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April 12 & April 13

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OCMagazine

A monthly publication

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Next Advertising deadline: Wednesday

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Orange County Heiress Marries a Hollywood Star!

...Months after divorce from first husband! Actor was best man at first wedding!

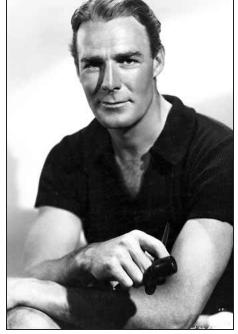
> By Barbara Wimble Correspondent

he Hollywood star and heiress wedding divorce - these stories hit the tabloids of the day and were big news in Orange County. Just as it is now, divorce was fodder for Hollywood gossip in the 1930s during the Great Depression, when these events occurred. Stories about celebrities were escapism for the general population, and the lifestyles of the rich and famous still attract a lot of attention and the imagination of the public. Sensational stories sell newspapers, and gossip magazines and "tell-alls" are on every magazine rack.

Orange County is the home to Presidents and sparkling gems, but did you know that it was also home to a famous cowboy movie star? And a possible "love triangle" involving some of its most famous residents? What brought these three - Marion duPont, Thomas Somerville, and Randolph Scott together? What were their Orange County connections?

Randolph Scott - Tall in the Saddle

At 6'4", slender and lanky with blond hair and hazel eyes, Orange County native Randolph Scott was one of the most handsome and enduring leading actors of the Golden Age of Hollywood. He was the soft-spoken hero of dozens of Western movies, the prototype of a cowboy star. He grew into the rugged and weathered look, and in the 1950s was one of the top ten draws in the motion picture industry, a consistent top box office hit. He was an Old West "Mr. Clean" - the strong, silent type who fought the bad guys and then rode off into the sunset.



Randolph Scott publicity photo c. 1930s. Photo from Wikipedia images.

Southern-Born and Southern-Bred

Known in Hollywood as "the Gentleman from Virginia," Randolph Scott was proud of his southern heritage. George Randolph Scott was one of six children born to Lucy Lavinia Crane and George Grant Scott. All of their children, except Randolph, were born in Charlotte, North Carolina, the hometown of his mother. Scott was born on January 23, 1898, in Orange County while his family was visiting relatives. As soon as his mother was able to travel, the family returned home to

Local historian Frank Walker's research led him to believe that Scott

was born near Rhoadesville, but unfortunately no house has ever been confirmed as his birthplace. Some accounts have him raised in Orange County, but census and other records indicate that he spent his childhood in Charlotte.

Woodberry Forest School Days -Go Tigers!

It was said that the Scotts were well off, and they may have been later on, but in 1914 George Grant Scott wrote a letter to J. Carter Walker, headmaster of Woodberry Forest School in Madison County, with the following request: "My son Randolph Scott is anxious to attend your school this fall. He is 16 years of age, well developed being over six feet tall....he has been going to Baird's School for boys [in Charlotte] for about two years. I have several children I am trying to educate..." He asked if the school could change the tuition terms. Mr. Walker granted the request and a few weeks later Scott was enrolled in the fourth form (tenth grade) at Woodberry.

The following summer, the family still needed assistance, and Randolph Scott himself wrote to his headmaster, "I find it will be impossible for me to return to Woodberry this fall unless I can obtain some assistance as my father is unable to bear all of the expense." He asked for a job that would help pay his tuition and mentioned that he had gained experience working in his father's office that summer. The headmaster helped the family with a \$100 scholarship (total tuition was \$524), and Scott returned to Woodberry in September 1915.

See Randolph Page 4





Marion and Randolph Scott at William duPont, Jr.'s Fair Hill Races in Cecil County, Maryland, September 1936. Photo from Bing images.

Cover designed by Marilyn Ellinger.



LOUISA A CENTER a a Purcell Gallery and Box Office Hours: 12 - 4 Tuesday - Friday

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Fort Worth poster featuring Randolph Scott, 1951. Photo from Bing images.

Later that year, his father again wrote to the headmaster, this time regarding Randolph's request for permission to smoke a pipe. He had advised his son not to begin the use of tobacco but left it to the headmaster and his son to decide, and Mr. Walker approved. Things were sure different back then!

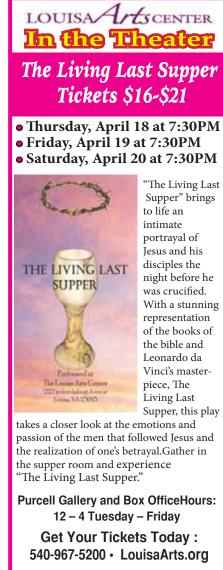
Randolph from page 3

Randy, as he was known, made a name for himself as a capable student, gifted athlete, and one of the most popular boys at Woodberry. He was an outstanding member of the football team and captain of the baseball team in his senior year. The list of his activities noted in the yearbooks include singing in the choir and glee club, playing the piano, and participating in the German club, North Carolina club, missionary society, and Phi Mu fraternity. He was editor of the Oracle,

the school newspaper, and was chosen as a "prefect" (one of the school's student leaders) and a member of the honor committee during his senior year. An entry in the 1916 yearbook, entitled "The 12 most conspicuous things at Woodberry" includes "Scott's stride" (referring to his height). He was one of the 25 students who graduated in 1917.

Scott never forgot the headmaster's efforts on his behalf and supported his alma mater for the rest of his life. In 1970, he established an endowed scholarship for boys







Randolph Scott and Shirley Temple in Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm, 1938. Photo from Google images.



Randolph Scott publicity photo c. 1930s. Photo from Wikipedia images.

at Woodberry, the G. Randolph Scott 1917 Scholarship Fund. He enjoyed hearing from the recipients and their activities and entertained several of them when they visited him in California. In 1984, he contacted Headmaster Emmett Wright about buying a graduation present for one of the recipients. Scott instructed Mr. Wright, "Don't hold back the horses" about how much to spend on the gift. On Scott's behalf, Mr. Wright bought the student an elegant monogramed leather briefcase.

He kept up with the school through correspondence and often sent best wishes to the headmaster before the annual football game against Episcopal High School. One year, he made reservations at a hotel in Orange to attend the game against Episcopal, but his film shooting schedule interfered with his plans.

Scott kept up with Mr. Wright (headmaster from 1974-1991), who thanked him for his generous contributions to the school and inquired about his golf scores. In 1977 Wright visited him while on a business trip to California, and they had lunch together at the Los Angeles Country Club, where Scott lived. (His house was on the fourth hole.) Scott told Mr. Wright that he had shot his age (79) the day before!

See Randolph page 6

New Addition to Our 2019 Lineup: Nick Smith -Tickets \$30 each

★Saturday, April 27 ~ 7:30PM

Hailing from small-town Kent's Store, VA. Nick Smith quickly learned the values of hard work and independence at a young age, He loved singing and became a member of the varsity choir throughout his high school career. After graduating from Fluvanna High School, Nick pursued a business degree and continued playing the guitar to compliment his vocals with the goal of becoming a full-time entertainer one day.

As perseverance ruled, Nicks career in music moved forward enough to put together his first album EP in 2012. From there, Nick's songwriting and music production have since led him to write his latest album called "Just A Preview."



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DOLLEY MADISON GARDEN CLUB

Calendar of Events 2019

• HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK IN ORANGE Saturday, April 27

• CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Dedication ceremony & ribbon cutting for the community gift

Sunday, May 5 in Taylor Park

• <u>SUMMER CONCERT SERIES</u>
June, July, August in Taylor Park

• COMMUNITY ZINNIA SHOW
Saturday, September 14
in the Orange Community Room



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Randolph from Page 5



Randolph Scott, Captain of the Baseball team, Woodberry Forest School, 1917. Photo courtesy of Woodberry Forest School.

I recently visited Mr. Wright at Dogwood Village, where he now lives. He vividly remembered Scott and his visit with him. He said that Scott felt like a "marked man" at Woodberry, because the other teams focused attention on him due to his athletic ability.

In an interview at the time of Scott's death in 1987, Wright said, "Neither fame nor fortune changed Randy, and he loved Woodberry until the last."

Orange County Friends

One of Randolph Scott's Woodberry classmates was Douglas Somerville of Rapidan, one of five brothers all relatively close in age – James, Wilson, Thomas, Douglas, and Hamilton. There were also two girls in the family, Jennie and Ellen. Scott became friends with the family and, over the years, often visited them in Rapidan. He was the best man at Thomas's wedding to Marion duPont. (Note that the Montpelier duPonts spelled their name with a small "d," unlike the DuPont chemical company.)

Scott was also friendly with the Gray family of the Montebello plantation in Orange, particularly the daughter Allen and her brother Leslie. In a newspaper interview after Scott's death in 1987, Mrs. Allen Gray Dunnington remembered that girls from the surrounding estates attended the dances and parties at Woodberry. She mentioned that her mother knew the Woodberry professor's wives and the boys who lived in the area. She said that she introduced Marion duPont to Randolph Scott, and they all attended parties at Montebello, played charades, danced, held fox hunts, and picnicked in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Once several of them traveled to Italy together.

Over There!

After graduating from Woodberry, according to his military service card, Randolph Scott enlisted in the Army in July 1917 when he was 19 years old. In a 1987 article for the Woodberry Journal and Magazine, his former Woodberry classmate and friend from North Carolina, retired General Andrew H. Harriss, reminisced about his friendship and wartime service with his buddy "Scotty."

Scott was treated like a member of the Harriss family, sailing and swimming with the family on vacation at Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina. In 1916, during Woodberry's spring break, the two teenagers (Scott 18 and Hariss 17 years old) decided that they wanted to join the army to help hunt down Pancho Villa on the Mexican border. They were not called and, when they returned to school, found that they were already "enlisted" in the Coast Artillery Corps, North Carolina National Guard. They were "severely chided for dual enlistment."

Harriss dropped out of Woodberry and enlisted in the Army. After Scott graduated from Woodberry and enlisted, the two friends next met in Fort Caswell, North Carolina, where they were both based. They received intensive training, including in horsemanship and weaponry. Scott obtained the rating of Corporal Artillery-Observer, 2nd Class. They were transferred to the 2nd Trench Mortar Battalion of the 19th Field Artillery and shipped to France in the spring of 1918.

Harriss described in his account how he and Scott dealt with the day-to-day threats: "After every close call—and there were many—we ended with a labored and thankful smile, and the reading of our personal pocket Testaments, and the blessing of our dog tags and the St. Christopher's crosses on our necklaces. After each experience we awaited the 'next time' — hopefully and prayerfully wondering."

In her book North Carolina and the Great War, 1914-1918, Jessica A. Bandel described the horrific experiences of artillery observers in more detail: "In France, the men served as artillery observers on a two-man team, a role that required them to take up positions in forward observation bomb-proofs so that they could direct artillery fire. In the bombproofs, the men faced greater exposure to threats of enemy snipers and other battlefield dangers."

Scott and Harris were together from mid-May 1918 until the Armistice that ended World War I in November 1918. Scott then enrolled in French Artillery Officer's School, before being honorably discharged from the Army and returning to United States in June 1919. In his 1994 book about his father, Whatever Happened to Randolph Scott?, Christopher Scott said that his father never spoke about his wartime experiences and the horrors he witnessed.

College, Football, and "Broken Dreams"

Scott's father wanted him to go to the University of Virginia or the University of North Carolina (UNC) for law and then to Columbia for accounting in preparation to enter his business. Instead Scott went to Georgia Tech for accounting and to play



Miss Allen Gray, photo taken in New York in the 1920s. Photo courtesy of Lesley Foster.

football. He wanted to attain football All-American status, but his career was derailed when he injured his back on the field. He then transferred to UNC to complete his last two years of school.

After college, he spent some time traveling in Europe. I was able to confirm this story with information I found on Ancestry.com. (These were very exciting finds for this history geek!) When he was 24, Scott applied for a passport that outlined his travel plans. The information included his plans for departing on October 26, 1922, for France, Italy, and Switzerland. He is also listed as a passenger on the SS Berengaria, sailing from Cherbourg, France, arriving in New York on February 18, 1923. Additional passengers on that ship included the Gray family – Allen 22, Leslie 18, Leslie H. 73, and Delacy 51! This confirms Mrs. Allen Gray Dunnington's account that Scott traveled with her family.

When Scott returned home to Charlotte, he worked for his father in his accounting business (later Scott, Churnley & Co.), but this kind of work

was not for Randy. He wanted to try his hand in acting. His parents were disappointed, but his father relented, thinking that if his son went to California, he would get it out of his system. He wrote a letter of introduction to the only contact he had in Hollywood, Howard Hughes, then President of RKO pictures, whom he knew in his oil-rigging days.

In 1928, Randolph and friend Jack Heath from Charlotte polished their spurs and hit the dusty trail west to seek their fame and fortune in the Tinsel Town of Hollywood.

"Go West Young Man" — Hurray for Hollywood!

Randolph Scott's passion for the game of golf helped with his entre into Hollywood. After Scott's persistent attempts to contact Howard Hughes, the reclusive eccentric finally agreed to meet Randy and Jack for a game of golf. Hughes took a liking to the young men, and the rest is Hollywood history.

Hughes soon put a costume on Scott and cast him as an extra and in bit parts in films. In 1929, Scott appeared in his first film, Far Call, a silent film. Soon after, he did a screen test for the legendary director Cecil B. DeMille, who said that he needed more acting experience. Scott took DeMille's advice and joined the Pasadena Playhouse, which was a spawning ground of many stars. Soon he was getting bigger parts and then major roles and was on his steady climb to fame. In 1936, he was cast as Hawkeye in *The Last of the Mohicans*, his first leading role in an 'A' picture.

During Scott's 33-year acting career, he appeared in 97 films, including westerns, musicals, comedies, and military movies. He co-starred with many well-known actors, including Fred Astaire, Tyrone Power, Henry Fonda, Marlene Dietrich, John Wayne, Cary Grant, the sultry Mae West, and child star Shirley Temple. His easygoing charm and courtly Southern drawl made him the choice of Margaret Mitchell, author of *Gone With the Wind*, to play the character of Ashley Wilkes in the 1939 movie version. Some said it was a role Scott was born to play, as right for the character as Clark Gable was for Rhett Butler, but he lost out to actor Leslie Howard. So goes the story of Hollywood "what ifs."

An athlete all his life, he performed his own stunt work even into his late 50s. In his acting career, he put to use the military training he received while in the Army, included horsemanship and the use of firearms. He retired at the age of 64 after his last film *Ride the High Country (1962)*. He said in an interview that movie-acting no longer interested him.

Scott was awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1960. In popular culture, Scott is reverently remembered in the 1974 film *Blazing Saddles* in the scene in which Sheriff Bart exclaims to the townsfolk, "You'd do it for Randolph Scott!" They respond by putting their hands to their hearts and chanting, "Randolph Scott." The townsfolk then agree to help the sheriff save the town.

The Orange County Heiress

Marion duPont was born on May 3, 1894, in Wilmington, Delaware, to Annie Rogers and William duPont. The family lived in England before acquiring the Montpelier estate, the former home of President James Madison, in 1900. Marion and her brother William, Jr. ("Willie") enjoyed growing up with the bucolic country life and privileges of the duPont wealth. She was not the debutante type, but was an enthusiastic equestrian and began a lifelong love for horses. In fact, she was the first woman to ride astride in a horse show competition at Madison Square Garden in New York. After her parents died (Annie in 1927 and William in 1928), she inherited a life interest in Montpelier. In 1929, she began hosting steeplechase and flat track races on the property.

The duPonts socialized with well-to-do Virginia families, including the Somervilles of Rapidan, the Grays of Montebello, and Randolph Scott, whom William duPont, Sr. described as the "charming and athletic kinsman of his bird-hunting buddy from Richmond, George Cole Scott."

Wedding Bells Ring in Orange County!

Thomas Hugh Somerville (1895-1963) was one of the five sons of Jeanie Hamilton and Samuel Wilson Somerville

Horsewoman Marion duPont. Photo courtesy Bing images.

of Rapidan. He registered for the draft on June 5, 1917, and served in World War I. At the time of his enlistment, he was employed as a powder worker for the DuPont factory in Carney's Point, New Jersey. The 1920 census lists the family home in the Cedar Mountain area in Culpeper.

During visits home, he most likely kept in touch with Marion duPont. They shared an enthusiasm for fox-hunting, horseracing, and hiking with their bird dogs. The pair were engaged to be married in the summer of 1925, and the wedding was held at Montpelier on December 28. One hundred guests attended the wedding breakfast, but the wedding was a private affair, and no newspaper coverage was allowed. The best man was their mutual friend, Randolph Scott, who was a frequent visitor to Montpelier.

The duPont/Somerville marriage lasted almost ten years. Their separation, kept low key, was announced on August 12, 1935. They parted amicably and in October 1935, Marion filed for divorce in Reno, Nevada. In the settlement, Somerville received the Mt. Athos property (540 acres adjacent to Montpelier that was part of the original Madison estate); the Manton Manor home they had built in Wilmington, Delaware; and the rights to use the skeet-shooting field at Montpelier – as long as he maintained it.

Six months later, she quietly married another of her childhood friends.

"Mrs. Randolph Scott, Wedding a Secret"*

At some point, the friendship between Marion and Randolph Scott must have blossomed during his visits with his family and friends in Orange County and when she was in California on horse business. They were discrete about their relationship and secretly obtained their marriage license in the Chester County, South Carolina Courthouse. Their quiet wedding on March 23, 1936 in Charlotte was not publically revealed until August 2, 1936. She was 41 and he was 38 years old. Four days later, Scott was back in Hollywood working on the film The Last of the Mohicans, but he returned to Montpelier after the movie shoot.

Marion had Montpelier's south cellar kitchen, the former James Madison's mother's kitchen, converted into a gym for Scott. The ceiling was too low for the tall actor; therefore, they dug a four-feet-by-four-feet pit into the floor so he would not bump his head while doing his bodybuilding and calisthenics.

In November 1937, the couple hosted the annual races at Montpelier. A newspaper reported that Scott's sister, Mrs. C.J.



Marion and Randolph Scott, c. 1936 at Pimlico. Photo from Bing images.

Robbert, was visiting from Sweden. Autograph-seekers surrounded Scott during the races, and he graciously signed their programs, then tipped his hat and signed the next one. Scott was involved in at least eight movies in Hollywood during their three-year marriage while Marion pursued her passion for equestrian sports. A private person, she disliked publicity and did not care for the Hollywood set.

"Gr-reat Scott! 'Ship's Owner Cashes No Bet"*

In March 1938, Battleship, Marion's prize racehorse, became the first American-bred and American-owned horse to win the Grand National Steeplechase race in Aintree, England. In news articles about the event, reporters noted that Marion did not bet on her own horse. According to one, "Mrs. Randolph Scott barely reached Aintree yesterday to see her Battleship come in with the victory in the Grand National."

Mrs. Scott returned to the United States on April 4, 1938, on the Queen Mary. Battleship later returned to the United States on the ship SS Manhattan on June 9, 1938. New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia and a crowd of people met Battleship at the dock. Marion was unable to attend, but Scott suspended a movie shoot to take part in the homecoming and represent her at the New York harbor. This was his last public appearance on his wife's behalf.

A few days later, back in Hollywood, he confirmed their separation: "Our separation is entirely friendly. It's merely a case of being separated too much, which did not prove compatible with marriage." Whatever the reason for the separation, their union lasted less than three years, and they were divorced as quietly as they married. Marion kept the Scott name, and they remained friends. When she died in 1983, Scott sent flowers to Montpelier.

See Randolph page 14

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In June of 1781, Virginia patriot, Jack Jouett, rode 40 miles from Louisa County to warn Governor Thomas Jefferson and the Virginia legislature that the British were coming to Charlottesville to capture not only them, but the rest of the Virginia state government. As a result, Jefferson headed south and a few short months later, the British surrendered to George Washington at Yorktown.

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Events and Announcements



Orange Community Chorus Spring Concerts

- May 17th and 18th at Orange Presbyterian Church, Main Street, Orange.
- Orange Community Band Spring Concert June 2nd at Orange County High School.

FREE Last Saturday ARC for Kids: **Last Saturday Art for Kids**

Saturday, March 30, 10–11am, a different activity every month! Last Saturday Classes are FREE, but PLEASE call ahead (672-7311) to register, so that we know how many to prepare for. Sponsored by Horton Vineyard

Date: Saturday, March 30, 2019

Time: 10:00 am - 11:00 am • Cost: Free

Location: The Arts Center In Orange

Website: http://www.artscenterinorange.com • More Info: (540) 672-7311



Homeschool Day at James Madison's Montpelier Date: Monday, April 1, 2019

Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Cost: see website for details

Location: James Madison' Montpelier, 11350 Constitution Highway, Montpelier Station

Website: http://www.montpelier.org/events

More Info: (540) 672-2728

Participate in these scheduled events: Take a guided hike of our old growth forest Sign the Constitution Make a turban or tri-corner hat Draw your

Montpelier Play colonial games, and much more!

Historic Landscape Tour at James Madison's Montpelier

Date: Sunday, April 7, 2019 Time: 1:00 pm • Cost: Free

Location: James Madison's Montpelier, 11350 Constitution Highway, Montpelier Station, Website: https://www.montpelier.org/events • More Info: (540) 672-2728

Peel back 250 years of landscaping, one layer at a time, to learn how the grounds of Montpelier became a trove of champion trees and unique plantings, cultivated with great care and attention over generations of care and preservation. This tour begins at the David M. Rubenstein Visitor Center.

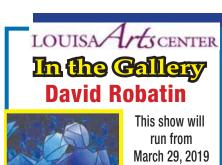
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Formerly the Montpelier Wine Festival, we launched our new name and logo in 2018, and have an all new venue for you to enjoy in 2019! Set on a beautiful landscape with a breathtaking backdrop of the Blue Ridge Mountains, our 2019 festival is a must for the wine and music lover.

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Four County Players will be hosting a live Season 47 Reveal on Tuesday, March 26th at the theater in Barboursville.

We'll be announcing the season with staged readings from the season's straight plays and musical numbers from the season's musicals and music

Folks will also have a chance to talk with many of the season's directors about the shows and how they can get involved.

The event is free and open to the public.

Tuesday, 26 March: Doors open at 6:30PM, program begins at 7PM • Light refreshments will be provided!

Book Talk with Douglas Ronald

Sunday, March 31, 2019 at 3:00 p.mNewly-released biography of Major John André titled *The Life of John Andre The* Redcoat Who Turned Benedict Arnold. This book is well researched and reads like one of the best spy novels of today. Adding to the richness of the research is the biography is written from the British point of view. Join us for this fascinating

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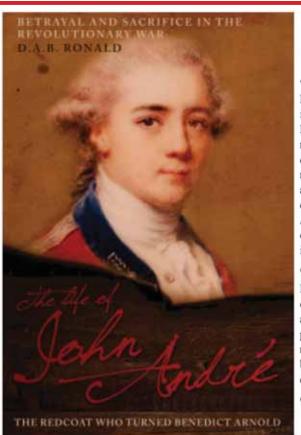
Ghost Hunt-Exchange Hotel and Civil War Museum Date: Saturday, April 13, 2019 Time: 7:00 pm - 2:00 am

Cost: \$99.00 per person

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The Dolley Madison Garden Club - Growing and Beautifully Blooming for 100 Years!

By Barbara Wimble Correspondent

was born in Lombard, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago known as "The Lilac Village." Maybe that is where I grew to love lilacs, but I think I began to love gardening and plants from my father, who taught me so much about vegetables and flowers. I think of him when I am planting pachysandra and tending the plants that I have transplanted from house to house, from Pennsylvania to Virginia. So many different things connect us with our past, including the plants we grew up with, identify with, and love. Gardening is so important on so many levels, including making us happy. As the plaque in my garden reminds me, "Delight Reigns in a Garden.

In Orange County, there are several special clubs dedicated to promoting and educating about gardening, horticulture, and flowers. For this article, I have very much enjoyed learning about one of these clubs, the Dolley Madison Garden Club (DMGC), in preparation for the 100th

anniversary of its founding.

History of the Dolley Madison Garden Club

The DMGC was founded in November 1919 by a group of civic -and garden-minded ladies over a bridge table when Miss Mary Cameron suggested that their bridge club be changed to a garden club. There were 16 charter members of the Club, and the fledgling members chose to name their new club for Dolley Madison, President Madison's wife. They chose the name because of the flower and vegetable gardens she maintained at Montpelier, the Madisons' home in Orange County. The Zinnia was selected as the DMGC flower, because it symbolizes friendship, endurance, and constancy.

In 1920, the DMGC became one of the eight Virginia garden clubs to join a federation of garden clubs and the fourth founding member of the Garden Club of Virginia (GCV). Two years later, the DMGC was admitted to the Garden Club of

The founders of the DMGC set three goals - "protect the agricultural heritage of the central Virginia area near Orange, Gordonsville, Madison and Culpeper, stimulate horticulture advancement, and undertake community improvement projects." The Club has been meeting those goals for 100 years. No shrinking violets, these ladies are hard workers who demonstrate that the Club is not just about getting together for "tea and

The DMGC is celebrating one hundred years of growing and blooming with a year-long calendar of events. To kick off the celebration, Club Archivist Pamela Hudson (member since 2004) recently presented an entertaining and detailed program on the Club's illustrious history, "100 Years of the Dolley's."

Historic Garden Week

Spring has finally sprung, and the daffodils and crocuses are blooming. Virginia Garden Week must be right around the corner! The first Virginia Garden Week tour was held in 1927 and continues to hold the title "America's Largest Open House" to this day. The DMGC tour, scheduled for Saturday, April 27 this year, is the Club's biggest event, with an expected 1,000 people visiting the five featured sites. This year's centennial tour is a special one to honor the anniversary. All of the proceeds from the tour support the GCV's projects to beautify and restore gardens throughout

The ladies are not just a bunch of pretty petunias. It is an enormous, yet satisfying, undertaking to put on the Garden Tour events. Hundreds of ladies throughout Virginia spend countless volunteer hours planning the event, planting and cultivating the flowers (mostly from their own gardens), artfully arranging the flowers, transporting them to the various locations, and acting as hostesses at the properties.

There were many notable members of the DMGC and I profile two of them

Violet Niles Walker (Mrs. Joseph G. Walker) was president of the Garden Club of Virginia from 1924 to 1926. She lived at Woodberry Forest School, where her husband was the business manager and his brother J. Carter Walker was headmaster. She and her husband lived in the Residence, the original building of the school where headmasters and their families now live. (The Residence is on this year's garden tour.) Mrs. Walker and her husband had no children of their own, and she was a surrogate mother to the Woodberry boys and was known for serving tea and onion sandwiches to them. She was also known for the huge vegetable garden she maintained that fed the boys at Woodberry and for the flower gardens she planted

Mrs. Walker was a charter member of the GCV. The minutes of the first meeting of the Board of Governors in December 1920 note that she "urged warfare against



Violet Niles Walker, 1946. Photo courtesy of the Dolley Madison Garden Club.

plant pests, stressing the Japanese beetle." Mrs. Walker became famous in the eastern United States for her lilies. Lily bulbs, imported from the far east, were subject to rigorous customs inspections, and afterwards, there was not much left of the bulb to plant. Mrs. Walker successfully propagated lilies from the scales and the tiny black seeds. In 1948, the DMGC honored her with an award named in her honor, "The Violet Niles Memorial Cup," which is given by the GCV at its annual Lily Show for lilies that are planted from scale, seed, or bulbils.

Marion duPont Scott was also a member of both the GCV and the DMGC. Mrs. Scott, who is profiled in another article in this edition, is the woman most responsible for Montpelier being open to the public and restored to its past. She also started the Montpelier Hunt Races. Bernice Walker recalled that Mrs. Scott was an active member of the DMGC, but that you did not tell her what to do. She did not often come to meetings but always was aware of what was going on in the Club and contributed in several ways. One of Bernice's first tasks as a new member was to meet with Mrs. Scott to discuss publicity. She was granted an "audience" with Mrs. Scott in her 'Red Room," and they had a business-like but congenial meeting.

The Dolley Madison Garden Club Today

Who are these bloomers who have given up so much of their time and talents to the beautification, restoration, and preservation of the gardens of Orange and Madison County? The Club currently has 30 active members, and a number of Associate, Provisional, Nonresident and Emeritus members. I enjoyed meeting and talking with some of these ladies about what membership in the Club has meant to them and about some of the highlights of the Club's first 100 years.

Bernice Walker has the distinction of being the longest serving member of the DMGC. As a newlywed, she followed the legacy of her mother -and sister-in-law in joining the Club 55 years ago. Bernice said that gardening is an enjoyable hobby and the "seed of interest" was already planted before she joined the Club.

Bernice is known for her prize roses. After her term as president of the Club (2001-2003), she decided that wanted to learn about growing roses to fill a need the Club had for rose exhibitors. She joined the American Rose Society and learned a lot from its monthly magazine written by trained exhibitionists. Bernice first



Bernice Walker, DMGC president 2001-2003. Photo courtesy of Bridget

planted Austin English rose bushes that are very fragrant and heavily petaled, the kind you see in damask fabric and in the paintings of the Masters. The conditions in her yard – good soil, good drainage and full sun – were perfect for growing roses, but they were gone after five years. The lush blooms were too heavy for the stems; therefore she "shovel-pruned" them (dug them up) and started over with classic hybrid teas and floribundas (meaning lots of blooms), and later added miniatures

Five years ago, Mrs. Walker's friends honored her with a surprise party to celebrate her 50-years of membership and established the Bernice S. Walker Trophy in her honor. This perpetual silver trophy is given at the Garden Club of Virginia's Rose Show to the Queen of Miniature Roses. She herself won the trophy in 2017.

One of the Club's Emeritus members is "Flora Gardener," the radio show persona of Sara Bossong, the subject of last month's sparkling gem's profile in this magazine. Sara joined the DMGC shortly after she moved to Rapidan in 1982. To become a member at that time, it was required to have a house large enough to host the meetings and grand enough to be on the Garden Tour. Her farm, Summerleas, was both.

Sara believes that the Garden Club is more than an "ornament to the community" and when Carolyn Scott, the Club president at the time, asked Sara to be the spokesperson for a radio spot to be hosted by the DMGC, she jumped at the chance. Lacy's Florist in Orange underwrote the 30-second radio spots that were broadcast at noon once a week on the local Orange station. Sara began each program speaking in a soft genteel southern voice, "This is Flora Gardener of the Dolley Madison Garden Club wishing you good health and good gardening." She introduced the topic of the week saying something like, "Today's topic is the simple petunia, the little stalwart of the garden, a brave little soldier." She gave gardening tips depending on the time of year. For instance, in the spring she focused on the optimal circumstances in which to plant seeds, and in the fall she talked about composting leaves.

The show was enthusiastically received, and Flora's fans sent her numerous letters and postcards asking questions and offering suggestions for the program. Sara recalled there was much ado about recipes for dill pickles. She completed her persona with her garden party outfit - her J. Peterman floral dress with white crocheted gloves and hat. Members still talk about her performance in 2016 when she reprised her role as the surprise program speaker at a Club meeting so attired. She also made an appearance as Flora at a reception that was held at Lacy's Florist for the Club's friends and Flora's fans.

Ada Harvey, Chair of the Centennial Committee, has been growing roses since she was a girl. She took over taking care of the Rhode Island climbing roses her mother grew on the fences on her parents' farm, Arrowpoint, in Madison County. In 1976, she became interested the viticulture (the growing of wine grapes) industry in Virginia and grew grapes. She helped Barboursville Vineyards with its business office in exchange for advice on growing grapes. Although her mother was not in a garden club, Ada joined in 1976 because she was interested in gardening. She left the area in 1981 and rejoined in 2002 when she returned to Orange County. She has done everything in the Club except serve as president. She is proud of initiating the DMGC project of placing pots of angel wing begonias around the Town of Orange. Begun in 2005, the project is still going on today, although with different flowers.

Flower-arranging is Ada's focus. Her mentor, Bobbye Davies (member since 1979), introduced her to the requirements for being a successful flower arranger. Ada said that Bobbye taught her "the importance of choosing the right flower container and flowers especially if the arrangement was a period (Victorian, Baroque, Late Colonial Williamsburg, etc.) or a contemporary arrangement." Bobbye explained to her "that an arrangement is judged on conformance to the schedule, design, artistic concept, expression and distinctions.

One of the youngest members of the Club is Bridget Bresee Bryant, who joined in 2004. She is a third-generation member. Her mother, Suzie Bresee, has been a member since 1970, and her grandmother Caroline Robinson Bresee (Mrs. Harrison P. Bresee) was a member and president of the Club. This history and legacy are important to Bridget. She enjoys being on the Daffodil Committee with her mother showing their daffodils and judging the shows and values the wonderful friends she has made in the Club. She also enjoys flower-arranging and loves starting with a bucket of flowers and anticipating what comes out in an arrangement. As the Club's photographer, she took most of the pictures for the lovely garden tour keepsake brochure and is known for her whimsical "Egg of the Day" photos.

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Education

Club members especially enjoy and appreciate the educational component the Club offers. Programs at meetings include speakers on conservation, horticulture, and other topics. They learn about what and where to plant and how to take care of the environment by recycling and repurposing. They have also learned about non-native and invasive plants and the boxwood blight. A recent speaker was the garden editor of Town & Country magazine. Another spoke about saving the Monarch butterfly and, after this meeting, members distributed milkweed pod (beneficial to the butterfly habitats) seed packets to the public to plant. Last month, the Club heard from a speaker about the intelligence of birds and were advised not to call someone a "bird brain" as an insult! This May's meeting topic will be about taking care of bees, so important to pollination. The Club goes on educational and fun field trips to flower shows, and recently toured a lavender farm and the vegetable gardens at Monticello.

Members learn the Latin names of the plants and are knowledgeable about the plants they buy. New members are mentored by the more experienced ones, and workshops such as the flower-arranging one Mary Lew Sponski (member since 2002) started are offered. Mary Jane Shackelford (member since 2009) said she "couldn't put a stem in a coke bottle" when she joined.

Lobbying Congress and the General Assembly

The Garden Clubs (DMGC, GCVA, GCA) do their part in advocating for their causes. They pick one or two issues a year and go to State Legislatures and Congress in Washington to meet with their representatives. The Clubs' efforts have had a positive impact on issues concerning the environment, including land and water conservation, clean water, clean air, and beautification. They have helped to save the Washington Arboretum and the Redwoods, and participated in the "Make America

As a member of the DMGC Conservation Committee, Carla Passarello (member since 2016) travels each year to Richmond in January for Legislative Day and to Washington in February for Advocacy Day. It takes months of preparation for these lobbying trips. Lately, garden clubs around the country have successfully worked on legislation to establish permanently the Land and Water Conservation Fund to offset environmental damage on federal lands by mineral and energy extractions, set aside one million acres in the west for permanent habitat and scenic presentation; establish four new National Parks; preserve scenic byways; and train botanists to

See Garden Club Page 12



65 More eccentric

diagram

69 Pony's gait

46 Restroom sign DOWN 47 Bone-boring tool

49 Replant timber

51 Befitting a king 53 Courtroom

ACROSS 1 Pageant title 5 Gothenburg native

crayons

20 Call for

21 It may be arranged

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39 Doomed one

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41 iPhone assistant

request 54 Out of control

57 Drink of the gods

61 Musical based on "La boheme'

62 Like some tumors

66 Bratty talk 67 Genealogy

68 Repulsive

1 Defensive spray

2 Computer symbol 3 Word with up or

down

4 It has 100 seats 5 Sign of an injury 6 Theme of the 1968 movie

26 Lifeless

32 Out of

27 Bekins worker 28 First choice

cameras

7 Final, e.g. 8 Tooth trouble

9 Salad follower

10 Flower used in

herbal teas

11 "Wait your turn!"

12 Guys-only party

13 Pulled apart

18 Coronet

22 Carry on 24 Big name in

29 Like some calendars 31 Societal norms 35 Pivoting bar 38 Ancient drug for

arief 40 Petroleum plant 43 Temper tantrum

45 Successful

dieter 48 UN member

50 Get a new actor for

52 Lavin or Blair

54 Worry 55 Derriere

56 New England fishes

58 Ski lift

59 Moreover 60 Staff symbol 63 Parrot or puppy

Crossword Answers page 15



One of the Dolley Madison Garden Club's beautiful arrangement of tulips. Photo courtesy of the Dolley Madison Garden Club.

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Garden Club from page 11



Members honored for 40 years or more with the Club in 2015. Front row: Helen Marie Taylor, Dottie Williams (deceased), and Page Sullenberger. Second row: Catherine Gillespie, Suzie Bresee, and Alice Smith. Back row: Vibeke Ober, Bernice Walker, and Betty Wright. Photo courtesy of Mary S. Queitzsch.

improve State and National Parks and federal lands.

Garden Club Projects

There are many opportunities for the members to use their unique talents by serving in one of the Club's committees – Daffodil, Rose, Lily, Horticulture, Flower-Arranging, Conservation, and Community Projects.

One of the projects in which Bernice Walker takes the most pride is the enhancement of the local public libraries' collections of books. During this three-year project, the members donated books on horticulture, conservation, and flower-arranging to local libraries. These books are identified by inserted book plates. The Club also provided funds for the procurement of other books on the subjects. She is also proud of the dogwood trees that the Club planted on the median on Route 15.

Taylor Park in Orange is another of the Club's prize projects. Funded by a gift

Taylor Park in Orange is another of the Club's prize projects. Funded by a gift from Mrs. Jacquelin Taylor (Helen Marie Taylor, member since 1965) the Club purchased the property in downtown Orange and built a park. Dottie Williams (member and president of DMGC from 1955-57, and president of the GCV from 1964-66) oversaw the project, which included planting bulbs, trees, and shrubs, and installing park benches. Subsequent fundraising and hard work have enabled the Club to maintain and add improvements to the Park. Stay tuned for what the DMGC has in store for the celebration in the Park on Sunday, May 5!

Another notable project was sprucing up the Hardee's fast food restaurant when it came to town. Once the members saw the building's orange tin roof, they planted orange blooming azaleas around it to match! They wanted to support the new restaurant and make the town more beautiful.

Community outreach programs include working on projects with the Boys and Girls Club and a gardening program with residents of Dogwood Village started by Suzanne Aiello (member since 2002).

James Madison's Montpelier has greatly benefited from the involvement of the DMGC and the GCV. The GCV restored the Annie duPont Garden, and the DMGC restored the Bassett House Oriental garden, provides flower arrangements for the Montpelier Hunt Races Paddock party and the Dolley Madison Legacy lunch. They also decorate the mansion for the Christmas season and place a wreath on James Madison's gravesite at Montpelier on his birthday, March 16.

Currently, the Club has two members who hold important positions in the Garden Club of America. DeLane Porter (member since 2006) serves as Awards Chair, and Gail Babnew (member since 2011) serves as Zone VII Garden History and Design. In addition, Annie Vanderwarker (member since 2011), current DMGC president, serves as a GCA Artistic Judge, and Mrs. Vanderwarker, Pat Filer (member since 2004), and Laurie Holladay (member since 2005) serve as Artistic Judges in the Garden Club of Virginia. No wall flowers these ladies!

Club Changes and Challenges

Some things have changed with the times for the Club. In the days when the ladies had cooks and maids, they hosted all meetings in their homes. Now some meetings are in members' homes, but others are held in community spaces around Orange. The Club originally met 24 times a year, and now meets ten times a year. And the qualifications of members has changed. Page Sullenberger noted that when she started in 1972, one of the questions to qualify as a member was, "Do you work in the garden or direct the work in your garden?" In 1927, the admission price of the garden tours was 30 cents for the garden and 50 cents for the garden and house.

Now the price is 30 dollars.

Once women went back to work, membership began to drop, and the Club is facing the challenge of attracting new members. Other similar civic organizations like the Rotary and the Lions Club are facing the same challenge. Some women today appear to be more interested in growing vegetables instead of flowers.

What about allowing men in the Club? The subject has been discussed but has gone no further. All I surveyed believe that it would change the dynamic of the Club. The DMGC is still a women's club and likely to remain so. And like the little "stalwart petunia," the Garden Ladies will continue to soldier on and enrich the lives of the community for many years to come.

In closing, I would like to include this short but sweet poem by Walter Hagen about the importance of flowers in a healthy and happy

Don't hurry. Don't worry. You're only here for a short visit. So don't forget to stop and smell the roses.



Dolley Madison Garden Club President Annie Vanderwarker, 2019. Photo by Barbara Wimble.

I would like to thank the ladies of the Dolley Madison Garden Club for their gracious hospitality in welcoming and talking with me for this article. The Club's namesake, Dolley Madison, would be very proud of all of their efforts for the past 100 years! I especially thank Mary Jane Shackelford for introducing me to the Club and Ada Harvey, Bernice Walker, Carla Passarello, Pamela Hudson, Bridget Bryant, and Communications Co-Chair Mary S. Queitzsch (member since 2014) for their help with this article.

Don't forget to stop and smell the roses... and thank Garden Club members for their very important and beautiful work!

Save the Dates for the Exciting **Upcoming Centennial Events!**

Historic Garden Week Dolley Madison Garden Club Centennial Tour, Saturday, April 27, 2019, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Advance tickets are \$30 per person available locally until noon on April 26 at The Arts Center of Orange; The Market at Grelen in Somerset; and at the Laurie Holladay Shop in Gordonsville. Tickets are \$35 per person available at each location on the day of the tour. The four historic homes featured on this year's tour are Gaston, Tivoli, Windholme, and The Residence at Woodberry Forest School. See vagardenweek.org and dmgcvirginia.org for more information.

Town of Orange, Sunday, May 5, 2019 at 2:00

• Summer Concert Series, Taylor Park, second Fridays in June, July, and August at 6:00 pm.

• Centennial Celebration in Taylor Park,

Bridget Bryant wins a blue ribbon for her daffodils at the 2018 Garden Club of Virginia Daffodil show. Photo courtesy of Mary S. Queitzsch.

• Community Zinnia Show, Orange Community Room, Saturday, September 14, 2019.

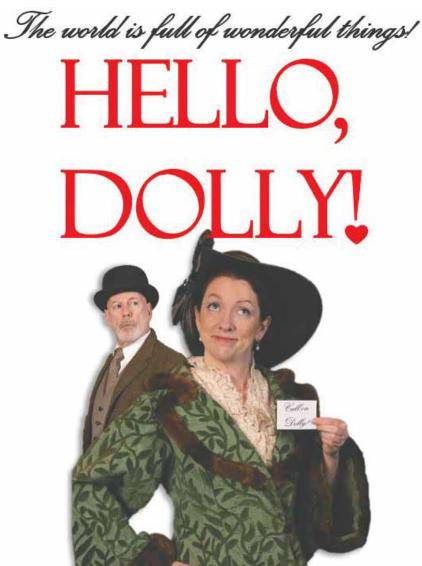


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Orange County Review

Randolph from page 7

"Scott Romance Rumors Abuzz in Orange...Mrs. Allen Dunnington Named in Stories"*

Miss Allen Gray married New York attorney Walter Dunnington in 1925. They divorced in 1936 about the time that Scott and Marion duPont married. The tabloids in 1938 reported that Mrs. Dunnington and Scott had dinner together at her home when he came East to arrange a separation from his wife. It was also reported that they were constant fox-hunting companions during his frequent trips to Virginia. Mrs. Dunnington noted that they were lifelong friends and mentioned that Scott often returned to Orange County to visit Wilson Somerville (Thomas's brother) to hunt and fish.



Randolph Scott and second wife Patricia Stillman. Photo from Bing images.

Whatever Happened to Randolph Scott?

In March 1944, Scott married Patricia Stillman. They adopted two children, Christopher and Sandra, and lived in Beverly Hills. Their 43-year marriage was regarded as one of Hollywood's happiest.

Scott was private about his life and shunned the Hollywood spotlight. In a rare interview in 1961, he said, "Frankly, I don't like publicity...Never let yourself be seen in public unless they pay for it."

Randolph Scott died on March 2, 1987, one of Hollywood's richest men. His wealth didn't solely come from his movies, which didn't pay what they do today. He invested wisely in oil wells, real estate, and securities.

The Rev. Billy Graham, a marks at Scott's funeral. A

longtime and close friend of the family, delivered remarks at Scott's funeral. A Charlotte newspaper reported that Mr. Graham said Scott "was the greatest man he had ever known...One of Hollywood's finest talents...Tremendous character...a patriotic American." Scott's son Christopher wrote in his book that his father was "one of the finest and most decent men I have ever had the pleasure of knowing." He is buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Charlotte.

Randolph Scott was the inspiration for the popular song, "Whatever Happened to Randolph Scott?," a top-20 country hit the Statler Brothers released in 1973. The lyrics to this song lament the bygone era of the cowboy movies, the days of clear right and wrong, and the strong silent type of the Western actor:

Whatever happened to Randolph Scott Ridin' the range alone?
Whatever happened to Gene and Tex And Roy and Rex, the Durango Kid?
Whatever happened to Randolph Scott, His horse, plain as can be?
Whatever happened to Randolph Scott Has happened to the best of me!

In answer to the Statler Brothers' question, Scott's son wrote that his father "is alive and well in the hearts of all whose lives he touched." A Hollywood legend, Scott lives on in his movies and in the memories of his family and fans.

Whatever Happened to Marion duPont Scott?

Marion duPont Scott never remarried and did not mention either of her former husbands in her memoir, Montpelier – the Recollections of Marion duPont Scott. She remained active buying and raising thoroughbred racehorses and traveling to races. She also bred and showed hunting dogs, including foxhounds, greyhounds, and border terriers. Marion was interested in horticulture and was an active member of the Garden Club of Virginia and the Dolley Madison Garden Club, and personally supervised the gardens at Montpelier. When she was not at Montpelier or traveling, Marion was busy with her estate near Camden, South Carolina, the site of the Springdale Steeplechase course, and her horse farm near Wilmington, Delaware. Marion was a benefactor of many charitable and educational organizations, including the Equine Medical Center at Morven Park, Leesburg, that is named for her.

Marion duPont Scott died on September 4, 1983, at the age of 89 (the same age Randolph Scott was when he died) and is buried in the Maplewood Cemetery in Gordonsville. She had no immediate survivors, but she left a wonderful legacy. Her wish that the Montpelier estate be returned to President James Madison's era has been carried out by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Her legacy also con-



Horsewoman Marion duPont and her racehorse Battleship. Photo courtesy of Montpelier, a Historic Site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

tinues with the annual Montpelier Hunt races that attract 20,000 visitors to Orange County the first Saturday in November. You can visit her recreated art deco trophy room (known as her "Red Room") in the Visitor Center at Montpelier, where you can imagine what it was like in those days to have a martini with Randolph Scott.

Whatever Happened to Thomas Somerville?

After his divorce from Marion, Thomas Somerville married Sarah Elizabeth Campbell of Wilmington, Delaware, and they resided in New Castle, Delaware. He died in on September 8, 1963, at the age of 67. His death certificate lists him as a retired farmer living in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania. He is buried with his second wife (and her two sons from her previous marriage) in Silverbrook Cemetery in Wilmington.

In the 1940s, Thomas Somerville sold the Mt. Athos property to the mother-inlaw of his brother, Hamilton. She in turn gave it to Hamilton and her daughter Henrietta Howard Donaghy as a wedding present, and their descendants still reside at the estate today.

*Denotes the actual heading from a newspaper account.

In piecing together this story, I found various books helpful, including Battleship: A Daring Heiress, A Teenage Jockey, and America's Horse, by Dorothy Ours. I also referred to Ancestry.com, newspaper articles, obituaries, Woodberry Forest School yearbooks and magazine articles, and internet stories. I tried to be as accurate as I could and filter out unsubstantiated accounts. I also thank several friends: Hilarie Hicks of James Madison's Montpelier; Bethany Sullivan of the James Madison Museum of Orange County Heritage; Jayne Blair of the Orange County Historical Society; Teresa Smith and Rachel Straham of Woodberry Forest School; and local historian Frank S. Walker for their help with my research for this article.



Randolph Scott in The Last of the Mohicans, 1936. Photo from Bing images.



Club members planting pots and cleaning up Taylor Park. Photo courtesy of the Dolley Madison Garden Club.



Bernice Walker celebrating 50 years of active service to the Dolley Madison Garden Club, with Janette Cadwallender, President of GCV 2014, and DeLane Porter. Photo courtesy of the Dolley Madison Garden Club.



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Answers to the Crossword Puzzle from page 11

S	Т	Е	Р			S	L	Τ	Т		М	Α	S	S
Т	U	Т	0	R		Р	Α	Т	Н		0	В	Ι	Т
U	N	С	L	Ε		Α	S	S	0	С	Ι	Α	Т	Е
В	E	Н	Е	М	0	Т	Н		R	U	s	S	П	Α
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Т	0	W	Α	R	D		В	R	U	Т	Е			
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Α	R	K		Ε	М	Р	Α	Т	Н	Υ		В	U	S
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			0	Р	Α	R	Т		F	L	Α	Т	L	Υ
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Е	Υ	Ε	L	Ε	Т		F	Ι	Е	L	D	D	Α	Υ
Α	R	М	Α	D	Т	L	L	0		0	В	Α	М	Α
L	Τ	0	N		М	Α	Α	М		G	Α	М	Ε	R
М	Е	N	D		Е	D	G	Ε			R	Ε	N	D

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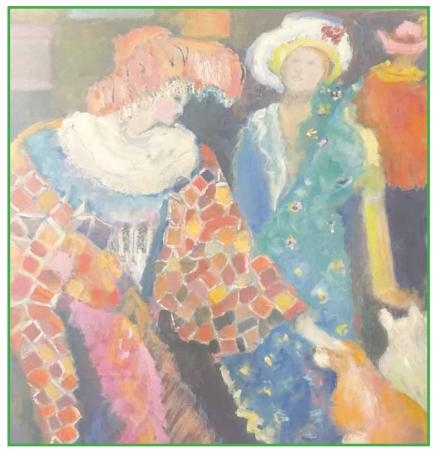
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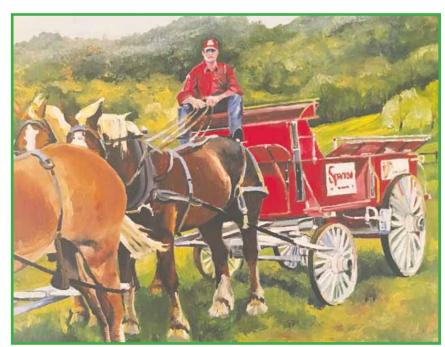
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