getting tired of the mess so I  
 will just lay waste to one some time and let  
 me hear from you.

Love Always,

Ray

[This letter from Ray was sent to Janie August 21, 1942,  
 while he was stationed in Florida. It was a friendly letter from  
 someone who seems to be homesick— nothing romantic ex-  
 cept for the closing of "Love Always." The last paragraph is  
 not very positive..]



## WILLIAM ASBURY “ASH” RORER

By Penelope M. Sablack

Bedford VA is the birthplace of William Admire Rorer (1859–1920). This article is not about William Admire, but about his son, William Asbury (1898-1967), a.k.a. Ash.

Ash was a very accomplished young man. His high school years were consistently peppered with accolades and high achievements. He was not only smart and a proven leader, he had a penchant for debating and was voted the most handsome and most popular in his class. He earned his law degree from the University of Virginia. He graduated in 1921 and was recruited by the FBI to become an agent.

Rorer continued being a success in career. He handled several Public Enemies, such as John Herbert Dillinger, Pretty Boy



*George “Machine Gun” Kelly, a top Public Enemy captured by Ash Rorer.*

Floyd, and George “Machine Gun” Kelly. He was made bureau chief of thirteen different offices.

“Don’t Shoot, G-Man!” was said to have been made famous by George “Machine Gun” Kelly upon being captured by Rorer and his team. Kelly and his gang kidnapped a prominent Oklahoma oil millionaire, Charles F. Urschel.

It was 1933 and Rorer was in charge of the Birmingham office. Once Kelly’s hideout was discovered in Memphis, J.



*John Herbert Dillinger, notorious criminal with Thompson sub-machine gun in hand. Ash Rorer would help to take Dillinger down in an ambush.*

Edgar Hoover ordered Rorer to Memphis to capture the Kelly and his gang. The once brazen criminal stood before Rorer and uttered the now famous cry, “Don’t Shoot, G-Man!”

Another notorious criminal was John Herbert Dillinger, whose charisma and sense of humor got him out of a couple of jails. Dillinger’s life of crime began with going AWOL from the Navy. On September 6, 1924, he robbed a grocery store and assaulted the owner. (Note: His father owned a grocery store.) He was jailed but paroled May 1933 to visit his dying stepmother. In September 1933, after several other robberies, he is back in jail. He smuggled guns into the jail and ten men escaped, ultimately to be known as the Dillinger Gang, which in turn prompted a Dillinger Squad to be formed by the Chicago Police Department with forty men. His life of crime continues and has escalated to and he is informally named, “America’s first Public Enemy Number One.”

Rorer is sent to help Melvin Purvis’s team from Chicago.



*Charles Arthur “Pretty Boy” Floyd, a farmer turned bank robber who once crosses paths with Ash Rorer.*

With the help of a brothel owner, Dillinger is ambushed and killed on July 22, 1934. He is buried at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis.

A failed attempt at farming in the drought of 1920s turned Charles “Pretty Boy” Floyd into a bank robber. (The name of “Pretty Boy” was given to him by a prostitute.) Floyd’s crimes included killings, too. His demise occurred (fittingly?) in a cornfield in East Liverpool OH. He was thought to have killed four officers at a Kansas City train station. With his dying breath, he denied any involvement in the now famous Kansas City Massacre.

William Asbury “Ash” Rorer died following several strokes that left him paralyzed on the left side. He died of a skull fracture following a backwards fall. He is buried in Crown Hill Cemetery Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia.

**FROM THE MAIL ROOM***We would like to acknowledge...*

"The materials you provided did, indeed, give us some valuable dates and places connected with our ancestors."

**-Paul and Phyllis Huddleston**

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"I love Bedford Museum."

**-Ruth Catlin**

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"I thoroughly enjoyed all of the articles. Thank you for thinking of me."

**-Sharon Wellen**

---

"I hope that some day I can be as good at genealogy as you are."

**-Shirley Hardt**

---

"Your help was greatly appreciated."

**-Thomas Brigham**

---

"Thank you for your cooperation."

**-Ann Burkes**

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"We certainly enjoyed visiting the museum last week and our special guided tour and seeing the items on the third floor."

**-Early Jones**

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"I always look forward to receiving your bulletins twice a year and read the 'from cover to cover.' My best wishes to you and all the many folks who give of their time and effort to keep the Museum the wonderful place it is for researching and learning."

**-Betty Young**

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"We enjoyed the visit to the museum very much...on the way home I asked my son what his favorite part of the trip to Virginia was. His reply without hesitation was: the museum!"

**-Michael Jones**

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"I was very pleasantly pleased with the changes that have been implemented at the Museum and Library. It was always an excellent resource for those of us that are researching our family but it is much better now that the improvements have been made. We look forward to our annual trip to Bedford, VA and now with the hands on practice in your new research center it will be that much easier for us to find connections with our ancestors."

**-Pam Colvin**

"Many thank for all your help, we got some great material!"

**-James Fowler**

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"Thanks so much...for the family tree information."

**-Jim Keller**

---

"I thought the Fridays program was wonderful. Thank you so much for all you've done."

**-Jean Leidich**

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"My daughter is always wanting to learn more and attend history the staff at the museum are great teachers and put a great program together each summer that makes learning a lot of fun."

**-Cindi Hartless**

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"We loved everything!"

**-Sylvia Piper**

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"I am looking forward to Fridays at the Museum."

**-Adalynn Beard**

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"The Bedford Museum always gives their best and keeps us interested. History is fun."

**-G. Humphreys**

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**We at the Museum are always looking for ways to better serve the community of Bedford and beyond. Any correspondence regarding our Museum, Genealogical Library, Website, or the Newsletter is always greatly appreciated and helps us see how we have done to serve your needs and how we can continue to improve going into the future. Please send any emails to:**

Bccmdirector@verizon.net

**and any written correspondence to:**

201 East Main Street Bedford, VA 24523

Bedford Museum & Genealogical Library  
201 East Main Street  
Bedford, VA 24523  
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