

# Historic APPOMATTOX

A History and Geography Supplement  
For Use in the Public Schools of  
Appomattox County, Va.

Published by the County School Board, 1933

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For Use in the Schools of Appomattox County, Virginia

Edited and Published by the School Board of Appomattox County, Virginia  
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J. A. Burke, Superintendent

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## *Dedicated*

In respect and reverence to that noble group of Virginians who have made possible the opportunities and privileges of life enjoyed by our county today,

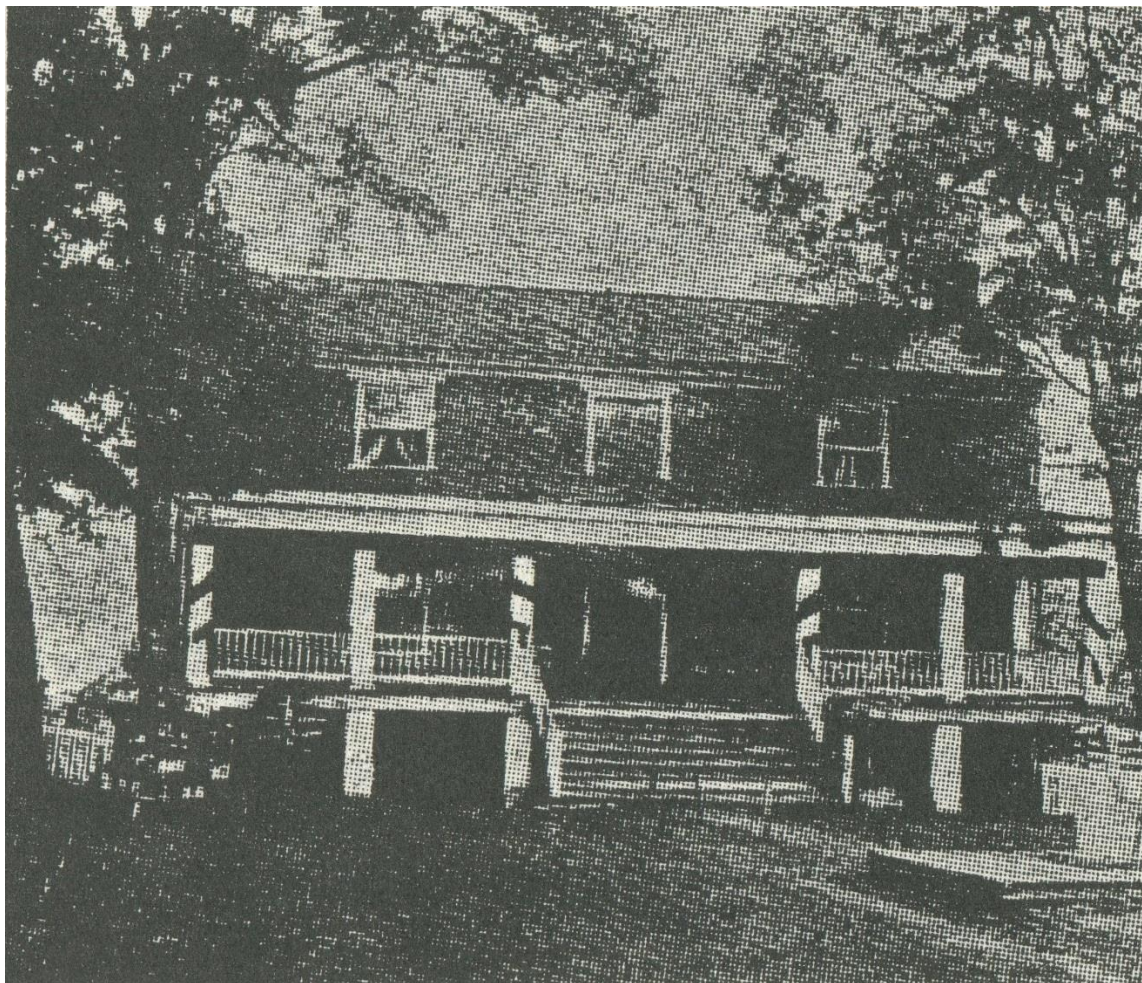
To the generations of Appomattox County citizens who before laying aside their earthly tasks labored and wrought to make this County outstanding in Virginia and the nation and therefore created what we now call,

*The Spirit of Appomattox*

## *Forward*

In the fall of 1932, the School Board of Appomattox County voted authority to the Superintendent of Schools, J. A. Burke to have written, edited and published a history and geography supplement containing a complete survey of Appomattox County, to be used as a regular text in the schools of the county. Such supplements are in wide use in other counties and have behind them the thought that a thorough study of one's own county should serve as a basis for history and geography classes. This supplement is now presented with the hope that it will give a long needed account of the past, present and future of this historic county. We express our gratitude to all those who have supplied us with facts and ideas in the compilation of this treatise, notably: C. W. Smith, Miss Anna M. Jones, R. L. Burke, N. R. Featherston, R. B. Hudgins, Joel W. Flood, R. W. Wilkins, J. R. Horsley, J. A. Burke, S. L. Ferguson, L. Crawley and others, including a series of articles by the late George T. Peers.

## *The Surrender House*



It was in the home of Wilmer McLean at old Appomattox Court House that Lee and Grant met to sign the surrender papers, ending the War Between the States. McLean had lived in Manassas, but came to Appomattox seeking “peace” after the Battle of Manassas. This house is not standing now, but may someday be rebuilt.

# Historic Appomattox

## *Chapter One*

### *County History*

Taking its place with Jamestown Island, Yorktown, Williamsburg, Richmond and Wakefield, Appomattox is forever enshrined in the hearts and minds of the American people.

At Appomattox the moving hand of Destiny wrote “finis” across the scroll of four mighty years of Civil War. At Appomattox the gallant South, weary and weakened, laid the foundation for a new America by setting aside the sword and sabre of war for the implements of peace.

Destiny selected Appomattox for one of the major events of World history. Salamis, Chalons, Hastings, Westphalia, Yorktown, Waterloo and then Appomattox. Waterloo was more important in world history than Ulm, Austerlitz or Jena. So is Appomattox more important in world events than Gettysburg or Bull Run.

There still live in America countless aging veterans who stood with Lee or Grant at Appomattox and saw the end of the bitter Civil War. There are untold thousands of their children who have a personal attachment to the place of the climax of the struggle. In fact, there is hardly a town or village in America that has not heard of “Appomattox.”

Strange, then, that this historic county has never been adequately memorialized. Virginia’s other great shrines, Jamestown, Yorktown, Williamsburg and Wakefield have come in for their glamor and attention, while Appomattox rests on in the peace that Lee and Grant brought to it.

Shall we not then peer into the story of this great county and acquaint ourselves with events before, on and after that day in April 1865 when a beautiful and quiet Virginia courthouse village suddenly jumped into the permanent chronicle of world history?

### *Appomattox Before The War*

On Thursday after the first Monday in May 1845, a group of prominent officials and citizens met at Clover Hill, a small village near the Appomattox River. It was a memorable meeting, for they met for the purpose of organizing a new county.

The 1844-45 session of the state legislature had just created a new county from parts of Buckingham, Campbell, Charlotte and Prince Edward counties. It was claimed that portions of these four counties had been too far from the respective courthouses and a new county and county seat was needed.

Men who had been justices in the parent counties, but who now resided within the boundaries of the new county, met to perfect a county organization. Among them were: Joel Watkins, William Mathews, Major Thomas Rudd, John W. Marshall, Dr. Rueben D. Palmer, Col. Benjamin P. Walker, Col. Thomas H. Flood, Nathan H. Hancock, Bryant Nowlin, Col. Z. E. Cheatham, Washington Hunter, Sterling C. Anderson, John H. Plunkett and James McDearmon.

These men elected Joel Watkins first sheriff of the new county, named Appomattox, after the Appomattox River, in turn named after a tribe of Indians who had inhabited its banks. Samuel D. McDearmon, William James McDearmon and William J. Watkins were named his deputies. John T. Bocock was named first county clerk, Thomas S. Bocock first commonwealth's attorney, Thomas W. Johns first commissioner of the revenue and Andrew B. Baker first coroner.

Having thus perfected a county organization and with its affairs entrusted to men of outstanding character and ability, Appomattox settle down to steady and peaceful growth.

The post offices in the county at the time it was formed were: Clover Hill, the county seat (shortly changed to Appomattox Court House), Bent Creek, Oakville, Walkers Church, Pamplin, Spout Spring, Reedy Spring and Concord. These towns and villages in themselves have interesting histories. Bent Creek had been called Diuguidsville, after the Diuguid family. Pamplin also got its name from a well-known family, Spout Spring was named from just that....a spouting spring. The voting precincts in the new county were at the courthouse, Walkers Church, Oakville and Spout Spring. Col. Zackery Cheatham, who had represented Campbell in the state legislature, became Appomattox's first member in the House of Delegates, as well as its first surveyor. A qualified voter could vote at any precinct he happened to be near on election day.

John T. Bocock, the first clerk, died soon after his appointment and was succeeded by Henry F. Bocock, his son, who served until July 1, 1860.

The county court was then composed of the justices of the county and they selected and appointed their own membership, being thus self-perpetuating. They had jurisdiction over all road and police matters, of probate and fiduciary matters, the trial of slaves, the trial of misdemeanors, etc. They set the county levy or tax by dividing up the total county expenses among the white males over twenty-one years of age.

In the spring of 1850 William Mathews became the county sheriff and qualified at the March term of court. There was no county treasurer in those days and the sheriff had to make off and collect the state and county taxes and pay county allowances. There were no juries summoned and the sheriff had to find jurors at each term of court. In 1850, or 1851, the first hanging occurred in the new county. Rueben, a slave, was tried and convicted of murder and was hanged near Concord after due process of law. In 1850, Willis P. Bocock and Thomas H. Flood were named with Branch J. Worsham of Prince Edward and others to a state constitutional convention to revise and rewrite the constitution of Virginia. It went into effect July 1, 1852 when the new officers elected under it took office.

Isaac Adams was appointed commissioner of the revenue in 1851, to succeed Jonathan Christian who had died. About that time, William Leigh, of Halifax, succeeded D. A. Wilson as judge of the Circuit Court.

All during this time mails and passengers were carried through the county by stage coaches. These coaches were usually drawn by four horses and frequent stops were made for a new set of horses or for refreshments. One of the stops was at the courthouse. Galloping down the hill east of the courthouse, the driver would sound his bugle to tell the tavern keeper he was about to arrive and then give short blasts to announce the number of passengers who would desire supper! About this time, one of the lady stage coach passengers started a small-pox epidemic resulting in no less than seventy cases and one death.

In March 1852, John W. Marshall succeeded William Mathews as sheriff. The new constitution provided for election of county officers, rather than appointment, so in May 1852 the first election was held.

Thomas S. Bocock had successively been commonwealth's attorney and a member of the state legislature and was by this time a member of Congress. He reached great leadership in that body and in the late 1850's was actually in a tie with John Sherman, of Ohio, for the speakership of the House. However, he was finally defeated but maintained prestige and influence.

George T. Peers became clerk of the court in 1860, Wilson Hix became sheriff, Samuel J. Walker commissioner of the revenue and L. D. Isbell commonwealth's attorney.

Thus, we have reviewed very briefly major events in the story of "Historic Appomattox" prior to the Civil War.

It was a time marked by potent national issues and fateful decisions. Two conceptions of government were clashing. One, the South, adhered to "State's Rights" and followed the political philosophy of Thomas Jefferson. Another, the North, favored centralized government and adopted the statecraft of Alexander Hamilton. Slavery was in the thick of the picture and around it wage the impact of forthcoming resort to the sword.

Talk of the questions of slavery and "State's Rights" were major topics at such places as Jeffries' Tavern at the Old Court House. Excitement reached a climax in the presidential election of 1860 and when Abraham Lincoln was elected, Appomattox sent Lewis D. Isbell, an announced "secessionist" to a state convention to consider whether or not Virginia would leave the Union.

In 1861 Virginia, the mother of presidents and of states, birthplace of representative government and brightest star in the fabric of America's banner, seceded from the Union and joined her destiny to that of her sister Southern states. The state was thrilled to a mighty pitch by the impending struggle and a call went out for volunteers to defend the firesides of the Old Dominion.

A fine company of cavalry was soon formed in Appomattox under the command of Captain Joel W. Flood. This became Company H of the Second Virginia Cavalry. It was afterwards commanded by Charles E. Webb, and at the close of the War by Captain J. Watt Carson. A company of heavy artillery was formed under Captain James Robertson and afterwards by Captain S. H. Overton. A company of infantry was formed under Captain Thomas P. Mathews, later commanded by Captain W. T. Johnson. Another company of infantry was formed under Captain William H. Abbitt, afterwards under Captain George W. Abbitt. Companies were later raised under the command of Captain Crawford H. Jones and Captain Robert P. Kyle. These last were later disbanded and merged into other companies.

These volunteers, with hearts aflame and bodies dedicated to the cause of the Southland, went to the front and shared the destiny of the heroes in Gray. As they were weakened by casualties, new calls went out for volunteers, and long before 1865 there was a great scarcity of able-bodied men in the county.

County government went on as usual, but most court procedure was replaced by efforts to care for the families of those at the front, etc. In many cases the women went into the fields to till the



soil, for a never-ending cry for food was sent back from the armies. The colored slaves deserved great credit for their faithfulness and mannerly conduct.

And thus the war wore on for four long and dreary years. The early flush of Manassas was hushed in the still of Gettysburg; the exultation of Chancellorsville sobered in the tragedy of Vicksburg. The patriotism of young heroes marching off to the war was dimmed by months of waiting without news or seeing them again aged and with an empty sleeve or pants leg.

News of the capture and burning of Richmond foretold the beginning of the end. Thomas S. Bocock, only Speaker of the Confederate Congress, was one of the leaders of the falling Southern Cause.

Slowly the web of Grant's powerful armies entwined and enmeshed the remnants of the once all-conquering Army of Northern Virginia under the peerless Robert E. Lee.

Moving westward from smoldering Richmond, capitol of the Confederacy, Lee and his less than 20,000 troops followed the James towards Lynchburg. Grant moved swiftly with over 100,000 well-equipped veterans at his command.

Lee hoped to reach Lynchburg before making a "last stand." Perhaps he could be joined there by remnants of other Southern troops from the Carolinas and Tennessee. On the march desultory fighting transpired.

And.....then, came Appomattox!

### *The Surrender*

Thursday, April 6, 1865, was court day at Appomattox. Refugees from Richmond were moving westward and Governor William Smith, fleeing the stricken capitol, stopped to address the crowd from the hotel porch by the courthouse.

The long procession of refugees kept up through Friday, April 7, and again on Saturday. But on the afternoon of Saturday several batteries of artillery rumbled through the excited courthouse village and soon afterwards flames in the southern skies told of the burning of Appomattox Depot.

Scarcely before the villagers knew what was transpiring there was a booming of cannon and caisson and a rattle of musketry.

Grant's army, moving with precision, had gotten between Lee and Lynchburg! Gone was the hope of uniting with other Southern forces! Gone was all chance of a "last stand" on anything like even terms! Gone was all glimmer of hope for about 10,000 ragged, hungry, heart-weary scions of the glamor of Bull Run and Mechanicsville.

But, like Napoleon's "Old Guard" these heroes prepared for the last fight for their Cause.

Across Cyrus' Field attacked Sheridan's cavalry. There were several casualties in the following skirmish. The artillery that shortly before had passed through the courthouse village was driven back to the north of the Appomattox River. About dark, Lee's advance forces came up, and the last night of the Confederacy settled down amid gloom and impending destiny.

Lee's scouts brought messages of the great strength of Grant entwining about him.

About eight o'clock there was another rattle of musketry and the clatter of sabres was heard. It was the Fifteenth New York Cavalry pushing down from the burned depot village, under Lieutenant Colonel Root. The Southern pickets formed quickly and halted them, as two men were killed. Lieutenant Colonel Root was killed as he led his cavalry past William Rosser's shop.

On Sunday morning, April 9, about light, Lee's cavalry and infantry moved up by the Appomattox River and Sheridan's corps marshalled and advanced to meet them. There was a flurry of fighting and then Southern officers learned that Mead's army had stolen in behind Lee and another Yankee force was coming up from Walkers Church. Lee's small army was therefore virtually surrounded.

The Southern generals had prepared for this emergency the night before and realized that there was nothing left but honorable surrender. A flag of truce was sent forward asking for a cessation of firing and a request for a conference.

The two generals met in the home of Major Wilmer McLean in the courthouse village. After discussing memories of their acquaintance in the Mexican War, the two generals came to terms and the surrender papers were properly signed. Lee was dressed in the full uniform of his rank. Grant wore a field uniform. The terms were all that was to be expected in such a situation.

On Monday Grant's army came in and encamped about the courthouse. Lee fell back and pitched camp on the hills to the northeast. Monday and Tuesday were spent in paroling and arranging details. Wednesday General Chamberlayne's division was drawn up at the east end of the village and the Confederate columns filed by and stacked their arms and colors. They then returned to their camp and got their blankets and personal effects and prepared to turn their faces homeward.

The last of the Federals did not leave until the following week. Even after the army was gone a company under Captain Geiser was stationed at the courthouse until November.

On the Southern side, after stacking arms, the Army of Northern Virginia broke camp, ..... but not without a final word from their beloved leader, General Robert E. Lee.

Pressing about the person Lee, his soldiers begged for a final word, and he paused under a poplar tree and gave his "farewell address." He thanked them for years of service and urged them to be as good citizens in peace as they had been soldiers in war.

The homeward-bound veterans had their final camp just beyond Buckingham Court House.

Thus ended at Appomattox the most fitful Civil War ever chronicled in the files of Time. And thus began at Appomattox a new page in the history of America.

The epic chapters of American history have been localized on Virginia soil. From Jamestown to Yorktown was one period. From Yorktown to Appomattox another. From Appomattox to "Hal" Flood's resolution for entry in the World War yet another.

Military rule was established in Virginia in the spring of 1866. All county officers were replaced by military appointees. In Appomattox County, these appointees were men who could

take the iron-clad oath prescribed and were selected upon the recommendation of the incumbents. Many of these appointees never carried on any of the functions of their offices. Those appointed were: sheriff, James Geiser, of Pennsylvania; H. H. Willard, of Pennsylvania, commonwealth's attorney; Samuel Worley, a local youth, clerk. Philip A. Bolling, of Farmville, was the military appointee for Judge of the Circuit Court, and served until the election of Judge G. A. Wingfield under the Underwood constitution.

In the fall of 1866 an election was held under the Underwood government and a new slate of court officers were named. George T. Peers became clerk; William T. Johnson, sheriff and W. J. Collins, commissioner. In March 1867 the Underwood, or reconstruction, constitution was passed in Virginia. Under this constitution the office of county treasurer was created. It was voted on in 1869. Supervisors were also provided for. In 1870, William H. Gills was named sheriff; Charles T. Plunkett, treasurer; George T. Peers, clerk; L. D. Isbell, commonwealth's attorney. Mr. Isbell later became county Judge and Charles Sackett was made commonwealth's attorney.

The ravages of four years of war were apparent in the state and Appomattox joined with its sister counties to repair the wounds of the Southland.

Although lacking the melodramatic aspects of the war years, the reconstruction years called forth the character of the people and the present institutions of our county are but a tribute to the untiring labor and hard work of our immediate forefathers.

We shall not trace in detail here the story of the years between 1870 and the present, because that story is told in the chapters following. It was a period of rebuilding and of new achievements. The Virginia public school system started in 1870. "Hal" Flood was but five years old then. There was a railroad in the county, but it was many long years before the present hard surface roads.

Someday a reverent nation will properly memorialize Appomattox's famous scenes. The old courthouse village will be restored. The McLean Surrender House was torn down many years ago to be exhibited in Chicago and Washington, but was never moved and was carried away, brick by brick, by tourists or allowed to rot. However, blueprints of it are preserved. Congress is working on an appropriation for a \$100,000 monument and through Senator S. L. Ferguson's efforts plans have been started for a memorial park. Other projects have been announced here from time to time, but have not as yet materialized.

However, more important than a physical memorial is the keeping of the "Spirit of Appomattox." Here the guns of the last charge died away and the echo, like a mighty sob, rolled up the valley of the James and was still. Here, the last stand of the Army of Northern Virginia was made. And when the startled birds renewed their singing over the stricken fields and the battle smell was lost in the fragrance of new crops and flowers, the ragged soldiers of the South faced the dread reality of reconstruction with a bravery equal to the glory of battle and set in to rebuild. They grappled with despair and from waste reared fine farms, beautiful homes, modern roads, good schools, splendid government, banks, churches, and all the wonderful opportunities and privileges of your lives.

## *Chapter Two*

### *County Government*

Appomattox County was organized as a separate county in the year 1845. It was formed from portions of four counties: Charlotte, Buckingham, Campbell and Prince Edward.

County government in Virginia is peculiar in that no county has an executive head, a constitution or a legal code. The county is governed by state law and there is no officer similar to the president of the United States or the Governor of Virginia.

For purposes of administration, Appomattox County is divided into three magisterial districts. They are: Clover Hill, Southside and Stonewall.

Each district elects a supervisor for a four year term, and these form the Board of Supervisors. This board is the principal governing board of the county. It holds regular meetings once each month. Some of its duties are: fixing of the county tax rate, auditing of finances, supervising of public health, passing general ordinances for the public welfare of the county and acting as a clearing house for the management of the county. Up until July 1, 1932, the supervisors maintained and supervised the roads of the county, but that function now belongs to the state.

Members of the Board of Supervisors now are: Clover Hill, F. A. O'Brien; Southside, Don Moses (chairman); and Stonewall, T. E. Owen.

Appomattox County also has the following additional elective officers: Commonwealth's Attorney, who represents the county in all of its legal proceedings and supervises law enforcing; Sheriff, who executes orders of the court, enforces law and keeps the jail; Treasurer, who makes up the tax tickets for the taxpayers and collects taxes for the state, county and district and holds the county and district funds until ordered to pay them out by a proper board; Commissioner of the Revenue, who assesses personal property in the county and calculates the taxes according to the rate adopted by the Board of Supervisors, reports same to the Treasurer and keeps the revenue books and assesses real estate once in every five years and changes assessments according to property improvements.

These offices are now filled in Appomattox County by: W. M. Abbitt, Commonwealth's Attorney in place of Joel W. Flood who vacated the office on being elected a member of Congress on November 8, 1932; H. W. McKinney, Sheriff; R. L. Burke, Treasurer; and J. H. O'Brien, Commissioner of the Revenue.

The County Clerk is also an elective officer, serving for an eight year term. C. W. Smith is Clerk of our Court. He serves as Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and records all the permanent records of the county, such as deeds. He also issues marriage and other licenses required in the county.

There is another group of county officers, who receive their office by appointment.

The Judge of the Circuit Court is elected by the state legislature for an eight year term. Judge Robert F. Hutcheson is now Judge of our Circuit Court. Court meets the first day of April, June, October and December.

The Judge appoints members of the School Trustee Electoral Board. This board is composed now of: C. J. Harding, A. H. Howerton and E. P. Sears. This board elects the County School Board, which supervises school work. This board is composed of: E. LeRoy Smith, T. J. Ligon and J. O. Davidson.

The Superintendent of Schools is elected by the County School Board for a four year term, from a list of eligible furnished by the state Board of Education. Our Superintendent is J. A. Burke.

The County Agent is appointed by the Extension Department of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, in cooperation with the Federal Department of Agriculture. He directs and supervises agricultural welfare in the county. Our County Agent is R. B. Hudgins.

The county Board of Health is appointed by the state Board of Health, except the ex-officio members, the county Clerk and the chairman of the Board of Supervisors. The appointive members here are: Dr. D. A. Christian, Dr. D. N. Twyman and Dr. F. H. Lukin.

The county Finance Board is composed of the chairman of the Board of Supervisors, the county Treasurer, the county Clerk and one citizen appointed by the Judge of the Circuit Court. This board is now composed of: Don Moses, R. L. Burke, C. W. Smith and J. R. Horsley.

The county Electoral Board supervises elections, printing of ballots and distribution of same and is appointed by the Circuit Court. Present members are: G. O. Thornhill, chairman; E. LeRoy Smith, secretary; and R. P. Bryant.

In the system of courts, the Circuit Court is the highest in the county. This court has three kinds of juries: Grand Jury, Petit Jury, and the Venire. The Grand Jury inquires into violations of the law and decides whether there is sufficient evidence to justify a trial. If so, the person is indicted. The Petit Jury, which consists of five or seven disinterested persons, tries civil cases and must agree unanimously for a verdict. From the Venire, twelve are chosen to try criminal cases and must agree unanimously for a verdict.

Judge W. L. Brown is Judge of the Juvenile Court and the Domestic Relations Court, which tries cases of those under age and those involving domestic affairs.

The county also has Justices of the Peace, who hear minor infractions of the law. Cases may be appealed from them to the Circuit Court. Justices in this county now are: L. M. Southall, T. W. Moses, W. T. Nash, M. H. Marks, R. E. Megginson, W. T. Steele and R. A. Hamilton.

Each magisterial district also elects a constable, who serves as a local officer for the enforcement of law. Present constables are: Clover Hill, F. T. Cawthorn; Southside, H. C. Pulliam; Stonewall, R. H. Routen.

Appomattox County is in the eleventh Senatorial District of Virginia, together with Charlotte, Buckingham and Cumberland Counties. Senator Samuel L. Ferguson represents this district in the state senate. Appomattox and Buckingham Counties combine to elect one member to the state House of Delegates. Col. A. J. Terrell, of Buckingham, now represents these two counties.

Appomattox formerly was in the tenth Congressional District, now represented in Congress by Col. Joel W. Flood, of Appomattox. However, due to a population change Virginia will have but nine representatives in the next Congress and the state will have to be redistricted and Appomattox will be placed in a new group.

A. Willis Robertson, of Lexington, will represent us in the Congress beginning March 4, 1933, succeeding Col. Joel W. Flood.

There are two towns in Appomattox County having town governments. They are: Appomattox and Pamplin. Each is an incorporated town and elects a mayor and town council. Appomattox officials are: Mayor, W. L. Brown; Council, C. S. McDearmon, H. G. Johnson, J. E. Sears, S. W. Sears, R. S. Wheeler and C. T. Moses; and J. W. Cawthorn, Town Sergeant and Clerk and Treasurer. Pamplin officers are: Dr. F. H. Lukin, Mayor; Council, T. R. Pugh, R. S. Baldwin, J. W. Franklin, W. R. Brightwell, E. D. Carwile and F. B. Fitzgerald.

The Mayor of a town can act as a judge and try cases of violation of town ordinances. The town can levy taxes and pass ordinances for the general welfare of its citizens. The Council is elected for a period of two years.

Appomattox County is extremely fortunate in the type of men who handle its affairs and the high standard of efficient government it enjoys. As a tribute to wisdom and administration, the county has no bonded indebtedness and has a favored position in the state.

## *Chapter Three*

### *Population*

One of the most fascinating phases of a survey about any county or section is the study of its people, their racial strain, composition and traits.

The earliest inhabitants of what is now Appomattox County were, of course, the Indians. They were called the "Agamatack" or the "Apamatue" in Captain John Smith's history of 1608. Captain Newport visited the lower Appomattox River in 1607 and reported on the Indians living along its shores. In 1612 Strachey speaks of them as the "Apo-Mattucks." Other old spellings were the "Appamatuck," the "Apamatuck" and the "Appamatuke." Mention is also found of the Queen of the Indian tribe.

White settlers started coming into this section long after 1630. However, only scanty records are found of the population before 1800.

Peter Francisco was one of the most renowned early citizens of this section. He lived in what is now Buckingham and Appomattox and was famous for his great feats of strength. He stood six feet one inch, weighed 260 pounds and was of dark complexion. He fought through the Revolutionary War and was in the battles of Brandywine, Monmouth, Cowpens and Camden and once captured 15 men single handed near Burkeville. General George Washington had a special sword made for Peter Francisco's use. The sword is now preserved by the Virginia History Society in Richmond. Another dress sword given him by Col. Mayo is in the State Library at Richmond.

Among the various stories coming down through tradition of the settlers before the Civil War is a relation that one family started out from Eastern Virginia for Nebraska, but upon getting as far as what is now Appomattox said that was good enough for them and called the place they stopped, "Nebraska." The Town of Appomattox was officially called Nebraska until the 1890's.

Prior to the Civil War, some of the most prominent and frequently mentioned family names in Appomattox County (which then, of course, was part of Buckingham, Prince Edward, Campbell and Charlotte until 1845) were: Boccock, Flood, Christian, Robertson, Mathews, Paris, Bass, Peers, Worsham, Cardwell, Adams, Caldwell, Patterson, Trent, Plunkett, Gills, Isbell, Sackett, Palmer, Abbitt, Bagby, Morton, Coleman, West, Hix, Davidson, Marshall, Hunter, LeGrand, Sears, Collins, Jones, Ferguson, Smith, Moore, Martin, Carter, Watkins, Rudd, Walker, Hancock, Nowlin, Cheatham, Anderson, McDearmon, Johns, Baker, Chilton, Vawter, Hannah, Ligon, Franklin, Featherston, Thornhill, Agee, Stratton, Tibbs, Atwood, McKinney, Poore, Tanner, Scruggs, Woolridge, Swan and Odor.

The racial strain of the population is largely pure Anglo-Saxon and therefore of English descent. The families have come down with little migration. The population of the county has shown little or no change since 1870.

In 1920 the population of Appomattox County was 9,255. In 1929 it had decreased to 8,489, with 6,140 whites and 2,349 colored. Due to its small area, the population of Appomattox is one of the smallest of Virginia's 100 counties.

In 1929, there were 166 births in the county, 116 white and 50 colored.

The birth rate per 1,000 population was 19.55. The white birth rate was 18.89 per 1,000 and the colored birth rate was 21.28.

In 1929 there were 74 deaths, with 46 white and 28 colored. The white death rate was 7.49 per 1,000 and the colored 11.92 per 1,000 and the county 8.72.

The following divorce figures may be interesting:

year	white	colored	county
1926	3	5	8
1927	5	4	9
1928	5	2	7
1929	5	5	10

The following record on marriages is also found:

year	white	colored	county
1925	59	20	79
1926	42	24	67
1927	43	27	70
1928	40	24	64
1930	46	10	56
1931	57	22	79
1932	50	17	67

The present generation of Appomattox citizens must not forget that the blood that flows in its veins is of the purest strain that is to be found in North America and that our forefathers have handed down to us splendid traits of character and heredity. That heritage must be passed on unblemished to future generations and it is our solemn duty to improve the abilities of each generation by means of eliminating illiteracy, teaching sanitation, diffusing education, preserving family life and widening the horizon of achievement.



## *Chapter Four*

### *Education*

Among the chief duties of any government is the education of its future citizens. Even before the event of the public school system in Virginia, Appomattox turned to education as the avenue to future progress. Home tutors and privately operated academies functioned effectively and the war against ignorance was waged along many lines.

Among the best known academies in the county were the two, one for boys and one for girls, at Spout Spring.

The first public school in Appomattox County was located near the Old Court House. It opened about 1870, with J. H. Featherston as teacher. Some of the pupils were: W. P. Gills, Jerry Sears, Tom Turnes, J. W. McKinney, W. H. Morgan, C. M. Ragland, L. E. Smith and Luther Martin.

The first public school in the town of Appomattox was located at the site of the present residence of T. W. Moses.

The first superintendent of schools in the county was Chap H. Chilton, who served from 1871 to 1885. Rev. J. B. Bristow served as superintendent from 1885 to about 1896. Then Mr. Chilton returned to office and served until succeeded by J. K. Hanner, who was followed July 1, 1913 by N. R. Featherston. J. A. Burke became superintendent August 1, 1926.

The growth and development of the present splendid school system has largely been due to the skill of these men, together with the support of fine school boards and the liberality and support of the public.

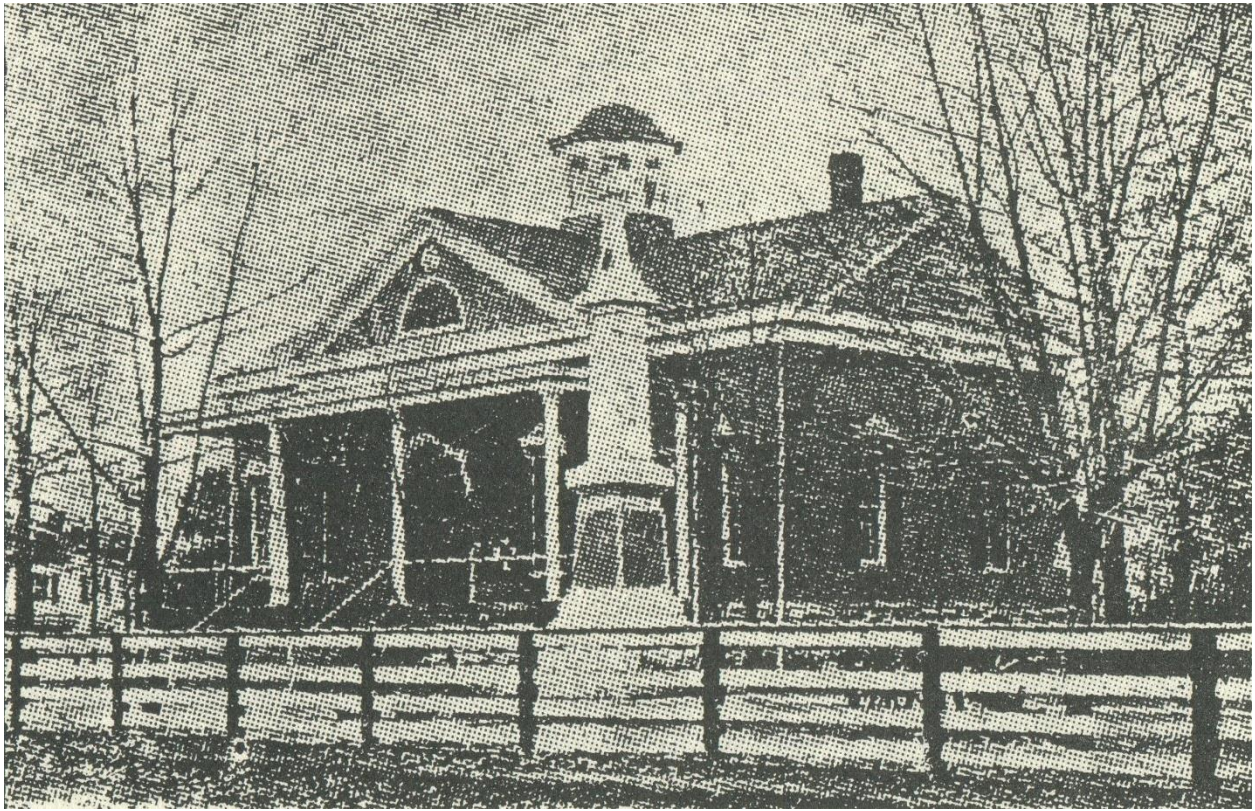
The present school board of the county is composed of: E. LeRoy Smith, T. J. Ligon and J. O. Davidson.

In the early days of the public school system, the one teacher, one room school was the criterion. Many of these schools were started over the county and they were within walking distance of most homes. Then when the high school developed as a popular movement, each community wanted a high school for its students. However, the tendency grew towards a few efficient high schools and grade schools rather than many small schools, unable to meet requirements to be state accredited schools. This change was known as the "school consolidation" movement, and resulted in the county having two large fully accredited high schools, Appomattox and Pamplin and two junior high schools, at Oakville and Liberty Chapel.

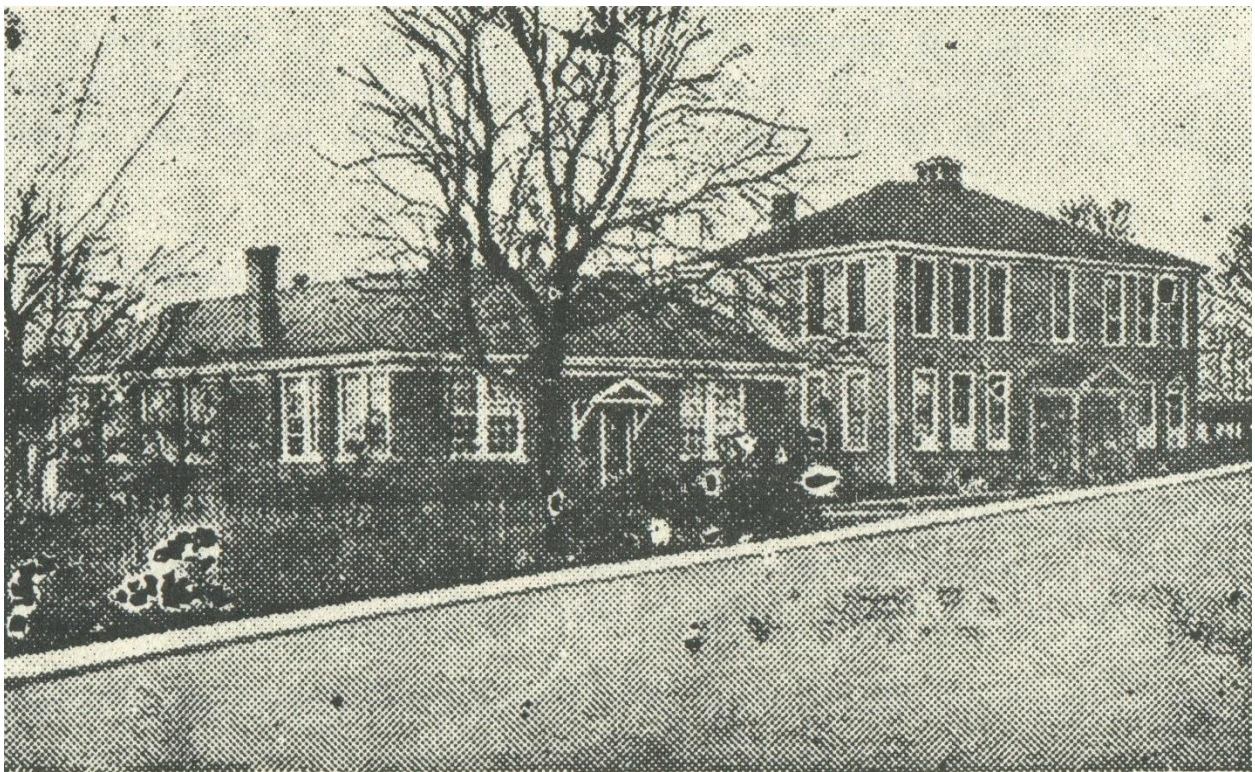
There are now nine other white grade schools in the county, located at: Spout Spring, Stonewall, Evergreen, Vera, Woodlawn, Pentecost, Mt. Comfort, Buck Hollow, and Pettys Fork.

In addition to the Colored Training School at Appomattox, there are the following colored grade schools in Appomattox County: Spout Spring, Stonewall, Agee, Roadside, Morning Star, Canaan, Chap, Beckham, Bethlehem, Browns, Iron Hill, Jordan Highway, Promise Land, Hixburg and Mt. Airy. There are 20 teachers in these 16 colored schools.





*County Courthouse*



*Pamplin High School*



In the 1932 session, there were 413 high school pupils in the county, divided as follows: 164 white boys, 224 white girls, 11 colored boys, 14 colored girls.

At the same session there were 1922 grade pupils, divided as follows: 633 white boys, 609 white girls, 341 colored boys, 349 colored girls.

There were in 1932, 46 white teachers and 19 colored teachers, one white supervisor and one colored supervisor and seven principals.

With the growth of the consolidation program, a system of modern school bus transportation has grown up. In 1931, an average of 877 pupils traveled to school each day by school bus. Thirty such buses were operated at an average daily cost per pupil of only about ten cents. This system has nearly 40% enrollment hauled by buses, enabling the county to save thousands of dollars which would have been needed to maintain the smaller one-room local schools with only a few pupils each. It has also given pupils the benefit of better and more efficient instruction and equipment.

In 1931-32, it cost Appomattox County a total of \$96,001.27 to operate its school system, a slightly increased figure due to approximately \$13,672 spent on new buildings and \$1,629.90 on repairs and equipment. In 1930-31 the total cost was \$87,195.30. Of this total, \$47,592.59 went for teacher's salaries. The school tax is \$1.00. The cost per high school pupil for the county was \$45.71 and \$17.69 per grade pupil, for white children, and \$27.00 per colored high school pupil and \$13.00 per colored grade pupil.

The teacher is the most important factor in any system besides the pupils themselves. Appomattox has well-trained teachers, holding high-ranking certificates. In addition to Professor L. Crawley, who has served 23 years as the efficient principal of the Appomattox High School, it is interesting to note the careers of two of the county's most esteemed teachers, Miss Eddie Hardy and Miss Dean Johns. These two teachers have a combined service, counting the 1932-33 session of 106 years!

"Miss Eddie" began teaching at the old "Hardy" school near Pamplin at a salary of \$15 per month, fifty-four years ago. She then taught at the LeGrand school and came to Appomattox in 1891. It is estimated that she has taught over 2,000 pupils.

Miss Dean Johns has taught for 22 years in Virginia and 30 years elsewhere. She started her school career at Stonewall, 52 years ago. While there she taught J. R. Horsley.

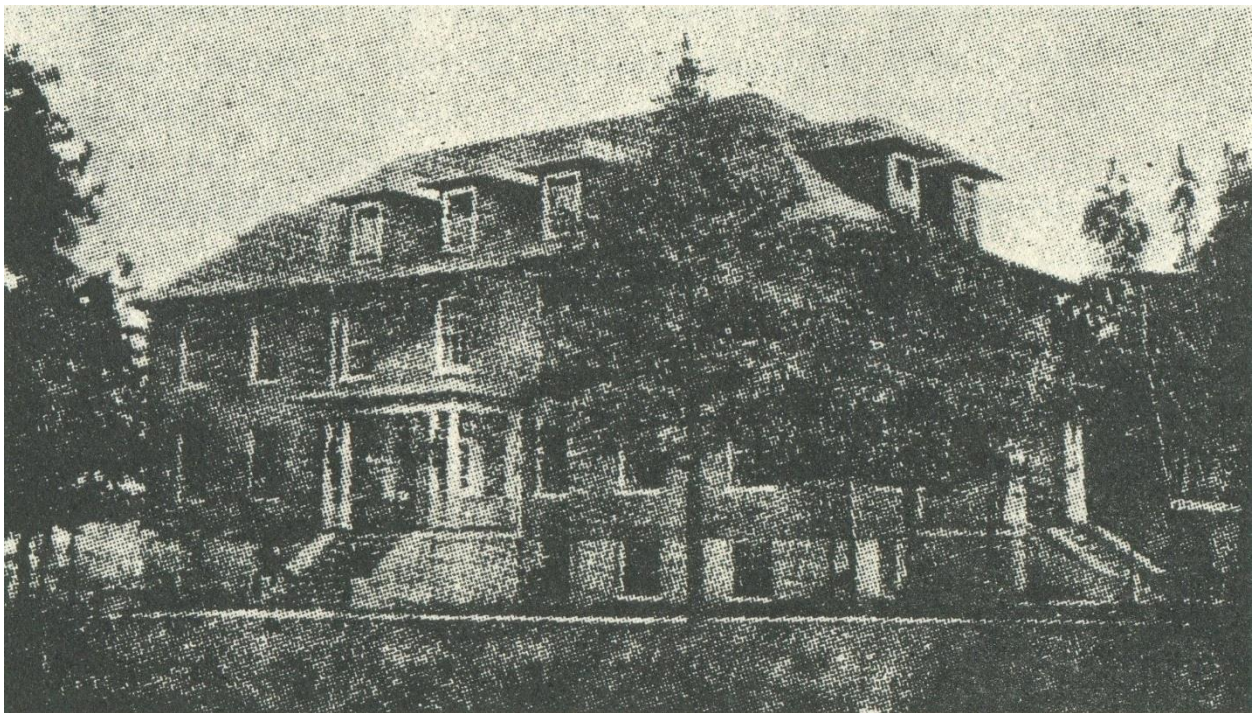
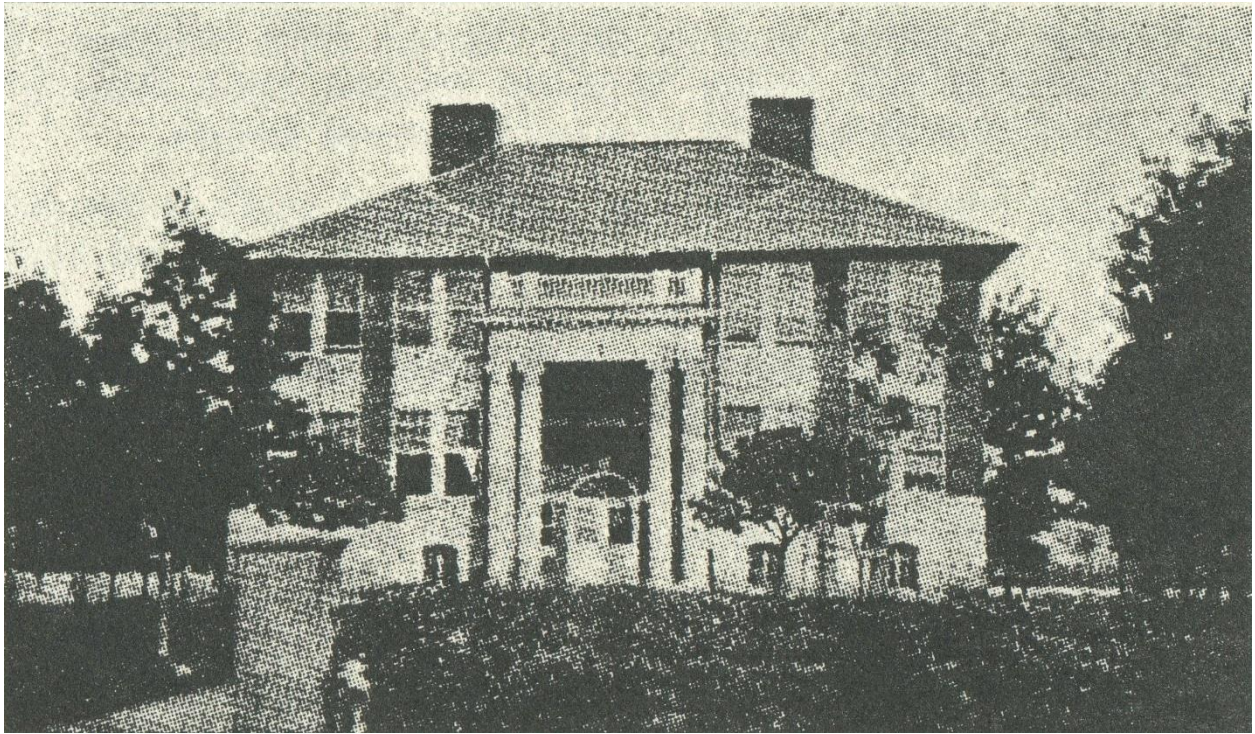
The study of agriculture was introduced into the county schools with the establishment of the Appomattox Agricultural High School. This was one of the first and largest agricultural high schools in Virginia. Professor R. W. Wilkins is the county's agricultural instructor. In 1917 the old agricultural department was replaced by the Smith-Hughes department.

Two active chapters of the Future Farmers of America have been functioning for several years, one at Appomattox and the other at Pamplin.

Home economics has also been introduced at the Appomattox and Pamplin schools, with Miss Jane Abbitt as instructor for the 1932-33 session.



## *Views of Appomattox High School*



Health of pupils comprises one of the most important activities of modern systems. In 1931, there were 322 "5-point" pupils in the county. Five-point pupils are those normal in hearing, eyesight, throat condition, weight and teeth.

It is estimated that public school buildings and sites in Appomattox County are worth approximately \$100,000.00, with equipment valued at \$16,000.00 at present reduced valuation.

Much might be written in connection with the remarkable advancement of public schools in the county and the details of the recent system. However, in a work of this kind, we have attempted to trace the growth of the system and give some major facts of its current activity.

Each pupil bears a responsibility in connection with the educational system. Our parents have spent thousands of dollars in money and long years of work and planning to give us the opportunity to master the arts of life. They have placed at our disposal fine buildings, trained teachers, free transportation, good libraries, athletic activity, leadership and all the benefits of modern knowledge. They have sacrificed to give us a chance many of them never had.

The spirit of Appomattox is a worthy tradition and the school boy and girl of today will measure up to its finest and noblest interpretation by applying himself and herself to the full use of that great heritage, The Public School.



## Chapter Five

### Churches

The courthouse and the church were usually the first establishments in any community. The Church of England, or the Episcopal, was the first established church in the American colonies and for more than a century there were few others. All people were required by law to have their children baptized.

Today, there is only one Episcopal Church in Appomattox County, the Episcopal Chapel, near Hixburg.

The leading denominations having churches in the county are: Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian.

There are fourteen Baptist churches in Appomattox County, having a total membership in excess of 2,400.

The following will give a graphic picture of the Baptist churches in the county:

Church	Yr. Est.	Location	Pastor	Membership
Liberty	1834	Appomattox	W. M. Thompson	523
Elon	1859	Pamplin	W. M. Black	192
Central	1893	Nr. Evergreen	R. T. Smith	137
Evergreen	1907	Evergreen	R. T. Smith	146
Hebron	1849	Stonewall	W. T. Henderson	224
Hollywood	1878	Hollywood	R. T. Smith	202
Mathews	1833	Nr. Pamplin	W. M. Black	52
Red Oak	1776	Oakville	W. T. Henderson	172
Reedy Spring	1839	Nr. Concord	W. T. Henderson	126
Rocks	1772	Nr. Evergreen	R. T. Smith	88
Spout Spring	1913	Spout Spring	W. T. Henderson	55
Liberty Chapel	1775	Liberty Chapel	W. T. Henderson	162
New Hope	1865	Vera	E. F. Burnett	310
Maple Grove	---	Bent Creek	Gray Ligon	---

Of these churches, all but Liberty Chapel and New Hope are members of the Appomattox Baptist Association. Liberty Chapel and New Hope are members of the James River Association.

White Baptist churches in the county have a total of over \$125,000 worth of property and a total Sunday School enrollment of over 2,000.

Of the group, Rocks is the oldest, having been established in the year 1772. Perhaps no church in the county has a greater cumulative record of community service.

Among the churches springing from Rocks was Liberty, at Appomattox. This church was organized August 7, 1834. It has had five houses of worship and now occupies one of the most imposing brick structures in the county. It has had the following pastors: T. A. LeGrand, A. A. Baldwin, J. C. Hannah, William Fisher, L. R. Thornhill, H. W. Tribble, R. S. Royall, P. P. Massey, A. Woodyard, Dr. George Braxton Taylor, Hugh C. Smith, G. S. Kennard, R. C. Hubbard, C. W. McElroy, H. P. East and the present pastor, W. M. Thompson. The present Board of Deacons is composed of: L. E. Smith, W. M. Hancock, T. A. Walton, W. P. Gills, J. T. Cole, R. L. Burke, A. R. Harwood, A. T. Inge, F. L. Murphy, J. D. Plunkett, Don Moses and C. A. Hancock. It has one member, T. A. Walton, who has been a Sunday School member for 71 years and missed only a few Sundays in attendance over that period.

There are nine Methodist churches in the county. They are as follows:

Church	Location	Pastor
Memorial	Appomattox	G. D. Coffey
Salem	Spout Spring	Humphries
Pamplin	Pamplin	J. E. White
Piney Ridge	Nr. Pamplin	J. E. White
Evergreen	Evergreen	J. E. White
Bethel	Nr. Stonewall	E. I. Lewis
Trinity	Nr. Stapleton	E. I. Lewis
Mt. Comfort	Nr. Oakville	E. I. Lewis
Herman	Nr. Piney Mt.	E. I. Lewis

Memorial, at Appomattox, is the largest of the Methodist churches in the county and celebrated its thirty third anniversary last fall. The congregation first gathered in the courthouse in 1897. In the year 1898 a lot was purchased and a building started. The church was dedicated the fourth Sunday in September, 1898. Rev. P. M. Bell was the first pastor and it was named Memorial in memory of D. Adam Bledsoe, a prominent member of the Virginia Conference. The following pastors have served the church: P. M. Bell, R. N. Hartness, H. W. Dunckley, W. L. Murphy, R. B. Blankenship, R. L. Wingfield, L. F. Callahan, W. G. Bates Jr., A. L. Stevenson, D. G. Trent, George S. Reamy and G. B. Coffey. The first official board was composed of: A. H. Clement, Robert Irby, J. H. Stanley, James H. Hill and E. W. Taylor. The present official board is composed of: S. L. Ferguson, T. W. Moses, H. C. Babcock, C. W. Smith, L. Crawley, E. LeRoy Smith, J. K. Pulliam, J. H. Martin, E. H. Smith, C. T. Moses, H. M. Burge and C. H. Pulliam. There have been four superintendents of the Sunday School, as follows: A. H. Clement, P. R. Woolridge, S. L. Ferguson and C. W. Smith.

Wesley Chapel was formerly a Methodist church, coming in the original land grant to Appomattox County from Campbell County. The congregation largely moved to larger centers of population and now only a non-denominational Sunday School is held.

Bethel, near Stonewall, was once a Methodist Episcopal South. Trinity near Stapleton is one of the oldest churches in the county. Herman was moved to near Piney Mountain from the old courthouse.

There are five Presbyterian churches in the county, as follows: Hixburg, Stonewall, Evergreen, Appomattox Court House and Old Concord. They have a combined membership of 271.

The Appomattox Court House Presbyterian Church was organized April 24, 1867 by the Rev. George W. Leyburn. The first officers of this church were: Capt. T. W. Johns, Alfred Agee, John Will Gilliam, James Calhoun, James Featherston and Major J. W. Flood. The present church structure was built in 1902. The pulpit Bible now used in the church was presented on the day of its first organization by Mrs. C. J. Faulkner, grandmother of the late Hal D. Flood. The present pastor is the Rev. R. E. Redding.

In addition to the above white churches, the colored churches in the county are large and well distributed. The following is a list of colored Baptist churches in Appomattox County: First Baptist, Jordan Baptist, Mt. Shiloh, Zion Baptist, Galilee, Mt. Obed, Springfield, First Canaan, Morning Star, Chestnut Grove, Promise Land, Mt. Pleasant, New Bethel, Gravel Hill, Bethlehem, Peaceful Grove and St. Paul. These churches have a total membership of over 1,200. They are members of the Corner Stone and the Hasadiah Associations.

It will thus be seen that this county is well served by churches and is marked by a sterling religious tradition, dating back to 1772.

It will remain for future generations to settle the fate of the rural church and decide whether the traditional country church shall be merged into larger community organizations. But whatever the answer to that question, the people will and must remain pious, devout and faithful to their religious training.



## *Chapter Six*

### *Agriculture*

Tradition claims that the Indian word from which the county of Appomattox gets its name meant, "Tobacco Plant Country."

Be that as it may, tobacco and agricultural pursuits furnish the chief source of livelihood to the people of the county.

According to the 1930 census, approximately 71% of the total land area of Appomattox County was farm land, forming 1,226 white farms and 320 colored farms.

The average farm in the county in 1930 was composed of 125.4 acres. The total farm area was 218,880 acres, divided as follows: 40,842 acres in crop land; 11,968 acres in woodland pasture; 5,460 acres in other pasture; 69,718 acres in woodland not in pasture; 16,365 acres in idle or fallow land; 36,319 in pasture land; 26,883 acres in plowable pasture.

There were, in that census, 698 full farm owners in the county, 87 part owners, 5 farm managers and 36 cash tenanted farms.

The value of the farm lands and buildings and implements in Appomattox County in 1930 was \$3,389,474. Excluding buildings and implements the farm land was valued at \$1,831,104. The average farm was worth \$2,720. The value per acre averaged \$21.69 for the county.

Soil in Appomattox County as shown in Federal Soil Survey, is deep red changing in places to rich chocolate or light loam. It is conducive to a number of fine crops, especially legumes and grains.

The average corn crop in Appomattox County is 9,693 acres, yielding an average of 20 bushels to the acre. The average wheat crop is 5,419 acres, yielding an average of 12.3 bushels to the acre. There are also smaller crops, such as Irish potatoes with an average of 247 acres.

The average in tobacco is 3,279 acres. The average yield is 750 pounds to the acre. Appomattox farmers raise what is known as "dark-fired tobacco," used chiefly in the making of cigars and chewing tobacco, rather than the light tobacco used in making cigarettes.

Extension officials of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and other farm authorities recommend and strongly urge that Appomattox County's tobacco acreage be cut down to at least 1,500 acres, with farmers stressing production of high quality tobacco. Year after year high quality tobacco brings a good price with low grades being marketed at a big loss.

In connection with the discussion of tobacco, it may be mentioned that a government experiment station is conducted near the Town of Appomattox in charge of B. G. Anderson. In recent years experiments have been conducted in an effort to find the best fertilizer for dark tobacco and the results of the "Appomattox experiments" have been widely used by dark tobacco growers. These experiments show that the most economic production of tobacco is dependent upon having a large supply of readily available plant food in the soil throughout the growing season. If a portion

of this plant food can be obtained from home sources, such as clover and manure, so much the better, but if not then fertilizer must be used. The specific recommendation is about 500 pounds of "5-10-5" per acre. The experiments recommend lime for tobacco farms but under wheat in the crop rotation rather than the tobacco.

These experiments have value in producing better quality tobacco and have been closely watched by farmers in the county.

However, farmers have also turned their attention to another phase of the tobacco industry, namely, cooperative marketing.

During the year 1932, the Dark-Fired Tobacco Growers Marketing Association was organized, covering the counties of the Virginia dark tobacco belt. C. T. Moses was elected a member of the board of directors from Appomattox, and J. R. Horseley appointed by director Hutcheson. This county had the most complete sign-up of members in the entire belt.

The Association has the backing of the Federal Farm Board and seeks through organization and cooperation to bring better living prices for the growers. Despite the subnormal conditions in all markets during 1932, the general level of prices was considered better than in 1931, a non-association year.

Most Appomattox tobacco is marketed either in Farmville or Lynchburg where there are independent and association warehouses.

The average hay acreage in Appomattox County is 3,300, yielding an average of 1.1 tons per acre, considered a good yield.

It is figured that some 4,000 acres in the county are left bare of any grass or cover crops to hold the soils together and prevent erosion. Erosion takes away valuable plant foods. Alfalfa and clover are recommended for this purpose, together with the newly popular lespedeza. Lespedeza required no fertilizer and no lime and the county could profitably have 2,000 acres of it. It furnishes good hay and increases yields on crops following it.

The estimated number of horses and mules and cattle, etc., in Appomattox is hard to obtain. For example one census showed only 2,000 cattle, but an actual inspection by a state worker showed over 5,000.

"The Live On The Farm" movement has gained wide attention among farmers. In modern agriculture it is wise to raise all of the necessities possible right on the farm and have enough surplus to barter in trade. Crop diversification is but an agricultural way of saying, "Don't put all your eggs in one basket."

R. B. Hudgins, popular county agent of Appomattox, renders important services to farmers, advising them and working side by side with them in making their farming profitable and their agricultural ventures successful.

R. W. Wilkins, agricultural instructor at the Pamplin and Appomattox high schools, aids in general agricultural work in the county but especially directs the training of the farmers of tomorrow.

Chapters of the Future Farmers of America, 4-H clubs and the Grange are active in Appomattox County and strengthen rural life. J. R. Horseley is a former master of the state Grange.

Appomattox County is one of the finest of Virginia's famous apple-growing counties. A number of well-known varieties of apples are grown profitably in this county and form a leading industry. In addition many other fruits are produced and many people are employed in this work.

The farmer of today is faced with vexing problems and must be keenly alert. However, the traditional glories of tilling the soil remain, and no boy or girl could undertake a nobler career than agriculture. It is a career that challenges the best that is in one and offers joy and happiness to those who succeed.

Tobacco and agriculture did much more than give Appomattox its name. They give the county livelihood, occupation and a bulwark of security.

## *Chapter Seven*

### *Transportation – Communication*

Ease and speed of transportation and communication are tremendous factors in a modern life. We are prone to take our splendid roads for granted and fail to realize that they stand as monuments to civilization's onward stride; we use telephones, send telegrams; enjoy R.F.D. routes, and railroads, and because they are so prevalent we forget that the days of the ox-cart and stage coach are only three generations removed.

Appomattox County is crossed and criss-crossed by a network of improved roads.

U.S. Route 60 or the "Colonial Trail" runs through the center of the county, entering it near Pamplin and leaving it at Concord Depot. It is a main state and national route, connecting Richmond with Lynchburg and Roanoke.

At Appomattox, U.S. 60 is crossed by state Route 306. This all-paved route connects Appomattox with Route 13, which goes through Buckingham and Cumberland to Richmond. It follows the general direction of Lee's approach to Appomattox in 1865. Route 13, another all-paved route, crosses the northwest edge of Appomattox County at Bent Creek.

From Appomattox Route 306 connects with Charlotte Court House or Brookneal by way of Red House. This road will soon be all hard-surface.

Another road soon to be all hard-surfaced is Route 307, from Bent Creek to Appomattox. This route has already been graded.

A study of the county map enclosed in this text will reveal many of the other popular roads of the county. It must also be mentioned that State Senator Samuel L. Ferguson, of Appomattox, is chairman of the roads committee of the state senate and has done much to develop the highway system of the county.

The state highway department early in 1932 completed a one-acre park at the famous "Surrender Bridge" on Route 306, near the Old Court House. The two miles from the Surrender Scene to the present town of Appomattox will be widened and developed along lines of scenic beauty with the completion of projects at the Old Court House for its rehabilitation.

There are a total of 400 miles of public roads in Appomattox County, of which a total of about 45 miles is hard-surfaced and some 32 miles is proposed for hard-surfacing soon.

In this connection it might be well to mention that every foot of public roadway in the town of Appomattox is paved and virtually all in Pamplin.

Route 60 and Route 306 and Route 13 are all popular tourist routes.

As a tribute to the management of Appomattox supervisors prior to the state taking over the highways in July, 1932, this county has no bonded indebtedness. Many Virginia counties bonded

themselves heavily for road building and other purposes but Appomattox remained free from this burden.

In June, 1933, highway numbers were revised by the state and Route 60 became 460; Route 13 became Route 60; Route 306 became Route 26, and Route 307 became Route 24.

At present the state road engineer for Appomattox and Campbell counties, S. V. Munsey, has his office in the town of Appomattox, from where he directs road maintenance and improvement.

The Norfolk and Western operates one of its principal east-west railroads through Appomattox County, with stations at Concord, Phoebe, Spout Spring, Appomattox, Evergreen and Pamplin.

In addition to giving the county splendid railroad service, for over half century the Norfolk and Western has been the leading tax-payer in the county in taxes. In 1931 the N. & W. paid the town of Appomattox \$624.56 in taxes and in 1932, \$497.99. A slightly larger amount is paid Pamplin.

Commercial bus lines operate over Route 60 and Route 306, to give additional means of transportation and communication.

The Appomattox Telephone Company was organized by a group of leading citizens of the county, including H. D. Flood, S. L. Ferguson, J. R. Atwood and R. F. Burke. Later the telephone company was managed by H. C. Pulliam. Then it was sold to an Ashville concern and now operates as the Telephone Company of Appomattox.

Offices of the Western Union and Postal Telegraph Companies are maintained in the county.

The United States mail service of the county is efficient and complete. The following is a list of post-offices: Appomattox, Pamplin, Spout Spring, Concord, Stonewall, Bent Creek, Vera, Evergreen, Oakville and Liberty Chapel.

The county is also served by Rural Free Delivery routes. From Appomattox there are four R.F.D. routes and others from the larger post-offices in the county.

In 1932, a total of 1421 automobile licenses were issued in Appomattox County.

In less than 75 years we have come from the day of isolation to the day of fast communication. Our county has kept step in every progressive advance making for speed and convenience, and the present and future generations will move forward with great soundness.

## *Chapter Eight*

### *Appomattox and The World War*

On April 2, 1917, a distinguished citizen of Appomattox County, Hon. Henry DeLaWarr Flood, representing the Tenth Virginia District, introduced in the House of Representatives a resolution declaring that a state of war existed between the United States and Germany. Thomas Martin, another Virginian, introduced similar resolutions in the Senate.

Representative Connaly, of Texas, is quoted as declaring, "The speech of Henry DeLaWarr Flood, giving in detail and fullness the righteous cause upon which America founded her claim to fight, will form the foundation and the basis on that account which school children one hundred years from now will read and ponder over.

The same week, Hon. Samuel L. Ferguson introduced the following resolution during the session of the Appomattox County Court: "Be It Resolved, That this large and representative meeting of citizens of Appomattox County heartily endorses the course of administration of our great President, Woodrow Wilson, and of our Congress and our beloved countyman, Hon. H. D. Flood, and pledge our best cooperation to the nation in this hour of peril."

The Draft Board of Appomattox County was composed of Sheriff H. W. McKinney, chairman; J. R. Horseley, Clerk of the Court, and Dr. J. B. Abbitt. C. W. Smith acted as clerk of the board and all served without pay. The first call was for eight men, who entrained for Camp Lee on September 6, 1917, headed by Frank P. Glover.

One hundred and forty-four young men from Appomattox County enlisted for service, eighty-two white and sixty-two colored. Twenty-eight Appomattox boys enlisted outside the county, making a total of 212. There was not a "slacker" in the county.

The Draft Board of Appomattox County was the first in Virginia to complete its quota in the first draft. And Virginia was the first state to complete its quota. Dr. J. H. Abbitt resigned from the board to go to Norfolk and his place was taken by Dr. D. N. Twyman.

Col. Joel West Flood was with the 305th Engineers Eighteenth Division and took part in three offensives and was one of three men selected from his division to attend English universities after the war.

A post of the American Legion has been organized in the county and consists of World War veterans.

Among the wartime activities in the county were the various Liberty Loan drives and the sale of War Saving Stamps. The First Liberty Loan started in June 1917. Under the leadership of R. L. and R. F. Burke, Miss Eula May Burke and S. P. Loving, \$10,000 was subscribed. The Second Liberty Loan was lead here by Miss Eula May Burke, Mr. J. B. Abbitt and Mrs. Ethel Abbitt Burke, and a total of \$44,000 was reached.

Appomattox County had the only woman chairman in this drive in Virginia, Miss Eula May Burke. The Third Liberty Loan was in the hands of large committees, with R. L. Burke chairman

of the men's division and Miss Eula May Burke chairman for the ladies. A tremendous rally was held April 26, 1918 and \$100,000 was raised in subscriptions to cover a quota of \$50,000. The Fourth Liberty Loan Drive was put on under great handicaps but went over a \$180,000 quota and subscribed \$190,350, with 1,414 subscribers. In addition, \$160,000 was subscribed to War Savings Stamps. Professor L. Crawley was honored by being made stamp sale chairman for the Tenth Congressional District. The Liberty [Victory] Loan Drive found \$144,100 in subscriptions, or more than double the quota. Colored citizens of the county bought \$30,000 worth of War Savings Stamps. Robert Craig did fine work among the colored population.

Thus Appomattox County, with a population in 1914 of 8,904, subscribed a total to Liberty and Victory Loans and War Stamps of \$648,350.

J. A. Burke was fuel and food administrator for the county and rendered great service in promoting savings in the conservation program.

Samuel L. Ferguson was chairman of the Red Cross chapter, and of the Y.M.C.A. campaign. Other wartime organizations having branches in the county were the Woman's Service League, United War Fund Campaign, Junior Red Cross and W.C.T.U.

Appomattox County acquitted itself splendidly in the World War. Just as the Civil War ended at Appomattox, so Appomattox gave to the nation the author of the World War Resolution and heroes in France, camp and at home who carried out the best of the service tradition of "Old Appomattox."

Boys and girls of today must remember that their mothers and fathers have "carried on" for the cause of patriotism and have been ready whenever their flag called.

## *Chapter Nine*

### *Some Outstanding Citizens*

Although comparatively small in size, Appomattox has given to the state and nation some of its outstanding citizens, leaving behind them a tradition worthy the emulation of present and future generations. In our limited space we can consider only a few of them, but present brief sketches of a few.

#### *Peter Francisco*

Peter Francisco lived in both Appomattox and Buckingham. The Francisco magisterial district in Buckingham County is named after him. He lived in Revolutionary War days and served with Washington at Brandywine, Cowpens, Monmouth and Camden and won wide praise for his heroism. Many stories are told of his physical strength and thereupon rests his chief renown.

#### *Thomas S. Bocock*

One of the most outstanding Southerners in Civil War days was Thomas S. Bocock, of Appomattox County. Mr. Bocock was a scion of a famous Virginia family. He was a member of the state legislature before the Civil War and also of Congress. After a tie, he was barely defeated for the Speakership of the House of Representatives in the 1850's, by John Sherman, of Ohio. When the South seceded, he was elected to the Confederate Congress and was its only Speaker.

#### *George T. Peers*

George T. Peers first held public office in Appomattox County as deputy sheriff to William Mathews in the spring of 1850. He became clerk of the county in 1860, and took office July 1, 1860 to serve until his death. In 1866 he was re-elected clerk in the reconstruction government under the Underwood government, but did not qualify to serve at first and Robert P. Patterson was named for a few months until Mr. Peers could qualify. As county clerk, Mr. Peers became one of the outstanding citizens in rebuilding after the Civil War.

#### *John T. Bocock*

In May 1845, when Appomattox County was organized, John T. Bocock, another member of the famous Bocock family, was named its first clerk. Thomas S., was the first commonwealth's attorney. He was succeeded in the same year, upon his death, by his son Henry F. Bocock. Henry served as clerk until 1860.

#### *Joe Sweeney*

The most famous musician of Civil War times was Joe Sweeney, of Appomattox. He added the fifth string to the banjo. After the war he toured America, offering the first blackface comedy team. He went to England and played before Queen Victoria, receiving from her a belt filled with gold, which belt D. A. Conner now possesses.



### *Henry D. Flood*

Henry DeLaWarr Flood, better known as “Hal” Flood, was born September 2, 1864 and died December 8, 1921. He attended Washington and Lee and the University of Virginia. He was the son of Major Joel W. Flood and his mother was the daughter of Hon. Charles James Faulkner, of Martinsburg, W. Va. Following his graduation in law in 1886, Mr. Flood began the practice of his profession in his home county of Appomattox. He was elected to the state House of Delegates in 1887 and became its youngest member. He was commonwealth’s attorney for nearly 10 years and then was elected to the state senate. In 1896 he was nominated for the United States Congress but was defeated. However, in 1900 he was nominated again and this time was elected to the high office he filled until his death. He was chairman of the Committee on Territories and the author of the resolution admitting Arizona and New Mexico to the Union. He was chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs from January 1913 to March 1919, and on April 2, 1917, introduced the resolution in Congress declaring a state of war with Germany and on December 5, 1917 introduced a similar resolution against Austria. His prestige and ability made him one of the most influential leaders in the conduct of the World War. He was also a member of the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1902, of the Virginia Debt Commission and chairman of the Democratic Party in Virginia and the National Democratic Congressional Committee. Thus, virtually his entire life was given to public service, but no national honor caused him to forget his first love, “Old Appomattox,” and along with Thomas S. Bocock, he ranks as perhaps the most distinguished citizen Appomattox ever produced.

### *R. F. Burke*

R. F. Burke, member of an outstanding family, spent his active days in service to the county and achieved an enviable position of honor and trust. He was county treasurer for 22 years and president of the Bank of Appomattox, the first bank in the county, serving from December 1921 until his death, February 21, 1924.

### *Samuel L. Ferguson*

State Senator, attorney and most prominent figure in Appomattox of our generation.

Among the outstanding Appomattox citizens still living who have earned special recognition for their achievements is State Senator Samuel L. Ferguson, who stepped from commonwealth’s attorney to the state senate, where he is chairman of the Roads Committee and senate caucus and one of the outstanding Democrats of Virginia; highly esteemed in his home county; the largest landowner in the county; dean of the bar and often mentioned for governor.



### *Others*

J. R. Horsley, of Stapleton, served as county clerk prior to the present clerk, C. W. Smith, and also in the House of Delegates and as chairman of Conservation Committee and president of the State Grange.

Col. Joseph Button, who was formerly president of the Bank of Appomattox, is a former state banking commissioner and at present president of a life insurance company.

Col. Joel W. Flood, World War veteran and half-brother of the late Hal. D. Flood, resigned as commonwealth's attorney in December 1932 to represent the tenth Virginia District in the House of Representatives.

Many names might be added to this list, but suffice it to say that the present generation is carrying on the "Appomattox Tradition" and is setting a fine example to youth in the quality of its leadership.

## *Chapter Ten*

### *Geography and Topography*

The geography and topography of Appomattox County is fairly typical of that in Piedmont Virginia. Keene, in the U.S. Government Geodetic Survey of 1903 describes the county as an “eroded plain.”

Piney Mountain is not only the highest point in the county but also its approximate geographic center. The county plain slopes from it, the lowest level being near Bent Creek and the James River basin. Erosion has taken place somewhat faster than soil formation in some sections of the county.

The average altitude of the county is around 575 feet. The altitude is 640 feet at Concord and 600 at the courthouse.

The main line of the Norfolk and Western Railroad forms a water shed for the county, the water from one side draining into the James River basin and from the other into the Roanoke River or Staunton River basin. Most of the county is in the James River basin. It is interesting to note that the James River basin and its tributaries drain nearly one-fourth of all Virginia.

Appomattox County is well supplied with water and a liberal number of creeks and streams form in or flow through the county. Some of these are:

*Vaughan’s Creek* – Forming near Pamplin in the eastern end of the county and serving as part of the county line.

*Rocky Run* – Forming on the north side of the railroad water shed at Pamplin and serving as part of the line between Appomattox and Prince Edward County.

*South Fork of Appomattox River* – Rising near Evergreen and flowing into the Appomattox River.

*Holiday Creek* – Rising near Wirt, near Rose Bower and serving as part of the boundary between Appomattox and Buckingham Counties.

*Fish Pond Creek* – Forming west of Holiday Creek and flowing into the Appomattox River.

*North Fork of Appomattox River* – Joining the Appomattox River west of Fish Pond Creek.

*Appomattox River* – Rising on Flood’s Mountain two miles west of the old courthouse, near the old McKinney place. This river, while not of pretentious size in this county, gets its name from the same tribe of Indians as the county and widens until at Petersburg it is one of Virginia’s principal navigable waterways.

*David’s Creek* – Flowing from Rose Bower to Bent Creek, this is part of the county line between Appomattox and Buckingham.

*Bent Creek* – Rising near Piney Mountain, this is one of the county's largest creeks and flows into the James River at the town of Bent Creek.

*Wreck Island Creek* – Rising near Concord, this creek flows northward into the James River.

*Blackford Creek* and *North's Creek* – Flow into Wreck Island Creek.

*Buck Creek* and *Little Wreck Island Creek* – Flow into Wreck Island Creek and thence into the James River.

*Hughes Branch* – Flows into Wreck Island Creek.

*Stonewall Creek* – This creek flows into the James River at Stapleton.

*Gough's Creek* – Flows into the James River near the Campbell County line.

*Reedy Creek* – Rising near Spout Spring, this creek flows into Falling River and thence to the Staunton River basin.

*Falling River* – Rising near Appomattox and flows into the Staunton River.

*Cub Creek* – Rising near Chap, this creek flows into the Staunton River.

*Big Cub Creek* – This creek, rising in Campbell County, flows through Appomattox County into the Staunton River. It has a number of forks and small tributaries.

## *Soil*

The soil survey of Appomattox County shows about 90% of what is known as Cecil Sandy loam. There is red clay subsoil in most of the county, with a yellow subsoil in the eastern end. There are splendid meadow lands.

The soil of the county is especially adapted to the production of quality tobacco. Experts have declared that Appomattox dark tobacco excels for its quality and it finds top markets.

## *Mountains*

Piney Mountain is the highest elevation in Appomattox County.

Chestnut Mountain, in the extreme northwest part of the county is the second highest point.

Bald Mountain is adjacent to Piney Mountain.

Flood's Mountain, near Oakville, is not only a high point, but has rich historic associations as the source of the Appomattox River and the memory of generations of the Flood family.

Foggy Mann Mountain lies between Appomattox and Evergreen.

Cheatham's Mountain lies south of the Town of Appomattox.

## *Other Geographic Facts*

Appomattox County has a splendid timber growth. The cutting and sale of timber is one of the major industries of the county. The timber reserve of the county is almost untapped and will serve as a steady income for generations. It must be preserved and guarded from forest fires and waste.

## *Climate*

The temperature of Appomattox County runs normally within a range of twenty above zero to 100. There is an adequate rainfall for all types of crop production.

Included in a geographical study must be mention of the fine meadows unexcelled for grazing and dairying. Proximity to milk and butter markets, makes cattle-raising one of the most attractive potential industries of the county. A number of fine large dairy farms are now in operation and this industry will be given increasing attention in the years to come.

Appomattox County is well fitted by nature to supply the material wants of its people. Beautiful rivers and streams, restful meadows, rolling hills and mountains, virgin forests and countless acres of modernly cultivated farms, unite to offer opportunity and livelihood. No section of Virginia can offer more. Nature's heritage will richly reward the young man and young woman who begin today the trail of agricultural pursuit.

## *Chapter Eleven*

### *Professional Life*

The achievements of well-trained and efficient professional men and women rightly belong in the permanent record of a county's history. Appomattox County has not been without outstanding citizens who have won recognition in their professions, both at home and abroad. In addition to the several citizens mentioned in a previous chapter, we add here a record of some of the county's successful professional citizens.

The romance of the career of the country physician has been told repeatedly. In the day of the horse and buggy, the doctor's life was one of constant struggle with life and death. With the advent of the automobile and the modernly equipped office, the physician has blazed the trail into modernization.

Among the doctors who have served the people of Appomattox County and who deserve a permanent place in their esteem have been:

Doctors William Diuguid Christian, David P. Robertson, R. A. North, Charles Morton, Dr. Patterson, Dr. Vawter, William White, Thomas Hix, Richard Watkins, John Randolph, William N. Horseley, A. A. Rice, Joel W. Flood, N. Northington, Robert Whitehead, Ruebin Palmer, William Albert Thornhill, D. Mott Robertson, Dr. Taliaferro, Dr. McDearmon, C. W. Jones, W. A. Kearney, H. S. Hart, Thomas Matthews, Thomas Rucker, Julian H. Abbitt, William H. Abbitt, James B. Abbitt, L. E. Walker, F. H. Lukin, D. N. Twyman, R. H. Cross, W. L. Ould, D. A. Christian and A. G. Thurman. A number of Appomattox citizens have practiced medicine elsewhere, including: G. Braxton Gordon, at Pine Grove, W. Va.; and Dr. George Torrence, at Hot Springs, Va.

Members of the bar of Appomattox County have not only been skilled attorneys and successful advocates, but have been distinguished and progressive leaders in public affairs of the county, state and nation.

Among the men who have served as lawyers in this county have been: L. D. Isbell, Willis P. Bocock, Henry F. Bocock, Thomas S. Bocock, C. C. May, Edward Woodson, Judge Parrish, Henry D. Flood, H. D. Flood, C. H. Sackett, C. A. Thornhill, R. B. Poore, J. P. Fleshman, W. B. Tinsley, Judge D. A. Christian, B. F. Oden, W. C. Franklin, H. B. Hawes, Frank Saunders, Allen H. Clement, Luther Throckmorton, C. Evan Hunter (now at Roanoke), Samuel L. Ferguson Sr., Samuel L. Ferguson Jr., Leslie F. Ferguson, Joel W. Flood, George J. Abbitt Jr., Watkins M. Abbitt, Willard E. Brown, William H. Burke and R. Alfred O'Brien.

Appomattox County has produced men and women who have gone out to become leaders in many chosen fields of activity. This history cannot list all of them nor preserve a detailed outline of their achievements, but some idea of the character and ability of Appomattox people may be served by recalling to mind a few.

Mrs. Carrie Hunter Willis, now of Fredericksburg, is a native of Appomattox County and has won distinction as a Virginia historian and as a leader in D.A.R. and U.D.C. activity. She is the

author of a Virginia history accepted by the state board of education and has held high offices in the state U.D.C.

Dr. Edward Burge, native of this county, but has given his life to the field of education elsewhere. He is head of the department of Physiology at the University of Illinois, and is ranked as one of America's foremost physiologists.

Dr. James Franklin is one of the outstanding professional men produced by Appomattox County. For many years he has been connected with the foreign mission board of the Northern Baptist Convention, and his duties have taken him into many far corners of the world.

Dr. Havilah Babcock, son of H. C. Babcock, of Appomattox, is professor of English at the University of South Carolina and a well known educator.

Frank Kale, now located at Sparta, Virginia, is a native of this county who has won wide recognition in vocational agricultural work in the state.

Charles Reynolds, of this county, has won success as an attorney for railroads.

These are but a few examples, selected at random, showing that success has crowned the life of countless citizens of this county and that prominent people in all parts of the nation can call this county "home." The tradition will be carried on by the present and future generations.