

# SPFI NEWSLETTER

March/April 2004

*"The Past Builds the Future"*

Volume 17, Issue 2

## **JAIL PROJECT SHOWS SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS**

February, 2004, was a busy month for Jail work. A number of things have come together and substantial progress made. The Norman Company began Phase 2 of the work and finished all but the front door e v a l u a t i o n . Demolition work to expose the front room ceiling grate (magnificent!) has been completed, inspected and approved by the county. Electrical wiring for the front room was unavoidably destroyed, but indirect lighting is available from second floor ceiling fixtures. Some of the material removed was saved for use in a display.

Architect Jody Lahendro (AIA) is working with the Normans to come up with a recommendation how best to proceed with reworking the front door. Of concern is the structural integrity of the opening and the best way to address it. The Jail Committee is also investigating options for stockade door material and design. The committee will either have available cedar logs milled or purchase kiln-dried planks. A design for hanging the iron grate interior door must also be developed, as well as a design of the exterior overhead sign ("NO TALKING WITH PRISONERS ALLOWED UNDER PENALTY OF LAW "). Once these issues are resolved, a Certificate of Appropriateness detailing the proposed door and sign work will be submitted to the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC).

Jail window bar options are being considered by the board with advice from Mr. Lahendro. Selection of materials for fabricating the bars will be made to optimize structural and design integrity. Similar jail structures in Louisa and Fauquier have been inspected and photographed to identify comparable details. County Planning Department representatives have been apprised

*(Continued on page 3)*

## **SPFI OPEN JAIL FOR SUMMER 2004**

Memorial Day is approaching and SPFI is making plans for Open Jail for Summer 2004. Each year at this time we ask for SPFI Members and Friends to volunteer for one or more Saturdays from 12-2 pm to greet visitors to the Spotsylvania Jail (1855). We provide you with a script and information -- its simple and county residents and tourists enjoy the building!

This year we will be able to talk about the newly exposed iron grill ceiling in the vestibule. This is a wonderful architectural feature that has been hidden from view since the first half of the 20th century. Please contact me by phone or email to sign up as well ask any questions. I will not mail the information packet until mid-May. Thanks and we look forward to another season of showing our work-in-progress.

*Caroline R. Hayden*

## **COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION FINDS SITE 'NOT IN CONFORMITY'**

The subject of relocation of Fire # 1 /Rescue # 1 was discussed at the March 17, 2004 meeting of the Spotsylvania Planning Commission (PC). After approximately 20 citizens spoke at the public hearing, Commission members found that the proposed site on Rt. 208 and Courthouse Commons Blvd. was 'not in conformity' with the Comprehensive Plan, the county's land use guide. Half of the site lies in the Spotsylvania Courthouse Historic Overlay District while the entire 11.22 acre site is in the Spotsylvania Courthouse National Register Historic District. Preservationists have voiced concerns that the site was not adequately investigated before purchase in June, 2003. Citizens also

*(Continued on page 2)*

**A HEARTY THANK YOU TO OUR  
RENEWING MEMBERS:**

James & Shirley Anderson  
Jane & Richard Arnold  
Phyllis Austin  
George and Carol Bond  
Jerome Burke  
William Chadduck  
Cdr & Mary Dalrymple  
Bonnie Garber  
Bruce & Donnelle Goplen  
Larry Gross  
John & Chi Gustafson  
Brenda Haley  
William & Jo Anne Kinnamon  
Alfred & Mary King - Life Members  
Warner & Ruth Knight  
Robert Kurtinitis  
Mark & Diane Kuechler  
M. McAllister & S. Gelzer  
Carine & Leonard Moran  
Dan and Susan Nickelson  
Carol Speirs  
John and Helen Springer  
William & Betsy Taylor  
James & Christine Walsh  
Drs. Peter & Lois Wilson  
A. Woodfield  
E. F. Younger

**RENEWING Business Members:**

Gardner, Maupin, Sutton & Haney  
Rappahannock Electric

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:**

Terry & Linda Waldenmaier  
Sandra Staley

**Preservation Quote:** "Closing  
historic doors robs us of the  
wonderful rite of entry."  
(Dwight Young)



*Planning Commission (Continued from page 1)*  
say the proposed use is not appropriate because of its close proximity to the Confederate Cemetery as well as the entrance to the historic districts.

Planning Commissioners voting in favor were Chairman Hugh Montgomery (Courtland); Battlefield's Wayne Ervin, Berkeley's Richard Sorrell, Chancellor's James Strother, and Lee Hill's Kevin Leahy. Voting in the minority were Livingston Commissioner Robert Taylor and Salem's John Gustafson. A recurring theme in remarks during the evening was strong support for dedicated fire/rescue personnel as well as dissatisfaction with the site selection process used. SPFI president Helen Springer told the commission that "the job of being stewards for county historic resources is in your hands."

Supervisors recently adopted a resolution directing the PC to amend the Comprehensive Plan and to find 3 additional sites in the vicinity of Spotsylvania Courthouse within 60 days.

*Caroline Hayden, Advocacy Chair*

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

On April 25, 2004, the Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors will proclaim May as Historic Preservation Month in Spotsylvania County. Since 1971, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has sponsored a major May preservation event to showcase grassroots preservation activities in communities nationwide. Since our establishment in 1988, SPFI has asked the County Board to proclaim May Preservation Month in celebration of Spotsylvania's nationally significant historic resources. "New Frontiers in Preservation" is the theme of this year's observance, co-sponsored by SPFI and the National Trust. National Trust President, Richard Moe states: "Organizing tours and special events that spotlight lesser-known local treasures, finding ways to expand preservation efforts to address the needs of all parts of your community, launching a drive to broaden and diversify the membership of your local organization, fostering

revitalization in commercial and residential neighborhoods that may have been overlooked up to now - all of these are effective tools for moving preservation forward into new areas of activity."

The Proclamation will read:

"WHEREAS, historic preservation is an effective tool for managing growth, revitalizing neighborhoods, fostering local pride and maintaining community character while enhancing livability; and

WHEREAS, historic preservation is relevant for communities across the nation, both urban and rural, and for Americans of all ages, all walks of life and all ethnic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, it is important to celebrate the role of history in our lives and the contributions made by dedicated individuals in helping to preserve the tangible aspects of the heritage that has shaped us as a people; and

WHEREAS, "New Frontiers in Preservation" is the theme for National Historic Preservation Month 2004, cosponsored by Spotsylvania Preservation Foundation, Inc. and the National Trust for Historic Preservation;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors, do proclaim May, 2004, as National Historic Preservation Month, and call upon the people of Spotsylvania County to join their fellow citizens across the United States in recognizing and participating in this special observance."

May Preservation Events in Spotsylvania include the Spotsylvania County reenactment of the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Spotsylvania Courthouse, to be held at Belvedere Plantation on May 7-9 and the "Lest We Forget Weekend," featuring bus tours, kids' camp and open Spotsylvania Jail (1855) on May 29-31. Information concerning both events can be found on the county website, [www.spotsylvania.va.us](http://www.spotsylvania.va.us). Click on "Tourism" for details. Hope to see you there!

*Helen Springer, President*

## CWPT UNVEILS ANNUAL REPORT ON ENDANGERED BATTLEFIELDS

At a news conference on the morning of February 24, 2004, the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) unveiled its annual report on the status of the nation's historic battlegrounds. The report, entitled 'America's Most Endangered Battlefields,' identifies the most threatened Civil War sites in the United States and what can be done to rescue them.

The top ten endangered battlefields cited in the report are as follows: **Chancellorsville, Va.;** Fort Donelson, Tenn.; Franklin, Tenn.; Glendale, Va.; "The Hell Hole" (Pickett's Mill, New Hope Church and Dallas), Ga.; Mansfield, La.; Morris Island, S.C.; New Bern, N.C.; South Mountain, Md.; and Wilson's Creek, Mo.

Joining CWPT at the news conference were two outstanding writers and historians: Jay Winik, the author of the New York Times bestseller *April 1865: The Month that Saved America*; and Benjamin F. Cooling, the author of several books on the Civil War era.

*Jim Campi,*

*Policy and Communications Director, CWPT*

## CVBT BUYS PORTION OF JACKSON'S FLANK ATTACK AT TALLEY FARM, SPOTSYLVANIA

On May 2, 1863, approximately three miles west of a crossroads called Chancellorsville, Stonewall Jackson launched a daring attack against Federal troops of the Union XI Corps. On February 23, 2004, more than 140 years later, the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust (CVBT) is positioned to save 16.37 acres of this hallowed ground, to preserve it forever. The physical setting is a portion of the Talley Farm ridge, just south of the old Orange Turnpike (State Route 3). The purchase price was \$200,000. CVBT hopes to obtain a grant to help with the purchase of this historic parcel. For more information check the CVBT website: [www.cvbt.org](http://www.cvbt.org).

*Caroline R. Hayden*

*Jail Progress*

*(Continued from page 1)*

regularly as we proceed.

Photos and the final design for the free-standing sign to be placed in front of the Jail have been provided to Mr. Steve Stanley for manufacture. A Certificate of Appropriateness for the sign has been approved by the HPC. Photo collections, including those of the Library of Congress and Library of Virginia, are being searched for pictures of the Jail for use in displays.

A work order has been requested for the county to pressure wash the second story side steps to remove algae and mold. SPFI members will paint the steps this Spring. The County put down clay and topsoil around foundation to finish correcting the grade.

*John LeFebre, Jail Committee*

## HISTORIC MARKER NEWS

The Board of Historic Resources at its meeting on March 17, 2004, approved the replacement of the highway marker for the Colonial Fort E-46 historical marker for Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania County. The text approved by the Board of Historic Resources will read:

### COLONIAL FORT E-46

*The Virginia General Assembly authorized the construction of a fort built nearby along the Rappahannock River in 1676. It served as a defensive fortification for settlers of European descent on the frontier when periodic conflicts occurred between Virginia Indians and settlers. Maj. Lawrence Smith commanded the fort. Smith had patented 6,300 acres of property with Robert Taliaferro in the region in 1666. Smith later obtained more land nearby. The fort was abandoned about 1682, when the General Assembly ordered the dismantling of many of these structures. (Department of Historic Resources, 2004)*

The department received funding to replace the missing, damaged and outdated state historical markers through TEA-21 funds, so the new markers will not cost the public anything to replace.

*Michele Schiesser*

## DID YOU KNOW?

The following private, non-profit Virginia organizations are devoted to issues related to historic preservation:

**Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities.** The APVA is the oldest statewide preservation organization in the nation. Founded in 1889, with the purpose of rescuing Jamestown Island from decay, the APVA began to acquire and preserve properties and currently maintains 34 historic properties. The APVA relies on its national membership to continue its preservation and research activities. <http://www.apva.org/apva/>

**Virginia Civil War Home Page.** The purpose of this page is to create a virtual central repository for information about Virginia in the American Civil War. <http://members.aol.com/jweaver300/grayson/vacwhp.htm>

**Virginia Conservation Network.** The Virginia Conservation Network (VCN) is devoted to advancing a common, environmentally sound vision for Virginia. Created in 1990, the Network's membership is comprised of more than 100 groups committed to protecting Virginia's natural resources. <http://www.vcnva.org/>

**Virginia Environmental Endowment.** The mission of Virginia Environmental Endowment is to improve the quality of the environment by encouraging all sectors to work together to prevent pollution, conserve natural resources, and promote environmental literacy. Grant-making priorities encompass sustainable communities, water quality protection and management, and environmental education. Although accorded a national scope by our charter, the Endowment currently limits awards to eligible nonprofit organizations for programs conducted in the state of Virginia and in the Kanawha and Ohio River Valleys of Kentucky and West Virginia. <http://www.cvco.org/vee/>



www.spfi.org

*The Spotsylvania Jail (1855)*

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: <b>SPFI</b> <i>The Spotsylvania Jail (1855)</i> P. O. Box 1875 Spotsylvania, VA 22553
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**2003 ORNAMENTS AVAILABLE!  
(AND A FEW FROM 2002)**

SPFI's 2003 Ornament reproduces, in 24k gold over brass, the building popularly called the Spottswood Inn, but more accurately known as Sanford's Tavern. 2003 Ornaments are available at the Snow Library, Courthouse Café, Salem Church Road Library, and from the cashier at the Holbert Building. They may also be ordered from SPFI treasurer, Bob Kurtinitis (582-8016) or at www.SPFI.org. Bob also has a few ornaments from 2002. All proceeds benefit the Jail (1855).

**SPFI MISSION STATEMENT:**

"To preserve and protect the historic and natural resources of Spotsylvania County through education, advocacy, and community involvement."

**SPFI 2004 DUES ARE DUE! — Please renew your membership**

**WE NEED YOU!**

**Send renewals to:  
Bob Kurtinitis, Treasurer  
SPFI  
P. O. Box 1875  
Spotsylvania, VA 22553**

**TREASURER'S REPORT  
AS OF APRIL 1, 2004:**

<b>GENERAL FUND:</b>	<b>\$ 4,265.62</b>
<b>JAIL FUND:</b>	<b>\$12,344.04</b>
<b>SCHOLARSHIP FUND:</b>	<b>\$ 2,506.38</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$19,116.04</b>

*Bob Kurtinitis, Treasurer*

**SPFI NEWSLETTER**  
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