

SPFI NEWSLETTER

January/February 2003

"The Past Builds the Future"

Volume 16, Issue 1

SPRING '03 SPFI GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING!

Are you wondering what SPFI might do in 2003? Want to voice your opinion and have an influence? Curious about what SPFI did in 2002? Want to meet SPFI Board members, volunteers and other members and chat about what's going on in our County? If so--and if you are interested in spending time with others who put a high priority on preservation, come join us **APRIL 6TH, FROM 2:00 UNTIL 4:00 IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AT THE SNOW LIBRARY, MARSHALL CENTER.**

A slate of SPFI officers for the year 2003 will be presented -- and of course, nominations from the floor will be most welcome. The Board will provide light refreshments and stands ready to hear from YOU. We will be sending an email reminder of this meeting and will telephone everyone to make sure each member of SPFI receives a personal invitation to this meeting! The SPFI Board hopes to see you there!

ORNAMENT SALES A HUGE SUCCESS!

Thanks to hard work by the Fund Raising Committee and an enthusiastic response from Spotsylvanians, SPFI's first edition of the Spotsylvania County Christmas Ornament series sold like, well...like hotcakes! At the last counting, 830 of the Old Courthouse replicas were sold, raising \$6,500 toward rehabilitation of the Old Jail. Bob Kurtinitis, Committee Chair, Reba Jackson, Capie Hubbard and John Springer, committee members, have done a super job! Stay tuned for selection of the 2003 ornament design. There are a few ornaments remaining. If you are interested in making a purchase, call Bob at 582-8016.

RESTORATION WORK ON THE OLD JAIL BEGINS

The SPFI Board has signed a contract with The Norman Company of Ashland, Virginia to perform initial restorative construction repairs on the Old Jail. Construction began January 28. This construction will address the remaining items of Phase I as defined in the Condition Survey prepared by architect Jody Lahendro and presented to the SPFI Board in May. The remaining Phase I items include:

- 1 Chimney cap, brick and mortar repair
- 2 Slate roof repair
- 3 Framing repair at the roof southwest corner
- 4 Gutter system replacement
- 5 Window sill replacement on second floor
- 6 Bearing pocket repair at Stair Landing
- 7 Fenestration Perimeter Sealant Application
- 8 Door and Window Iron Frame Protection
- 9 Exterior Stucco repairs
- 10 Second Floor Door Frame and Door Replacement

The Norman Company provides commercial general contracting services with an emphasis on historic restoration work. They have over 30 years combined experience that includes related projects such as Phase II of The Lewis Store (1739) in Fredericksburg, Scott's Tavern (1830) in Tappahannock, Rose Garden (1830) in King and Queen County, and Mulberry Place (1820) in Milford. All work on the Old Jail will follow *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*, (Department of the Interior).

John LeFebvre, Bricks and Mortar Committee

75 Years of Marking History: Virginia's Historical Highway Marker Program

You have seen them along Virginia's highways--tall silver signs with black lettering. Nearly 2,000 historical highway markers provide motorists with vignettes of Virginia's history. The earliest markers, erected in 1927, focused on the "great men" of Virginia, colonial buildings, and events of the American Revolution and Civil War. In the past 20 years, the program has grown to feature stories of African Americans, Native Americans, women, and many other important subjects.

Several markers feature topics of national significance. The Robert Russa Moton High School marker in Farmville tells how, on April 23, 1951, the students of this African American school began a strike to protest inadequate, unequal school facilities. The event led to *Davis v. County Board of Prince Edward County*, which was combined with a number of other court cases to go before the U. S. Supreme Court as *Brown v. Board of Education*. A marker in Abingdon describes the Barter Theatre during the Depression. The theater offered a unique purchase option—theatergoers could pay with the amount of food equivalent to the price of a ticket. Documenting the Cold War, three markers were erected for the Clifton, Great Falls, and Lorton Nike missile sites in Fairfax County. A number of markers feature people who were once prominent in American society. One such marker in Amelia County honors Marion Virginia Hawes Terhune (pen name Marion Harland). She was the "Betty Crocker" of the 19th century, renowned for the best-selling cookbook in America, *Common Sense in the Household*, published in 1871. Since 1996, the marker program has used federal funding to update historical markers that are damaged, missing, or outdated because the state no longer funds their replacement. A Guidebook to Virginia's Historical Markers, compiled by John S. Salmon, is an excellent reference tool to locate state highway markers. Copies of this book are available at bookstores and museums throughout Virginia, or by contacting the [University of Virginia Press](http://www.universityofvirginia.edu).

The program began after the Virginia General Assembly created the

(Continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The first month of the New Year is a good time to look back as well as to look forward. **What did SPFI do in 2002?** Most importantly, we continued to act as a vigorous advocate for historic preservation in the County. SPFI endorsed zoning amendments approved by the Board of Supervisors for greater control over development and additional leverage in negotiating proffers. We supported Spotsylvania's efforts to join with 25 other jurisdictions in being named a Certified Local Government. We supported Guinea Station Road's designation in Spotsylvania and Caroline Counties as a *Virginia Scenic Byway*. The SPFI Board voted to join the Coalition to Save Chancellorsville Battlefield, a group of eleven national and local nonprofit conservation groups working to promote the long-term preservation of Chancellorsville Battlefield and we assisted two public information meetings hosted by the County to inform citizens about proposed development on the Mullins Farm at Chancellorsville. SPFI has been granted "consulting party status" in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) *106 Review* process for the Orrock Tract project on the Ashley Farms.

Our most visible venture, rehabilitation of the Old Jail building, reached an important stage when we selected a general contractor to begin Phase I construction. Four Oral History interviews were published this year, bringing the total to nine. SPFI made two formal reports on the Old Jail Project to the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors. On January 22, I presented an oral and written report on the overall status of the project and on December 10, I updated our progress and informed the Supervisors that we were ready to begin construction work.

SPFI membership increased by

40% and two corporate members, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative and SMI Rebar, joined. Monthly meetings are now held at the Snow Library, the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. to increase visibility and make attendance easier. The next time you visit the Snow Library at the Marshall Center, stop and have a look at the permanent SPFI display in the main reading room. SPFI Board Member Donna Chasen wrote six articles for publication in the *Free Lance-Star*. We held our General Membership Meeting, the Annual Easter Egg Roll, sponsored the designation of May as Preservation Month in Spotsylvania, participated in the Civil War Weekend, "*Lest We Forget*," sponsored *Lectures of Note* at the Salem Church Library, held our Annual Family Picnic and Preservation Awards, honored County Deputies with our Law Enforcement Appreciation Coffees at the Old Jail, sold holiday greens and initiated the first edition of our Christmas ornaments with the replica of the Old Courthouse Ornament.

What will 2003 bring? The SPFI Board is working on plans for this year and we want to hear your ideas and opinions about how our organization should use volunteer time and financial resources in support of our mission—to preserve and protect the historic resources of Spotsylvania County. Our General Membership Meeting is scheduled for April 6, from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. at the Snow Library. Please join us, tell us what you think, and influence the directions we take in 2003!

Helen Springer, President

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome a new individual member, **Martha M. Wood**, and a new Small Business member, **Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc.**

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR
WEBSITE

WWW.SPFI.ORG

ADVOCACY REPORT
VIGIL FOR PRESERVATION BEGINS
NEW YEAR

SPFI was well represented on January 14 for the Candlelight Vigil at the R.E. Holbert Memorial Building. This event, sponsored by the Coalition to Save Chancellorsville Battlefield, brought more than 200 people, holding white candles and vintage lanterns, who stood in the parking lot as a light snow descended. One news report compared it to “a postcard scene.”

People came out to show support for the preservation of the Mullins Farm. Dogwood Development Group, Reston, VA, is requesting a rezoning hearing before the Board of Supervisors to build almost 2,000 houses and 1.2 million square feet of commercial space and mall type stores on this historic ground. The vigil also celebrated the memory of soldiers of both sides who fought in the May 1963 Battle of Chancellorsville.

The Coalition continues to gain support from the public. A group of economists living in the county questions the Fiscal Impact Analysis and the suggested \$10 million annual revenue windfall to the county. Instead, the economists suggest that after schools are built and other services provided, the project will require higher taxes from all Spotsylvania County citizens. The Coalition is sponsoring “Stop Sprawl in Spotsylvania” yard signs which are being placed only on private property. They will remain until the rezoning vote. To request a sign, email Stephany Seay, Grassroots-Coordinator: sseay@civilwar.org

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT (CLG)

The CLG designation is very close for Spotsylvania County. Created by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the program is a partnership of local governments, the federal program and DHR (Va. Dept. of Historic Resources). Spotsylvania will be the 26th jurisdiction to become a CLG, hopefully by spring. This program may be able to help with some funding for the Jail rehabilitation program.

VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is in session. The state is experiencing dire financial conditions and many programs are being cut. This impacts preservation by not having as many funds to offer grants to communities for their projects. Visit the GA website for more information on bills offered this session: <http://legis.stste.va.us> . Slow growth measures and adequate public facility issues continue to be killed in committee. These are the types of bills that could help Spotsylvania deal with its growth pressures.

Caroline R. Hayden, Advocacy Chair

LOCAL HISTORIAN NEEDS YOUR HELP

I am currently working on articles on various historic sites in Spotsylvania County and am most interested in any and all information on the Sunlight Post Office, Glenora, the Chalmers House, and the site of the old jail endangered by the new road construction. If you have any information on any of these sites, or know of a location that would be of interest, please contact me either through the SPFI website (www.SPFI.org) or by mail at 1715 Augustine Avenue, Fredericksburg VA 22401. Thank you for any information that you can provide!

Donna Chasen, SPFI Board Member

NEWS FROM SPOTSYLVANIA

Hap Connors, former spokesman for the National Trust for Historic Preservation and a current member of the Coalition to Save Chancellorsville Battlefield, has been appointed to the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors. Hap will represent the Chancellorsville District.



Highway Markers (cont. from page 2)

Conservation and Economic Development Commission in 1926. The program was intended to foster interest in Virginia's history and encourage tourism. Dr. H. J. Eckenrode was selected by the Conservation and Economic Development Commission to determine the most prominent historic sites and mark them. The first markers were erected along Route 1 from Fredericksburg to Richmond by the end of 1927. By 1934, 1,200 markers were in place and during this period “pull-offs” were created so the motorist could stop and read the text. Responsibility for the erection and maintenance of markers was subsequently transferred to the Virginia Department of Highways in 1949, while the responsibility for researching and approving new markers was assigned to the Virginia State Library in 1950. The State Library continued to manage the marker program until 1966, when it was transferred to the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, the predecessor agency for the Department of Historic Resources that still manages the program today.

In 1976, the Commonwealth stopped funding new markers. Now private organizations, local governments, and individuals pay for them. About 40 new markers are erected each year. This number does not include markers that are replaced by federal funding that the Department of Historic Resources and the Virginia Department of Transportation receives to replace missing, damaged, and outdated markers. Since 1996 federal funding received through the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) and Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) has replaced more than 271 markers.

After 75 years, Virginia's historical highway marker program remains an important tool to educate the public on the Commonwealth's history and an important way to promote tourism in Virginia. The success of the program is evident in the correspondence the state receives on the program, the number of stories that appear about markers in various media outlets, and demand for the current edition of A Guidebook to Virginia's Historical Markers, one of the best-selling books of the University of Virginia Press.

Scott Arnold, manager of Virginia Historical Highway Marker Program



WWW.SPFI.ORG

The Old Jail

P. O. Box 1875

Spotsylvania, VA 22553

PRESERVATION
**SPOTSYLVANIA
 COURTHOUSE**

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF SPFI?

PLEASE FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING Name Address City State ZIP/Postal Code	\$15.00 Individual/Senior Citizen Family \$25.00 Family \$50.00 Business \$350.00 Individual Lifetime \$500.00 Family Lifetime Send to: SPFI <i>The Old Jail</i> P. O. Box 1875 Spotsylvania, VA 22553
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**ORAL HISTORY PROJECT NEEDS
 MORE HISTORY!**

Do you, or a friend, or family member have a story of life in Spotsylvania in years gone by? SPFI's Oral History Project, lead by Christine Walsh, is interested in speaking with local residents who would like to share their stories with us. You can become a part of Spotsylvania's written history. We are looking for stories of general life in earlier days, family oral histories, and stories that help preserve the history of lost areas, such as the area now covered by Lake Anna. Keep Spotsy's history alive! Please contact Christine Walsh at 582-7404 or by email at TuppenzAnt@aol.com. She would love to hear from you! Christine is also looking for help in transcribing Oral History tapes. If you have a few hours you can contribute to this worthwhile and fascinating effort, please contact her.

**Please remember
 that SPFI Dues
 for 2003 are due!
 Thank you!
 We depend on
 YOU!**

TREASURER'S REPORT

AS OF JANUARY 2, 2003:

GENERAL FUND: \$ 3,159.20,
JAIL FUND: \$18,577.30,
SCHOLARSHIP FUND: \$ 2,420.00
GRAND TOTAL: \$24,156.50

Bob Kurtinitis, Treasurer

SPFI NEWSLETTER
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