THE ROCKINGHAM RECORDER

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THE ROCKINGHAM RECORDER

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SKETCHES OF ROCKINGHAM

by George French Compton

EDITOR'S NOTE - In 1885, between 5 February and 27 August, Mr. George French Compton, an established lawyer in Harrisonburg, a civic leader, and an active member of the school board for many years, published in the Rockingham Register a series of 27 chapters on the early history of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. The work was never completed, despite the fact that the chapter for 27 August 1885 ended with "to be continued." Nevertheless, Compton's history was used extensively by Dr. John Wayland in writing both his Historic Harrisonburg (1949) and his History of Rockingham County (1912). Compton spent his later years in Charlottesville.

The first serialization of Compton's history appeared in Volume 3 of The Rockingham Recorder. The articles will appear in subsequent issues of The Recorder until the serialization is complete. This volume contains the second portion.

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY
County Organization and Court Appointments-1774 to 1778

The Indians were under the command of Cornstalk, and consisted of the Shawnees, Wyandots, Delawares, Minges Cayugas, with some other smaller tribes.

The Shawnees were a well-formed, active, ingenious, at the same time a bloody, assuming and tyrannical tribe, who seem to have been considered leaders, and are said to have been the Indians that cut off and slew Gen. Braddock and his men in July, 1755, and captured Maj. Grant and his Scotch Highlanders at Fort Pitt, in 1758.

Gen. Lewis on hearing of the approach of the Indians is said to have lighted his pipe and given the order to Col's. Lewis and Fleming in his coolest manner, but the forces had hardly been deployed before they saw the attack upon their scouts, heard the discharge of the guns and saw the scouts fall. In a few minutes they received a heavy fire all along the line. The two Cols. Lewis and Fleming, were badly wounded. Col. Lewis was supported by Captain John Murray and Mr. Bailey to his tent, and there died before noon, while the battle was raging. Col. Fleming, though so disabled as to require being carried to his tent, afterwards recovered. The carrying of their Colonel from the field threw the troops into confusion, and they began to fall back, but meeting Colonel John Field and the Culpeper forces, they rallied and drove back the enemy. Cornstalk was continually arousing his men, shouting "Be strong! Be strong!" One of his warriors near him showing signs of fear, so much enraged this chief that with one blow of his tomahawk he cleaved his skull. Col. Field fought with great bravery, but was soon shot dead.

Towards evening Captains Shelby, Nathens and Stuart, with their companies, were sent around to the East of the Indians with orders to attack them in the rear. When attacked in their rear the Indians became greatly alarmed. They gave way, and at sunset recrossed the Ohio. In this battle 2 Colonels, 6 Captains, 3 Lieutenants and 54 Privates were killed, and 140 wounded.

The next day Cornstalk and his sister set out to meet Gov. Dunmore and treat for peace and protection from "the long knives," as they called the white men. A
place of conference was fixed near where Chilicothe, Ohio, now stands. On the 3rd of November, Cornstalk and eight chiefs met the Governor. The chief Logan, though invited, would not go to the conference, declaring that he was a warrior and not a counsellor. Cornstalk is said to have most eloquently addressed the Governor, of which Col. Benjamin Wilson, an officer of Gov. Dunmore says: “I have heard the orators of Virginia, Patrick Henry and Richard Henry Lee, but never have I heard one whose powers of delivery surpassed those of Cornstalk.” Terms of peace were agreed upon, and we hear nothing more of Cornstalk until he and his son were murdered in the Spring of 1777, at Point Pleasant. That for his murders at Muddy Creek and the Levels he deserved death, we do not deny, but the killing of Cornstalk and his son in the manner at the time it was done cannot be justified.

Rockingham was created a county by an act of Assembly passed in October 1777, which reads as follows:

“Whereas it is represented to this present session of Assembly, by the inhabitants of Augusta and Botetourt counties, that they labor under many inconveniences by reason of the great extent of said counties and parishes; Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly, that from and after the first day of March next, the said county and parish of Augusta shall be divided by a line, beginning at the North side of the North Mountain, opposite the upper end of Swedeland Hill, and running a direct course so as to strike the North of Seneca Creek, at the North Fork of the South branch of the Pownack River, and the same course to be continued to the Alleghany Mountains, thence along the said mountain along the line of Hampshire county; and all that part of the said county and parish of Augusta, which lies at the Northward of the said line, shall be added to and made a part of the said county and parish of Hampshire. And that the residue of the county and parish of Augusta be divided by a line to begin at the South Mountain and running thence by Benjamin Yardley’s plantation so as to strike the North River below James Byrd’s house, thence up the said river to the mouth of Naked Creek, thence, leaving a river, a direct course so as to cross the said river at the mouth of Cunningham’s branch, in the upper end of Silas Hart’s land, to the foot of the North Mountain, thence fifty-five degrees west to the Alleghany Mountain, and with the same to the line of Hampshire, and all that part which lies North eastward of the said line shall be one district parish called and known by the name of Rockingham.”

(The line between Augusta and Rockingham remains nearly the same to-day as far as the foot of North Mountain, the other lines are all said to be changed.)

“And for the administration of justice in the said county of Rockingham, after the commencement thereof, a Court shall be held therein on the fourth Monday in every month. The first court for the said county of Rockingham to be held at the house of Daniel Smith.” (Daniel Smith’s residence was situated about two miles North of Harrisonburg, West of what is now the Valley Turnpike, and near where the tollhouse now stands.) “And the Justices for the said Court, or a major part of them being present, and having taken the oath (?) required by law, i.e., (I, A.R., do solemnly promise and swear that I will be faithful and true to the Commonwealth of Virginia, and that I will well and truly execute the office of a Justice of Oyer and Terminer, to which I have been appointed, without favor, affection or partiality, so help me God,”) and administered the oaths of office to the Sheriff, the said court shall fix on a place for holding courts of said county at or as near the centre as the situation and convenience thereof will admit of, and shall thenceforth proceed to erect the necessary publick building at such places, and shall appoint such place for holding court in the meantime, until such buildings shall be completed as they shall think fit, and shall have power to adjourn themselves to such places as they shall appoint, and after the public buildings shall be completed, the court of said county shall thenceforth be held in such place.”

This act further provides for the appointment of a clerk of the peace, by the justices, and that the clerk of Augusta county shall make off and deliver a docket of, and the papers in, all suits and petitions in which the defendants reside in the bounds of Rockingham county, to the clerk thereof.

In accordance with this enactment of the General Assembly of Virginia, we find the first record of Rockingham county to be as follows:

“Be it remembered that on the XXVII day of April, A L. MDCCLXXVIII, (1778) a Commissioner of the Peace, and a Commissioner of Oyer and Terminer, under the hand of his Excellency, Patrick Henry, Governor in Chief, dated XXIV day of March, MDCCLXXVIII, directed to Silas Hart, Daniel Smith, Abraham Smith, John Gratton, Josiah Davison, George Boswell, Thomas Hewitt, John Thomas, William Nalle, Robert Davis, James Dyer, Henry Ewing, William McDowell, Anthony Ryder, John Fitzwaters and Isaac Hinckle, gentlemen Justices for the county of Rockingham being read. Daniel Smith and Abraham Smith having administered the oath of a Justice of the Peace, as prescribed by Act of Assembly, also the oath of a Justice of Oyer and Terminus to Silas Hart, gent., the said Silas Hart administered each of the said oaths to Daniel Smith, Abram Smith, &c., aforesaid who were sworn in the Commission of the Peace and Justices of Oyer, accordingly.

A commission from the Governor to Silas Hart as Sheriff, dated March 24th, 1778, was then read. Daniel Smith and Abraham Smith administered the oath prescribed to the said Silas Hart, who, with Gabriel Jones and Robert Cravens, gents., his sureties, entered into and executed bond according to law, as Sheriff. Court was then proclaimed.

Peter Hog was unanimously chosen and appointed clerk of the peace of the county.

Thomas Lewis, gentleman, produced a commission as Surveyor of the county from the Pres. and Masters of the college of William and Mary and took the oath and gave bond, with Daniel Smith and Abraham Smith as his sureties.

The will of Hugh Dever was the first will proven and probated in Rockingham county, on the next day, April 28th, 1778.

William Bush, Jeremiah Beesly, Henry Brewster, George Huston, William Magill, son of John, Elliott Rutherford, John Fulton, jr., John Bryan, jr., Reuben More, Nathias Lear, jr., Joseph Custard, William Dever, Burton Blizard, Samuel A. Skidmore and Jacob Ellis, were appointed the first Constables for Rockingham county.

Silas Hart and Daniel Smith, the senior Justices, relinquished their rights to the Sheriffalty, and recommended Josiah Davison to the Governor and
Council for that office. He was appointed and qualified as Sheriff May 25th, 1778.

The following persons were also recommended by the Court to the Governor and Council for appointment: Abraham Smith as County Lieutenant, Daniel Smith as Col., Benjamin Harrison Lieut. Col., John Skidmore as Major, and they, with the exception of John Skidmore, were appointed accordingly. William Malone being appointed Major.


The house of Daniel Smith was fixed as the place for holding the Courts of the county until suitable buildings were erected.

Daniel Smith and Josiah Davison were employed to contract for the building of a square log jayle, or prison, 12 feet square, laid with square logs, to have one window and one door, made of iron bars, a good lock, and a cabin roof; to be built in a “convenient spot on Daniel Smith’s plantation,” and in the meanwhile the Sheriff empowered to hire a good guard to watch such prisoners as are taken into his custody.

The present toll-house on the Valley Turnpike, two miles North of Harrisonburg, is said to be built of logs which were used in the jail built in accordance with his order of the Court.

The Court “ordered that Gawen Hamilton, he being first sworn, run Division Line between this county and Augusta, as also the length of the county from said line to Lord Fairfax’s Line, or run any other line by the direction of Mr. Lewis, the Surveyor, to enable him to make out a plan of the county.”

The first deed admitted to record in this county, according to the record, was a deed from John Hare to Heronimus Dech, April 28th, 1778.

Gabriel Jones was appointed the first Deputy Attorney for the Commonwealth, with a salary of £40 per annum, May 25, 1778.

Thirty road Commissioners were appointed on the same day, from which it would appear that equally as much attention was paid to roads at that time as at the present.

CHAPTER IV
First County Levy-The Court House Located-Harrisonburg Laid Out, &c

On the 28th day of September, 1778, a second commission from His Excellency, Gov. Patrick Henry, dated August 12th, 1778, was received, appointing Silas Hart, Daniel Smith, Abraham Smith, John Grattan, Josiah Davison, John Skidmore, Geo. Boswell, Thomas Hewitt, William Nalle, Robert Davis, James Dyer, Henry Ewin, William McDowell, Anthony Rader, John Fitzwater, Isaac Henkel, John Davis, Benjamin Harrison, Gawen Hamilton, William Herring and Nicholas Coger Justices, who were sworn in accordingly.

On November 24th, 1778, the county court made the following allowance and the first levy, viz:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For Clerk, Peter Hog.</th>
<th>£</th>
<th>S.</th>
<th>D.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheriff, J. Davison,</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dep’t Atty., Gabriel Jones,</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept. Sur, Gawen Hamilton,</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wm. McDowell, reward paid for Negro, Coroner, Constable and Jailor,</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Jayle</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Smith, for use of house for Court,</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enos Thomas, for 1 wolfhead and five young,</th>
<th>£</th>
<th>S.</th>
<th>D.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>260</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To have a depositum of Sheriff’s Commissions,</th>
<th>£</th>
<th>S.</th>
<th>D.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>262</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ordered that a levy of fifteen shillings to be collected from every tithable person in this county to satisfy to above charges due to the county creditors, and to have a depositum of £746. (1420 tithables at 15 s. or £2.50-£3.50.)

The first criminals seem to have been Francis Gilbert, Henry Pussimer and Francis McBride, “for uttering seditious words inimical to the Commonwealth, which tends to sow sedition among the settlers in the Western States,” who were bound to good behavior for a year and a day.

November 25th, 1778, we find this order. “It appearing to the court that the wife of Nicholas Rosser, a soldier in the Continental Army, is in great distress, with a family of seven children, they are of opinion that they ought to be allowed the sum of £15 for her relief, and the treasurer is requested to pay the said sum.”

On Tuesday, March 23rd, 1779, “Ordered that the second day of the court in May next, be appointed to fix the Court House, and that the Sheriff summon the justices, not now present, to appear on that day.”

May 25th, 1779. “On a majority of the Justices being present, and conformable to a resolution of the court in March last for fixing a place for the Court House, the several members having proposed three different places, a majority were for fixing it on the plantation of Thomas Harrison, near the head of the Spring, and John Davis, William McDowell, John Fitzwater and Benjamin Harrison, Gents., are appointed commissioners to let out the building of a Court house, of stone, 36 feet long by 26 feet in breadth, one story, of 12 feet in height, with a partition at one end 12 feet wide, to be divided into a jury room with two angle, fire places in each of the jury rooms, as also a prison built with square logs 12 inches thick, inside 18 feet square in the clear, and walled with stone 2 feet thick in the lower story, and the wall 18 inches thick in the upper story.”

Monday, June 29th, 1779. “The commissioners appointed to let the building of the Court House and Jayle are empowered to choose a spot, not less than 2
acres, for the public and their successors, for the use of the county, from Thomas Harrison, the proprietor, together with the liberty of stone and timber from the said Harrison's plantation for the said purposes."

The places named in competition for the site of the Court House are said to have been where Keelletown now stands, Daniel Smith's plantation and the place selected.

July 26th, 1779, Abraham Smith having been commissioned by the Governor, Thomas Jefferson, Sheriff at Rockingham county, gave bond in the penalty of £40,000, with John Grattan, Henry Ewin, John Henton, David Ralston, George Christman, Frances Kertly and Jesse Harrison as sureties, and was sworn into office. This is the third Sheriff of this county.

August 23d, 1779. The Sheriff protested against the sufficiency of the Jayle, and Daniel Smith, William Nalle, Gaven Hamilton were appointed to lay off the bounds of the prison and make report.

November 22nd, 1779. "This court taking into consideration the dangerous and malignant fever that for several months past has raged in the family of Daniel Smith. Gent., and the apprehension of the people that there is danger of the disease being contagious, to remove any obstruction to the administering of justice, and to quiet the minds of the suitors and others who may have business at court, are of the opinion that the court should be adjourned to the plantation of Thomas Harrison, and it is hereby adjourned accordingly."

For the information of the public we give below the rates fixed by the court to be charged by ordinary keepers-Hotels we call them now:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>£</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rum by the gallon, or French Brandy,</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiskey, Per &quot;</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wine, &quot;</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cider and beer per gallon,</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rum toddy per quart and loaf Sugar,</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warm Breakfast, &quot; Dinner, with beer,</td>
<td>09</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A bed, with clean sheets, per night,</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stable, with hay,</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats and corn per gallon,</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasturage &quot; night,</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These were of course war prices, and payable in continental currency.

In November, 1779, there were about 1379 white tithables, a falling off of about 41 from the preceding year; 165 black tithables, 54 deaths; 42 white and 12 black, 1734 horses, no carriages, and no licensed ordinary in Rockingham county.

On November 22nd, 1779, a levy of 36 shillings or six dollars per tithable was ordered to be collected by the Sheriff; and at the same time allowances were made to

Gabriel Jones, Deputy Attorney, £150
Peter Hog, Clerk, 62½
Abraham Smith; Sheriff, 62½

Daniel Smith, for house for court, 75
Same as Jaylor, 100
For Court House and Jayle, 1783

The first marriage license issued in this county, so far as can be ascertained, was granted to John Brown to marry Frances Gartran a widow, with reference to which we find the following papers:

"August 25th, 1778.
Sir, - This is to certify that I desire you to give license of marriage between John Brown and me.

Frances Gartran
[Seal.]


To Capt. Peter Hog, C.C."

Knew all men by these presents that we, John Brown and Henry Ewing, are held and bound to his Excellency, the Governor of Virginia, in the sum of fifty pounds current money; to which payment well and truly to be made to the said Governor and his successors in office we bind ourselves, and each of us, our and every of our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents, sealed with our seals and dated this 25th day of August, 1778.

The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas the above John Brown this Day obtained a License of marriage with Frances Gartran, widow of this county. Now if there be no lawful cause to obstruct the said marriage, then the above obligation to be void otherwise to remain in full force and effect.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of

John Brown, [Seal.]
Henry Ewin, [Seal.]

Pvt. Hog.

Danl. Smith, Just. as to Henry Ewing

"Rockingham County to wit:

Whereas as there is a marriage shortly intended to be had and solemnized between John Brown and Frances Gartran, widow of this county, I do certify that the said John Brown hath with his security entered into and acknowledged their bonds according to law. Given under my hand this 25th day of August, 1778, and the 3d year of ye Commonwealth.

Peter Hogge, C.R.C.

To Silas Hart, Gent., first Justice in Commission of the Peace for Rockingham county, or in his absence to ye next in Commission."

This certificate was then required to be presented to the Justice to whom directed, who gave authority to the minister of the Parish, clerk or Parish reader, who, after publishing the bans (that is notice of the time and place of the intended marriage) performed the marriage ceremony, kept a record of the same, and gave a certificate if required. But at that time the certificate of the minister was not required to be returned to the clerk as now.

It seems that until October, 1780, no minister, except a minister of the church of England, (the Protestant Episcopal church) had authority to celebrate marriages except by dispensation by the Governor.

There was a tax of 20 shillings, or $3.33 1/3 on every marriage license, and the fees of the minister was 20 shillings.
The very first thing to which the county authorities directed their attentions was the matter of making and keeping roads in order, of which they seem to have kept a constant oversight. The court appointed a large number of road overseers, and required them to do their duty, if they did not they were presented by the Grand Jury and fined by the Court, and this appears to have been done regardless of who the overseer was, for some of the foremost men in the new county, some of the justices themselves were presented for not keeping their roads in good condition. Would it not be well in our day and much to the advantage of our farmers, if our county authorities would pattern after the example of their forefathers and look more closely to the condition in which our roads are kept.

The County Court having fixed upon "a spot (the present location) on the plantation of Thomas Harrison near the head of the spring" as the site for the court house of Rockingham county and appointed a commission to contract for the erection of a court house and prison. Mr. Harrison proceeded to lay off fifty acres of land around the court house into lots and streets, and on Saturday the 15th day of July, 1780, the General Assembly of Virginia established the town of Harrisonburg by the following act:

"And whereas it hath been represented to this present General Assembly, that Thomas Harrison of the county of Rockingham hath laid off fifty acres of his land where the court house for said county now stands into lots and streets which would be of great advantage to the inhabitants of the county it established a time for the reception of traders. Be it therefore enacted, That from and after the passing of this act, the said fifty acres of land so laid off as aforesaid, shall be and the same is hereby established a town by the name of Harrisonburg; that the freeholders and inhabitants of the said town so soon as they shall have built upon and saved their lots according to the conditions of their deeds of conveyance shall be entitled to, and have, and enjoy all of the rights, privileges and immunities granted to, or enjoyed by, the freeholders, and inhabitants of other towns not incorporated."

Harrisonburg and Louisville, Kentucky, are twin sisters, having been created under the same act.

Tradition says that Harrisonburg and Keezletown were rivals, not only for the site of the court house and county buildings, but also for obtaining from the General Assembly an act creating it the first town in the county, and that so zealous were the prospective proprietors, Thomas Harrison and George Kezezell, that they almost ran a race to Richmond (the seat of government having been changed from Williamsburg) where the General Assembly was in session, in order, if possible, to obtain the passage of an act fixing their respective lands as the place for the future county seat and trading point; and that Keezletown very nearly reached the goal, and would have borne off the palm, had not Mr. Keezell been detained by indisposition within a short distance of Richmond and the indomitable Harrison, without stopping to assist his stricken brother countryman, passed by with all possible haste reached the capital and had his act passed before Mr. Keezell could recover and get there.

[TO BE CONTINUED]
A LIST OF THE LAND TAX TO COLLECT FOR THE YEAR 1814
BY THOMAS LEWIS DEPUTY SHERIFF FOR CHARLES LEWIS
SHERIFF OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

_Transcription by Dorothy Boyd-Rush_

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Persons Names</th>
<th>Amount of Land Tax</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Alford</td>
<td>$0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>$0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancey Alford</td>
<td>$0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Alford &amp; others</td>
<td>$0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam Argabright</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Armontrout</td>
<td>$0.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augustine Armontrout</td>
<td>$0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>$0.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>$0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Armontrout</td>
<td>$1.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eliz Armontrout</td>
<td>$0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Ammon</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob Argabright</td>
<td>$0.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>$0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harman Aukey</td>
<td>$0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam Abright</td>
<td>$0.27</td>
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Matthias Kirsh 1.75  
Jacob Kirsh, 2 tracts 1.14  
St. Clair Kertley, 10 tracts 13.12  
William Kite's heirs 2.80  
Adam Kite .03  
Christian Kite .80  
John Kyser's heirs .49  
John Kyser's heirs 5.53  
Daniel Lowderback .12  
Nicholas Leap .68  
Adam Long, 3 tracts 1.00  
John & Jacob Lingle .62  
Matthias Long, 2 tracts 1.59  
Henry Long, 4 tracts 4.65  
Paul Lingle .39  
Jacob Lingle Senr. 1.95  
Charles Lewis, 2 tracts 6.34  
Ben. Lewis, 3 tracts 6.22  
Abraham Lowderback .12  
Lewis Long 1.81  
Philip Long .32  
William Lyford .27  
Christian Long .10  
Christian Miller .21  
Agness Miller .42  
Henry Miller's exors. .39  

John Magort, 2 tracts  .82  
John M Cauley & others, 2 tracts  .66  
Catherine Miller .42  
George Mallow, 3 tracts 1.69  
John Meadows .11  
Henry Miller, 5 tracts 7.20  
Jos. Monger Deek (?) & others .85  
Calvin Morgan .27  
Adam Michael .65  
Coonrod Miller .22  
Jacob Nicholas, 5 tracts 10.50  
Peter Nicholas, 3 tracts 1.99  
Edwin Nicholas 1.38  
Frederick Nipple 1.10  
Peter Oiler, 2 tracts 2.76  
William Oler .64  
George Price 1.14  
Jacob Pence, 2 tracts .86  
David Patterson .85  
Thomas Price 1.00  
William Price Jr. 2.54  
Jacob Peterfish .42  
Adam Price, 5 tracts 4.51  
John Pence, 4 tracts 2.43  
Henry & Jacob Perkey, 2 tracts 7.74  
Henry Perkey Senr., 2 tracts 7.51  
Henry & Geo. Pence .29  
Henry Pence of Geo. .51  
George Pence of Geo., 2 tracts 1.60  
George Plumb .32  

Henry Perkey of Jacob 3.60  
Solomon Perkey 1.99  
Jacob Perkey 2.69  
Honorus Powell, 3 tracts 2.14  
John Peterfish .61  
Henry Pence of Jacob, 2 tracts .92  
John Pence of John .60  
Abram Pearey's est. 1.82  
Henry Pauker .06  
Daniel Price's heirs 1.08  
Peter Painger .25  
Christian Paxler, 2 tracts 1.66  
John Price .27  
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Wm. Pence & J. Peterfish .56
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<td>7 Ditto</td>
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$463.87 [sic. 464.15] |

1. A copy of the original tax list was kindly made available by Mr. Lewis Fisher of San Antonio, Texas. Mr. Fisher has done extensive research on the Lewis family. The original list had been discovered among old papers that were on the top of an old wardrobe at Mapleton when the house was sold in 1960.
AN EARLY ATTEMPT AT URBAN PLANNING:
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY'S TOWN OF NEWHAVEN/NEW HAVEN

Introduction by Dorothy Boyd-Rush

Not too long ago, a framed, early plat was discovered within the collection of the Rockingham Public Library by Mr. John W. ("Bill") Wilson, Jr., of Port Republic, Virginia. Little is known of the community it delineates, Newhaven or New Haven; and, even less known of the circumstances surrounding the "donation" of the Newhaven plat to the public library. The Publication Committee of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society, however, thought it to be sufficiently rare to want to publish the plat in this issue of the Rockingham Recorder. The condition and age of the plat, unfortunately, precluded it being removed from its frame and photographed in the normal manner. Accordingly, the library staff kindly granted permission for Ken Shaffer, a cartography student at James Madison University, to reproduce the material in a manner suitable for publication. It is, therefore, his work which appears on the preceding page. After the plat had been copied, Bill Wilson then discovered a newspaper clipping taken from the Daily News-Record. The newspaper account says it all, concisely.

Plat Of Town Of Newhaven, Across River From Port Republic, Is On Display At Rockingham Library

Unusual historic interest attaches to a plat drawn 139 years ago on parchment which shows the plan for a town known as Newhaven to be situated on the north bank of the Shenandoah River opposite Port Republic. This plat, now the property of Jos. K. Reubush, dealer in rare books and publisher of numerous local histories and genealogies, has been loaned to the Rockingham Public Library, where it is now on display.

"When the local library eventually finds its own permanent quarters, room will no doubt be provided for the display of interesting documents, manuscripts and the like," said Conrad Logan, president of the local library board, in acknowledging the loan. "In the meantime, the board hopes to encourage all persons with materials of local historical interest to give them into the keeping of the Rockingham Public Library."

"Diaries, journals, church records, minute books, day books and the like provide valuable source material for future generations. The public library is the natural repository in which to preserve such materials."

The parchment is about 36 inches long and roughly 10 inches wide. The plat shows a diagram of the more than 200 lots which were laid out along the river opposite the mouth of South River as it flows into the Shenandoah at Port Republic.

Inscribed above the diagram is the legend, "The Town of Newhaven was Founded by Gideon Morgan on the 16th day of November 1801 North 52 Degrees East." The lots in Newhaven are generally 50 feet Front and Eleven Poles Back. Except the water lots and one in the Centre of the public Square which is 60 feet by 11 Poles, and 12 on the public Square. Likewise that are wider but not so long and six on Washington Street that are shorter on Aect of an Angle in the Street."
Streets were named in the plat after the first three presidents. Washington and Adams Streets ran parallel to the river; at right angles to them Jefferson Street ran to the Public Landing on the river. Other river streets were called Fording Street and Shenandoah Street.

The narrower streets running at right angles from the river streets were named for counties and for families. In order they were Lewis, Morgan, Bath, Augusta, Rockingham, Pendleton, Holmes and Jones Streets. Lewis and Morgan were the owners of the property; Gabriel Jones and William Holmes were the first and second commonwealth’s attorneys of Rockingham county.

On the reverse side of the parchment is a tabulation with columns headed “Ticket,” “No.” and “Deed Lott.” The numbers of the lots appear in the column headed “No.” This was probably provided for keeping a record of winners in the lottery.4

A dim and almost undecipherable statement appears to have been written above the tabulation.5 Under a magnifying glass the inscription seems to be “A List of the drawing of the New Haven Lottery the 2nd Thursday of October, 1808. By Jacob Kinney (?), John Wayt and Asher Waterman, Esq., George and William Dalton (?) and Drawn by John Gathery and William Watson.”

In his History of Rockingham County Dr. John W. Wayland states that “in January, 1804, an Act of Assembly was passed establishing the town of Newhaven on the land of Gideon Morgan and William Lewis, and appointing Edwin Nicholas, Asher Waterman, George Huston, George Gilmore, Matthias Amon, Benj. Lewis, Henry Perkey and Henry J. Gambill as trustees. It will be observed that the two places (Port Republic and New Haven) had several trustees in common, and their names indicate the importance that was attached to their location on navigable water.”6

REFERENCES

1Daily News-Record (Harrisonburg, Virginia), 4 December 1940, p. 6, cols. 3 and 4.
2Mr. Ruebush and his wife were both members of the Library Board in 1940. The assumption is that they simply “forgot” to pick up their property.
3Newhaven was formally established by an Act of the Virginia Assembly on 5 January 1804.
4Little is known of what transpired.
5The writing and the plat itself have apparently deteriorated still more during the last forty-five years. It is also true that the heavy glass now encasing the plat on both sides makes accurate transcription just a bit more difficult.
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<td>Brush</td>
<td>Tanner</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Brush</td>
<td>Labourer</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1/-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lucretia Henderson</td>
<td>Brush</td>
<td>House Serv't</td>
<td>-/1</td>
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<td>Brush</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan Hopkins</td>
<td>Harrisonburg</td>
<td>Labourer</td>
<td>1/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sally Peters</td>
<td>Harrisonburg</td>
<td>House Keeper</td>
<td>3/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Peters</td>
<td>Harrisonburg</td>
<td>Sadler</td>
<td>1/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thornton Boswell</td>
<td>Harrisonburg</td>
<td>Barbour</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Total 108/109


In the locked record room of the Rockingham County Courthouse, Harrisonburg, Virginia, there remains but a single page, utilized on both sides, from what was apparently a nineteenth-century ledger. The numbers “61” and “62” are at the top of the respective sides of the sheet.

Found on a scrap of paper in the Rockingham County Court House, this pencil sketch was apparently done in the first half of the nineteenth century by an unknown person—possibly as a means of alleviating a moment of boredom on the job.
BRETHREN CERTIFICATES OF MEMBERSHIP FROM VIRGINIA

by Roger E. Sappington

The Alexander Mack Library at Bridgewater College has recently received a collection of material dealing with the history of the Church of the Brethren in Tennessee. Included in the collection are a number of certificates of membership which were issued by congregations in Virginia and presented to the Knob Creek congregation in Tennessee. These certificates are of historical value, not only because of the individuals who were migrating from Virginia to Tennessee, but also because of the considerable number of Brethren leaders who were signing the certificates. It has been argued by Paul H. Bowman, writing in the 1960s, that the Tennessee Brethren were an extension of the Church in Virginia, and these certificates provide one bit of evidence to support his conclusion. These certificates which have been preserved in the records of one congregation certainly represent a very small fraction of the Brethren who were actually migrating from Virginia to Tennessee. They seem to indicate that the movement was mainly from the Shenandoah Valley, but the Brethren of the Roanoke, Franklin, Floyd, and Montgomery county areas in southern Virginia also joined in the movement.

During the latter part of the eighteenth century and the early part of the nineteenth century few such certificates appear to have been in use. Probably, the slowness of the Brethren in Tennessee in organizing congregations meant that there were no organizations to which a transfer could be officially made. The issuance of certificates of membership was stimulated in the 1880s by the appearance of special printed forms for that purpose. Prior to that time, the usual instrument was a simple letter of greeting and recommendation signed by the officials of the congregation.

Typical among these early transfers is a letter issued to Conrad Bashore and his wife, Susanna, by the Lost River congregation in western Virginia in 1852. It is beautifully worded, clearly written, and carefully signed by the officials of the congregation. It is a good example of the spirit of the Brethren as members moving from one congregation to another:

"Grace from God the father and peace and salvation in and through our Saviour the guidance of the holy spirit with a hartfeeling greeting from the Church of Lost River in Hardy County, Virginia, to the Brethrener and Sisters of the Church at Tennessee.

This is to Certify to you that br. Conrad Bashore and Susanna his wife are both members of our Church and in full union with the Church in our place and hereby we would Recomend them to your Care and nurture to be bide up with you according to the Gospel of our Lord. Given under our hands this the 14 day of September, 1852.

Sellesteeen Whitmer
Jessa Spitzer
Henry RoadCap
Peter Baker
Jacob Mathias
Jessa Whitzel
Benjamin Cuzlow
Corbin Snider
Henry Moyer

This letter, it will be noted, was directed to "the church at Tennessee" and is from Hardy County, Virginia. It was, therefore, issued prior to the organization of the state of West Virginia and antedates the organization of most Tennessee congregations. The few congregations organized prior to 1852 were evidently not well known to the Brethren in Virginia. The church "at Tennessee" appeared to have been a vague community in the minds of the Brethren of Lost River.

Conrad Bashore settled in Tennessee and became an influential citizen and an esteemed leader and minister among the Brethren. He built a grist mill on what was called Cherokee, a few miles east of Jonesboro, an early capital of the state and a community of historical and political importance. The milling business prospered, and Bashore needed help in its operation. As would be expected, he invited a young man from his former home, Lost River, to become his helper. The young man, Washington Dove, came to Tennessee, married Bashore's daughter, bought or inherited the mill, and operated it for many years. In fact, it became known as Dove's Mill on Cherokee, which has become the name of the community.

The Mill Creek congregation of Rockingham County, Virginia, issued a letter of transfer to Susan Pence Bowman in 1880 commending her to the care of the Brethren of the Knob Creek Church of Tennessee, and to "building her up in the church and the faith once delivered to the Saints." She had become the bride of Daniel F. Bowman, one of the prominent preachers and leaders at Knob Creek. Her letter bore the signatures of Elders Isaac Long, Frederick Miller, Samuel Cline, Samuel Petry, Noah Flory, and John Harshbarger. Other signatures were evidently those of deacons at Mill Creek, including H. E. Harshbarger, Thomas Good, and Abraham Flory.

A similar letter was issued to Betty Pence in 1888 and signed by the same officials. Betty became the wife of Peter G. Bowman of Knob Creek in his second marriage. His first wife had been Sallie Pence, a sister of Susan and Betty. Mill Creek also issued a membership certificate to Joseph Pence in 1889, which was presented to the Brethren at Knob Creek. It is reported that he spent a winter with his sisters and taught school in the community.

In addition to members of the Pence family, Mary E. Bashor also received a Church Certificate from the Mill Creek congregation in 1890. Her certificate was a printed form which was now being widely used by Brethren congregations:

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CHURCH CERTIFICATE

No. ____________

Mill Creek Church

April 3, 18__

To Whom this may Concern, Greeting: This is to certify that Mary E. Bashor is a Member of the Church of the Brethren (German Baptists) and is a Fellow with the Congregation at this place, and as such, we recommend her to the love and care of those to whom this may be presented.

P.O. Good Mills

D.B. Wampler Clerk

MINISTERS

Christian Hartman

Isaac Long

Henry C. Early

Isaac Long had signed the Pence certificates, but Hartman and Early were evidently new elders in the congregation.

Another Rockingham County congregation, Cooks Creek which was on the west side of the Valley Pike, was also issuing certificates. Using the same printed form, the congregation issued certificates in 1892 to John K. and Nannie J. McIntire. The Ministers/Elders signing the certificates were John A. Miller, S. W. Garber, and E. A. Miller. The congregation's clerk, living in Bridgewater, was S. F. Sanger. Just across the county line to the South, the Middle River congregation in Augusta County issued a Certificate of Membership in a slightly different printed form to Ann E. Garber in October, 1897. It was signed by J. M. Cline and Levi Garber as Ministers/Elders, by J. F. Miller and D. S. Garber identified as Deacons, and by John Wright and T. W. Stotoe as Clerks.

From southern Virginia, membership certificates were issued to Virginia Garst in 1870 by the Church in Montgomery County and signed by Peter Crumpacker, D. C. Moomaw, Hawkins Grisso, John John, John Purdue, and George Brunk; from the Church of Botetourt County for Nannie Bashore in 1879 and signed only by Peter Nininger; and from the Church of Floyd County to Emma Bowman in 1891 and signed by H. P. Hylton, P. H. Slusher, C. D. Hylton, Ananias Harman, Jacob Hylton, D. S. Hylton, Isaac Weddle, Daniel Bowman, Samuel Weddle, and E. W. Hylton.

Thus, these Certificates of Membership, preserved in the records of one Tennessee congregation, provide a variety of insights into the migrations of the Brethren in the nineteenth century and into the policies of the Church of the Brethren regarding the transferring of membership from one congregation to another.
A CIVIL WAR LETTER

Transcription by Marguerite Priode
Endnotes by Alfred M. Gibbons

This letter was donated sometime prior to 1986 to the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society, Harrisonburg, Va., by Mary Virginia ("Mary V." "Yancey") Canter, a descendant of Col. William Burbidge Yancey and his first wife, Mary Kyle Smith. Typescript is by Marguerite Priode. Bracketed insertions and endnotes were prepared by Alfred M. Gibbons with the assistance of John W. ("Bill") Wilson, Jr.

June 20th 1862
My Dear Sister;

When I wrote you from Harrisonburg I expected to leave there the next day, Mr Pence had hired a horse and I was ready to start, but before the horse came, we heard the Yankeys were very near, and in less than an hour, they were in sight. Oh I felt awful when I saw them; they came riding in with such an air, Hooping and hollowing and in full gallop. They fired on our Pickets, just below Mr Pence’s on Liggits [Liggetts] hill, our Pickets then left, the [Yankees] fired at our pickets again, between Mr Pence’s and town They [Union troops] then rode back And in a short time, came pouring in by thousands, wagons all encamped near Mr. Pences. In the evening they went out which was Friday [June 6] the evening Ashby was killed, poor Ashby I saw him pass in the morning Emily sent him a bouquet. Mr Pence boarded several of the [enemy] officers, they told us as soon as they returned from the fight, that Ashby was killed but we did not believe it, for not one of them tell the truth, one of them told or rather Mr Pence heard them say they had been terribly cut to pieces. Well on Saturday morning [June 7] they went out again and had another Skirmish, between Harrisonburg and Cross Keys, on Sunday [June 8] they made a General move, the day of the big fight. They went with there red flags on there Ambulances all ready for battle. In the morning when they left they gave us all Good By said they did not know whether they would go back down the Vally or go to Staunton, but to our joy on Tuesday [June 10] about twelve o clock, the wagons came pouring in by dozens, And in a short time hear they all came Skadaddeling so use there own word. General Milroy called at Pences and told him, he had lost nearly all his men. Milroy told Mr Pence, the same officers that had stayed with him, would be there again that evening. About four o clock they came, as soon as they came they asked Emily to have a bed stead put in the parlor, for a wounded Col that was coming on, of course she had to do what they said. She moved her bed stead in the parlor and put her bed on the floor we all slept on the floor, I mean Mr Pence Emily & myself, They had more wants than enough, we even had to mend one follows pants after he went to bed, some had to wash there feet, and I wish you could have heard Emily talk. Then they Artillery went they went as fast as they horses could go. Next morning which was Wednesday [June 11] they Skadaddled in A hurry, took there wounded Col with them. They had not been gone long until there was another wounded man brought there, he died about nine o clock that night. I tel
saw three thousand prisoners pass through Harrisonburg, that he captured in the Valley. I wrote to you all about the wounded Georgians we had at Mr. Penes, they would have kept them until they recovered, but had to move them before the Yankees came. Why don't you write and tell me if you got that letter, and if you have been getting my letters, Robert was here this morning. I am going for Fannie this evening she will come home to morrow, All are well. I was up home, stayed one night while Fannie was gone, Bob expects to harvest next week. We are very thankful that we fared as well as we did when the Yankeys were here, we dreaded them if they should get in the Valley again. They destroyed everything in Ed Yancey house, even got Fans spoons.

[Added at the tops of three pages]

And a great many persons lost heavily, a great many persons were pointed out to them by the Union folks, heard they destroyed everything about Honeyville, and if Jackson had not made them Skadaddle in such a hurry they would have done a great deal worse. But I tel you [they] left in double quick, love to all Your sister Mary

UNNUMBERED ENDNOTES

Dates of the "fights"

Friday, June 6: Battle of Harrisonburg
Sunday, June 8: Battle of Cross Keys
Monday, June 9: Battle of Port Republic

Identity of persons mentioned

"Mr. Penes" and "Emily": Franklin Kissling Pence (1816-99) and wife Emily Caroline Gibbons (born Dec. 18, 1812, married Sept. 15, 1846; no children; died Oct. 12, 1883), the second child of John S. and Elizabeth Gibbons, and the oldest of Mary's five younger sisters.


"Dr Numan": Dr. A. M. Newman (probably Anderson Moffett Newman, since that was the name of a son), a prominent physician whose farmland is now a part of the James Madison University campus in Harrisonburg.

"Mrs Kemper": Ann (born Feb. 26, 1792; died Dec. 10, 1871), widow of Rodham Kemper (born Aug. 25, 1796; died May 9, 1845), was residing at her log home at Cross Keys. Rodham Kemper, a merchant at Cross Keys since 1823, was a first cousin to Dr. George Kemper, Sr., whose "Madison hall" mansion was used by "Stonewall" Jackson as his headquarters while at Port Republic.

"Mag": Believed to have been Margaret B. Kemper (born May 23, 1836; died Sept. 12, 1907), perhaps unwed at the time, yet old enough to have been; if married, and since living with her mother, her husband might have been in the military.

"Mr Van Lear": William Van Lear, whose residence was located about a quarter of a mile south of Cross Keys.

"Ed": Edward S. Kemper, a son of Rodham and Ann. His home was located one-and-one-half miles to the northeast of Cross Keys. He and his brother William Morgan Kemper had continued to
operate their late father's store; thus its mention in the letter. The latter brother either was or had been a private in Co. B ("Rockingham Rifles"), 10th Regt., Va. Volks; it is known that he died in military service sometime that year.

"Fannie": Frances Virginia Kemper (born June 16, 1830—almost six years older than sister "Mag"; died Aug. 26, 1912), daughter of Rodham and Ann Kemper. She had married (Feb. 2, 1858) Robert Allen Gibbons, the fourth child of John S. and Elizabeth Gibbons of Locust Dale.

"Jackson": Identification hardly required.

"Mr Miller": Too many Millers in the area to be certain, but it is likely that Mary was referring to her semi-permanent, hospitable brother-in-law host, William Shanks Miller.


"Robert" and "Bob": Robert Allen Gibbons (born Aug. 27, 1818, at Locust Dale; died there on May 16, 1891) was Mary's second-oldest brother, and the husband of "Fannie" Kemper Gibbons (her senior by nearly twelve years). They were parents of two small sons and a baby daughter (named Mary Ashby), and lived with his elderly parents at Locust Dale.

"Ed Yancey": Edward Smith Yancey (born Feb. 6, 1838; died Aug. 13, 1885) was the fifth of seven children by Col. William Burbridge Yancey and his first wife, Mary Kyle Smith. His wife was Frances Virginia Maulzy (married Aug. 3, 1858) and their home was in Harrisonburg. He was captain of a cavalry company known as "The River Rangers," but his whereabouts in June of 1862 is presently unknown to the compilers.

EDITOR'S NOTE—This instalment marks the end of the meaningful portion of Dr. Wayland's typed chronology. The remainder of his manuscript, beginning with 1948, is handwritten and includes entries up through the early 1950's.

1930—Economic and Social Survey of Frederick County, by J. Julia Pickeral and Gordon Fogg, published by the University of Virginia.
1930—Harry M. Strickler's "Tenth Legion Tithables" published.
1930—"Johnny Appleseed and His Time," by Henry A. Pershing, published at Strasburg.
1930—"Fifty Years of Educational Endeavor" (history of Bridgewater College and related schools) printed in Staunton.
1930—"Virginia Valley Records," by John W. Wayland, printed at Strasburg.
1930, Jan. 4—Sir Philip Ben Greet and his company of English players at the State Teachers College, Harrisonburg.
1930, Monday, Jan. 6—Shenvallee club house at New Market burns.
1930, Sunday morning, Jan. 19—Temperature 15 degrees below zero in Rockingham County.
1930, Jan. 25—Harrisonburg papers report 30 gray foxes caught in eastern Rockingham during this winter.
1930, Thursday, March 6—Death at Mt. Jackson of Dr. Joseph I. Triplett, age 85.
1930, night of March 14—The Fisk Jubilee Singers at Bridgewater College.
1930, April—Extensive forest fires in the Blue Ridge, Massanutten, and Alleghanies.
1930, Thursday, May 8—Wallace Nutting, author and artist of Massachusetts, in Harrisonburg and at the college.
1930, Saturday, May 24—Bronze memorial tablet on the court house in Woodstock unveiled.
1930, June—Four Higgins sisters, singing quartet, from Dayton, win the national home music contest in Boston.
1930, June 1—Dedication of Cole Memorial Hall, Bridgewater College.
1930, June 19—Cornerstone of Wilson Hall, State Teachers (now Madison) College, laid.
1930, July—Unprecedented heat and drought in the Valley.
1930, July 8—Deaths in Rockingham of Dr. Ben Bowman Myers, age 72, and Dr. John Allebaugh Myers, age 74.
1930, July 22—Death in Staunton of James Eads Howe, the "millionaire hobo," age 56.
1930, July 24—Reported in the Harrisonburg newspaper that a gold nugget was found in the craw of a duck killed on the farm of Dan Hartman, near Harrisonburg.

1930, evening of Aug. 14—Campfire “Indian” program at May Flather Girl Scout Camp near Stokesville, Augusta County.

1930, Aug. 26—Report of gold found on the farm of John A. Hensley, 5 miles east of Elkton.

1930, October—House on the south corner of S. Main Street and Newman Avenue, first headquarters of Shenandoah Valley, Inc., formerly the home of Dr. John H. Neff, torn down.

1930, 1st Sunday in October—Home-coming at Walnut Spring Disciples Church, near Strasburg.

1930, Saturday, Oct. 4—Bust of William Randolph Barbee, sculptor, by his son, Herbert Barbee, unveiled at the summit of Thornton’s Gap, Blue Ridge.

1930, Nov. 9—An airplane falls at Verona, Augusta County, killing three young men.

1931—Bernadotte E. Schmitt, a native of Shenandoah County, awarded the Pulitzer Prize for History.

1931—The county-city court house in Harrisonburg remodeled.

1931—The Richmond-Harrisonburg Freight Line begins operation with one auto van; sold in 1947 with 50 pieces of equipment.

1931—F. Wilmer Coffman’s “Rockingham County in the World War” published.

1931—Shenandoah County Geography Supplement for schools published.

1931, Jan 1—Joseph K. Ruebush’s valuable book collection at Dayton partly destroyed by fire.

1931, Saturday night, March 21—Dr. John A. Sawhill gives his illustrated lecture on Venice at the State Teachers College, Harrisonburg.

1931, April 29—Death in Harrisonburg of Joseph G. Myers, surveyor and former county treasurer, age 78.

1931, May 4—Dies at Berryville, Mrs. Talley, age 74, a native of Loudoun County, wife of Samuel H. Talley.


1931, May 15—Woodrow Wilson Hall, State Teachers College, Harrisonburg, dedicated; Mrs. Woodrow Wilson present.


1931, May 29—Death in Harrisonburg of Squire Junius Clay Staples, age 85.

1931, June 4—Six of one family, 5 sisters and one brother, Higginbotham, of North Carolina, receive diplomas at Shenandoah College, Dayton.

1931, Sunday afternoon, June 7—The cornerstone of St. Stephen’s Reformed Church in Harrisonburg laid.

1931, June 22—Death in Harrisonburg of State Senator George Bernard Kezezell, age 77.

1931, August—The huckleberry crop in Page County estimated at $20,000 to $25,000 in value.

1931, Aug. 19—Death in Woodstock of Miss Alice Rinker, former school teacher, age 77.
1932, Thursday, Aug. 11—"Old Folks" singing at the Eastern Mennonite School, near Harrisonburg, in commemoration of 100 years since Joseph Funk first published his famous song book now known as the "Harmonia Sacra."

1932, Wednesday, Aug. 31—Miller reunion at Flat Rock, Shenandoah County.
1932, Friday, Sept. 2—Severe and destructive rain storm, with much lightning, in Southeast Rockingham.
1932, Sept. 3, 4, 5—Historical pageant in Harrisonburg—"Pageant of the Shenandoah."
1932, Sept. 4—Ritchie reunion in Brock’s Gap.
1932, Monday and Monday night, Sept. 5—Democrats of the new 7th Congressional District of Virginia hold a nominating convention in Wilson Hall, State Teachers College, Harrisonburg.
1932, Sept. 9—James T. Grady, C.S.A. veteran, 101 years old, lacking 20 days, dies in Harrisonburg.
1932, Sept. 15—First issue of the Northern Virginia Daily at Strasburg.
1932, Sept. 24—Two Southern Railway trains between Harrisonburg and Washington, one leaving Harrisonburg at 5:30 a.m., the other arriving in Harrisonburg at 9:35 p.m., make their last runs.
1932, November—Cattle on foot bought in Rockingham at 4 cents a pound.
1932, Nov. 2—Death in Page County at age 79 of John D. Ruffner, "Patriarch of the Ruffner family."
1932, Nov. 3—In Harrisonburg court King Solomon, a Waynesboro Negro, found guilty to the theft of an automobile.
1932, December—Navy beans selling in Harrisonburg 2 pounds for 5 cents; sugar for 4½ cents a pound.
1932, Dec. 3—Death at Ottobine, Rockingham County, of Mrs. Mary J. Anderson, widow of W.L.; age 94.
1932, Dec. 3—Died in Harrisonburg David F. Pittington, age 99.
1932, Dec. 18—Temperature in Harrisonburg 10 degrees below zero.
1932, Dec. 26—Death at Dale Enterprise, Rockingham County, of Bishop Lewis J. Heathwole, astronomer and author, age 80.
1933, Jan. 17—Death near Stuart’s Draft of Elder David Kendig, Church of the Brethren, age 83.
1933, Feb. 25 and 26—Violent wind storm in Shenandoah County, especially around Conicville and Columbia Furnace; one man killed and others injured.
1933, March 1—Daniel M. Wetsel, veteran seedsmen, aged 72, buried at Mill Creek Church, Rockingham County.
1933, March 20—Death at Timberville of Dr. W. A. Vaughn, age 74.
1933, March 13—Death in Broadway of Mrs. Harriet Norman, age 92.

1933, April 11—Death near New Market of Mrs. Julia Miller, widow of Dr. Schultz Miller; in her 98th year.
1933, April 21—Death in Harrisonburg of Charles Dewitt Harrison, lawyer, age 82.
1933, July 15—Cloudburst near Burketo, Augusta County.
1933, July 16—George Olinger Jr., Harry Strickler, and William Eaton Jr. killed in the fall of an airplane near Grottoes.
1933, Aug. 11—State firemen’s convention parade in Harrisonburg.
1933, Saturday, Aug. 12—President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s first visit to Harrisonburg, Rockingham County, &c.
1933, night of Aug. 18—Presbyterian pageant at Massanutta.
1933, Sept. 29—Death at Edom of David Wenger, age 70, son of Isaac.
1933, Nov. 4—Death of William O. Rust, age 93, last survivor of the Warrenton Rifles, organized in 1858.
1934—New bridge over the Hawksbill in Luray built.
1934—New bridge over Smith Creek east of New Market built—on the Lee Highway.
1934—Hunter McDonald publishes in Nashville his mother’s war diary, 1860-65, of experiences in the Shenandoah Valley.
1934—New public school building erected in Woodstock, at the northeast end of town, east side of the Pike.
1934—Barret family history, by George W. Chappel, printed in Harrisonburg.
1934—Broadway installs a new water system.
1934, January—The old William Reherd house, west side of Liberty Street, almost opposite the mouth of Graham Street, Harrisonburg, torn down; an excellent log structure.
1934, January—The first minute book of Dunmore (now Shenandoah) County Court found in New Market.
1934, Jan. 19—At the Lee-Jackson celebration in Harrisonburg present: John W. Gladwell, Bridgewater, age 102; D. N. Funkhouse, McGaheysville, age 90; J. D. Hillyard of Maryland, or Mayland, age 88; J. W. Gangwer, Harrisonburg, age 86.
1934, Feb. 10—Temperature at Harrisonburg 18 degrees below zero.
1934, Feb. 28—Temperature at Harrisonburg 19 degrees below zero.
1934, March 4—Music festival at Dayton celebrating the song “Old Virginia”; words by John W. Wayland, music by Will H. Rubesh.
1934, March 9—Isaac Benjamin Kagey (son of David) at Weyer’s Cave Station celebrates his 88th birthday.
1934, May 3 and 4—The 11th Apple Blossom Festival at Winchester.
1934, May 11—Peculiar amber haze (fog) in the Valley and other parts of Virginia, supposed to be dust from the dry Middle West.
1934, Thursday night, May 24—Special program in Harrisonburg honoring Supt. William H. Keister.
1934, night of June 1—Lowell Thomas speaks in Wilson Hall, State Teachers College, Harrisonburg.
1934, June 3—The United Daughters of the Confederacy celebrate Jefferson Davis' birthday in Front Royal.

1934, June 14—Massanutten Chapter D.A.R. unveils a bronze tablet at Smithland, 2 miles northeast of Harrisonburg.

1934, June 30—Death in Page County of Philip Kauffman, age 88; architect and builder. He died on or about June 30.

1934, July 10—Death in Harrisonburg of Lucy F. Sims, Negress, who had taught in county and city schools 56 years.

1934, July 20—Death in Harrisonburg of Thomas Lemen Williamson, formerly of New Market, age 87.

1934, July 29—58th anniversary of Pleasant View Church of the Brethren, 4 miles north of Mt. Jackson, near Buck Hill.

1934, July 29—Death near New Erection, Rockingham County, of Peter S. Hartman, age 88.

1934, Aug. 9—Violent storm of wind, rain, hail, and lightning sweeps across Broadway, Timberville, and Lacey Spring from the northwest.

1934, Aug. 10—A horse rescued from the bottom of a 35-foot well near Mayland, Rockingham County.

1934, Saturday night, Aug. 11—Rainfall of 3½ inches at Dale Enterprise, Rockingham County.

1934, Aug. 15—3d decennial reunion of the Dale Enterprise Literary Society.

1934, Aug. 21—Garber family reunion at Garber's Church, near Harrisonburg.

1934, September—Evelyn Norcross Sherrill and Ben Hibbs (later editor of the Saturday Evening Post), in the Country Gentleman, Philadelphia, write of Joseph Funk and Singers' Glen.

1934, Sept. 2—Death in Harrisonburg of Mrs. Mary L. Pollock, age 94.

1934, Saturday, Sept. 15—The Skyline Drive, from Thornton's Gap to Swift Run Gap, crest of the Blue Ridge, opened to the public.

1934, Oct. 19—At 1:15 p.m. a large flock of wild geese, flying southward, passes over Harrisonburg.

1934, November—70,000 turkeys reported in Rockingham County.

1934, Nov. 9—Virginia and West Virginia celebrate on the crest of Shenandoah Mountain in the completion of the new highway between Harrisonburg and Franklin.

1934, Nov. 29-Dec. 1—Rainfall of about 5 inches in and around Harrisonburg.

1934, Dec. 14—Burial in Harrisonburg of Rabbi Jacob Schvanenfeld.

1934, Dec. 15—John B. Peale, age 74, of Rockingham County, dies in Chattanooga, Tenn.

1935—Highway bridge constructed across the river 1 mile southwest of Mt. Crawford.

1935—The highway between Elkton and Harrisonburg rebuilt.

1935—A new public school building erected at Tom's Brook.


1935, Friday, Jan. 25—Temperature at Harrisonburg 16 degrees below zero; January 28, 20 degrees below zero.

1935, night of Feb. 16—"Green Pastures" presented at the State Teachers College, Harrisonburg.

1935, Feb. 17 or 18—Death in Woodstock of Charles C. Williams, age 88, a printer connected with the Shenandoah Herald 65 or 66 years.


1935, March 7—Burial in Page County of Isaac Long, age 83.

1935, April—Autos seen in Harrisonburg from Oklahoma, California, Texas, Illinois, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and other states.

1935, April—The Valley Pike widened and straightened through Mt. Crawford.

1935, May—A steel viewing tower erected on the Massanutten Mountain east of Woodstock.


1935, June 1—Luther A. Bazzle, veteran Rockingham rural mail carrier, retires after 33 years and 11 months—traveled about 277,000 miles.

1935, July—The old Welsh Hotel (Reamer House, Shockeye House) on the west side of Main Street, Woodstock, torn down.

1935, July 8—Black's Run floods Liberty Street, Harrisonburg.

1935, night of Aug. 7—Natural Falls Mill, Bridgewater, burns; loss about $75,000.

1935, Monday, Sept. 2—3453 automobiles from other states reported counted passing through Harrisonburg—"Labor Day."

1935, Sept. 8—Death in Harrisonburg of Lee Long, age 70; a native of Page County.


1935, week Oct. 28-Nov. 2—National Fruit Products Company in Winchester bought daily 1,000,000 pounds of apples for vinegar, jelly, apple butter, etc.

1935, Nov. 1—The new highway bridge over North River at Lexington put into commission.

1935, Saturday, Nov. 23—Walker McC. Bond and Caroline D. Lupton marry at Hopewell Friends Meeting House, 7 miles northeast of Winchester.

1935, Nov. 25—Reported in the Harrisonburg newspaper that Donovan & Sullivan had recently bought at Dunmore Mt. Airy, near Mt. Jackson, 4 hogs that weighted together 3,460 pounds.

1935, Nov. 25—Death at Weyer's Cave Station, Augusta County, of Isaac Benjamin Kagey, age 89.


1935, Dec. 28, 29—William E. Carson marooned by snow on the Skyline Drive, opposite Luray, for about 26 hours.

1936—Overpass (highway over the N. & W. Railway) at Gaylord, Clarke County, built.
1936—President Franklin D. Roosevelt at Big Meadows on the Blue Ridge dedicates the Shenandoah National Park.
1936—Death near Maurertown of Lemuel Borden, lawyer, teacher, and publisher of The Tribune of the People; age 86.
1936—A destructive storm at Grottoes and other places in the Valley.
1936—The garment factory on the northeastern side of Rock Street, Harrisonburg, begins operation.
1936—The bridge over the river at Rude’s Hill rebuilt.
1936—Three barns on the Jacob Harshbarger farm 2½ miles northwest of Port Republic burned by lightning.
1936—Roush family reunion and unveiling of monument at Fine Church, 3 miles west of Mt. Jackson.
1936—Death in Harrisonburg of Dan P. Wine, age 56; manager for years of the New Virginia Theater and first secretary of Shenandoah Valley, Inc.
1936—Street improvements in Berryville.
1936—Junior Hall, State Teachers (now Madison) College, completed.
1936—The new postoffice building in Strasburg completed.
1936—The Dayton U. B. Church celebrates its centennial.
1936—Death at or near Timberville of Joseph F. Spitzer, age 94.
1937—in Chicago Mary Lee Keister Talbot publishes her booklet, 64 pages: “The Dyer Settlement and the Fort Seybert Massacre.”
1937—“Beautiful Shenandoah,” by Darwin S. Lambert of the National Park Service, published at Luray.
1937—Dies John Leonard Mohler, age 96, near Mt. Meridian, Augusta County.
1937—Published obituary of Abram Paul, age 90, of Ottobine, Rockingham County.
1937—Death at Harrington, Kansas, of Samuel Forrer, age 85; a native of Augusta County.
1937—Death in Honey Run Hollow, Page County, of C. H. Hilliard, in his 94th year.
1937—George N. Conrad, lawyer, age 68, son of George O., dies at his home in Harrisonburg.
1937—Church of the Brethren (Frame building), just northeast of Bridgewater; torn down.
1937—Death near Harrisonburg of Henry Forrer, age 91; a native of Augusta County.
1937—Death of John Forrer, age 87, of Augusta County.
1937—Sunday night, Feb. 21—Heavy rain; Mildred Whetzel, age 16, of Singers’ Glen, drowned at a culvert on the Rawley Pike, near Weaver’s Church; her body washed down 4 miles to Dayton.
1937—Black’s Run (through Harrisonburg) and other small streams in the vicinity higher than ever known before.
1937, March 16—The Harrisonburg Daily News-Record issues a special historical supplement relating to the city and county.
1937, March 27—Edgelawn section added to the city of Harrisonburg by a 3-judge court: order effective July 1.
1937, March 31—Harrisonburg millers paying $1.50 a bushel for wheat—highest (so said) since 1926.
1937, April—A maple sugar camp in operation in West Rockingham, east side of Shenandoah Mountain, above Rawley Springs.
1937, April—Construction work for the Front Royal plant, American Viscose Corp., begins; building construction started August, 1937; production work, August, 1940.
1937, April 27, 28—Annual meeting of the Augusta Baptist Association in Staunton.
1937, April 30—Death at Bridgewater of Cyrus Cline, lawyer, age about 80; his wife, Laura O'Ferrall, died in 1932. Cline had spent years in Texas.
1937, June 1—Announced that Virginia Caverns (formerly Harrison's Cave and Blue Grottoes) is renamed Caverns of Melrose.
1937, June 23—Louis A. Warren of Indiana and others on a Lincoln pilgrimage at Linville Creek.
1937, Sunday, Sept. 12—Trinity Lutheran Church, 5 miles northeast of Keezletown, celebrates 150 years.
1937, Oct. 18—Mayor John W. Morrison of Harrisonburg shoots himself in southeast Rockingham.
1937, Oct. 28—Death in Rockingham of Mrs. Aldine S. Keiffer, age 93; she was Josie Hammon of Shenandoah County.
1937, Nov. 13—The Northcott tower of chimes at Luray, 47 bells, dedicated.
1937, December—Skyline Caverns, near Front Royal, discovered by Walter S. Amos of Winchester; near the old Allen Cave.
1937, Dec. 6—The Harrisonburg Blue Lodge (Masons) presents a cane to R. M. Colvin, age 93, 50 years a Mason.
1937, early night of Dec. 10—The western span of the highway bridge over the Shenandoah River at Elkton breaks down when a truck and an automobile collide. Two men with the truck, thrown into the water, escape drowning. A new bridge contemplated.
1938—New county clerk’s office for Frederick County in Winchester completed.
1938—“Madison College” made the official name of the State Teachers College at Harrisonburg.
1938—New concrete and steel bridge erected over the river at Timberville.
1938, January—The old building in Harrisonburg, northeast side of E. Market Street, just northwest of Federal Alley, torn down. It included the old stone Presbyterian Church.
1938, January—The old house at Double Tollgate, between Stephens City and White Post, torn down.

1938, Jan., 5—The Betsy Ross Restaurant in Winchester burns; the building formerly housed Bell's Bookstore.
1938, Jan. 15—Reported death in Frederick County of Daniel F. Miller, age 100 years, lacking 4 months; born in Hampshire County, May 9, 1938.
1938, Jan. 19—At a Lee-Jackson celebration in Harrisonburg, present: R. M. Colvin, age 93; James E. Reherd, age 92; J. W. Gangwer, age 90; 3 of 5 surviving C. S. A. veteran’s in Rockingham County.
1938, Jan. 22—Death in Harrisonburg of Charles G. Harnsberger, aged about 84.
1938, Sunday night, Feb. 13—Sheriff J. W. Newcom killed and Deputy George Miller seriously wounded by gunfire in western Frederick County by George Pingley.
1938, April 17—Death at Broadway of Mrs. Kate Hopkins, age 94; daughter of Albert Long and widow of Peachy Harrison Hopkins.
1938, May 21—The Harrisonburg newspaper announces the retiring of Sam R. Fawley, rural mail carrier 30 years; had traveled about 241,800 miles.
1938, Sunday, May 29—St. Paul's Lutheran Church west of Mt. Solon, Augusta County, celebrates 100 years.
1938, Sunday, night, May 29—Program at the Harrisonburg Baptist Church honoring Rev. E. B. Jackson, D.D.
1938, Sunday, July 17—Home-coming at Cedar Grove Church of the Brethren on Rude's Hill.
1938, July 28—Death in Harrisonburg of Robert Mason Colvin, age 93.
1938, early in August—Wet season—wheat sprouting in the counties of Shenandoah, Frederick, Clarke, and Jefferson.
1938, Thursday, Aug. 18—Garber family reunion at Garber's Church, near Harrisonburg.
1938, Monday, Oct. 10—The Methodist Baltimore Conference closes a 5-day session in Harrisonburg.
1938, Oct. 21—Death near Mayland, Rockingham County, of James D. Hillyard, age 93; one of 4 C. S. A. veterans in Rockingham County.
1938, autumn—Reported that J. E. Bryant and W. M. Summers had killed 29 foxes in Rockingham County.
1938, Nov. 6—Large bronze tablet on the wall of the old stone Lutheran Church in Winchester unveiled. The building was burned in 1854.
1938, Nov. 19—Burial in Edinburg of Albert L. Grandstaff, age 74, a native of Shenandoah County who died in Harrisonburg.
1938, Nov. 19—Gas explosion wrecks the old Gay building, southwest corner of N. Main and Gay Street, Harrisonburg, killing John Beach and injuring 15 other persons; other adjacent buildings injured.
1938, Dec. 17—Death in Harrisonburg of Miss Kate Abigail Pennybacker, age 70; buried in the old Lincoln graveyard on Linville Creek.
1938-39—New bridge built over the Potomac at Shepherdstown; one at Timberville across the north fork of the Shenandoah; one at Elkton across the south fork of the Shenandoah.

1938-39—Augusta County court house in Staunton remodeled and enlarged.


1939—New bridge built over the Shenandoah River at Castleman’s Ferry, east of Berryville.

1939, Jan. 9—Death of William Henry Sipe of Bridgewater, age 80.

1939, Jan. 30—Death near Kezeltown of Brock T. White, age 69.


1939, Feb. 17—Death in Bluefield, W. Va., of Judge Talfourd N. Haas of Harrisonburg. He was born in Rockbridge County, Feb. 22, 1864.

1939, night of Feb. 19—Linville-Edom school building burns.

1939, Feb. 24—Death at Calvary, Shenandoah County, of James A. Kibler, Confederate veteran, aged 94.

1939, March—Taj, magazine, by Harrisonburg High-School students, devoted to Shenandoah Valley and Virginia writers and publishers.

1939, March 25—Death at Cootes’s Store, Rockingham County, of Prof. Charles E. Barglebaugh, age 87.

1939, March 25—Death in Harrisonburg of Lewis Philip Ott, age 90; born in Woodstock.

1939, April—Skyline Caverns, near Front Royal, first opened to the public; closed from 1942 to 1946.

1939, April 7—Death in Mt. Jackson of James Lindamood, age 93; formerly of Hamburg, Shenandoah County.

1939, April 13, 14—Harrisonburg Presbyterians celebrate 150 years in Harrisonburg.

1939, May—New bronze tablets placed in Rockingham County Court House, giving information about 5 court houses—replacing earlier tablets, which were erroneous.

1939, May 18—United Daughters of the Confederacy, Second District, Virginia Division, meet in Harrisonburg.

1939, May 19—The Clarke County Historical Association organized.

1939, May 20—Formal opening of the new highway bridge over the Shenandoah River at Elkton.

1939, May 22—President Franklin D. Roosevelt comes into Rockingham from the east, via the Spotswood Trail, to Harrisonburg, thence to Endless Caverns—his third visit to Rockingham County.

1939, May 31—The schools of Frederick County stage a music festival at the Handley School in Winchester.

1939, spring—The highway between Pleasant Hill and Dayton rerouted and rebuilt.

1939, July—Rebuilding of the highway between Harrisonburg and Dayton completed.

1939, July 6—Death in San Francisco of Cornelius J. Heatwole; born at Dale Enterprise October 20, 1868; buried at Weaver’s Church July 11, 1939.

1939, July 15—The James Rumsey bridge over the Potomac at Shepherdstown formally opened.

1939, July 31—The Harrisonburg newspaper reports the death in Shenandoah County of Rev. Daniel H. Rhodes, Church of Christ (Disciples), in his 96th year.

1939, about Aug. 6—One elephant killed and another one thrown out by the wrecking of a circus truck near Mint Spring, Augusta County.

1939, Aug. 8—Donald Coffey and Harold Pollock of Indianapolis throw down the 125-foot smoke stack at the old heating plant rear of Harrison Hall, Madison College.

1939, Aug. 10 (?)—Death of George W. Koiner, age 87, of Augusta County, 40 years state commissioner of agriculture.

1939, night of Aug. 15—Movietone of Gilbert & Sullivan’s “The Mikado” at the State Theater, Harrisonburg.

1939, Aug. 18—Funeral in Harrisonburg of Robert M. Furr, age 62; native of Shenandoah County; burial there.

1939, Aug. 31—Skyline Drive, 34 miles, Swift Run Gap to Rockfish Gap, opened.

1939, Sept. 2-4—Third tomato festival of Morgan County held at Berkeley Springs.

1939, Sept. 4, 5—The first Rockingham Turkey Festival in Harrisonburg; attendance estimated at 40,000.


1939—Henckel Family Records, by Dr. C. O. Miller of New Market, published at New Market.

1939, Oct. 19, 20—The Front Royal Baptist Church celebrates 100 years.

1939, Oct. 25, 26—The Harrisonburg Rotary Club presents “Anchors Aweigh,” a musical revue for charitable work; a handsome souvenir program of 48 pages published.

1939, Oct. 30—The Harrisonburg Masonic Lodge celebrates 150 years.

1939, Nov. 4, 5—Heavy snowfall in the Valley—the heaviest of 59 years for the season, as recorded at Dale Enterprise.


1940—The Middle Road between Rinkerton and Forestville rebuilt, at least for part of the way.

1940—Mrs. Geo. D. Rowe of Baltimore mimeographs and binds into a book of 241 pages the diary, 1861-65 of Miss Lucy R. Buck of Front Royal.

1940—“Stonewall Jackson’s Way,” by John W. Wayland, published by the McClure Company, Staunton.

1940—The Albemarle County historical Society organized.

1940—Historical Sketches of Winchester and Frederick County, by W. W. Glass and R. E. Griffith Sr., printed in Winchester.

1940, January—Richard E. Griffith Sr. completes a new and improved index to Frederick County will books, 1743 to 1916, inclusive.

1940, Jan. 27—Temperature 12 degrees below zero at Harrisonburg.
1940, Feb. 22—John W. Wayland, by invitation, reads a paper on George Washington West of the Blue Ridge before the Sons of the Revolution in Richmond.
1940, Feb. 26—Death in Waynesboro of A. C. Kimler, age 85; a noted teacher in the Valley for many years.
1940, March 23—New Federal building (court house, postoffice, etc.) in Harrisonburg dedicated.
1940, April 18—In Frederick County clerk’s office, Winchester, a marriage license is issued to a man and woman who had been twice married to each other and twice divorced before this date.
1940, May 1—Marker erected at Broadway High School honoring C. E. Barglebaugh and other educational leaders.
1940, May 17-19—In Woodstock the 102nd annual meeting of the Classis of Virginia—Potomac Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States, Evangelical and Reformed.
1940, June 3—The motorized 26th Infantry of the U.S. Army (or a part of it) passed northeastward through Harrisonburg towards Harrisburg, Pa., from maneuvers in the South.
1940, June 22—The large brick building on the northwest side of Liberty Street, Harrisonburg, burns. Had been used as a preaching place by Gypsy Smith Jr. and for other purposes.
1940, June 22—Buried in Dayton George W. Hedrick, 86, who died in Florida.
1940, June 28—Death in Harrisonburg of Morris Spiro, age 68; railroad foreman, active Mason, and tireless Red Cross worker.
1940, July—“Washington West of the Blue Ridge” in the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Richmond.
1940, July 25—Death in Harrisonburg of John P. Burke, age 79; a native of New Market.
1940, July 25—Death in Harrisonburg of Mrs. Ernest C. Wilton, age 65; daughter of Joseph S. and Alice Cornelia Rohr Messerley.
1940, July 29—Death at Pleasant Valley, Rockingham County, of Peter Cline Kaylor, local historian, age 82.
1940, August—Harvey Riffle, C. S. A. veteran, age 96, photographed at Lantz Mills, Shenandoah County, with Hon. A. Willis Robertson.
1940, Aug. 10—Death in Harrisonburg of Mrs. Winfield Liggett, age 85; Mary Rush Coffman, daughter of Dr. Samuel A. Coffman and wife Catherine Ann Baer; sister to Admiral DeWitt Coffman.
1940, Aug. 19—Harrisonburg circled by 11 airplanes (flown by 10 men and one woman), in observance of national aviation week.
1940, summer—Much rain, in contrast with the hot, dry summer of 1930.
1940, Sept. 14—Death in Harrisonburg of James E. Reherd, age 94.
1940, Sept. 18—Death at Kyger’s Shop, Rockingham County, of Mrs. Sarah Jane Cling, age 94; daughter of Thomas and Lucy Fisher Good; widow of Michael Cling.
1940, Sept. 22—Heatwole family reunion at old home of David Heatwole, later home of George W. Snell, now home of Lewis Brunk, near Dayton.
1940, November—The Northern Virginia Daily, Strasburg, issues a special number of 80 pages on Front Royal.
1941—Death near Harrisonburg of Rev. Abraham B. Burkholder, age 92; he was a Mennonite preacher 64 years.
1941, Nov. 23—Death near Tenth Legion of David Richard Martz, age 91.
1941, Nov. 25—Death in Baltimore of Isaac Ney, merchant, of Harrisonburg, age 70.
1941, Dec. 7—Death of the Rev. George B. Hinson, age 78; music teacher, composer, and author.
1941, Dec. 23—The Harrisonburg newspaper carries a picture of William A. Showalter, rural mail carrier, retiring after 25 years in which he traveled 376,000 miles.
1942—Quinn G. Kaylor of near Harrisonburg states that Flora, Indiana, was named for Rockingham Florys who went to Indiana.
1942—Freeman H. Hart's "The Valley of Virginia in the American Revolution" published by the University of North Carolina Press.
1942—Kirby S. Bassford of Harrisonburg publishes "Sketches of Harrisonburg," 28 pages, relating chiefly to schools and fire companies.
1942—Mary Baldwin College centennial history, 629 pages, by Mary Watters, published in Staunton—printed by the McClure Company of Staunton.
1942 (?)—Bridge over the river at Edinburg washed away.
1942, Feb. 6—Death in Harrisonburg of Dan F. Holmes of Luray, age 78; photographer, teacher, antiquarian, &c.
1942, Feb. 19—Stated in the Harrisonburg Daily News-Record that "Pawnee Bill" (Major Gordon W. Lilly), who died recently in Oklahoma, aged 82, was a native of Rockingham County.

1942, March—Dummore Mt. Airy, near Mt. Jackson, with a large acreage, sold to Harold S. Vanderbilt.
1942, night of March 17—The teachers of Rockingham County banquet John C. Myers, superintendent of the county schools 25 years.
1942, April 12—Killed in an automobile collision in Page County, John Samuel Lauck, age 75; said to have been a great-grandson of Peter C. Lauck of Winchester, one of Morgan's Revolutionary riflemen.
1942, night of May 15—The Jefferson County Historical Society meets in Charles Town—lecture on Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign.
1942, May 18—Death in Woodstock of Hunter B. Chapman, born March 24, 1866, in Winchester.
1942, June 13—Portrait of Gov. Charles T. O'Ferrall presented to Rockingham Circuit Court. He was living in Harrisonburg when elected governor in 1893.
1942, June 17—Funeral in Page County of David Keyser, age 94; in early life a boatman on the Shenandoah River.
1942, June 20—Death in Elkton by Silas B. Hensley, age 97.
1942, July 25—Story in the Saturday Evening Post by John D. Weaver, Shenandoah Valley native.
1942, August—Gap Rock, mouth of Brock's Gap, blasted back to widen the highway.
1942, Aug. 13—Rader's Lutheran Church, near Timberville, struck by lightning and burned.
1942, Aug. 20—Death in Harrisonburg of Mrs. J. Fred Good, age 88; daughter of Uriah and Anna Fultz; buried at Cedar Grove, northeast of New Market.
1942, Sept. 3—In Harrisonburg Capt. William G. Myers swears in 53 Rockingham minute men as members of the Virginia Reserve Militia.
1942, Sept. 9—Judge John Paul and Greer Garson speak in Harrisonburg at a war bond rally.
1942, October—The brick building of the old New Market Polytechnic Institute torn down.
1942, Oct. 15—Black's Run, Harrisonburg, very high; the electric plant south of town flooded; lights off most of the time for two days.
1942, Oct. 20—Death at Winchester of Judge Philip Williams from a gunshot wound, believed to have been self-inflicted.
1942, Dec. 29—Death at Tom's Brook of Loy J. Coffman, clerk of Shenandoah County.
1943—Rockingham and Harrisonburg biographies ("Men of Mark") published by the McClure Company, Staunton.
1943—"Clarke County, A Daughter of Frederick," by Rose M. E. MacDonald of Berryville, printed in Berryville by the Blue Ridge Press.
1943—The C. & O. Railway Company completes a second tunnel, 4200 feet long, 
through the Blue Ridge under Rockfish Gap.
1943—Clarke County Historical Association publishes its “Proceedings,” Vol. III.
1943—History of Boyce Agricultural High School edited by Clay B. Carr, 
printed by the Jefferson Publishing Co., Charles Town.
1943, Jan. 1—The C&W Railway Company operates its first train between 
Harrisonburg and Staunton.
1943, Jan. 1—Last annual “Old Folks Singing” in the old Weaver’s Church, 
1943, Jan. 22—Death in Charles Town of Miss Nellie Campbell, age 87; said to 
have been a daughter of Sheriff James W. Campbell who hanged John Brown.
1943, Jan. 28—Death at Parkview, near Harrisonburg, of Daniel S. Brunk, age 
86, expert cabinet-maker.
1943, Jan. 30—An oldtime sleigh on the streets of Harrisonburg, drawn by a 
horse with bells.
1943, Sunday, Jan. 31—New Weaver’s Church (stone building), northwest of 
Harrisonburg, dedicated—free of debt, with a balance in the bank. 86.
1943, Feb. 19—Death in Harrisonburg of John E. Kelley, age 86.
1943, March 7—Death at Takoma Park, Md., of Elder Robert Dewitt Hottel, 
age 85, Adventist leader of New Market.
1943, April—Monument (stone base for tablet) erected at Singers’ Glen to 
Joseph Funk, “Father of Song in Northern Virginia.”
1943, April 28—Death in Woodstock of Mrs. John S. Kline, age 89; Mary 
Virginia Bowman, daughter of Ephraim and Josephine (Dyer) Bowman of 
Shenandoah County.
1943, May 7—Death at Timberville of Hugh J. Clougherty, age 98; born in 
Galway, Ireland.
1943, May 17—Death near Harrisonburg of Quincy G. Kaylor, age 84; son of 
Lewis W. and brother to Peter C. Kaylor. Both devoted to local history.
1943, May 22—Doris Virginia Dean, age 4, found alive in the Blue Ridge, East 
Rockingham; lost 5 days.
1943, June 2—Death at Duke University, Durham, N.C., of Prof. Frank Clyde 
Brown; born near Harrisonburg October 16, 1870.
1943, July 7—Home-grown tomatoes marked 25 cents a pound in a Harrison-
burg grocery.
1943, Tuesday, July 13—A hard storm of wind, lightning, and rain, at Harrison-
burg and in adjacent area.
1943, Saturday, July 17—Another storm in the same area, more violent than that 
of July 13.
1943, Tuesday, July 20—A third violent storm in the same area—much damage 
on the 17th and 20th.
1943, July 20—Edward McKim McCue, age 82, dies near Fort Defiance.
1943, September—U.S. Geological Survey map of Rockingham County being 
revised.
1943, September—Woodrow Wilson General Hospital, near Fishersville and 
Staunton, completed.

1943, Sept. 25—Death in Hanover County, Va., of Walter Nelson Sprinkel, age 
80; native of Harrisonburg.
1943, Sept. 27—Death near Mt. Meridian, Augusta County, of Jacob Rupert 
Mohler, age 96; brother to John Leonard Mohler, age 96, who died January 5, 
1937.
1943, Oct. 27—The Harrisonburg Daily News-Record prints names of the 80 
postoffices in Rockingham County in 1903 and thereabouts; 25 in 1943.
1943, Nov. 28—Death in Ohio of Allan C. Bryan, age 76, of Harrisonburg; son of 
Pendleton and Emma Lyon Bryan; grandson of Judge Allan C. Bryan.
1943, Dec. 3—Madison College holds several programs honoring two old 
teachers, Miss Elizabeth P. Cleveland and John W. Wayland.
1944—“The Culture of the Keyser Farm Site,” 57 pages, findings by archaeolo-
gists, near Rileyville, Page County, by Carl Mason, H.A. MacCord, and J. B. 
Griffin, printed by the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters.
1944—“The Manor of Greenway Court,” by Josiah L. Dickinson, in Vol. IV, 
Proceedings of the Clarke County Historical Association.
1944—Kirby S. Bassford of Harrisonburg publishes “Landmarks and Person-
ages of Old Harrisonburg,” 32 pages.
1944—Cecil Ray Moore of Harrisonburg made a major-general (by advance-
ment through grades).
1944, March 10-11—Death of state senator Aubrey G. Weaver of Front Royal 
in the Jefferson Hotel fire, Richmond.
1944, March 14—Harrisonburg votes 766 for mayor-council government; 754 
for outright city manager plan.
1944, March 16—Death in Rockingham Memorial Hospital of John H. Hoover, 
80, of Timberville.
1944, April 1—Preliminary meeting in the county-city court house, Harrison-
burg, to form a Rockingham County historical society.
1944, Saturday, April 22—The Rockingham County Historical Society adopts 
a constitution and elects officers, appoints committees, &c.
1944, April 23—The Bridgewater Baptist Church, organized in 1873, celebrates 
with an historical program.
1944, May 2—Turner Ashby Chapter, U.D.C., Harrisonburg, reviews the life 
and work of John H. Reagan (1818-1905).
1944, May 5—Madison College celebrates 25 years of the presidency of Dr. 
Samuel P. Duke.
1944, May 9—the Augusta Baptist Association meets in Harrisonburg—its 68th 
annual session. John W. Wayland retires as historian of the Association after 
30 years in that office.
1944, June 3—Burial in Columbus, Ohio, of Joseph C. Campbell, age 91; a native of 
Shenandoah County, Va.
1944, June 6—Death in Harrisonburg of Joseph Thomas Houck, age 71; son of 
Joseph Peter Houck, J.T. Houck was born in Shenandoah, Page County, July 
12, 1873.
1944, June 18—Death near Greenmount, Rockingham County, of Mrs. John V. 
Long, age 96; daughter of Peter and Frances Good Breneman.
1944, June 23, 24—Papers blown into Rockingham by the tornado at Shinnston
and Belington, W.Va.,—a distance of 100 miles over mountains.
1944, July 15—15 army airplanes pass over Harrisonburg, going northwest, from
Norfolk to Wright Field, Ohio, to avoid approaching hurricane on the Atlantic
coast.
1944, June-July—Letters and other papers found in the Valley, blown from West
Virginia, 100 miles away.
1944, July 22—Committee announced to plan for and promote a community
center at Harrisonburg for the city and county as a memorial to those who
serve in the World War, 1942,—from Harrisonburg and Rockingham
County.
1944, Sunday, July 30—Home-coming and centennial program at Greenmount
Church of the Brethren, Rockingham County.
1944, July 31—Lt. Col. Robert T. Hering of Harrisonburg killed in action in
France.
1944, Saturday, Aug. 19—Tournament (riding to lance rings) at Natural Chim-
neys, near Mt. Solon; said to be the 123d annual tournament at that place.
1944, Aug. 30—Meeting of the Shenandoah Baptist Association in Charles
Town—the 62nd annual session.
1944, Sept. 1—The U.S. Senate confirms appointment of Nat H. Keezell as
postmaster at Harrisonburg.
1944, Sept. 3—Rededication of St. Luke's Evangelical and Reformed Church at
County Line—Fairfax Line, between Rockingham and Shenandoah; church
remodeled.
1944, Sept. 4—Dedication of the new highway bridge over the north fork of the
Shenandoah River near Edinburg.
1944, Sunday, Sept. 17—The Baptist Church of Luray celebrates its centenni.
1944, Sept. 18-21—Meeting at Singers' Glen—the 145th annual Virginia Confer-
ence of the United Brethren in Christ.
1944, Sunday, Sept. 24—Dedication of the rebuilt Rader's Lutheran Church
near Timberville.
1944, Sunday, Sept. 24—Rededication of Grace Evangelical and Reformed
Church, refitted, near Rinkerton, Shenandoah County.
1944, Sept. 28—The Medical Association of the Valley of Virginia meets at
Ingleside Hotel, 3 miles northeast of Staunton.
1944, Sept. 29—Death at Broadway of lawyer Charles R. Winfield, age 88; son of
Capt. John Q. Winfield.
1944, October—The County Officer (magazine) devoted to Rockingham County
and Harrisonburg.
1944, Sunday, Oct. 1—The Harrisonburg Baptist Church (white) celebrates 75
years (as of January 17, 1944).
1944, Oct. 4—Death in Harrisonburg of Prof. George Warren Chappellear, age
55; a native of Fauquier County; a promoter of the Rockingham County
Historical Society and author of genealogies.
1944, Oct. 19—20-odd army or navy airplanes fly northwest over Harrisonburg
to escape a hurricane on the Atlantic coast.
1944, Oct. 24—Beverley Manor Chapter D. A. R. hear in Staunton an address on
Shenandoah Valley Revolutionary history.
1944, Sunday, Nov. 12—The U. B. Church in Harrisonburg observest its 50th
anniversary.
1944, Sunday, Nov. 26—St. Stephens Reformed Church, Harrisonburg, cele-
brates its 50th anniversary.
1944, Nov. 29—Announced that the Celanese Corporation of America had
purchased 18 acres at the north side of Bridgewater for building a textile
factory.
1945—"Evenings with the Stars," by Prof. M. T. Brackbill, of E.M.S., Harrison-
burg, published at Scottdale, Pa.
1945—"The Shenandoah," 374 pages, by Julia Davis, published by Farrar &
Rinehart, New York and Toronto.
1945—Map of the Robert Carter tract in Clarke County, in Proceedings of the
Clarke County Historical Association," Vol. V.
1945, Jan. 11—History of the Harrisonburg Baptist Church, by John W. Way-
land, published—54 pages—printed in Dayton.
1945, March 6—Death in Harrisonburg of Miss Mary I. Bell, age 87; one of the
original teachers in the State Normal School, now Madison College.
1945—A warm March.
1945, May 8—VE Day quietly celebrated in Harrisonburg in the afternoon.
1945, May—In the Madison Quarterly (published by Madison College, Harri-
sonburg) an article on Port Republic and one on the Rockingham Academy,
Harrisonburg, of 1839.
1945, May 9—Death near Rockland Mills, Rockingham County, of Mrs. Eliza
Jane Whitmer, age 98; daughter of Elias and Eliza Kersh Craun.
1945, April and May—Cool.
1945, spring—Rockingham's poultry industry described in the Richmond Fed-
eral Reserve Bank bulletin.
1945, May 22—Destructive wind storm in the region of Broadway, Mayland,
Timberville, and New Market.
1945, May 22—Death in Harrisonburg of William R. Bowman, age 93.
1945, June 5—The city of Harrisonburg purchases Silver Lake, Dayton, as an
emergency water supply.
1945, Monday afternoon, June 11—A destructive wind storm at and around
Cross Keys and Good's Mill.
1945, Sunday, June 17—Death in Harrisonburg of Alonzo Dovel, age 93; a
native of Page County.
1945, Sunday night, June 17—A destructive storm of wind, lightning, rain and
hail at and around Mt. Jackson.
1945, June 17-19—In Harrisonburg the 23rd annual encampment of the Va. De-
partment V.F.W.—veterans of three wars: 1898, 1914-18, and 1941-45 present.
1945, July 3—Printing and binding of the Rockingham Recorder, official pub-
lication of the Rockingham County Historical Society, Vol. I, No. 1, dated
April 1945, completed in Harrisonburg; 93 pages.
1945, Saturday, July 7—The bridge over Cook's Creek, east of Mt. Crawford,
broken down by a tractor-trailer.
1945, July 11—In Harrisonburg, grocery stores tomatoes marked 25 cents a pound; salt mackerel, 39 cents a pound.
1945, July 24—The large barn of Major C.S. Roller at Fort Defiance burned by lightning.
1945, Sunday, Aug. 5—Home-coming at Otterbein Chapel (U.B.) Shenandoah County—100 years from the building of the first church there.
1945, August—In Harrisonburg butter-beans (hulled) sold at 65 cents a pound; in Rockingham County huckleberries sold at $1.00 a gallon.
1945, Sept. 27—The Commonwealth Review launched at Luray—Published every Thursday.
1945, Oct. 24—Death in Winchester of Richard E. Griffith Sr., authority on genealogy and local history and a member of the honorary advisory board of the Rockingham County Historical Society.
1945, November—Bridgewater Textile Corp., subsidiary of the Celaneese Corp. of America, begins building NE end of town; operations begun 1947.
1945, Nov. 11, Sunday—Historical program at Trinity Evangelical and Reformed Church, Timberville. Trinity dates from Rader's Reformed and Lutheran Church of 1762 or thereabouts.
1945, Nov. 30—The Madison Quarterly receives—contains an article on Joseph Salyards by Miss Paulina S. Winfield of Broadway.
1945, Dec. 6—Dr. Chas. T. Zahn of Westminster, Md., calls; he is tracking down the early Hedricks of McGaheysville and vicinity.
1946—Monument marker of old Frieden's Union (Lutheran and Reformed) Church, near historic Hottel home, Tom's Brook, dedicated.
1946, Feb. 13—Greenmount Church of the Brethren, 6 miles north of Harrisonburg, burns.
1946, April—Woodrow Wilson General Hospital, near Fishersville and Staunton, closed; more than 20,000 cases treated.
1946, April—Skyline Caverns, near Front Royal, again opened to the public by H. B. Long of New Market, the new owner.
1946, April 18—Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Schultz show me a handsome silk flag, size about 4 by 5 feet, of the New Market Infantry of 1799. Mrs. Schultz is a daughter of Eugene O. Peale, former superintendent of schools of Augusta County, and a descendant of Bernard Peale, died in 1818 and buried at Cross Keys. There is a family tradition that Bernard lived at New Market.
1946, June 14—Death of Walter E. Fry, 64, at Harrisonburg. He was a contractor and builder of experience.

1946, June or July—First number of The Grace of God, 48 page magazine, published by Rev. Ernest L. Miller, issued from Harrisonburg, printed elsewhere.
1946, August—Massanetta Bible Conference celebrates 25 years.
1946, August—Virginia Municipal Review, No. 8 of Vol. 23, devoted to Harrisonburg.
1946, August 31—Death in Harrisonburg of E. R. Miller, M.D., age 74.
1946, October—"Early Reformed Churches of Virginia" (especially in the Shenandoah Valley) in the Bulletin of the Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.
1946, October—Kirby S. Bassford's 5th booklet on Harrisonburg and the Valley, 49 pages.
1946, Oct. 31—Temperature 82 F. in the warmest October.
1946, Oct. 31—Dan W. Shifflett retires as custodian of the county-city court house, Harrisonburg, after a service of 27 years.
1946, Dec. 31—Judge Hiram W. Bertram retires after 20 years on the bench of the 25th judicial circuit of Virginia, comprising the counties of Rockingham and Page; succeeds by Wm. H. Fort of Luray.
1947—"Mountain Treasures," songs and poems, 40 pages, by Mrs. Lacey Jenkins Daugherty, Mathias, W.Va., printed by the Garrison Press.
1947—Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, advanced to full college status.
1947, Jan. 6—William H. Keister submits his resignation as superintendent of Harrisonburg schools, to take effect in June.
1947, Jan. 11—Announced that $407,053 had been subscribed to enlarge Rockingham Memorial Hospital in Harrisonburg.
1947, Jan. 18—Fred P. Myers, a native of Rockingham, resident of Washington, delivers an address on Robert E. Lee in Statutory Hall of the national Capitol, under the auspices of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.
1947, Feb. 15—Julius F. Ritchie succeeds Wm. J. Kean as Harrisonburg police chief.
1947, February—Apples selling in Harrisonburg groceries, two pounds for 25 cents.
1947, Feb. 20 to March 2—Heavy falls of snow and low temperatures; mild winter to this date.
1947, Feb. 22—Death at Miami Beach, Florida, of Harry K. Thaw, 76, who for some years was a resident of Winchester and vicinity.
1947, May 27—Death in Winchester, at age 83, of Francis Baldwin Crawford, teacher and local historian. He taught 26 years in McDonough School, Baltimore; lived a year or two in Harrisonburg before locating in Winchester.
1947, May 27—Death in Winchester, at age 86, of A. D. Henkel, M.D., of the New Market Henkel family; physician, philanthropist, and bibliophile.
1947, June 5—The Newton D. Baker Hospital at Martinsburg, built in 1943 for army casualties, dedicated as the Newton D. Baker Veterans Administration Center.
1947, June 19—Opening of new post office building in Elkton.
1947, June 22—Staunton Methodist Church celebrates 150 years, publishes 24-page history by Gladys Bauserman Clem.
1947, June 26, Thursday—Wm. Tyree Rhodes, 23, killed and Leroy Coakley, 22, injured in crash of airplane near New Erection Church, West Rockingham.
1947, June 30—Dr. Paul H. Bowman retires as president of Bridgewater College after 27 years of service; succeeded by Dr. J. I. Baugher.
1947, June 30—C. T. Martz of Harrisonburg retires as treasurer of the Red Cross, Rockingham Chapter, after 30 years in the office; succeeded by J. L. Deter.
1947, June 30—Wm. H. Keister, LL.D., retires after 53 years as head of Harrisonburg public schools; succeeded by Maurice H. Bell.
1947, July 5—Death of Isaac L. Flory, 74, at his home in Elkton.
1947, July 25—Woodrow Wilson General Hospital, near Fishersville and Staunton, 158 buildings and about 400 acres, transferred by U.S. Virginia; to be used by the state and Augusta County for educational and rehabilitation purposes.
1947, July 29, 2:10 p.m.—The Masters Building corner of S. Main Street and Franklin, Harrisonburg, wrecked by an explosion of gas that had accumulated from defective pipes in the basement; 11 persons killed and 18 injured.
1947, early August—W. A. Moon distributes his Harrisonburg and Rockingham County directory, 388 pages.
1947, Aug. 5—$190,000 fire in Winchester destroys the partly razed Robinson ice and cold storage and other buildings.
1947, Aug. 12—Dr. Walter S. Newman, a native of Woodstock, elected president of Virginia Polytechnic Institute.
1947, Aug. 30—Highland County celebrates its centenary at Monterey.
1947, Sept. 13—Death in D. C. of Mrs. Mattie C. Litton, 99, widow of Abraham, who died in 1932. She was a native of Harrisonburg; lived for years in Woodstock up to about 1922.
1947, Sept. 13, 14—The Berryville Baptist Church celebrates 175 years.
1947, Oct. 14—Death in Charles Town of Mrs. Virginia (Strickler) Melbourne, 80, teacher and writer on the history of Page, her native country.
1947, Oct. 18—New steel and concrete bridge, 2179 feet, across the Potomac at Sandy Hook, below Harper's Ferry, opened.
1947, Oct. 25—Opening of the new bridge over the Shenandoah River, the White House, Page County, announced.
1947, Oct. 27—Christ Episcopal Church, Millwood, Clarke County, 1832, rebuilt in the 1860's, remodeled 1947, burns.
1947, Oct. 30—Christ Evangelical and Reformed Church, Shepherdstown celebrates 200 years; first church house erected 1774; present one in 1839.
1947, November—New dial telephone building in Elkton completed; cost of improvements for the Elkton exchange estimated at over $75,000.
1947, November—Turner Ashby Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Harrisonburg, issues a 20-page booklet, 50 years from chartering, Nov. 11, 1897.
1947, Nov. 15—Conservation Forum at Wilson Memorial High School near Fishersville, Augusta County, "To promote the wise use of our natural resources.
1947, Nov. 18—Frank Lewis Bell, 36, inaugurated president of Mary Baldwin College, Staunton.
1947, Nov. 29—Death at West Milton, Ohio, of J. Henry Showalter, singer, composer, and publisher; born in Rockingham Nov. 2, 1864.
1947, Dec. 5—Death at Genoa, Rockingham County, of Mrs. Emma Turner, 97, widow of George W.; daughter of Hugh and Martha Winkler Caplinger.
1947, Dec. 20—Opening of new county rest room and home demonstration office, in the basement of the county-city court house in Harrisonburg, announced.
1947, Dec. 30—Death in Norfolk of Thomas Valentine Williamson, M.D., 64; a native of Shenandoah County; buried in Arlington Nat'l Cemetery.
1947, Dec. 31—Staunton annexes 3593 acres and 3461 new citizens.

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with assistance from Mary Scott

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