

HISTORIC SITE FILE: **LINTON HALL**  
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St. Edith's Academy Timetable

- 1894, Sept. 16, Opened with sixteen boarders and several day pupils.  
1904, July Alumnae of St. Edith's Academy was organized  
1917, June 17 13<sup>th</sup> alumnae meeting held  
1922 Two graduates end of an era: Dorothy Schneble, Dayton, OH &  
Catherine Peery, Bristow, VA  
1922 Sept. now Linton Hall military boys school

See "The fruit of His works : a history of the Benedictine Sisters of St. Benedict's Convent *Bristow, Prince William County, Virginia*" by Sister Johnston RELIC 975.527 Joh, p. 61.

## Bristow Monastery Begins Its Second Century of Outreach Work

MONASTERY, From Page 1

ard, OSB, an 80-year-old retired teacher who, unlike many of the younger nuns who can be identified as such only by the rings on their fingers and by the small gold pins they wear, still wears a black veil and full-length habit.

Sister Leonard said she is helping Donnie "because he wanted to learn to read. I can't stand to see someone want to read but not learn."

Donnie says it has paid off.

"On a lot of things, it has been helpful so far," said Donnie, a former special education student who is now participating in the Benedictine Educational Assistance Community Outreach to Neighbors program. Established in 1992, Beacon, as it is called, is a volunteer-based, one-on-one, adult literacy program that is helping 70 people to learn English, obtain a high school equivalency diploma, or improve reading and writing skills. There is no charge for these services and four retired sisters who live at the monastery are among the many volunteers.

Dan Beard, 60, who owns a nearby antiques

shop, said he considers the sisters to be good neighbors, although he seldom sees them. "We've bought a few antiques from them over the years," he said.

Beard said he thinks it would be "fantastic" if the barn is transformed into transitional housing for women and children, but added that some neighbors might not be so enthusiastic.

"We're a pretty close group up here," he said.

Sister Cecilia Dwyer, OSB, the monastery's prioress, said the barn's renovation is a top priority as the Bristow order begins its second century.

"As we look toward the future, we as a community are especially concerned about the growing numbers of homeless woman and their children," she said.

In western Prince William, there are fewer than a dozen beds available for transitional housing for the homeless, whose numbers have grown.

The sisters are working with federal and state agencies to get funding to renovate the dairy barn. Until it ceased operations in the 1980s, the barn was best known as a source of flavorful country butter.

When completed, the old barn will house 30 women and children in need of transitional shelter. The Benedictine Aid and Relief to Neighbors Project plans to offer the women not only housing, but counseling, education and life-skills training to help them achieve self-sufficiency.

Helping people is what the Benedictines know best.

Benedictines are members of the Order of St. Benedict, the monks, lay brothers and nuns who follow the teachings of St. Benedict, a 6th-century monk.

Women were allowed to join the order starting in the 7th century and there are now 19,000 women members, Sister Dwyer said.

According to monastery records, the Bristow mission has its roots in an English family, the Lintons, who immigrated in the 1760's to escape religious persecution and quickly became part of Virginia's landed gentry. In 1863, Sister Baptista Linton, a Visitation Sister, saw to it that the Benedictine order was deeded land in Bristow to establish schools to educate boys and girls from poor families. St. Joseph's Institute, the Benedictine Fathers' industrial school for boys, operated on the property from 1894 to 1927.

The Benedictine sisters came to Linton Hall from Richmond. Initially, five pioneering nuns arrived, led by Mother Alphonse Billey, the first Bristow prioress. Their day-long train journey stopped in Alexandria before an additional one-hour ride to Manassas, where they discovered their belongings had been shipped to the wrong town.

The trek from Manassas junction, where the train stopped, to Linton Hall, was a long, bumpy wagon ride to a log cabin on a country lane that served as the Benedictine convent. The area, known then as Lintonford, "was one huge blackberry patch, covered with brambles and briars, uncultivated since the days of tobacco-growing on a large scale," wrote Sister M. Helen Johnston, OSB, in "The Fruit of His Works," a history of the Benedictines in Bristow.

There was a shortage of food and drinking water, but neighbors sent gifts, including a cow, a mother hen with 16 chicks and a pair of pigs.

On Sept. 16, 1894, the Sisters opened a girls school, St. Edith's Academy. After World War I, the sisters moved the girls' school to Richmond and opened Linton Hall Military School, a boarding school for boys.

In 1988, the school became a co-educational day school for kindergarten through eighth grade. Today, about 40 percent of the two dozen teachers are nuns and there are 155 students, 56 percent of them Roman Catholics.

The school's alumni include musician John Phillips, an original member of the Mamas and the Papas rock group, and it counts film star Sylvester Stallone among its former students.

Small classes are a drawing card for Meaghan Riley, 13, one of 11 eighth-graders. "You get individual attention," she said. "I fell behind in a couple of classes, but the teachers pulled me aside and said 'We have a study hall where you can get one-on-one help.'"

Matthew Shaughnessy, 13, a seventh-grader, is one of 10 in his class.

Like everyone else at the school, he wears a uniform, which he doesn't seem to mind.

"Even though some people wouldn't like to admit it, when everyone wears a uniform no one is considered higher ranking because of the clothes they wear," Matthew said. "And it looks nice."

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# Bristow Monastery Turns 100

## *Educational, Outreach Work Slated to Expand*

By Maria E. Odum  
Washington Post Staff Writer

On a recent morning at the St. Benedict Monastery in Bristow, a nun helped a 28-year-old Prince William man make out the words in C.S. Lewis's "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe."

Across the manicured lawn, children wearing blue blazers and gray slacks or skirts stood on risers for school pictures outside the Linton Hall School, a private, Catholic school. Then they geared up for an Earth Day celebration that included as entertainment a priest juggling fire, machetes and bowling balls.

Except during those days when school celebrations spill out to the grounds, the 122 acres of monastery grounds are a calm corner of Prince William—from the spreading oaks lining the entrance road to the statues of St. Benedict and St. Scholastica that keep a watchful eye on the monastery to the former dairy barn that will soon assume a new role as a transitional shelter for women and their children.

It is in this environment that the work of the sisters has been done for 100 years.

Last Sunday, the Benedictine Sisters celebrated their centennial in Bristow. More than 1,000 people, most of them family and friends of nuns and students, gathered for the celebration.

The sisters originally came to Prince William to teach, and that is still the cornerstone of their work.

"I love to teach," said Sister Julian Leonard.

See MONASTERY, Page 3, Col. 1

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microfilm.

Sister Cecilia Dwyer, OSB, above, is prioress of St. Benedict Monastery. Sister Julian Leonard, OSB, right, is helping Donnie, who has a learning disability, with his reading.

5 May 1994  
p. VA 1

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GOVERNOR USES VETO

Kills Norfolk Primary Bill at One Blow.

DEY FACTION WINS OUT
The Measure Offered by Senator Falso Was Advocated by the Trench Faction—Situation in Norfolk is Strained.

On Monday morning yesterday returned to the Senate, the bill was read and the Governor's veto was announced.

To the Senate: I herewith return without approval the bill...

THE FRACTION APPROVED: The passage of the bill had been opposed by the faction of Democratic party...

GARDEN PARTY FOR BROOK-AVENUE MISSION

There will be a garden party at the corner of Adams and Main Streets this afternoon...

Two Children Waiting Veto: The passage of the bill had been opposed by the faction of Democratic party...

Work Known Black Doctor: The passage of the bill had been opposed by the faction of Democratic party...

Funeral Services: The passage of the bill had been opposed by the faction of Democratic party...

New York Announcement. Horner's Furniture.

All the fashionable designs in Furniture, including all woods and finishes, and in unequalled assortment...

R. J. Horner & Co., 61-65 W. 23rd St., New York

IN HONOR OF RICHMOND GIRL

Songs of Gay Festivity at St. Edith's Academy on Monday Night

On Monday evening St. Edith's Academy, Richmond, Va., was the scene of a grand musical entertainment...

NAVAL BOARD HERE

Officials to Appraise Work on the Gibraltar at the Jefferson.

A Great Demand for Farm Property: Greenboro Female College.

Education Association: The annual meeting of the Richmond Education Association...

Concert and Dance: A concert and dance will be given by the Richmond Education Association...

TO OPPOSE NEW CHANGE

Episcopal Council Will Meet To-Day. The Name of the Church Must Go Off.

WESTERN UNION MUST GO OFF. The Episcopal Council of the Diocese of Virginia will meet to-day in Winchester...

COMB TOOK MAN FROM JAIL AND LYNCHED HIM. A mob of about 200 men, many of whom were armed with revolvers...

RESOLUTIONS MAY YET BE ACTED ON. The Board of Trustees of the University of Virginia...

ASSASSINATED HE WENT HOMEWARD. Mr. M. H. Smith leaves Fourth East for Telephone Business.

GOES TO ATLANTA. Mr. H. L. Smith, who for some years has been a member of the Times staff...

LEGISLATIVE DIVISION. The Virginia Council is one of the most important bodies in the State...

EFFECT OF GOOD ROADS. The Virginia Council is one of the most important bodies in the State...

Commissioner About to Move. The Corporation Commission is preparing to move from its temporary office...

Collector Stewart a Landlord. Outgoing Collector Stewart is now a landlord with many tenants...

Hill Climbers Here. Chief of the Richmond Association of Hill Climbers...

AUCTION SALES—THIS DAY. By Charles A. Rose, Real Estate Auctioneer...

AUCTION SALE OF Exceptionally Desirable Well Built BRICK RESIDENCE...

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"LIGHT BOOZE" Do You Drink It? A minister's wife had quite a tussle with coffee and her experience is interesting...

ANOTHER RAID ON PENIT STANDS Many Confectioners Fined for Keeping Open on Sunday. Story of Police Court.

RUSSIA REFUSES OUR CONTRIBUTIONS (By Associated Press) The Russian government has refused to contribute to the government of the United States...

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Auction Sales—This Day. By Charles A. Rose, Real Estate Auctioneer...

Don Air Depot, in Cheshelton farm, containing 300 acres, 100 of which is located on a half-acre from the site of the depot. The farm is a very fertile one, and the soil is of the best quality. It is situated on the north side of the depot, and is bounded on the east by the depot, on the south by the depot, and on the west by the depot. It is a very desirable location for a depot, and is well adapted for the purpose. The farm is a very desirable location for a depot, and is well adapted for the purpose. The farm is a very desirable location for a depot, and is well adapted for the purpose.

RESOLUTIONS MAY YET BE ACTED ON

WASHINGTON, May 19.—Some of the resolutions adopted last Sunday by the Washington Chamber of Commerce, which the subject matter of the resolutions is, are being discussed in the city. The resolutions are of a very important nature, and are being discussed in the city. The resolutions are of a very important nature, and are being discussed in the city.

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 Jefferson and Murphy  
 Many Guests from States.

All the hotels had large breakfasts yesterday, but there were few guests. The number of guests at the hotels was very small. The number of guests at the hotels was very small. The number of guests at the hotels was very small.

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**GOES TO ATLANTA**  
 M. H. L. Smith Leaves Fourth Estate for Telephone Business.

ATLANTA, May 19.—Mr. M. H. L. Smith, who for some years has been a member of the Times staff and Dispatch, has left the city for Atlanta to accept a position with the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company in the city. Mr. Smith was one of the brightest and most efficient men in the newspaper business, and the profession suffered a loss in his departure.

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