JOURNAL

of the

ROANOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Summer 1968

Volume Five Number One

CONTENTS

The Journal of the Roanoke Historical Society, Volume V, Number 1. Published twice yearly by the Society at Box 1904, Roanoke, Virginia 24008, 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.

Montgomery White, 19th Century Social Center

Horses graze today in a quiet meadow where all traces of Montgomery White Sulphur Springs, an important spa among the 19th Century springs of western Virginia, have faded away.

From 1855 when it was incorporated by the Virginia General Assembly with a capitalization of $150,000 until it gradually fell into disuse in the early 1900's, Montgomery White was a resort accommodating from 500 to 1,000 guests in the grand manner. And it gave valuable service as a Confederate hospital during the Civil War.

The developers chose a picturesque location in the Devil's Den section about five miles northeast of Christiansburg and 25 miles west of Big Lick, now Roanoke. Den Creek flows down a fertile valley by the hotel site, fed by sulphur, chalybeate and freestone springs, into the north fork of the Roanoke River near the village of Ellett.

Devil's Den had been mentioned as early as 1750 in a 100-acre patent of Col. James Patton's James River and Roanoke Company on the north fork. At the south end of the den valley is the Alleghany Mountain where the old Virginia & Tennessee Railroad was built through a tunnel in the 1850s. What became the Norfolk & Western Railway soon will be joined by Interstate Highway 81 boring through the mountains about two miles south of the Montgomery White site.

The secluded valley had little access. Gov. John Floyd wrote in his diary of 1831: "We went to Smithfield through Devil's Den, being the first carriage that ever passed that road." He was en route to his wife's Preston family home at Smithfield, now Blacksburg.

The origin of the devil's influence is legendary. A grotesque outcropping of rock across the meadow from the hotel grounds long has been known as the Devil's Armchair or the Devil's Seat. It was a curiosity seen by hotel guests strolling across the grounds. This strange rock formation has broken loose from the hillside in recent years.

Construction of another of the 20 or more popular western Virginia springs of the last century was acknowledged by Dr. J. J. Moorman, resident physician at White Sulphur Springs, in a book published in 1859.

Dr. Moorman referred to the Montgomery White as the "springs of recent discovery . . . on the southern slope of the Alleghany Mountain, a short distance from the Virginia & Tennessee Railroad." Visitors may leave the V&T at Montgomery Station and "take the company's railroad on which in a few minutes they are conducted to their destination. The property is owned by a company of gentlemen whose spirit and good taste in its rapid improvement is deserving of public commendation."

Lithograph from Beyer's Album of Virginia shows Montgomery White Sulphur Springs in 1855.

"The buildings for accommodation of visitors that have gone up in the last four years and with a rapidity almost unprecedented in this country are spacious, elegant and convenient and since their construction have been well filled by visitors during the summer months."

The altitude of the resort and its "health-inspiring climate give to it potent recommendations for summer residence." But Dr. Moorman asked for medical references. It is to be hoped, he wrote, "that the proprietors will add to their commendable enterprises that of furnishing the public with a correct analysis of the waters . . . and that such observations of their general and peculiar effects upon the various diseases submitted to their use, will be made by scientific and competent persons, as will enable the public to give them a definite and distinct therapeutic position among our numerous mineral fountains."

The waters, he wrote, "distinctly sulphurous in character and withal a bland and pleasant beverage, will be found to be well adapted to the cure of a large number of chronic affections."

Perhaps the best description of Montgomery White extant is in the 1855 lithograph of Ed Beyer, the German artist, which shows 25 sizeable buildings around an elliptical lawn crossed by drives, tree-shaded walks and Den Creek, with a fountain in the center. The hotel had parlors, a dining room where "delicious food" was served on round tables and "one of the prettiest ballrooms in the South," according to

Same view of springs site today.

Miss Sherwood Flagg of Christiansburg, who recalls visiting the springs as a child around 1900.

Pollard's "The Virginia Tourist" of 1870 described buildings as "less pretentious than the Greenbrier White or less substantial than Old Sweet . . . (but) they have their equals nowhere in the mountains of Virginia for presenting an architectural effect and for practical designs of comfort." Pollard said the "elegant cottages will accommodate at least 1,000."

Seekers of health in the sulphur water and pleasure in the social round of dancing and entertaining came to the springs from near and far. Retinues of servants accompanied the carriages and the baggage came by hack. "If you were after New Orleans beauty, you would most likely find it at the Montgomery White," one writer said.

In the early years of the Civil War, President Jefferson Davis is said to have assembled his Confederate cabinet here to plan campaigns.

But to meet the grim needs of war, the resort was converted to a hospital under the command of Dr. Robert T. Ellett of Hanover County, assisted by Catholic nuns who nursed the soldiers. Smallpox struck down hundreds of Confederate soldiers here. The United Daughters of the Confederacy decorated 280 unmarked graves near the hotel site in 1914. Dr. Ellett, for whom the nearby Montgomery County commu-

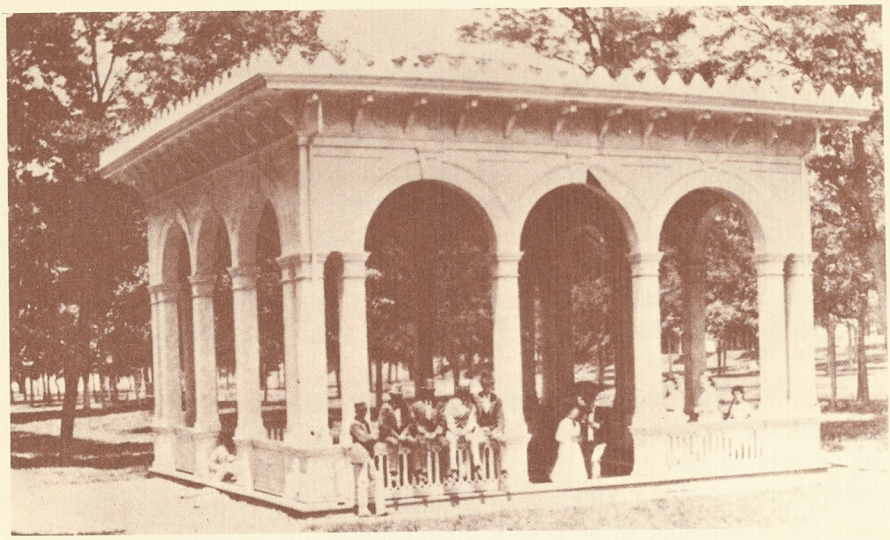
nity is named, later practiced medicine in Christiansburg and two of his daughters live there today.

Gen. John Mosby's men were said to have entered jousting tournaments at the Montgomery White. The thundering of their steeds was accompanied by the rattling of nearby carriage wheels, the cracking of whips and the vociferations of their drivers, according to a report of the time. At the sound of a herald's trumpet, the tournament began and the knights rode at the rings until one was named champion. Next was the selection of the Queen of Love and Beauty, an honor bestowed on a young lady from New Orleans. Her coronation that night was in the ballroom illuminated by hundreds of Chinese lanterns.

After the war, the Southern Historical Society and the Stonewall Brigade Association were formed at Montgomery White. In July, 1871, Dr. T. D. Witherspoon, Presbyterian minister in Blacksburg and later chaplain at the University of Virginia, and Judge W. R. Staples of Virginia's Supreme Court spoke at a joint meeting of the Lee Memorial and Stonewall Brigade associations at the springs. After the addresses, those assembled marched to the cemetery to decorate the graves.

Papers of the Southern Historical Society state that Gen. Jubal A. Early was elected president at a reorganization meeting at Montgomery White on Aug. 14, 1873.

Cottages at Montgomery White Sulphur Springs. Stereoscope picture was given to the Virginia State Library by Miss Lucy Ogden in 1939.



Ladies and gentlemen refreshing themselves at the springs in Lucy Ogden picture at Virginia State Library.

Gen. John B. Hood and his family visited the springs and Gen. Joseph E. Johnston was expected in June, 1873. Twenty-four generals were reported there at one time.

Mattie Ould, one of the queens of "the golden age of belledom," led society at Montgomery White until she caused a stir by eloping to Salem with Oliver J. Schoolcraft of Richmond in August, 1876, according to Reniers' "The Springs of Virginia."

Roanokers were at the springs too. F. B. Ludwig of the real estate firm of Kemp & Co. went to Montgomery White "to recreate for a few days," said The Roanoke Times of July 9, 1890. Among others from Roanoke at the spa that summer were Mrs. Louis Catogni, Harry Crouch and Edwin Felix. On July 13, M. T. C. Jordan, "who is summering at Montgomery White Sulphur, was in the city yesterday. He says it has been so cool at the springs for the past two or three days that he has slept under two blankets," the Times said. Later, "W. F. Felix and wife left last night to attend a ball at Montgomery White Sulphur."

On Aug. 16, 1900, the Roanoke Light Infantry, in full uniform, rode a train to Montgomery White for what would be "no doubt, one of its most pleasant outings," according to the Roanoke Times. And the ball room was "a magnificent sight" for a German dance the next week.

Actually, four springs were in Montgomery County on the southern rim of the resort region which flourished 100 years ago. Within 10 miles of Montgomery White were Yellow Sulphur to the west and Crockett and Alleghany springs in the foothills of the Blue Ridge

Mountains to the southeast. Other springs were to the north along the West Virginia line in Craig, Alleghany, Bath, Rockbridge and neighboring counties.

Operations at Montgomery White Sulphur were not profitable always. Stockholders met in December, 1874 and authorized borrowing up to $5,000 on the hotel's small railroad which transported guests down from Montgomery station. President of the springs at that time was "H. Black," probably Dr. Harvey Black, Blacksburg physician and member of the family for whom the town was named. Dr. Black also was president of the board of Preston and Olin Institute, forerunner of Virginia Tech.

C. W. Wheeling, who has lived his 78 years in Devil's Den, recalls that guests rode the mile or two from the station on the little railroad by gravity to the hotel. The car was pulled back by mulepower. His older sister, when a small girl, was given a coin when she opened a gate for a carriage driving to the springs.

Tradition tells that Montgomery White Sulphur Springs was dealt a near mortal blow by a flood which washed out the cottages and sent hundreds of guests, servants and staff scurrying in the storm. Stories hold that horses were drowned, clothing and valuables destroyed and Montgomery White was deserted at mid-season.

However, James G. Crockett of Big Tunnel, proprietor, advertised these items for auction on April 18, 1904: "135 bedroom suites, nearly new, kitchen and hotel ware, one billiard table, one piano, 130 bed springs, 135 mattresses, 175 feather pillows, one large hotel and 15 to 18 houses with from two to 16 rooms each, to be moved from the premises." Crockett's daughter, who lived at the Springs from 1902 to 1911 when it was sold, says the buildings were sold to people in nearby communities.

The Devil's Den-Montgomery White property has changed hands many times in the two centuries since Col. Patton's land company helped open up western Virginia.

Joseph Stras and Arthur D. W. Walton of Roanoke sold the 457-acre tract to James G. Crockett for $6,250 in 1902. Later owners were J. N. Lantz and his heirs who sold to Gilbert Cox of Elliston. Cox moved a small monument honoring the "Confederate heroes who died here, 1861-65" from the meadow near the hotel site to a prominent place beside the Devil's Seat on a bluff near the present road through the valley. First erected in 1889, the monument now rests on a small plot deeded to the Dr. Harvey Black Chapter, U.D.C., Blacksburg.

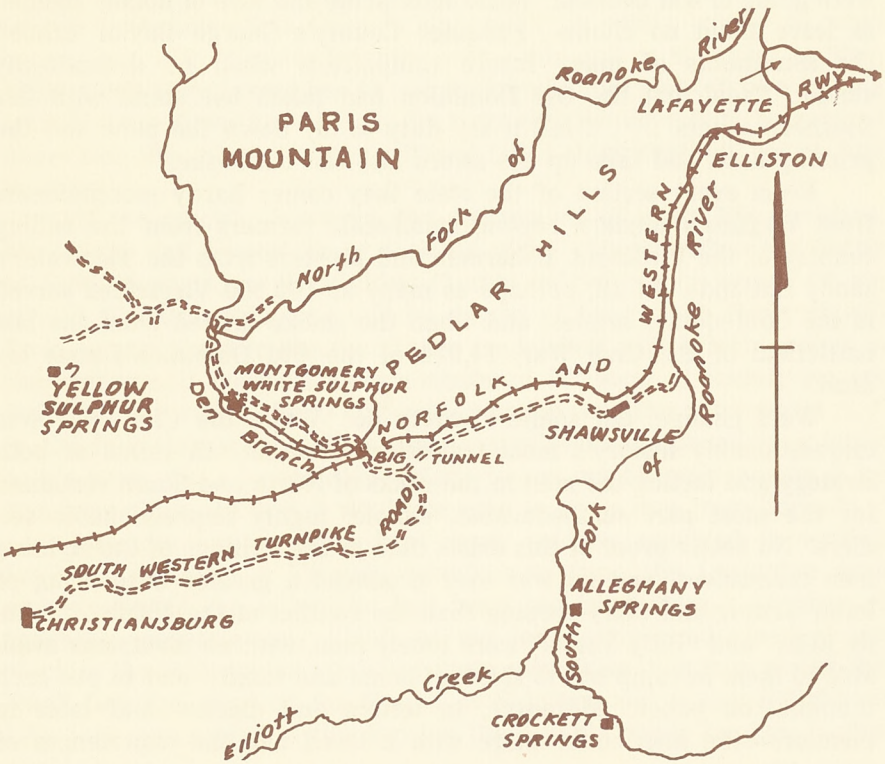
Joe Stewart, an Elliston livestock man, bought the tract from Cox and his horses and ponies graze in the green meadow of the springs today. A nearby roadside sign of the Blue Ridge Coon Hunters and

Sportsmen's Club points to a pond near the hotel site. Devil's Den may be visited today by following Virginia Rt. 641 a few miles from its intersection with U. S. 11 at the foot of Christiansburg Mountain.

Den Creek quietly flows through the valley to the music of birds and crickets. But echoes of the German band which once played for dances and laughter of the Southern belles still may be heard on summer evenings, Judge C. W. Crush, Christiansburg historian, has reported.

SOURCES

Research by Judge C. W. Crush, Christiansburg, Dr. Goodridge Wilson, Bristol, the late F. B. Kegley, Wytheville, and E. P. Goodwin, Roanoke.
"The Virginia Springs and Springs of Southwest Virginia" by Moorman.
"The Springs of Virginia" by Reniers.
"The Virginia Tourist" by Pollard.
"The Montgomery County Story" by Crush.
Deed Book T, page 433, Deed Book 50, pages 7-8, Montgomery County Clerk's Office.
The Roanoke Times, Montgomery News-Messenger.



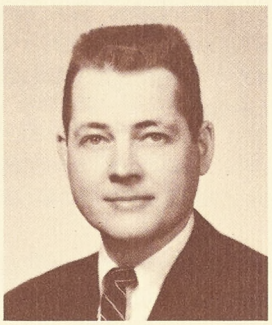
Montgomery County watering places in map of 1890s.

Virginia's Neglected Soldiers

By James I. Robertson, Jr.

Former executive director of the U. S. Civil War Centennial Commission, Dr. James Robertson is now professor of American History at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg. He has written numerous books and articles on the Civil war period, and in 1962 he received the Harry S. Truman Award as the nation's outstanding Civil War historian.

This article is an expansion of an address delivered June 26, 1968, to the Roanoke Historical Society.



Robertson

When war clouds obscured the sky in April, 1861, tens of thousands of Virginia's sons flocked to the defense of their state. Few of these men and boys were motivated by any desire to perpetuate either the institution of slavery or the doctrine of states' rights. They were going to war because "noble state pride and love of home" seemed to leave them no choice. Fauquier County's George Baylor echoed the sentiments of many future compatriots when he dramatically stated: "Now that the Old Dominion had taken her stand with her Southern sisters . . . I felt it my duty to lay down the plow and the pruning hook and take up the sword and the battle-axe."[1]

From every section of the state they came: hardy mountaineers from Virginia's western region, small-scale farmers from the rolling country of the Piedmont, fishermen and planters from the Tidewater's sandy flatlands. In all, perhaps as many as 100,000 Virginians served in the Confederate armies; and when the smoke drifted from the last battlefield of the Civil War, 14,974 of the Old Dominion's sons lay dead.[2]

Wars change, but soldiers rarely do. While the Civil War was unquestionably history's most transitional conflict—in terms of both strategy and tactics, the men in the ranks of North and South remained for the most part semi-educated, simple, highly impressionable soldiers. No better proof of this exists than in the writings of the fighting men themselves, and no war ever produced a greater outpouring of letter-writing and diary-keeping than the conflict of the 1860's. "Johnny Rebs" and "Billy Yanks" were lonely men, with no diversions available to them in camp but to think of home and family, and to put such thoughts on paper. Moreover, in letters and diaries—and later in memoirs—the men could share with a loved one the experiences of army life.

Confederate soldiers from Virginia were certainly no exception in this penchant for writing. Nor was semi-literacy any deterrent to their correspondence. In June, 1862, a Pvt. W. W. Brown protested in a letter home: "Mother when you wright to me get somebody to wright that can wright a plain hand to read I Cold not read your letter to make sence of it it wrote so bad I have lurned to do my own wrading and writing and it is a grate help to me."[3]

Virginians went to war with unbounded enthusiasm and optimism. Montgomery County's James H. Langhorne, a lieutenant in the 4th Virginia Infantry, wrote exuberantly during his first days as a soldier. "there is not a man in the Southern Army who does not in his heart believe that he can whip three Yankees. he would consider it beneath his manhood to count upon whipping a less number, in any sort of fight."[4] A few months later, Capt. Charles M. Blackford of the 2nd Virginia Cavalry informed his wife: "I am well, and I think this kind of life agrees with me, though I have not taken on any flesh. I weigh the same as I did when I left home—one hundred and twenty-five pounds—but all there is of me is bone and muscle, very tough and very active."[5]

In the first days of the war, recruits were often anxious to have friends back home join them in the ranks. A young soldier in what became the 27th Virginia Infantry sent a message to his sister in May, 1861: "Tell Sally I want her to talk to John F. Hall and tell him to be a man & come down here & help us fight the Yankeys & If he returns home that she will marry him without fail I think that will entice him to come . . ."[6]

All too quickly, however, the excitement of army life vanished. Loneliness and homesickness took its place. Shortly after the battle of First Manassas, a Rockbridge County soldier wrote home: "I am affraid My letter this time will Be devoid of Interest or News it will Be in a great Measure like the life we are leading dull & Monotonous in the Extreme if Robinson Crusoe Suffered for want of Society we are Suffering for want of News or communication with the outer world . . ." In the following year, a Giles County artilleryman moaned in a letter to his aunt: "I . . . would be (glad) to see my bitterest enemy if he was from Giles. In fact, I would be glad to see a dog from home."[7]

Romantic communiques kept many soldiers occupied in writing for hours on end. A Virginia infantryman from the Lexington area once evaluated the letters he had been receiving from a number of feminine acquaintances. "Most of my lady correspondents deal too Much in the little trivial affairs of their own circle this may please the Small fish But wont do for Sharks or Soldiers, and vanity if Soldiers Life dont ease a Man of this Burden there is No hopes for him in this world."[8]

On a more serious note, Lt. D. B. Baldwin, a Tazewell County member of the 23rd Virginia Battalion, wrote his wife Sallie: "I know I have read each of your letters half (a) dozen times. This might sound foolish to others, but to those who are linked together by ties so dear, and whose hearts beat for each other, only it is reality. . . . I think of you a great deal. Not an hour nor scarcely a moment passes that you are not remembered. There is a place in my memory ever fresh with the recollections of the many pleasant hours enjoyed with each other. I hope God will spare us to meet again and live as happy as we once did."[9]

Accentuating the homesickness, and ever-present to most Confederate soldiers, were the horrors of the civil war of which they were a part. Only those who have never participated in battle become excited by it. The average Virginia Confederate soldier looked on mortal combat with uncertainty, dread and revulsion. An Amherst County private observed after his first engagement: "the balls whistled round and about us as thick as hail. It made one feel quite strange to heare them whistle so close to my head not noing but one might strike me at any moment." Another member of the same regiment wrote a succinct summary of the three-day holocaust at Gettysburg: "It was the most awful Battle that I have ever Bin (in) yet." Lietuenant J. L. Doyle of the celebrated Stonewall Brigade vividly described the thick of the fighting in the bloody 1864 battle at Spottsylvania: "The figures of men seen dimly through the smoke and fog seemed almost gigantic, while the woods were lighted by the flashing of the guns and the sparkling of the musketry. The din was tremendous and increasing every instant, men in crowds with bleeding limbs and pale, pain-stricken faces were hurrying to the rear and, mingled with those, could be seen many unwounded who had escaped from the wreck of their commands."[10]

Too often overlooked—by all but the soldiers themselves—was the carnage left on a battlefield. Private Robert Stiles of the Richmond Howitzers was among those assigned to help bury the dead at Gettysburg. Moving out onto the field with picks and shovels, Stiles wrote, "the sights and smells that assailed us were simply indescribable—corpses swollen to twice their original size, some of them actually burst asunder with the pressure of foul gases and vapors. . . . The odors were nauseating and so deadly that in a short time we all sickened and were lying with our mouths close to the ground, most of us vomiting profusely."[11]

Modern generations can hardly conceive the hardships that were the daily lot of Virginia's Confederate fighting men. After the first weeks of the long four-year struggle, the absence of the basic neces-

Oliver Perry Rader of Botetourt County, killed in the Battle of Five Forks, April 1, 1865. (see story on page 27).

sities of life was constant and paramount. Yet "Johnny Rebs" bore the adversities with incredible fortitude.

Following the strenuous campaign around Yorktown in the spring of 1862, Confederate Gen. John B. Magruder reported: "It rained almost incessantly; the trenches were filled with water; the weather was exceedingly cold; no fires could be allowed; the artillery . . . of the enemy played upon our men almost continuously day and night; the

army . . . subsisted on flour and salt meat, and that in reduced quantities, and yet no murmurs were heard . . . patriotism made them indifferent to suffering, disease, and death."[12]

Five months later, after Robert E. Lee's army had returned to Virginia from the setback at Antietam Creek, Md., a Richmond newspaper editorialized: "Posterity will scarcely believe that the wonderful campaign which has just ended with its terrible marches and desperate battles, was made by men, one-fourth of whom were entirely barefooted, and one-half of whom were as ragged as scarecrows . . . We cease to wonder at the number of stragglers, when we hear how many among them were shoeless, with stone bruises on their feet."[13]

Late in 1863, Gen. Lee concluded his official report of the Mine Run Campaign by stating: "Nothing prevented my continuing in (the enemy's) front but the destitute condition of the men, thousands of whom were barefooted, a great number partially shod, and nearly all without overcoats, blankets, or warm clothing. I think the sublimest sight of the war was the cheerfulness and alacrity exhibited in this army in the pursuit of the enemy under all the trials and privations to which it was exposed."[14]

The loneliness and despair of army life naturally led to much complaining among Virginia soldiers. All of it was justified, and all of it was an age-old, natural expression by men in the ranks. While the soldiers continually found fault with officers, surgeons, chaplains, clothing, arms, equipment, few furloughs, filth, low pay, hard duty and alleged discrimination among units, their greatest condemnation was reserved for army rations.

Confederate soldiers, wrote Pvt. William Jones of the 19th Virginia Infantry, were "all ways grum ling a bout somthing to eat." That the quantity of the rations was poor is evident in a March, 1864, letter from Jones to his wife. "I have bin living of nothing but Corn bread for 7 days," he stated, "and will not draw (more) for four days (to) Come and will not draw anny meet (during) the time . . . I have felt quite week in the stomake."[15]

That the quality of the rations issued was even poorer was substantiated by Jones, who wrote that a "pare Boile" cat "eat prisisily like a rabbit," and Pvt. John R. Stafford, who commented on the meat the men received: "i will tell you what the Boyes Say A Bout the Beef Hear they Say when they go to Kill them it takes 2 to Hold them by the Harno's to Steadey them till they Shoot them & then they Say they Eat the Meet & Make Ring's out of the Bones & combs ou of the Hornes & whip crackers out of the tales . . ."[16]

Small wonder that Southern soldiers often resorted to theft to obtain digestible food. As a Virginia soldier parodied after the war:

"Man that is born of a woman, and enlisteth in (Stonewall) Jackson's army, is of few days and short rations. He cometh forth at reveille, is present also at retreat, and retireth apparently at taps. When, lo! he striketh a beeline for the nearest hen-roost, from which he taketh sundry chickens, and stealthily returneth to his camp. He then maketh a savory dish therewith he feasteth himself and a chosen friend. But the Captain sleepeth, and knoweth not that his men are feasting."[17]

The above quotations are but a sampling of how Virginians viewed life in the Confederate army. Yet a sampling is all that has so far come to light. The paucity of data available to scholars on the Old Dominion's soldiers and units is as lamentable as it is incredible. This woeful neglect can be illustrated in the writings done to date on the 65 regiments and 10 battalions of infantry that Virginia contributed to the Southern cause.

For 26 of those units, *nothing* whatsoever exists in print; for 32 others, no more than two small items have been published. In short, 58 of 76 Virginia infantry units have, in the past century, received little or no attention on the part of historians and writers. The scarcity of source material on Virginia's artillery and cavalry components is even more glaring.

As a native of Danville and member of the VPI faculty since September, 1967, this writer is earnestly attempting to call overdue attention to the heroism and sacrifices of Virginia's soldiers of the 1860's. Our long-range project at VPI is to prepare histories (in the form of masters' theses, graduate seminar papers, and scholarly articles) of *every* regiment, battalion and battery that represented the Old Dominion in the Civil War. Thirteen such studies are already underway, and all of the histories prepared may well serve as bases for a comprehensive study of Virginia's pivotal role in the sectional struggle.

Soldiers' letters, diaries and reminiscences are the most necessary sources for such histories. Only through them can the historian discern the movements of units, the intricacies of marches and battles, and—more especially—the feelings of men caught in war. For that reason, we are appealing to everyone with such letters,, journals and similar works to loan them to us long enough to copy and digest. (Naturally, the Newman Library on the Blacksburg campus would be honored to become custodian for any Civil War manuscripts that persons might wish to deposit permanently.)

To date, scores of persons in southwest Virginia have responded to our plea and loaned letters and diaries in their possession. Such materials are treated with utmost care and returned promptly. Yet there can be no doubt but that hundreds, possible thousands, of other Virginians now possess such documents. These citizens can perform

no greater service for American history in general, and Virginia history in particular, than in searching for such writings of yesteryear and in making them available to us who need them so desperately. Without these personal accounts, our efforts to perpetuate the deeds of our forefathers will fail.

Speaking at Washington and Lee University in 1910, Capt. G. B. Strickler of the Stonewall Brigade expressed a dream. "Time will not suffice to tell in detail the story of the services bravely rendered, and sufferings cheerfully borne in battle, in bivouac, and upon the toilsome march—in summer's heat and dust, in winter's cold, mud and snow. That story must some day be written by some pen inspired by truth and love. When it shall be truly written it will be a story of which any . . . land must be proud, for it will be a story of dauntless courage, of unselfish devotion to duty, of suffering endured without a murmur, and death encountered without a qualm."[18]

Today, in the History Department at VPI, we are echoing Capt. Strickler's dream with words that grace a number of Civil War monuments in Virginia:

Lord God of Hosts be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

1 James I. Robertson, Jr., THE STONEWALL BRIGADE (Baton Rouge, 1963), 10.
2 Of that number of fatalities, 6,947 Virginians succumbed to sickness and disease. William F. Fox, REGIMENTAL LOSSES IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR, 1861-1865 (Albany, N. Y.), 554.
3 Bell I. Wiley, THE LIFE OF JOHNNY REB (Indianapolis, 1943), 207.
4 James H. Langhorne to mother, June 26, 1861, letter in the possession of David G. Langhorne, Jr., Blacksburg, Va.
5 Charles M. Blackford, LETTERS FROM LEE'S ARMY (New York, 1947), 48-49.
6 D. H. Fora to mother, May 25, 1861, letter in the writer's possession.
7 Unknown soldier to "Cousin," Aug. 9, 1861, letter in the writer's possession; John D. McClaugherty (comp.), THE HISTORY OF THE FAMILY McCLAUGHERTY (Dayton, O., n. d.), unpaged.
8 Unknown soldier to "Cousin," Aug. 9, 1861, letter in the writer's possession.
9 D. B. Baldwin to wife, June 13, 1862, letter in the possession of Mrs. D. W. Mason, Pearisburg, Va.
10 Joseph A. Higginbotham diary, entry of July 21, 1861, University of Virginia; William H. Jones to wife, July 13, 1863, W. H. Jones Papers, Duke University (cited hereafter as Jones Papers); J. L. Doyle diary, entry for May, 1864, Jed Hotchkiss Papers, Library of Congress.
11 Robert Stiles, FOUR YEARS UNDER MARSE ROBERT (New York, 1903), 219-20.
12 U. S. War Dept. (comp.), WAR OF THE REBELLION: A COMPILATION OF THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE UNION AND CONFEDERATE ARMIES (Washington, 1880-1901), Ser. I, XI, pt. - 1, 408-9. Cited hereafter as OR.
13 Richmond DAILY DISPATCH, Oct. 9, 1862.
14 OR, Ser. I, XXIX, pt. 1, 408.
15 William H. Jones to wife, Mar. 29, 1864, Jones Papers.
16 IBID.; John R. Stafford to George T. Stafford, Feb. 28, 1863, letter in the possession of A. Clifton Stafford, Roanoke, Va.
17 Royall W. Figg, WHERE MEN ONLY DARE TO GO (Richmond, 1885), 64. Lt. John N. Lyle of the 4th Virginia Infantry asserted that the experienced soldier could beg water, food and shelter in one sentence: "Madam, can I get a drink of water, I'm so hungry I don't know where I'll sleep tonight." William G. Bean, THE LIBERTY HALL VOLUNTEERS (Charlottesville, 1964), 74.
18 IBID., vii.

"A Rugged Group of Men"

28th Regiment, Virginia Volunteers

By Arnold Skaar

CHAPTER III—THE SECOND YEAR: MANY PLACES

As the 28th Regiment reassembled after winter furloughs, Federal Gen. George B. McClellan persevered, prevailed, and finally prepared for an attack on Richmond from the southeast. By May 1, 1862, the Federal commander was at Fort Monroe with 98,000 effective troops.[1]

On March 9, 1862, the 28th Regiment joined the Confederate march to combat McClellan. Impassable roads postponed an earlier start. Finally underway, the Regiment sloshed through the small towns of Warrenton, Garnsville and Woodsville. The wet and muddied regiment made camp at Hazel River. Driving snow kept the men who had tents inside them. After the storm abated and the snow melted, the troops moved to Orange Court House, thence to Richmond.[2] The first leg of the movement argued ill for what remained.

The men joyfully anticipated the steamer transportation from Richmond to Williamsburg. Their anticipation soon turned to grumbling. The men packed the steamers and barges so fully that many almost died of suffocation.[3] Upon disembarking, cramped soldiers marched toward Yorktown and made camp.[4] Wet, cold, and sick, the men, so recently returned from home, relearned the rigors of a soldier's duty.

As the men huddled together on the Peninsula, a reorganization of the Confederate Army took place. No doubt, many thought seriously of quitting. However, most men re-enlisted and soon afterward elected officers.

On May 3, 1862, command of the 28th Regiment passed to Col. R. C. Allen. Educated at Virginia Military Institute, Col. Allen had practiced law in Big Lick with William Watts, who was elected lieutenant colonel at this time. Nathaniel C. Wilson, another VMI graduate, became major.[5] Allen made his mark as regimental commander by demanding rigid and exacting discipline. This may not have en-

These two chapters conclude a paper on men from Roanoke, Botetourt, Bedford and Craig counties who served in the Civil War. The first two chapters of the paper, written by Arnold Skaar in graduate work in history at Virginia Tech, appeared in the last issue of the Journal. Skaar was a student last year of Dr. James Robertson, writer of the preceding article.

deared him to his men then, but later they respected him for it. Even so, when he fell at Gettysburg, the rumor spread that his own men had shot him.[6]

Along with new leadership, the 28th Regiment underwent other changes. New faces filled company captaincies. The men in Co. E even elected a private in another company (John Chapman of Co. I) as their captain.[7] With the changes that took place the previous winter, only nine companies composed the Regiment; A, E and K from Botetourt County, B and C from Craig County, D, F and G from Bedford County, and I from Roanoke County.

In early May, Gen. Joseph E. Johnston began retreating with the Confederate army to Richmond. Longstreet's division acted as rear guard and slowly followed the main army.

Fifteen hours of heavy rain preceded, accompanied, and continued after the battle of Williamsburg. Contact between Pickett's division and Federal forces came near the woods, where both armies were probably looking for protection from the elements. The 18th and 19th Regiments fought fiercely. During a lull, the 18th Regiment pulled back to reload. The 28th Regiment was sent to replace them. They arrived at the front in time to participate in a charge ordered by Gen. Pickett. The assault was succeeding until Federals appeared in large numbers.[8] The 28th Regiment never received an order to fall back. Rain and fog, combined with hanging musket smoke isolated the 28th Regiment from the brigade. Soon the men discovered that they had penetrated and pushed beyond the enemy's lines. Only confusing rain and Col. Allen's "presence of mind" effected their escape.[9]

When they returned to their own lines, the Virginians found themselves relatively intact. The 18th and 19th Regiments had suffered heavy casualties, while losses in the 28th Regiment were few.[10]

After pausing only long enough to clean weapons and eat rations, the men continued retreating. Whenever someone dropped from exhaustion, another soldier would help him back on the march. The retreat continued through the night. Longstreet's rain-soaked division did not stop its retreat until the men crossed the Chickahominy River.[11]

New orders reached the brigade a few days later. On the eve of the battle of Seven Pines, the 28th Regiment was holding its position with the brigade on the Richmond and York River Railroad. On May 31, Pickett's brigade was in reserve. However, the next day Pickett learned of Federal forces coming toward his position. He received orders from Gen. D. H. Hill to attack. The assault soon turned into a retreat, as the Confederate lines broke under heavy counterattack. The 28th Regiment sustained few casualties.[12] Once again it demonstrated its good fortune by being in the woods while battle raged. [13]

After the battle, Gen. Robert E. Lee replaced the wounded J. E. Johnston as commander of Confederate forces. Longstreet's division withdrew and made camp on the Williamsburg turnpike below Richmond. The soldiers performed familiar camp duties at Battum Bridge and Darbytown.[14] Before Pickett's brigade marched toward Mechanicsville, the 56th Virginia joined the brigade.

On June 26, the enlarged brigade moved with Lee toward Gaines' Mill. The time had come for the brigade's first charge.[15] Brig. Gen. Pickett personally relayed the orders to the regimental commanders.[16]

After firing a few volleys into the enemy lines, the brigade charged down a hill. At the bottom it crossed a small but impeding ravine. Once across, the men hurled themselves blindly against three lines of Federal breastworks. Fog and dense gunsmoke concealed the first two lines of Federal defenses. It also concealed the assaulting Confederates. The Virginians' charge carried all three breastworks. Had Gettysburg never been fought, Pickett's men would have gained their greatest distinction for this action.[17]

Gaines' Mill was a bitter-sweet victory. Thirteen pieces of Federal artillery and numerous Federal prisoners (including a brigadier general and two colonels) could not replace the temporary loss of Gen. Pickett. Colonels Withers and Allen also were wounded.[18]

Generals Longstreet and Hill attempted to press for a more decisive victory by outflanking the retreating Federal army. On June 29, the Regiment camped once again on the Williamsburg Road. By June 30, the men realized by the direction of their march that Richmond was not the goal. As they passed Battum Bridge, they saw Gen. Lee perusing his maps. The men then knew they would "see the Yankees pretty soon."[19]

A quarter of a mile farther down the road, they saw bluecoats. Once again the 28th Virginia charged. Again the men succeeded in driving the enemy.[20] Yet the battle at Frayser's Farm was indecisive, as the one the next day at Malvern Hill.

By the evening of July 1, the Federal army was withdrawing to the James River.[21] The Peninsula Campaign did stop the invading Federal army, but it cost the Confederates dearly. The Third Brigade had lost its leader, some important officers, and a total of 118 men.[22]

A rest period followed. Diarrhea and dysentery increased markedly among the soldiers. Casualties of the Peninsular Campaign were still mounting as the leaders made plans for the summer. Maj. Gen. Pickett assumed command of the division; Brig. Gen. Richard B. Garnett became the new brigade commander.[23]

After a month of working on fortifications around Richmond, Longstreet's Corps left to reinforce Jackson. Gen. John Pope's Federal army

was menacing Confederate forces in northern Virginia. On August 9, 1862, the 28th Regiment left by the Virginia Central Railroad for Gordonsville.[24] General Lee followed shortly thereafter.

Longstreet's Corps was to join Jackson's forces at Manassas. Travelling along the route followed by the Manassas Gap Railroad, Longstreet's Corps began its advance toward Gainesville. Gen. Jas. B. Ricketts and a token Federal force impeded its progress at Thoroughfare Gap. Col. Eppa Hunton, temporarily commanding Garnett's brigade, attempted to outflank Ricketts' force by marching south through Lambert's Gap and coming up behind the Federal forces. However, before Hunton could accomplish his flanking movement, the division charged the small Federal force and drove them from the field.[25]

On August 29, Longstreet's Corps proceeded to Gainesville. What part Garnett's brigade took in the battle of Second Manassas is uncertain. Col. Hunton claimed that Longstreet attacked independently of Jackson. Hunton himself decided to use his brigade in support of Gen. J. B. Hood, but Col. Allen of the 28th Regiment refused to follow Hunton's verbal order.[26]

At the end of August, 1862, Gov. John Letcher issued a proclamation calling for citizens of southwest Virginia to fill depleted ranks.[27] Since late June, Longstreet's Corps had functioned with only sixty per cent of its manpower, and many of those men were in no condition to fight.[28]

The 28th Regiment was still a depleted unit when it crossed the Potomac into Maryland. On Sept. 11, Longstreet's Corps reached Frederick, Md., and bivouacked there for two days.[29] On Sept. 13, the Corps marched west through Turner's Gap and Boonsboro and reached Hagerstown late in the day.

Meanwhile, the Federal army had captured a copy of Lee's battle plans. Lee immediately ordered Longstreet to return to Turner's Gap to support Hill's troops. The thirteen-mile formed march took its toll; Longstreet arrived with only three small brigades, including Garnett's. The total number in Garnett's and Kemper's brigades did not exceed 800 men. General Hill estimated that the 28th Regiment comprised only 96 soldiers.[30]

An ambush near the top of South Mountain forced back Garnett's brigade. Falling behind a stone fence, the brigade repelled four lines of charging Federal forces. The fifth charge carried the day for the Federal forces.[31] The forced march and the lack of men no doubt were responsible for the retreat. Yet Garnett's brigade found some glory in defeat. The Federals thought that they were facing 5,000 Confederates, when actually less than 1,000 confronted them.[32] It was an expensive battle for the brigade: 30 killed and 194 wounded.[33]

The brigade did not participate in the battle of Antietam Creek.

On Sept. 18, a weary and diminished Confederate army recrossed the Potomac.

At Martinsburg, Lee reorganized his tattered army.[34] Six weeks later, Confederate morale still was lacking as the troops moved toward Fredericksburg.[35] Pickett's division numbered less than 7,000 men. One out of every three was barefoot.[36]

Some attempted to make moccasins out of beef hides. Had it not snowed on the day of march to Fredericksburg, the improvised footwear might have sufficed. Yet the muddy roads soon reduced the men again to barefootedness.

Amid this pitiful situation, an interesting episode occurred. Three days before the battle at Fredericksburg, snow began falling. The next morning after breakfast, a snowball fight commenced. Soon entire brigades, with field officers at their head, performed battlefield movements. Col. Withers of the 18th Regiment had never seen "such a magnificent fight with snow balls."[37] That such spirit existed among such a pathetic group of soldiers is amazing.

Even more amazing was the ability of this army to withstand the Federal assaults "on the heights" of Fredericksburg. Garnett's brigade remained as ready as was possible for such ill-equipped soldiers. Fortunately, they did not participate in the battle. Yet the march to and from Fredericksburg had taken its toll.[38] Those who had hoped that this battle might "decide the war," were sorely disappointed.[39]

After the battle, the 28th Regiment marched southward from Fredericksburg to Guinea Station.[40] There it went into winter quarters. The winter was unpleasant. James Painter advised his parents that "if I don't get to come home shortly I am going to run the Blockade." He advised his brother "to stay out of this war as long as possible." In a general indictment of the war, he added: "It is a awful (sic) thing to see men shot down like a brute and then don't get a decent Burial Just a little hole dug and then Rolled in like a Log."[41]

Painter had been at Antietam "the most Bloody Battle (that) ever was fought on the American Continent." Yet he could no longer fight because he was barefooted. Doubtless many others in the 28th Regiment were thinking that "it is little prophet for a poor soldier to run himself in danger for sutch (sic) treatment as this."[42]

Confederate Artillery at Antietam.
Picture loaned by Elliott Ramsey.

CHAPTER IV—THE FINAL YEARS: OTHER PLACES NEVER FORGOTTEN

In February, 1863, Gen. Pickett received orders directing his division to North Carolina. On February 14, Garnett's brigade left Guinea Station and marched via Richmond to Chester Station on the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad. Recruits increased the brigade to 1,440 effectives. Over 1,200 men were absent.[1]

On March 9, the brigade entrained at Petersburg for North Carolina.[2] By the time it reached Goldsboro, the brigade was "very smoked." The weather was so cold the men huddled around fires in the box cars. Leaving camp at Goldsboro, they moved to Kingston on the Neuse River and then engaged in minor skirmishes at New Berne and Washington. The purpose of this movement was to keep the Federals fighting, while provisions and supplies were being transferred from North Carolina to the Confederate army in Virginia.[3] The 28th Regiment was involved in "little fighting, but (had) great success in getting corn and bacon."[4] By April 21, the foraging force had returned to Virginia and rejoined Longstreet's Corps at Suffolk.

The move to Gettysburg began at Suffolk. The men marched all night before reaching Richmond. Many became totally fatigued. One private wrote his parents: "I am hardly able to move hand or foot we are still in the swamps and among ticks."[5]

The march continued. Hanover Junction provided a brief respite, but only camp near Somerville Ford on the Rapidan, southeast of Culpeper, afforded time for complete rest. Spirits were at an all-time low. Painter complained to his parents: "We don't get nothing for two or three day(s) I tell you Dear Friends I never knowed what heard times was, march day and night through mud and water when we get to rest a few minutes lean up a tree like a Brute . . . if they treat our Boys this way they won't last long."[6]

The weary regiment then plodded through Snicker's Gap and Berryville. On June 25, it reached the Potomac River. Garnett's Brigade found the water refreshing to sore feet and tired bodies. Wading across the river again and back to Virginia to support the cavalry crossing became a burden. Ordered to cross a third time, the brigade exhaustedly complied. On the evening of June 25, cold and wet men sat huddled together, "without shoes, without clothes, and without blankets."[7]

The morning after crossing the Potomac, the 28th Regiment moved with the rest of Pickett's division through Hagerstown and Greencastle to Chambersburg, Pa.[8] There they destroyed the railroad and all other property that could be of use to the enemy.[9] The destruction of the railroad was particularly important, as it ran behind the Confederate lines and thus could have been used by Federals in a flanking movement.

Late in May, 1863, Pvt. Painter wrote his parents that he was "very tired of playing soldier." He, and many like him, were wavering but still committed to "try and stand it the balance of the war."[10] Gettysburg was to provide "the balance of the war" for many in the 28th Regmient.

On July 2, Pickett's division left Chambersburg and hastened to join Lee at Gettysburg. The men covered the twenty-three miles in half that many hours. A tired group of men took a "desired position" at 8 p.m. A few hours later, Confederate artillery opened on the Federal lines with 250 guns. After three hours of cannonading, the brigades of Pickett and Pender prepared to charge.[11]

Garnett led the fewer than 1,300 men of his brigade. Three quarters of a mile separated the contending armies. As one of the survivors remembered it:

> Brave men marched into the jaws of death against great odds down, across a field, up another hill with over a hundred canon playing on their line as they advanced against four or five times their number of infantry, behind a stone fence. They fought to and across the fence, their ranks had been reduced and they were outnumbered, and then re-inforcement failed to come to their relief, they had to fall back to their original lines.[12]

Garnett's brigade suffered 941 casualties, including the General. The 28th Regiment lost Col. Allen and eighteen others. Fifty-eight managed to reach the division's Valley hospital at Breen's Flouring Mill. Many of these, refusing to die in the North, accepted death in Virginia.[13]

Gallantry soon became a euphemsim for the slaughter on Cemetery Hill. Of the many displays of valor recorded that day, perhaps the example of Capt. Michael P. Spessard of Co. C best demonstrates the agony of courage. His son fell in the middle of the charge, and Spessard comforted him in his final moments. An observer noted that he kissed "the boy tenderly and gently lay his head on the ground. Then the Major rose to his feet, put his sword to his shoulder," and led a charge into the Federal trenches.[14] He was one of the few officers of the 28th Regiment who lived to see Appomattox.

The 300 weary survivors in Garnett's brigade were "reluctantly" detailed by Gen. Lee to escort Federal prisoners to Staunton. Harassed in these duties by pursuing Federal cavalry and irate Pennsylvania citizens, the retreating army found no rest. Lee's promise to recruit the diminished ranks brought little comfort.[15]

Early in August, 1863, at Chaffin's Farm, six miles above Drewry's Bluff, the fragments of Garnett's brigade went into winter quarters. Between August and October men drifted into and—doubtless—

out of camp. As December approached, only 852 men of Garnett's brigade were present for duty.[16]

Gen. Henry Wise's brigade had been at Chaffin's Farm previously and had built "very comfortable log cabins, which the weary, gallant men" of the 8th, 18th, 19th, 28th, 56th and 32nd Virginia quite willingly occupied. At this time, command of the 28th Regiment passed to Col. William Watts of Roanoke County, the ex-law partner of Robert C. Allen. Watts was born in December, 1817, attended William and Mary College and the University of Virginia, where he did graduate work in law and medicine. Gen. Eppa Hunton considered him a "gallant" leader, but "not much of a tactician." Other changes occurred on the officer's level. Capt. Wingfield of Co. F became lieutenant colonel of the 28th Regiment; and Capt. Michael Spessard became major. Also, Brigadier Gen. Eppa Hunton finally received the command of "his" long-sought brigade.[17]

The winter of 1864 was one of recuperation and comparative ease for Hunton's brigade. Spirits were high, and men were "confident of whipping the Yankees," when their chance again came. Hunton was especially kind to the troops. This was usually when he had been drinking, which was "about three-fourths of his time."[18]

Food was available and shelters were comfortable. Gen. Lee remembered his promise of trying to regroup the brigade. He kept the brigade out of major campaigns until the summer months. On two occasions, Lee told Longstreet and Gen. Arnold Elzey, commanding the Richmond Department, that the brigade was to continue its convalescence until needed.[19]

The strength and numbers of the brigade increased markedly. By March 31, 1864, its effective strength was 1,556 men and 112 officers.[20] Although this did not even approximate full brigade strength, it represented considerably more men than had made the retreat from Pennsylvania. Gen. Hunton later criticized the brigade for not exhibiting its "old fighting qualities." This shortsighted indictment failed to take into account that five recruits existed for every veteran in the brigade.[21] Most of the veterans of Co. I who were unable to fight found themselves in Danville guarding the Federal prisoners incarcerated in six converted tobacco warehouses. Col. Robert Withers commanded this "Invalid Corps."[22]

In March, the advance of Hunton's brigade to Richmond to defend the city against Dahlgren's raiders marked the beginning of the 1864 campaign.[23] The month of April proved especially agreeable to the 28th Regiment. It relieved the City Guards of Richmond and lived in the "finest quarters" the men had yet occupied as soldiers. Complaints at this time about guard duty were endemic to the Regiment. Yet most men agreed that "it is nothing in comparison to the marching and fighting that we would have to do had we remained in the field.[24]

The Regiment functioned as guards over the entire city. One group guarded the city jail, another protected Gov. Letcher, and still another took a position at the railroad station. The men of Co. A maintained watch over the Post Office, War Department, and Treasurer's Office.[25] The easy duties, and "plenty of corn Bread, Some Bacon, Shugar (sic) Coffee . . . peas etc." made Richmond an enjoyable interlude.[26] Unfortunately, the recruits who comprised the majority of the brigade did not gain any experience in battle.

In early May, word came that Grant was moving on Richmond. Hunton's entire brigade soon moved into the trenches. On one occasion, Hunton took his brigade up the Brook Turnpike—only to be recalled before he discovered the raiding party.[27] On May 21, Hunton received orders to relinquish the brigade's position at the Mattoax Bridge on the Richmond-Danville Railroad and to report to A. P. Hill's Corps.[28] Six days later, Pickett arrived and took command of his division.[29] The General and his troops were thus reunited for the last time.

On May 23, Hunton's brigade reunited at Hanover Junction with the "balance of Pickett's division," which included Kemper's, Hunton's, Barton's and Corse's brigades.[30] From that place it became "a day and night move . . . as General Lee was all the time in Grant's front, wherever he turned up ready to give battle."[31] Yet, during this time, increasing numbers of Confederate deserters kept the Federal command well-informed of Lee's movements.[32]

On June 3, 1864, the opportunity for the first battle of the campaign came at Cold Harbor. Hunton sent his smallest regiment to "fill up a space in the fortifications," while the rest of the brigade remained in reserve. The men knew that this meant trouble: reserves "are sure to be sent to the worst place along the line."[33] Soon the brigade moved to a break in the line. Recapturing the trenches and restoring the breastworks cost many casualties.[34] Warfare around the Richmond defenses continued for some days after the battle.

On June 16, Lee ordered Pickett's division to Petersburg to support the faltering forces of Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard. Hunton's brigade took a "cross country route," as it knew the area better than the other brigades. They encountered skirmishers from Butler's forces on the Richmond-Petersburg turnpike, and were able to push them back in a brief encounter.[35] For the 28th Regiment, the entire summer of 1864 passed in this manner. Skirmishes and trench warfare were almost daily fare. The siege of Petersburg continued into winter still unresolved but never uncertain.

The brigade kept relatively healthy during the months it camped at Howlett House. The Inspector General's Report for September, 1863, termed the condition of Pickett's division and especially Hunton's Brigade "good." The Report had special praise for Gen. Hunton, who fos-

tered good morale by camping in the trenches with his men. On the other side of the ledger, the inspector expressed his disapproval with the "large proportion of absent, disabled officers." He suggested that a board of inquiry be convened to look into their condition, so that, if necessary, the "many potentially good young officers" could be given their chance.[36] No indication suggests that such actions materialized.

As December passed into 1865, Hunton's brigade responded to a Federal raid north of Richmond. Even though it travelled by rail from winter quarters, 13 men froze to death and at least 6 deserted. The men no sooner reached Gordonsville when they received orders to return.[37]

In 1865, spring never came to the South. Grant maintained increased pressure on Lee's defenses stretched thinly between Richmond and Petersburg.[38] In these final months, the 28th Regiment made many movements with Hunton's brigade.

Around mid-March, the brigade marched to combat a threatened Federal attack north of the James River.[39] About all that occurred was the desertion of 183 Confederates from the line of march.[40] Ordered back to Petersburg, the brigade left again by rail to meet raids at Farmville, Pamphlins and Prospect.[41]

The thin Confederate lines of defense were also weary lines. The final charge of the 28th Regiment occurred March 31, 1865, at Hatcher's Run. The Federal army attempted to cut the line of communications between Gen. Pickett, at Dinwiddie, and Hunton's men, outside Petersburg. To remove this threat the Southerners launched an attack. The Federal forces, surprised in their camps, retreated "nearly a mile." Yet the Confederate glory was shortlived. The Union army remassed and charged. Soon the tattered and tired 28th Regiment, plus the remnant of Hunton's brigade, effected "a very rapid march" to Five Forks.

Near sunset, April 1, the men reached Five Forks. Rumors circulated that Pickett had been captured.[42] Actually, his recently depleted forces had retreated before Hunton's brigade arrived. Soon these ragged soldiers heard that Richmond had fallen. Confederate troops fleeing Petersburg confirmed the retreat had begun. The brigades of Hunton and Wise, and Lee's cavalry, were to cover the withdrawal. This rear guard fended off the enemy all the way to Amelia Court House, where they joined the remainder of the Army of Northern Virginia. On April 5, they drew their last rations, which consisted of "some nubbins of corn."[43]

Sheridan's cavalry followed closely on the left heels of the retreating army. Gen. W. S. Hancock's Fifth Division paralleled Sheridan's force on the right. It was like a gray stream trying to escape through a valley of two blue mountains. The Confederate army could

not outrun the Federal horsemen. On April 6, Sheridan's cavalry struck Pickett's Division as it guarded a wagon train. Hunton's brigade of some 150 men was the "larger half of the division," and it was exhausted and hungry.[44] The end was near, and the men knew it. When Sheridan struck at Sayler's Creek, "there was an immediate scattering . . . some going down a ravine, and others bearing to the right."[45] The last battle was a short fight for so long a war.

The once ebullient men who went to war anticipating immediate victory against the invaders from the North trudged homeward. Only 150 men of Hunton's Brigade were paroled. Of that number, one-third were members of the 28th Virginia. Only ten officers' names appear on the parole list. Maj. Michael P. Spessard, the hero of Gettysburg, and Capt. Robert E. Allen of Co. A, were the only ranking officers of the Regiment listed.[46] What went through the minds of the men as they returned home is unknown. Surely what they did not want to ponder were the battlefields behind them. Yet such places are never forgotten.

The 28th Regiment was a rugged group of men led by able and brave officers. It existed as a unit throughout the war and participated in at least sixteen major engagements and numerous skirmishes. Although nearly destroyed as a fighting unit at Gettysburg, this regiment continued to serve the Confederate cause with distinction. That the Civil War lasted for four years can be attributed to the quality of such Southern soldiers as comprised the 28th Regiment, Virginia Volunteers.

CHAPTER III

1 OR, XI, pt. 3, 204.
2 Regimental Returns.
3 Withers, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 167.
4 Regimental Returns.
5 Walker, VMI MEMORIAL, 26-29.
6 Richmond TIMES DISPATCH, undated clipping, Personal Files of Robert C. Allen, Virginia Military Institute Alumni Files, Lexington, Va.
7 McCauley, HISTORY OF ROANOKE COUNTY, 91.
8 OR, XI, pt. 1, 585-86.
9 IBID. See also Walker, VMI MEMORIAL, 28.
10 OR, XI, pt. 1, 569. Total brigade casualties were 6 killed and 190 wounded.
11 Simmons MS, 6.
12 OR, XI, pt. 1, 982-84. The brigade, however, lost 350 of 1,700 men.
13 Withers, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 179.
14 Simmons MS, 6.
15 Eppa Hunton, AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF EPPA HUNTON (Richmond, 1933), 68-9.
16 Withers, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 183.
17 Simmons MS, 7. See also Hunton, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 70-72.
18 Simmons MS, 7. See also Regimental Returns.
19 Simmons MS, 8.
20 IBID.
21 Hunton, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 74.
22 OR, XI, pt. 2, 503.
23 Simmons MS, 8. R. B. Garnett had fallen out of grace with Gen. Jackson. His appointment to this brigade is something of a mystery.
24 Regimental Returns.
25 Hunton, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 77.
26 IBID., 78. J. K. Simmons claimed that the 28th Va. saw only minor action, yet official casualties were high: 12 killed and 52 wounded. See also OR, XII, pt. 2, 560.
27 OR, XII, pt. 3, 923-24.
28 IBID, XI, pt. 3, 614-15.
29 Hunton, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 79.
30 Robert U. Johnson and Clarence C. Buel (eds.), BATTLES AND LEADERS OF THE CIVIL WAR (New York, 1884-1887), II, 577.
31 Simmons MS, 10.
32 BATTLES AND LEADERS, II, 601.
33 IBID.

34 Regimental Returns. See also Simmons MS, 10.
35 Hunton, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 81.
36 OR, XIV, pt. 1, 721.
37 Withers, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 193.
38 OR, XXI, 568-72.
39 James Painter to parents, Dec. 15, 1862, Painter Papers.
40 Regimental Returns.
41 James Painter to parents, Oct. 5, 1862, Painter Papers.
42 IBID.

CHAPTER IV

1 Hunton, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 84. See also Regimental Returns; OR, XVIII, 915-16.
2 Regimental Record.
3 W. H. Morgan, PERSONAL REMINISCENCES OF THE WAR OF 1861-5 (Lynchburg, 1911), 157-58.
4 Hunton, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 85.
5 James Painter to parents, May, 1863, Painter Papers.
6 IBID.
7 Hunton, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 86-87.
8 Regimental Records.
9 Hunton, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 87.
10 James Painter to parents, May, 1863, Painter Papers.
11 Hunton, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 89-90.
12 Simmons MS, 11.
13 OR, XXVII, Pt. 2, 387.
14 OR, XXVII, pt. 2, 387. See also Hunton, Autobiography, 100.
15 OR, XXVII, pt. 2, 986-87. See also Simmons MS.
16 OR, LI, pt. 1, 1283. See also IBID., XXIX, pt. 1, 378; Regimental Records. This statistic also includes the remnants of the 32nd Regiment.
17 Hunton, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 103. Hunton also claimed Watts was one of the warmest friends of his life. See also Regimental Returns, unidentified newspaper article, June 29, 1910.
18 John Hutcheson to brother, March 15, 1864, Hutcheson Papers, Virginia Historical Society. Hereafter cited as Hutcheson Papers.
19 OR, XXXII, pt. 2, 760.
20 IBID., XXXIII, 1299.
21 J. G. De Roulhac Hamilton (ed.), THE PAPERS OF RANDOLPH ABBOTT SHOTWELL (Raleigh, 1929), II, 93. Hereafter cited as SHOTWELL PAPERS.
22 Regimental Records. See also Withers, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 194.
23 Simmons MS, 12. See also Hunton, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 109.
24 John Hutcheson to brother, Apr. 12, 1864, Hutcheson Papers.
25 IBID. See also Simmons MS, 12.
26 John Hutcheson to unknown party, letter, Hutcheson Papers.
27 Hunton, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 109. This was probably a raid by Sheridan.
28 OR, XXXVI, pt. 2, 813.
29 IBID., 510.
30 IBID., XXXVI, pt. 3, 799. See also Hunton, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 110-11.
31 Simmons MS, 12.
32 OR, XXXVI, pt. 3, 175.
33 Hunton, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 111-12.
34 Simmons MS, 12. See also Hunton, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 112-13. No casualty figures are available.
35 Simmons MS, 12-13.
36 OR, XLII, pt. 2, 1271-72.
37 IBID., pt. 3, 1106-08.
38 Hunton, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 117.
39 Simmons MS, 13.
40 OR, XLII, pt. 3, 1332.
41 IBID., 1365.
42 Simmons MS, 14.
43 IBID.
44 SOUTHERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY PAPERS, XXIC (1896), 83-88. Hereafter cited as SHSP. See also SHSP XV (1887), 81-84.
45 SHSP, XXIV (1896), 87-88.
46 SHSP, XV (1887), 70-73, 83. J. K. Simmons reported that 24 men of Co. A were captured at Sayler's Creek. They do not appear on the parole list. Also, Co. E had no members on the parole roster.

Samuel Rader, 1801-1891, Botetourt Brick Mason

Samuel Rader was the sixth of nine children born to Adam and Mary Hotszenpiller Rader of Woodstock. A few months after Samuel's birth in Shenandoah County on April 11, 1801, the family migrated to Botetourt County where the last three of their children was born. Samuel's father was a saddler and harness maker who built a shop (still standing) near the present town of Troutville in Botetourt County on what is known as the Old Brick Union Road. Family legend holds that Adam Rader, born in Germany on Feb. 4, 1761, came to Philadelphia as a lad.

His father died on Nov. 28, 1817 when Samuel was 16 years old. George Stover, Jr., the husband of Samuel's oldest sister, Anna, was appointed Samuel's guardian. It was from George Stover that Samuel learned masonry, which was to become his life's work. In those days a mason not only laid brick but he also made his own bricks from local clay which he chose for that purpose; he constructed his own kiln near the site of construction, and "burned" (fired) his own bricks.

Samuel was well suited physically for such a trade. He was a strong man with very large hands. His appearance was typical of many early German settlers. He had light hair, fair complexion, very blue eyes, tall, and his posture was "as straight as a ramrod" even in his later years. He was a large man, but never obese.

On Dec. 1, 1825, Samuel Rader married Sarah Brugh, a daughter of Peter and Elizabeth Coffman Brugh. Sarah was born July 22, 1807 in Botetourt County and died there on June 11, 1874. Samuel and Sarah became the parents of 11 children, all of whom lived to maturity except one.

On Sept. 13, 1829, Samuel and Sarah Rader left their home in Botetourt County and traveled by covered wagon to Indiana Territory. With them were their first two children, two little girls. One month and one day later they arrived in Crawfordsville, Ind., where they spent the winter.

The reason for their trip to Indiana can only be surmised. Perhaps they were enticed by the Stovers, relatives who had preceded

The life of Samuel Rader is reviewed by Jacqueline Hundley Rader of Rt. 1, Troutville, a family historian. Her husband, Jacob K. Rader, is the great-grandson of Samuel Rader, descended through his son, Simon Peter, and grandson, Frank Boone Rader. The story of Samuel Rader's contract to build a brick house for $105 was told in the Winter, 1968 issue of the Journal.

Samuel Rader, Botetourt builder

them. Two of Samuel's older sisters had married Stover brothers and one of these, Abraham Stover, was a colonel in the Indiana Militia. Samuel Rader became a captain in the Indiana Militia and his original commission papers are still in possession of a descendant in Botetourt County. In October 1832 Samuel and his family, then including another daughter and a son born in Indiana, were back in Botetourt County. According to family legend, Samuel's aged and widowed mother had pleaded for them to come back and care for her in her last years—which they did. She had remarried in 1829 but her second husband,

Rev. John Crumpacker, was much older than she and she was soon widowed again. So Mary Hotszenpiller Rader Crumpacker lived the rest of her long life with Samuel's family. She died on March 11, 1853.

As was the custom of that time, Samuel Rader did not limit his activities to one occupation. Besides his masonry business he also farmed extensively and, judging from the large number of deeds recorded in his name, he must have speculated in real estate as well.

On April 11, 1849, Samuel Rader moved his family into the new brick residence which he had built for their own use. There he lived for the rest of his life. This house still stands on the west side of U. S. 11 north of Troutville and near the intersection of the "Nace Road" at Brugh's Store. The house now belongs to Joseph and Eunice Rader Parks. Eunice is a great-granddaughter of Samuel Rader.

Samuel Rader's family suffered greatly during the Civil War. Samuel's oldest son was wounded and captured during the Battle of Lewisburg in the spring of 1862 and died a few weeks later at Camp Chase Prison Hospital, Columbus, Ohio, leaving a widow and three children in Botetourt County. Another of Samuel's sons who fought with the Fincastle Rifles through the whole four years of the war was killed during the Battle of Five Forks just nine days before Lee's surrender. He was engaged to be married at the time of his death.

His comrades notified his father, Samuel, of the death and burial of his son and several others in shallow, unmarked graves on a hillside. This knowledge was more than Samuel could bear, so he went to the area described and had no alternative but to dig into each unmarked grave until he located the body of his son. With a heavy heart he made the journey back home with the body and laid it to rest in the little family burial ground in which lay the remains of Samuel's parents, Adam and Mary.

Samuel had sacrificed two sons, one son-in-law, and two other young men, fiances of his daughters, to the Confederacy. His six daughters were still living, one widowed with seven children and two others who were destined never to marry after their sweethearts were killed in the war. But now he had only two sons left. One followed in his father's footsteps and became a mason. The oldest, the one who died in a Union prison hospital, was also a mason.

In 1875, a few months after the death of his wife, Samuel Rader lost his sight. His family thought it was a result of exposure to so much smoke in the lime kilns which he used to burn brick. Perhaps. Doctors were not always able to determine the cause of blindness in those days, or to prevent it as is often possible now. Samuel spent his last 16 years in darkness, cared for by his two spinster daughters and the family of his youngest son who lived with him in the house he had built in 1849. He often entertained his grandchildren with accounts of his past life and with stories that he had heard in his youth from

Brick work for Mill Creek Baptist Church was done by Samuel Rader, 1852-54. This building was replaced by a new church in 1910.

an older generation. Samuel's stories impressed his grandchildren to such a degree that they passed them on to their children and some of these accounts were recorded on paper by a grandson before his death in 1953.

One of Samuel Rader's brothers, George Washington Rader, was one of the first trustees of Roanoke College when it was moved to Salem from Mount Tabor in 1847. George, born June 14, 1797 and died May 10, 1894, served several years as trustee for the college and for other Lutheran Church property as well. He lived near Samuel in Botetourt County and his old home still stands, now owned and occupied by one of his great-grandsons, Karl E. Rader.

Samuel, George, and the other early Raders of Botetourt County attended the old Brick Union Church which was made up principally of Lutheran and Dunkard congregations. Samuel, George, and most of the others were Lutheran. There is a possibility that Samuel made and constructed the brick work of the old Brick Union Church, which stood for years in the path of the present Interstate 81 north of Troutville. But so far this cannot be verified. It is known, however, that Samuel contracted and did the brick work for the Mill Creek Baptist congregation when they built the structure preceding the present building on U. S. 11.

He died May 17, 1891.

History Grows in Botetourt

History is on the move in Botetourt County where plans have been started to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the county and Fincastle, its seat, in 1970.

From the opening of the Botetourt Historical Museum in November, 1966, interest and pride in local history have slowly but steadily grown. Only in recent months has it become known that the museum located in an early brick building behind the courthouse in Fincastle was instigated by a $1,000 gift of the late Murray G. Via of Botetourt County.

Murray G. Via

Via, a vice president of First National Exchange Bank of Virginia until his retirement Dec. 31, 1967, made an anonymous contribution to promote historical work in his home county. His gift was matched by the Roanoke Historical Society from proceeds of the sale of R. D. Stoner's "A Seed-Bed of the Republic," which the society co-sponsored in its second edition and the funds were used for historical research.

After Via's death, a certificate in his honor was prepared for display at the museum in Fincastle. It reads:

"In memory of Murray Green Via, born Nov. 29, 1911, died Jan. 15, 1968, whose love for his home county and interest in its history, as evidenced by his generous gift for the furthering of historical work in the Fincastle area, are here recorded and gratefully acknowledged by his colleagues. The research accomplished through his gift was a significant factor in the establishment of the Botetourt County Historical Museum."

By mid-1968, the community-wide Council for the Beautification and Preservation of Fincastle changed its name to Historic Fincastle, Inc., a group called Friends of the Library of Botetourt County planned to convert the old Fincastle jail to a county library and a committee worked toward establishment of a trust fund to care for the old cemetery at Fincastle Presbyterian Church.

Historic Fincastle, the organization which has developed a walking tour for visitors to the town, has a variety of goals in addition to the bicentennial observance. Plans have been made for eventual restoration of two old buildings, a handicraft shop to provide a market for work of local citizens and color postal cards of the town. An immediate project is historical signs for public buildings and at the entrances to Fincastle.

Through the cooperation of Appalachian Power Co., Botetourt County supervisors and the Fincastle council, improvements to lighting have been made around the courthouse. Old lamps have been installed and wires are being placed underground.

Funds are being sought to convert the old county jail, an interesting building of Victorian architectural style, to a county library. Pledges are being sought by a new organization, Friends of the Library, and federal aid may be available. Rollin Smith, curator of the historical museum, said upper floors of the jail would make excellent storage areas for antiques.

Tombstones in the Presbyterian cemetery dating back to 1795 are in need of repair and care, said Mrs. Leonard G. Muse, chairman of a committee working to set up a perpetual care fund. Repair and cleaning of stones requires professional work, she said. Graves of veterans of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and the Civil War, as well as those of early settlers are marked by stones with almost illegible lettering.

ROANOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEW MEMBERS AND OTHERS NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED

ROANOKE

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Adams
Mrs. E. G. Bosang
Mr. and Mrs. Alan M. Fink
Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Fox
Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Genheimer
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hamlin
Mr. and Mrs. James P. Hart, Jr.
Mrs. Inez Hubbard
Mrs. George Morton
Junior League of Roanoke Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Redman
Miss Mary Phlegar Smith
Mrs. H. B. Stone, Jr.
Mr. John Coles Terry
Mr. and Mrs. William P. Vinyard

OUT OF TOWN

Mrs. Philip Moncure
Copper Hill

Mr. and Mrs. St. Julian Oppenheimer
Richmond

Mrs. Herbert Gregory
Richmond

Pennsylvania Dutch, Fashions and Early Roanoke

By ANNA LAWSON

The month of March, 1968, may itself become of historic importance in the annals of the Roanoke Historical Society.

It began with the opening of a display of 79 Pennsylvania Dutch items in the Society's museum at Roanoke College. Included were a German Bible from 1754, all types of household equipment, and several early "frakturs."

On March 13, Miss Anne McClenny, associate professor of music at Hollins College, presented a lecture-recital of early keyboard music in Virginia at a meeting of the society.

In the middle of the month an exhibit entitled "Early Roanoke: A Pictorial and Documentary Retrospect," went up in the gallery of the Roanoke Public Library. And, the following week, the Society co-sponsored with the Roanoke Fine Arts Center at Cherry Hill a fashion show combining current and bygone styles. With the possible exception of the last, the activities were remarkable in their appeal to a membership of three generations and both sexes.

Bride's box was loaned by Dr. and Mrs. Roger Winborne for Pennsylvania Dutch exhibit. Inscription in German reads, "If you want to ease my sorrows, then let me, you beautiful one, kiss you."

Under the guidance of Mrs. Edmund Goodwin, the largest exhibit devoted to a concentrated field of local history was assembled in late February in Salem. Thirty area owners of Pennsylvania Dutch artifacts, many of them direct descendants of the original owners and with names like Ammen, Frantz, Stoner and Kendig, loaned objects from chests to cake molds.

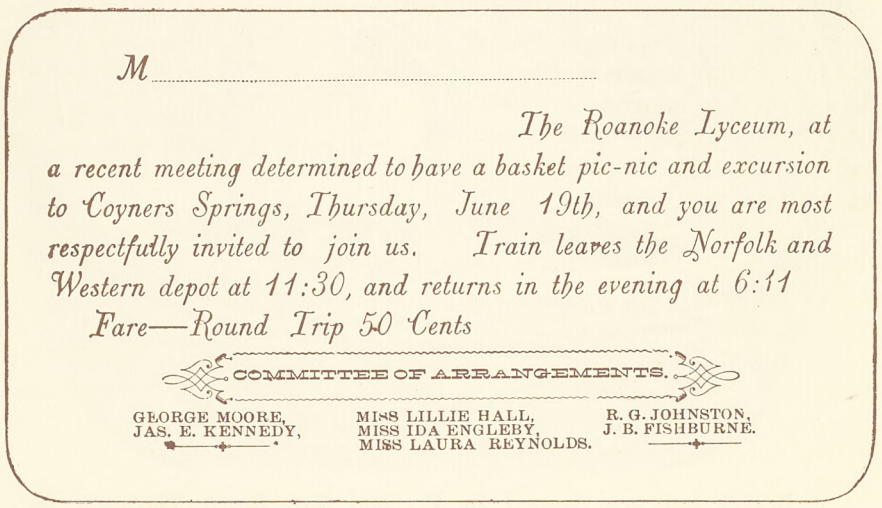
On display were such items as cast iron cooking utensils, hand-woven quilts, various pieces of carved furniture (often hand painted) and wooden molds, and innumerable examples of the styles of Pennsylvania Dutch painting from their immigration to the present.

In the exhibit were several "frakturs," Pennsylvania Dutch records of the birth and baptism of a child. The carefully lettered and painted paper read much as the following, loaned by Mrs. W. P. Henritze.

BIRTH AND BAPTISM

To these two, Johan Adam Gruber and his wife, Susanna who was born Kieferin, a daughter has been born by the name of Elizabeth, in the year of our Lord Jesus 1810, on the 11th day of November at 10:00 in America at the sign of Taurus. This Elizabeth has been born and baptised in America in the state of Pennsylvania, in the county of Berks, in Winsor township, and above announced Elizabeth has been baptised on the 16th day of December, 1810 by Tiefenback, and the Baptism witnesses were the Grandparents Kiefer and his wife Elizabeth.

A basket, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Stoner of Fincastle, was also notable as it was carried in 1749 by Mr. Stoner's great-great-great grandfather, Durst Ammen, from Switzerland through a long immigration to Botetourt County, where he settled in 1782.


M.....

The Roanoke Lyceum, at a recent meeting determined to have a basket pic-nic and excursion to Coyners Springs, Thursday, June 19th, and you are most respectfully invited to join us. Train leaves the Norfolk and Western depot at 11:30, and returns in the evening at 6:11

Fare—Round Trip 50 Cents

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

GEORGE MOORE, JAS. E. KENNEDY, MISS LILLIE HALL, MISS IDA ENGLEBY, MISS LAURA REYNOLDS. R. G. JOHNSTON, J. B. FISHBURNE.

Invitation to a pic-nic around 1900, from the Society's early Roanoke collection.

Flags flying for Roanoke's decennial celebration in 1892; N&W Railway station is at left; across tracks are old St. James Hotel, Haller & Barnes Drugstore and Terry Building.

Miss Anne McClenny's program, for which she has done research in this country, England and Scotland during the last several years, focused on the music of the 18th and 19th centuries in Virginia. She showed slides to illustrate many of the early instruments and played some of the compositions of the day. Her descriptions of the circumstances under which the music was played, for whom and by whom, gave considerable historic perspective to the compositions themselves.

"Early Roanoke" was billed as an exhibit designed "to give a picture of the city's early years through photographs, playbills, maps, documents, and other memorabilia." Of all these, most important regarding Roanoke's development were the papers of the Roanoke Land and Improvement Company. Donated to the Society by Mrs. William B. Figgatt, the documents contain detailed information of the early years of the water works, Hotel Roanoke and Mill Mountain.

Roanoke's present prosperous condition may well stem from the situation described in a letter, dated Nov. 22, 1881, from J. C. Moomaw to F. J. Kimball. In it Mr. Moomaw discusses the right of way, deeds and contracts for the Shenandoah Valley Railroad.

Along with documentation of industry and commerce, the "Early Roanoke" exhibit also portrayed something of the city's recreation. The most charming illustration of theatre entertainment came from the almost psychedelic playbills of shows held at the Academy of Music about 1900. "Captain Jinx of the Horse Marines" and "El Capitan" came to Roanoke, along with marvelously dramatic plays like "Richard Carvel." And Maud Adams came as Peter Pan.

Two-century-old gown, owned by Mrs. C. Francis Cocke, modeled by Mrs. Frank Ellett.

History came alive in the most pleasant of fashions when 16 costumes, dating to 1768 and made both here and abroad, were worn at Cherry Hill. The show, followed by luncheon, was given March 20 and 21 and attracted approximately 400 viewers. Miller and Rhoads of

Roanoke provided the current fashions and many of the historic ones are owned by the Society.

One of the most appealing of the period outfits was a navy wool suit from 1916, modeled by Mrs. J. T. Engleby III. Worn with a white vest, white spats (particularly stylish in 1916), and a navy bonnet of straw and velvet, the suit looked just as it must have when Mrs. Henry Taylor had it as part of her trousseau. It was given to the Society by Mrs. Taylor, the former Mary Scott Ferguson.

A gown made in 1768 for Margaret Tilghman Carroll of Baltimore, an ancestor of its present owner, Mrs. C. Francis Cocke, was the oldest and perhaps the most elegant fashion in the show. Worn to a birthday ball of England's Queen Charlotte, it was of brocade with a light gold sprig of flower woven into the silk. Mrs. Frank Ellet modeled it at Cherry Hill.

Another interesting piece was a black Chantilly lace shawl, brought to Virginia by Captain Thomas Minor in 1755. Capt. Minor's daughter-in-law wore it in 1824 in Fredericksburg when she and her husband, Capt. Minor, Jr., hosted a fete in honor of the Marquis de La Fayette of Revolutionary War fame. It is now owned by Mrs. Edmund Goodwin.

Mrs. John W. Williams and Mrs. Barton W. Morris, Sr., narrated the historical sections of the show.

The proceeds were divided between the Historical Society and the Docent Guild of the Fine Arts Center. The Society has turned over its share ($571.50) to the Botetourt Historical Society for preserving the 18th century deed books in the Botetourt County Courthouse at Fincastle.

A rewarding outcome of this gift came several days after the announcement of the Society's donation. Encouraged by the Society's action, the Gen. James Breckinridge Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution added $100 to the restoration fund.

Society Tours Home Country

On the misty morning of May 25 four busloads of Roanoke Historical Society members and friends, aged six weeks through 80 years, set forth on the sixth annual tour of old homes, churches and historic sites in their own backyard—Roanoke, Salem and Roanoke County.

Approximately 150 people visited Monterey, the Read home; Meadowbrook, home of the W. P. Vinyards; Hunter's Home, the James P. Hart home, and Lone Oaks, home of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Fink. Early morning rain clouds lifted in time for lunch at Salem Presbyterian Church, a congregation dating back to 1831.

Many on the tour had taken earlier trips with the society to Bedford, Montgomery and Franklin counties and the two excursions to Botetourt County. They learned something of the past of about 50

W. P. Vinyard home was open for May historical tour.

significant historic locations described in notes prepared by Edmund P. Goodwin and shown on a map prepared by J. R. Hildebrand.

Goodwin's notes gave reasons why Roanoke County was carved out of the mother Botetourt County in 1838. Petitions for a new county filed with the General Assembly said: "Nearly 1,500 freemen and 700 voters demand it . . . Because of the unjust and improper influence of Fincastle on the other portions of the county, making those parts mere hewers of wood and drawers of water."

Benjamin Deyerle, prominent Roanoke Valley builder of the last century, was the man of the hour. He is believed to have built three of the four brick homes visited—the Vinyard, Hart and Fink houses—in the mid-1800s. Yelverton Oliver, widely known fancier of race horses, built his home at Monterey about 1850.

Guides on each bus pointed out such places as Buena Vista, Col. George Tayloe's home built in the 1830s; the original locations of Big Lick and New Antwerp; Col. William Fleming's Bellmont; Huntington, the old Elisha Betts home of the early 1800s; the two Samuel Harshbarger houses; Tombstone Cemetery; Melrose, the Rev. Urias Power home on 10th Street, NW; the location of the old narrow gauge railroad to the iron mines and Cherry Hill, the former Persinger home dating back to the late 1700s, now owned by the Stanley Weinbergs.

West of Roanoke, they saw old Zion Lutheran Church; Belair, the Madison Pitzer home and the Houtz-Sites home on Masons Creek; in Salem, they saw Dropmore, the Nathaniel Burwell home site; the location of Gen. Andrew Lewis' Richfield plantation; the John B. I. Logan house and site of the Roanoke Navigation Co. headquarters. In the Cave Spring section, they rode by Boxwood Summit, Mulberry Hill, the old Cave Spring Methodist Church, the Gale-White house and Speedwell, the Harvey home near Starkey. Old Piney Grove Church, off U.S. 220 at Rt. 419, was seen on the way home.

Antique furniture, old documents and interesting architecture were a major part of the visit into the past of Roanoke Valley.

Map-maker J. R. Hildebrand at work.

Roanoke County Map Prepared

J. R. Hildebrand, Roanoke Historical Society secretary, map-maker and researcher, has prepared a comprehensive map of the beginnings of Roanoke County.

Following the pattern of the Botetourt County map he produced two years ago, Hildebrand has drawn from records and traditions to illustrate what happened here from the first settlement before 1800.

Indian movements, skirmishes and trails, exploration by John Lederer, Dr. Thomas Walker and John Salling, locations of forts, furnaces, mills, springs and the first grants for Roanoke Valley land are shown. The names of 38 prominent early citizens of the county are listed.

The map also gives an early outline of Augusta County, which covered most of western Virginia from 1738 to 1770, and the first plat of the Town of Salem in 1802 is shown. A brief history of the county also contains the military record of its sons from the French and Indian War.

Hildebrand, an Augusta County native, has been involved in mapmaking and historical research for a good part of the time since he left Virginia Tech to serve in World War I. He retired as city planning engineer after 35 years as a municipal employee and then served in a similar post with the Roanoke Valley Regional Planning Commission several years.

Working on a billiard table in his basement, he has utilized a library of resource material and an extensive memory to produce scores of historical maps and tracings for a variety of uses, including almost every issue of The Journal. At least five writers of western Virginia history—F. B. Kegley, R. D. Stoner, C. Francis Cocke, Dr. W. E. Eisenberg and Raymond Barnes—have chosen Hildebrand's maps to illustrate their work.

The Society is selling the Roanoke County maps for $1.50, the same price charged for the Botetourt maps which also are available. Mail orders may be placed by writing the Society at P. O. Box 1904, Roanoke, Va. 24008.