



Amelia CCC Camps: “Pine Top,” “Lucky 13,” & “Linden”

Just west of Nibbs Creek on North Lodore Road (Route 636) stand two granite columns at the end of a residential driveway. Local old-timers know what these once marked, but most people are oblivious to the large Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp that once resided there. Yet the pylons are the most conspicuous remnants of the site of at least four major CCC projects, at one time named Camps “Pine Top,” “Pine Tree Road,” “Linden,” and “Lucky 13.” Each one assisted Amelia farmers and woodsmen in a dire era.

The CCC began in the first 27 days of President Franklin Roosevelt’s “New Deal” Administration in 1933. It was the most popular of his “make-works” projects at the height of the Great Depression, and met the pressing needs of conservation, economic relief, and character development among unemployed young men.

At its peak in 1936, the CCC employed 600,000 enrollees and administrators. It paid its “peacetime army” of 18- to 25-year-old, unmarried men \$30 per month, of which \$25 was mailed directly home to their families on relief. Enrollees could extend their six-month service hitches for up to two years. In its decade of operation, the CCC alleviated some of the country’s economic calamity and instituted solid environmental practices.

Projects at the Amelia camp implemented soil and forestry conservation practices on private lands. The Army-led camp changed its name when new companies of workers, or enrollees, arrived. “Camp Linden” lasted from March 1935 until July 1938. “Lucky Camp 13” arrived from Crewe in July 1940, changed its name to “Pine Top” by 1941, and closed with the end of the CCC experiment in early 1942, after its members had helped to build Fort Pickett. In between Linden and Thirteen in 1938, it may have been named “Camp Piney Road,”

whose listing suggests it helped to work on nearby state parks or monuments.

The Amelia camps were all white, with the nearest black camp at Green Bay, Camp Galion, which reforested some 500 acres in Prince Edward and built the dams for what today are the Twin Lakes. Other nearby CCC units included varied camps or projects near Beach, Chester, Church Road, Cumberland, and Moseley.

According to C. Hoy Willson in *Historical Notes on Amelia County* (1982), the Amelia CCC camp comprised 23 buildings, including five barracks, a mess hall, three-car garage, and recreational and administrative centers. The camp likely also featured officers’ quarters, a shower hut, latrines, and small workshops. The recreation center probably included a canteen or shop, movie facility, small library, classrooms, radio, a writing area, and a lounge with a

tennis or billiards table.

Enrollees stayed busy: worked overtime, learned and used conservation practices, engaged in health, culinary, and clerical work, fought fires, built roads and bridges, and repaired machinery. They also constructed towers and small buildings, dug ditches, and strung telephone wires. Chaplains, a dentist, and a physician visited them regularly.

Typically, enrollees wore uniform items, some with ranks and CCC patches. Evenings four days a week involved trades instruction and, in some cases, basic literacy classes. Saturdays featured sports in the morning, e.g., basketball and baseball; visits with local families or to town; and community dances about four times a year. The “boys” also received periodic non-denominational moral guidance and encouragement to attend local church services on Sundays.

(See CCC, page 5)



CCC Pylons on N. Lodore Road

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President's Message*"You say you want a revolution..."*

-Lennon & McCartney, 1967

The Semiquincentennial or Quarter Millennial—the 250th Anniversary!—of the American Revolution is upon us. Or rather it has been since March 25, 2015, 250 years to the day when Parliament passed its notorious Stamp Act of 1765. The bill mandated that American colonials help defray the costs of keeping British officers in America and, not incidentally, on pension. Other key events of the era, e.g., the Boston Massacre (1770), U.S. Declaration of Independence (1776), American victory at Yorktown (1781), Treaty of Paris (1783), and ratification of the U.S. Constitution (1788), also can serve as commemorative markers for celebrating “the world turned upside down” at the emergence of the United States of America. Our government in Washington has chosen the most obvious of those emblems, the signing and promulgation of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, around which to rally its Semiquincentenary celebration of the American Revolution, and official celebrations and *pronunciamientos* will soon follow.

In my view, *The American Revolution* should by all rights receive a most extended recognition as a monumental milestone for all of humanity. It signifies so much beyond even its most laudable physical achievements—the defeat of the day’s most powerful empire, the creation of the world’s oldest continuing republican legislative houses and other structures for governance, its written constitution, and its seat of government across expansive parks, boulevards, and impressive stone edifices and statues. Rather, its more enduring *notions* are to be celebrated, things such as the perfectibility of mankind, the application

of reason, economics, and science—in the spirit the Enlightenment—to a historically new sociopolitical arrangement, and the American ideals of pluralism and pragmatism from which our collective body of citizens strives from multivariate and often flawed backgrounds and dim ideologies to foment “a more perfect Union,” among so much more. Regularly criticized, and today under deliberate attack from authoritarian and totalitarian impulses, the American Revolution, the American Experiment, what Santayana called “American civilization,” as always, continues to take hits. But one must ask amid strident voices and dogmas usually forwarded from a very small minority of persons who, unfortunately these days joined by many other persons in power who should know better, say they want a revolution: “Compared to what? Russia? The Chinese Communist Party? Silicon Valley? Contemporary Jacobins aiming to destroy everything in sight while watching themselves and antifa flash mobs acting out on the Internet? No thank-you.”

Your Amelia County Historical Society began to gear up in 2014 for the Quarter Millennial with a draft special logo, shown on page five. It consisted of a portrait of Princess Amelia Sophia Eleanor of Hannover adjacent to the first united colonies’ battle flag. (Of course, Amelia, like her grand-nephew King George III, opposed both the rebellion and the Revolution.) Since the design emerged from a one-person (yours truly) brainstorming session, I ask any readers so disposed to submit their own ideas and designs for an *Amelia Revolution!* logo, and for thematic local history projects that will let the Society and our larger communities join the celebration. After all, “*We all want to change the world...*” (with or without a four-four beat)! ☺ Let us hear from you. Cheers!

Michael F. Whitaker, President

Letters to Ella Scott Farrar of “Scotland” and “Mohican”**“WALLACE PAPERS” NOW TRANSCRIBED**

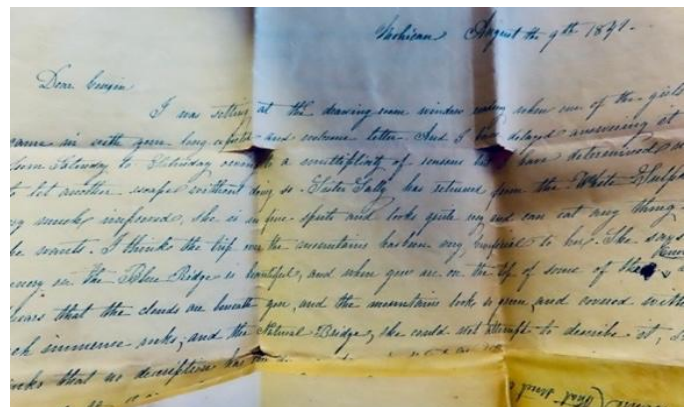
In mid-2015, the Society received a large mailed envelope full of old letters sent by Mr. David B. Wallace of Blacksburg. He had forwarded them with a note indicating that he was a stamp collector and that he had found them bound with a cloth strip in a local antique mall. He urged us to “keep and preserve them.” Mr. Wallace also enclosed photocopies of the envelopes and stamps that he had kept, as well as other stamped and unstamped envelopes and postcards, the cloth strip, a small cut square of mica, a cardboard photo of a young woman (circa 1910-25), and several handwritten poems, hymns, and prayers.

On inspection we found that the letters—in multiple handwritings—spanned the period of 1847-1935. They appear to be personal correspondence saved by Miss Ella E. Scott from the time she was a young girl to into her old age. Ella was the daughter of George C. Scott of “Scotland,” the family’s plantation located south of Jetersville. Miss Scott eventually married Judge Fernando R. Farrar of “Mohican,” near Deatonville. He was a Confederate veteran, lawyer, and widely popular regional speaker who entertainingly related stories of “Johnny Reb,” “Billy Yank,” and other wartime- and Reconstruction-era life.

The three dozen papers range from several Scott family personal letters written from Richmond camps at the height of the Civil War to some of the Judge’s notes apparently in courtship of Miss Scott. They include correspondence from cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandchildren, condolence letters, and “girlfriend” updates between old friends.

While the texts mostly are personal, some of the incidental descriptions in the letters shed minor light on life on Amelia farms during the war, local school teacher postings in the late 19th century, gossip among several plantations, and the colloquial syntax of the period in varied script. Larger events, such as contagions, financial panics, the collapse of the Virginia State capitol’s floor in 1870, and, seemingly, Halley’s Comet (1910) are also made mention.

We have nearly transcribed all of these personal letters to Ella from her friends, family, distant relatives, and acquaintances over this rather lengthy period and will put them into proper and local historical contexts, adding other Amelia historical asides of interest. Our intent is to make the transcripts public, both on file with access to the originals, and in an appropriate monograph.



A Letter from the Rodophil Post Office. This August 9, 1847, letter was saved by Mrs. Ella E. Scott Farrar. Its elaborate handwriting is from an unsigned person at “Mohican,” the Farrar home near Deatonville, and is to “Miss Caroline Cutter [or Cutler]” at the “Goodwynsville P. Office” in Dinwiddle County. The letter’s thick paper was folded in the custom of the day as an envelope and sealed with wax for mailing. Postage of 12½ cents was paid and annotated in the upper right corner. The correspondence is from a cache found in an antique mall in Montgomery County, Virginia, in 2015 by David B. Wallace.

Namozine Open House a Success

Some 65 visitors attended the Society's open house at Namozine Church on April 2. Members informally discussed the history of the 1847 church, and gave insights into Civil War participants and activities there and across Amelia County during the war's climactic week of April 2-9, 1865. Several Society members and friends donned rebel uniforms or women's dress of the mid-19th century for the event, while wartime music and era hymns played inside the church. The group displayed several 1860s county maps, as historians of the Confederacy gave rifle and drill demonstrations. The Society sold lunches, drinks, desserts, and Amelia history merchandise in the day's successful outing.

The Society deeply appreciates its members, officers, and re-enactor friends who planned and executed the day's events. These include Ann Clarke, Cindy Ashman, Debbie Orr, Margaret Lam, Michael Whitaker, Lillian Atkins, Bob and Diane Smith, Peyton Anderson, Sylvia Gray, and Julia Dawson.

Margaret appeared in era costume, as did Society member Paul King. They were joined by our dependable friends Mary Aldridge, Wanda Falls, Terry Green, Donald White, Pete Amico, and several other veterans of Company H, 44th VA Infantry, "The Amelia Minutemen." The group appeared in Confederate butternut (photo above),



some with sabers, rifles, and muskets. They and the women imparted numerous detailed insights into the skirmishes that flared from Namozine Creek to Scotts Fork on April 3, 1865, in the start of sustained mounted and dismounted fighting and troop movements in eastern Amelia County.

Several of the Amelia Minutemen also related the surgical and other medical procedures that would have typified activities inside the church, which, along with local homes, was used as a hospital for both sides that week. Bloodstains from wounded soldiers remain visible on the church floorboards, as do several burial site impressions in the back and side yards.

The Society opened the Jackson Memorial Library and Museum on the following two days (April 3-4) in order to provide knowledgeable persons on hand for visiting Civil War buffs who sought recaps of the military activities in and around both Amelia Court House and Jetersville in early April 1865.

The Society has commemorated "Lee's Retreat" at Namozine Church and Amelia Court House for many years. It plans to hold its next "old-time" Namozine Church services in mid-October, which will be after planned structural maintenance is completed. We invite members and other interested persons or groups to help plan more detailed Civil War outings in upcoming years.

A Historical Society's Routine Business

While the Society is privileged to employ many eager helpers who assist with our various special events during the year, "business as usual," even in the time of pandemics, continues weekly. Despite opening for only six hours twice a week, our volunteers have loyally handled the many inquiries we've received by email, letter, phone, or through walk-ins. These very often relate to genealogical inquiries, but we also have helped authors, publishers, distant institutions, graduate students, and many local persons in both their detailed and broader "historical" inquiries. Topics have ranged from identifying specific references, objects, or images to (most recently) Maria Ward Meade Randolph, several Amelia-born rebel generals, unidentified local minerals, and the burial sites and enterprises of past Jewish residents of the county. If you have a knack for history or a penchant for ferreting out minutiae, let us know. There's always more room for volunteers. -MFW

(CCC —from page 1)

The 1941 “Southern District, Third Corps Area,” yearbook from Camp SCS-24, “Pine Top,” contains photos of work activities in Amelia County by Company 1370, which comprised some 150 enrollees (mainly from Virginia) and staff. The annual, which Mr. David Ingram recently donated to the Society, pictures his father, John Ingram, plus David’s Uncle Finnyberry (Finch) and several enrollees from Amelia County. David’s parents met on a date at Golden’s Movie Theater in Amelia Court House during his father’s CCC service. The book also gives a short history of Company 1370 and the camp’s metal arch, which was the Virginia Polytechnic Institute Alumni Gateway brought from Blacksburg via Pembroke, Virginia, and Crewe to Amelia. The arch was dismantled in the late 1960s.

—This article is thanks in part to Society members David Ingram and Eddie Ashman.



Camp Pine Top, 1940-41

The above photos show: (L) CCC members of Company 1370 head east on their newly improved road, likely today’s North Lodore Road, toward Nibbs Creek; (C) enrollees under the old VPI Alumni Gateway arch at Camp Pine Top; and (R) camp personnel leaning on their new bridge, possibly over Nibbs Creek.

—Photos courtesy of CCC Legacy



Amelia County Historical Society 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution (2015-2038)



Society Revolution! Logo Contest

The 2014 Princess Amelia/Revolutionary Flag design, above, was a “first-cut” at an Amelia County Historical Society 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution logo. The Society invites members to submit their own designs for Board review and selection for use in our *Revolution!* celebrations through 2038. We also seek your celebratory, educational, patriotic, social, and/or fund-raising ideas to commemorate key local and state historical events of the American Revolution. Make your submissions via P.O. Box 113, Amelia Court House, VA 23002, or ameliahistoricalociety@tds.net. For more information call 804-561-3180 during business hours.

Amelia Day

Saturday, May 7, 2022

-Volunteers Needed-

Amelia County Historical Society

Come Join Us at Our Washington Street Booth!

-Baked Goods & Historical Memorabilia for Sale in Mothers' Day Motif-

-§> Baked Goods Needed <§-

Society Members Will Be Contacted for Support/Donations

Please Be Generous!!

Cookies, Bread, Pies, Cakes,
Jams, Jellies, Pickles, Etc.

Accepting Items on Friday, May 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Drop Off at the Jackson Building, 16501 Church Street, Amelia C. H.



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