

*A Publication of The Occoquan Historical Society*

# *The Mill Racer*

*Volume VII Spring Edition 2011*

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*Walter Bailey*

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## **We Lost a Good Friend**

On April 12, 2011 Occoquan resident Walter Bailey passed away. Walter served his community in many capacities, as a teacher, historian and a volunteer for the town. Friends spoke of his deep faith and his many interests; travel, gardening and the love of cooking.

Walter was our Saturday man at the Mill House Museum. People would come into the visitor center and tell me how interesting that man at the museum was and how much he knew. They were totally delighted by what they had learned from Walter Bailey.

The best tribute to Walter would be not to think about the fact that he has passed away but to know what he has “passed on” to each of us. Walter showed us how to have a passion for living. His illness did not take control of his zest for giving and sharing. He touched everyone in a different way and we will all carry a part of that zest with us, having been lucky enough to have known that Saturday man at the Museum.

*Dolores*

## **Occoquan Historical Society Annual Meeting**

The Annual Membership Meeting for the Occoquan Historical Society will be held on Thursday June 9, 2011 at 6 p.m. Join us at the Garden Kitchen located at 404 Mill Street in Occoquan. A light buffet will be served.

The election of Board members will be held and this is an opportunity to visit with fellow members of the historical society and hear plans for the upcoming year.

**Please RSVP to Dolores Elder at [bytheterrapinpond@yahoo.com](mailto:bytheterrapinpond@yahoo.com) or call the Mill House Museum at 703-491-7525**

## **New at the Mill House Museum**

### **Children’s Learning Center**

Kelli Weir, a student at the University of Mary Washington has developed a set of educational cards for our young visitors to the Mill House Museum. Kelli, majoring in Historic Preservation, completed this project for her Museum Studies course. Pictures were taken of several items in the collection that might have interest for children. Kelli then developed a set of challenge questions for each object and placed these on the back of each picture card. The children can carry the cards around the museum to find the items and learn more about each collection item from answering the questions accompanying each picture. This is a wonderful learning tool Kelli provided us with!

### **Museum Finds**

Following is a transcript of the only known portion of a letter written on May 7, 1865, by Sergeant Charles Hubbs of West Virginia. The letter was found in the

museum during our recent cleaning. It was donated to the Mill House Museum by Charles A. Mason. Charles Hubbs was stationed with the Army of the James in Richmond, awaiting orders for the march to Washington D.C. for the Grand Review of the Armies. Confederate General Robert E. Lee had surrendered on April 9, at Appomattox, Virginia to Union General Ulysses S. Grant. The grand review would be held over a two day period, May 23-24, 1865.

Charles Hubbs also authored a signed, untitled and undated poem. The letter and poem are below with the original spelling and grammar.

May 7 65

Richmond East Va.

Co E the 11 West Va. First Independent Division,  
3 Brigade, Twenty forth Core, Army of the James

The 2 and 5 and 23 cors pass through The Sity on ther way to Washington City ther ar going To march through By Sunday. I Sopose that their was one Hundred thousand passed Through the Sity yesterday. And if old Lee setting in his House looking out through his window at them I recond He thinks it was time to serender the Sitisonz appears very well sattisfzed with us yankeys now theyz took our green Backs and they can get something to eat now. They greet us with the greatest of respect and says that they was rong in ther Bleuf and I think so to it maucks Me mad see them cussis to think How Long they have keep me A way from home it makes Me mad to think a bout it Well I heavnt got much to rite at present only I want you to rite soon and ofton I think we will Start to Washington a bout the 8 or 10<sup>th</sup>. We ar under marching orders Now and I think Soon as the troops passes through the Sity we will follow on after Them the Bois is all well. I's common and doing well. We ar camped a bout 5 miles from the Sity in a very nice Grove we have good watter And nuthing to doo only cook Eat and Sleep So good By rite Soon yours truly **Serg Charles Hubbs**

Dear Companion to Day permitz The Time and Leisure to Rite a few Lines to you. To let you no that I am Well and healthy at present. Hoping when this few lines Reaches you that they may Find you all well and hearty I think that I Doo So much Riting to you ar --- you Doant Rite a nough to me. I rite a bout Every auther Day and I Dount git a Letter From you once in Every few Weeks I think that you Dount Rite Much to me. I was Down in the Sity yesterday we had A grand day of it a Day I Will never far git Long as I Live our core was all Down to recive outher troops was passing through....

1. Little do you good people know  
What us poor Soldiers under go  
When called upon to take up arms  
To gard our Country from all harm
2. When we Some Times lay on the cold ground  
Without a Shelter to be found  
Where Some Times Snow and Some Times Rain  
Where The lofty winds and tempest blow
3. At the break of day the morning dawns  
At the revelie With fife and drum  
To Break the Soldiers Sweet repose  
He rouses up and puts on his clothes
4. The Sergent comes and goes around  
Saying hurah harah boys turn out  
To front and rear he forms his line  
Acruterments with Sword does Shine
5. Eyes right eyes left and steady is the word  
The Captain then presents his Sword  
The Sergent then pulls out his roll  
Our names are called and absent told
6. The Soldier doctor is a man of Skill  
And every day he gives a pill  
And if that pill does not act well  
He will curse and damn our souls to hell
7. Our officers bad officers are  
Ware out their men for the want of care  
And bring them to a desperate end  
And bury them in a distant land
8. When there is no friends nor relative  
To shed a sympathizing tear  
Or nurse them on a dieing bed  
Or bury them when they are dead
9. Some Times up starts a new commander  
With Sword and pistol in each hand  
He will talk and act as if he were  
Some king or priest or emperor
10. As for our grub we get enough  
Although our beef is lean and tuff  
But as for that we wont complain  
We hope to get good beef again
11. In old Virginia we'v laid a plan  
To soberise the drunken man  
And well have him gaged and have him broket

And after all we'l have him dnet

12. And if you want to know who composed this  
Song  
I tell you now it won't take long  
It was at 12 high one rainy night  
While walking his beat on a Southern pike

Charles Hubbs Seg

### Collection Items Identified



Above is a child's 1870 era toy replica of a Civil War signal lantern. It stands about 4" tall and comes with colored glass pieces to give either a red or green light. The light comes from a small taper candle inside the miniature lantern. This has been in our collection for some time and only recently identified.

Below is a meerschaum cheroot pipe with a hunting dog motif. Meerschaum is a German word meaning sea foam. This soft white mineral can be found floating on the Black Sea. Used extensively for pipes the mineral will change to an amber or red color over time. The cheroot or stogie cigar is inexpensive to manufacture as both ends are clipped and not tapered during the manufacturing process. The pipe keeps the mouth cool during smoking.



### Civil War Exhibit



A new exhibit at the Mill House Museum highlights several of the Civil War era items in our collection. Hanging above the exhibit is an informative display that tells of early events along the Occoquan before the start of the Civil War and soon after the battle of First Manassas.

### Contacts

**Occoquan Historical Society**  
**Mill House Museum**  
413 Mill Street  
PO Box 65  
Occoquan, VA 22125

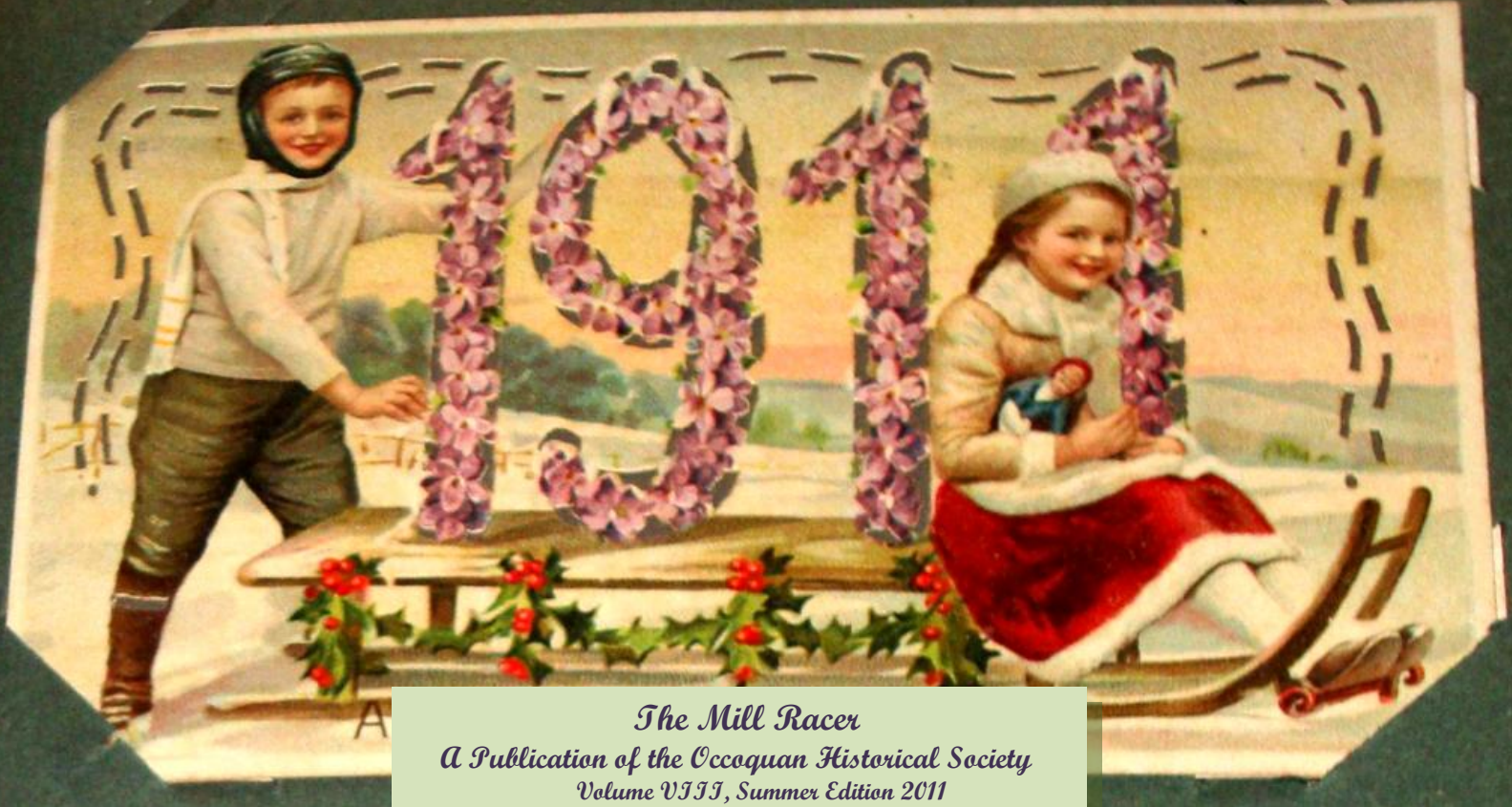
[www.occoquanhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.occoquanhistoricalsociety.org)  
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### Board Members

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Kim Deal  
Rose Destefano  
Bobbie Frank  
Shar Kundu  
Lorraine Musseleman  
June Randolph

The photo of Mamie Davis Park on the first page is compliments of OHS member, Boyd Alexander.





*The Mill Racer*  
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Volume VII, Summer Edition 2011

### Notice of Annual Dues

Thank you everyone, who responded to my email notification of payment for OHS dues. June/July is the time for our yearly renewal and membership drive. The \$20 annual fee can be paid online at; [www.occoquanhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.occoquanhistoricalsociety.org) or mail a check payable to the Occoquan Historical Society, mailing address, PO Box 65, Occoquan, VA 22125. Your support is so important to the work we do. *Dolores*

### Desk of Kim Deal

This July the Occoquan Historical Society board graciously voted me as the new President of the Historical Society. I definitely have some big shoes to fill. Martha Roberts has been President of OHS for 10 years. She has spent many hours away from her family and charitable interests to move the OHS forward and for that we are all grateful. Thank you Martha!

I have talked to the board about many ideas for events that we hope to have coming up this year. We will have a calendar of events published shortly that will include participation in the fall and spring craft shows, the Christmas events and possibly the wine walks that the Occoquan Merchants Association holds. But the more exciting programs that will take place will include a couple of author's lecture evenings, the town Gala, possible town Picnic and a very special Living History

event we hope to host next year. Please keep reading the newsletters to find out about our exciting events.

Also when you stop by the museum in the coming year we will be highlighting new historical finds by our curator Dolores Elder, and the staff of the museum. There may be something you have never seen before so take some time to have a look. Also we are hoping to get funding in place to do some structural work. The roof of the museum needs replacing and the basement could use some work so we plan to get that started within the next year.

There is so much going on. Please visit us on our new facebook page, just search for Occoquan Historical Society! We really want to have your participation in the coming year. We have many opportunities for volunteering so please consider giving your time. Of course we are always very grateful for the donations that have been given and we hope you remember us when you decide on your charitable contribution allocation. We are a 501 (c)(3) organization so remember to take the tax deduction at the end of the year.

Thank you so much for continuing to support the Occoquan Historical Society. I hope to meet each of the members through emails or at one of the events in

which we will be participating. Please stop by and see us.

If you have any questions or comments please contact me.

*Kim Deal*

President Occoquan Historical Society  
kjdeal@comcast.net

## News from the Museum

The picture with the masthead was not chosen in error. Our recent hot weather makes it a refreshing choice! This is one of almost 200 postcards from an album recently donated by OHS member June Randolph. Helen Davis collected these cards between 1906 and 1916. Helen and her sister Mamie grew up and spent their lives at the family home at 202 Commerce Street which is now home to the *Coffee House of Occoquan*. (Mamie's name is more familiar to us as the town park on Mill Street bears her name.) Helen's album contains a variety of cards, many depicting a holiday scene but a few are from the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jamestown. These cards are on a picture frame slide show at the Museum. The album, open on display is too delicate for repeated page turning. The picture above is a 1911 *Happy New Year* card. The clothing styles and colors, toys and the illustration give us a peek at life 100 years ago!



### Reunited at the Mill House

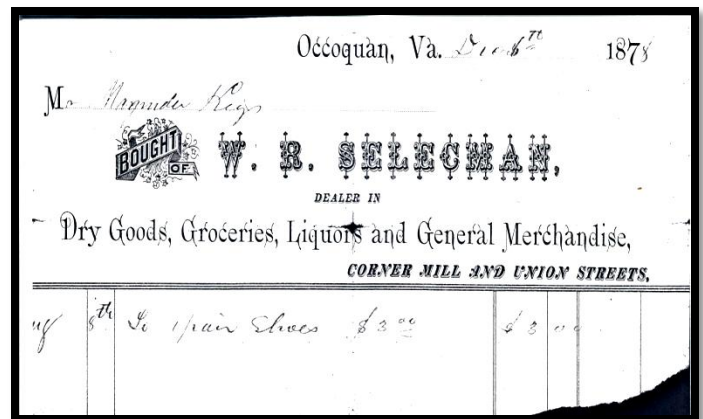
Occoquan residents Mr. and Mrs. Robert Anderson are together again. At least his beaver hat and her black lace parasol are. When cleaning I had found a picture of the couple. Remembering the parasol belonged to Mrs. Anderson I placed the two together. Another rearrangement brought the discovery of a card

saying the hat belonged to Mr. Anderson. The hat was described in an article by Earnie Porta in the March, 2007 newsletter. The parasol has a beautifully carved wood handle that ends in a delicate ladies boot design. Together at last!

## W. R. Selecman

I have to thank Ron Turner for passing on a copy of a receipt found in the archives of the Prince William County Courthouse. The receipt, pictured below, was made out to Magruder Keys in payment for a \$3 pair of shoes. The shoes were purchased at the store of W. R. Selecman, corner of Mill and Union Streets. The store at 302 Mill Street was later the *Leary Lumber and Hardware* and today is the *Golden Goose*. OHS is fortunate to have in their collection one of the store ledgers belonging to W. R. Selecman.

Magruder married Annie McCracken who came to Occoquan from Quebec to train the girls who ran the spindles at the Janney cotton mill. The Keys lived in Dumfries and in the 1860 census Annie was 36 and Magruder listed as a farmer, was 46.



### Note

I know by the time the newsletter is printed and mailed the quality of the graphics is greatly diminished. Not everyone has email but if you do and have not sent me your email address, please do. Not only could you zoom in on the receipt above to see all the details clearly but you would save us the cost of postage, printing and envelopes. Please consider sending your email to: [bytheterrapinpond@yahoo.com](mailto:bytheterrapinpond@yahoo.com)

*Dolores*

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June Randolph  
Martha Roberts

**Mill House Museum**  
Open daily except major holidays  
11 a.m.-4 p.m.



Postcard from the Helen Davis Collection



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*Volume VIII, Fall Edition 2011*

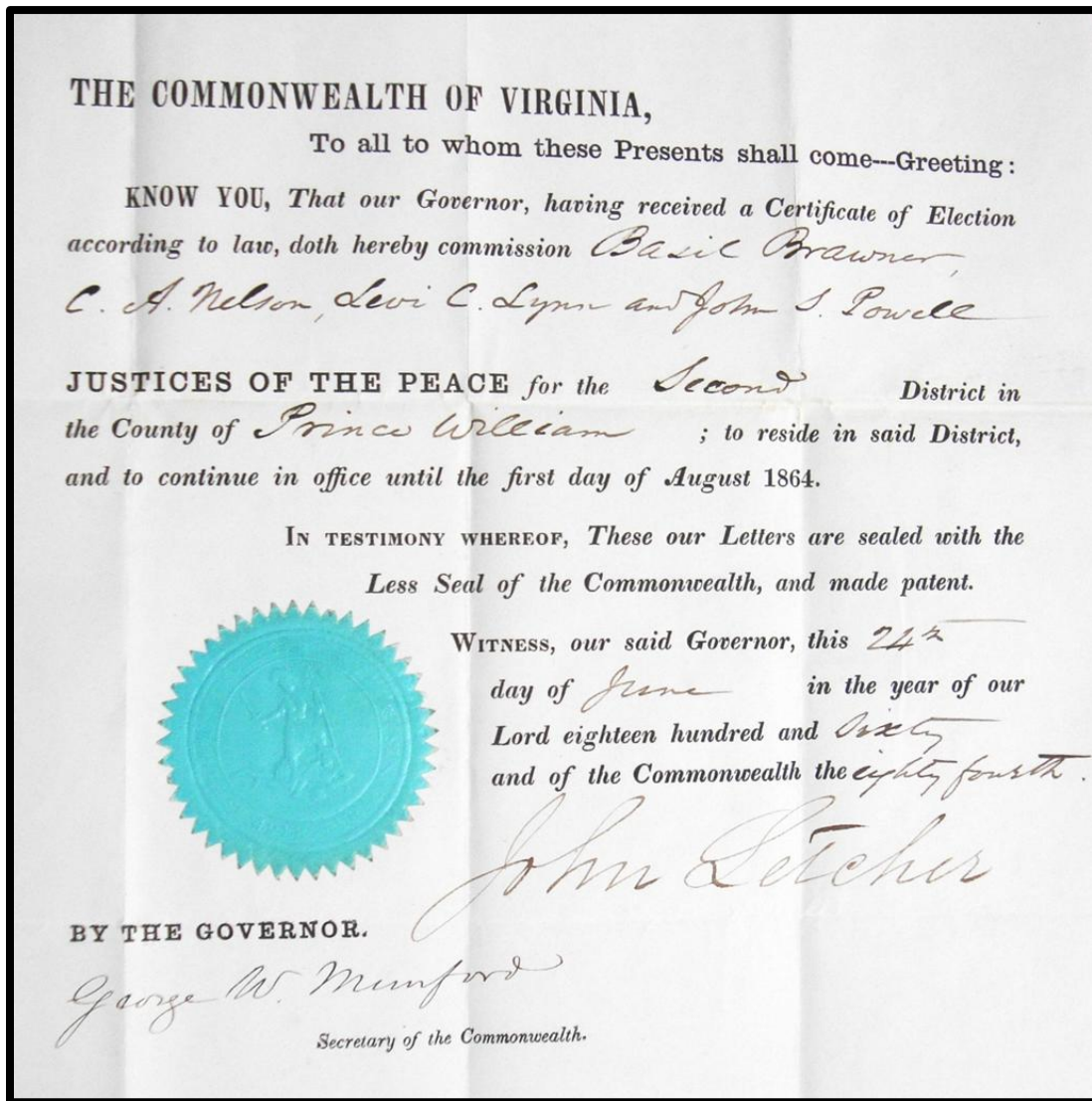
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We invite you to visit our web site which is posted in the title above. Here you can find some wonderful pages devoted to Occoquan history. The Memories page contains writings from Myrtle Jennings, Bine Cross, Lorraine Musselman, Frank Phelps, Tom Joyce, Bob Payne, Bruce Duncan Chapin and Pearl Humphries Clark. The topics cover an era when children sled down Tanyard Hill, skated on the Occoquan and ice was harvested off the river. Read about the days when you could grocery shop, bank, fill your prescriptions and catch a movie at the Lyric Theater.

On a serious note our Civil War Legacy page contains stories of men who lived in Occoquan, Units stationed along the Occoquan River or engaged in local skirmishes. Follow the links on this page to learn more about the *War of the Rebellion*.

Our web site gives you the opportunity to join the Occoquan Historical Society (OHS), pay dues, follow current events such as the Gala held just last month and exhibits in the Mill House Museum. Purchase books or collectibles for yourself or as a gift! It's an ever changing information site.

## Discoveries at the Archives



Above is a document dated June 24, 1860. It is one of many documents that I've had the privilege to sort and file at the Prince William County Courthouse archives. This paper over 151 years old is in pristine condition and signed by Virginia Governor John Letcher. The document commissioned four men as Justices of the Peace, one of them Occoquan's Dr. John Powell. Dr. Powell resided at 402 Mill Street. His home had once been the Occoquan Hotel and he used this large dwelling as an infirmary for local residents (this building burnt in 1916). You may remember that Dr. Powell was arrested during the Civil War and charged as a spy by the Union. Luckily he was acquitted.

Dr. John S. Powell would go on after the Civil War to serve on the Prince William County Board of Supervisors and on October 25, 1902, John was elected as Surgeon General to the Grand Camp of the Confederate Veterans of Virginia when they met in Wytheville. *Dolores*



## *Gala 2011*

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Occoquan Historical Society (OHS) Gala, one of our most successful ever. This year's event was held at Madigan's Waterfront Restaurant and featured black and white historic photos of Occoquan. Two high resolution large photos were framed and sold at auction. In addition, every attendee received a smaller, framed photograph from their table. Through ticket sales, auction proceeds, and a raffle the gala raised more than \$6,000 in support OHS. State delegate Richard Anderson attended the gala and read a Virginia General Assembly tribute to the late Walter Bailey.

OHS would especially like to thank all the merchants and businesses who donated goods or services for the auction and gala, and the hard-working members of the gala committee, without whom the event would never have taken place. The members of the gala committee were Kim Deal, Alice Gardner, Susan Lee-Merrow, Barb Porta, Jen Berta, Betty Dean, Marge Shaffer, Kristyn Gleason, and Julie Marshall.

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June Randolph  
Martha Roberts


Thank you to everyone who supported OHS through donations, volunteer hours and supportive words. Your efforts helped us continue for another year. This past year saw the joys of a new floor, a new exhibit in place and restoration of others in the Mill House Museum. We had a fantastic fundraiser, the fifth conducted by our wonderful Gala Girls. With a few now in place, there will soon be more than 50 historical markers featuring QR codes in Occoquan. Looking forward to 2012!

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*

Photo on page one courtesy of Boyd Alexander

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**The Mill Racer**

*Inside  
Frederick Hurlebaus Tombstone  
Museum Improvements  
Civil War Legacy Project*

*Vol. VII Winter Edition 2011*

### **Frederick Gottlieb Hurlebaus Tombstone**

*Dolores Elder*

The following article appeared in the October 2007 edition of the Occoquan Historical Society newsletter.

#### ***Our Mysterious Tombstone***

*Martha Roberts*

*Just in time for Halloween, we have finally gotten some info on the tombstone that was found near Sea, Sea & Co. and now resides at the museum. Engraved on it is "Here Lies A Good Old Soul Killed By Some Cruel Wrong". We've learned it once marked the grave of a New York man named Frank Hurlybuff who came to Woodbridge during the Civil War and fell in love with a local woman. Hurlybuff returned to NY without her but came back to Woodbridge years later hoping to marry her. By then she was married to someone else and no longer wanted him. Devastated by her rejection, he had the stone carved, dug himself a grave in his friend, James Arnold's, family cemetery and then shot himself and was buried there. Hurricane Agnes (1972) swept the stone to the Sea, Sea & Company property and it was brought from there to the Mill House Museum.*

*This story has been handed down for over 100 years in the Arnold family and was verified by Sharon Swecker, granddaughter of James Arnold. Maybe the museum hosts and hostesses should now be on the lookout for a ghostly Civil War era presence hovering around the tombstone, especially at this time of year.*

The tombstone on display at the Mill House Museum accompanied by the above article so intrigued one of the museum visitors, Allie Guidry, that she was determined to find out the whole story behind Frank Hurlybuff. Thanks to Allie, we now know more about who this man was that was buried on the Arnold property!

I have named Allie our researcher of the year. When I couldn't find anyone with the name of Hurlybuff in any census or military records I halted my pursuit for more information. Allie started her search with the inscription on the tombstone; C.N. 42 W.A.C.O. The meaning behind the inscription is a mystery but this same inscription is on the tombstone of Elizabeth Hurlebaus buried at the Crow Road Cemetery, Litchfield, Medina County, Ohio.

This clue led Allie to search on Ancestry.com using the surname Hurlebaus. A cousin of the great granddaughter of Frederick and Elizabeth Hurlebaus family connected with Allie on Ancestry. She in turn contacted the great granddaughter who shared the family story with Allie. Frederick Gottlieb Hurlebaus did indeed commit suicide on the property of George Arnold after having had his tombstone and coffin constructed. The story leading up to that fateful act differs from the oral history passed on through the Arnold family.

Frederick's wife Elizabeth passed away on April 28, 1891 at the age of 48. Together they had raised eight children. Perhaps crazed from a broken heart after Elizabeth's death, Frederick became infatuated with a local widowed woman,

Cecelia Nein. Cecelia did not return his affection and had contracted to meet a Woodbridge man with the hopes of marriage.

The following article appeared in the Washington Post on December 7, 1892 and explains Ms. Nein's connection with local resident George Arnold.

*One year ago George W Arnold, a war veteran of Woodbridge, Va., advertised in a Western paper for a wife. Yesterday Mr. Arnold stood in the grand corridor of the Pension Office beside Miss Cecelia Nein of Cleveland, and they were pronounced man and wife, while a cheer broke forth from the largest audience which ever witnessed a wedding in Washington. So much for the value of advertising.*

*Until the two met in the corridor of the Pension office yesterday morning they had never seen each other. Miss Nein answered the advertisement from her home in Cleveland and her letters struck Mr. Arnold as more business-like and conveying a ring of greater sincerity than any other of the applications for his bed and board. Consequently, he replied with ardor, tempered with business, and finally photographs were exchanged. At length some two months ago, an agreement was made, by the terms of which the two were to meet in Washington and become one. Mr. Arnold is a pensioner, and is accustomed to visit Washington quarterly to draw his reward for having fought and bled, and he determined to kill two birds with one stone. He was familiar with Gen. Raum's building, and, consequently, that was made the trysting place. When the Virginia veteran arrived to the city yesterday morning he was dressed in his best. He hied himself forthwith to the courthouse and procured a marriage license. About noon some of the pension clerks noticed a tall, thin, bearded Virginia farmer with a G.A.R. button on his coat nervously pacing about the fountain in the center of the building. Soon a lady who had seen about forty years and who wore a dark blue traveling dress and was a well formed brunette, entered at the north door and walked rapidly over to the fountain. She met the Virginia farmer there, and for several seconds they seemed to be trying to stare each other out of countenance, the lady gazing earnestly and the man rather deprecatingly, as though he felt a trifle sheepish. The lady was the first to break the silence.*

*"Are you Mr. Arnold?" she asked.*

*"This is Miss Nein, I reckon," the farmer replied.*

*Then the two strolled around the wide corridor twice, carrying on a subdued conversation. Finally they stopped a colored messenger.*

*"Can you tell me where to find a minister?" asked Mr. Arnold.*

*The colored man took in the situation at a glance and entered into the spirit of the occasion.*

*"You want to get married?" he said, and Mr. Arnold assented. "There is a minister right here. You won't have to go a step." He summoned Rev. W.H. Black who is a Methodist preacher, but is employed in the bureau. The reverend gentleman came*

*forth from his office, the license was exhibited, and brief explanations followed. Meantime the messenger had dropped a hint, and the news was spreading. A crowd gathered about the little group and peered over the shoulders of the nearest. A quiet wedding had been intended, so they stopped between two cases of patent files. But a quiet wedding was out of the question, for the report spread like wildfire. Clerks dropped their pens and ran out to the two rows of galleries encircling the main floor. When the last words were pronounced a great cheer went up from 2,000 spectators. A finer arena could not have been provided for the display. The clerks pressed around the bride and groom to shake hands and offer their congratulations. Mr. Arnold quietly presented \$3 to the clergyman and led his bride away. The excitement upstairs in the galleries did not subside for some time and many rumors of its cause were afloat. One was to the effect that a clerk had inherited a million dollars and was to leave without resigning, and many thought a fight had occurred. By the time the ladies had subsided into composure, Mr. Arnold was well on the way to Woodbridge with his bride. He said he had never seen her before, but was well satisfied with his bargain.*

*Later in the day, Commissioner Raum summoned Rev. Mr. Black to his room to know why he had stirred such a commotion in the bureau. When the minister explained that he had no premonition of any such commotion the incident was dismissed with a laugh.*

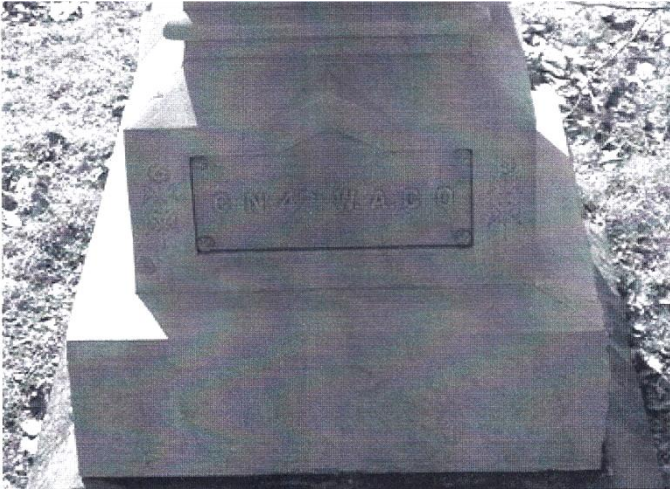
Hurlebaus descendants shared photos of Frederick and his family. Among their possessions was an article from the Manassas Gazette dated August 15, 1893. The newspaper had deteriorated over the years but the main facts could be gleaned from what remained. Frederick was from Ohio and followed Ms. Nein here to Woodbridge. While in the area he stayed at Edward Hammill's Commercial Hotel on Union Street. He so harassed the new Mrs. Arnold and her husband George that they had a warrant for lunacy issued and he was incarcerated.

Poor Frederick served some amount of time in the Brentsville jail and was released after the Court found him sane. Upon his release he must have realized how futile his desire to capture the love of Mrs. Arnold. He had his tombstone carved and a simple pine coffin built. He contacted Mrs. Arnold one more time, then walked about 100 yard from the home, placed a Smith and Wesson to his head and fired.

Oral history though based on fact often becomes skewed as the stories are retold over the years. It is easy to see how the name Hurlybuff could be derived from the name Hurlebaus. George W. Arnold had served with a New York Infantry Unit. That point could have been confused and the story became Hurlebaus who served in northern Virginia during the Civil War years and made contact with Cecelia then. Thankfully there were news articles that verified the true story.

The strange inscription that appears on Elizabeth and Frederick Hurlebaus tombstones could have a special meaning that only Frederick knew and the meaning taken with him to the grave. If not for this inscription Allie Guidry would not have been able to piece together the full history behind our stone marker.

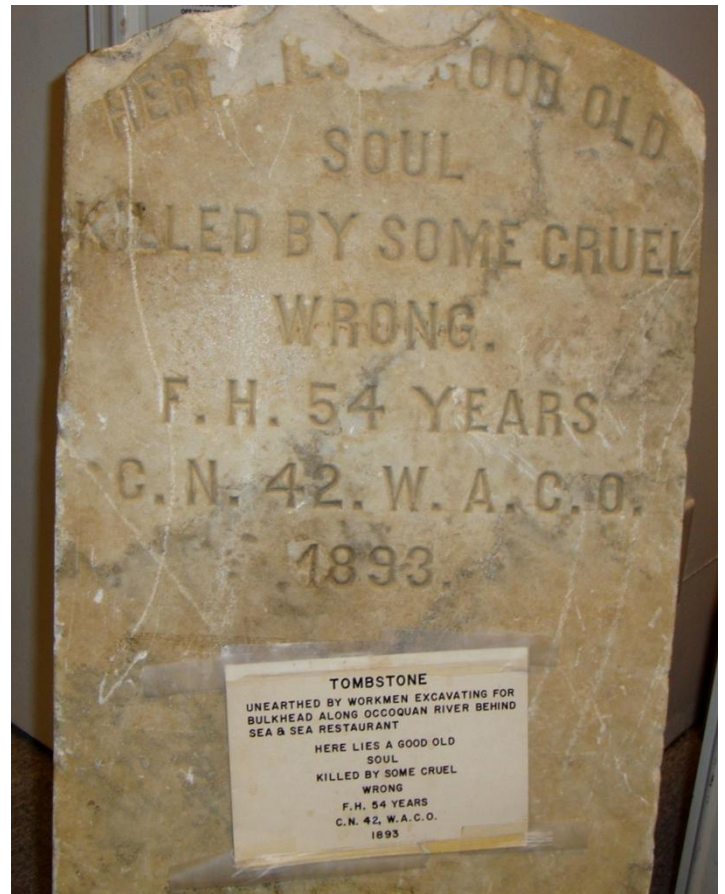
We need to thank Allie for her perseverance and also Don Wilson from the Bull Run Library for helping Allie uncover this page of history for us!



Above: Elizabeth Hurlebaus tombstone showing the inscription C.N. 42 W.A.C.O.

Below: Frederick Gottlieb Hurlebaus

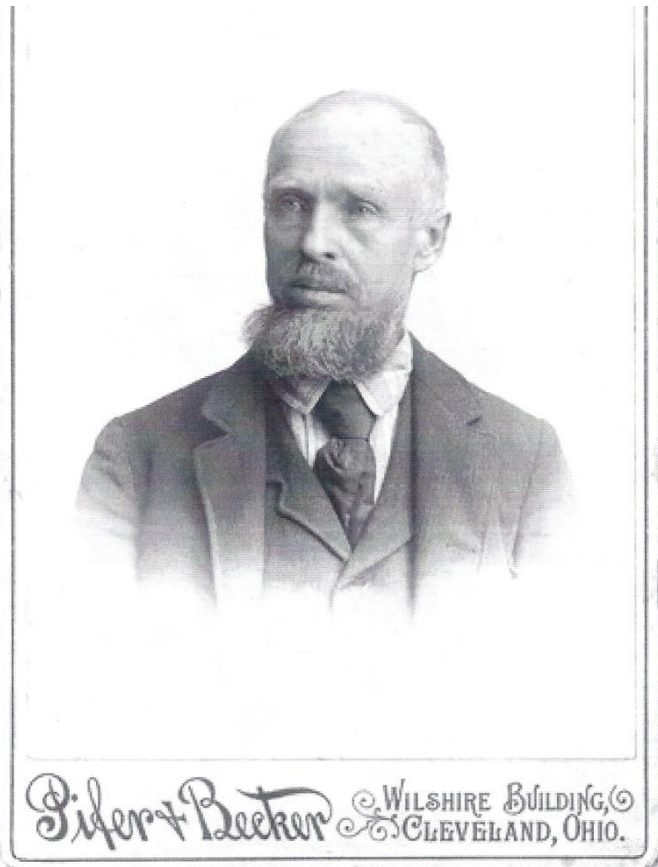
Right: Frederick Hurlebaus tombstone on display at the Mill House Museum



### A New Floor for the Museum

The Mill House Museum will be closed for approximately two weeks in February from the 7-20 of the month. This will give us time to install a new wood laminate floor and rearrange a few of the display cabinets.

Within the next few weeks we will have a new look for some of our exhibits. We will be fresh and clean for the advent of spring!



## Civil War Legacy Project

*The Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission and the Library of Virginia are partnering to identify and locate original manuscript material concerning the Civil War. These materials may include letters, photographs, diaries, maps and other Civil War-era materials.*

The above is copied directly from the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission web site. [www.virginiacivilwar.org](http://www.virginiacivilwar.org)

In keeping with the educational importance of the Civil War Sesquicentennial the Occoquan Historical Society is reaching out to our membership, local community and beyond to gather and copy as many of the before mentioned items as possible to document events that occurred in and around Occoquan. Listed on our web site [www.occoquanhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.occoquanhistoricalsociety.org) are some of the major units that were stationed or involved in military action along the Occoquan River in the vicinity of the town.

Occoquan resident Redmond Selecman served the CSA in Company A of the 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry. Oral histories, letters, diaries and photos from families like Redmond's help fill the gaps of history between formal documents.

Please contact us by mail or through the email link on our Civil War Legacy Project page. If you have materials we can copy that allow us to share your family story related to Occoquan and the Civil War years, we would be delighted. This is a project that we will build on and continue for the next four years, be a part of it with us!

Thank you,  
*Dolores Elder*

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