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The Journal of the Roanoke Historical Society, Volume I, Number 1. Published twice yearly by the Society at Box 1904, Roanoke, Virginia, to chronicle the past and present of that part of the state west of the Blue Ridge. Single copy price: 50 cents. The Society will be careful in handling unsolicited material but cannot be responsible for its loss.

Note from the President . . .

With this first issue of the Roanoke Journal, the Roanoke Historical Society moves into a new field of communication in the potentially vast area of historical activity.

This publication is planned to appear regularly. But its future depends on the availability of material. We urge society members to help us look for interesting manuscripts, documents, letters, diaries or other accounts from the past. We are concerned first of all with Roanoke Valley but our historical interest also extends to neighboring counties, to early Virginia and certainly to the beginning of our nation.

Biographies of prominent settlers, histories of churches, homes and schools, descriptions of early taverns, mills, roads, farms, stores and industries may be in future issues. We have a broad field to explore.

This journal follows the successful opening of the society's museum in the Roanoke College library, our first major project.

Here we also need the continuing help of our members and of the community. Donations have been numerous and generous since our society was formed late in 1957. Roanoke College graciously donated space for the museum in 1963.

We are preserving pictures, maps, records, deeds, books, newspapers, tools, clothing, flags and many miscellaneous items which were an important part of the everyday lives of our ancestors. Some are described in this journal. They are on display for the public on

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A CORNER OF THE SOCIETY'S NEW MUSEUM IN ROANOKE COLLEGE LIBRARY, SALEM.

Letter from Mr. Tom . . .

An original letter from Thomas Jefferson referring to a visit to the Peaks of Otter in 1815 and a Beyer print of the Peaks are among the most valuable acquisitions of the Roanoke Historical Society.

The letter and the print, probably made in the 1850's, were given by S. H. McVitty of Salem. They are contained in the same frame.

Although the letter was not signed by Mr. Jefferson, it bears his initials. Their authenticity and the handwriting were verified by James A. Bear, Jr., curator at Monticello.

Mr. Jefferson was writing from Poplar Forest, his "pleasant retreat" in Bedford County near Forest, apparently to the Rev. Charles Clay, his Bedford neighbor.

The text of the letter:

Poplar Forest
Nov. 18, 1815

to Mr. Clay

I was five days absent in my trip to the Peaks of Otter and have been five days engaged in calculating the observations made. This brings me down to yesterday evening when I finished them. I am going today to see Mr. Clarke at his new habitation and tomorrow, weather permitting, will pay you a morning visit. In meantime, I send you a note of the result of my 10 days' labor and some otaheite or paper mulberries valuable for regularity of their form, velvet leaf and for being fruitless. They are charming, near a porch, for densely shading it.

Treasure Trove

by RAYMOND
BARNES



There is scarcely a locality anywhere which lacks its local legends of lost riches and hidden treasure. But Western Virginia seems particularly rich in these stories of treasure trove so fascinating to almost everyone. These tales, revived and repeated by succeeding generations, persist—and their versions multiply with time.

These yarns fall into two categories: those concerning hidden gold or silver mines and those about fabulous caches of coins.

Many Roanoke residents have visited the cemetery on Plantation Road near Hollins to view the peculiar tombstone over the grave of Robert Denton who died in 1805. His father, Benjamin Denton, owned considerable acreage in the vicinity and because he always paid his debts in newly minted gold coin the legend grew that he extracted ore from his land and had it converted into legal tender. As late as 1875 Frederick Johnston, first Roanoke County clerk of court, who was writing for the *Fincastle Herald*, was told by one John Smith that his blacksmith father, Pete Smith, always was paid by Denton with gold coins "from the mine." Mr. Johnson added that "no other mention of this gold mine has been made in my day." (Draper Mss. 5 qq 98 et seq. microfilm copies, City Library)

Then there is the story of the strange old man—perhaps the original tinker of Tinker Mountain—who lived on the south side of that mountain and who occasionally came to town to mend the settlers' pots and pans.

The legend goes that the old tinker had plenty of money of the "white" variety which allegedly came from a secret silver mine. The

story was revived in the early seventies—and promptly labelled “moonshine” by Mr. Johnston.

Nevertheless, a surveyor named Patterson was reported to have found a keg of silver money cached under a ledge of rock on the mountainside which was said to be that stored away by the old tinker. A Mr. Burger, assisting the surveyor, vowed he was paid money taken from the keg. The legend came back to life in 1897 when James Riley reported to the *Roanoke Times* that he discovered on the south side of Tinker Mountain a cave whose only entrance was blocked by a stone so cut to completely fill the opening in a manner not apparent to a casual observer as it differed little from the rock formation surrounding the cave.

Exploring the cave, he reported finding a column of silver between two ledges approximately six inches in width, which assayed at 90 percent in pure silver. He also reported that he found evidence of how the lode had been worked for some time in the past. Since that report no further mention is found regarding the mine. (See *Echoes of Roanoke—World News*, issue Feb. 10, 1962.)

In late October, 1905 workmen excavating the slope of the hill along Shenandoah Avenue, N. W., preparing for the new N&W Station, found a foot or so below the surface a collection of coins. This consisted of several silver dollars and half dollars dating back to 1797, in addition to gold British coins dated 1808.

One familiar with the history of this section can let his imagination run riot in conjecturing why coins were found at this site. It is hazarded that since the Carolina Trail once passed nearby, a traveler sick, or in fear of his life, may have buried the coins, although by 1808 the old trail had been abandoned. Were they ill-gotten gains a criminal sought to hide? In all probability William Stover, who lived where the Ponce de Leon hotel is located, or one of his guests, unwittingly lost the coins, which were later buried by ploughing, for the hill on which Hotel Roanoke stands was long a field noted for abundant wheat crops.

Then there is the famous “Beale Treasure,” an alleged cache of gold, silver and jewelry buried somewhere near “Buford’s Tavern” or “Locust Level” at Montvale. The code to this treasure and a great deal concerning it may be seen at the Roanoke public library. Recently one enthusiastic treasure hunter reported the code had been broken sufficiently to give compass directions, but to date apparently the cache has not been uncovered.

In April, 1906, a Vintonian of an old family in that neighbor-

hood, had been living in Kansas. Returning home he purchased a tract of land on which was an old dwelling, formerly used as a tavern. This building stood on the south side of Highway 460 near Cook's Nursery, and was described as being a story and a half high. Demolition proceeded with no untoward incident until mid-April. As reported in the *Roanoke Times* of April 18, 1906, there was found in the chimney several thousand dollars in gold, silver and jewelry wrapped in a Masonic apron, placed in an iron pot, then cached in the chimney!

The finder would not talk, so rumors still run that he became the richest man in this part of the county. While it was reported this "treasure trove" was valued at \$4,000 only members of that particular family know the truth. Nevertheless rumors were hard on old buildings and all over Roanoke and adjoining counties old chimneys came "tumbling down" in an effort to locate treasure.

Perhaps a major reason that many believed the stories concerning gold and silver ore was the actual mining of less precious metals in this immediate vicinity.

A zinc mine was opened in 1888 south of the railroad near Bon-sack and the Washington Mining Company shipped large quantities of this ore north for several years. Another zinc mine was worked on what is now Jefferson Hills golf course where Colonial Avenue crossed Murray Run, and still another deposit lay near State Route 119 about a mile south of Ogden.

The Rorer mines were large iron producers and were worked until after World War I. There were two lodes of brown hematite, one south of present Peakwood Drive just beyond the present Roanoke city limit and the other east of Ogden. There were also early iron mines at Blue Ridge Springs and near the site of the present Atlas cement plant.

An actual gold mine was operated by D. William Good who owned an orchard on the extreme northern slope of Buck Mountain. His son, Neil Good tells me that many loads of ore were mined about 1906 and shipped from Starkey but he does not know whether his father profited from the venture.

But despite meagre proof of former fortunes the legends of hidden wealth go on—and will continue as long as human nature is human nature.

Some Phases of the Civil War In the Roanoke Area



WILSON

GOODRIDGE WILSON

(This paper was presented by Dr. Wilson at a meeting of the society on May 8, 1964. Dr. Wilson, a longtime student of Southwest Virginia history, also is a veteran Presbyterian minister. He has written the Southwest Corner in the Sunday ROANOKE TIMES for 35 years. Dr. Wilson lives in Bristol.)

Outside the arenas of major military operations in the Civil War, no big battles or large scale campaigning occurred within the Roanoke area. What fighting and campaigning there was took place in the latter stages of the conflict—a little in 1863, a little more in 1864, and some in 1865. But from first to last the overwhelming majority of its people were wholeheartedly sympathetic to the Southern cause and contributed loyally and sacrificially to its support in wealth, service, and blood.

Before and immediately after the opening of hostilities four companies of soldiers were organized, equipped and mustered into the service. One, known as the Salem Flying Artillery, was organized and began training more than a year before Virginia seceded and was ready for duty in the field when mustered into the service of the state at Lynchburg on May 16, 1861. It was organized on January 30, 1860, with Abraham Hupp as its captain. Captain Hupp led this battery until he was incapacitated by illness in 1862. In the spring of that year it was reorganized with Captain Charles B. Griffin at its head, a position he held until the close of the war. This battery had the remarkable record of participating in the first action on Virginia soil, the Battle of Bethel, the last action at Appomattox Court House, and in almost every important battle of the Army of Northern Virginia. Together with the Richmond Howitzers and the Rockbridge Artillery it constituted one of the great fighting units of Confederate arms. McCauley's *History of Roanoke County* quotes General D. H. Hill's Magazine as saying: "On the ever memorable 9th of April, 1865, the Salem Flying Artillery (Company A), commanded by Capt. Charles B. Griffin, was placed in position on the extreme left. After having made

several ineffectual attempts to obtain possession of the road at the Court House the enemy massed a heavy line preparatory to charging the Salem Battery, which held the position commanding the town. He charged boldly on to within pistol shot, when an order from General Gordon was given to cease firing and at the same time one of his aides bore a white flag to the advancing column. The whole army had surrendered. The hoarse sound of the cannon had died away in every part of the line except this, the extreme left, which was soon after silenced, and with it the last gun of the Army of Northern Virginia."

Three other volunteer companies were organized in June and July of 1861, and each one of them was led by a member of the Deyerle family. The Roanoke Grays was commanded by Captain Madison P. Deyerle, who was killed in battle at Williamsburg on April 5, 1862. The Dixie Grays, Andrew J. Deyerle, Captain, fought with Stonewall Jackson and in most of the important battles of the war in Virginia. It was paroled at Appomattox Court House April 9, 1865. Only one member, a man named John Mangus, was present, all the others being either prisoners of war or on sick furlough. Andrew J. Deyerle was promoted to colonel in 1863. The Roanoke Guards had John S. Deyerle as its captain. He was promoted to major in 1862. His first lieutenant was his brother, Ballard Deyerle, a sixteen-year-old boy. This company fought in the West throughout the war and was engaged in most of the important battles in Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee.

* * *

So far as I have been able to ascertain the first casualty of the war on Roanoke County soil was the death of a non-combat officer, killed while in the line of duty. Prior to 1860 a policy was adopted of appointing men to patrol the countryside seeing that slaves did not get out of hand and watching for raiders of the John Brown type. Negroes and ignorant whites called them "patterollers," and women would scare children by telling them if they didn't watch out the "patterollers" would get them. After the war got under way the patrolmen had the important duty of hunting down and arresting deserters from the Confederate army. Major John R. Peyton was too old for active duty in the army, but served efficiently as a patrolman. One day in the summer of 1863, while attempting to arrest a deserter named James Stover somewhere in the vicinity of Cave Spring, he was shot and killed. Stover was later arrested, charged with the crime, and hung. On the scaffold he admitted killing Major Peyton. This was the last public hanging in Roanoke County. It was attended by a very large crowd of spectators. The hanging took place on August 14, 1863.

The principal strategic assets of the Roanoke area were the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad—passing through it from Lynchburg to Bristol, iron operations, food supplies, and horses for the armies.

The iron industry, including mines, blast furnaces, forges and factories turned out finished products in Rockbridge, Alleghany, Botetourt, Roanoke, Franklin, Wythe and other counties and was of tremendous importance in prosecuting the war. The salt works at Saltville, and the lead works at Austinville were invaluable. It is an interesting fact that although there was hard campaigning and severe fighting in southern West Virginia and along the borders of Virginia with Kentucky and Tennessee in '61, '62, and '63—neither the strategic railroad nor the salt, iron and lead industries was seriously damaged until the spring, summer, and fall of 1864. In 1863 a considerable number of blast furnaces and forges in Rockbridge and Alleghany Counties and some in Botetourt were put out of business by Federal raiders, but the industry as a whole continued operations. The fighting in West Virginia did not reach the railroad and had little effect upon the Roanoke area. Sporadic raids were made from time to time to damage the railroad but without success. The first successful raid undertaken for that purpose was made in December, 1863 when a strong force under General W. W. Averill struck Salem and hurt the railroad there badly enough to disrupt traffic for a while.

In the fall and late summer of that year General Averill's Cavalry had been in Alleghany, Greenbrier and Monroe Counties as a part of Federal forces engaged in maneuvering and fighting battles with Confederates in that region. From there Averill took his troopers into more northern parts of West Virginia.

He was unhappy because, while he had been for some time within striking distance of the railroad through Southwest Virginia, he had not been able to do anything that would lessen its usefulness to the Confederates. To remedy that he determined to stage a raid in December, when armed forces generally were in winter quarters. With a mixed force of mounted infantry, regular cavalry, and artillery he started from a place called New Creek, and marched up the South Branch of the Potomac into Highland County, and through Bath and Alleghany Counties to the Sweet Springs. From there he pushed on to Salem. Although he tried to mask his movements by using the more remote and less frequented mountain roads the Confederate intelligence service kept General R. E. Lee informed about them, and General Lee set machinery in motion designed to capture or destroy the raiders.

General John D. Imboden's cavalry was operating in the Valley of Virginia. General Sam Jones was in command of the Department of Southwestern Virginia with considerable numbers under his orders. Colonel W. L. Jackson had a brigade on Jackson River in Alleghany County. General Jubal A. Early in his "Autobiographical Sketch and Narrative" said:

"About the middle of December a force of cavalry and infantry moved from New Creek on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad up the South Branch of the Potomac, under General Averill of the Federal Army, apparently threatening Staunton, while at the same time another force moved up the Valley from Martinsburg to Strasburg. General Imboden, commanding in the Valley, having only a small brigade of Cavalry and a battery of Artillery, applied to General Lee for reinforcements and two brigades were sent to Staunton over the railroad, Fitz Lee's brigade of cavalry being ordered to move to the Valley also. General Lee then ordered me to proceed to the Valley and take command of all the troops there."

Early was at Orange Courthouse when this order reached him. He started at once to Staunton. General Imboden met him there. The two of them, getting a report that Averill was in the Cowpasture region, rode through Buffalo Gap to investigate. On the trip courriers delivered two telegrams from General Lee to General Early. One said that Averill had left Sweet Springs heading for Salem and the other that he had arrived in Salem. Returning to Staunton they found that General Fitz Lee had arrived there ahead of his brigade. The three generals discussed how to cut off Averill's retreat and capture him. The next day Fitz Lee and Imboden met in Lexington with their cavalry brigades, moved on to Colliersville, and camped there. On the basis of information they had it was decided that Fitz Lee should go to Buchanan and Imboden to Covington to catch Averill at one or the other of those places. General Sam Jones and Colonel W. L. Jackson were also alerted to keep a sharp lookout for the raider.



While Averill was on the way from Sweet Springs to Salem Captain Thomas J. Chapman led a detail of Confederate soldiers on a scout for Yankees and ran into Averill's van somewhere north of Hanging Rock. In his official report General Averill said: "New Castle was passed during the night and efforts were made to reach Salem by daylight in the morning. A party of Rebels under Captain Chapman reconnoitered our advance and all were captured except their leader who, declining to surrender, was killed." Captain Thomas J.



Chapman was a Salem boy, a son of Henry H. and Nancy Wright Chapman. He was twenty-six years old when he was killed. From these captives General Averill learned that Fitzhugh Lee was on his trail.

This incident occurred early in the morning of either the 15th or the 16th of December. If on the 15th it delayed Averill's advance until the next day. His force, consisting of four regiments of mounted infantry, a battalion of cavalry, and a battery of artillery arrived in Salem at eleven o'clock in the morning of December 16. Word of his coming had preceded him, but he was not expected so soon. The whole town was thrown into panicky confusion. The raiders put in the rest of the day tearing up railroad tracks, cutting telegraph wires, burning the depot, and destroying or appropriating all Confederate supplies stored in the town that they could find, and camped that night in the vicinity. They captured a number of old men and boys and held them prisoner over night to secure information from them. The next morning Averill ordered them released after he had interviewed them. He started back the way he had come and reached New Castle that day.

At its January, 1864 session the Roanoke County Court recorded this minute: "It appearing to the Court that during the Yankee Raid on the 16th of December last, the enemy was encamped on the Poor House property of this County and—a large quantity of Bacon and Hay, besides Horses, were carried off and destroyed." The

Justices advanced money to reimburse the losers of this property and were repaid by the County. (See "Roanoke: The Story of County and City," page 106).

The mountain streams from Staunton to Greenbrier were swollen by heavy rain. A telegram from Lynchburg which reported that Averill was unable to cross flooded Craig Creek and had headed back in the direction of Salem caused Fitz Lee to go to Buchanan. A later telegram saying that information was false and Averill had crossed the stream and was on his way from New Castle to Sweet Springs, arrived too late. Lee had already gone to Buchanan, and Averill escaped the trap set for him by crossing Jackson River on a bridge. In a skirmish with Confederates who tried to stop him there he suffered some loss in both men and wagons loaded with supplies.

Early's Narrative says: "When Fitz Lee reached Buchanan and found Averill was not coming that way, he moved by the way of Fincastle in pursuit, and ascertaining what route Averill had taken, he then went to Covington and from there followed to Callahan's, but the greater part of the raiding party had made its escape, so he desisted from what was then a useless effort. The facts were that on going back on the route he had come, from the Sweet Springs, Averill found his retreat cut off that way by Echol's brigade of General Sam Jones' force from Southwestern Virginia, which was posted on what is called Potts' or Middle Mountain, and he then turned across toward Covington over Rich Patch Mountain, being compelled to come into the valley of Jackson's River at the point he did to reach the bridge on the road from Clifton Forge to Covington, as there was no bridge on the direct road to that place. He thus succeeded in making his escape by the stupidity or treachery of a telegraph operator, but the amount of damage he had been able to do did not compensate for the loss of men and horses which he sustained, and the suffering the others endured."

* * *

In the winter of 1864 Confederate troops were quartered in units of varying size scattered from Alleghany and Monroe Counties to the Tennessee line. A regiment had winter quarters at Salem.

In that winter General U. S. Grant was made supreme field commander of all Federal armies. In consultation with top Federal brass he drew up a master strategic plan according to which all forces under his unified command would converge upon the Army of Northern Virginia and bring the war to an end. This plan brought the war into the Roanoke area.



General William Tecumseh Sherman after marching through Georgia was to sear a path northward through the Carolinas. Federal armies occupying coastal areas of North Carolina were to move in from there. General George Thomas in command of all armies in Tennessee was to move in from that direction. General George Crook with about ten thousand men stationed at Charleston, W. Va., was to push into Southwest Virginia. An army under General Franz Sigel was to advance up the Shenandoah to Staunton. General Grant was to take personal charge of operations in Eastern Virginia. The mission of destroying the railroad and industries of Southwest Virginia was assigned jointly to General Thomas and General Crook.

Early in March General John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky was given supreme command of the Confederate Department of Southwest Virginia, with headquarters at Dublin. He had been Vice President of the United States, a U. S. Senator from Kentucky, and one of the three Democratic Candidates for President who lost to Abraham Lincoln in 1860. When war was started he went with the South and joined the Confederate Army. He made an excellent war record and attained the rank of Major General.

General William E. Jones, who had been successfully fighting detachments of Yankee troops in East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia, was at Bristol with his cavalry brigade. General John Hunt Morgan, the famous cavalry raider of Kentucky, having recently escaped from a Federal prison in Ohio, was at Saltville, recuperating his strength so as to resume his raiding activity. Other bodies of Confederate soldiers of all arms and sizes and serving under sundry generals and colonels were in their winter quarters, scattered about

over a large territory. With one eye cocked toward Charleston, W. Va. and the other towards Federal armies in East Tennessee and Kentucky, Breckinridge began concentrating his troops for defense.

On May 1 General Crook began his advance, sending General W. W. Averill up the Tug Fork of Sandy with 2500 cavalry, to enter Tazewell County, capture Saltville and the lead mines, and destroy the railroad as far east as Dublin. On May 2 Crook with his remaining 7500 began to move up the Kanawha and New Rivers, heading directly for Dublin. Generals Breckinridge, Jones and Morgan were kept informed by their intelligence service. Breckinridge had concentrated a strong force to receive Crook at Dublin. Two stout forts on heights above New River opposite Radford were occupied by artillery batteries to defend the railroad bridge across the river. He was ready as Crook drew nearer and nearer. At this critical stage Breckinridge received imperative orders to move the bulk of his force immediately to the Shenandoah Valley to stop the Yankee General Franz Sigel before he could reach the Virginia Central Railroad at Staunton. General Breckinridge pulled out, leaving General Albert G. Jenkins, a cavalry leader from West Virginia, to collect what scattered units he could and do his best to stop Crook at Dublin. Jenkins succeeded in gathering a total of less than 3,000 men, which he stationed in a strong position on Cloyd's farm, where they could meet Crook's superior numbers just as they were descending Little Walker's Mountain.

On Monday, May 9 a bloody battle was fought there in which the Confederates were defeated and General Jenkins was mortally wounded. Colonel John McCausland, who succeeded to the command, conducted a skillful retreat of the defeated army until he had it across New River, with the wagon bridge at Ingles Ferry burned so the Yankees could not follow. On Tuesday, May 10, a battle was fought for the New River railroad bridge, Crook attacking from north of the river and McCausland defending from the south bank on the Radford side. Crook finally captured the forts with their big guns and burned the bridge. He then crossed at Pepper's Ferry and went to Blacksburg. McCausland, supposing that Crook would follow him in hot pursuit retreated hurriedly through Christiansburg into the Roanoke Valley, going as far as Elliston.

In the meantime when General Averill arrived in Tazewell County he found that General Jones was waiting for him there with his cavalry brigade, and General Morgan was ready to give him a hot reception at Saltville. So he decided not to go to Saltville, but to strike the railroad at Wytheville instead. When he reached Wytheville on Tuesday, May 10 he found that Jones and Morgan had arrived ahead of him and effected a junction of their forces. In a fierce battle

fought in nearby Crockett's Cove that lasted into the night Averill was badly beaten. He managed to get his army out of the Cove by crossing a mountain during the night, and proceeded to Christiansburg on the 11th. Crook, instead of pursuing McCausland in the Roanoke Valley as was expected, marched his army from Blacksburg across Salt Pond Mountain to Union, W. Va., where Averill, after some further misfortunes, joined him several days later.

General Morgan took his troops back to Saltville. General Jones moved his from Wytheville to Dublin, and later, following orders, to the Staunton area, having combined forces with McCausland.

As compensation for taking his army away from Dublin in the face of Crook's advance, General Breckinridge on May 15, aided by V. M. I. cadets, defeated General Sigel at New Market, and sent him reeling down the Valley towards Maryland. General Breckinridge then joined General Lee at Hanover Junction, in defense of Richmond. General W. E. Jones succeeded him as chief Commander in the Valley.

General David Hunter succeeded Sigel in command of Federals and, with greatly increased numbers, marched back up the Valley. In the Battle of Piedmont, fought near Staunton on June 5, General Jones was killed and his army was defeated, leaving the way open for Hunter to go to Lexington, pillaging and burning as he went.

General Lee sent General Breckinridge back to the Valley to oppose Hunter. Breckinridge moved to Lynchburg to meet Hunter there. General Lee also sent Lieutenant General Jubal A. Early with a part of the 2nd Army Corps to the Valley, with instructions to destroy Hunter if possible, and then try to make a demonstration against Washington City that would divert troops from around Richmond to defend the Capitol.

After pillaging and burning in Lexington, Hunter moved his army to Buchanan, where he committed "outrages," and from there crossed the Blue Ridge into Bedford County to attack Lynchburg. Following the Battle of Piedmont on June 5 and the death of General W. E. Jones, General John D. Imboden assumed command of the defeated Confederates, with General John McCausland second in command. McCausland was promoted to Brigadier General because of his heroic performance at Cloyd's Farm and New River Bridge on May 9 and 10. Both of these men were able cavalry leaders, and with the small number of horsemen at their disposal they harassed Hunter's army effectively, seriously retarding his march from Liberty, then the name of the Bedford County seat, to Lynchburg.

General Early promptly executed General Lee's order to move

his 2nd Army Corps to the Valley. At Charlottesville he learned that Hunter had left the Valley and was marching on Lynchburg through Bedford. He commandeered all available cars and moved his troops by train from Charlottesville to Lynchburg, arriving in time to stop Hunter on the outskirts of the city and start him running back through Liberty and Salem into the mountains all the way to Lewisburg, with Early close on his heels. The Confederates caught up with his rear at Hanging Rock, north of Salem, where a small battle was fought which the Confederates won. Many tales have been told about incidents occurring on Hunter's march through Buchanan and Bedford to Lynchburg, and especially about those occurring during his hurried retreat through Bedford and Roanoke Counties after he found himself facing Early's 2nd Corps veterans at Lynchburg. An excellent collection of these anecdotes is in the book quoted above—"Roanoke: Story of the County and City."

Generals Early and Breckinridge joined their forces at Lynchburg, with Early, the ranking officer, in command and Breckinridge cheerfully obeying his orders. Having disposed of Hunter, they rested and reorganized their forces in the Roanoke area, and then, working harmoniously together, conducted what is known in history as Early's Valley Campaign, one of the most brilliant exploits of the war.

* * *

In the fall of 1864 General Breckinridge was reassigned to his departmental command in Southwest Virginia. In January 1865 he became Jefferson Davis' Secretary of War, a position that he held until the end of the struggle in April of that year.

After Hunter's army was driven out in midsummer, 1864 no hostile soldiers appeared in the Roanoke area until April 1865. In March of that year, in line with General Grant's master strategic plan, General George Thomas, supreme commander of Federal armies in Tennessee, started General George B. Stoneman on his second raid for the purpose of destroying the railroad through Southwest Virginia. In December, 1864 he had staged a successful and highly destructive raid.

Bristol was occupied and some buildings were burned there. The court house and some other buildings in Abingdon were burned. The lead mines at Austinville were captured and put out of operation. The iron works at Marion was destroyed. The Saltworks at Saltville was captured and wrecked. The railroad was put out of business from Bristol to Marion. In the Battle of Marion, fought on the 17th and 18th of December in bitterly cold weather, the Confederates, under

personal command of General Breckinridge, were defeated. Stoneman returned to Tennessee. About the middle of March 1865 he left Knoxville with about 3000 cavalry on a bigger and longer raid that carried him eventually to Asheville, N. C. by a roundabout way. He went through the mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina via Boone and North Wilkesboro to Mt. Airy, sending detachments to occupy Martinsville and Taylorsville. From Mt. Airy he marched through Fancy Gap to Hillsville, where he divided his force. One part went to Wytheville by Jackson's Ferry and Fort Chiswell and tore up the railroad from Wytheville to New River Depot, where General Crook had captured and burned the bridge over the river on May 10, 1864. The other and larger part of the army led by Stoneman himself went through Jacksonville (now Floyd) to Christiansburg. Stoneman set up headquarters at Christiansburg in the Montague house, which is now the residence of Judge Charles Wade Crush. His men destroyed the railroad as far east as Bonsack. Small groups of Confederate soldiers operated in the area and inflicted what damage they could on Stoneman's men, but they were too few and too weak to accomplish much.

On April 4, 1865 the town of Salem was formally surrendered to an officer of Stoneman's army by a committee appointed for the purpose, which consisted of Dr. Bittle, President of Roanoke College, Dr. John Alexander, and the Rev. Dr. Samuel Register.

News of General Lee's surrender of Sunday, April 9, 1865 reached General Stoneman's headquarters at Christiansburg about sundown on that day. That night his soldiers staged a great and joyful celebration at Christiansburg. A few days later General Stoneman departed for North Carolina where he campaigned until after the surrender of General Joseph E. Johnston's army on April 26, 1865.

* * *

Perhaps the most remarkable achievement of the war was keeping doors of Roanoke College and Hollins Institute open and their classrooms filled during the entire four years of struggle. Credit for this achievement is due Dr. David Frederick Bittle, President of Roanoke College, and Dr. Charles Lewis Cocke, founder and President of Hollins. The story of how this was accomplished is well told, for the college in a chapter of the book, "The First Hundred Years," headed "Dr. Bittle Wins A War," and for the Institute in a "Life of Charles Lewis Cocke" by Dr. W. R. L. Smith.

Two Confederate generals of outstanding ability and importance were born in the Roanoke area, Brigadier General Joseph Reid An-

derson and Lieutenant General Jubal A. Early. General Anderson was born in Botetourt County February 16, 1813, and General Early in Franklin County November 3, 1816. Both graduated at West Point, served commendably for some years in the U. S. Army, and retired to private life, Anderson to become an engineer and head of the Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond, and Early to become a lawyer and Commonwealth Attorney for Franklin County. When the war started both enlisted in the Confederate army. General Anderson served with distinction in the field until July 19, 1862, when, his services being of inestimable value as active head of Tredegar Iron Works, he resigned his commission and devoted his time during the rest of the war to manufacturing armament.

General Early was one of the ablest field commanders on either side. Some military critics have rated him a military genius second only to Generals R. E. Lee and "Stonewall" Jackson. Following his campaigns of 1864 as related above, after his worn-out little army disintegrated at Waynesboro early in March 1865, he was assigned to command the Department of the Valley and Southwest Virginia, and a few days later, while at Abingdon trying to see what could be done to build a fighting force out of practically nothing, he was relieved of command and ordered to retire to his home in Franklin County. On the way he became ill at Marion. As soon as he was able to travel he proceeded on his homeward way in an army ambulance. Enroute he learned of Lee's surrender. He considered that he was not included in the terms of that surrender and so started on horseback to Texas to join General Kirby Smith who was still fighting in that state. Before he got there Smith had surrendered, so he kept on to Mexico, then went to Cuba and to Canada, and did not return to Virginia until 1869. So "Old Jube" never did surrender, but remained an unreconstructed Rebel until his death in 1894.



The Case of the Warrantless Prisoners

By R. D. STONER

While no battle cry echoed from the mountain ridges of Roanoke Valley in September, 1861, there was war trouble here.

The three letters printed here for the first time shed some light on one of the less publicized aspects of the War Between the States—the care and treatment of spies, dissidents and conspirators. The brief correspondence gives us skeletal insight into one instance that should be of interest to us if only because it concerned our own counties.

The three following letters are written on one double sheet of paper, and published through the courtesy of Mr. M. M. Deffenbaugh of Verona, Virginia, owner of the original. In six days, with a war on, this letter had moved from Fincastle to Hanover Turnpike, then back to General Lee at Sewell Mountain (now in West Virginia). Judge Hudson was the circuit court judge of a district which included Roanoke and Botetourt counties, and resided at Fincastle. General Wise had just concluded a four-year term as Governor of Virginia, and General Lee, of course, needs no introduction.

Fincastle, Sept. 23, 1861

Dear General,

A large number of prisoners are confined in the jail of Roanoke County, who have applied to me for writs of Habeas Corpus. I understand they were Union men, committed by your direction, but that the jailor of Roanoke has no warrant against them, but that he holds them in custody, perhaps, by the verbal direction of some officer under your command.

If there was an attorney to prosecute for the Commonwealth, my proper course would be to leave the prosecution in his hands, but as the attorney for the Commonwealth, and nearly all the members of the Roanoke bar are absent in the public service, there is danger that the interests of the Commonwealth may not be properly attended to. They are cases of great importance, and a proper regard to public justice and public safety demands a fair trial. We cannot follow the example of the Lincoln government in denying the writ of Habeas Corpus.¹ I think the law ought to be administered now, as at all other times, without perverting or over straining a single point. But I should regret exceedingly if these men, some of them perhaps guilty of Treason, should escape for want of proof, or of proper proceedings against them.

¹NOTE: In the beginning of the Civil War, President Lincoln suspended the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus on his own authority with the sanction of an Act of Congress.

I am afraid your attention is too much occupied with other matters but would be glad to hear any suggestion you have to make. You might be able to relieve me in a very embarrassing position.

The petitions *on their face* would seem to show that the prisoners ought to be discharged.

Unless there is some attention given to the matter, I presume I will have nothing else before me.

I have understood that these men are not prisoners of war. If they were committed for treason or for any offense against the laws of the State, I presume there ought to be some warrant of commitment but if any warrant ever was issued, I understand it never came into the hands of the Sheriff of Roanoke.

I have appointed the 4th day of October, (at the Courthouse of Roanoke), to hear the cases. I hope it will be in your power to give the matter some attention.

Very respectfully,

Your obt. servt—

R. M. Hudson

* * *

At Hanover Turnpike
Sept. 26th, 1861

To Genl. R. E. Lee
Comd. etc.
Genl.:

Stopping here to dine I met this letter. It is one of many I am receiving on the same subject—the devices to get our prisoners of war out of custody by the most inapplicable civil machinery of Habeas Corpus and Bail, etc., etc. Several ancient traitors have at Lewisburg been released by Justices of Peace on bail. Among those at Roanoke, Salem, are several spies who confessed guilt to me. I respectfully submit that an officer be detailed at once to take all on to Richmond.

Very respectfully,

Henry A. Wise

* * *

Sewall Mt. 29 Sept. 61

Genl. Henry A. Wise
Genl.,

It will be impossible for me to attend to this business. I know nothing of the circumstances, names or acts of the individuals. The guilty should not be allowed to escape. I must, therefore, refer back this letter to you, that you may indicate to the Court the proper mode to pursue.

Very resp.

R. E. Lee

* * *

If we review the background of the military situation at this time, I think we can draw our own conclusion as to why Wise forwarded Hudson's letter to Lee, and the severity of Lee's reply—*curt* even for a military letter.

Wise and Floyd, both former Governors of Virginia and men who greatly relied on their own judgment, were unhappy with their

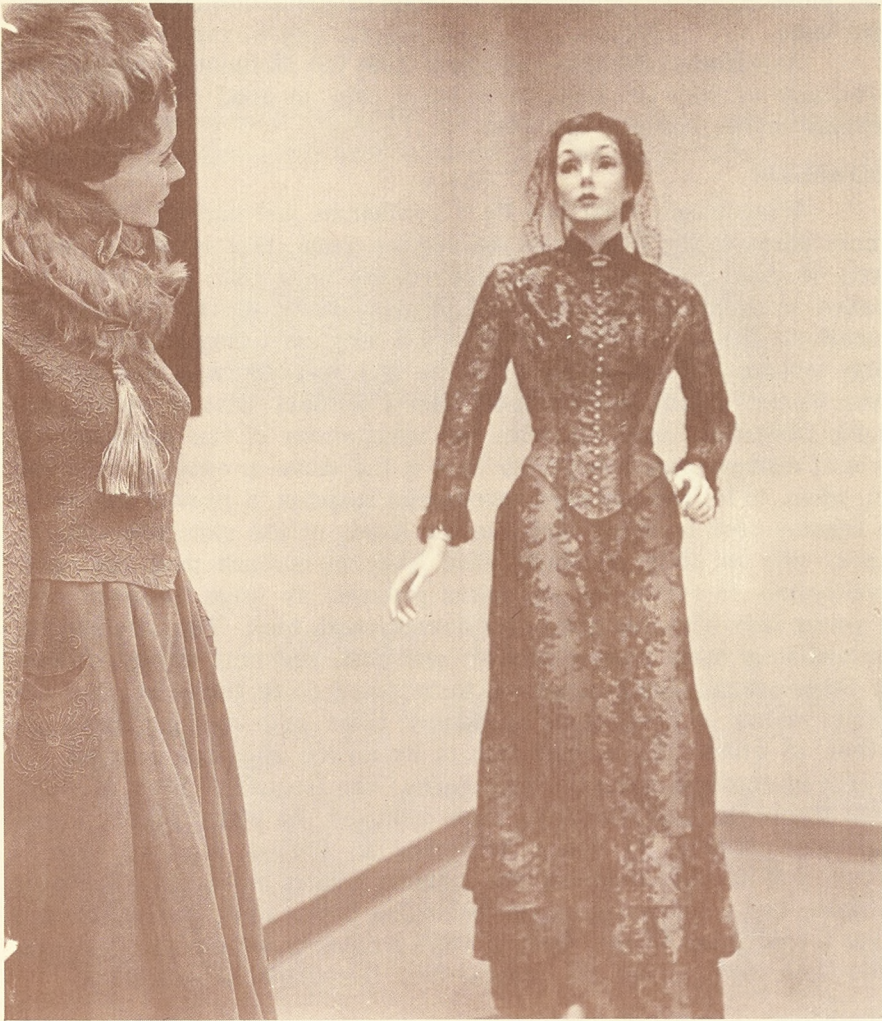
roles of military commanders here at Sewell Mountain. Lee was beset by this friction as well as by the Federal forces. To relieve this situation, the Confederate War Department had ordered Wise to immediately report to them at Richmond. This order he had received on September 25th and presumably was very much upset when, on his way to Richmond (probably near Staunton where the Richmond, or Hanover, road intersected the Valley Turnpike) he received Judge Hudson's letter.

The writer feels that he is joined by all our citizens who give thought to such things in saluting the bench and the bar of 1861 for the patriotism, judicial impartiality and humanity shown in this correspondence, in that, while willing to give their service and lives if necessary for their personal beliefs, they were determined to give freedom to their fellow-citizens of a different belief—under habeas corpus or other proceedings—unless evidence could be produced to show them guilty under existing statutes.

The Roanoke County Court order books are silent as to what happened to the prisoners at Salem. However, these books do show the jailor was authorized to employ sixteen guards for the twenty-nine prisoners charged with crimes against the Confederate States of America and the Commonwealth of Virginia, while confined there; and authority for his reimbursement of several hundred dollars covering costs of such guards.



Two Ladies of the Museum



These mannequins in the society's Roanoke College library museum are wearing clothing at the height of fashion during two war-time periods. The tan duvetyne dress with matching high button shoes, hat and neck-piece (at left) were popular in the fall of 1917. The outfit was donated by Mrs. Henry Taylor. The dress at right was worn by Mrs. Elizabeth Crenshaw of "Three Otters" in Bedford County about 1860 and remodeled in 1880. It was donated by her granddaughter, Mrs. Frederick Carlyle James.

Newspaper Days: 1790

The externals of both newspapers and people today aren't much like those of 175 years ago—but their inner nature remains just about the same.

As witness take these excerpts from the *Richmond Independent Chronicle* of May 19, 1790, of which a copy in good condition is on display in the society's museum.

DOMESTIC:

Winchester, April 28—By a gentleman just arrived from Kentucky through the wilderness we further learn, that about the latter part of March, a Mr. May, going down the river Ohio in a boat, was hailed by a white man from the Indian shore, nearly opposite the mouth of the Sciota, who, in the most express terms, implored Mr. May to take him into the boat, as he had escaped from the Indians, with whom he had been for some time a prisoner; that Mr. May, after some hesitation, complied with the solicitations of the supposed object of distress, and directed his boat to the shore in order to take him in, when, to his inexpressible sorrow and surprise, it proved only to be a scheme used to decoy him into the hands of the merciless savages, about fifty or sixty of whom were lying in ambush near the spot: melancholy to relate, he was taken prisoner by them, together with a young lady who was going to Kentucky with him. That the Indians immediately made several oars for said boat, and next day gave chase to three others, which happened to be going down the river; that the crews of two of these boats abandoned them, and went on board the other, in which they arrived safe in Kentucky, although pursued upwards of eighteen miles by the savages, who frequently fired at them; that the boats thus evacuated were captured, by which means a considerable quantity of goods, belonging to Colonel Hart of Hager's Town, fell into the hands of the Indians, besides many other valuable articles, and a number of horses, belonging to the other passengers; and that a boat going to New Orleans from Kentucky, on a trading voyage, had been captured by the Indians, near the mouth of Salt River.

FOREIGN:

London, March 27—We received by the foreign mails of yesterday the latest and most authentic accounts from all parts of Europe. But they do not allow us to say one word regarding the probability of peace. . . .

MORE DOMESTIC (WITH SLIGHT EDITORIALIZING):

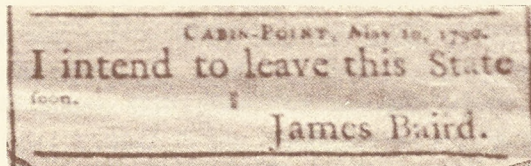
Norwich, April 19—The raging disease called the Influenza has made its second attack on the inhabitants of this city and vicinity:

it seems to have resumed its progress with redoubled violence: how often must the frame of man be exposed to this secondary plague. God only knows. So far it calls aloud for medical aid and ought to excite the gentlemen of the faculty to a thorough investigation of the rise and progress of this triumphing pest to society.

ADVERTISING:

I have opened the CITY TAVERN where Mrs. Galt formerly lived and will give good entertainment for man and horse.

AND:



B. B. D.

Bedford County Trip

Four old Bedford County homes and a church dating back to the late 18th and early 19th centuries were visited by 125 society members and guests on a bus tour May 23.

Passing up a chance to see President Johnson at Woodrum Airport and at the dedication of the Marshall Library in Lexington on the same day, three bus-loads and others traveling by car browsed into the beginnings of Bedford County.

They admired the captain's windows and brick hens' nests at Three Otters, handsome woodwork and Corinthian Columns in the parlor at Fancy Farm, the gracious manor house, Lochwood Hall, and the beautiful grounds at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest.

A sumptuous lunch on the lawn of old St. Stephen's Episcopal Church at Forest was a refreshing interlude on a hot day. The tour ended with a drive through the 200-year-old village of New London where Patrick Henry, President Andrew Jackson, Mr. Jefferson and leaders of frontier days once visited.

Following a popular pilgrimage to Botetourt County in 1963, the Bedford tour was enthusiastically received. The society anticipates visits to old landmarks in other neighboring counties in the future.

The Borden Patent

by J. R. HILDEBRAND

Among the society's more important acquisitions is a study in depth of the huge Borden Patent of 1739 made by the late Walter Curtis Ayers of Roanoke. The original grant of 92,100 acres covered an area drained by the headquarters of the James River and was so extensive that Benjamin Borden, Sr., its owner, could not even point out his holdings to his surveyor and offered a thousand acres to anyone who could lay it out accurately.

Mr. Ayers spent the last years of his life on this work and completed it before his death in 1963. His widow has given the society the entire study, thereby enriching data available on this famous Scotch-Irish tract of long ago.

It would take a full article merely to indicate the vast volume of research done by Mr. Ayers. Here is a brief summary of the contents:

1. Map of the 92,100-acre grant.
2. Numerical register of the individual plats.
3. Index of Benjamin Borden's original grantees.
4. Index of land holders—1741-1800.
5. Index of original grantees in Orange County.
6. Index of original grantees in Rockbridge County.
7. Index of original grantees in Botetourt County.
8. The will of Benjamin Borden, Senior.
9. A chart of the descent of counties from the original shire.
10. Five books of plats and corresponding descriptions.
11. A folio of maps peculiar to the region.
12. Clippings pertaining to the area from newspaper accounts.
13. Private correspondence and papers.

Mr. Ayers' contribution in the correlation of Western Virginia source material cannot be overestimated. His work covers the original settlement of the region, as it took the Eastern Virginia colonists a hundred years and more to push up the rivers to the foothills of the "Blue Ledge" and permanent movement to the Shenandoah Valley did not begin until about 1730.

Three distinct groups of people settled this area: first, the English planter type from the Piedmont and Eastern Virginia who came to America as adventurers, and who made their homes in the Lower Valley; next the German element who left Europe after the Wars of the Palatinate, directly due to civil oppression. These people filled

the area between Winchester and Massanutten Mountain. Last came the turbulent Scotch-Irish, driven by religious persecution from Northern Ireland, thence to Pennsylvania, and finally, leap-frogging the English and Germans, making their homes between Staunton and Lexington. It is of the Scotch-Irish settlements and their proprietors that this paper treats.

After the Indians had given up the Valley hunting grounds, and had been pushed west of the Alleghanies, certain entrepreneurs foresaw the possibilities of a southern-bound flood of emigrants—for the settlement of the Valleys of the Shenandoah and James Rivers. At least four men stand out as active agents in this movement: Joist Heidt, William Russell, William Beverley and Benjamin Borden, Senior.

Little is known of Borden except that he owned lands in Northern Virginia; prior to that came from the Province of New Jersey; was an agent for Lord Fairfax in the Northern Neck; was one of the Orange County Justices and then came to Rockbridge County in 1734. He acquired from Lieutenant Governor Gooch a patent for 92,100 acres of land. Working with the McDowells and James Wood, Surveyor, he finally located 92 families in Borden's Grant, then in Augusta County.

Borden, like so many of the early settlers, as the Carvins and the Toshes, lived and died in his chosen spot and left little imprint upon history. His family name appears on no importation list; there is no record of military service, and the only date we have is that of his death in 1743. As he once lived near Winchester, his will, dated April 3, 1742, was probated in Frederick County in W. B. 1, page 4. From this will alone we learn much of his various grants and importation of settlers in them, his children and their marriages, his canny business deals and the names of his friends and associates.

His wife's name was Zeruiah Winter, and she, like Orpah in the Scriptural story, went back to her people in Jersey after the death of her husband. Here is a list of the children:

1. Benjamin, Jr., m Magdalen Woods McDowell.
2. Joseph, who went to the Carolina Country.
3. John, of whom there is little record.
4. Hannah, m Edward Rogers.
5. Martha, (Marcey) m William Fernley.
6. Abigail, m 1. Jacob Worthington.
2. James Pritchard.
7. Rebecca, m Thomas Branson.
8. Deborah, m ——— Henry.

9. Lydia, m Jacob Peck.
10. Elizabeth, m 1. _____ Branson.
2. _____ Nicholas.

Benjamin, Sr., died within twenty miles of the City of Roanoke, on Borden's Run of Catawba Creek (now the Slusser lands) in present Botetourt County. This location was on his Middle Tract of 3553 acres on Catawba, which he acquired with his Lower Tract of 2880 acres in 1740.

This is about all known concerning the life of Benjamin Borden the Elder but we feel that this prototype of the modern realtor would be pleased to know that Walter Curtis Ayers' work has echoed the Borden name back through history and has haloed it in an aura of romance.

The Roanoke Historical Society is grateful to Mrs. Ayers for this gift so helpful to future historians and hopes that others will follow with similar research in other portions of Western Virginia.

Note on a New Book

Parish Lines—Diocese of Southern Virginia by C. Francis Cocke of Roanoke, second in a series of three studies of the history of the Episcopal Church in Virginia, recently was published by the Virginia State Library in Richmond.

Now in the midst of a third career as a historian, Cocke was a Roanoke lawyer before he served the First National Exchange Bank as president and chairman of the board. He is a director of the society.

This work follows his *Parish Lines—Diocese of Southwestern Virginia*, published in 1960. Work has been done on the third book, a survey of the parish lines of the Diocese of Virginia.

Cocke, chancellor of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia from 1919 until 1961, is well qualified to produce such valuable contributions to Virginia history.

J. R. Hildebrand, secretary of the society, has performed important service in preparing 16 charts and 21 maps for the 287-page book.

Members of other denominations may be interested in knowing that Virginia Episcopal parishes north of the James River form the Diocese of Virginia, established in 1785; those south of the James and in the area extending westward to the borders of the counties of Augusta, Nelson, Amherst, Campbell, Franklin and Henry make up the Diocese of Southern Virginia, established in 1892; and the remaining counties to the west are in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia formed in 1919.

From A Son After Cold Harbor

A million words and more have been written concerning the campaign to save Richmond in May and June, 1862—words of speculation and hindsight, technical analyses, colorful descriptions and chill fact.

Fighting on the Peninsula that spring was bloody and almost continuous. What happened and what could have happened was fodder for reporters of the time and for historians ever since.

Here is a colorful addition to the record—the story of some of that late spring hell from a foot soldier who was there, who “went through the hole fight, without ever falling back once.”

Newton Curry was not a literary man. His spelling was not the best and his punctuation left something to be desired. But in this letter to his father, James, at home in Montgomery County, he not only did an excellent job of reporting but somehow snared the essence of the whole campaign.

Here is the letter exactly as written—except it is paragraphed for easier reading. Question marks indicate words or phrases which are not clear on the faded original.

July 10, 1862
Camp near Richmond
To Mr. James Curry
Nickells Mills, Montgomery
County, Virginia

I have gon threw the flint mill since the 26th of last month. We begun the great fight before Richmond on the evening of the 26th ult. Our brigade brought on the fight (Gen. Fields Brig.) I presume you have heard all about the fight here now. I went threw the hole fight without ever falling back once. We were under a most terrific fire of shot and shell on Thursday evening. Got close enough at one time to use our rifles for a while, but made no charge, it alarmed me a little at first, but it was soon over. I fear the shell worse than the musket. They make such a fuss, when they come along, that it almost stuns a man.

We lay under a heavy fire all evening, was kept up till late. The ball reopened early in the morning, another brigade took the field in the morning, & we lay back to rest. A South Carolina brigade charged one of the enemys batterys that morning & took it. They charged threw a swamp near a 100 yards wide (also a small creek that lay in the middle of the swamp). They also went over tree tops brush & everything else, routed the yanks at that point

& they didnt make another stand for 5 miles, when we met them at a place called Col harbor.

We met them their in overwhelming numbers. Some of the prisoners say they had 50 regiments at that place and ten of that number were *U S Regulars*. They also sayd that McClellan sayd that we could never drive them from that position, in the world, but they couldn't stand our gallant charges. Our Regiment wasent engaged that evening but was under fire all the time. We would have been hotly engaged but owing to a misunderstanding of the orders from our General, he had ordered us on, but was misunderstood. I would rather have gone on than to have layn under the fire of the enemy all evening. We lay on the battlefield all that night, the day and night following also Friday evening (?) (I forgot to tell you that we took 50 (?) pieces of cannons (?)).

We then started on down the chic a homony (on Sunday morning) marched all the next day (Monday) up to 2 o'clock P.M. when we halted and lay down as a reserve. We hadent been their but a short while untill the yanks began to shell us like sixty. we lay their 1½ hours under the fire of their shell while the brigade in front of us was charging their batterys. We had to double quick for neer two miles. we met the yanks within fifty yds of their batterys. At some places along the line they had got up to their guns agan. The 60th (?) behaved manfully. a wounded yank told me the next morning that we met their reinforcements & made them run like fine fellows.

I was struck in the side by a spent rifle ball (in the Mondays charge) it was a glance lick. did nothing but tair a hole in my blowze & raised a knot on my ribs. I was the only one in my company that was struck that evening Milton was struck by a grape on Friday the 27th but didn't hurt him much. We only got one man wounded & he not bad (Patrick McCann (?) is his name). Some 3 or four were stunned by the bursting of bombs or pieces of bomb hitting (?) them but wasent sufficient to lay them up. We hadent a single man killed in com (?) We lost about 125 killed 7 wounded in our Regiment in the fight, the 3 (?) engagements that we were in. I suppose this has been one of the greatest battles that history has ever recorded.

We had very fine weather threw all the fight with the exception of the 7th day. It rained very hard all day. We have run the yankees away down the river under cover of their gun boats. If it hadent been for their gun boats I suppose we would have been running them yet. We have taken 30 pieces of artillery & I dont

know the number of small arms amunition provisions & (c & B?)

The yanks burnt up a power of one thing & another to prevent us from getting it. We have taken 10,000 prisoners besides a number of sick and wounded I suppose 40,000 wouldnt more than cover their loss in all. Our loss is heavy in between 15 & 20,000 or about 15000 I should think more probable. Nute has learned how fighting goes he dont care whether he has to experialed (?) an (?) more from your most, obedient son Newton (?)

Young Curry ran out of paper at this point but he carefully inscribed several afterthoughts on the edges and across the original letter. Among them were:

Father I tell you that it is one of the awfulest sights that my eyes ever beheld to look over a battlefield to see hundreds of dead men strewn over the field also a great many wounded. Guns knapsacks blankets & haver sacks scattered hither & thither.

I know some instances in which the wounded yanks lay on the field for 2 or 3 days, we couldnt take care of them.

I walked over 3 fields after the fight saw our men & yanks laying side by side both kill & wounded I gave several bad wounded yanks water out of my canteen.

You have no idea how men want water after a fight the gunpowder & smoke makes them very thirsty I should be thankful to most merciful providence for bring (?) me safe threw this far.

Museum Piece

To visit the Roanoke Historical Society museum in Salem is to browse among reminders of yesterday.

Since the 800-square-foot room was made available by Roanoke College in its new fire-proof library in November, 1963, a variety of objects from the past has been assembled. More than 300 articles are on display or in the files and more are received every week.

New hours for the museum are Saturdays from 2 to 5.

The rarest acquisitions, given by S. H. McVitty, have been more than 600 pieces of Colonial and Continental currency dating back to 1746. Thirty-six Virginia pieces from 1758-81 are among the collection preserved in leather-bound volumes.

These notes are payable in Spanish milled dollars, best known currency of the time, or in gold or silver. The Continental collection lacks only one piece of being complete.

Also through the generosity of Mr. McVitty, the museum has acquired three early "pine tree shillings," minted almost 300 years ago in Massachusetts, encased stamps used as coins after the Civil War, old coins and an interesting map of Tidewater Virginia in the days of Capt. John Smith and the Indians.

Mrs. Henry Taylor, daughter of the late S. D. Ferguson, a pioneer Roanoke financier, gave a bronze bust she made of her father and two mannequins with clothes from the '90s and the early 1900s.

A third mannequin and a century-old dress worn by Mrs. Elizabeth Crenshaw in Bedford County were given by her granddaughter, Mrs. Frederick C. James.

Of particular value for succeeding generations is a collection of early tools with posters describing their use, prepared by J. R. Hildebrand, secretary of the society. Among them are a shingle froe, barrel stave plane, threshing flail, steelyard, reaping hook, surveyor's transit and a corn shucking pin found in the chimney at Lone Oak, the old Booth home. Two powder flasks also are on display.

Early scenes of Big Lick and the Roanoke Valley are represented by many pictures, maps and newspaper clippings. The gate book from a 19th century toll road through the valley, price lists, day books from Franklin County stores, badges from fairs and political conventions, souvenirs from such auspicious events as President Roosevelt's dedication of the Veterans Administration Hospital in 1934 and



The Civil War brought a great scarcity of small change. Many enterprising firms solved the problem by encasing postage stamps in round metal frames bearing their advertising messages. The tokens were circulated at the face value of the stamp, protected by isinglass or mica. These are some of the collection in the society's museum donated by S. H. McVitty.

historical sketches of other Southwest Virginia counties have been assembled here.

Relics from old industries include pieces of pig iron from a furnace at Catawba, two bags of tobacco sold by the R. H. Fishburne Co., a tobacco press, a spike from Roanoke streetcar line and a corn whiskey bottle or two from the former Casper Co.

The society's book collection is scant but there is a strong potential here for assembling printed material on Southwestern Virginia which could be valuable for research. The Union viewpoint is interesting in the detailed "Medical and Surgical History of the War of Rebellion, 1861-65," donated by Dr. and Mrs. George B. Lawson.

Parts of other series of volumes on the Civil War, Couper's "History of the Shenandoah Valley," and a miscellaneous number of historical books are on the museum shelves.

Note from the President . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Saturday afternoons from 2 to 5. About half of our members haven't seen their museum.

Many of us have articles of historical value in our attics or closets. We ask your assistance in building our collection. If there are items which cannot be given now, perhaps they can be willed to the society.

Our society was chartered to encourage the acquisition, preservation, protection, maintenance and exhibition of valuable historical objects. We believe we have made a good start.

The Rev. Jeremy Belknap, a Boston minister who founded the nation's first historical society in the 1790's, described his activities this way: "There is nothing like having a good repository and keeping a good lookout, not waiting at home for things to fall into the lap, but prowling about like a wolf for the prey."

Mr. Belknap wrote to Ebenezer Hazard, first member of Massachusetts Historical Society, "We intend to be an active, not a passive literary body; not to lie waiting, like a bed of oysters, for the tide to flow in upon us, but to seek and find, to preserve and communicate literary intelligence, especially in the historical way."

GEORGE KEGLEY, *President*

Henry A. Davenport

Henry A. Davenport, executive secretary of the Roanoke Historical Society for almost two years, died May 24.

He had been a tireless worker on such society projects as the publication of R. D. Stoner's "Seed-Bed of the Republic," the spring tours to Botetourt and Bedford counties and a continuing membership drive. He was a retired evaluation engineer for the Norfolk and Western Railway.

His successor as executive secretary is W. B. Kerr, retired chief clerk in the Motive Power Department of the N&W. A native of Radford, he has lived in Roanoke since before the turn of the century.

In his responsibility for the society's museum at the Roanoke College Library, Kerr now has it open for members and the public on Saturdays from 2-5, a time convenient for more visitors. The museum previously was open Thursday afternoons.

