



CENTRAL RAPPAHANNOCK HERITAGE CENTER BULLETIN

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Elizabeth Daly, Editor
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Summer

Our Mission

To provide a repository for historically valuable documents on the Central Rappahannock region and a center for scholarly research thereof. The region consists of the Commonwealth of Virginia Counties of Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania and Stafford and the City of Fredericksburg

Researching Court Documents - Murder in King George County

by Kathy Habel, with research by Diane Ballman

Sometimes entering old court records can be a tedious task with lists of names and law suits that drag on for years. Once in a while the archivist comes across a case that is sad, heartless, or horrifying. We recently came across one such case while archiving the ended papers (term for court records) from Caroline County.

According to the testimony of two witnesses (B. Weaver and F.C.S. Hunter), on the afternoon of November 10, 1862, Henry B. Lewis of King George County confronted Dr. W.W. Rose in front of a local tavern by shouting "Damn you, do you speak to me?" Trying to patch over an earlier altercation, Dr. Rose had first approached Lewis to shake his hand. Instead, Lewis took his cane and struck Dr. Rose several times on the head. He also beat the doctor with his fists. The witnesses stated that they tried to separate the two but Lewis cocked his pistol and aimed it at his adversary. Dr. Rose begged Lewis not to shoot him stating that he was unarmed. Lewis then let the hammer of his pistol down and hit the doctor several times with the barrel of the pistol which was a very heavy army or navy issue. Dr. Rose fell to the ground and Lewis kicked him several times in the face and repeated the attack with the barrel of the pistol. Lewis said that Dr. Rose had branded him a coward and for that, he killed him. Two doctors verified that Dr. Rose died from blows to his head causing a concussion. They noted that the time and date of his death was 11:30 p.m. on November 12, 1862.

Lewis was eventually remanded to Caroline County jail and tried for the murder of W.W. Rose. It had been determined that Lewis would not receive a fair trial in King George County. The trial was postponed several times because one of the witnesses had been confined as a prisoner of war by the "public enemy."

We continued to dig into the background of this interesting case to ascertain the final outcome as well as the family histories of the families involved. To date, we have discovered that the parents of William Washington Rose, born June 25, 1831, in Alexandria, were Alexander Moore Rose and Anna Augusta Smith. William W. Rose married Catherine "Kate" Corbin Taliaferro. They had a son William Augustine "Gus" Jacqueline Rose born August 9, 1862 in Westmoreland. Henry Lewis's father was Daingerfield Lewis, son of George Washington Lewis who was the son of Fielding and Betty Washington Lewis. There is also an account of the murder in a book by duBellet, *Some Prominent Virginia Families*. Apparently Rose lingered on for a few days but his regular doctor, Dr. Hunter, had to leave him temporarily and put someone else in charge. When Dr. Hunter returned he asked about Dr. Rose and the other doctor said Dr. Rose was all right, that he bled him. Dr. Hunter was upset and said "My God, you've killed Doctor Rose." Dr. Rose died immediately. Henry Byrd Lewis died January 22, 1917, and is buried in the Lewis Family Cemetery in King George. Dr. William Rose is buried in Westmoreland County.

A place that loses its history loses its soul.

COLLECTIONS REPORT

Our collections at the Heritage Center continue to grow thanks to the generosity of following people:

Conversion of FMC Plant to Municipal Use (Book) - Christine D. Maupin

Postcard Fredericksburg United Methodist Church and private residence - Paul Eugene Cunningham

Photograph collection - Fredericksburg, mid 20th Century - Tony Kent

Civil War Railroads, The West Point Atlas of War, Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War (Books) and clippings (Alan Bruns Estate) - Nancy Bruns

Twenty photos of the Flood of 1942 - Thomas Mann

Files of sites in King George County - Diane Ballman

Papers on Black History - Ruth Coder Fitzgerald

Photos of the Garrett and Hearn Families; *Memoir of Samuel B. Hearn, Confederate Veteran*; typed copy of article from *Confederate Veteran Magazine* - James B. Hearn, Jr.

Disaster on the Potomac; Jamestown Story In Pictures; One Hundred and Fifty Years along the RF&P Railroad (Books) - Barbara Segar

Minutes of Hebron Baptist Association; Bible Society of Virginia Baptist Orphanage; Table of Tract Land of Spotsylvania County - Carroll Hayden

Garden Club of Virginia Journals; National Society of Colonial Dames Report - Anonymous

1917 diploma Fredericksburg High School; photos of parade floats, graduating class and a World War I photo of the 42nd Rainbow Division with Walter Fleming of Fredericksburg - Jean F. Johnson

HFFI Junior Board Training Manuals, two Presbyterian Church of Fredericksburg membership directories - Sheila E. Baker

Papers with documented names, places and events of the John Conway and Elizabeth Bridgewater Conway family from Spotsylvania to Henrico Counties and the Western Frontier - Darrel Lee Wilber

Teacher's notebook with history notes and newspaper clippings - (Roger Mouré Estate) Paul T. Scott

Programs from the Junior Woman's Club and Lions' Club; Lions' Club Minstrel photo, 1975; National Bank of Fredericksburg calendar; Kenmore News, Summer 1980 - Barbara Forbush

Remarks from 1948 James Monroe High School reunion and excerpt printed in the *Free Lance-Star*, July 25, 1998 - Julian Ward Jones, Jr.

Information about William A. Knox and business letters written by Knox - Herbert G. Morris

Homecoming celebration programs for Elnora Allen Pondexter and Frank White, Sr. - Frank M. White

Information on 503 Hanover Street (prepared by Annie Fleming Smith) and studies of 503 Hanover and 134 Caroline Streets prepared by Mary Washington College, Department of Historic Preservation (Ron Shibley) - Melissa S. FitzGerald

Files from Bill Beck's terms as president of HFFI and mayor of Fredericksburg - Bill Beck

Can You Help Us Solve This Mystery?

by Kathy Habel

While reading a 1912 diary of a Fredericksburg farmer, we came upon an entry stating, "October 14: Roosevelt shot in Milwaukee." Further investigation brought to light the attempted assassination of the president while he was campaigning for a third term. He was shot at close range by saloon keeper John Schrank. Roosevelt escaped serious injury because the bullet penetrated a folded document and an eye glass case. When Schrank was arrested he stated that "any man looking for a third term ought to be shot."

Another entry in 1912 simply stated, "Dec. 13: Thornton murder." This cryptic message has left us puzzled since extensive investigation has provided no clue to the murder of someone named Thornton on that date in Fredericksburg. The following day's entry mentioned a walk to the Thornton ruins, the murder may have taken place in Fredericksburg. **Help us solve this mystery, please call the Center at (540) 373-3704 or send an email to crhc@verizon.net.**

The following volunteers have reached and exceeded 1000 hours of volunteer service:

Diane Ballman, Judy Chaimson, Sue Stone

Welcome to our new volunteers:

Katherine Stinson, Shanna Christopher, Ashley Stone, Brenda Davenport
Donna Lipcsey, Amy Hastings, Ed Allison

The Center is pleased to welcome the following new members who have joined in 2010

Mr. and Mrs. William Evans, City; Ms. Carolyn Hill, Reston, VA; Mrs. Michael Cherwek, City
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The Heritage Center invites you to join its membership and help save our history. All dues support the Center's mission and are tax deductible. Members receive the Center's Bulletin, free admission to seminars and special events.

For a membership form, please call (540) 373-3704 or go to www.crharchives.org/mbrform.htm, print out the membership application form and mail it with your check to:

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WHERE TO FIND US----The Heritage Center is located at 900 Barton Street, #111, Fredericksburg, VA 22401.
HOURS: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the first Saturday of each month, 9:00 a.m. to noon, and by appointment. Phone (540) 373-3704. E-mail us at crhc@verizon.net. Web: www.crhcarchives.org.