**Board of Historic Resources Quarterly Meeting**

**14 December 2023**

**Sponsor Markers – Diversity**

**1.) Willis Augustus Hodges (1815-1890)**

**Sponsor:** Edna Hendrix

**Locality:** Virginia Beach

**Proposed Location:** near intersection of Singleton Way and S. Witchduck Road

**Sponsor Contact**: Edna Hendrix, [hendrixedna1451@yahoo.com](mailto:hendrixedna1451@yahoo.com)

**Original text:**

**Willis Augustus Hodges (1815-1890)**

Willis Augustus Hodges was born 15 Feb. 1815 in the Blackwater section of Princess Anne County. His parents, Charles and Julia Hodges, were free people of color. Hodges was an outspoken Black abolitionist who frequently traveled outside of Virginia to New York and other northern states. He published “The Ram’s Horn,” an antislavery newspaper. After the Civil War, Hodges was the first Black elected in Princess Anne County, serving as the delegate to the State Constitutional Convention of 1867/68. He was also elected to two terms on the county Board of Supervisors representing the Kempsville Magisterial District. In 1870 he became the first Black to serve as keeper of the Cape Henry Lighthouse.

**113 words/ 701 characters**

**Edited text:**

**Willis Augustus Hodges (1815-1890)**

Willis A. Hodges was born in Princess Anne County to Charles and Julia Hodges, free people of color. He moved between New York and Virginia before the Civil War and became an outspoken abolitionist, cofounding the weekly antislavery newspaper the *Ram’s Horn* in Brooklyn in 1847. In Princess Anne after the war, he opened a school and was a Republican Party leader. The first Black man to win an election in the county, he served in the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1867-68, where he was among the most prominent of its 24 Black members and advocated racial equality. Hodges served two terms on the county Board of Supervisors and was a keeper of the Cape Henry Lighthouse.

**117 words/ 681 characters**

**Sources:**

Willard B. Gatewood, ed., *Free Man of Color: The Autobiography of Willis Augustus Hodges* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1982).

Edna Hawkins Hendrix, *Black History, Our Heritage: Princess Anne County/Virginia Beach, Virginia* (Virginia Beach: self-published, 1998).

Brent Tarter and *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, “Willis A. Hodges (1815–1890),” *Encyclopedia Virginia,* 7 Dec. 2020.

https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/hodges-willis-a-1815-1890.

Luther Porter Jackson, *Negro Office-Holders in Virginia* (Norfolk: Guide Quality Press, 1945).

Richard Hume, “Local Black Leaders during Reconstruction in Virginia,” *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, vol. 103, no. 2 (April 1995).

Norfolk District Record of Lights—Keepers Log Books, US Life Saving Service, Coast Guard, RG 26, National Archives.

Register of Free Negroes, Princess Anne County Court Records.

Princess Anne County Minute Book 42: 67, 151, 198.

*Debates and Proceedings of the Constitutional Convention of the State of Virginia, 1867-1868* (Richmond, 1868).

**2.) The Old Folks Home**

**Sponsor:** Southside Rappahannock Baptist Association

**Locality:** Essex County

**Proposed Location:** U.S. Route 17 (Tidewater Trail), 0.2 miles north of Route 610 (Boston Road), Dunnsville

**Sponsor Contact**: Bessida Cauthorne White, [cauthornewhite@gmail.com](mailto:cauthornewhite@gmail.com)

**Original text:**

**The Old Folks Home**

The Old Folks Home was conceived in 1894 by the Women’s Baptist District Missionary Convention and was operated here for the care of aged destitute black people. Residents, some of whom had been enslaved, were provided life essentials as well as burial under the supervision of a live-in matron and an all-woman trustee board. Funded by churches, individuals, and farm income, the Home was in existence for more than 30 years. It was typical of institutions around the state and nation that first emerged in the late 19th century when communities organized to care for their indigent elderly. Those homes that served the black community faced the ills of racism as well as those of poverty.

**116 words/ 690 characters**

**Edited text:**

**The Old Folks Home**

The Woman’s Baptist District Missionary Convention conceived the Old Folks Home in 1894 and opened it here ca. 1909 to care for aged, destitute Black people, some of whom had been enslaved. Under the supervision of a live-in matron and an all-woman trustee board, residents were afforded life essentials as well as burial. Churches, individual donors, and timber sales provided funds for the Home, which operated for about 30 years. The Home exemplified a nationwide social reform that began late in the 1800s as charitable groups, often led by women, founded residences for the indigent elderly as alternatives to public almshouses. Homes serving Black elders coped with the ills of racism and poverty.

**113 words/ 703 characters**

**Sources:**

Essex County Deed Book 62:319.

*Gloucester Letter*, vol. 11, no. 3 (Nov. 1898).

*Gloucester Messenger*, Nov. 1899.

*West Point News*, 25 June 1915.

*Gloucester Mathews Gazette-Journal*, 6 April 1939.

Minutes of the Woman’s Baptist District Missionary Convention.

W. Edward Robinson, *Historic Sketch of the Southside Rappahannock Baptist Association, the Raikes Sunday School Convention and Women’s Missionary Convention* (Southside Rappahannock Baptist Association, 1927).

*Brief History of the Woman’s Baptist District Missionary Convention* (WBDMC, 1973).

*The Centennial Celebration* (Woman’s Baptist District Missionary Convention, 1982).

Lillian H. McGuire, *Uprooted and Transplanted from Africa to America* (New York: Vantage Press, 1992).

Iris Carlton-LaNey, “Old Folks’ Homes for Blacks During the Progressive Era,” *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare* (Western Michigan University), vol. 16, issue 3, Sept 1989.

Leslie J. Pollard, “Black Beneficial Societies and the Home for Aged and Infirm Colored Persons,” *Phylon* (Clark Atlanta University, 1980).

**3.) Glade Spring School**

**Sponsor:** Remember Us

**Locality:** Washington County

**Proposed Location:** Intersection of Crescent Drive (91) and Azalea Drive, Glade Spring

**Sponsor Contact**: Monroe Preston, [mpreston@centurylink.net](mailto:mpreston@centurylink.net)

**Original text:**

**Legacy and History Booker T Washington, Meredith Stuart and Julius Rosenwald**

Prior to 1922 Black students attended deplorable segregated Glade Spring Color School. Booker T. Washington and Tuskegee Institute created with assistance from Julius Rosenwald Foundation in 1912, a program to educate southern Black students. In 1922, Glade Spring Colored Elementary School opened as the only Rosenwald school in Washington County, Virginia. Native educator Meredith Stuart attended Tuskegee Institute under Washington’s Administration, with personal knowledge promoted a spirit of legacy and history. After integration in 1965 the school became Emory-Glade Community Center continuing to educate, encourage and build self-esteem in southwest Virginia. The Legacy and History of Washington, Stuart and Rosenwald. There were 382 Rosenwald Schools in Virginia, over 5,300 Nationally.

**110 words/ 800 characters**

**Edited text:**

**Glade Spring School**

Glade Spring School was built here in 1921-22 to serve Black children in grades 1-7. This building replaced a deteriorated 19th-century structure. Support for its construction came in part from the Julius Rosenwald Fund, created in 1917 after Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington, head of Tuskegee Institute, had partnered in a school-building campaign. This fund helped construct about 5,000 schools for Black students across the rural South; Glade Spring was the only one of these in Washington Co. Meredith Stuart, born in Glade Spring, attended Tuskegee under Washington’s leadership and taught here. The school closed in 1965 when the county’s schools were desegregated and became a community center.

**108 words/ 703 characters**

**Sources:**

Jerry L. Jones, *Go and Come Again* (Indianapolis: Dog Ear Publishing, 2011).

Rosenwald Schools in Virginia Multiple Property Document (2004).

Fisk University Rosenwald Database

J. Allen Neal, *Bicentennial History of Washington County, Virginia, 1776-1976* (Washington County Bicentennial Commission, 1977).

Rosenwald Schools Architectural Survey, Preservation Virginia.

**Sponsor Markers**

**1.) Cedar Grove**

**Sponsor:** Donald and Diana Hopkins

**Locality:** Rockbridge County

**Proposed Location:** 3795 Maury River Road, Rockbridge Baths

**Sponsor Contact**: Donald Hopkins, [vatxrok@me.com](mailto:vatxrok@me.com)

**Original text:**

**Cedar Grove Mills**

Around 1800, this location at the “Head of Navigation” on the Maury (North) River developed into a transportation hub, boatyard, and market center. A growing local iron industry, which played a key role in the development of this area and Virginia, depended on river transportation. By the 1830s, at this site there was a thriving community named Cedar Grove Mills which had a gristmill, a general store, warehouses for farm goods, a post office, and a blacksmith shop. When water conditions permitted, goods were transported downriver by enslaved and free boatmen on batteaux. In the years following the Civil War the iron industry declined and other transportation methods improved. Though it remained a place for local commerce until the 1870s, by the 1880s Cedar Grove Mills was abandoned.

**128 words/ 793 characters**

**Edited text:**

**Cedar Grove**

Here at the head of small-boat navigation on the Maury (North) River, Cedar Grove had become a transportation hub and market center by the 1830s. The community grew along with the region’s iron industry, which played an important role in Virginia’s economic development. When water conditions permitted, enslaved and free boatmen used bateaux to transport iron from local furnaces and forges, as well as flour and other goods, to Lynchburg and Richmond. Served by two toll roads, Cedar Grove featured mercantile stores, a gristmill, warehouses, and a post office. The decline of the local iron industry later in the 1800s and disuse of the river for transportation led to the town’s abandonment.

**112 words/ 695 characters**

**Sources:**

*Richmond Enquirer*, 13 May 1856.

Joseph Martin, *A New and Comprehensive Gazetteer of Virginia and the District of Columbia* (Charlottesville, 1835), 425.

Rockbridge County Deed Book 5:98-99.

Anderson Collection, James G. Leyburn Library, Washington and Lee University.

Charles A. Bodie, *Remarkable Rockbridge: The Story of Rockbridge County, Virginia* (Lexington: Rockbridge Historical Society, 2011).

“The Middlebrook-Brownsburg Corridor: A Survey of Cultural and Natural Resources,” (Valley Conservation Council, 1997).

John Knapp, “Trade and Transportation in Rockbridge: The First Hundred Years,” *Proceedings of the Rockbridge Historical Society*, vol. 9 (1982).

John W. Knapp, “Report on Navigation in the Maury River Basin: An Investigation to Determine the Head of Navigation” (Virginia Military Institute, 1974).

W. E. Trout III and Philip de Vos, *The Maury River Atlas* (Virginia Canals and Navigations Society, 2014).

W. Cole Davis, “History of Rockbridge Baths, Goshen Pass, and Cedar Grove” (address to Rockbridge Historical Society, 1944).

**2.) John G. Lewis Memorial Bridge**

**Sponsor:** David Nelson

**Locality:** Loudoun County

**Proposed Location:** Loyalty Road (Route 665) at intersection with Featherbed Lane

**Sponsor Contact**: Jane Covington, [jane@janecovington.com](mailto:jane@janecovington.com)

**Original text:**

**The John Lewis Bridge—A Tale of Survival**

This single lane bridge, built by the Variety Iron Works in 1889, is a rare remaining example of a pin connected Pratt truss bridge.  Its design allowed it to be easily transported to its point of use. At 152 feet, it is the longest iron truss bridge still in use in Virginia. It originally was installed on the Leesburg Turnpike over the Goose Creek. In 1932 the newly formed Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) upgraded that road into the modern Rt 7. The bridge’s unique design allowed VDOT to recycle it to this spot to support the important local agricultural industry. In 1974 it was again destined for removal when the US Corps of Engineers planned to flood this valley.  The community rallied and convinced the Corps to abandon the project and the bridge was saved. The bridge is named for historian John Lewis who led the effort against the Corps’ plan. In 2015 the bridge was declared unsafe and slated for replacement. The community and local organizations, including the Loudon County Preservation and Conservation Coalition, convinced VDOT to strengthen the much beloved old bridge instead.  It’s supporting structure was rebuilt and it reopened for traffic in early 2023. It was placed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and The National Register of Historic Places in 1974 as part of the effort to prevent the Army Corp of Engineers from damming Catoctin Creek.

**232 words/ 1,385 characters**

**Edited text:**

**John G. Lewis Memorial Bridge**

This pin-connected Pratt truss bridge was fabricated in Cleveland, OH, during the period when such bridges were in wide use (1875-1920). It was erected in 1890 on the Leesburg and Alexandria Turnpike, present-day Route 7. In 1932, the bridge was relocated to Featherbed Lane over Catoctin Creek, half a mile west of here. At 159 feet, it is among the longest metal truss bridges in use in VA. Local organizations rallied to preserve it in 1974. Supported by the Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition, the community again protected it in 2015. That year the bridge was named for local preservationist John G. Lewis, who documented more than 700 historic structures in the region.

**114 words/ 695 characters**

**Sources:**

Virginia Department of Transportation Bridge no. 6051, Historic American Engineering Record No. VA-110.

<https://www.virginiadot.org/Projects/Northern_Virginia/asset_upload_file815_78613.pdf>

Catoctin Creek Bridge, National Register of Historic Places nomination (1974).

National Bridge Inventory Data Sheet (2016).

Cultural Resources Survey for the Featherbed Lane Project, Loudoun County, Virginia, prepared by JMA, a CCRG Company, for VDOT NOVA District (July 2015).

*Alexandria Gazette*, 27 March 1890.

Clare Matheny, “John G. Lewis Memorial Bridge Rehabilitation: Preserving a Loudoun County Historical Landmark,” Lovettsville Historical Society and Museum

<http://www.lovettsvillehistoricalsociety.org/index.php/john-g-lewis-memorial-bridge-rehabilitation/>

**DHR-sponsored Markers**

**1.) Desegregation of Community Clubs**

**Sponsor:** DHR

**Locality:** Fairfax County

**Proposed Location:** at Little Hunting Park

**Desegregation of Community Clubs**

In 1965, Paul Sullivan rented a house to Theodore R. Freeman Jr. and transferred a Little Hunting Park (LHP) membership as part of the lease. The LHP board denied the transfer in part because the Freeman family was African American. After Sullivan mounted a vigorous campaign of protest, the board also revoked his membership. Both families filed a lawsuit in 1966 and lost several appeals. In Dec. 1969, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Sullivan v. LHP* that the exclusion of African Americans was a violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and thus constituted illegal housing discrimination. This case, along with the Fair Housing Act of 1968, desegregated recreational associations across the U.S.

**115 words/ 700 characters**

**Sources:**

*Washington Post*, 27 April 2011. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/paul-e-sullivan-87-brought-landmark-civil-rights-suit/2011/04/27/AFOoe0NF_story.html>

*Sullivan v. Little Hunting Park, Inc.*, 396 U.S. 229 (1969): <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/396/229/#tab-opinion-1948245>

*Tillman v. Wheaton-Haven Recreation Assn., Inc.*, 410 U.S. 431(1973): <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/410/431/>

<https://uknowledge.uky.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1120&context=law_facpub>

*Baltimore Afro American*, 12 April, 27 Sept. 1969, 10 Jan. 1970.

*Washington Post*, 16 July 1965, 17 March 1966, 28 July, 14 Oct., 16 Dec. 1969, 7 Feb., 16 June 1970.

**Replacement Markers**

**1.) Lower Methodist Church N-50**

**Sponsor:** VDOT

**Locality:** Middlesex County

**Proposed Location:** General Puller Highway (Route 3), at intersection with Rte. 649

**Original Text:**

**Lower Methodist Church**

Built 1717, this was the second lower chapel of Christ Church Parish, Middlesex County. It occupies the site of the first lower chapel of this parish, built before 1661 as the church of Piankatank Parish. Bartholomew Yates was the first minister of the present church. After 1792 the church was unused, except by the Methodists or Baptists. In 1857 Robert Healy bought the church from the parish and gave it to the Methodists, who have worshipped here ever since.

**79 words/ 463 characters**

**Edited Text:**

**Lower Methodist Church**

The first church on this site served Piankatank Parish (established in 1657) of the Church of England. When Piankatank and Lancaster Parishes combined to form Christ Church Parish in 1666, the building became a chapel of ease for the lower region of the new parish. The present sanctuary, completed in 1717, replaced the older chapel. After the Revolutionary War and the disestablishment of the Church of England, Baptists and Methodists worshiped here. Robert Healy purchased the property for the Methodists in 1860. Noted for its clipped gable roof and English bond brickwork, the church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**103 words/ 644 characters**

**Sources:**

C. G. Chamberlayne, ed., *The Vestry Book of Christ Church Parish, Middlesex County, Virginia, 1663-1767* (Richmond: Old Dominion Press, 1927).

“Lower United Methodist Church, Middlesex County, Virginia, 1717-2017” (History Committee of Lower United Methodist Church, ca. 2017).

Lower Church NRHP nomination (1973).

William Meade, *Old Churches, Ministers, and Families of Virginia*, vol. 1 (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott & Co., 1878).

George Carrington Mason, “The Colonial Churches of Christ Church Parish, Middlesex County, Virginia,” *William and Mary Quarterly*, vol. 19, no. 1 (Jan. 1939): 8-24.

**2.) Augusta County Z-182, Z-201**

**Sponsor:** Augusta County

**Locality:** Augusta County

**Proposed Location:** Route 42 at county line; Route 340 at county line

**Original Text:**

**Augusta County**

Augusta County was named in honor of Princess Augusta, mother of George III. It was formed from Orange County in 1738 but because of the unsettled state of the region, county government was not actually established until 1745. Its area is 986 square miles. The county seat, Staunton, is the birthplace of Woodrow Wilson.

**54 words/ 320 characters**

**Edited Text:**

**Augusta County**

Named for Augusta, Princess of Wales and mother of King George III, the county stretched to the Pacific Ocean in 1738 when formed from Orange. Staunton, the original county seat, was named for the wife of Lt. Gov. William Gooch, whose policies attracted Scots-Irish and German settlers. English settlers and free and enslaved African Americans were also early arrivals. After the Revolutionary War, Del. Zachariah Johnston helped bring religious freedom to Virginia and the U.S. Textiles, grains, apples, and livestock have been central to the economy. Many educational institutions, including colleges, military schools, and the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind, have originated in Augusta.

**107 words/ 701 characters**

**Sources:**

Joseph A. Waddell, *Annals of Augusta County, Virginia, from 1726 to 1871,* 2nd ed., 1902 (Harrisonburg, Va.: C.J. Carrier Co., 1972).

J. Lewis Peyton, *History of Augusta County*, 2nd ed., Bridgewater, Va., 1953 (Harrisonburg, Va.: C.J. Carrier Company, 1972).

Howard McKnight Wilson, *The Tinkling Spring, Headwater of Freedom: A Study of the Church and Her People, 1732-1952* (Richmond: Garrett and Massie, 1954).

James G. Leyburn, *The Scotch-Irish: A Social History* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1962).

Patrick Griffin, *The People with No Name: Ireland’s Ulster Scots, America’s Scots Irish, and the Creation of a British Atlantic World, 1689-1764 (*Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2001).

Klaus Wust, *The Virginia Germans* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1969).

Warrern R. Hofstra*, The Planting of New Virginia: Settlement and Landscape in the Shenandoah Valley* (Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004).

Turk McCleskey, *The Road to Black Ned’s Forge: A Story of Race, Sex, and Trade on the Colonial American Frontier* (Charlottesville and London: University of Virginia Press, 2014).

Park Rouse, Jr., *The Great Wagon Road from Philadelphia to the South* (Richmond, Va.: The Dietz Press, 1995).

Katharine L. Brown, “The Role of Presbyterian Dissent in Colonial and Revolutionary Virginia, 1740-1785,” Ph.D. dissertation, The Johns Hopkins University, 1969.

J. Susanne Simmons and Nancy T. Sorrells, “Slave Hire and the Development of Slavery in Augusta County, Virginia,”; Kenneth E. Koons, “’The Staple of Our Country’: Wheat in the Regional Farm Economy of the Nineteenth-Century Valley of Virginia.” In Kenneth E. Koons and Warren R. Hofstra, *After the Backcountry: Rural Life in the Great Valley of Virginia, 1800-1900* (Knoxville, University of Tennessee Press, 2000).

Katharine L. Brown and Nancy T. Sorrells, *Virginia’s Cattle Story: The First Four Centuries* (Staunton: Lot’s Wife Publishing, 2004).

**3.) Landing of Wool and Surrender of Norfolk**

**Sponsor:** DHR

**Locality:** City of Norfolk

**Proposed Location:** West Ocean View Avenue at intersection with Mason Creek Road

**Original Text:**

**Landing of Wool and Surrender of Norfolk**

Near here Major-General John E. Wool, on May 10, 1862, landed with 6000 Union troops. President Lincoln, Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury, and Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War, watched the movement from a ship in Hampton Roads. As the Confederate troops had withdrawn, Wool marched to Norfolk, which was surrendered to him by Mayor W.W. Lamb that afternoon.

**61 words/ 369 characters**

**Edited Text:**

**Landing of Wool and Surrender of Norfolk**

On 6 May 1862, shortly after Union forces began to pursue the Confederates up the Peninsula toward Richmond, Pres. Abraham Lincoln, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, and Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase arrived at nearby Fort Monroe. In an operation planned in part by Lincoln, about 5,000 soldiers under Maj. Gen. John E. Wool landed near here on 10 May and marched to Norfolk, where Mayor William W. Lamb surrendered the city to Wool that afternoon. Confederate troops had evacuated, damaging public property as they departed. The CSS Virginia, now lacking a port and too heavy to move up the James River, was scuttled by its crew on 11 May, opening the river to Union vessels.

**119 words/ 689 characters**

**Sources:**

*New York Times*, 13 May 1862.

*The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, ser.1, v.11, pt.3 (Washington: 1884), 162-163.

Frank Moore, ed., *The Rebellion Record: A Diary of American Events with Documents, Narratives, Illustrative Incidents, Poetry, etc.*, vol. 5 (New York: D. Van Nostrand, 1866), Documents and Narratives section, 40-47. <https://archive.org/details/rebellrecord05moorrich/page/39/mode/2up?view=theater>

John V. Quarstein, “Gosport Navy Yard is Recaptured,” *The Mariners’ Museum and Park*, 21 May 2020: <https://www.marinersmuseum.org/2020/05/gosport-part-three-gosport-navy-yard-is-recaptured/>

Walter Coffey, “The Fall of Norfolk,” *The Civil War Months*, 9 May 2022: <https://civilwarmonths.com/2022/05/09/the-fall-of-norfolk/>

Steve Norder, “The Death of an Ironclad: The Final Hours of the CSS Virginia,” *Military History Now*, 12 Feb. 2020: <https://militaryhistorynow.com/2020/02/12/the-death-of-an-ironclad-the-final-hours-of-the-css-virginia/>

**4.) Letitia Christian Tyler (1790-1842) W-39**

**Sponsor:** VDOT

**Locality:** New Kent County

**Proposed Location:** US 60 (Pocahontas Trail) eastbound, just east of intersection with Roxbury Road

**Original Text:**

**Letitia Christian Tyler**

Letitia Christian Tyler, wife of President John Tyler, is buried at Cedar Grove Cemetery a mile northeast. Born on 12 November 1790, a daughter of Robert and Mary Browne Christian, she married John Tyler at her home, Cedar Grove, on 29 March 1813. Her husband served as a congressman (1817-1821), governor of Virginia (1825-1827), senator (1827-1836), vice president (1841), and tenth president of the United States (1841-1845). Letitia Christian Tyler was the first First Lady to die in the White House when she succumbed on 10 September 1842 after a series of paralyzing strokes. Her body lay in state in the East Room of the White House, then was transported to her family home at Cedar Grove for interment.

**119 words/ 710 characters**

**Edited Text:**

**Letitia Christian Tyler (1790-1842)**

Letitia Christian Tyler, wife of Pres. John Tyler, is buried at Cedar Grove Cemetery a mile northeast. Born on 12 Nov. 1790, a daughter of Robert and Mary Browne Christian, she married John Tyler at her home, Cedar Grove, on 29 Mar. 1813. She gave birth to eight children. Her husband served as a congressman (1816-1821), governor of Virginia (1825-1827), senator (1827-1836), vice president (1841), and tenth president of the U.S. (1841-1845). Letitia Christian Tyler was the first First Lady to die in the White House when she succumbed on 10 Sept. 1842 after a series of paralyzing strokes. After a funeral in the East Room, her body was transported to her family home at Cedar Grove for interment.

**119 words/ 701 characters**

**Sources:**

*Washington Daily Madisonian*, 13 Sept. 1842.

*New York Herald*, 15 Sept. 1842.

John Deal and *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, “John Tyler (1790–1862),” *Encyclopedia Virginia* (Virginia Humanities, 7 Dec. 2020).

Oliver Perry Chitwood, *John Tyler: Champion of the Old South* (New York: D. Appleton—Century Company, 1939).

Edward P. Crapol, *John Tyler: The Accidental President* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006).

**5.) Edgehill FR-6**

**Sponsor:** VDOT

**Locality:** Charlotte County

**Proposed Location:** Virginia Route 40 at intersection with Greenfield Road

**Original Text:**

**Edgehill**

Three miles north is the site of Edgehill, built ca. 1810 for Clement Carrington (1762-1847). During the Revolutionary War, Carrington left his studies at Hampden-Sydney College, served under Lt. Col. Henry “Light Horse Harry” Lee, and was wounded at the Battle of Eutaw Springs in South Carolina on 8 Sept. 1781. Carrington owned several plantations and many enslaved African Americans. Historian Hugh Blair Grigsby, Carrington’s son-in-law, lived at Edgehill after Carrington’s death. Grigsby was president of the Virginia Historical Society and chancellor of the College of William and Mary. Edgehill burned in the 1930s.

**94 words/ 624 characters**

**Edited Text:**

**Edgehill**

Three miles north is the site of Edgehill, built ca. 1810 for Clement Carrington (1762-1847). During the Revolutionary War, Carrington left his studies at Hampden-Sydney College, served under Lt. Col. Henry “Light-Horse Harry” Lee, and was wounded at the Battle of Eutaw Springs in South Carolina on 8 Sept. 1781. Carrington’s son-in-law, historian Hugh Blair Grigsby, later lived at Edgehill. Grigsby served in Virginia’s Constitutional Convention of 1829-30 and was president of the Virginia Historical Society and chancellor of the College of William and Mary. The labor of enslaved African Americans was essential to Edgehill before the Civil War. The main house burned in the 1930s.

**106 words/ 687 characters**

**Sources:**

Will of Clement Carrington, 2 Sept. 1847.

U.S. Census, slave schedule, 1850, 1860.

Pension Application of Clement Carrington, 5 July 1828.

Gerald T. Gilliam, “Edgehill: A Carrington Home Lost Forever,” *The Southsider: Local History and Genealogy of Southside Virginia*, vol. 13, no. 2 (1994).

Timothy S. Ailsworth, et. al, comps., *Charlotte County, Rich Indeed: A History from Prehistoric Times Through the Civil War* (Charlotte County, 1979).

**Marker Topics Under Consideration**

Below are summaries (not the actual texts) of the marker proposals that we received at the last application deadline.

**1.) Gargaphia, Accomack County**

Ann Toft arrived in Virginia ca. 1660, at a time when fewer than 20 percent of English arrivals were women. Through land patents and purchases, she acquired more than 30,000 acres in Virginia, Maryland, and Jamaica, including her home plantation, Gargaphia, in Accomack County. She engaged in international trade, defended her interests in court, and headed a plantation that included free and enslaved laborers.

**2.) Edward Richard Dudley Sr., City of Roanoke**

Edward R. Dudley, raised in Roanoke, became a lawyer who worked on landmark cases alongside Thurgood Marshall at the NAACP. Pres. Harry Truman appointed him ambassador to Liberia in 1949, making him the first Black ambassador in U.S. history. He was later elected a justice of the New York State Supreme Court.

**3.) John Lipscomb Robinson, Cumberland County**

Robinson was born free and acquired land in Cumberland County before the Civil War. A Republican, he was elected to represent the county in Virginia’s Constitutional Convention of 1867-68, where he voted with radical reformers. In 1869 he was elected to the Senate of Virginia, where he sat on the committee that drafted the laws creating the state’s public school system and voted to ratify the 14th and 15th amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

**4.) Samuel W. Tucker (1913-1990), City of Emporia**

Samuel W. Tucker was an influential attorney with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. He organized the 1939 Alexandria Public Library sit-in and worked on three successful U.S. Supreme Court cases, co-authoring the brief for *Griffin v. County School Board of Prince Edward County* (1964) and arguing *Green v. County School Board of New Kent County* (1968) and *Wright v. Council of City of Emporia* (1972).

**5.) Sales of Enslaved People in Court Square, City of Charlottesville**

Enslaved men, women, and children were sold between 1762 and 1865 at various Court Square locations. The largest auction here was in Jan. 1829, when 33 enslaved individuals from the Monticello estate of Thomas Jefferson were sold. Enslaved Charlottesville residents recalled court day sales as dreaded occasions which resulted in the permanent separation of families.

**6.) Third Street Bethel AME Church, City of Richmond**

Eleven free African Americans founded the church in 1850, and it became the mother church of the AME denomination in Virginia. The church served Jackson Ward, a nationally significant Black neighborhood. Maggie L. Walker laid out her plans for establishing a bank, newspaper, and department store here in 1901. The church was a meeting place for African Americans during the Civil Rights movement.

**7.) Douglas School, City of Winchester**

Douglas School opened in 1927 to serve the Black children of Winchester. One of the most complete Black schools in Virginia, it later drew students from surrounding counties.

**8.) Samuel Wilbert Tucker Law Office, City of Alexandria**

Tucker, an Alexandria native, began practicing law out of his father’s real estate office and planned the 1939 Alexandria Library sit-in here. After serving in Italy during World War II, Tucker moved his practice to Emporia, VA, where he was the only Black lawyer. In 1961 he formed a law firm in Richmond with Henry Marsh later joined by Oliver Hill. He worked on scores of civil rights cases and argued several in front of the US Supreme Court, including the landmark *Green v. County School Board of New Kent County*.

**9.) Virginia Ten Miler, City of Lynchburg**

The inaugural Virginia Ten Miler took place in Sept. 1974. The annual event attracted world-class runners and became one of the premier road races on the East Coast. The race embraced the growth of women’s running.

**10.) Beulah Marshall Mumford Wiley, Buckingham County**

Wiley led a campaign to provide free, high-quality, accessible healthcare to rural, low-income communities and in 1970 founded the Central Virginia Community Health Center, the first community health center in Virginia. The center provided medical, dental, behavioral health, and pharmacy services to residents of Cumberland, Buckingham, Fluvanna counties.

**11.) Pierce’s Pitt Bar-B-Que, York County**

J.C. and Verdie Pierce established Pierce’s Pitt Bar-B-Que in 1971. Meats are cooked over hot coals in open pits. National Geographic named it one of the top ten barbecue restaurants in the U.S. in 2012.

**12.) Dixie Three Sit-in, City of Hampton**

Three female African American nurses sat in the Whites-only cafeteria of Dixie Hospital in 1963, which resulted in their being fired. The U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in 1966 that they must be returned to employment and compensated for lost wages.

**13.) Craig County Poor Farm, Craig County**

Craig County established its Poor Farm in 1892 to provide shelter and sustenance to needy persons. The surviving complex is a rare resource type in Virginia.

**14.) Alfred Carter, Lancaster County**

Carter, likely enslaved at birth in 1859, enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1884 and served in the 10th Cavalry as a Buffalo Soldier. During the 19th century, Buffalo Soldiers were stationed in the West and built forts, strung telegraph wires, explored and mapped the territory, and engaged in combat with Native Americans.

**Virginia Green Book Location Supplemental Plaques**

In accordance with legislation passed in 2023 (https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title10.1/chapter22/section10.1-2210.1/), “Virginia Green Book Location” plaques are being attached to the posts of relevant state highway markers. The BHR will be asked to approve the following design for the plaques, which are 12 inches wide and 16 inches tall.

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**Culpeper City/County Local Marker Program**

The City and County of Culpeper are planning to establish a local marker program, which will be managed by the Museum of Culpeper History. Under § 10.1-2210 of the Code of Virginia (<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title10.1/chapter22/section10.1-2210/>), the BHR is being asked to approve the design of the local markers.

The proposed Culpeper markers have a green background with white lettering. The seal of the Museum of Culpeper History is at the top, and the signature line at the bottom will say, “Museum of Culpeper History” and the year in which the marker was fabricated. The markers are 36 inches wide and 26 inches tall.

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