

# The Warren Record

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## Site Needs Much Work

As interest grows in the restoration and preservation of historical sites of Warren County, it seems a shame that one of the most valuable is exposed to such neglect.

Monday two representatives of The Warren Record visited the Nathaniel Macon grave and home site at Buck Spring between Vaughan and Eaton Ferry for the first time in several years. Here they found small trees beginning to grow among the stones that cover the graves of Macon and his wife, Harrah Plummer Macon.

Vines have begun to climb the restored corn crib, an unusual structure completely restored only a few years ago.

As one looks at the remains of the Nat Macon home, almost destroyed by fire several years ago, one cannot see the nearby restored smokehouse because of dense foliage;

The old caretaker's home on the homeplace is beginning to show signs of decay;

The path leading from the home to Buck Spring, for which the plantation is named, is now overgrown.

Efforts to restore and preserve this historical sight have been praise-worthy considering the limited funds available when the restoration was first started, but public interest now seems to have died.

The site is now owned by the county and it is our understand-

ing that the county now has plans to induce the State to provide funds for further restoration and preservation of the site. Hopefully, this can eventually be done, but before this is done, considerable further research should be done. The story has been that Nat Macon had planned to build a fine plantation house but gave up the idea when his wife died. That may be; but Macon's will shows that at the time of his death he owned 65 slaves. Surely a plantation that required this much help must have been a large operation—much beyond a log home, a smokehouse and one corn crib. Not only do the number of slaves belie this, but also the large and beautiful pieces of furniture now treasured by a number of his descendants.

But meanwhile, the saplings should be pulled from the stones that cover the graves; the vines should be pulled from the corn crib; bushes should be cut from around the smokehouse and other buildings, and the path to the spring should be cleared; and a new sign should be erected where the road leads from the highway to the homesite, in order that a few of the hundreds passing to Gaston Lake each day may stop to see this once famous home. That is not beyond the capacity of the county commissioners, now that the immediate need has been called to their attention.

## President Fails Test

From "Observations" in The Charlotte Observer, as selected by Ed Williams, Observer Associate Editor:

N. Y. Gov. Mario Cuomo in his keynote speech to the Democratic National Convention:

The president has asked us to judge him on whether or not he's fulfilled the promises he made four years ago. I accept that. Just consider what he said and what he's done.

Inflation is down since 1980. But not because of the supply-side miracle promised by the president. Inflation was reduced the old-fashioned way, with a recession, the worst since 1932. More than 55,000 bankruptcies. Two years of massive unemployment; 200,000 farmers and ranchers forced off the land. More homeless than at any time since the Great Depression. More hungry, more poor—mostly women—and a nearly \$200 billion deficit....It is a deficit that according to the president's own fiscal adviser, could grow

as high as \$300 billion a year, stretching "as far as the eye can see." It is a debt so large that as much as one-half of our revenue from the income tax goes to pay the interest on it each year. It is a mortgage on our children's futures that can only be paid in paid....

Don't take my word for it — I'm a Democrat. Ask the Republican investment bankers on Wall Street what they think the chances are this recovery will be permanent...Ask them what they think of our economy, now that it has been driven by the distorted value of the dollar back to its colonial condition — exporting agricultural products and importing manufactured ones....

What chance would the Republican candidate have had in 1980 if he had told the American people that he intended to pay for his so-called economic recovery with bankruptcies, unemployment and the largest government debt known to humankind?....It was an election won with smoke and mirrors....

## WHY IS IT?

A man wakes up in the morning after sleeping on an advertised bed, in advertised pajamas. He will bathe in an advertised tub, wash with advertised soap, shave with an advertised razor, have a breakfast of advertised juice, cereal and toast (toasted in an advertised toaster), put on advertised clothes and glance at his advertised watch. He will ride to work in his advertised car, sit at an advertised desk, smoke advertised cigarettes and write with an advertised pen. Yet this man hesitates to advertise, saying that advertising does not pay. Finally, when his unadvertised business goes under, he will advertise it for sale. But then it's too late!

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A statue of General Robert E. Lee, carved in white marble, can be seen on the main floor of Lee's Chapel on the campus of Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va. The statue, which depicts the Civil War commander at rest on the battlefield, is one

of many to be found in the chapel and the museum which it contains. On the lower level is the crypt in which many members of the Lee family are buried, and paintings of various members of the R. E. Lee and George Washington families. (Staff Photo)

## Mostly Personal

# A Tour Of Natural Bridge And Lexington, Va.

By BIGNALL JONES

Usually when any of the four members of the family who reside in Warrenton has a birthday he or she has the choice of where he or she will eat their birthday meal, which will be followed by a birthday cake at home. July 19 was Howard's birthday and he chose Parker's Barbecue in Wilson. Barbecue is his favorite food, and I think, as he does, that Parker's in Wilson serves the best. In spite of the distance, we all enjoyed the meal, and the trip, and a short visit to a beautiful mall in Wilson where I was able to purchase a wanted book.

In telling us that he wanted to eat at Wilson, he also told us that he wanted to visit Lexington, Va., where members of the Robert E. Lee family are buried. We were all willing, and so we left Warrenton around 9 a. m. Friday morning and headed for Lexington. Our path followed the same path that we had followed on July 8 to Brookneal, Va., on our trip to Patrick Henry's last home place. This led from Warrenton over the Kerr Lake Dam, to Clarksville, Va., South Boston, Va., Halifax, Va., and on to Brookneal.

This past Friday my wife drove from Warrenton to Lynchburg, Va., and from Lynchburg to Natural Bridge, Va., with much of the trip leading through the

Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia.

"The Natural Bridge of Virginia," according to a brochure we picked up at the center, is one of the seven natural wonders of the world. "This span, a fantastic sculpture of earth-colored limestone, looms as a vaulted cathedral 215 feet into the heavens. This spectacular masterpiece spans the creek, which carved it, carries a national highway and connects two mountains."

We bought tickets in the center for \$3.50 each, and started what was a quarter-of-a-mile trip to the ground level under the stream. The trouble was that the path was one stairway after another, until I was exhausted before we reached the bottom and walked a short distance to where the bridge loomed above. Although the descent was tiresome it was picturesque and contained much of the remains of a dead Arbor Vitae tree, said to be 1600 years old. Both Howard and Grace took pictures of this and later on took pictures of the bridge.

The receptionist of the center told us that a bus would take tourists to and from the site of the bridge if they did not care to walk. After viewing the bridge with considerable awe, we walked back to the bus, and a relaxing ride over the short ride to the top, as, I presume most of

those who walked down the stairs did.

In a brochure of the Natural Bridge is written, in part, the following information:

"About 1750, while surveying the bridge for Lord Halifax, a youthful George Washington scaled 23 feet up to make his mark. His initials, carved in stone can be seen today.

"The original American owner, Thomas Jefferson, acquired the Bridge and 157 surrounding acres from King George III of England in 1774 for 20 shillings."

From the bridge we rode the 12 miles to Lexington, Va., also described in our brochure as "Nearby Places to Visit," was "Historic Lexington: a leisurely walk awaits you in the 19th century college town, once the home of Lee and Jackson. Highlights include the Stonewall Jackson House, Washington and Lee University, Virginia Military Institute, Lee's Chapel, V. M. I. Museum, and George Marshall Research Library and Museum."

Reaching Lexington, and after a short ride around the city, and a visit to the Visitors Center for information, we began our search for a motel. Grace was insistent that we find a motel whose rooms were off the noisy highways. Six miles out of Lexington we found a Days Inn, always back from the highway with rooms on the back.

The accommodations at the Inn were excellent and quiet enough until a bad thunderstorm erupted during the night. In spite of this we slept well and woke to find it was raining. We re-packed and headed for the hotel. As we were entering the restaurant the manager of the restaurant called us and went in and ate breakfast with us. She was Shirley Daniel Harris, wife of Pete Harris, native of Inez. She said that her husband had always remembered how pretty this section of Virginia is as a result of attending school at nearby Fishburne Academy. She also told us that Pete's brother Bill also lived near Lexington. Shirley's presence increased the pleasure of a good breakfast. She said that we would enjoy a visit to the former home of Stonewall Jackson, as we did. From the

Jackson house we went to Lee's Chapel, which is not only the burial place of the Lee family, but also a museum. On the walls of the museum were pictures of Lee as a young man and in his latter years, a picture of the Custis family, a picture of LaFayette, a watch that had belonged to George Washington and had been handed down through the Polk family and case after case of family jewelry and silver.

At one spot in the floor was the original burial place of General Robert E. Lee before the removal of his body to a crypt that contains the bodies of many members of the Lee family. Above this crypt was a marble statue of the reclining Lee. On the walls of the crypt were designated the bodies of various members of the Lee family. Written was the name of Agnes, who

had accompanied her father on his visit to Warren County, Bolling Lee, presumably a grandson who visited Warrenton in 1936 to attend a memorial service at the site of the grave of Anne Lee, and spaces for the sons of Lee who served with distinction as officers in the Civil War. Only conspicuous by its absence was the name of Anne Carter Lee, whose remains are buried in Warren County. The receptionist was somewhat bitter, as she remarked we have not recovered the body, YET.

We spent considerable time in the Lee Chapel, but were unable to enter the Episcopal Church which Lee designed. Afterwards we drove around in the rain and paused for me to visit the Statue of Stonewall Jackson and to try and read the inscription (Continued on page 4)

## News Of Yesteryear

# Looking Back Into The Warren Record

July 28, 1944

G. I. Joe is going to get more gasoline. After July 25, all servicemen on furlough will get a gallon of gas a day up to 30 days rather than the five gallons flat, per furlough, allowed previously.

The women of the Oakville Community met on Wednesday, July 19, in the home of Mrs. C. B. Bottoms for the purpose of organizing a Home Demonstration Club.

Members of the Girl Scouts held a weiner roast and picnic supper on Thursday evening on the lawn of Mrs. C. T. Bowers' home, following bandage rolling at the Red Cross room.

July 24, 1959

Committees were organized and plans made for the operation of the gift shop at Warren General Hospital at a meeting of the executive board of the hospital auxiliary last week.

Lieut. Colonel George W. Franklin, husband of the former Helen Reid of Warrenton, has been awarded the Legion of Merit and cited for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the service of the United States.

Howard Mustian, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Mustian of Route 1, Norlina, has accepted a position as principal of the 11-teacher school at LaCrosse, Va., for the coming term.

July 25, 1974

Warren County women have been entering the labor force in recent years in ever-increasing number. The current figures indicate that some 32.8 percent of the local female population over the age of 16 are now employed outside the home or are looking for such employment.

Mrs. Henry B. Wiggins has retired from Pridgen's Market in Norlina after 21 years as a sales clerk.

Mrs. W. L. Wood of Warrenton has been named North Carolina Department Chaplain of the American Legion Auxiliary.



The towering rock formation known as the Natural Bridge of Virginia rises high above a creek and walkway in Rockbridge County, Va. The tiny figures of visitors give an indication of the immensity of the formation. (Staff Photo)