

The Manassas Journal



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LIBRARY EXHIBIT IS INTERESTING

Dr. McCormick Guest Speaker At Book Week Program

The joint program of the Friends of the Library and the Parent-Teacher Association last Thursday was most successful. In spite of the heavy rain a considerable crowd attended to hear the Education Week speaker, Dr. Helen MacCormick of the Office of Education in Washington and to see the annual Library Exhibit.

As Dr. MacCormick's fine address will be referred to elsewhere, this article will describe the Library program whose chief feature was the Exhibit of "Old Prince William Before 1860." The center of this interesting collection was Fairfax Harrison's "Landmarks of Old Prince William" together with advance sheets of the new history of the county about to be published under the auspices of the Bethlehem Woman's Club. Along with these records were short accounts of the old towns of the county, Dumfries, Occoquan, Brentsville and Haymarket, and an interesting collection of early land grants, and other legal papers. Among these were two land leases signed by Lord Fairfax, one of them dated 1721. A will exhibited by Mr. Raymond Ratcliffe and dated 1817 bequeathed property and slaves of the Ratcliffe family then in Stafford. Another will exhibited by Mrs. Washington, dated 1776, was a bequest of the property on Broad Run now known as Ellis mill. A court order signed in 1779 by John Williams, Clerk of the Court at Dumfries, and loaned by Miss Florence Lion, recalled the day when Dumfries was the county seat. There were accounts of old Colchester, of Dettigen Parish and of some of the early churches of the county, and also of a number of its old homes; among these were Rippon Lodge, Liberia and Belle Air, the latter the home of the Ewell's. Washington's cousins and friends and the burial place of the redoubtable Parson Weems, his first biographer. There were interesting relics of the early towns also. A map of Dumfries drawn by Mr. Jack Ratcliffe from an old map now lost showed the town in its great days when it was a thriving tobacco port selling goods at wholesale to the retail merchants of the infant town of Baltimore in the Province of Maryland. An old store ledger of Dumfries exhibited by Mrs. Emily Round gave an interesting list of many of its inhabitants in the year of Grace 1796. There were maps also of Quantico, made by the children of the Quantico School showing the location of the early Indian tribes around it. Occoquan was represented by photographs loaned by Mrs. James Bradford and Mr. Fred Hynson, of the old flour mill and some of the early homes; and Brentsville, by an account and a picture of the old court house, loaned by Mrs. Madie Hibbs.

Next followed an exhibit of school books and writing materials of the early 1800's loaned by Miss Pauline Smith, Mrs. S. Morton, Mrs. W. L. Lloyd and Georgia Lee and Bowen Beale. A copy book dated 1815, "Sukey Rogers Property" showed the same beautiful handwriting of those leisurely days as the old Dumfries ledger. Beside it were a quill pen, sealing wafers for letters, slates and pencils. Among the books were Ewell's chemistry of 1806 dedicated to Thomas Jefferson, an early algebra, arithmetic and grammar, Picot's Student's French Assistant, Goldsmith's History of Greece and a Geography of the World by Peter Parley, one of his 170 volumes of school books and juveniles. Reproductions of a complete set of the famed McGuffey Readers, the introduction to good literature of so many of our ancestors, completed the list.

After the school exhibit came the "Books Our Forefathers Read." Some concessions were made among these to purely feminine interests, as in several numbers of "Godey's Ladies Magazine" and a cook of about 1820, loaned by Mrs. S. Morton and Mrs. Douglas Marshall. But the bulk of this exhibit (taken mostly from the George C. Round bequest to the Library) gave point to an observation of Walter Lippman in his recent book, "The Good Society," in which he said that after examining the contest of the reading and of the college training of the founding fathers of the Republic he realized how it was that they had acquired the power of logical reasoning and the imaginative insight that enabled them to create the American Union. For in this collection were a

WHY NO LOCAL DAUGHTERS OF THE REVOLUTION?

Woodbridge, Va., November 15, 1940.
Editor, Manassas Journal,
Dear Sir:

Will some one of your readers let me know why we have no D. A. R. Chapter in this county. Surely there must be other men besides my great-grandfather, Hugh Davis, who fought in that war, and if so, why can't we have a chapter. I should like to hear from any one who is interested in this matter.
D. E. Davis.

RATCLIFFE WILL BE EXHIBITED

Seven Generations Now Descend From Stafford Pioneer

One of the interesting exhibits at Osbourn High School Book Week Display last week was the original will of Richard Ratcliffe of Dumfries dated 1817 which is printed here in full as an interesting record of a family which for many generations has contributed substantially to the prosperity of this section of Virginia.

Richard Ratcliffe, the great-great-grandfather of Mr. G. Raymond Ratcliffe, was one of four brothers who came to America in pioneer days. The other three brothers settled, respectively, in Middlesex County, Va., Maryland, and Kentucky. That they were men of affluence is indicated by the present document.

The generations from Richard to the youngest Ratcliffe in Manassas are as follows:

Richard Ratcliffe,
John A. Ratcliffe
John A. Ratcliffe
George M. Ratcliffe
G. Raymond Ratcliffe
R. Jackson Ratcliffe
Richard Jackson Ratcliffe.

Little Richard Jackson Ratcliffe, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Jackson Ratcliffe carries the name of the original ancestor who settled at Dumfries, but is named especially for his great uncle, Richard Ratcliffe, who was a gallant officer in the Confederate Service. "The text of the will, which is written in the fine handwriting of an educated gentleman of that period, is as follows:

In the name of God, Amen.

I, Richard Ratcliffe, of the county of Stafford, being of sound mind, perfectly composed, collected and resigned, hereby recommend my soul to Almighty God, thro the merits of a blessed Redeemer, and make this my last will, revoking every will heretofore made by me.

Viz: First, I bequeath to my son, Alexander S. Ratcliffe, two negroes, James and Terriey, one cow and calf, one wheat fan, and two ewes and lambs.

Secondly, To my daughter, Ann Jones, Negro girl, Lidda.

Thirdly, To my daughter, Elizabeth Ratcliffe, negro girl, Maria.

Fourthly, To my daughter, Mary Homes, negro boy, Peter.

Fifthly, To my granddaughter, Caroline Homes, daughter of Sarah Homes, Dec'd., one negro girl, Mary, at the death of my wife, Margaret, and should my

Hebrew Testament and copies of Homer, Virgil and Horace all in the original, a rare copy of Euclid's geometry, a volume of Blackstone's Commentaries on the Law, the Federalist (papers of Madison, Jay, and Hamilton), Gibbon's and Macaulay's histories, Shakespeare and the English Bible. Aside from the book exhibit, reminiscences of the customs of that earlier time were a flax spinning wheel lent by Miss Beatrice Cross and a lovely little exhibit of fragrant, old time garden herbs, arranged by Miss Isabelle Hutchison.

As this year, 1940, is the 500th anniversary of the invention of printing by John Gutenberg of Germany, the Library also commemorated this event by an exhibit of pictures and facsimiles of pages of early printed books from the Library of Congress. The Manassas Journal made a very interesting contribution to this exhibit by sending examples of modern printing processes, as an electroplate of an advertisement, a news story set on the Journal Linotype machine, and the "mat" of a cartoon appearing in the Manassas Journal.

The library patrons also found the considerable display of new books of fiction and current topics in the Exhibit of great interest.

—Dick Haydon.

THANKSGIVING, 1940



said granddaughter, Caroline Homes, die without issue then the said negro girl, Mary, is to be the property of my children now living. Alexander S. Ratcliffe, Ann Jones, Elizabeth Ratcliffe, and Mary Homes, equally.

Sixthly, To my grandchildren, being the children of my son, John A. Ratcliffe, Dec'd., Susan, Mary and John A., two hundred dollars each, to be paid to each of them at or on the death of my wife, Margaret.

The residue of my Estate, whatever it may be including, every description of my property, not herein bequeathed, I leave and give to my wife, Margaret, so long as she lives, subject first to the payment of all my just debts and after her death subject to the payment of the aforesaid six hundred dollars to my three grand children, Susan, Mary and John A. Ratcliffe and after which payment the residue to be equally divided between my three children, Ann Jones, Elizabeth Ratcliffe, and Mary Homes, their heirs, etc., except negro girl, Letty, whom I give to my wife, Margaret, to do as she may think proper with, and I appoint and leave my wife, Margaret, my Executrix and request the court of Stafford not to require or exact security from her having full confidence in her doing all which is required of her. Receding as witness my hand and seal this eighth day of April in the year of our Lord, One Thousand, Eight hundred and seventeen.

In the name of God, Amen.

I, Richard Ratcliffe, of the county of Stafford, being of sound mind, perfectly composed, collected and resigned, hereby recommend my soul to Almighty God, thro the merits of a blessed Redeemer, and make this my last will, revoking every will heretofore made by me.

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F. F. A. CHAPTER AT BRENTSVILLE HIGH

The above group is one of the outstanding in Northern Virginia. It was their performance in state-wide contest which made it possible for Mr. Beamer to attend national F. F. F. convention. This award trip was a gift of Chilean Nitrate.

Those appearing in the group, are reading left to right:

Standing left to right: Harry Whetzel, Ray Smith, Eugene Arnold, Gene Gutridge, Heister King, Ted Nelson, Earl Runion, Gerald Herring, Welton Corbin, Calvin Grady, Stewart Hyde, Bertram Hayes, Billy Bear, Raymond Forester, Edwin Nelson Emlin Herring, Bobby Britton, Warren Clemen, Jack Sullivan, Ray Neff, Albert Rollins, Richard King, Glen Somers, Murray Wood, Harry Fitzwater and Miller Whetzel. Kneeling left to right: Johnny Owens, Paul Rollins, Cecil Baker, Guy Garman, Allan Spittler and Mr. R. W. Beamer, Instructor.

Indiscernible in the background are William Crawford and William Spittler.

TYPEWRITING CLASS FILLED TO CAPACITY

The adult education class in typewriting, which meets every Thursday in the high school at Manassas has been closed to new entrants because of enrollment to full capacity.

RED CROSS ROLL CALL UNDER WAY

Chairman Waters Lists The Workers In Several Communities

The annual Red Cross Roll Call membership drive is on now in Prince William County. The Roll Call Chairman, Mr. O. D. Waters, lists the names of the workers who will call upon you and solicit your membership. Last year more than 7,000,000 Americans joined the Red Cross. National Headquarters is anxious to go beyond that one dollar will suffice to enroll anyone. Half of this amount will remain in the hands of the local chapter to carry on its work, while one half goes to the National Red Cross. The purpose of the membership drive, is to provide funds for the regular work of the Red Cross in America. Emergency relief to foreign countries is sent with funds raised in special relief appeals at other times of the year. The annual Roll Call is what makes and keeps the Red Cross a going concern.

Both Mr. Waters, the Roll Call Chairman, and Mrs. W. L. Lloyd, Chairman of the County Chapter, appeal to the citizens of Prince William to join in larger numbers than ever.

Following is a list of county workers:

Triangle, Va.
Mrs. Mabel Anderson.
Nokesville, Va.
Mrs. Ben J. T. Brown, Mrs. N. N. Free and Mrs. E. C. Spittler.
Greenwich, Va.
Rev. J. R. Cook
Bristow, Va.
Mrs. M. C. Dickens
Thoroughfare, Va.
Mrs. Daisy G. Douglass.
Woodbridge, Va.
Mrs. Wallace Dawson, Mrs. John Riley.

Occoquan, Va.
Mrs. H. T. Lohr.
Brentsville, Va.
Mrs. Helen Keys.
Catharpin, Va.
Mrs. Wm. Brower.
Buckhall, Va.
Mrs. Elsie Lund.
Quantico, Va.
Mrs. A. B. Persons, and Mrs. H. E. Crawford.

Dumfries, Va.
Mrs. Mamie Sisson.
Haymarket, Va.
Mrs. B. B. Tulloss, and Miss Loretta McGill.

Manassas, Va.
Mrs. Lewis Carper, Mrs. Florence B. Hynson, Mrs. Florence Gue, Mrs. R. B. Larkin, Mrs. Chas. B. Linton, Mrs. G. R. Lee Turberville, Miss Nancy Lynn, Mrs. Connie Kinchele, Mrs. Stanley Owens, Miss Nancy Seldon Marsteller, Miss Mary B. Nelson, and R. Allen Williams.

CULPEPER PASTOR TO PREACH AT SPECIAL MASONIC SERVICES

A union Thanksgiving Service of special interest to the Masonic Fraternity of Manassas and surrounding territory, will be on Sunday night, November 24. The service will be in the Manassas Baptist Church and will begin at 8 p. m. The Rev. Dr. Edwards, pastor of the Baptist Church of Culpeper will preach the sermon.

This service is one of many which will be held at the same time throughout the State and nation. High Masonic officers, aware of trying conditions thru which Masons are passing in many countries abroad, call upon the Masons of America to gather for a service of thanksgiving in a land where laws still operate to protect the rights of free men, and to sound a note of encouragement to persecuted brethren across the seas. This service is open to all. It is hoped and expected that a fine attendance will be present. Local clergymen will be in charge of the service which is sponsored by Manassah Lodge, No. 182.

WOMAN'S CLUB DANCE AT HAYMARKET

Don't forget the Woman's Club Dance at Haymarket, Va., Friday, November 22, from 10 til 2 a. m. The popular orchestra from Fredericksburg, Va., will furnish the music.

COMPETITION IN P T A CAMPAIGN

Two Groups Of Students Vie For First Place Honors

The Parents-Teachers' Association of the Manassas Public Schools held their regular monthly meeting on the night of November 14, in the high school auditorium. This meeting was a very special one inasmuch as it marks the ending of the membership drive which the association has been having. The report of the membership committee of which Mrs. P. A. Lewis is chairman, show a total of 169 members. Due a large amount of credit are the pupils of both schools for their splendid co-operation in the contest which the P-T. A. sponsored to obtain new members. The contest, after a slow start, materialized into an exciting race and the end was as melodramatic as any movie. Instead of one winner, there were two, and the outcome was uncertain right up until the last minute of the contest. The dual victors were Miss Billings' first graders from Bennett and Grace Metz's Seventh graders. The winning percentage was 103.1 per cent. A chart showing the standing of all rooms will follow this article.

Another feature of this meeting was the Library Exhibit which the patrons were shown as a part of National Book Week.

Following a short business session a program was presented under the auspices of the Library Committee, celebrating American Education Week and National Book Week. The Rev. R. M. Graham presided. The guest speaker was Dr. Helen McIntosh of the United States Office of Education, Washington, D. C. Dr. McIntosh was introduced by Miss Sue Ayres, elementary supervisor, Prince William County Schools. The subject of her address was "Education and the Defense Program, on an Elementary School Level". Dr. McIntosh gave four "Aims of Education". These were (1) Self Realization, (2) Human Relations—i. e. working and getting along with each other, teaching to

(Continued on page 5)

REDISTRICTING TO BE STUDIED

Legislative Commission Meets To Study Problem

The Commission set up by the General Assembly of Virginia to study the problem of re-apportioning the districts for representation in the House of Delegates and State Senate at Richmond is meeting in Richmond this week to begin consideration of the perplexing problem which they have been authorized to investigate.

The Commission is composed of State Senator E. R. Fuller of Richmond, as chairman, Delegate Bernard C. Goodwin of Clifton Forge as vice-chairman and A. Fleet Dillard of the division of Research and Drafting as Secretary.

The present study was authorized before the national census, but postponed until the latest population figures should become available, and is designed to remove some of the great inequalities now existing in the populations of the various legislative districts of the State.

It has been decided by the Commission to have its secretary compile comparative data on the present districts based upon the 1930 and 1940 census and transmit them the other members before the next regular meeting on December 16, when it will be decided on as to how public hearings will be held.

CHICHESTER SELLS BLOODED CATTLE

The American Guernsey Cattle Club, Peterborough, N. H., reports the sale of a two registered Guernsey cows by D. M. Chichester to J. Scott Parrish of Richmond, Va., and J. M. Dozier of Lee Hall, Va.

P. T. A. ISSUES STATEMENT OF THANKS

The Book Club of the Education Committee, Manassas Woman's Club, will hold its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, November 28, at 2:30, at the home of Mrs. W. L. Lloyd. Members and all who are interested, are invited to attend.