



Historic Franconia Legacies

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Volume 11 Issue 2

Franconia Museum

Fall 2012

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A Union Private's Sad Episode in the Franconia Area!

By Don Hakenson

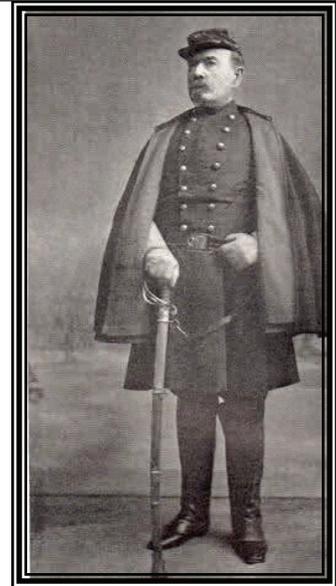
Camp Sackett was a Union campground established by the Thirty-eighth & Fortieth New York Infantries, in early 1861, at the outbreak of the American Civil War. It was located at the top of Frobel's Hill, near where Fort Drive is today, in the Wilton Woods neighborhood, just off the Old Fairfax Road. That road is now called Franconia.

After researching the regimental history for the Fortieth New York Infantry (or the Mozart Regiment), I found a sad episode that occurred at Camp Sackett on the afternoon of December 16th, 1861, that would forever change the future course of one of its youthful infantrymen.

On that date, Private William Moffitt was "drummed out of the regiment," for absence without leave, and for returning to camp arrayed in a suit of white linen cloth. Moffitt had taken the suit from the deserted residence of Confederate Commodore French Forrest. His home was known as "Clermont," located in the Franconia area, only a few miles from Camp Sackett. Forrest had left his mansion, with all of its belongings still intact, after Virginia voted to secede from the Union.

A large portion of the furniture in Forrest's mansion had already been appropriated to adorn and make comfortable the quarters of some of the Union officers in Moffitt's regiment. Subsequently, Moffitt himself visited the abandoned site also seeking some prized items. Then he saw what he sought, a white linen outfit. Casting

**Colonel
Edward
Riley**



aside his United States uniform, he donned the civilian clothing formerly belonging to Commodore Forrest and was quite pleased with his appearance. He had intended it as a joke, not realizing to discard his uniform was tantamount to desertion. Thus, the ignorant Moffitt marched boldly into Camp Sackett and paraded down various streets making quite a sensation, which is what he desired to accomplish in the first place. Word of his escapade reached Colonel Edward J. Riley, who did not see the humor of Moffitt's frolicsome prank, and ordered a Corporal to grab him and send him to regimental headquarters. When Moffitt arrived there, he offered no apology or excuse for his conduct. He was immediately sent to the guard house where he remained still clad in white until he was drummed out of the regiment the very next day.

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President's Message ...

Did you know that one of Dolly Parton's first appearances was at a fund-raiser for the Franconia Volunteer Fire Department? Or, that Chubby Checker once did "The Twist" at a teen dance sponsored by the volunteers?

Or, most important, did you know that all of the fire equipment at Franconia and most of it at Kingstowne was paid for as result of fund-raising activities by the volunteers over the years, that volunteerism is still alive and well at Franconia VFD?

These are the types of things co-author Jim Cox, editor Debbi Wilson and I have learned as we researched information for the Museum's upcoming Volume VII of Franconia Remembers about the history of our volunteer fire department.

The book will be unveiled as part of the Museum's annual History Day event, scheduled this year for Sunday, November 18 from noon to 5 p.m. at, where else, the Franconia Volunteer Fire Department. You'll get a chance to rub elbows with some of the volunteers who helped make Franconia what it is today. And, you'll meet some of their modern-day counterparts who still help operate the fire trucks and emergency vehicles today with the rigorous training and certification as the professionals.

The program will feature a magic show by Dr. Max Mandell, a former volunteer at Franconia who is a veterinarian in Stephens City, VA. A graduate of Edison, Max has a connection to the Dolly Parton story that will interest all who read the book.

Hamburgers and hot dogs as well as chips, drinks and other treats will also be on sale. Hamburgers are being provided by Roy Rogers in Manchester Lakes and the hot dogs by Dove Heating and Air Conditioning. ALL proceeds will benefit the Museum. The fire department is providing the use of the bingo hall at no charge. **Admission is FREE.**

Of course, the new book as well as all of the previous editions of Franconia Remembers will be on sale, along with other books and memorabilia.

Carl Sell

We would love to hear from you ...

If you would like to give us your comments or send us a word or two, please contact us by mail or email.

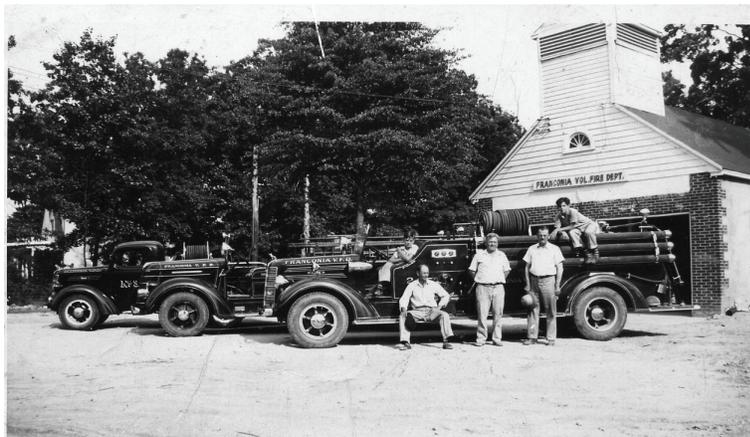
***Franconia Museum
6121 Franconia Road, Franconia, VA 22310
franconiamuseum@yahoo.com***

**HOLD
THE
DATE**

11th Annual Franconia History Day November 18, 2012 - 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Premiering Franconia Remembers Volume VII

The Franconia Volunteer Fire Department



Mark your calendar for Sunday, November 18, 2012. That's the date of the Franconia Museum's Annual History Day extravaganza at the Franconia Volunteer Fire Department on Beulah Street. Admission is FREE!

This year's event will feature the publication of the Museum's seventh book in its Franconia Remembers series. It is a history of the Franconia Volunteer Fire Department, currently being written by Carl Sell and Jim Cox, with a major assist from Chief Tim Fleming and many of the volunteers from years gone by. Debbi Wilson is coordinating and organizing the publication, with an assist from Judy Hutchinson and Don Hakenson.

This year's event will run from noon until 5 p.m. Also included on the program is the opening of a time capsule placed at the firehouse by volunteers 45 years ago. The Museum will have all of its artifacts, pictures and documents on display. Plans are also in the works for several surprise activities.

Food will be on sale with all proceeds going to the Museum compliments of area businesses Roy Rogers Restaurants, Dove Heating and Air Conditioning, Nalls Produce and Sherman Properties.

**2012 History Day will be held at the Franconia Volunteer Fire Department
6300 Beulah Street, Franconia, Virginia**

(located near the Intersection of Beulah Street and Franconia Road)

A Union Private's Sad Episode in the Franconia Area!

continued from page one ...

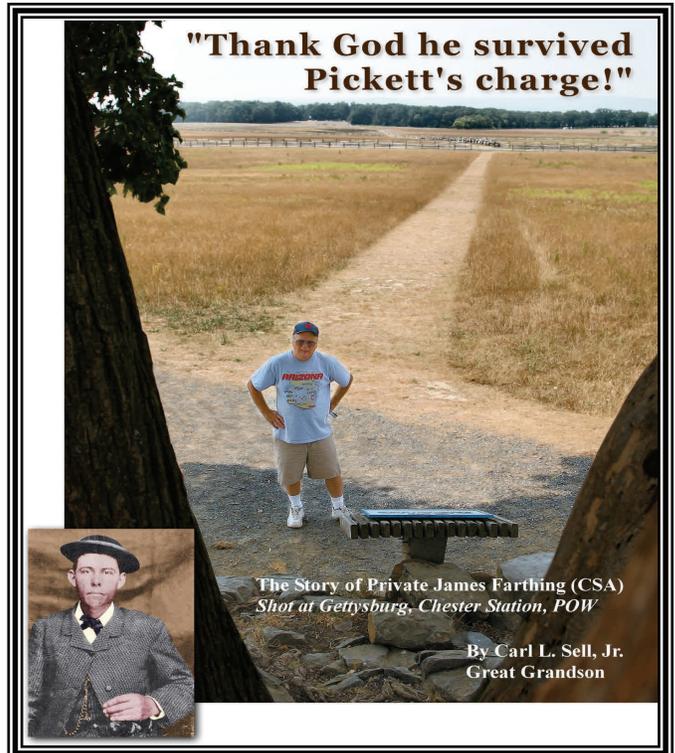
By Don Hakenson

Moffitt, with his head partially shaved, had a placard pinned upon his back marked "Deserter," and was paraded in front of the regiment several times, back and forth, with the tune playing "Poor Old Soldier." He was then liberated and told to disappear.

Sergeant Frederick Clark Floyd stated, *"It was more in pity than in anger that we witnessed this disgrace, and instead of scoffing and deriding him, there was perfect silence, and after he departed, the parade was dismissed. Moffitt was entirely worthless as a soldier, because his whole nature was depraved, and at variance with the qualities which characterize the soldier. He was thoroughly unreliable, and could not be depended upon to the slightest degree, to perform the duties of a soldier, consequently he could not be trusted on guard or picket, for he was as liable to leave his post, as to stay on duty. He was not worthy of wearing the uniform of a soldier, and his dismissal was undesirable. It appeared, however, that the method adopted to dispose of him was not effective. Moffitt became a camp-follower, and securing a cast-off uniform, attached himself to the wagon train as a helper, and remained with the army until the following July, at Harrison's Landing, when he departed, and upon the official records in Washington his name appears as a "deserter."*

The Union service records verify that William Moffitt, age nineteen, enlisted in New York City, and mustered in on June 27th 1861, at Yonkers as a private in Company H, Fortieth New York Infantry. He deserted July 1, 1862 at Harrison's Landing. However, it would not be wrong to say that the immature young man would forever lament his brief stay in the Franconia area, and whatever happened to him after the war is completely unknown by this writer.

More Books Written By Our Board Members



Good Books about Local History

**This Forgotten Land:
A Tour of Civil War Sites and Other His-
torical Landmarks South of
Alexandria, Virginia**

and

**This Forgotten Land Vol. II
Biographical Sketches Of Confederate
Veterans Buried in Alexandria Virginia**

By Don Hakenson

Get your copy today by calling
Don at 703- 971- 4984
dhakenson@cox.net

Steve Sherman and Link Wray

By Carl Sell

While researching information for Franconia Remembers Volume VII on the Franconia Fire Department, about performers at teen-age dances held in the firehouse, fascinating names of entertainers in the 1950s and 1960s popped up. One was the legendary rock guitarist, Link Wray, who is still the gold standard by which others are judged.

Wray and other stars of the day made cameo promotional appearances at teen dances at the old firehouse, located where the government center is today. You can read about it in the book, which will debut at the Franconia Museum's History Day on Sunday, November 18 from noon to 5 p.m. in the current firehouse.

While telling the Museum Board of Directors about the dances and the performers, I and everyone else was stunned to hear Steve Sherman pipe up and say that he once had backed up Link Wray as the second guitarist at a performance. We didn't know Steve was a musician as it had never come up. Dan Kuntz, obviously a guitar music aficionado, incredulously asked Steve, "Do you mean THE Link Wray?"

Turns out that Steve played in rock bands when he was in high school. The groups were pretty good, twice winning Battle of the Bands competition at the American Legion Hall in Fairfax City. The prize was a booking as the featured band for the rest of the summer. Steve played with Steve and The Stereos, named after Steve the drummer not Steve the guitar player, and the Happenings.

In 1964, disc jockey Jack Alex of WEEL Radio brought Wray to the Legion Hall, located just down the street from the station's headquarters. Wray agreed to play a few of his popular songs and Sherman was the backup. Wray was known for jacking up the sound and hitting notes that blew out amplifiers. Since the equipment

**Steve
Sherman**



belonged to Sherman, he demanded to play second guitar.

"After all, if the equipment was going to be ruined, I at least wanted the chance to play with Wray," Sherman remembers. Nothing happened as Wray and Sherman pounded out such favorites as "Rawhide" and "Rumble."

Steve quit playing after graduating from Wakefield High School in Arlington. He went on to Morris Harvey College in West Virginia and Northern Virginia Community College where he majored in accounting and history. He is the President of "Sherman Properties," a highly successful real estate business located in Franconia. He is a past president of the Franconia Museum and still serves on the Board. He also is the vice chairman of the Fairfax County History Commission and serves on the board of the popular Celebrate Fairfax.



Check out the Franconia Museum's Facebook page where you can catch up with old friends and neighbors and share a wonderful story or picture!

The Staats Family

by Linda Staats Taylor

(The following is a condensed version of a story by Linda Staats Taylor about her grandparents' home on Old Rolling Road off Franconia Road. Her dad, Albert, grew up there and both he and Linda have a special place in their hearts for Franconia. The full story will be printed in the next issue of Franconia Remembers. Editor)

My grandparents, James and Elsie Staats, lived on Old Rolling Road off of Franconia Road.

James was born October 23, 1873, in Washington, D.C. He was the son of Peter and Mary Irene Mcleef Staats. Peter was from Georgetown, NJ, and was born in September 1839, son of Peter V & Mary Staats. Peter and Mary were married in 1864 and relocated to Vienna Va. Elsie was born in Washington, DC. She was the daughter of James and Mollie McBride. Elsie was one of twelve siblings. Before moving to the Franconia area, the Staats family lived in Lincoln. My father was the next to the youngest of six boys and the only one still living. James was married twice, and was said to have seven children with his first wife. He later married Elsie McBride, my grandmother, and they had six more boys.

Growing up, I can remember a lovely Bungalow at the end of Old Rolling Road with a large tree in the front yard. This tree became the focal point of the home. The boys would work on their cars there and we all would sit under the tree. In front of the house was another road, not a state road, that led to another house. After all of these years, I found that my grandparents owned this land and other members of the family lived there. James worked and managed a farm for Dr. Fifer in Merrifield. He was given a Dodge truck to ride back and forth to the farm. Dr. Fifer also owned a beautiful home on North Kings Highway across from Jefferson Manor Shopping Center, as a lot of us can remember. I can remember riding by the house and thinking how grand it was and that one day I would love to live in a big home like that.

Granddad would work hard by doing lots of odd jobs, but specialized in stucco and plaster. He would take his son Albert, my father, with him. Some of the odd jobs would vary. They worked for a family cutting bushes with a sickle saw for hours behind the Masonic Temple. Other times they would hang sheet rock with a contractor and he would stop by to pick them up. There wasn't enough room in the car, so they would ride in the trunk with the feet hanging. Dad was so proud when he told me that they hung sheet rock in the ceiling of the Annandale Theater.

The house they lived in was a two bedroom bungalow. All six boys (Jimmy, Woody, Clarence, Robbie, Albert and Harry) slept in two beds, three boys in each. Dad can remember that one night they were all sleeping and a man on a white horse came by the window, except that he didn't have a head. All six of them saw this and they all hustled over top of each other to get out of the room. The family did the grocery shopping at Rose Hill Shopping Center and Dad said that Granddad would drive grandma to the store, but stay outside. He would stand in front of the window to make sure that nobody bothered her. If the boys wanted to go anywhere, they had to walk. Dad would walk to the train tracks on Van

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Birthday Party Elsie at Uncle Wilson's house in Hayfield. From Left to right, Woodrow Jr., James, Woodrow Sr, Harry, Albert

The Staats Family ... *continued*by *Linda Staats Taylor*

Dorn to wait for the coal train to come by, with hopes to get a bag of coal to help heat the house. Most of the time, the guys on the train would give them some.

My Dad, Albert Thomas Staats, was born on March 22, 1926. He joined the Navy in June 1944 and while at port in Washington State, he met and married his first wife, Irene, in Tacoma. They had two sons, Larry and Richard, both now deceased. Then he married my mother, Ellie (Frances) Lamb of Stanardsville, Va. Frances had three children by her previous marriage, Betty, Peggy and David Campbell. There were not that many jobs available in Central Virginia, so she moved to Alexandria to raise money to help her family. She worked in Washington DC, for a while and then worked at People's Drug store on King and Columbus Street for 23 years. Dad did what he could to



Elsie with son Harry and James son Clifford

Albert in front of the house on Old Rolling Rd



help out with her family after they were married. Betty stayed in Stanardsville and married Al Berry. Peggy lived with us in Jefferson Manor until she was married to Owen Johnson. They lived in several parts of Alexandria, but settled down in Lorton, Va. Dad even helped our brother David to get a job at Arlington Iron works. I can remember David coming home from work one day fussing because Dad hit him on his head with a hammer (he was wearing a safety hat) because he was asleep in the truck when he should have been working. I attended school at Mount Eagle, Bryant and Hayfield Secondary. Dad took a job helping build the Lake Anna Nuclear Power Plant in Louisa in 1971, so we moved where my mother grew up in Stanardsville, Virginia during my senior year at Hayfield, so I graduated from William Monroe High.

Most of the sons were very quiet. Once they all were married and moved around, it took a lot to get everyone together. A picture of five of the boys at Grandma's 80th Birthday celebration party was an occasion where she had them all together. Jimmy had already passed away at this time.

There are some family members that still keep in contact from time to time. I am sure that we all think of our family, and have fond memories of that beautiful bungalow at the end of Old Rolling Road where our parents lived and grew up.

Museum Emails

Editor's note: Carl Sell spoke at the November 8, 2011 funeral of Woody Betts, who grew up on Beulah Road and attended Franconia Elementary School. Woody was the Neighborhood Watch chairman for Rose Hill, where Carl is the president of the Civic Association. Woody was the chairman of the Franconia police district's Citizen Advisory Council. As part of his remarks, Carl mentioned that the Franconia Museum, thanks to Vikki Beaty, had on display some bricks 'rescued' from the demolition at Franconia school to make way for a total makeover of the facility. Vikki also is from Rose Hill where her parents helped start the Neighborhood Watch. Carl received the following note from one of Woody's neighbors:

Hi Carl,

We were at Woody's service today and heard your tribute to him. We had a good laugh when you were talking about the bricks at Franconia. My dad grew up next



Dinky Hoffman and daughter Kelli

door to the fire station (the house is long gone) and attended Franconia when he was a kid. I stopped by there one day, to the dismay of my daughter who was embarrassed by my actions, and I asked one of the construction workers if I could have some bricks for my dad as a Father's Day gift. He happily walked to the site and brought me back several bricks to give my dad. My dad was thrilled, and I was lucky, because it must not have been long after that day that they decided to be stingy with the bricks!

Take care,
Kelli Hoover

Not on our mailing list?

***Want to become part of
our growing family ...***

contact us at

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***to find out how to become
a friend of the Museum
or call Steve Sherman
at 703-971-7700
on how to become a
business sponsor of
the museum***

Are You In This Picture Question Solved, Thanks To Joyce Young!



Yes, I am in that picture.

First, let me tell you when and where it was taken. It was taken in 1947. We were standing on Franconia Road near the existing Franconia Police Station. The brick structure you see in the picture is the old brick house to the right of the Police Station.

The happy gals in the picture are, left to right: Me, Joyce Stewardson (Young), Gladys Nealey, Faye Knupp (Cash), and my sister, Janice Stewardson (Starr) (Beach). Gladys, Faye, and I were in the 7th grade at the time.

As many of you know, I married Hoellman A. Young, who lived in one of Shindell's cabins in Springfield during his first four years at Franconia. He then moved with his family in their newly constructed home in Groveton. We graduated together and married 26 years later. Faye married Ward Cash, who grew up in the stone rambler on Beulah Road across from what used to be Hayes' Store. Faye and Ward married in late 1953 or early 1954. They lived on Beulah Road for many years, and moved to Chester Gap a few miles out of Front Royal. They live in a beautiful house on the side of a mountain with a marvelous view. She cuts their slanting lawn with a riding mower!! Janice lives at the circle in Gordonsville, VA.

I don't know where Gladys is now living. At the time this picture was taken, her Aunt Mary Hamilton lived in a small wooden house with a screened porch to the back and left of the house in this picture. This spot is where we met to walk to Franconia School. For the most part, Gladys did not attend Mt. Vernon High School. We had a couple of classes together in 1951. A dream-come-true for me would be to hear from her as a result of this edition of "Historic Franconia Legacies."

Thanks for using the picture!
Joyce Young

New Museum Board Member - Rita Kuntz

By Carl Sell

Rita Kuntz remembers that when she and Dan moved to Franconia in 1986, there still were farms and horses on Beulah Street and gravel pits in what is now Kingstowne. Later, they would begin to explore the historic sites in the area, discover the Franconia Museum and join the Board of Directors. Rita calls the organization a "grass roots museum based on memories of people who have lived here for years."

Dan joined the Board in 2010 and Rita a year later. Transplanted New Jerseyites, they both now qualify as knowledgeable in Franconia history, if not natives. Dan is an attorney with the Transportation Security Administration. Rita retired in 2007 after 27 years as the department chair and special education teacher for Fairfax County schools at McLean High School. They live in Franconia Forest.

Rita enjoys visiting historic and Civil War sites in Northern Virginia, particularly on the anniversary dates of the battle or events. She and Dan have toured all of the local sites featured in Don Hakenson's book "This Forgotten Land" as well as the map of sites depicted in the brochure that is available at the Museum's headquarters in the government center, 6121 Franconia Road.

She also likes to visit local cemeteries, remembering names of people from times gone by and then searching for their stories in the archives of the Franconia Museum. For Rita, as well as many others, the history of Franconia comes alive through the old pictures, clippings and writings on display at the Museum.

Rita Padalino met Dan Kuntz while they were in high school in Parsippany, N.J. The daughter of Martin and Kathryn Janelli Padalino, Rita is a graduate of William Paterson College in Wayne, N.J. with a degree in education. Her dad was in the Army, resulting in numerous duty stations while Rita was a youngster. After college, she taught for five years in New Jersey.

She and Dan were married in 1972 and moved to Northern Virginia in 1979 and Dan went to work for a D.C. law firm. Rita taught school at a private school in D.C. for a year before joining the Fairfax County school system. They lived in Crystal City for four years, and then two more in Old Towne Alexandria before moving to Franconia.

The Kuntzes have a son, Thomas, who lives nearby on South Van Dorn Street and is a food scientist with the FDA. He attended Franconia Elementary, Twain Middle School, Edison High School and Virginia Tech, all qualifications for a native of Franconia!



You can reach our members by advertising in our semi-annual newsletter and on our web site. *The cost is per issue ...*

\$100 per page
 \$50 per half page
 \$25 per quarter page
 \$15 per one-eighth (business card) page



The on-line ads will remain on our web site as part of the newsletter. Please contact: Debbi Wilson at debbiwilson@yahoo.com or Carl Sell at 703-971-4716 or sellcarl@aol.com.

Special deal for members only! Insert a flyer in the newsletter for the cost of printing only. You pay for the printing, bring them to the Museum and our cracker-jack assembly staff will insert them in the next newsletter FREE. Also provide an electronic version for the web site.

BOTH SIDES TOUR IX
Civil War Sesquicentennial Event
The Northern Virginia Campaign of 150 Years Ago

We'll start at Cedar Mountain where Stonewall Jackson's army, with the aid of a vicious late counterattack by A.P. Hill, repulsed a march into Virginia by the Union's newly constituted Army of Virginia led by General John Pope on August 9, 1862. Pope, who had replaced General George McClellan, retreated back toward Washington with the Rebels in hot pursuit. Jackson caught up with Pope again at Manassas on August 28 where the battle began with a stalemate on the Brawner Farm. The next day, Pope launched a series of attacks at the unfinished railroad that resulted in heavy casualties on both sides. On August 30, Pope resumed the attack, but suffered major casualties from massed Confederate artillery. Then came a counterattack by Jackson and Longstreet's corps that routed the Federals. 28,000 Confederates attacked the Union position in what would be the largest mass attack of the war- even bigger than the famous Pickett's Charge the following year at Gettysburg.

Saturday, October 27, 2012
Sponsored by the Franconia Museum

Start the day at 8 a.m. with coffee and donuts at the Franconia Museum, 6121 Franconia Road. Board a comfortable rest-room equipped motor coach for the trip to Cedar Mountain and follow both armies back to Manassas. Along the way, we'll fill you in on the events that led up to an attempt by President Lincoln to bring the war to Central Virginia. We'll stop for lunch at Country Cooking in Warrenton! Then, we'll visit the site of Second Manassas. It will require some walking in order to put you in the action.

SPECIAL ADDED ATTRACTION

On the way home, we'll stop at the site of the Battle of Ox Hill, also known as the Battle of Chantilly, where troops battled in a severe thunderstorm and Union Generals Isaac Stevens and Philip Kearny lost their lives. This battlefield park is surrounded by major Fairfax County development, marking an eerie reminder of the war. Pope retreated toward Washington and Confederate General Robert E. Lee began his move toward Maryland and the resulting Battle of Sharpsburg.

COST: \$100.00 Each. Includes Bus Ride, Buffet Lunch (including gratuity) and a Snack Card to spend on the way home, as well as all entrance fees.

Contact:

Don Hakenson at 703-971-4984 or dhakenson@cox.net

Carl Sell at 703-971-4716 or sellcarl@aol.com

Ben Trittipoe at 703-530-0829 or btrittipoe@verizon.net



In Memoriam

Lawrence Mathew Kersey III

Lawrence Mathew Kersey III was born April 10, 1950 in Alexandria, Virginia. He died July 7, 2012 at his home in Hanover County at the age of 62 years.

Mr. Kersey was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence M. Kersey, Jr., and Corrinne M. Kersey, and a son, Lawrence M. Kersey IV.

Mr. Kersey is survived by two daughters, Dawn R. Johnson and husband Scott, and Dana M. Kersey, his wife of 38 years, Virginia M. (Sue) Kersey, two brothers Vernon E. Kersey and Carlton J. Kersey, a sister Ann M. Kersey, grandchildren Ashley L. Buck, Samantha M. Tingen, Britany L. Tingen, eight nieces and nephews, 18 great nieces and nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

Mr. Kersey was a member of Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Alexandria, VA where he served as an altar boy in his youth. He was educated in the Catholic school system. Mr. Kersey was a salesperson for Colonial Enstone Concrete Company. He was involved in the community serving as president of the Activity Committee in the Lake Land 'Or Community. He was also on the Board of Directors for Lake Land 'Or and a member of the Property Owners Association. He was also a member of the Caroline County Moose Lodge and the Virginia Association of Builders.

Mr. Kersey was a man of many interests and talents. He was a devoted father and grandfather and even enjoyed his grand-dogs. He played and coached local softball teams. He was a role model and mentor to children and teens in the community. He was fond of trips to the beach, sporting activities and shopping. He was a person who was giving, and could be counted on to help those in need.

The family wishes to acknowledge with gratitude all of the expressions of love and care during this time of bereavement. May God continue to bless you. The family also is grateful to the care

provided to them by Hospice of Virginia.

The family requests that memorials be directed to VCU Massey Cancer Center, P.O. Box 843042, Richmond, VA 23284.

Larry was a three sport athlete at Edison High School, he was the varsity quarterback and was an excellent baseball player. One of the important things I remember about Larry was that even though he was older than me and very popular in school, he was always friendly towards everyone. I had not seen him in over 30 years when I ran into him at the Edison coaches corner last fall. We had a good talk and he seemed fine to me. He never mentioned the seriousness of his health problems. I had no idea how sick he was until I ran into his brother Moe at an event at King George High School early this year. I attended his funeral service in Bowling Green which was an easy run from Colonial Beach where I now live. There was a large turnout for Larry, including a lot of Eagles.

--Jim Cox

The Kersey family was larger than life in youth sports in the Franconia area. It seemed as if there was a Kersey either involved as a participant or spectator at almost every game in the 1960s. The grandfather, Larry (Pop), his son Larry, Jr., and his wife Corrine and their kids, Larry, Carlton (Moe) and Ann Marie, cheered for their own teams and worked hard to help make sure all kids had a place to play. I knew them well because Moe was the catcher for one of my baseball teams. They all enjoyed a good time and helped everyone around them enjoy it too. Larry, Jr., was a D.C. cop, but you'd never know it when he was off duty. One time, he and the boys gave me a bushel basket of what I thought were crabs and then rolled on the ground with laughter when a bunch of eels began slithering out as I put the basket in my car. They had just sprayed the basket with water "to keep the crabs fresh" they told this naive seafood lover.

-- Carl Sell



In Memoriam ... continued

Nadine G. Cornwell

Date published: 3/17/2011

Nadine G. "Deannie" Cornwell, born October 7, 1937, sadly departed this life, on Tuesday, March 15, 2011, surrounded by her loving family in Montross. She was the 23rd child of her parents, 19 of whom survived.

She married the love of her life on October 7, 1953, the day she turned 16, and they spent 52 wonderful years together. She missed him immensely for five years.

Deannie started working in the school cafeteria so she could be on schedule with the raising of their children. She retired from working in 1975 and took care of her mom until 1980, and then took care of her dad until 1988.

She was the loving mother of William E. Cornwell Jr. (and Darlene) of Mathews and Nadine M. Cornwell and Karen Maczka of Coles Point; beloved grandmother of William E. Cornwell III of Fredericksburg, Amanda Wroten and John D. Cornwell of Deltaville; and great-grandmother of Brandon.

Deanie will be sadly missed by Bill Kissrieburger (and Pearl) who was raised with her, and lifelong friend Charlie Quick (and Carol) of Fredericksburg. She also leaves behind two brothers, William Arrington of Fredericksburg and Morris Arrington (and Pam); and one sister, Christine Wiley of Woodbridge; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, William E. "Coote" Cornwell Sr.; and parents Hazel V. and Marion L. Trice.

She was a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend who will be missed dearly. We would like to thank Riverside Hospice for the tender care they provided for our mother.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 17, at Welch Funeral Home, Montross Chapel. A funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, March 18, at Welch Funeral Home, Montross Chapel. Interment will follow in Currioman Baptist Church Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Riverside Hospice, 618 Hospital Road, Medical Arts Building A, Ste. 201, Tappahannock, Va. 22560.

Deannie was the 1952 Franconia Volunteer Fire Department Labor Day Popularity Queen. At age 14 she collected \$700 in the Franconia Volunteer Firemen's Popularity contest to come out the winner in a seven-girl field. It was the most ever collected for the firemen by an entrant in the yearly contest. She was a ninth grader at Mt. Vernon High School at the time. She said that when she won the contest she received a "bouquet of flowers, cosmetics from a company in Washington, and a blouse that was worn by Jean Peters in an MGM movie."

- Jim Cox

**Have a Memoriam
Please Email To
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In Memoriam—Andy Higham

Andy Higham

Herbert Anderson (Andy) Higham
-March 30, 2012

In his own quiet way, Andy Higham epitomized the core of Franconia. He valued his family, his church and his community with a dedication that sometimes is lost in today's hustle and bustle of just trying to keep things together. Andy was always together, whether it be as a husband, father, businessman or supporter of his community. The Highams already were an institution in Franconia by the time Andy was born, the second son of William and Dorothy Anderson Higham. He and his older brother Bill, Jr., continued in their dad's footsteps in the construction and painting business. Both would be high school football stars, Bill at Annandale and Andy at Lee when it first opened. Andy would meet his future wife Jane Devine, at Lee. After he graduated from what is now Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, W. Va., they settled in Franconia and raised three daughters, Suzanne, Julie and Jennifer. Andy served as president of the Franconia Rotary and was a vestryman at historic Olivet Episcopal Church. He was instrumental in organizing and coaching youth sports in Franconia. He joined the Franconia Museum Board of Directors in 2004 and later coaxed Jane into taking over as the Museum's treasurer in 2007. For a number of years, Andy was the volunteer chef for the Museum's annual History Day, cooking hamburgers and hot dogs. Then he was part of the fund-raising food service that helped offset the cost of the program. Some years back, Board member Carol Hakenson christened his culinary effort as "Andyburgers," and the name immediately became a tribute to his effort, rain or shine, to make the day a success. Andy became ill and succumbed after a long battle with frontotemporal degeneration, a form of dementia. His services were conducted at the Jefferson Funeral Chapel in Franconia, one of his numerous commercial real estate projects. Andy's

footprints in Franconia are huge, and no member of the Museum's Board of Directors will ever eat a hamburger again without thinking of him!

- - Carl Sell



AndyBurgers!

Andy Higham & the Early Days of Robert E. Lee High School Football

I first met Andy Higham in the fall of 1970, at the time I was helping Fred Landon coach the Franconia Youth Association (FYA) 115lb Tigers. Fred and I attended an FYA Coaches meeting at the home of Bill Higham's (Andy's Brother). I was introduced to the coaches and hung around after the meeting to talk football. I remember listening to Andy talk about his team and feeling that he was a coach that really cared about his players. Andy quit coaching football after that year, and I did not see him again until over 30 years later when he became a member of the Franconia Museum Board. Andy was a key player in getting the museum off the ground, playing an important role in establishing and organizing the museum's space in the Lee District Governmental Center.

During my research of the local newspapers for several displays and museum publications I kept finding information about Andy's accomplishments as a football player at the newly opened Lee High School from 1958 to 1960. Andy attended Mount Vernon as a freshman and played football for the Majors, mainly as a defensive player. During 1957



In Memoriam—Andy Higham ... continued

Mount Vernon played Annandale which featured Bill Higham as one of its running backs. Andy had to tackle Bill several times in the game won by Annandale 21-0. Andy said that Bill was “one of the hardest men to stop that I’ve ever seen.” Mount Vernon also featured Arnold and Butch Cash in their backfield. The Cash brothers were “Beulah Road Boys,” according to Jane Higham, but evidently decided not to transfer to Lee. Andy transferred when Lee opened in the fall of 1958, and played varsity football for the Lancers over the next three seasons. The Alexandria Gazette for September 6, 1958, gives a rundown on the first Lee Football team which played a modified varsity schedule. This included the Hammond Junior Varsity and several smaller high schools. The team used a “cramped custodian’s office” as their locker room, and practiced in a pasture across Franconia Road, (sounds like it was the current location of Springfield Mall). They did not have a home field until the next season, and Andy was listed as one of two 155lb quarterbacks.



The Lancers opened with Groveton and lost by a respectable 31-12 score. The Gazette states that in the fourth quarter “Quarterback Andy Higham raced 20 yards on a split-T option play to complete a 53 yard drive.” So Andy scored the first ever Lancer touchdown (TD). This was one of the more respectable games from the 1958

Season. Lee would lose by a 72-0 score to George Mason, 49-0 against Fairfax, and only win one game against the Hammond JV team. Jane (Devine) Higham was a cheerleader for Lee during this season and she said she spent the whole George Mason game yelling “block that point” followed by another Mason kickoff after they scored touchdown after touchdown.

The Lee coach left right after the season ended.

The Lancers first official varsity season was in 1959. Jack Baumgartner was the new head coach, and the team now had a home field, even if it did not have any grass. The Gazette lists Andy as competing for the Quarterback position but by the opening game he was the starting Fullback. Andy was now a 180lb player and established himself as a power runner for the team. The Gazette ran an article featuring both Higham brothers who played at rival schools during Andy’s Freshman year. This was due to overcrowding in Fairfax County schools. Franconia students went to Annandale High School in 1954 (Bill’s Freshman year), but by 1957 students from the Franconia area were sent to Mount Vernon High School. Coach Baumgartner cited Andy as having “practiced running all summer to build speed, and now he’s one of our faster backs.” Andy also ran track in the spring of 1959 to improve his speed.

Osborn was the first opponent and Lee won their first victory ever over a varsity team by a 13-7 score. The Gazette described Andy as the younger brother of Annandale standout Bill Higham, and said he was the “leading light for the Fairfax County club in its 1959 season opener.” Lee recovered a fumble at the 30 yard line early in the first half, and Andy carried the ball five straight times and went over the goal line from one yard out for the first TD of the season. In the third quarter Andy capped a nine play 40 yard drive with the winning TD on a one yard run.

Lee lost its second game to Groveton by a score of 25-6. Andy scored the only Lee TD on a 19 yard pass from Bob D’Ambrosio. This was the first Lee home game and the field was very dusty despite being wet down by the Franconia Volunteer Fire Department prior to the game. In the third game Lee beat Handley of Winchester 6-0 on a punt return TD by Freshman Jimmy Barrett. The fire department wet the field down again to keep down the dust. In the fourth game of the season Lee won again over Herndon by a 13-7 score. Andy scored an extra point on a pass from Harry Leland and caught a 50 yard pass to set up



In Memoriam—Andy Higham ... continued

the second touchdown. Lee also won their fifth game of the season over Stuart, to run their record to 4-1. Andy did not make the papers in the game which was mainly a defensive struggle.

McLean stopped Lee's winning streak at three games, beating the Lancers 18-7 in their sixth game of the season. Andy scored the TD for Lee tying the score at six. Andy later carried the ball down to the four yard line and Lee appeared ready to score and take a 13-12 lead, but McLean intercepted a lateral and returned it 93 yards to put the game out of reach. Lee played Falls Church to a 13-13 tie in their seventh game. Andy had a big game scoring the first Lancer touchdown on a 12 yard pass. The Springfield Independent wrote that just before halftime Andy "crunched into the end zone, accompanied by four grasping Jaguar players."

In the eighth game Lee was crushed by Hammond 26-0, Andy was described by the Independent as having 46 yards on 11 carries against the tough Admirals. Lee also lost the ninth game of the season to the Fairfax Rebels. Andy scored a touchdown to tie the score at one point during the first half, but Fairfax scored a late TD to win 12-7. During this period of Northern Virginia High School football Hammond and Fairfax were perennial contenders along with Ed Henry's Annandale team. In the final game of the season Lee beat Mt. Vernon and secured a winning season. Andy had a 21 yard run on a Lee drive that stalled early in the game. Andy also carried the ball on Lee's only scoring drive of the game.

The Independent called Lee's first varsity season a "minor miracle" for taking a losing team and making it into a winner. Coach Baumgartner cited Andy Higham for leading the team in scoring, and Andy received the Springfield Civitan award as the "Best Back of the Year." In the Gazette's list of leading scorers for the season he finished eleventh. He was also named to the Gazette's Honorable Mention ALL-Northern District team as a running back, and to the Washington Post's Northern Virginia Group 1 Second Team.

Andy's Senior season in 1960 was pretty dismal, the team started the season poorly and finished

**Andy
Higham**



with a losing record. Andy played several outstanding games but most of the season was a struggle. He did score a touchdown in a loss to Stuart and two more in a victory over Falls Church. Andy also had two touchdowns against Fairfax in a hard fought loss to the eventual Fairfax County and Northern District champion. The second touchdown was a 51 yarder. Andy did get some recognition at the end of the season by being named to the Gazette's Second Team ALL-Northern District as a running back, comparable to being named to the All Regional Team today. Andy also received honorable mention as a member of the Gazette's All Fairfax County Team. In addition, he also received another "Best Back" trophy from Lee High School.

I was able to get most of the information for this story from old newspapers and a series of scrapbooks that Andy's Mom kept for him. They included all his press clippings and just about every game program from his four seasons of football. Quite a historical collection by themselves and Andy truly loved history, particularly if it involved Franconia or the Civil War. Andy never bragged about his high school football career, although it is pretty evident that he was an outstanding player. I think his approach to everything he did was always to create success through hard work, and he set an example for everyone to follow. Jane said that Coach Baumgartner attended one of the viewings at the Jefferson Funeral Chapel, so Andy's old coach also cared about his players. We will all miss him and his AndyBurgers on future History Days. We were all very sorry to lose Andy, but are very thankful that his wife Jane has continued on as the museum treasurer.

-- Jim Cox





In Memoriam—Betty Plaughter Nalls

Betty Nalls



Betty Plaughter Nalls' life was a kaleidoscope of Franconia. She grew up here, worked in her parents' business, was an accomplished horsewoman, musician, wife, mother and friend to almost everyone in her community, regardless of generation. She passed away on Sunday, April 1, 2012, less than a year after her husband of 59 years, Buddy Nalls, died after a long illness. Soon after Buddy's death, Betty's health began to decline and she was hospitalized several times. She died in her own home in her beloved Franconia, just as Buddy had done on July 20, 2011, in the house he built at the corner of Steinway Street and Beulah Street.

Because of her illness, Betty had resigned from the Board of Directors of the Franconia Museum but had remained active as a Senior Advisor. She was an enthusiastic supporter of the Franconia Lunch Bunch, attending get-togethers as her health allowed. At the end, she was surrounded by her three sons, family and friends.

Betty was a dynamo who loved life and lived it to the fullest. As a youngster, she worked at Ward's Corner, the family business, and knew almost everyone in Franconia. Later, she would win many prizes at horse shows, become an accomplished pianist and organist, study interior decorating, raise three boys and assist her husband in his home-building business. She also loved to travel, enjoying cruises and other trips but never desired to leave Franconia for more than a few weeks.

As a teen-ager, Betty made ice cream sodas, milk shakes, banana splits and cooked hamburgers for the restaurant at Ward's Corner, which also included a store, gas station and movie theatre among other businesses. It was the community gathering place that also was famous for country music featuring rising stars such as Roy Clarke, Grandpa Jones and Jimmy Dean.

Betty and Buddy were married March 21, 1952, at Pohick Church. Buddy was in the army at the time and subsequently was shipped to Korea. After his Army service, he began a home remodeling

business and subsequently built houses in Franconia and Alexandria. Betty handled all the payrolls, invoicing and filing the magnitude of forms the construction business produces. When she died, her sons found that all of her accounts were in order, just as they had been all her life.

She is survived by sons Arthur, Cary and David, seven grandchildren and one great grandchild with another since born. She also is survived by her sister, Gwen Douglas. Arthur Nalls is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy and a former Marine test pilot. He currently is in the real estate business in Washington, D.C. Cary Nalls owns and operates Nalls Produce on Beulah Street, just across from the home place. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Franconia Museum. David operates a produce business on Route #7 at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains near Berryville, VA.

Betty's legacy will live on at the Franconia Museum. She has helped lay the groundwork for a continued collection of stories, articles and artifacts that bring the community's history to life. The family has helped perpetuate Betty's memory by sponsoring the upcoming Volume VII of Franconia Remembers that chronicles the history of the Franconia Volunteer Fire Department.

**Betty
Nalls**





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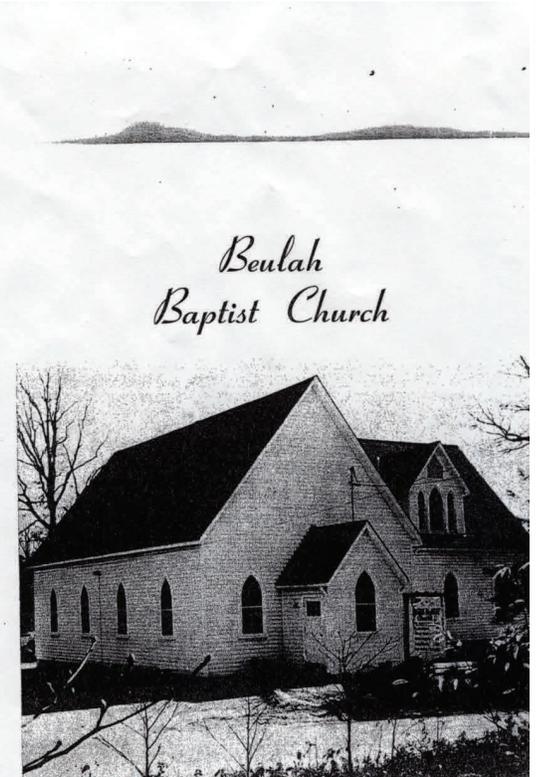
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and set up a time with Carl Sell, Sonny Wright or
Don Hakenson ... tell them your story of your
Franconia remembrances.

Newsletter Correction

Page 14 of the Spring 2012 Newsletter (**which was copied from Facebook comments**) -- there was a church photo, and question from Lena Mapes asking if that was the old Beulah Baptist Church. In fact, it was **NOT**, it was Olivet Episcopal Church. Here is a picture of the old Beulah Baptist Church. Our apologies to all ...

Our thanks to everyone who brought this to our attention!



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