

The Hindle Building's Early Students

While proponents, including the "Save the Hindle Building" Committee, rightly have expended good effort to obtain capital funding and expand interest in regenerating the venerable structure for contemporary use, less discussion has centered on the workaday life of faculty and students that underlies much of the preservation nostalgia of the school's advocates. This article examines some of the early inhabitants of this first modern, centralized public high school building in Amelia County. The descriptions and images draw from the first three student-produced yearbooks of the school system: the 1913 *Alpha* and the 1926 and 1935 *Amelians*.

Impetus for a new schoolhouse arose from its namesake, David Hindle, who in about 1908 moved his family from Peoria, Illinois, to a farm near Amelia Court House. He inaugurated the local movement for a modern high school after noting, by his Midwestern standards, the "poor existing nearby educational facilities." These included the 1881 "Pink Cottage," a framed schoolhouse for whites on the Petersburg (now Five Forks) Road in the hamlet of Amelia. Hindle also wanted to improve the learning environment for his children, seniors John and Edna; Ethel, a junior; and Lester, a seventh grader in the Lower School.

Public grammar schools opened in the county in 1870. Over the years, they occupied up to thirty widely dispersed buildings, split about evenly in number for the children of whites and newly emancipated blacks. Forty years later, the initial animus by the rebel white generation (but not by blacks) to schooling imposed in the Reconstruction era had nearly disappeared. Nevertheless, Amelia's public schools, as in much of rural Virginia and in the South, generally lacked structures and furnishings comparable to urban districts, and certainly to those in the North.

Hindle became a school board member with local ally Dr. Philip T. Southall II to promote a new school. *Alpha* student editor Edna Hindle described Dr. Southall as "a progressive and wide-awake citizen." He not only was a prominent obstetrician, but also an excellent businessman, the real estate entrepreneur "instrumental in the growth of the courthouse village," a promoter of modern roads, and the school board chairman. Along with Amelia-Nottoway Superintendent of Schools, Charles B. Bowry, who in 1909 had directed the first use of high school subjects in the curriculum, the men successfully persuaded Supervisors W. R. Carter, H. C. Warriner, and C. B. White to fund what Ms. Hindle would describe as "the sphere of influence and power... which is the people's college."



The Hindle Building in the Winter of 1934-35.

The "Hindle" schoolhouse served primary and elementary students from its opening in 1910 until the mid-1960s. "High schoolers" also received instruction there from 1910-1925 and again for over a decade starting in 1968. A new high school across the way, today's County Administration Building, began classes in January 1926.

But the heyday of the original two-story brick school at the south end of Washington Street was in its first fifteen years.

The six-room brick school cost \$10,000 in 1910. It replaced the \$650, two-room "Pink Cottage" and inherited the latter's 70 students. In order to keep the minimum enrollment needed for a high school in Amelia, Mr. Hindle arranged for William Cousins, a black man, to convert his mule-drawn farm wagon into a school bus to bring in students who lived just south of town. In March 1911, Governor William H. Mann and Joseph D. Eggleston, Virginia's first elected state superintendent of schools, joined with other dignitaries in the new school auditorium, said to be the most modern in the state, to dedicate the schoolhouse.

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Membership Dues

Individual.....\$20
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President's Message

"The study of history is a powerful antidote to contemporary arrogance."
 -Paul Johnson, British Historian & Author (1929-2023)

For the second consecutive quarter I have missed my self-imposed deadline for this newsletter and am now writing in the new year. I trust that each of you celebrated peacefully during the recent holidays and that this year will see you prosper.

The Society succeeded modestly in 2022. It met its goal of taking in more operational funds than it expended for the first time in several years. Thanks must go to the officers, directors, and members who worked hard, donated, and stayed current in their annual dues. The Board looks to step up its mission in the coming year by publishing and selling several new local history monographs and to reprint copies of our *Historical Notes on Amelia County, Virginia*. That volume has sold nicely of late, and now our stock is low.

The Board is also reassessing its aged information technology suite, both hardware and software, not only for in-house administration, but also to aid our smaller publications, improve security, and modernize library management. Replacement is likely and will entail elevated costs. However, we are confident that we shall rise to the occasion.

Our December 18 annual open meeting proved successful. The Board voted in new Directors Cyndi Ashman, Fred Birchett, Susan Hancock, and Nick King. We welcome each one aboard and thank them for pledging his or her time and energy to the Society. Local historian Greg Eanes addressed the session on his ongoing research into county patriots and their contributions to the American Revolution. Feedback from our nineteen attendees on his presentation and book, *Amelia Militia at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse*, was uniformly positive. I had prepped for the subject earlier in the week by visiting the battlements and surrender field at the Yorktown National Battlefield. It was bracing to go mobile from the ground up at Yorktown, the sites of which I had not roamed since 1965. There's nothing like a lifetime of history immersion to better savor one's heritage. The perspective from today was edifying.

Finally, I thank the Directors and members, bakers and friends, and our very generous donors who made our recent one-day Christmas Shoppe at Amelia Elementary School a great success. I have named them on page 8, and others, who since the last listing before Thanksgiving vitally supported our efforts. Kudos go also to Ann Clarke and Glen Henkle for their Amelia Facebook postings that are getting more eyes onto the Society and, hence, more members into it. Our appreciation further goes to Peyton Anderson for agreeing to serve as our First Vice President. Congratulations. Clearly, I am surrounded by new energies from many, many go-getters. We hope to innovate more and more in the Society on your, the Readers', behalf.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Whitaker, President



A Reminder to Keep Your Annual Membership Current

\$20 (Individual)/\$25 (Family)

Send Check or Money Order Payable to Amelia County Historical Society, P.O. Box 113, Amelia, VA 23002

Colonel Eanes Lectures on “Amelia Militia”

At the Society’s December 18, 2022, open meeting, local author, historian, and retired Air Force officer Greg Eanes lectured on the topic, *Amelia Militia at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse*. The well-attended program recounted salient findings from his book of the same title. Colonel Eanes sold autographed copies of the monograph afterwards. The session served as the first iteration of Amelia County public events to commemorate the Semiquincentennial (250th) Anniversary of the American Revolution.

The setting for his subject was the February 13-March 29, 1781, interactions between General Nathanael Greene’s Southern Continental Army (comprising colonial regulars and local militia) and the British Royal, loyalist, and mercenary forces under Lord Charles Cornwallis. After Greene’s escape north into Southside Virginia from the Carolinas, Virginia Governor Thomas Jefferson ordered county officials, including in Amelia (which in those days included Nottoway Parish), to reinforce and resupply the Continentals. Greene’s army subtly regrouped with local men, animals, guns, and provisions before returning south to challenge Cornwallis. The armies engaged in the vicinity of Guilford Court House, North Carolina, on March 14, 1781.

Eanes’ analysis, accompanied by his charts and illustrations from the period, drew from Revolutionary War pension records, Public Service Claims (supply claims or receipts), official and personal correspondence from participants, and secondary sources. He elaborated on his ongoing

research that pinpointed many of the Amelia County citizens that responded to the call to arms or supply requisition, or both. He also detailed the known militia officers, men, units, supplies, weapons, and rendezvous points in Amelia (Raleigh and Nottoway Parishes) that enabled the quick bolstering of Greene’s forces.

The talk further detailed the values and amounts of many of the weapons, ammunition types, rations, mounts, other livestock, wagons, animal provender, and other supplies such as axes, firewood, wine, and spirits authorized and used by militia units and men.

Colonel Eanes concluded by focusing on the employment of Amelia units at Guilford Court House in the context of the day’s tactical result, which was considered a “costly victory” for Cornwallis’ Redcoats. He discussed battle positions, movements, mistakes, heroism, individual encounters and personal observations, and the next day’s burial details. The author also noted the dispositions of the Amelia companies in the immediate aftermath, their returns home, and later actions.

The afternoon presentation followed the Board of Directors’ call for Society directorship nominations from the floor. There being none among the members and general public, the Board voted to accept each nominee formally put forth at the November meeting of the Board: Cynthia Ashman, Fred Birchett, Susan Hancock, and Nick King, all of Amelia. Holiday refreshments and music were provided before and after the lecture.



Greg Eanes spoke at the Society’s open meeting.

About the Author

Lieutenant Colonel Greg Eanes, U.S. Air Force (Retired), of Nottoway County, was a career intelligence officer and former mayor of Crewe, Virginia. He has written widely on local and state historical, military, and veterans’ issues. He has lectured throughout Southside Virginia and currently as an adjunct speaker at Hampden-Sydney College.

Hindle —from page 1

By 1912, ten faculty members instructed 167 students in an eleven-year curriculum (see box below). The students advanced annually in grade through educational assessment and not age.

“Hindle Building” Faculty & Staff, 1912-13

Dr. James D. Harris, Principal

High School

- Dr. Harris, Math & Science
- Miss Kathleen Bingler, Latin & History
- Miss Ida Trosvig, English

Lower School

Intermediate Department

- Mrs. Sallie Wooton
- Miss Ida Trosvig

Grammar Department

- Miss Mary Sheppard

Primary School

- Miss Courtney Taylor

Substitutes

- Miss Laura Agnew
- Miss Otelia Harvie

Others/Unknown: Miss Jane Irving, Miss Mary Byrd Taylor, Miss Smith (?), “Professor Viser” (?)

Staff: Mr. Gholson, Custodian; Mr. William Cousins & Mr. George “Tosh” Sanderson, Teamsters

and Intermediate Departments. Grammar taught the most students and occupied half of the rooms. Third and fourth grades expanded on previous instruction and added manual training (e.g., that year the students built a dollhouse), plus “occasional singing and public entertainments.”



The Lower School in 1913
The village of Amelia Court House is in the background.

Fifth and sixth grades, taught together in one room with 44 students, extended previous studies but also emphasized “athletics and recess.” The Intermediate School served the seventh grade and included ten students, assisted by high school boys, in the “manual training department.” They used “the frame room,” a dedicated space for building chairs, tables, bookcases, and framed pictures, the latter sold by the school as part of its “paid beautification service to raise money for school furniture and a few library books.” The Intermediate School also prepared students for high school.

The High School itself was the senior department of “Amelia High School,” which was the generic name of the whole school. It included freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior classes. There was no eighth grade. The high school curriculum included Algebra, American and Ancient History, Civics, English, Geometry, Latin, Literature, Math, and Physics. It also continued vocational studies.

Additionally, extracurricular clubs—The Junior League, Boys’ Corn Club, and Girls’ Canning Club, as well as the annual staff and the baseball team—offered leadership, public-speaking, agricultural, business, home economics, and physical training to augment student development. They also created specific “projects to better rural life.”

See Hindle, page 5

“Professor” James David Harris, Principal, a disciplinarian, led the school and likely taught math and science. He also kept the students’ grades. Misses Kathleen Bingler and Ida Trosvig (who in 1921 became the county’s first woman school principal) and Mrs. Sallie Wooton served as senior teachers. At least two other teachers in the Lower School and two substitute teachers, plus Mr., or “Uncle,” Gholson, the African-American custodian, rounded out the school staff.

One teacher, not identified in the 1913 *Alpha*, abruptly left in November 1912. Passing references to “Professor Viser,” “Miss Mary Byrd Taylor,” “Miss Jane Irving,” and “Miss Smith” make unclear the true size and status of the faculty. A Presbyterian minister, The Reverend J. D. Rogers, joined the faculty as the School Chaplain in 1914. He served until June 1949.

The school in 1912 comprised four departments. Of these, the Primary Department (first and second grades) taught 28 students in rudimentary subjects. The Lower School (third-seventh grades) consisted of the Grammar

Recent and Upcoming Events

Amnesty of Souls – Some thirty congregants took part in Namozine Church services on November 13 to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the church's founding. The Reverend Jeffery Schroeder of Antioch Christian Church in Bowling Green presided. Reverend Schroeder sermonized on Namozine's history from both its Christian and Civil War aspects. He spoke on the deadly drama of the April 1865 Appomattox Campaign, especially in the immediate vicinity of the church. The Reverend also tied the fierce struggle of the Civil War to current times. Worship Minister Donna



Cain of Park Street Christian Church in Charlottesville and Jeanette Hamner of Mannboro performed hymns and other musical pieces from the mid-nineteenth century. Several Civil War demonstration groups, including soldiers and Southern ladies representing historical rebel units from Nelson, Rockbridge, and Pittsylvania Counties, attended the services. Namozine Church formed in September 1847 as an offshoot of Amelia Presbyterian Church in the court house village. The Amelia County Historical Society sponsors the annual autumn event, which is open to the public.

Black History Month

African-American Families in Amelia County

presented by

Emanuel Hyde III

Vice President – Archives

Sunday, 26 February 2023

2:00 p.m.

Jackson Memorial Library & Museum

Refreshments

Amelia County Historical Society

Appomattox Campaign

Namozine Church Open House

Saturday, 1 April 2023

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sales & Refreshments

Intersection of Greene's/Mill Quarter
& Namozine Roads

(7 Miles E. of Mannboro on Rt. 708)

Skirmish at Namozine Church, 1865

Amelia County Historical Society

Hindle —from page 4

The Junior League operated in concert with the 75-member adult Senior League to promote the school and community. Created in 1910 and led by President Edna Hindle (described as a “natural leader ‘with executive ability’”), its first job was to clear the grounds of the new school and erect a mesh perimeter fence. The League also furnished the “framing room.” It further met jointly with the Senior League to plan and sponsor a “program of lectures, songs, and recitations.”

The 1913 *Alpha* gives other flavor to school life in the early Hindle Building. For example, the school colors were black and orange, although students did not

name a mascot until decades later. Similarly, each high school class declared its own class colors, motto (often in Latin), and cheers (see box below).

AHS Class of 1913 Cheer

*“Boom-a-lacka, boom-a-lacka,
Sim bum, fire cracker,
Our class is cracker-jacker;
Rah, rah, rah!”*



SOURCE: *Alpha*, 1912-13

See Hindle, page 6

Hindle —from page 5

In 1912, school began on the first day of fall. Some of the Amelia students who attended the State Fair seventeen days later became infected with scarlet fever. The contagion began to spread locally two weeks later. The school closed the second week of November because of the outbreak. Epidemics of both the measles and smallpox had occurred at school and in Amelia the previous year.

On December 30, during the two-week Christmas holiday, the school hired a new teacher to replace the one that had departed in November. The next day a local Santa Clause appeared, probably in the new auditorium, to celebrate the traditional Christmas festivities. Previously, some of these celebrations had been held in the 1852 county courthouse. Three days later, on a Friday, most of the high school students faced tests.

“Midwinter Exams” took place January 27-31, 1913. Students in the literary societies or clubs held public debates on the final exam day. In addition to Thanksgiving and Christmas, the students celebrated Valentine’s Day, Washington’s Birthday, April Fools’ Day, and probably Halloween. A train wreck of unspecified calamity occurred close enough nearby on February 23, 1913, to be documented in the yearbook.

A busy March schedule included a “sox social” at mid-month and a baseball game at month’s end. On March 4 two senior classmen arrived by train in Washington, D.C., for Woodrow Wilson’s Presidential Inauguration. They afterwards wrote not only about seeing President Taft, President-Elect Wilson, and Vice President Thomas Marshall proceeding in the elaborate presidential horse-drawn carriage from the White House to the Capitol, but also of their close view of the inaugural ceremony and the four-hour Inauguration Parade afterwards. They additionally commented on the suffragettes, both black and white, and police reactions to their protests that they encountered from Union Station to their vantage points near the White House and at the Capitol.

Those students, Clinton Warriner and John Hindle, were two of the three members of the Class of 1913, the first to graduate from a high school in Amelia County. H. Clinton Warriner was the son of County Supervisor Henry C. Warriner. Their classmate was Edna Hindle, an “Illinois import” like her brother John. Each graduate was at least 20 years old.

Edna, the oldest, remained active with Amelia High School alumni for many years after graduation. She later married, moved to Cumberland, gave birth to her only child at the age of 42, and lived until the ripe old age of 98.

Henry Clinton Warriner was 21 when he graduated. He received his draft card in 1917, but was not inducted. He spent his life near what is today “Chula Junction.” He was a farmer and lifelong baseball aficionado. Even after World War II, he continued to drive his Model-T Ford in Amelia. Clinton never married. He passed away in 1958 and is buried in the old Moore’s Methodist Church Cemetery.



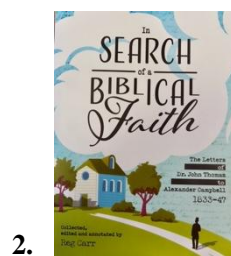
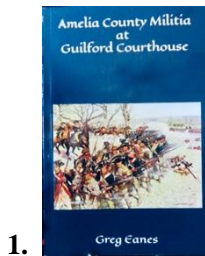
First Amelia County High School Grads
Clinton Warriner, Edna Hindle, John Hindle
Class of 1913

John D. Hindle matriculated at Virginia Polytechnic Institute (VPI) after graduation and majored in Electrical Engineering. His nickname there was “Duke.” The 1917 VPI yearbook predicted that “he would one day make the Kingdom of Amelia the electrical center of the world.” As a member of the cadet corps, he joined the active Virginia militia in April 1917, just days after Congress declared war on Germany. He became a lieutenant in the artillery. His unit was federalized a year later and sent to France, where he participated in U.S. Army operations in the Saint-Mihiel Salient and the Battle of Meuse-Argonne, the largest battle in Army history. He returned home in 1919. After marrying, he eventually moved to Richmond. He passed away in 1981.

-Other data for this article taken from Historical Notes on Amelia County, Virginia, 1982, and the 1914-17 VPI Bugle yearbooks.

-Thanks to Helen Warriner-Burke for her insights on her cousin Clinton Warriner.

New Acquisitions in the Library



1. As noted on page 3, Greg Eanes' self-published *Amelia Militia at Guilford Courthouse*, 2022, is the product of his research on Amelia and Nottoway County participants, correspondence, and logistic activities pertaining to the February-March 1781 preparations and milestone battle just south of the North Carolina-Virginia border.

2. Reg P. Carr, in his *In Search of a Biblical Faith, The Letters of Dr. John Thomas to Alexander Campbell, 1833-47*, (The Testimony: Birmingham, UK), 2022, examines via the protagonists' correspondences the emergence of the Christadelphian faith from its early Campbellite ties. Three chapters pertain to the 1827 Bethel Chapel in Jetersville, Virginia, later called Jetersville Christian Church. The 195-year-old building, along with the Dalby House formerly owned by the late Barbara Lyda, soon will be auctioned. The church is in steep disrepair but hopefully may attract preservationists. The book also cites the "Vinegar Post" area of the county. Mr. Carr, Librarian Emeritus at the Bodleian Library of the University of Oxford, UK, and his son Edward researched the book locally in 2022, including with help from the Amelia County Historical Society's staff. Reg has agreed to assist the Amelia County American Revolution 250th Anniversary Committee.

3. Al Martin's self-published *The Sharecropper's Son*, 2020, is a rural memoir of the family of his father, George Ruffin "Ruff" Martin, and descendants. The 82-year-old author's numerous anecdotes and essays provide fruitful insights into the culture and history of Amelia farm life in the first seven decades of the 20th century.

Artifacts:

Farm Items: Wooden egg crate, grain sifter, hand-hewn planer (Donated by Avery Goodwin, Chesterfield).

Sports Items: 1) Monty Kennedy Topps baseball card (mint), New York Giants, 1951; and 2) high school and church football, softball, baseball, and golf equipment (Donated by Avery Goodwin).

U.S. Army WWII Official Photographs: German Front, 1945, including battle scenes, American cemetery, and Nazi concentration camp (Donated by Robert Lanier, Midlothian; acquired on-scene by his father Carlton Lanier).

Books:

Lest We Forget, A Genealogy of Elder R. A. Arrington, by Mary Marie Koontz Arrington, 1974 (Donated by Margaret Lam, Jetersville).

Robert Coleman of Charles City Shire in Three Volumes, a Coleman family history, by James Michael Paschall Coleman, Bogalusa, LA, 2021 (Donated by the author).

Other Publications:

Church Pamphlets: *History of Amelia Baptist Church*, 1968 and 1983, by Mrs. Patty Goode Jackson (Donated by Gail Moore, Amelia).

Souvenir Programs: From the 6th-11th and 13th Virginia Academy Athletic Conference Basketball Tournaments, with Amelia Academy boys' basketball teams and cheerleaders, 1970-74 and 1977 (Donated by Gordon Harvie, Chula).

Sports Documents: Amelia County High School: 1) 1986 State Baseball Group A Semi-Final Original Scoresheets and Newspaper Write-Up; 2) *The Leaguer*, July 1987, p. 2, featuring 1987 Group A Girls' Field and Track State Championships, won by the Amelia Raiders, led by future Olympian Sharon Couch (Donated by David Ingram, Amelia); and 3) *ACHS Homecoming Programs*, 1969 and 1971 (Donated by Avery Goodwin).

Student Newspapers: *Oriole Highlights*, Amelia High School, Sep 1967-May 1969; *Raider Round-Up*, Nov 1969-Jun 1970 (Donated by Robert Lanier).

Thanks to Our Christmas Shoppe Donors, December 3, 2022

Baked Goods, Cash, Other Items, Kindnesses, Time, Energy, and Holiday Spirit

Anonymous
Debbie Orr
Margaret Hillsman Lam
Blanton F. Dodson
Carlton & Mary Clark
Peyton Anderson

Lillian Atkins
Julia M. Dawson
Michael & Maria Whitaker
Nancy Jones
Pearl Clifton
Glen Henkle

Ann Clarke
Bob & Diane Smith
Cyndi M. Ashman
Sharon B. Garber
Sylvia Gray
Each of Our Patrons

Illustration from
December 20, 1967
Amelia High School
Oriole Highlights
Liz Moler
Art Editor

-Thanks to Robert Lanier



This dance was on a
Friday after basketball.
"The Blues Merchants"
was a local band.
Heavy snowfall began
around 11:30 p.m.



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