

**Board of Historic Resources Quarterly Meeting  
13 December 2018, 9:30 AM**

Agenda items:

--Sponsor Markers - Diversity

--Sponsor Markers

--Sponsor-Funded Replacement Markers

--Proposed Changes to Marker Criteria document

**Sponsor Markers - Diversity**

**1.) African American Banjoists**

**Sponsor:** Appomattox 1865 Foundation

**Locality:** Appomattox County

**Proposed Location:** Route 24, Appomattox Wayside

**Sponsor Contact:** David Wooldridge, [david\\_wooldridge@nps.gov](mailto:david_wooldridge@nps.gov); Eileen Huffman, [eileenmaxpro@gmail.com](mailto:eileenmaxpro@gmail.com)

**Original text:**

**Unknown Black Banjoists**

Somewhere near here lived the unknown black musicians from whom Joel Sweeney learned to play the banjo. One account claims “a coach driver who was a prince in Africa,” taught Sweeney the banjo while another credits the enslaved “Uncle Eph” with teaching Sweeney to play. Though their identities remain a mystery, these musicians and their continuation of their African rooted musical traditions helped to give birth to what would become the diverse world of American popular music.

**77 words/ 481 characters**

**Edited text:**

**African American Banjoists**

West Africans developed the forerunners of the modern banjo. Free and enslaved Africans in the Americas later made similar stringed instruments, typically of animal hides, gourds, wood, and gut or horsehair. Black musicians who lived near here, whose identities are now unknown, taught the banjo to Joel Walker Sweeney (ca. 1810-1860), a local white musician who brought

international fame to the banjo and himself. The banjo, in modified form, became a mainstay of American popular culture by the end of the 19th century. By drawing on their musical traditions, this region's African American banjoists shaped the diverse world of American music.

**101 words/ 647 characters**

**Sources:**

David D. Wooldridge, "The Sweeneys are Indeed a Wonder!!": The Banjo from Africa to Appomattox," *Lynch's Ferry* (Spring/Summer 2012).

Bob Carlin, *The Birth of the Banjo: Joel Walker Sweeney and Early Minstrelsy* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2002).

Phillip F. Gura and James F. Bollman, *America's Instrument: The Banjo in the Nineteenth Century* (Chapel Hill and London: The University of North Carolina Press, 1999).

Laurent DuBois, *The Banjo: America's African Instrument* (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 2016).

"The Banjo in Virginia: An Exhibit Produced by the Blue Ridge Institute & Museum, Ferrum College"

Sarah Meredith, "With a Banjo on Her Knee: Gender, Race, Class, and the American Classical Banjo Tradition, 1880-1915," (Ph.D. diss., Florida State University, 2003).

**2.) Midlothian Elementary School**

**Sponsor:** Audrey Ross and Deja Williams

**Locality:** Chesterfield County

**Proposed Location:** 13801 Westfield Road, Midlothian

**Sponsor Contact:** Audrey Ross, [xavian777@live.com](mailto:xavian777@live.com); Deja Williams, [ajedelizabeth@gmail.com](mailto:ajedelizabeth@gmail.com)

**Original text:**

**Midlothian Elementary School**

In 1866, the colored population began receiving a formal education at the First African Baptist Church of Coalfield (Mid-Lothian), located in the Mid-Lothian Coal Pits. After the church was destroyed by fire in 1877, Midlothian Elementary School, was built as a log building on land belonging to First Baptist Church of Midlothian located on Westfield Rd. The land was conveyed to the school by the church Trustees Robert Scott, W. T. Byrd, Williams Dabney

Lovings, and Cornelius Mimms. Cornelius Mimms was a licensed teacher and served as the first black on the Board of Supervisors. The schoolhouse was replaced before 1923, by a 3-room building made possible by meeting a matching grant by Julius Rosenwald, and was located across the street from the church. In 1946, the brick building adjacent to the school property, and currently located on Westfield Rd, was built for negroes to attend until it was closed in 1969 and renamed Watkins Annex. Midlothian Elementary served the students from the communities of Midlothian Hallsboro, Mt. Nebo, Robious, Spring Creek, and Brown Grove.

**173 words/ 1,084 characters**

**Edited text:**

### **Midlothian Elementary School**

First African Baptist Church of Coalfield, which stood about a mile southeast of here, opened a school for African Americans in 1866. After a fire in 1877, the congregation moved here and renamed itself First Baptist Church of Midlothian. Church trustees conveyed land to the local school board for the construction of Midlothian Elementary School on this site. The first frame schoolhouse was replaced in 1925-1926 with the assistance of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, which helped build more than 5,000 schools and supporting structures for black students between 1917 and 1932. The school occupied a new brick building here in 1948; it closed in 1969, when county schools were fully desegregated.

**111 words/ 695 characters**

**Sources:**

Chesterfield County Deed Book 75:49.

Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, letter dated 11 Sept. 1866.

*Richmond Daily Dispatch*, 17 Apr., 9 Nov. 1877.

*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 20 Nov. 1947, 27 April 1948, 22 Feb. 1961, 15 Sept. 1968, 9 Feb. 1970.

Fisk University Rosenwald Fund Card File Database (<http://rosenwald.fisk.edu>)

*First Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction* (Richmond, 1871).

“Remembering the Past, Honoring the Present, and Envisioning the Future: 168th Church Anniversary” (First Baptist Church of Midlothian, 2014).

Bettie Woodson Weaver, *Midlothian: Highlights of its History* (Midlothian, VA, 1994).

Barbara Irene Burtchett, "A History of the Village of Midlothian, Virginia, Emphasizing the Period 1835-1935," (MA Thesis, University of Richmond, 1983).

### **3.) Rosalie Slaughter Morton, M.D. (1872-1968)**

**Sponsor:** George Hurt, MD

**Locality:** Lynchburg

**Proposed Location:** corner of 7th and Clay Streets

**Sponsor Contact:** Jane White, [janebaberwhite@gmail.com](mailto:janebaberwhite@gmail.com); Dr. George A. Hurt,

[cavallr@lynchburg.net](mailto:cavallr@lynchburg.net)

**Original text:**

#### **Rosalie Slaughter Morton, M.D. (1872-1968)**

Rosalie Slaughter Morton lived on the site of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in her youth. A graduate of the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania, with additional study in Berlin, Paris, London and India, she was a pioneer in the fields of surgery and women's health. Morton, a humanitarian, saw active service in the French and Salonica fronts in World War I and received nine decorations representing the French, Serbian and American governments. She organized the first work of the American Medical Association for disease prevention under a public health program, and founded the American Women's Hospital and the international Serbian Educational Conference.

**102 words/ 663 characters**

**Edited text:**

#### **Rosalie Slaughter Morton, M.D. (1872-1968)**

The childhood home of Rosalie S. Morton, surgeon and public health advocate, stood on the present site of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Morton graduated from the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1897 and trained in Europe and Asia. She led a nationwide public-health initiative for the American Medical Association beginning in 1909. During World War I, Morton worked in field hospitals on the Salonika Front and was a founder of the American Women's Hospitals service, which opened its first hospital in 1918 in France. She established the International Serbian Educational Committee in 1919. Morton received decorations for distinguished service from the governments of France and Serbia.

**107 words/ 699 characters**

**Sources:**

Rosalie S. Morton, *A Woman Surgeon: The Life and Work of Rosalie Slaughter Morton* (New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1937).

Rosalie S. Morton, Social Security Applications and Claims Index.

Rosalie Slaughter, U.S. passport application, Sept. 1898.

Sanborn Maps, 1885 and 1890.

Lynchburg City Directory, 1875-1876, 1885-1886.

Lynchburg City Deed Book, 30 Sept. 1887.

U.S. Census, 1880.

*Lynchburg News*, 6, 8 May 1968.

*New-York Tribune*, 7 April, 21 July, 11 Nov. 1909, 3 March 1918.

*Washington Herald*, 2 Feb. 1919.

*Miami Herald*, 16 June 1929.

“Developing International Minds,” *The Survey* (15 July 1922).

M. Gottlieb correspondence with Amber Dushman of the American Medical Association, Nov. 2018.

*Minutes of the AMA General Assembly*, 1909.

American Women’s Hospitals records finding aid:

[http://dla.library.upenn.edu/dla/pacscl/detail.html?id=PACSCL\\_DUCOM\\_wmsc010xml](http://dla.library.upenn.edu/dla/pacscl/detail.html?id=PACSCL_DUCOM_wmsc010xml)

Janet Shaffer, “Dr. Rosalie Slaughter Morton—Woman Pioneer in Medicine,” *Lynch’s Ferry* (Spring/Summer 1999): 23-30.

Ellen S. More, “‘A Certain Restless Ambition’: Women Physicians and World War I,” *American Quarterly*, vol. 41, no. 4 (Dec. 1989): 636-660.

S. Allen Chambers Jr., *Lynchburg: An Architectural History* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1981).

## **Sponsor Markers**

## **1.) Nuclear Ship *Savannah***

**Sponsor:** BWXT

**Locality:** Lynchburg

**Proposed Location:** 800 Main St.

**Sponsor Contact:** Jane White, [janebaberwhite@gmail.com](mailto:janebaberwhite@gmail.com); John A. Fees, [johnfees@me.com](mailto:johnfees@me.com)

### **Original text:**

#### **Babcock & Wilcox—Nuclear Propulsion for NS Savannah**

The NS Savannah was the world's first nuclear powered commercial merchant ship for cargo and passengers. As part of President Dwight Eisenhower's Atoms for Peace Project, the ship's nuclear propulsion system was designed and manufactured by Babcock & Wilcox. Design work was done nearby at the Kemper Street office and manufacturing was at the Mt. Athos plant. The ship's first crew was trained at Lynchburg College. During the ship's years of service 1962-1972, the NS Savannah traveled 450,000 miles visiting 45 foreign and 32 domestic ports, and was visited by 1.4 million people. The ship is now a museum and a National Historic Landmark.

**103 words/ 642 characters**

### **Edited text:**

#### **Nuclear Ship *Savannah***

The NS *Savannah* was the world's first nuclear-powered merchant ship. Authorized in 1956 during Pres. Dwight D. Eisenhower's Atoms for Peace initiative, its purpose was to demonstrate to the world the safe and peaceful use of atomic power. The Babcock & Wilcox Company designed *Savannah's* nuclear propulsion system at its Kemper Street office nearby and built the system at its Mount Athos facility four miles east of here. The ship's first crew trained at Lynchburg College. From 1962 to 1970, *Savannah* traveled more than 450,000 miles, stopped at 45 foreign and 32 domestic ports, and received more than 1.5 million visitors. The ship was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1991.

**111 words/ 688 characters**

### **Sources:**

Nuclear Ship Savannah National Historic Landmark nomination (1991).

"Welcome Aboard The World's First Nuclear-Powered Merchant Ship" (U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration).

"Nuclear Ship Savannah," <https://www.marad.dot.gov/ships-and-shipping/n-s-savannah-program-home/>

*Lynchburg News*, 17 Feb. 1962.

*Charleston News and Courier*, 27 Sept. 1958.

*San Diego Union*, 21 Dec. 1958, 24 July 1959.

*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 26 June 1959, 17 July 1961, 18 Jan. 1962.

*Dallas Morning News*, 21 July 1959.

*Science*, 26 June 1964.

*Boston Herald*, 24 Sept. 1972.

*Baltimore Sun*, 31 July 2011.

Tammy Thueringer and Justin Parkinson, "The Ship that Totally Failed to Change the World," *BBC News Magazine*, 25 July 2014.

O.H. "Doc" Jones and Diane Popek-Jones, *Atoms for Peace: Honoring the Pioneers of the Nuclear Industry at Mount Athos* (Roanoke, 2001).

John W. Landis, "Why the Babcock & Wilcox Company Chose Lynchburg," *Lynch's Ferry* (Spring/Summer 2007): 20-30.

Matt Gottlieb, "Atomic Wonder," *Virginia Living* (16 March 2015).

<http://www.ns-savannah.org/nssa.pl?page=virtualtour>

Erhard W. Loehler, "Nuclear Ship Savannah: Public Information Meeting, Canton (Baltimore), Maryland, July 9, 2008" (U.S. Maritime Administration, 2008).

## **2.) Miller & Rhoads**

**Sponsor:** Hilton Richmond Downtown

**Locality:** Richmond

**Proposed Location:** 501 East Broad St.

**Sponsor Contact:** John Cario, [john.cario2@hilton.com](mailto:john.cario2@hilton.com)

**Original text:**

**Miller & Rhoads**

In 1885 three Pennsylvania Men; Miller, Rhoads, and Gerhart established this store, originally at [117 E. Broad St.](#), later moving to the current site in 1888. In 1935, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the store had over one million square feet of floor space selling everything from Fashions to Home Furnishings. “Meet me under the clock” was a common term for meeting at Miller & Rhoads. With stores in Charlottesville, Lynchburg, and Roanoke this location also featured the famous Tea Room, serving historic dishes to many celebrities; Pearl Bailey, Erma Bombeck, and Art Linkletter. After its closing in 1989, the facility reopened in 2009 as a mixed-use facility featuring the Hilton Hotel, and private residences.

**113 words/ 706 characters**

#### **Edited text:**

#### **Miller & Rhoads**

Pennsylvanians Linton Miller, Webster Rhoads, and Simon Gerhart opened a dry goods shop several blocks west of here in 1885. Later known as Miller & Rhoads, the business moved here in 1888, became an upscale department store, and ultimately expanded to nearly half a million square feet of floor space. Miller & Rhoads, along with its friendly rival Thalhimers, anchored Richmond’s retail district and drew shoppers from across the region. After African Americans picketed and boycotted downtown stores, Miller & Rhoads fully desegregated by 1961. The company opened more than 20 stores in Virginia and North Carolina before closing in 1990. This building reopened as a mixed-use facility in 2009.

**110 words/ 697 characters**

#### **Sources:**

Webster S. Rhoads, Jr., *Miller & Rhoads: Seventy-five Years of Growth* (The Newcomen Society in North America, 1960).

*Fifty Years of Progressive Merchandising* (Richmond: Miller & Rhoads, 1935).

Earle Dunford and George Bryson, *Under the Clock: The Story of Miller & Rhoads* (Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2008).

<http://www.thedepartmentstoremuseum.org/2010/11/miller-rhoads-richmond-virginia.html>

Kristin Terbush Thrower, “The Miller & Rhoads Department Store: A Social History of a Richmond Institution,” (MA Thesis, Virginia Commonwealth University, 1999).

Elizabeth Thalhimer Smart, “Thalhimers Department Store: Story, History, and Theory,” (MA Thesis, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2005).

*Richmond Dispatch*, 11 Oct. 1885, 9, 14 Feb., 9 March 1890, 21 Apr. 1922.

*Richmond Daily Times*, 14, 25 Oct. 1888.

*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 27 Apr. 1917, 23 Apr., 26 Nov. 1922, 14 Oct., 15 Dec. 1923, 17 May, 26 June 1928, 17 Feb. 1935, 25 March 1953, 31 Jan., 23 Feb., 1 Sept. 1960, 4 July 1965, 27 Oct. 1966, 12 Jan. 1975, 6 Jan. 1990, 7 July 1991.

*Norfolk Journal and Guide*, 16 Apr. 1960.

*Manufacturers Record*, 27 Apr. 1922.

*Jet*, 13 March 1980.

*New York Times*, 13 Dec. 1989.

### **3.) Newmarket Racecourse**

**Sponsor:** Pegram Johnson III

**Locality:** Petersburg or Prince George County

**Proposed Location:** Route 36 just south of track site

**Sponsor Contact:** Pegram Johnson III, [wpjoh3@gmail.com](mailto:wpjoh3@gmail.com)

#### **Original text:**

#### **New Market Racecourse**

In early Virginia, horse racing was an obsession. Informal horse racing in Virginia began almost from the beginning of the colony. In time fine breeding became a necessity to win large stakes in the gambling. Not surprisingly Newmarket Racecourse was named for one of the great British racing centers. British horses were often imported for their blood lines as well as trainers and jockeys who came along. The Newmarket Racecourse Jockey Club established rules of the sport in 1803. Newmarket was only a short distance east of Petersburg. Petersburg, like Richmond, flourished. Newmarket track drew travelers not only for betting on horses but enjoying hospitality in Petersburg in a variety of entertainments with hotels, taverns, theaters, bawdy houses and such like. In 1834 Otway P. Hare became the final proprietor of the racing track for 25 years, the view of his mansion surveying the track, the stables, the gardens with a river nearby. Thirty years later, in June 1864, Union troops charged across the racetrack. Union Fort Steadman earthworks were positioned nearby to the racetrack. After the Civil War there were occasional races but the glory days were clearly over. Today no trace remains of the eggshell shaped track upon which ran many pedigreed horses. Some extraordinary horses like Sir Archy have bloodlines represented today.

**215 words/ 1,346 characters**

**Edited text:****Newmarket Racecourse**

Newmarket Racecourse, a one-mile oval built just north of here by 1793, was among the foremost tracks in the nation when horse racing was America's most popular sport. Races were significant social events that attracted competitors and spectators from great distances. Champions Sir Archy, Boston, and Planet raced at Newmarket, and prominent horseman William R. Johnson, known as the "Napoleon of the Turf," based his stables here. Many of the track's grooms, exercise riders, jockeys, and trainers were enslaved African Americans. During the Civil War, fighting took place near the racecourse on 18 June 1864 and 25 March 1865. The track declined after the war and ceased to exist by 1903.

**111 words/ 691 characters**

**Sources:**

*North-Carolina Journal*, 1 June 1795.

*Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* 40, Part 2, p. 666; 42, Part 2, p. 178, 563, 584.

Benjamin Henry Latrobe, *The Journal of Latrobe* (New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1905).

*American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine*, vol. 1, no. 1 (Sept. 1829).

*Porter's Spirit of the Times*, 30 May 1857.

*Wallace's Monthly* (June, Oct. 1877).

*Richmond Daily Dispatch*, 28 Jan. 1854, 22 March 1877, 8 Feb. 1903, 12 April 1910, 30 Jan. 1916.

*Richmond Times*, 16 Aug. 1900, 1 Dec. 1901.

*Norfolk Virginian*, 16 July 1896.

*Norfolk Virginian-Pilot*, 27 Sept. 1900, 15 May 1901, 22 Aug. 1902.

*Daily Racing Form*, 23 Jan. 1923.

Edward A. Wyatt, IV, "Newmarket of the Virginia Turf," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 2d ser., vol. 17, no. 4 (Oct. 1937), 481-495.

W.G.S., "Racing in Colonial Virginia," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, vol. 2, no. 3 (Jan. 1895): 293-305).

John Hervey, *Racing in America, 1665-1865* (New York: The Jockey Club, 1944).

Julie A. Campbell, *The Horse in Virginia: An Illustrated History* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2010).

Virginia C. Johnson and Barbara Crookshanks, *Virginia Horse Racing: Triumphs of the Turf* (Charleston, SC: History Press, 2008).

James G. Scott and Edward A. Wyatt, IV, *Petersburg's Story: A History* (Petersburg, VA, 1960).

A. Wilson Greene, *Civil War Petersburg: Confederate City in the Crucible of War* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2006).

"Planet," National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame (<https://www.racingmuseum.org/hall-of-fame/planet>)

"Sir Archy," National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame (<https://www.racingmuseum.org/hall-of-fame/sir-archy>)

"Boston," National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame (<https://www.racingmuseum.org/hall-of-fame/boston>)

<http://www.petersburgproject.org/hare-house.html>

<http://randomthoughtsonhistory.blogspot.com/2017/04/finding-petersburgs-new-market-race.html>

#### **4.) The Cavalier Hotel**

**Sponsor:** Cavalier Associates, LLC

**Locality:** Virginia Beach

**Proposed Location:** 4200 Atlantic Ave.

**Sponsor Contact:** Kayla Halberg, [kayla@commonwealthpreservationgroup.com](mailto:kayla@commonwealthpreservationgroup.com); Bob Howard, [Bob.Howard@goldkeyphr.com](mailto:Bob.Howard@goldkeyphr.com)

#### **Original text:**

##### **The Cavalier Hotel**

Overlooking the Atlantic Ocean since 1927, The Cavalier Hotel transformed Virginia Beach from a small seaside town to a renowned resort. A rail line spur serving the hotel brought visitors

from across the country, including notable figures like F. Scott Fitzgerald, Judy Garland, and several U.S. Presidents. Live music was broadcast nationwide from its radio station, which was the first to welcome home Charles Lindbergh from his transatlantic flight. During World War II, the Navy commandeered the hotel as a radar training school. Designed by Neff & Thompson, the Jeffersonian inspired Classical Revival building embodies the luxury of the “Roaring Twenties.”

**101 words/ 663 characters**

**Edited text:**

### **The Cavalier Hotel**

The Cavalier Hotel, completed in 1927, is emblematic of Virginia Beach’s transformation from small town to major resort during the Roaring Twenties. The hotel’s luxurious accommodations attracted visitors from across the country, including several U.S. presidents. Its 500-watt radio station, WSEA, was the first to report on the return of Charles Lindbergh to the United States after his transatlantic flight in 1927. The Cavalier Beach Club regularly hosted big band performances featuring international stars. During World War II, the U.S. Navy operated a radar training school at the hotel. The Classical Revival building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**102 words/ 680 characters**

**Sources:**

Cavalier Hotel, National Register of Historic Places nomination form (2014).

*Norfolk Virginian-Pilot*, 4, 5, 8, 10 May, 11 June 1927.

*Washington Post*, 19 June 1927.

*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 8 April 1927, 2 June 1945.

Jonathan Mark Souther, “Twixt Ocean and Pines: The Seaside Resort at Virginia Beach, 1880-1930,” (MA Thesis, University of Richmond, 1996).

Anthony Rudel, *Hello, Everybody! The Dawn of American Radio* (Orlando: Harcourt, 2008).

Anthony J. Stanonis, *Faith in Bikinis: Politics and Leisure in the Coastal South since the Civil War* (Athens and London: University of Georgia Press, 2014).

Stephen S. Mansfield, *Princess Anne County and Virginia Beach: A Pictorial History* (Norfolk and Virginia Beach: The Donning Company, 1989).

## **5.) Woodlawn Cultural Landscape Historic District**

**Sponsor:** FHWA-EFLHD

**Locality:** Fairfax County

**Proposed Location:** U.S. Route 1, within Fort Belvoir

**Sponsor Contact:** Ryan Kimberley, [Ryan.Kimberley@dot.gov](mailto:Ryan.Kimberley@dot.gov)

### **Original text:**

#### **Woodlawn Cultural Landscape Historic District**

Spread over 140 rolling acres, this historic district contains over 200 years of history, with significant buildings ranging from the antebellum Woodlawn mansion to architect Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House. Originally part of George Washington's estate, the Woodlawn acreage was purchased by Quakers who sold tracts to like-minded farmers, including free blacks. Woodlawn Quaker Meetinghouse and Burial Ground and Grand View are remnants of this past. Other notable resources include: Otis Tufton Mason House, Woodlawn Baptist Church Cemetery, George Washington's Gristmill, and Sharpe Stable Complex. Threatened by demolition, the Pope-Leighey House was moved here in 1964.

**96 words/ 683 characters**

### **Edited text:**

#### **Woodlawn Cultural Landscape Historic District**

This 152-acre historic district was part of George Washington's Mount Vernon estate. In 1799 Washington gave the Woodlawn tract to his step-granddaughter Eleanor Parke Custis and her husband, Lawrence Lewis. Northern Quakers bought the property in 1846 and sold parcels to white and free African American farmers. The historic district includes the Lewises' Woodlawn mansion (ca. 1805), the Quakers' meetinghouse and burial ground, and a cemetery established by Woodlawn Methodist Church, an African American congregation. Also preserved here are George Washington's gristmill, reconstructed in 1933, and the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Pope-Leighey House, completed in 1941 and moved here in 1965.

**100 words/ 698 characters**

### **Sources:**

Woodlawn Cultural Landscape Historic District, National Register of Historic Places nomination form (2018).

Woodlawn Quaker Meetinghouse, National Register of Historic Places nomination form (2009).

## **6.) Thomas Pettus (1712-1780)**

**Sponsor:** William W. Pettus IV

**Locality:** Lunenburg County

**Proposed Location:** Route 634 near the Middle Fork of the Meherrin River

**Sponsor Contact:** William W. Pettus IV, [wwpiv@aol.com](mailto:wwpiv@aol.com)

### **Original text:**

#### **Thomas Pettus**

Nearby stood the home of Thomas Pettus (1712-1780), vestryman of Cumberland Parish in 1759-1779, member of the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1769-1775, and member of the Virginia House of Delegates representing Lunenburg Co. in 1777-1778. After Gov. Lord Dunmore dismissed the Virginia Assembly, Thomas was among the 89 former burgesses in Virginia who signed a resolution against the importation of British manufactures in 1774. Thomas's participation in the meeting helped set Virginia on its course towards the American Revolution two years later.

**83 words/ 551 characters**

### **Edited text:**

#### **Thomas Pettus (1712-1780)**

Nearby stood the home of Thomas Pettus, vestryman of Cumberland Parish (1758-1779) and member of the Virginia House of Burgesses (1769-1775) and the Virginia House of Delegates (1777-1778). After royal governor Lord Dunmore dissolved the General Assembly on 26 May 1774, Pettus was among 89 former burgesses who met at the Raleigh Tavern the next day. The participants pledged to boycott most goods imported by the British East India Company and called for a congress of the colonies. Pettus also attended Virginia's first Revolutionary Convention in Aug. 1774, which elected delegates to the First Continental Congress and resolved to cease trade with Britain if grievances were not redressed.

**108 words/ 694 characters**

### **Sources:**

Landon C. Bell, *Cumberland Parish: Lunenburg County, Virginia 1746-1816; Vestry Book 1746-1816* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1974 (reprint)).

Landon C. Bell, *The Old Free State* (Richmond: The William Byrd Press, Inc., 1927).

William Walker Pettus IV, *Thomas Petyous of Norwich, England, and His Pettus Descendants in England and Virginia*, vol. I (Baltimore: Otter Bay Books, 2011).

*Virginia Gazette*, 21 June 1780.

*Journals of the House of Burgesses*, 1766-1776.

Cynthia Miller Leonard, comp., *The General Assembly of Virginia* (Richmond, 1978).

William J. Van Schreeven, comp., and Robert L. Scribner, ed., *Revolutionary Virginia, The Road to Independence*, vol. 1 (Charlottesville, University Press of Virginia, 1975).

Richard R. Beeman, *The Evolution of the Southern Backcountry: A Case Study of Lunenburg County, Virginia, 1746-1832* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1984).

## **7.) Mason Locke Weems and George Washington**

**Sponsor:** Mary Elizabeth Conover Foundation

**Locality:** Dumfries

**Proposed Location:** 3944 Cameron St.

**Sponsor Contact:** Lawrence M. Nelson, [strategicalliances@conoversystems.org](mailto:strategicalliances@conoversystems.org)

**Original text:**

### **George Washington and the Cherry Tree**

The famous mythical story of George Washington and the cherry tree stands at the forefront of his transformation into an American icon. Mason Locke Weems (1759-1825), more commonly known as Parson Weems, was Washington's first biographer. In 1806 he included the cherry tree story in the fifth edition of his biography entitled, "The Life of Washington." In the story six-year old George uses his new hatchet to cut his father's prized cherry tree. When queried by this father, George admits it is his fault and says, "I can't tell a lie..." At the time of his writing the biography Weems owned this house, now the Weems-Botts Museum.

**107 words/ 634 characters**

**Edited text:**

### **Mason Locke Weems and George Washington**

Mason Locke Weems (1759-1825), minister, bookseller, and writer, owned a half-acre lot here from 1798 until 1802. Weems published the first edition of his most influential work, later known as *The Life of Washington*, in 1800. Widely distributed across the United States, Weems's book shaped the heroic image of George Washington in the mind of the American public. The

book's best-known scene, in which a young Washington cuts his father's prized cherry tree with a hatchet, appeared in the fifth edition (1806). In this mythical story, Washington admits fault when confronted and says, "I can't tell a lie," reflecting the virtue that, according to Weems, was the foundation of his greatness.

**111 words/ 693 characters**

**Sources:**

Emily Ellsworth Ford Skeel, ed., *Mason Locke Weems, His Works and Ways* (New York, 1929), 3 vols.

Prince William County Deed Book 2:102, 288.

Lewis Leary, *The Book-Peddling Parson* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1984).

Philip Levy, *Where the Cherry Tree Grew: The Story of Ferry Farm, George Washington's Boyhood Home* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2013).

<https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/parson-weems/>

<https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/cherry-tree-myth/>

Christopher Harris, "Mason Locke Weems's Life of Washington: The Making of a Bestseller," *Southern Literary Journal*, vol. 19, no. 2 (spring 1987): 92-101.

Edward G. Lengel, *Inventing George Washington: America's Founder, in Myth and Memory* (New York: HarperCollins, 2011).

Jack Thomas Masterson, "Cherries from the Tree: National Identity and the Hero Construction of George Washington, 1799-1829," (MA Thesis, College of William and Mary, 2016).

Jill Acree, "The Sorrows of Parson Weems: His Life and Legacy," (Ph.D. diss., Claremont Graduate University, 2007).

Weems-Botts House, National Register of Historic Places nomination (1975).

**Sponsor-Funded Replacement Markers**

**1.) Fotheringay K-67**

**Sponsor:** Shawsville Museum  
**Locality:** Montgomery County

**Original Text:**

**Fotheringay**

Fotheringay was the home of George Hancock (1754-1820), a colonel in the Virginia Line during the Revolutionary War and aide-de-camp to Count Casimir Pulaski. He later served in both the Virginia House of Delegates and in the U.S. Congress, and was the father-in-law of explorer William Clark. Fotheringay, an elegant expression of the Federal style, was built about 1796 with a steep mountain as a dramatic backdrop. Fotheringay's interior woodwork, particularly its chimneypieces and doorways, features delicately carved motifs copied from the pattern books of English architect William Pain.

**Edited Text:**

**Fotheringay**

Fotheringay was the home of George Hancock (1754-1820), an officer during the Revolutionary War and later a colonel in the Botetourt County militia. He served in the Virginia House of Delegates (1784-1787, 1792) and the U.S. House of Representatives (1793-1797). His daughter Judith (Julia) married the explorer William Clark. Hancock purchased this property in 1796 and built the Federal-style house ca. 1815. A wing was added in the 1950s. Fotheringay's 19th-century interior woodwork, particularly its chimneypieces and doorways, features delicately carved motifs copied from the pattern books of English architect William Pain. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**103 words/ 696 characters**

**2.) Fort Lewis K-74**

**Sponsor:** Fort Lewis Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution  
**Locality:** Roanoke County

**Original Text:**

**Colonial Mansion Site**

The home of James Campbell, a leading colonial pioneer, who settled here in 1742, stood on this site. On his land Fort Lewis was built in 1756.

### **Edited Text:**

#### **Fort Lewis**

Archaeological evidence indicates that Native Americans lived in this area for more than 10,000 years. James Campbell, one of the first Europeans to settle here, began acquiring land in 1742. During the Seven Years' War (1756-1763), the Virginia General Assembly authorized the construction of a line of forts to protect the frontier. Fort Lewis, named for Maj. Andrew Lewis, was built on Campbell's property by 1757. The Virginia Regiment, led by Col. William Byrd III, used the fort as a staging ground for expeditions against the Cherokee in present-day Tennessee in 1760 and 1761. Campbell sold his land in 1760, and it became part of an estate known as Fort Lewis.

**111 words/ 669 characters**

### **Proposed Changes to Marker Criteria document**

In 1993, the Board of Historic Resources approved a brief Marker Criteria document outlining the purposes and procedures of the highway marker program. This text (copied below) is printed in DHR's highway marker application form.

In 2016, the board revised this document to recognize the involvement of local public works departments in approving sites and installing markers in towns or cities outside VDOT's right of way.

Now we are asking the board to approve an update that would remove three instances of the word "commemorate" from the text and substitute neutral terms such as "document" and "describe." This change is important because DHR's purpose in erecting markers is *not* to honor, memorialize, or commemorate a subject, but rather to educate and inform the public about a person, place, or event of regional, state, or national importance. Highway markers are not in the same category as monuments, statues, or memorial plaques.

Many dictionary definitions of "commemorate" involve the words "celebrate" or "honor," which is what we are trying to avoid.

The proposed changes are highlighted in yellow in the text below.

## Marker Criteria

(Approved by the Board of Historic Resources, 8 December 1993; revised 17 March 2016)

The state historical highway marker program ~~commemorates~~ *documents* facts, persons, events, and places prominently identified with the history of the nation, state, or region. The text for each proposed marker shall be reviewed and edited by the manager of the marker program and the staff of the Department of Historic Resources and, with the location, shall be approved by the Board of Historic Resources.

No marker shall be erected to commemorate a living person.

In order for an historic event to be eligible for ~~commemoration with~~ a marker, the event must have occurred at least fifty years ago. Likewise, a place or person must have attained its significance at least fifty years ago, although there are exceptions if the event, place, or person is of extraordinary historical significance.

The size and shape of the state marker shall be that presently in use. Only the following shall appear on the marker: the seal of Virginia; identification code; title; text; name of the Department of Historic Resources; and the year the marker was approved.

Markers shall be erected in safe locations, at or close to the places being ~~commemorated~~ *described*, and where they will be visible to the public. When a marker is to be placed in a Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) right-of-way, VDOT shall approve the site and install and maintain the marker. When a marker is to be placed in a locality's right-of-way, the local public works department shall approve the site and install and maintain the marker.