



Revolutionary War Dedication is November 5th

Major Joseph Eggleston, Jr., Burial Site at Grub Hill Church

The Richmond Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), with the Amelia County American Revolution 250th Commemoration Committee, the Historical Society, and Christ Episcopal Church, will dedicate a plaque at the tomb of Major Joseph Eggleston, Jr., Officer of the Continental Army, in honor of his Revolutionary War service, on Sunday, November 5, 2023, in the St. John's Episcopal/Grub Hill Church Cemetery at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Philip Barnard, 1st Vice President of the SAR chapter, will lead the event. The church and cemetery stand on the 1760 site of the original Grub Hill Church. They are located on Grub Hill Church Road (Rt. 609) approximately three and a half miles north of Amelia Court House.



Major Eggleston was born in Middlesex County, Virginia, on November 24, 1754. He moved with his family to Amelia County at age four. He entered the Revolution as an honors graduate from the College of William and Mary in 1776 and served as a lieutenant and paymaster of the Continental Dragoons before transferring to fellow Virginian Light Horse Harry Lee's Battalion of Dragoons. Captured at Elizabethtown, New Jersey, in January 1780, he was paroled in time to distinguish himself in the Battle of Guilford Court House, North Carolina, Eutaw Springs, South Carolina, and the capture of Augusta, Georgia, in 1781.

After the war, Eggleston served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1785-1788, and again in 1791-1799. He was a member of the Virginia Privy Council in 1787. Through special election, he filled

the Republican (anti-federalist) vacancy of fellow Amelian William B. Giles in the U.S. Congress in 1798 and was re-elected to one term. On his permanent return to Amelia, he was made Justice of the Peace, a position he kept until his death. He also farmed "Egglestetton," his 730-acre family plantation seat in Amelia.

Congressman Eggleston died on February 15, 1811, of complications of the gout. His widow and second wife was Ann "Judith" Cary Eggleston, his first cousin, whom he wed in May 1796. He fathered three sons with his first wife, Sarah "Sally" Meade, and a son and daughter in the second marriage. His son Everard Francis, plus a grandson, and Joseph's sister, are buried near the Major in the Grub Hill Cemetery.

The inscription on Major Joseph Eggleston's marble tombstone reads as follows:

"Sacred to the memory of Major Joseph Eggleston, Maj. of Cavalry In the Army of the Revolution, a soldier of brave and indomitable spirit. Judicious, indefatigable, accomplished officer and a patriot throughout life, at once zealous, devoted, and enlighten[ed]. Sincere, warm, and constant in his friendship, and in all his affections faithful to the duties of social life, and active in discharging them. Modesty and Simplicity, Courtesy and dignity adorned his manners: Justice and truth swayed over his dealings. Piety purified, exalted, and sustained his mind and heart, and charity regulated his feelings, his opinions, and his conduct toward all men. Born Nov'r 24th 1754. Died Feb'y 15th 1811."

[Inscription edited for clarity]

Amelia County Historical Society

16501 Church Street
Post Office Box 113
Amelia Court House, VA 23002
804-561-3180

ameliahistoricalsociety@tds.net

Amelia Facebook Page**Office Hours**

Monday and Friday
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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Newsletter

Sharon Barden Garber, Editor

sgarber410@verizon.net

--An *AI-Free* Quarterly Publication--

Membership Dues

Individual.....\$20

Family.....\$25

President's Message

“Stand tall. Stay loyal. Remain free. And always value honor.”

–Ralph “Sonny” Barger, notorious outlaw biker chieftain

As a busy fall schedule is underway, I need to remind our readers and members that it is the season also for nominations to our Board of Directors. I solicit these for our November meeting and a vote of acceptance at the annual open membership meeting in December. One does not have to be a Society member to serve in a four-year term on the Board, but that usually has been the case. We are looking for creative and reliable leaders of character who are well-versed in varied areas of expertise—finances, management, communications, problem-solving, research, curation, *et al.*—that are highly useful to direct and execute a charitable, public service organization, and with a zeal for local history and culture. One *does* have to be a Society member (with at least one year's experience on the Board) to serve in a three-year officer position. So if your talents lie in one of the positions delineated in the box to the left (last call for “Secretaries!”) and you are so inclined to help those in need, I encourage you strongly to put your initiatives and qualifications into motion.

Our busy fall schedule includes a number of events, noted in announcements throughout this newsletter. These feature the Society/Hammer Library/Library of Virginia preservation series starting on October 19, the Major Eggleston plaque dedication at Grub Hill Cemetery on November 5 (see story, page one), the Corporal James Yeatts archival unveiling on November 19, our Christmas Shoppe fund-raiser at Amelia County High School on December 2, and our open membership meeting on December 10. The Board has contemplated other possibilities and we shall keep you informed of any new developments as they evolve.

Meanwhile, as the county's commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution matures, expect to see more articles on local events and history that highlight the era in these pages. The Society will participate where it

can contribute usefully, and facilitate dissemination of articles of interest from Amelia and Nottoway, especially. Your help therein is also solicited.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Whitaker, President

Indian Summer

by Father John Banister Tabb (1845-1909) of Amelia, Virginia

No more the battle or the chase
The phantom tribes pursue,
But each in its accustomed place
The Autumn hails anew:
And still from solemn councils set
On every hill and plain,
The smoke of many a calumet
Ascends to heaven again.



From Lyrics by John B. Tabb, 1897

Preserving Your Family's Treasures

Baylee Hughes, James L. Hamner Library

Series begins Thursday, October 19, 6:00 p.m., in the Jackson Building.

Amelia's Hamner Public Library, in collaboration with the Amelia County Historical Society, will offer the first of a three-part series, "Preserving Your Family's Treasures," that will explore how to properly store and care for your family treasures at home. Dana Angell, Prints & Photographs Specialist at the Library of Virginia, will share best ways to store, label, and preserve your family's photographs and slides. A Question and Answer session will follow the presentation. Society members and the public are invited.

The program will take place in the Jackson Memorial Library and Museum, 16501 Church Street, Amelia Court House, Virginia 23002, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Next Session Dates Will Include:

Books & Document

Saturday, November 18, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

Furniture, Textiles, & Objects

Saturday, January 13, 2024, 1:00 p.m.



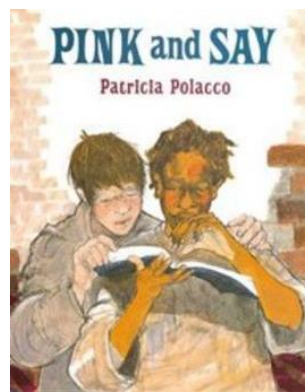
Historical Society is Assisting with "Older Children's Reading Group"

This fall the Society is partnering with county resident, teacher, and amateur historian, Ms. Carol I. Smith, in her Older Children's Reading Group at the James L. Hamner Public Library. The hourly readings and discussions focus on the factually-based, illustrated works of children's author Patricia Polacco. The first session from the Civil War-themed book *Pink and Say* occurred in September. Society President Michael Whitaker showed and discussed a number of Jackson Museum artifacts from the war, including a Union soldier's *Bible*, bullets, other projectiles, and fuses, as well as the surgical kit thought to have belonged to Dr. William Cheatham, an Amelia doctor who served with the Confederacy. These were accompanied by books for further reading and replica Union uniform items.

The reading group, aimed at youths aged eight-sixteen, seeks to promote both book literacy and

interest in history. Ms. Smith will lead more sessions in upcoming weeks. The second session, featuring the book *Tuckey Jo and Little Heart*, concerning the true encounter of a young Philippine girl with an American GI in the heat of World War II, will occur on October 11. Society artifacts used to support the story will include a copy of the 1st Cavalry Division's 1945 campaign pamphlet, a captured Japanese helmet from the war, an inert "pineapple" grenade, and Japanese occupation currency script from the Philippines, all brought home from the war by Amelia veterans.

Later Polacco stories will include a vignette from the 1912 sinking of the *HMS Titanic*. Student participants thus far have included young visitors to the Hamner Library and homeschooled students.



Coach Goodwin Donates Monte Kennedy Cards

Mr. Avery Goodwin, county native, Amelia High School (AHS) Class of 1962 grad, and former teacher and coach at Amelia County High School (ACHS), has been a loyal supporter of the Society, donating local sports and farm memorabilia and attending many of our activities. Among his recent artifact gifts were turn-of-the-twentieth-century golf clubs, a leather AHS football helmet, early ACHS Homecoming football programs, and softball and baseball bats. Of the latter was one used locally by New York Giants pitcher Montia “Monte” C. Kennedy (1922-1997), who left Amelia in 1942, and a “Virginia Clipper” bat made circa 1959 at the “Cellar Creek Handle Factory, Route 3, Blackstone, Virginia.”

Most recently, Coach Goodwin made and donated a display of Monte Kennedy baseball cards. Kennedy played in the major leagues from 1946-1953. A highlight of his baseball career was the 1951 World Series against

the New York Yankees. The left-hander pitched in relief in game four, striking out Joe DiMaggio and Gene Woodard. The Giants lost the series, which also featured rookies Willie Mays and Mickey Mantle.

The display includes a 1951 Topps card from the company’s first year of producing Major League Baseball (MLB) cards, featuring Kennedy, as well as a pair of “tobacco” cards of the pitcher. Mr. Goodwin also donated an original Granville “Granny” Hamner card, as well as a replica Mickey Mantle card. Hamner (1927-1993), from Richmond and cousin of the Mannboro Hamner family, played seventeen years in MLB, mostly as an infielder with the Philadelphia Phillies. He played in three All-Star Games and the 1950 World Series, served several years as team captain, and was one of the 1940’s-1950’s Phillies’ “Whiz Kids.” In 1945 at 17 years old, Hamner was the youngest player ever to start on Opening Day, a record that still stands.



Former Amelia County High School coach Avery Goodwin poses with his display of Monte Kennedy and other antique baseball cards that he presented to the Society this summer. Coach Goodwin has donated a number of Amelia sports and farm-related items to the organization in recent months.

Other Upcoming Events and Announcements

➤ Corporal James E. Yeatts World War II Medals and Memorabilia

The Society will host a reception at the Jackson Building on Sunday, November 19, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. to honor the memory of Amelia-born Corporal James E. Yeatts, recipient of both the Belgian and French *Croix de Guerre* national medals for his combat role in each of those countries in World War II. A display of his medals and other of his war memorabilia as part of the museum's military holdings will accompany some words on his unit's actions from Great Britain to Normandy to central Germany in 1943-1945. The deceased U.S. Army veteran received those countries' highest awards late in life for his role with the 118th Field Artillery Battalion, which employed long-range howitzers, while attached to various American units. CPL Yeatts served as an artillery spotter. His actions included in the ill-fated Operation Tiger, a rehearsal for the D-Day Invasion that

was disastrously disrupted by the German Navy in the English Channel in 1943, as well as break-out actions in France, the Battle of the Bulge, and the high intensity race across Germany prior to VE Day.

After the war, Mr. Yeatts lived in Chesterfield, where he worked for the Virginia Department of Highways/Transportation for 40 years. The engineer was a long-time Ruritan member who once served as that organization's National President.

The reception will feature members of Yeatts's family, including James, Jr., and grandchildren. Family friends, veteran and Ruritan representatives, and the public are invited. Society members who wish to host the event should contact Sylvia Gray or Michael Whitaker in advance at (804) 561-3180.

***HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!***

**THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 23, 2023**



Thomas Turkey

A tom turkey struts his stuff (left) at Dykeland (est. circa 1839) in this Taylor family photograph from the early twentieth century.

-Photo courtesy of Kathleen Hadfield

➤ Annual December Christmas Shoppe

The Society has applied for a space at the Amelia Christmas Parents' annual craft fair for this year's final major fund-raiser. The craft fair will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Amelia County High School. We hereby solicit dry-baked goods and handicrafts from Society members and readers of this newsletter. You may deliver your donations to the Jackson Building on the day previous (Friday, December 1, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) for final

sales preparation. In lieu of baked goods, we also accept monetary donations (checks payable to the Amelia County Historical Society, P.O. Box 113, Amelia, VA 23002) and member volunteer assistance in preparing and executing the sale. In addition to crafts and baked goods, the Society will also offer maps, in-house publications, used history-related (non-fiction) books, and other articles.

➤ Open Meeting in December

The Society will conclude its currently planned calendar of events for 2023 on Sunday, December 10, 2023, with its Annual Open Membership Meeting. The agenda will include floor nominations for, and election of, new Directors, recognition of departing Directors,

and other limited business issues. A program speaker is anticipated for a subject unknown at this time. Refreshments will be provided. Members are encouraged to attend.

Jackson-Booker Genealogy on YouTube®



Lights, Cellphone, Action!

Emanuel Hyde, III, Society VP for Archives (left), and his production crew provided a running overview of the Jackson Building holdings this past summer as a coda to his hour-long genealogical lecture on Amelia's Jackson-Booker family, recorded in the library. His video presentation was the first episode of "Nowhere to Hide, with The Reverend Emanuel Hyde" series. The video featured his detailed research and book on his client's branch of the family going back to the eighteenth century. Emanuel's lecture may be found online with YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1ywNK1etRo&t=142s>.



Selections from the President's AmRev250 Reading List

The Amelia County Committee for the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution is keeping a detailed bibliography of its research findings and publications during the semi-quincentenary commemoration. As the committee investigates hundreds of sources for the Revolution and its ideals in Amelia and Nottoway Counties, it from time to time also will offer refined reading lists for the public. The following volumes are recommended by Society President and Amelia AmRev250 Chairman Michael Whitaker for general background reading. The books recap part of the broad history from before the English settlement at Jamestown through the founding of Amelia County (1735) to 250 years ago this year (1773).

Prelude to Revolution, 1607-1773 (Part Two)

- Barzun, Jacques: *From Dawn to Decadence, 500 Years of Western Cultural Life*, Harper Collins, New York, 2000.
- Farmer, Charles J.: *In the Absence of Towns: Settlements and Country Trade in Southside, Virginia, 1730-1800*, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Lanham, Maryland, 1993.
- Hofstadter, Richard: *America at 1750, A Social Portrait*, Vintage Books/Random House, New York, 1971.
- Kulikoff, Allan: *Tobacco and Slaves*, University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 1986.
- Woodfin, Maude H. (Editor), and Tinling, Marion (Translator): *Another Secret Diary of William Byrd of Westover, 1739-1741, With Letters & Literary Exercises, 1696-1726*, The Dietz Press, Inc., Richmond, Virginia, 1942.

Amelia County AmRev250 Webpage Link:

<https://va250.org/amelia-county/>



Society Members Flesh Out the Amelia AmRev250

When the Virginia Commission for the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution (VA250) appealed to the counties and cities of the Commonwealth to create local grassroots committees, Amelia stepped forward in 2022 via the Board of Supervisors to set up its own group. Charged with observing the precepts and aftermath of “the independence of the United States, the Revolutionary War, and the American Revolution,” Amelia AmRev250 reached out to local individuals and groups for assistance just after the supervisors-appointed chairman, Michael F. Whitaker, also President of the Amelia County Historical Society, was confirmed.

The Amelia committee has fashioned its initial strategy with the VA250 objectives in mind. These include “formulating and implementing civic, cultural, and historical education and scholarship concerning the ideals of the American Revolution and their contemporary relevance; promoting local museums and historic sites; creating and publishing historical documents and studies; cooperating with state and regional agencies for the preservation and restoration of era-relevant historical sites, buildings, art, and artifacts; establishing exhibitions and wayfaring signage; and arranging appropriate local public ceremonies.” The state, area, and local overall aims are to “generally disseminate public information on Virginia’s role in the American Revolution and its legacy today.”

Amelia’s efforts also will form a subset of the comprehensive state thematic marketing campaign that culminates in 2025-2026. This largely will center around the 250th anniversary of the *Declaration of Independence*.

In short, the Amelia committee’s two-pronged charge, already underway, is to research and publish

informative works on local Revolutionary era history, locales, and personages; and to complement, where feasible, local, area, and state efforts to promote tourism and associated economic development. The overall effort will involve a pluralistic and pragmatic cross-section of public interests, while edifying diverse communities in the facts, resultants, and ideals of the American Revolution. The committee so far has reached out to local educators, libraries, museums, civic service and veterans organizations, businesses, media entities, county staffers, and colleges.



Scene from today’s Colonial Williamsburg

As Nottoway County was part of Amelia County (which until 1776 comprised the established, or semipolitical, Anglican Church parishes of Raleigh and Nottoway), the Amelia committee thus far has remained informed of the activities of its counterparts in Nottoway. These include dual committee member Peggy Figlar, President of the Nottoway Historical Association, who also is a member of our Society. While the formality of the links remains underdeveloped, each group’s principals feel that awareness of complementary county actions will be

beneficial.

Other Amelia AmRev250 Committee members who belong to the Society are Peyton Anderson (Vice Chairman), James Arnold (Tampa, Florida), Brendan Burke (VDHR), Julia Dawson, Emanuel Hyde, Robert Smith, and Luther Wooten. Additionally, recorder Baylee Hughes of the James L. Hamner Public Library, Holly Steel, former Amelia County Developer, Connie Hurt-Reynolds of the Nottoway Association, and Reg Carr, Librarian Emeritus of the Bodleian Library of the University of Oxford, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom, serve the committee.

Baked Goods Wanted

Amelia County Historical Society

For our annual Christmas Shoppe at Amelia County High School
Saturday, December 2, 2023

Cookies, Cakes, Pies, Breads, Jellies, & Handicrafts

Requesting drop-off at the Jackson Building, 16501 Church Street,
on Friday, December 1, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Monetary donations also gratefully accepted.



Save the Date: November 5, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

St. John's/Grub Hill Church, 3.3 Mi. N. of Amelia C.H. on County Rt. 609/Grub Hill Church Road

Dedication of a Plaque to Major Joseph Eggleston, Officer of the Revolution

By Philip E. Barnard, Jr., 1st VP, *Virginia Society – Sons of the American Revolution*
Christ Episcopal Church, Amelia and the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia
The Amelia County American Revolution 250th Commemoration Committee
Amelia County Historical Society, Inc.
Eggleston and Lee Descendants



St. John's/Grub Hill Episcopal Church is a Registered U.S. and Virginia Historic Landmark Site
Eggleston Descendants and organizations desiring to present a wreath should contact Mr. Barnard at
virginiainsociety8@gmail.com no later than October 28, 2023.



Amelia County Historical Society
16501 Church Street
Post Office Box 113
Amelia Court House, VA 23002