

SPFI NEWSLETTER

November/December 2002

"The Past Builds the Future"

Volume 15, Issue 6

BRICKS AND MORTAR COMMITTEE ACCEPTS PROPOSAL FOR GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Upon the recommendation of the Bricks and Mortar Committee, the SPFI Board has accepted a proposal from The Norman Company of Ashland, Virginia to perform initial restorative construction repairs on the Old Jail. This work 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). Work is expected to begin as early as January, weather permitting.

John LeFebre, Bricks and Mortar Committee

NEW MEMBERS

SPFI welcomes our new members: Horace Brown, Martha Hutzler, JoAnne and Bill Kinnamon

*Are you interested in becoming active in SPFI?
Please be in touch with the President of SPFI at
Helen_Springer@msn.com, or call 891-8756.*

DOUG WALKER DEPARTS SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY

Deputy County Administrator Doug Walker will be leaving his post on January 3 and soon after will begin his new job as city manager of Waynesboro, VA. Doug has been with Spotsylvania County for 10 years and during that time his impartial, balanced guidance and counsel has been of immense value to SPFI. We wish Doug well.

Helen Springer, SPFI President

NEW STUDY REVEALS GLARING ERRORS IN DOGWOOD'S ECONOMIC CLAIMS

At a news conference on December 4, 2002, the Coalition to Save Chancellorsville Battlefield (CSCB) released a study on the fiscal impact of the Dogwood Development Group's plans to build a small city on the Mullins Farm. The study reveals that Dogwood is using accounting gimmicks to hide the costs and overstate the benefits of its development proposal. "Spotsylvania County taxpayers have long suspected that Dogwood's economic statements are a sham," remarked Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) President James Lighthizer. "Common sense indicates that Dogwood's claims of eight-figure revenue figures are sheer fantasy. Now we have the facts to back up that view."

In late October, CSCB approached Michael Siegel of Public and Environmental Finance Associates to review Dogwood's economic claims. These claims are based on a fiscal impact analysis (FIA) written for Dogwood by the team of Fuller and Bellas. Siegel's review found glaring errors in the Fuller/Bellas analysis.

According to Siegel, Dogwood grossly underestimates the cost of new schools. The Fuller/Bellas FIA lowballs the number of new children that will come with Dogwood's project, and miscalculates capital costs and long-term operational costs to provide new schools and services. At the same time, Fuller/Bellas overstates the amount of per pupil state aid the county would receive for the project.

Dogwood also underplays costs for other county
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The Pulliam Diary Account of the Blockhouse Road Jail

James Pulliam (ca.1800 - ca.1860), farmer, vestryman at Christ Episcopal Church, apothecary and militia man, kept a diary from March 27, 1839 until November 11, 1846. His entries reflect the weather, social activities, religion, business, farming, hunting, fishing, apothecary duties and militia activity in Spotsylvania County in the 19th century. He was brother-in-law to John Holladay of "Stirling," having married John's sister, Jemima. After his death the Diary came to Stirling and remained for decades wrapped in linen on the steps of the entrance hall. Elizabeth Cropp Hayden read it and showed it to family members. It was revered for its connection to early county life as well as to family members. People such as Roger Mansfield came and read from it. Cousin George Harrison Sanford King, genealogist living in Fredericksburg, spoke to Elizabeth about the genealogy it contained. One of his astute moments came when he persuaded Elizabeth to allow him to take it to Richmond for a time to have it copied on microfilm for posterity. The Central Rappahannock Regional Library Virginia Room has a copy and more recently the film copies of the 682 pages have been copied and bound by Elizabeth's daughter, Ellen.

The Diary is fascinating reading and is of interest to SPFI because Pulliam was part of our Old Jail story. Some of his comments were noted in the updated history of the Jail collected by SPFI members Pete Wilson, Lois Wilson and John LeFebre. For purposes of this article Pulliam's comments are verbatim. Any changes or additions for clarity are noted in (). Spelling errors and grammar are not corrected.

When the story begins in July, 1839, citizens are going to take possession of the Jail and its furnishings. The former 'custodian' Mr. Hicks, refused to give up the jail locks, keys and other items. In the words of James Pulliam:

July 2, 1839: "A cloudy day with considerable rain(,) was summoned as one, to go with the sheriff to take possession of the old clerk's office, the company met at the Court house, all armed, and proceeded to our duty, we arrived at the office, forced the door, went in & took all out that we went for

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

On December 10, 2002, SPFI is scheduled to report to the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors our progress on rehabilitation of the Old Jail. I am pleased to report that our Old Jail Project fund raising income through November 5, 2002 totals \$17,000.29. Of this, SPFI has raised \$6,200.29 through donations and fund raising activities. We have received a \$1,000.00 grant from the National Trust and a \$10,000.00 grant from Spotsylvania County. Our sales of Christmas Ornaments is going great--the profit from the sale of ornaments promises to be substantial and it all goes to the Old Jail fund. We are also looking forward to receiving an additional \$5,000 allocated to the project by the County from Luck Stone Proffers.

As mentioned in the Bricks and Mortar Committee's report in this newsletter, SPFI's fund raising progress allows us to begin a new chapter in the Old Jail's history, that of beginning the long process of actual construction work. This is an important milestone and one in which SPFI members active in the work surrounding the Old Jail can take great pride. SPFI has long believed that this building has a significant place in the Courthouse Historic District, especially since it has been in its current location since 1855. Despite its current condition, we continue to see that the Old Jail is of interest to tourists as well as residents. Just as during the summer of 2001, there were several hundred visitors who came to see the Old Jail this past summer on Saturdays when the building was open and hosted by SPFI members. When the building begins to resemble its earlier condition, when we have the original barred door back in place, bars on the windows, the interior in a more authentic state, I

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Dogwood Economic Claims (Continued from page 1)
services. The Fuller/Bellas analysis underestimates the debt service for county services such as police and fire protection. Further, the Fuller/Bellas FIA totally ignores the state's current budget crisis, acting as if state spending and per capita aid to counties will continue unabated.

While Dogwood hides the costs of its Mullins Farm project, it uses accounting tricks to overplay the benefits. Dogwood is claiming revenue from commercial space that won't ever be built. In the most current proffers offered to the county, Dogwood says it will build only a third of its proposed commercial space. According to Lighthizer, "Even Dogwood doesn't believe its own marketing rhetoric."

Siegel's study found that the Fuller/Bellas FIA violates county guidelines by using inflated land values for their proffers based on upzoned property figures rather than current assessed values. Dogwood President Ray Smith is using these inflated numbers to demonstrate how generous he is being with his so-called gifts to the county. "Smith is grossly overstating his generosity by inflating the value of his proffers," stated Lighthizer. "He's hoodwinking county officials and doing a tremendous disservice to county taxpayers."

In the wake of Siegel's study, the CSCB is calling on the county to have an independent analysis done on the impact of Dogwood's proposed development. "Siegel's report makes it clear that the county needs to go back to the drawing board and thoroughly scrutinize Dogwood's dubious economic claims," Lighthizer noted. "County officials need to make decisions based on the facts, not cheap accounting gimmicks."

The CSCB is a group of 12 national and local preservation, conservation and civic groups representing more than 600,000 members nationwide. The coalition is dedicated to preserving and protecting Chancellorsville battlefield. Learn more at www.chancellorsville.org.

Jim Campi, CSCB

believe that we can be assured of many more visitors. With this goal in mind, SPFI can look forward to continuing to host visitors of all ages and to the opportunity to share information about the building's history and purpose in Spotsylvania County.

SPFI MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2003 WILL BE DUE IN JANUARY!

PLEASE PLAN TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN SPFI! WE DEPEND UPON YOU!

SPFI'S ADVOCACY REPORT TO MEMBERS

Controversy swirls in the County concerning rezoning projects and public information issues. Citizens packed the November Planning Commission meeting for hours and were stunned when Commissioners voted on the Dogwood Village proposal at 12:30 AM rather wait for the provision of more information as two Commissioners requested. While opposition to the project remains strong because of its potential impact on historic resources, specifically the Chancellorsville Battlefield Historic District and Lick Run Segment, other significant issues such as higher taxes, sprawl, transportation issues, all remain unanswered, including interpretation of the Fiscal Impact Analysis. An independent evaluation was recently released by an economist retained by the Coalition to Save Chancellorsville Battlefield (CSCB). In essence, the report says that the \$10 million promised annually by the project is flawed. Check the CSCB website for more information: www.Chancellorsville.org. The case will probably be scheduled for public hearing by the Board of Supervisors sometime in February. SPFI members are urged to contact their supervisors and to keep informed.

SPFI has been granted "consulting party status" in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) 106 Review process

concerning the Orrock Tract project on the Ashley Farms as proposed by Mr. John Mullins. SPFI joins other local and national groups in consultation on the 106, which is initially a wetlands permitting process. ACE simultaneously addresses historic resource issues and suggests mitigation to protect resources. Further meetings are anticipated.

County preservationists were startled to read about an archaeological dig at the previous Old Jail site on Blockhouse Road (1779-1838). The site, labeled 44SP273 or the Old Spotsylvania County Courthouse Site, was recommended as eligible for the National Register under Criterion D since it has "the potential to contain important commercial and technological information in the Northern Coastal Plain of Virginia during the Colony to Nation, Early National and Antebellum periods." The field investigation conducted by The Lewis Berger Group, Inc., Richmond, VA found thousands of artifacts. They will be stored at the VA Dept of Historic Resources and will be available for loan for future exhibits. The sad thing is that a road will go right on top of this site. While the county was involved in the 106 process for Phase 1 around the Courthouse and the National Park Service lands, this 44SP273 site fell through the cracks Phase 2 of the project. It was merely assigned a number and was never taken to the Historic Preservation Commission for comment. So at this time, December 2002, while citizens raise money to restore the 1939 Jail in the Courthouse Historic District, and officials talk of tourist destinations, the actual site of the Old 'colonial' Jail is covered over and will soon be 'protected' by the asphalt of a new road. We can always erect a sign that begins: "On this spot..."

Caroline R. Hayden, Advocacy Chair

SPFI HELPS ALABAMIAN IN SEARCH FOR INFORMATION ABOUT CONFEDERATE RELATIVE'S GRAVE

Every now and then we are reminded of what an efficient tool

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The Pulliam Diary (continued from page 2)

but no one made any resistance, I left after dinner, (the noon meal) and the balance of the guard was to go and take possession of the old Jail. Cut some wheat."

July 3, 1839: "A very warm day, in the evening rode up to the Court house, to hear how they come on with the old Jail, they had got all the slate off, no resistance made, come home, and was caught in the rain and got as wet as there was any need for, W.H. (William Holladay) called in out (of) the rain pretty wett, got dry clothes and returned to the old Jail."

July 4, 1839: "As early as I could I started, and went up to the old Court House to assist L.R. (Lewis Rawlings) about taking down the old Jail, we took down all the rafters and first set of joish (joists), all the doors, one floor and commenced taking off the irons; not one of the Hicks party come near, they looked through with longing eyes. There were several attempts made to get the Jail keys but to (no) purpose; but that did not stop us, we turned in with crow bars and axes and cut through the walls and took out the doors, as they were locked, and no thanks to old Hicks, he had said that he would deliver the keys to the high sheriff, but when the high sheriff come, he could not be found nor did not make his appearance while we stayed."

July 5, 1839: "A pleasant day, Visited by Wm. Cason and W.H. (William Holladay) in the morning, in the (evening) W.H. came by on his way from the old Jail, they were getting along tollrably well with the works. Someone he said had broken the two old stoves that was in the old Jail."

July 10, 1839: "A very warm day, sent my wagon to assist Lewis Rawlings in moving the old Jail"

July 11, 1839: A pleasant day, rode up to the Court House say several persons there, heard no news. They were not done hauling from the old Jail; Ellen Long was here a short time."

In 1839 life was slower - people took time to write in their diaries and leave these vignettes of daily living.

Contributed by Carroll and Caroline Hayden



Spotsylvania Preservation Foundation

www.spfi.org

The Old Jail

P. O. Box 1875

Spotsylvania, VA 22553

**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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Confederate Grave (Continued from page 3)

the internet can be for sharing information and helping tourists. In September, 2002, Randy Bright from Alabama contacted SPFI via our web page. He told us that he is a descendant of a soldier buried at the Spotsylvania Courthouse Confederate cemetery, Pvt. John W. Bright of the 44th Georgia infantry. Mr. Bright was interested in information about preservation of the cemetery and any other information we might be able to provide. He was planning to visit Spotsylvania in October and wanted to know as much as possible about the area before making the trip. Our web master, John LeFebre, was able to put Mr. Bright in touch with the Chair of the Confederate Cemetery's Board of Trustees. In addition, SPFI told him about the Spotsylvania County Museum at the Courthouse and the material held there. In particular, we referred Mr. Bright to "From Generation to Generation: The Confederate Cemetery at Spotsylvania Courthouse," by Virginia Wright Durrett. SPFI also suggested that he visit the National

Park Service web page on the Cemetery and provided the site address, additionally SPFI suggested that Mr. Bright visit the Southpoint Visitor Center. We were delighted to receive a follow up message from Mr. Bright in October thanking SPFI for our help. His comment was, in part "I want to thank you again for the information. My family and I located our Confederate ancestor in the Confederate Cemetery. In addition, we visited many of the battlefields in the area. Your information made our trip much more enjoyable."

TREASURER'S REPORT (OCT 3, 2002)
GENERAL FUND: \$ 1,999.88,
JAIL FUND: \$14,529.86,
SCHOLARSHIP FUND: \$ 2,000.00
GRAND TOTAL: \$18,529.74
Robert X. Kurtinitis, Treasurer

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