

# NEWSLETTER

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## Henry and Jefferson Take Center Stage



Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry, as interpreted by Bill Barker and Richard Schumann, visited Washington County in February in the second of the Historical Society's annual President's Day weekend fundraisers.

Barker, who portrays Jefferson at Monticello, and Schumann, based at Colonial Williamsburg, debated their views on religious liberties and other topics at the Barter Theater before a crowd of over 300. The program opened with music by Sons of Liberty and Muster Ground Musick, and presentation of the colors by the Gen. William Campbell Chapter of the SAR, which later inducted them as honorary members. Several guests in the audience wore Colonial era attire.

### MORE PHOTOS ON PAGES 7, 8

The gentlemen spent the day meeting with about 900 students at Abingdon Elementary, Abingdon High School, Patrick Henry High School and Emory & Henry College. At each stop, they fielded great questions from kindergarten to college without missing a beat.

They also enjoyed a four-course dinner for forty guests prepared by Chef Charles Parker Wednesday evening hosted by Abingdon Vineyards, and shared their rich knowledge of their characters and their times.

A sincere "thank you" goes out to our sponsors and everyone who participated. We hope to make this an annual event in Washington County.

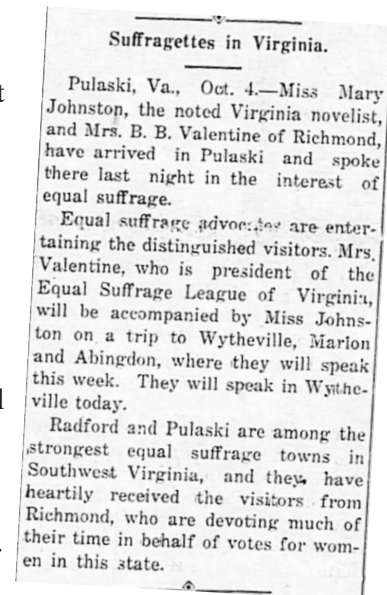
*Photos provided by Garrett Jackson, Tami Schumann, Walter Jenny and Rose Ann Jenny*

## Women's Suffrage Marks Centennial

This year is the centennial of Women's Suffrage, or women achieving the right to vote. August 26, 2020, will mark 100 years since the Nineteenth Amendment became law, and November 2, 2020, will commemorate the anniversary of the day women across the country went to the national polls for the first time. A number of states - mainly those in the West - had already granted full suffrage to women before the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment.)

After decades of arguments for and against women's suffrage, Congress finally passed the Nineteenth Amendment in June 1919. After Congressional approval, at least 36 states needed to vote in favor of the amendment for it to become law. By August of 1920, 35 states had approved the proposal.

When Congress passed the Nineteenth Amendment in June 1919, the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia fought hard for ratification, but Virginia politicians did not relent. On February 12, 1920, Virginia voted against ratifying the provision. Virginia was one of the nine southern states that refused to grant the vote to



This clipping from the Alexandria Gazette dated Oct. 4, 1912 shows the campaign to adopt suffrage for women extended to Southwest Virginia

women. The Virginia General Assembly stubbornly withheld its ratification until 1952.

Meanwhile, members of the Tennessee state legislature debated whether to ratify the amendment. The state senate voted to ratify, but in the state house of representatives the vote resulted in a tie. A young man named Harry Burn cast the tie-breaking vote. Acting on advice from his mother Phoebe, Burn voted to ratify the amendment. On August 18, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the amendment.

*Continued on Page 2*

*Continued from Page 1*

On August 24 the ratification resolution was signed by Tennessee Gov. Roberts and the certification was mailed special delivery to the U.S. Secretary of State. In the early hours of August 26, 1920, U.S. Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby receives Tennessee's certification - 36 states' legislatures had ratified the Nineteenth Amendment. He signed the proclamation into law in the privacy of his home. The play *Winter Wheat* about Burn's vote had its world premier at the Barter, and will be presented there again this year from June 24 through August 22.

With Tennessee's ratification, the 19th Amendment became law all across the country - even in Virginia - ensuring that the right to vote could not be denied based on sex. As a result, more than 17 million American women won full voting rights.

*Martha Keys and Walter Jenny*

*Mark your calendars ...*

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Saturday, June 13, 2020**  
**Higher Ed Center, Abingdon**

### ***Evening with the Spirits Starts A New Tradition***

Who says dead people tell no tales? And where is George Wertz buried, after all?

The Cummings cabin at Sinking Spring Cemetery was the site for the first incarnation of *An Evening with the Spirits of Sinking Spring* on October 26.

Based on the Society's popular summer tour during the Virginia Highlands Festival, this event told the tales of seven characters living from Abingdon's Revolutionary War days to the 20th century. Instead of a walking tour, guests seated in front of the cabin munched on popcorn as spirits drifted in and out to tell their stories.



Will *An Evening With The Spirits* return to live another day? There's no telling what we'll dig up!

## **Suffragist Memorial Seeks Your Help**

The Virginia Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association (TPSMA) is building a memorial in Fairfax County to the women's suffrage movement. The memorial will be located at the historic prison grounds where scores of suffragists were jailed and tortured in the Occoquan Workhouse for picketing the White House in 1917. When work leaked out about these inhumane conditions and brutal treatment, it became a significant turning point in winning adoption of the 19th Amendment. Their website is [suffragistmemorial.org](http://suffragistmemorial.org).

### **Do you have a suffragist in your family tree?**

TPSMA is gathering family stories, histories, memorabilia, and any other information related to the struggle to win the right to vote. Their goal is to educate the public about the suffragists, and they need public input to create a rich information base for the kiosks in the memorial. To share your stories and/or information you can contact them at [descendants@suffragistmemorial.org](mailto:descendants@suffragistmemorial.org).

An informative exhibit on women's suffrage in the Commonwealth runs through December 5, 2020 at the Library of Virginia, 800 E. Broad Street in Richmond. More information can be found at their website at [lva.virginia.gov](http://lva.virginia.gov).

## ***Your Historical Society...***

Non-profit historical societies are unusual creatures. They don't manufacture anything, don't market products, and rely heavily on volunteer labor and goodwill to survive. Most, like ours, have dues-paying members who support the organization out of their own free will.

So what should this historical society do for our members and for our community? It's a good question that should be asked from time to time. We live in changing times, and what worked in 1936 may not meet your expectations in 2020. Are we providing the service that you, as members, want? Should we be doing something new or different?

Give us your feedback. Send us an email message to [office@hswcv.org](mailto:office@hswcv.org) with the subject "Feedback" and tell us what you think we should be doing that we're not doing. Be frank - be honest - be bold - we want your opinions. It's your historical society, after all.

Walt Disney once said, "All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them." Let us hear from you about YOUR dreams for this organization!

*"Our vision is to be an educational resource and community leader committed to collecting, preserving and sharing the records of people, places and events, so that future generations may find common interest and knowledge in the unique heritage of our County and surrounding region."*



# Library Honors Sarah Sanders

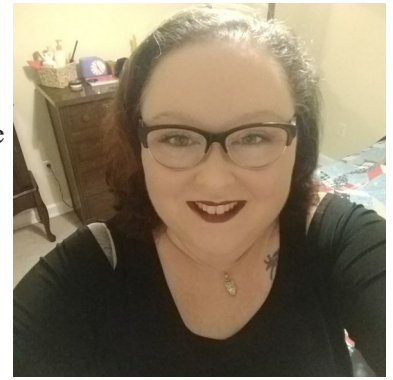


Fielden and Susan Sanders, Ashley (Sanders) and Jason Lowder, and Jacob and Nathan Lowder stand in front of the Historical Society's new Sarah Sanders yearbook collection bookcases.

On November 9, the Historical Society dedicated a pair of handmade solid oak bookcases in memory of Sarah Sanders, who died in a tragic accident in February 8, 2018 at age 37. A large crowd of friends and family attended the reception.

Sarah was a member of the Society, serving on the Board of Directors and as vice president. She also was a member of the local DAR chapter and was the youngest of the Tombstone Trackers. A graduate of Emory & Henry with a master's degree in history, she taught history at John Battle High School.

The locking, glass-fronted bookcases will house the Society's growing collection of yearbooks, a fitting tribute to her passion for education and the preservation of history. We currently have over 360 yearbooks dating back to 1907, now with room for more. A sincere thank you to Sarah's family and friends for this generous memorial.



## Our E&H Intern

My name is Andrew Earp, I am currently a master's student at Emory & Henry College with a bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary History; my master's will be in Education.

Last fall I worked for the Historical Society as an intern. I was recommended to reach out to the historical society by my professor, Dr. Little. I met with Mr. Jenny and discussed the African American project and what my role in the project was going to be.

I first worked on the Cohabitation List, my goal being to transfer the information from a PDF format into Excel so that the data could be easily manipulated and sorted allowing the Historical Society to apply this information into the African American project. I worked on the Ancestry page for the project using cemetery records of Washington County which included slaves and free blacks. I also attended a meeting with Washington County school representatives and Mr. Jenny to explore how the Society can play a greater role in promoting local history in the public schools.

I really enjoyed working with the Washington County Historical Society and think that it was a great opportunity to work with historical documents and gain a better understanding of Washington County as a whole. I would recommend anyone at Emory & Henry to volunteer at the society and gain experience from working there.



## Meet A Volunteer

You're greeted by their smiling faces when you visit our library, but we thought you'd like to get to know our volunteers a little better.

A native of Washington D.C., Steve Wolfsberger is a freelance graphic artist who volunteers twice a week at the library. He has a degree in fine arts from the University of Maryland College Park. Steve is an Air Force veteran from the Vietnam era, and retired from AT&T after a twenty year career.



"Wolf" began participating in Civil War reenactments in 1997, and started the Fairfax Rifles, a Confederate unit, in Fairfax in 1998. He was made a lifetime member of that group when he and his wife moved from there to Abingdon in 2006. He also has an impressive list of movie credits on his own IMDb.com webpage.

Are you interested in serving as a library volunteer? Contact us at [volunteer@hswcv.org](mailto:volunteer@hswcv.org) and we'll provide you with all the training you need. Shifts are three hours at a time, and the library is open Tuesday through Saturday.

Thank you, Steve, for your service!

# Hayter Graves Marked for Patriotic Service During American Revolution

By Michael Meade Hayter

On the chilly fall morning of November 2, 2019, men and women from Tennessee, Virginia and as far away as Colorado gathered in Hayters Gap, Virginia. They represented chapters of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. These men and women came together to mark the graves and remember the service of Abraham Hayter and his son Israel Hayter during the American Revolution.

Members of local chapters of the Virginia and Tennessee SAR served as Color Guard. Wreaths were presented by several DAR and SAR chapters including the National Society, the Virginia Society, Tennessee Society and even a chapter from Colorado.

## A Forgotten Cemetery

About five years ago, HSWCV members Martha Keys and Charlie Barnette helped Michael Hayter clean up the Hayter-Litton Cemetery in Hayters Gap where Abraham and Israel are buried. At that time, Israel's headstone was missing from the cemetery and was at the HSWCV. With the help of Joella Barbour, Hayter had the headstone repaired and located back to Israel's burial spot. With the financial



*Israel's repaired headstone  
beside his wife  
Anne Crawford Hayter*

support of family, including Hayter's Aunt Violet Hayter Wagner, bronze markers were also installed that include the patriot's specific service and information about their wives, Susannah and Anna. Hayter is a member of the HSWCV and Gen William Campbell Chapter SAR.

## Biography of Abraham and Israel Hayter

Abraham Hayter was born in December 1735 at Plumstead, a township in Bucks County, Pennsylvania about 20 miles north of Philadelphia. His grandfather, also named Abraham was born in 1677 in Winterbourn Earls, Wiltshire, England.

Susannah "Annie" Darroch was born in 1728, probably in Horsham Township in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania<sup>1</sup>. Her parents were Thomas and Mary Bradford Darroch who had arrived from Ireland just a few years earlier. By 1735 Annie's family was living in Bucks County



*Joint Virginia and Tennessee  
Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard*

in the area of Plumstead and Bedminster townships. Her father was one of the founders of the Deep Run Presbyterian Church in Plumstead Township<sup>2</sup>.

Abraham and Annie probably married about 1753. Their first child, Israel was born the following year. In May 1759, Abraham and Annie moved their family about 190 miles southwest to Frederick County, Maryland.

In November 1775, Abraham was named one of the eight Captains of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the Maryland Militia of Frederick County<sup>3</sup>. On July 4, 1776 the Declaration of Independence was signed.

In 1777 or 1778, Abraham and Annie, with their eight children, moved to southwestern Virginia travelling along the Great Wagon Road ending up in what is now known as Hayters Gap in Washington County, Virginia. Abraham's family thrived in Virginia and he continued a life of public service Washington County as a road surveyor and juror.



*Abraham and Susannah Hayter*

Israel Hayter was born to Abraham and Annie in Bucks County, Pennsylvania and moved with his family when he was in his twenties. Israel joined the Virginia Militia during the American Revolution. As the British were moving across the Carolinas from the coast, British Major Patrick Ferguson sent a message to the "over mountain" patriots, like Israel, threatening to kill them if they did not submit. The patriots were enraged and organized in September 1780 under four men, including William Campbell. They marched to

*Continued on page 5*



## *A New Year Begins At The Historical Society Library*



*Cousins Patty Schroeder of Discovery Bay, California, and Betty Ramming of Hinton, Oklahoma, spent a week at the Historical Society library in September researching their McNew and related family roots.*

The Historical Society library recorded 553 visitors in 2019. 43.6% of those visitors were from outside the Commonwealth, and 20.8% were from Virginia but outside Washington County. Only 35.6% of the total indicated they were from Washington County. The library's economic impact in our community is significant, with meals, hotel rooms and other spending.

We carry over 7,000 books, 180,000 digital images and over one million indexed records, many of which are not available online. We also provide free access to Ancestry.com and Fold3.com. In January the Board approved the addition of the popular Newspapers.com subscription at no additional charge to the public.

**The library will open again for regular hours (10 am to 4 pm) on Tuesday, March 3.** If you haven't had a tour of our new facility, we hope you'll drop by for a visit!

### Continued from page 4

confront Ferguson's troops at the Battle of Kings Mountain in South Carolina on October 7, 1780.

Israel was seriously wounded in the battle after taking a bullet in his thigh. Instead of staying in South Carolina with other wounded Patriots, Israel "desired



*Joella Johnson Barbour, Black's Fort Chapter DAR and David Wayne Snodgrass, Colorado SAR*

to be taken as far as Dutch Mountain" so he could go home to Virginia. Fellow soldier John Scott and two others took him by wagon as far as they could<sup>4</sup>.

At the time of the Battle of Kings Mountain, Israel was engaged to marry Anne Crawford. It is hard to imagine what

she must have gone through waiting for word of her fiancé. Israel did finally return home from the Battle of Kings Mountain and they were married on April 20,

1781. Israel and Anne had seven children and lived out their lives in Hayters Gap Virginia.

Thanks to the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution and the support and preservation provided by the HSWCV, Abraham and Israel Hayter's graves will be known as the final resting place of two Patriots of the American Revolution.



*Representatives from Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution brought wreaths*

<sup>1</sup> John T Humphrey "Pennsylvania Births 1644-1765"

<sup>2</sup> *Colonial and Revolutionary Families of Pennsylvania* Vol. II p. 1148

<sup>3</sup> "Maryland Historical Magazine" Vol XI #1 March 1916 p50-52

<sup>4</sup> "Pension Application of John Scott S32509", McLean County Illinois (Transcribed by Will Graves)

## *Donations August 16, 2019 - January 13, 2020*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Washington Co., VA Will Book 2, 1791-1806               | Jack Hockett, Dover, DE                   |
| Washington Co., VA Will Book 3, 1806-1812               |   |
| The Scroll, 1940, Wm. King High School, Abingdon, VA    | Brett Compton, Bristol, VA                |
| White Cap, 1942, JMH Nursing School, Abingdon, VA       |   |
| 16 Damascus Times newspapers, 2012, Damascus, VA        | Eleanor Grasselli, Damascus, VA           |
| 1937 Washington County Soil Map                         |   |
| 1 Camp Glenrochie 1945, 1946-1947 Tournament Cup Trophy |   |
| 6 VHS/VCR Tapes of Abingdon History                     | Jennifer Wagner, Meadowview, VA           |
| A Trip Through American History                         |   |
| Hassinger Lumber Company                                |   |
| Miscellaneous Papers                                    |   |
| The Mace (Snodgrass Family)                             | Wayne Snodgrass,<br>Greenwood Village, CO |
| Issues to complete the Historical Society's Collection  |   |
| Old papers/pictures                                     | Patricia Beltz, Abingdon, VA              |
| Miscellaneous papers, newspapers, magazines             | Michael C. Wood, Robertsdale, AL          |
| Minister's Returns, 1785-1832, Washington County, VA    | William Wheeler                           |
| Washington County, VA Marriages, 1881-1890              |   |
| 1 George N. Wertz photo                                 | Bobby McConnell, Orlando, FL              |
| 1 J. M. Connor photo                                    |   |
| Notable Southern Families-The Crockett Family Book      | Jennifer Ferreira, Abingdon, VA           |
| White Cap, 1964 - JMH Nursing School                    | Helen Bryan, Abingdon, VA                 |
| Outline Map of Virginia with Counties                   | John Gregory, Emory, VA                   |
| The Wreck of the Old 97                                 |   |
| The Virginia Creeper Trail from Discover America        | Bob Buchanan, Berkeley, CA                |
| Miscellaneous Papers of interest to Abingdon            | Nanci King, Knoxville, TN                 |
| The Sphinx, 1948 - Emory and Henry College, Emory, VA   | Anonymous                                 |
| The Midget, 1956 - Wm. King High School, Abingdon, VA   |   |
| The Virginian, 1953 - Virginia High School, Bristol, VA |   |
| 8 Court House Chairs and County Table                   | David Foster, Abingdon, VA                |

### *Monetary Contributions*

*August 16, 2019—January 13, 2020*

|                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sandra Hood              | Pawley's Island, SC   |
| Betty A. Nail Ramming    | Discovery Bay, CA     |
| Carolyn C. Ryburn        | Glade Spring, VA      |
| Sharon P. Steele-Smith   | Warm Springs, GA      |
| Larry Kelley             | Richmond, KY          |
| Edwin F. Brobeck         | Solon, OH             |
| Suzanne Wilmeth Anderson | Cheyenne, WY          |
| Steve Wilmeth            | Longview, TX          |
| Carl Bergstrom           | Ashland, MA           |
| Wayne Snodgrass          | Greenwood Village, CO |
| Karen Northup            | Abingdon, VA          |
| Barbara and Larry Pendry | North Wilkesboro, NC  |

### *"Conversation" Sponsorships*

|                                      |                                |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
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| Food City                            | Farris Funeral Home            |
| Rick and Susan Humphreys             | Janet and Herbert McClellan    |
| Emmitt Yeary                         | Joella Johnson Barbour         |
| Foxglove Antiques & Etc.             | Katbird's Wine & Gourmet, Inc. |
| Jerry's Signs and Awnings            | Kathy and Rees Shearer         |
| Washington County Public Schools     | Kiser Furniture                |
| Dr. Brian and Athena Douts           | Mark Rogers Hagy               |
| Carol Hawthorne-Taylor               | Sandra Coomes Darden           |
| Walter and Rose Ann Jenny            | Mark Ledford                   |





At Emory & Henry College and Patrick Henry High School



Sons of Liberty on stage



Dinner at Abingdon Vineyard  
Dinner at Abingdon Vineyard



SAR Color Guard and Muster Ground Musick



At Abingdon High School

Page 8: At Abingdon Elementary School



SAR President Garrett Jackson presents honorary memberships

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*At Abingdon Elementary, Mr. Jefferson taught the boys and girls how to bow and curtsy.  
One young man named the first seven presidents for him, to the amazement of his classmates.  
They all knew he drafted the Declaration of Independence, but couldn't believe how long it took for him  
to arrive in Abingdon on horseback.*



# Henry and Jefferson Tour Washington County

Historical Society of Washington County, Virginia

276-623-8337  
office@hswcv.org


Tues. - Fri. 10 am - 4 pm  
Sat. 11 am - 4 pm

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