



Historic Falmouth Towne
and
Stafford County, Incorporated
NEWSLETTER



AQUIA CHURCH

POST OFFICE BOX 5250

FALMOUTH, VIRGINIA 22403-0250

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WHITE OAK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

In 1789, a time when the country, democracy and the Constitution were still new, a church was also beginning, which like the country, is still in existence today. Unlike the country, this church has undergone remarkably little change in form and doctrine over its long period of development. White Oak Primitive Baptist Church in Stafford County, Virginia is this church.

The White Oak Primitive Baptist Church, originally known as the White Oak Church of Christ was established "at a church meeting held at White Oak meeting house on Saturday, October 24, 1789, the said church was constituted and declared independent of all others believing and holding forth the doctrine of election and the final perseverance of the saints to which covenant we all agree this 31st of October same date praying that God would preserve us and keep us from all evil. Amen."

Brother Andrew Leitch was chosen by the church as its first pastor. During Elder Leitch's pastorate at White Oak, discipline was of major concern. Christ said to "withdraw from every brother that walks disorderly" and White Oak adhered strictly to that principle. From the church's founding in 1789 to 1795, the church met fifteen times.

In 1824, Elder Dermiet Davis became pastor of White Oak. During Elder Davis' pastorate, the church continued to develop-- the Lord's Supper was made a church ordinance, and a day of solemn fasting and prayer was deemed necessary and made a part of the church's practices. A church constitution

and rules of decorum were drawn up at this time and presented to the church members for a vote.

White Oak Church of Christ became known as the White Oak Primitive Baptist Church in 1832. The word "primitive" signified White Oak's adherence to the original doctrines set forth by Christ and his apostles. On September 8, 1835, John Moncure gave the trustees of the church "the meeting house and one acre of land attached thereto." Elder John Clark, in trying to assure that White Oak's doctrine would always remain primitive, had inserted in the deed a copy of the church's doctrines.

In September 1909, application was made by White Oak Church to the Circuit Court of Stafford to confirm three trustees for the church. This beginning of formality and ceremony, along with the first mention of involvement with a governing body outside the church makes one aware that White Oak, while still holding to its primitive doctrines, was becoming more involved with the world around it.

The White Oak Primitive Baptist Church meets twice monthly. The services are conducted basically as they were in 1789-- the ministerial portion followed by the business meeting.

White Oak's policy of resisting change and adhering to its primitive doctrines remains firmly in place. White Oak was based on the founders' interpretation of

Continued on next sheet

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Members:

Historic preservation takes many forms. While we, the members of Historic Falmouth Towne and Stafford County, Inc., have been concerned with the preservation of such Stafford County landmarks as the Shelton Cottage, the Surveyor's Office, Master Hobby School and Old Union Church, the residents of the South Downs of England are interested in preserving quite a different form of structure. John Scott of Route 3, Stafford, recently sent me a folder and press release about the preservation of two nineteenth century windmills in Sussex, England, near the English Channel.

The windmills are referred to locally as Jack and Jill. Jack, the larger of the two, was used for the more demanding flour production, leaving Jill to handle the lighter grist working. The two mills formed an excellent training ground for apprentice millers and it was reported that "quite a number of latter day Sussex millers spent time here working under Mr. C. E. Hammond" on Jack and Jill.

In 1958, the owner gave the smaller Jill mill to the Cuckfield Rural District Council. Jack was similarly conveyed in 1966. But it was not until 1977-78 that a thorough inspection of Jill revealed the need for immediate repairs to save the mill. The District, County and Parish Council's representatives met with members of the Sussex Industrial Archaeological Society--well known for their restoration work on mills--and a new Jack and Jill Windmills Preservation Society was formed. In the first year, £10,000 was raised. A grant of £6,000 was approved by the Department of the Environment, and preservation work that would eventually cost £25,000 on Jill alone, was started. The local Society continues to raise money to support the ongoing preservation work on both mills with projects not unlike our own regular fund raising events.

The point of my message is that seemingly impossible projects can be accomplished with the dedicated work of interested individuals, properly motivated and organized. I urge all members of Historic Falmouth Towne and Stafford County, Inc. to give their time and energy whenever called upon to do so for work on the organization's ongoing projects. In that way, we will accomplish much for the good of our county.

Richard S. Reid
President

Please enroll me as a member in Historic Falmouth Towne and Stafford County, Inc.

Active: \$3.00
Sustaining: \$10.00
Life: \$50.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

New Renewal

Mail to: Historic Falmouth Towne and Stafford County, Inc.
P.O. Box 5250
Falmouth, VA 22403-0250

Continued from front page

Biblical principles. These original principles did not allow for change and ease of adherence was not a consideration in their development. These worshipers set themselves a difficult path but one they have been able to follow for almost two hundred years.

Extracted from "A History of White Oak Primitive Baptist Church" by Linda S. Randall

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Bandy of Falmouth
Ms. Grace A. Chinn of Fredericksburg
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Crickman of Hartwood
Mrs. LuAnn M. Dille of Fredericksburg
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Fartro of Fredericksburg
Mr. Henry J. Frydel, Jr. of Fredericksburg
Ms. Lois E. Graninger of Stafford
Mr. & Mrs. Hunter Greenlaw of Fredericksburg
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Harvey of Stafford
Mrs. David E. Kimes of Fredericksburg
Mr. & Mrs. E. Stanley McGarvey, Jr.
of Fredericksburg
Mrs. Melvin Nelson of Fredericksburg
Mr. John M. Porter of Falmouth
Mr. Donald Raines of Stafford
Mr. & Mrs. T. Leitch Segar, Jr.
of Fredericksburg
Mr. Frederick Tilp of Alexandria
Mr. & Mrs. Frank E. Watson of Stafford
Mr. William B. Whitesell of Fredericksburg

SELECTING A SITE FOR THE COURTHOUSE

From Stafford County Legislative Petitions at the Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia:

"Pursuant to an Act of the Assembly appointing us Commissioners for the purpose of choosing a proper place for building a Court House and Prison in the County of Stafford. The surveyor of the said County produced a plan of a Survey lately made of the said County and showed us a place described by the \odot , the place fixed on by us as the center in the said plan, which plan in company of a considerable number of inhabitants of the said County, we viewed which proved to be a deep valley and we were informed and believed was very remote from water, from thence the surveyor by our direction measured to a place near Anthony Ficklin's at the Letter "X" bearing N $67\frac{1}{2}$ West 234 poles from the center, which place after viewing several others, we are of opinion is an agreeable and proper place for erecting the Court House and that there is a plenty of good water and timber convenient. That from the Letter "X" to "H" the place where this court is now held bears S 86 E $134\frac{1}{2}$ pole, it

also appears to us from our own view and the information of a number of inhabitants of the said County there are roads heading from the A. Ficklin's to almost all parts of the said County which requires but little opening, for further particulars we refer to the surveyor's plan and report given under our hand the first day of March 1781.

To the Worshipful Court of Stafford County
Joseph Brook, F. Thornton, James Lewis

To the Honorable House of Burgesses and to the Speaker of the same--The Petition of sundry the inhabitants of Stafford County humbly therewith, that from an Act of Assembly made the last session appointing Commissioners from the County of Spotsylvania to ascertain the center of the County of Stafford in order to fix the Court House, which said Commissioners did by cutting off a neck of land on the north side of Aquia Creek containing nearly one eighth of the people in the County, and also another corner of land on Muddy Creek containing nearly or quite as many as the other, have fixed a place for building the Court House near the upper edge of the County within six or eight miles of the back line. To which place more people will have from eighteen to twenty miles, than there will be that will have to the now Court fourteen miles. Your Petitioners therefore humbly beg leave to lay before your Honorable House the situation of our County respecting our Court House.

To the place where it now stands no man will have more than fifteen miles to court from the remotest end of the County and a few from the opposite sides will have fourteen miles, from and to, which place from all parts of the County there is good roads cut and cleared, we have a Court House and Prison already built which will last for many years--Now to the place fixed on by the Commissioners for building, the people on the north side of Aquia Creek and from Muddy Creek will have from eighteen to twenty miles to court, where those opposite on Rappahannock will not have more than six or eight miles, as this is a true state of the situation of our County respecting the Court House. Your Petitioners humbly beg that your Honorable House will continue the Court House where it now is and not burden us with the enormous expense of building a new Court House and Prison having already as many taxes to pay as we can possible discharge. And your Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray. November 22, 1781"

Signed by over 100 Stafford residents.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 21 ... The program for this general membership meeting will feature Mr. Robert K. Krick, Chief Historian of the National Park Service, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, who will speak on the "Impact of the Civil War on Civilians in Stafford County." The meeting, to be held at Chatham, will begin at 7:30 p.m.

APRIL 23 ... Free workshop sponsored by the Hearthstone Bookshop (108 S. Columbus Street, Alexandria, Virginia) on "Preserving and Dating Old Photographs." Learn how to interpret and protect old photographs from a man who ought to know, Mr. William Stapp, the curator of photography for the National Portrait Gallery. The workshop will be held at the Bicentennial Center, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia at 10:00 a.m.

APRIL 26 ... Free public lecture sponsored by the Mary Washington College Center for Historic Preservation. Mr. William Kelso, resident archaeologist at Monticello will speak on "Digging Into the Past: Archaeology and Historic Preservation at Monticello." The lecture, to be held in Monroe Hall on the MWC campus, will begin at 7:00 p.m.

MAY 8-14 ... The National Trust for Historic Preservation is addressing the national housing shortage in its Preservation Week activities. "Preservation Is Housing America" is this year's theme, and nearly 5,000 local and statewide preservation groups and city governments are expected to participate with lectures, walking tours, workshops and film festivals. Artisans, building supply firms and housing contractors are also expected to join in workshops. For more information contact the Trust's Preservation Week National Coordinator at (202) 673-4141.

MAY 19 ... Board meeting of Historic Falmouth Towne and Stafford County, Inc.

JUNE 9-11 ... The Center for Historic Preservation of Mary Washington College has completed plans for its annual summer conference. The topic of this year's meeting is "Saving Southern Buildings: The Law and the Profits." As the title indicates, the focus will be on the legal

and economic aspects of building reuse, with emphasis on Virginia and the South. The conference will provide both an overview of the status of preservation today and indepth consideration of the various elements--financing, tax incentives, ordinances, planning, litigation--which comprise the preservation process. The program will include a wide diversity of plenary sessions, workshops, and on-site tours, involving over twenty-five distinguished and experienced specialists drawn from a variety of professions. Social activities will include an opening reception on Thursday at Trench Hill and dinner on Friday evening at The Chimneys. The conference keynote address will be delivered by Mr. Michael Ainslie, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For registration information write the Conference Coordinator, MWC Center for Historic Preservation, 915 Monroe Street, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401.

JUNE 16 ... Board meeting of Historic Falmouth Towne and Stafford County, Inc.

JUNE 18 & 19 ... Stafford County History Fair at John Lee Pratt and St. Clair Brooks Memorial Parks. A Civil War reenactment will be featured as well as arts and crafts. The anxiously awaited cookbook of Historic Falmouth Towne and Stafford County, Inc. will make its debut. Watch the local newspaper for specific details regarding events.

JULY 21 ... Board meeting of Historic Falmouth Towne and Stafford County, Inc.

SEPTEMBER 17 ... Annual Chicken Barbecue of Historic Falmouth Towne and Stafford County, Inc.

OCTOBER 16 ... Fall Walking Tour of Historic Falmouth Towne

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs. Sharron L. Brown of Pine Hill, NJ
Ms. Tamara M. Brown of Pine Hill, NJ
Mrs. Lillian G. Kendall of Fredericksburg
Ms. May E. Ungemach of Novato, CA

OUR COOKBOOK IS IN THE BAKING!

At the March meeting of the Board of Directors of Historic Falmouth Towne and Stafford County, Inc., the Cookbook name was chosen from among 50 entries.

MORE THAN A COOKBOOK--A FLAVORFUL HERITAGE

was suggested by Alaric R. MacGregor, III who therefore wins a Cookbook as his prize. A number of other interesting entries also received serious consideration. Our thanks go to all who took the time to make suggestions.

The Cookbook will be a limited edition of 1,000 copies, so advance orders are encouraged. Many members have already reserved as many as 12 copies as gifts for Christmas, birthdays, weddings, showers, or hospitalized friends.

The Cookbook has over 600 recipes in 18 categories as well as many proven household hints. Over 100 Historic Falmouth Towne and Stafford County, Inc. members from all over the country, and many friends have shared their favorite recipes. Many of the recipes are "family secrets" and some are so old that they were never written down before.

In addition, almost 30 sketches of historic homes, churches and other historic sites, with a history, have been researched and prepared by Dr. H. Stewart Jones.

The debut of the Cookbook will be at the Stafford County History Fair in June and thereafter will be available in gift shops and book stores in the area. But, don't be left out -- order your copy today!

When available in June, please rush me _____ copies of:

MORE THAN A COOKBOOK--A FLAVORFUL HERITAGE

I am enclosing my payment of \$7.95 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling for each book.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Mail to: Historic Falmouth Towne &
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Cookbook
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