

Bridging History and Nature

The Forests, Farms, Families and Flags of Rockbridge County

Eric Wilson

Executive Director, Rockbridge Historical Society

Director for History, Virginia Association of Museums

RockbridgeHistory.org



Rockbridge
Historical
Society

Thanks to Partners in the Event and Interpretive Support

National Park Service

Shannon Moeck, Park Ranger, Interpretation, Cedar Creek & Belle Grove NHP

Virginia Natural History Museum

Dr. Joe Keiper, Executive Director;
Director for Science Museums, VA Association of Museums

Rockbridge Area Conservation Council

Barbara Walsh, Executive Director

Friends of Natural Bridge

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Thanks to Hosts and Continued Leadership

Natural Bridge State Park

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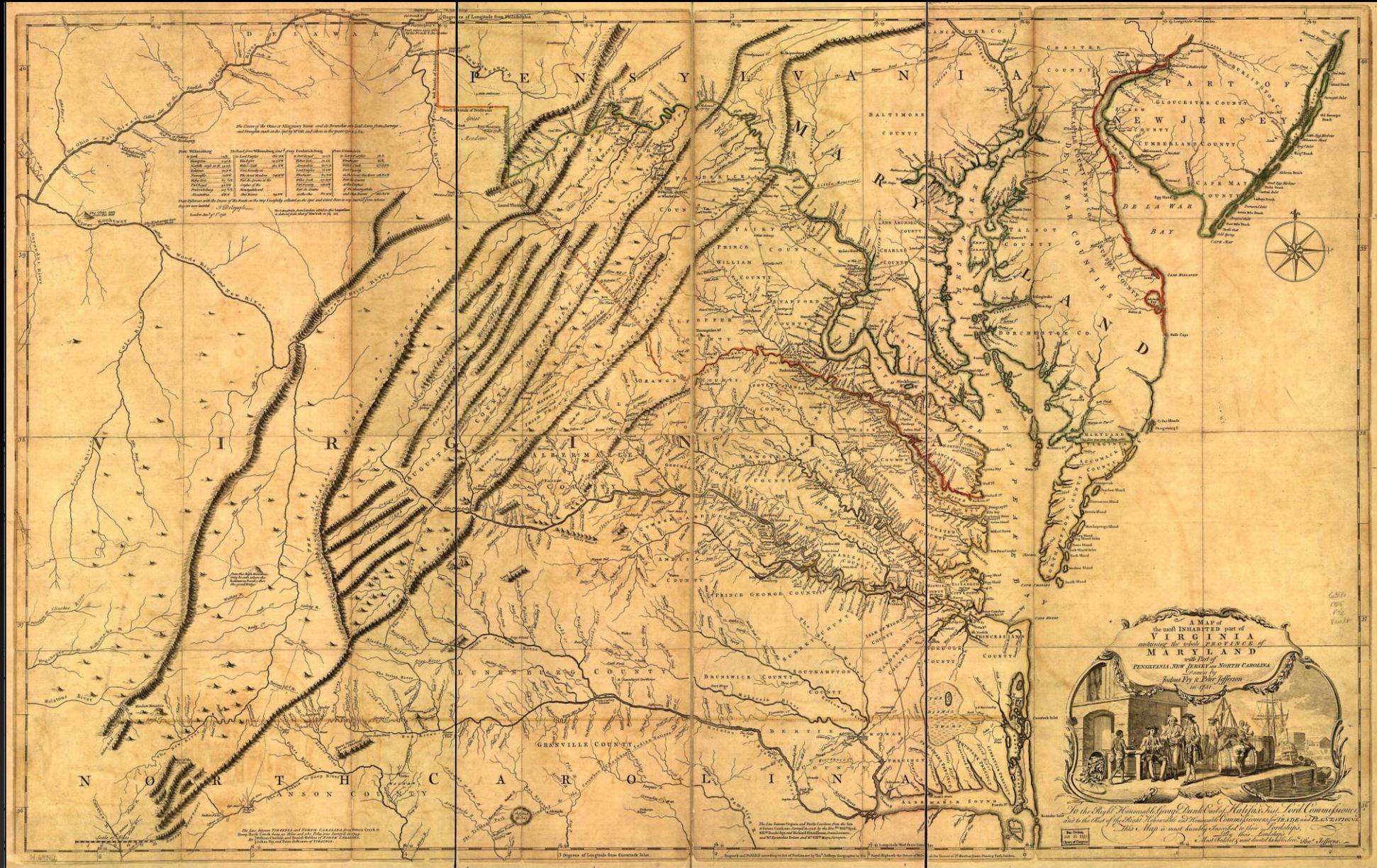
Mary Harvey-Halseth, Vice President, Educational Outrea



Natural Bridge and the Valley Road – Johnson, 1860



**What do you see here?
Nature? Social Histories? Tourism? Preservation?**



**Great Valley Road, Mountain Ridges
Jefferson-Fry Map (1751)**

Key Sources: RHS Proceedings Vol.IX:

Gen. John Knapp: “Rockbridge Trade and Transportation: First 100 Years”
Dr. Todd Lowry: “Virginia Forest and the Pioneer Tradition”

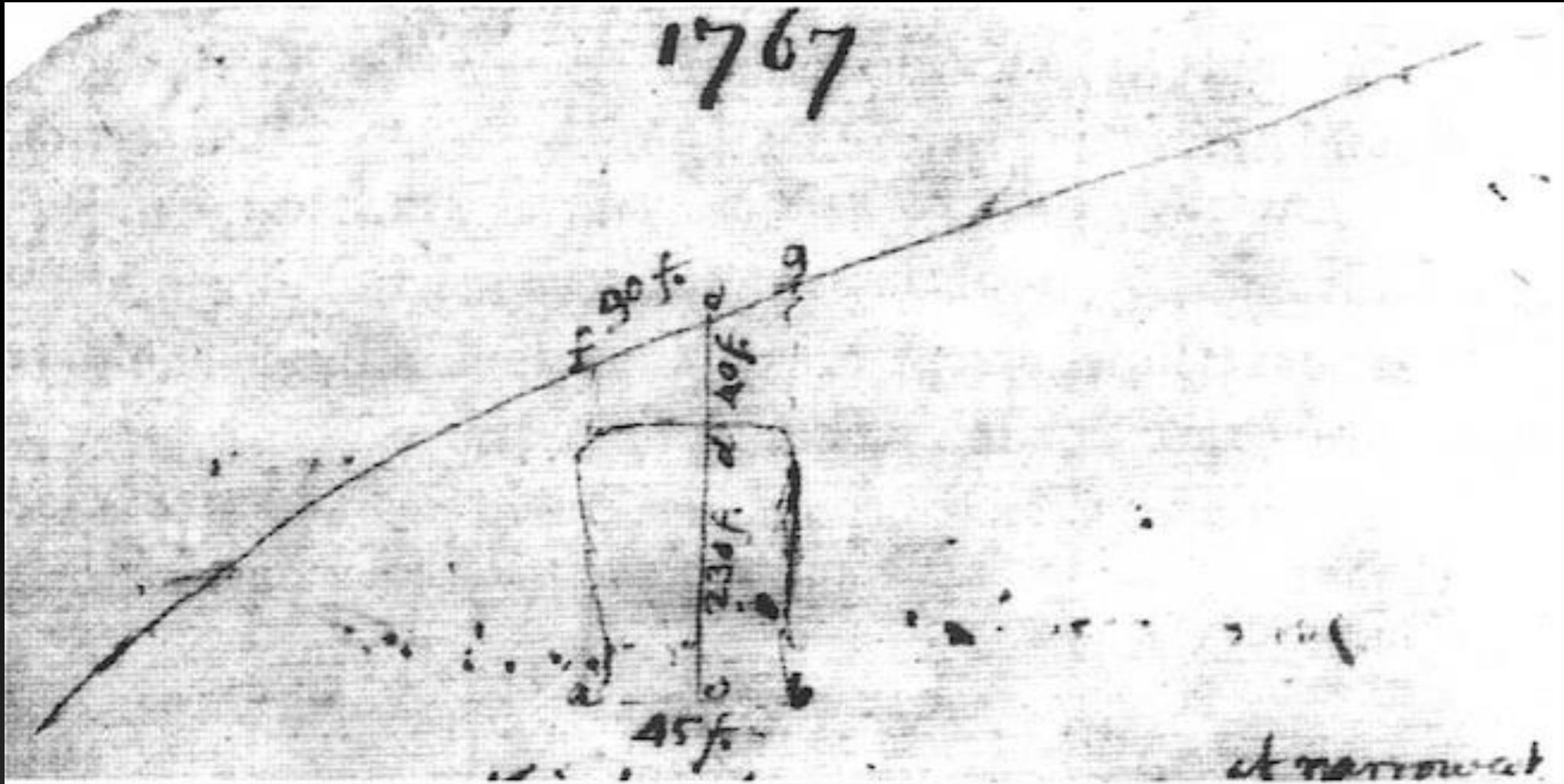
The Forest and the Pioneer Tradition

S. Todd Lowry



AN INTEGRAL PART OF Virginia tradition is the classic Virginia ham. The historic reliance of the early settler and plantation owner upon hogs—raised in the woods and fattened on acorns and chestnuts in the fall—seems, at first glance, to make the woodland hog-raising practice and cured ham and bacon ideal examples of the pioneer's adjustment to the pristine forest and its resources. Woodland hog raising can thus be viewed as an example of the European struggle to adjust to a new environment. This line of thought fits a standard scenario that emphasizes the naturalistic spontaneity of the pioneers. Severed from their European heritage and faced with a completely new ecological environment, the settlers evolved a new and distinctive culture from their individualistic energies and originality interacting with the rich untouched resources of the eastern seaboard.

S. Todd Lowry, professor of economics and administration at Washington and Lee University, has had a longtime interest in forest economics and forest history. This address was, in part, a result of his research for “The Nature of Pre-Industrial Forest Planning,” a paper he presented at the Spring Forestry Symposium at the Duke University School of Forestry in April, 1974, reprinted in *Forestry and Long-Range Planning* (Durham, N.C.: Duke University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, May 1977), pp. 18–30. Dr. Lowry spoke to the Rockbridge Historical Society in the garden behind the Campbell House in Lexington on August 28, 1978.



**Thomas Jefferson's First Survey of Natural Bridge:
Inside Back Cover, Memorandum Book, 1767**



**Thomas Jefferson: Landlord of the Rock Bridge
(Caleb Boyle, 1801)**

N O T E S

ON THE
STATE OF VIRGINIA.

WRITTEN BY

THOMAS JEFFERSON.

ILLUSTRATED WITH

A MAP, including the States of VIRGINIA, MARY-
LAND, DELAWARE and PENNSYLVANIA.

L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR JOHN STOCKDALE, OPPOSITE
BURLINGTON-HOUSE, PICCADILLY.

M.DCC.LXXXVII.

Checked
May 1912

Digitized by Google

[35]

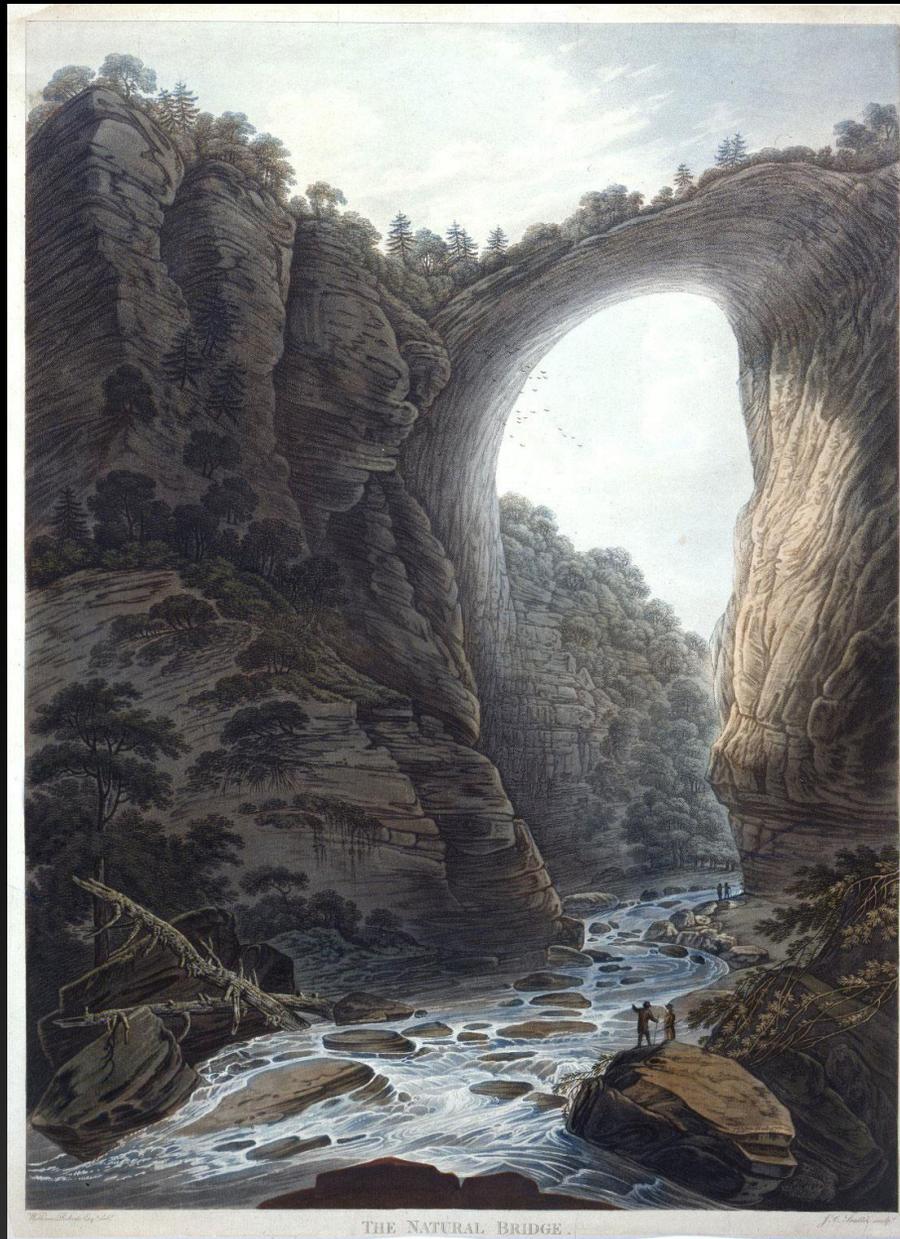
The *Natural bridge*, the most sublime of Nature's works, though not comprehended under the present head, must not be pretermitted. It is on the ascent of a hill, which seems to have been cloven through its length by some great convulsion. The fissure, just at the bridge, is, by some admeasurements, 270 feet deep, by others only 205. It is about 45 feet wide at the bottom, and 90 feet at the top; this of course determines the length of the bridge, and its height from the water. Its breadth in the middle, is about 60 feet, but more at the ends, and the thickness of the mass at the summit of the arch, about 40 feet. A part of this thickness is constituted by a coat of earth, which gives growth to many large trees. The residue, with the hill on both sides, is one solid rock of limestone. The arch approaches the Semi-elliptical form; but the larger axis of the ellipsis, which would be the cord of the arch, is many times longer than the transverse. Though the sides of this bridge are provided in some parts with a parapet of fixed rocks, yet few men have resolution to walk to them and look over into the abyfs. You involuntarily fall on your hands and feet, creep to the parapet and peep over it. Looking down from this height about a minute, gave me a violent head ach. If the view from the top be painful

D 2

ful

Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia* (1787)

“The most sublime of Nature’s works”



THE NATURAL BRIDGE.

**19th century Romanticism: Visual and Poetic Sublime
Awe as Excitement, Terror, Marvel**

My Dear Virginia

August 17 1817

We are return'd from the natural bridge more anxious to see it again than we were at first, because in the first place it far surpass'd our expectations, & in the second we saw it under many disadvantages, which will be removed when we go again, & grandpapa has promis'd that we shall; our trip was attended with disasters & accidents from the time we set off until we return'd again...

Cornelia Jefferson Randolph (Jefferson's Granddaughter)
to her sister at Poplar Forest, August 17, 1817

... **The mountain was the wildest most romantic looking place I ever saw**; the trees remarkably large & tall & no under-wood so that you could see for a great distance around you. I saw there oaks chesnuts & poplars, & spruce pine, which I never saw before it is a beautiful tree. **I wish we had it at Monticello.**

We found a raspberry which is better even than the garden raspberry having a fine flavour & the seeds being so small that you scarcely percieve them. The bushes were quite full of fruit tho it was so late in the season, they are a bright scarlet & the bush has no thorns, the people in the neighbourhood call'd it the mountain raspberrry. **Grandpapa remember'd that they had had them at Shadwell for many years under the name of the mountain strawberry,** but they had never born there...

Cornelia Jefferson Randolph (Jefferson's Granddaughter)
to her sister at Poplar Forest, August 17, 1817

The mountains here are of entirely a different shape from those in Albemarle they are not round & regular as ours are but some are these long ones & others are shap'd like sugar loaves, one that we saw the sides seem'd quite as perpendicular as those of a sugar loaf, I suppose it must be impossible to climb up it...

Cornelia Jefferson Randolph (Jefferson's Granddaughter)
to her sister at Poplar Forest, August 17, 1817

We went to the bridge tho' it was showery all day, about two or three hundred yards from the bridge Patrick Henry a mulatto man lives, on the land of the widow Ochiltree.

He keeps the key of the shot tower & generally goes with persons who go to see the bridge he went with us, we knew the instant we were on the bridge & I cant conceive how any one can go on it without knowing, for you see the sides of the precipice; on looking down it has very much the effect on your head that looking down a well has, we stood on the edge & look'd down with perfect safety, & afterwards look'd out of the shot tower window.

It is impossible to judge of the height from the top but when you go down & see how large objects are which you thought quite small you are astonish'd.

Cornelia Jefferson Randolph (Jefferson's Granddaughter)
to her sister at Poplar Forest, August 17, 1817



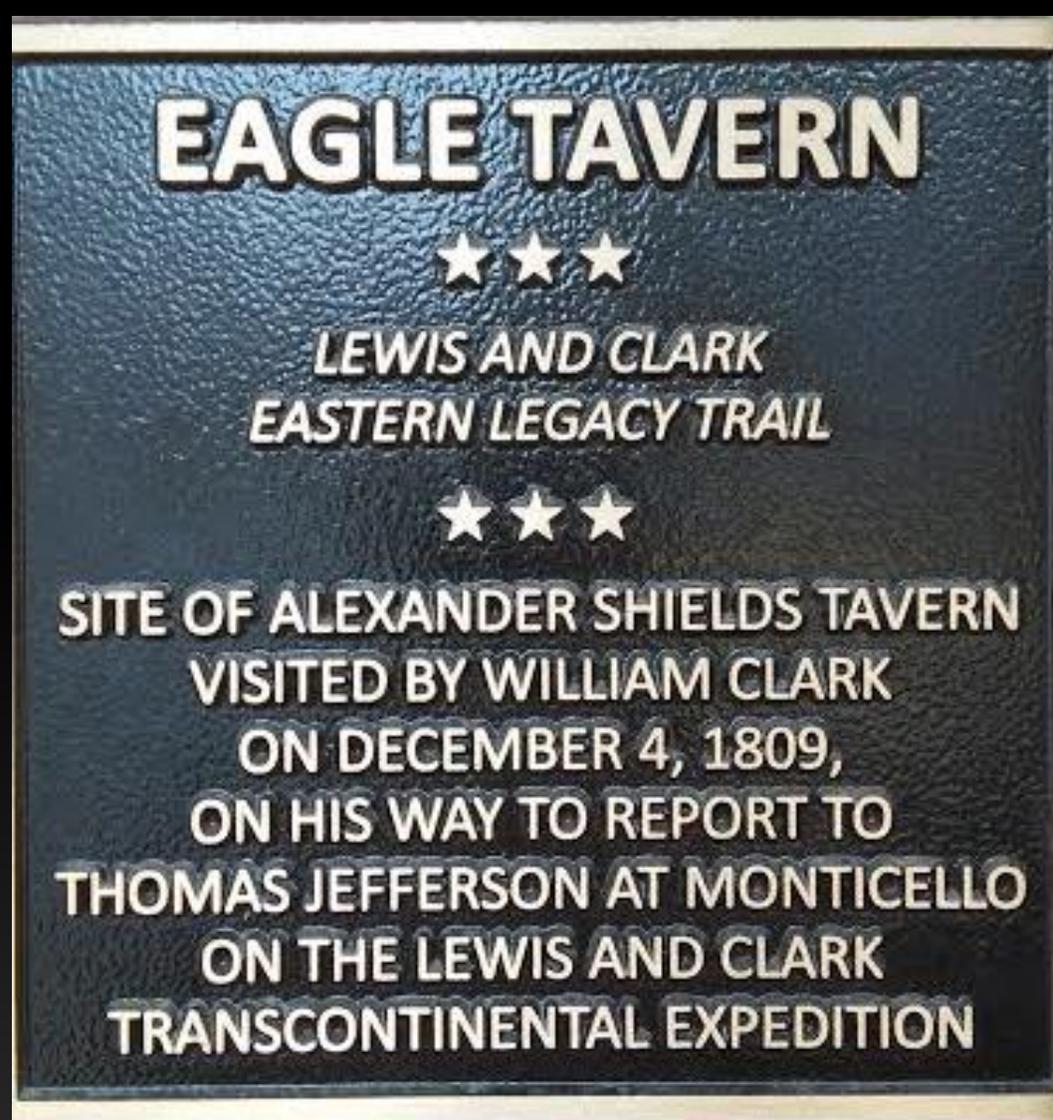
**Baltimore 'Fancy Chair' (1840s) – Painted with Natural Bridge
Margaret Junkin Preston (RHS Collections)**



2013 – Lewis and Clark Legacy Trail Project

The Corps of Discovery

- * What would they have seen?
- * What would they take out, and bring back?
- * Who do they interact with?
- * What does an emerging natural or national frontier look like, offer, resist?
- * How far does Virginia, Louisiana, United States, North America extend?
- * What's life like when you return?



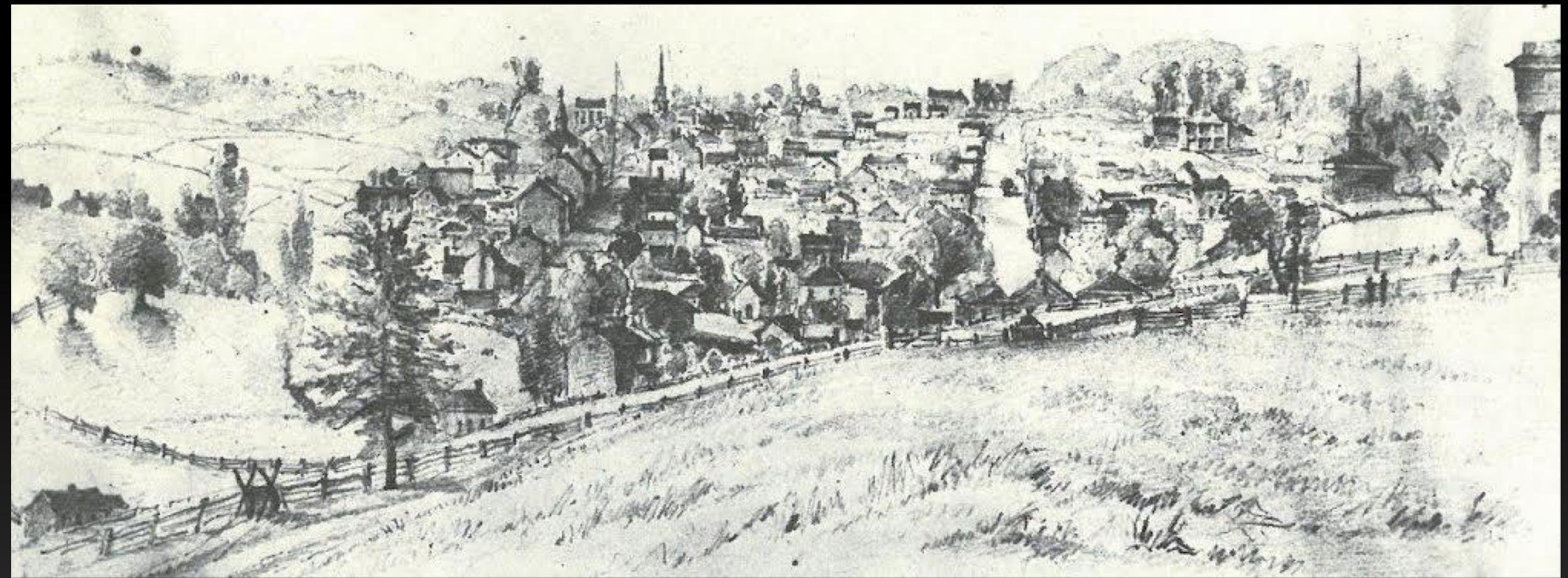
**William Clark stayed at Eagle Tavern (Rockbridge Building, 15. S. Main.)
Dec. 4, 1809, on way to meet Jefferson at Monticello
to debrief about Expedition Journals after Lewis' suicide**



1814: Great Natural Bridge to Monticello

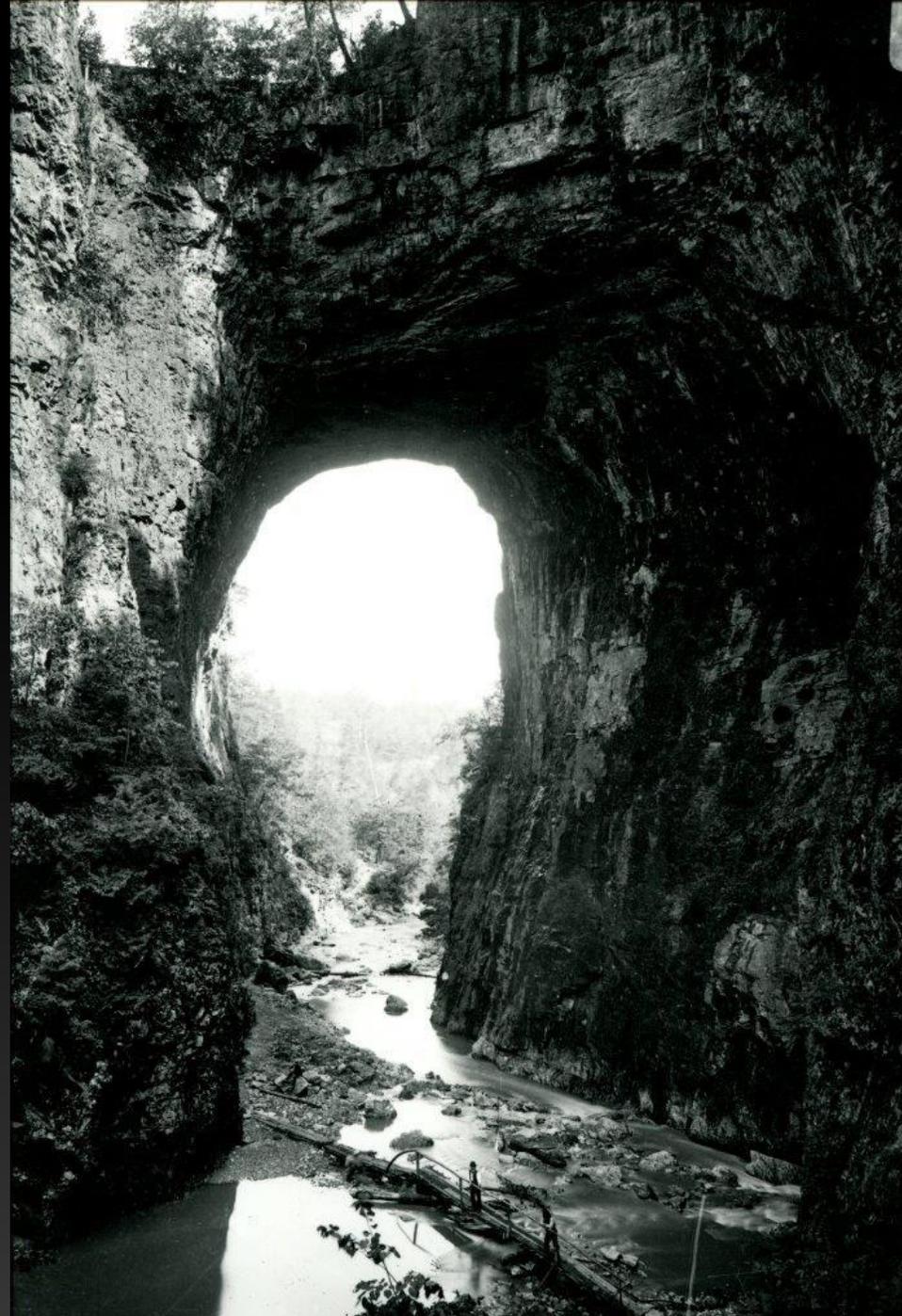


Natural Bridge and the Valley Road – Johnson, 1860



**Town and Country: Lexington's Main Street, Greenspace, Farms
1849, Seth Eastman (looking South to Lexington from VMI)**

Scale and Symmetry
Human Nature & Natural Sublime
Michael Miley, 1880s



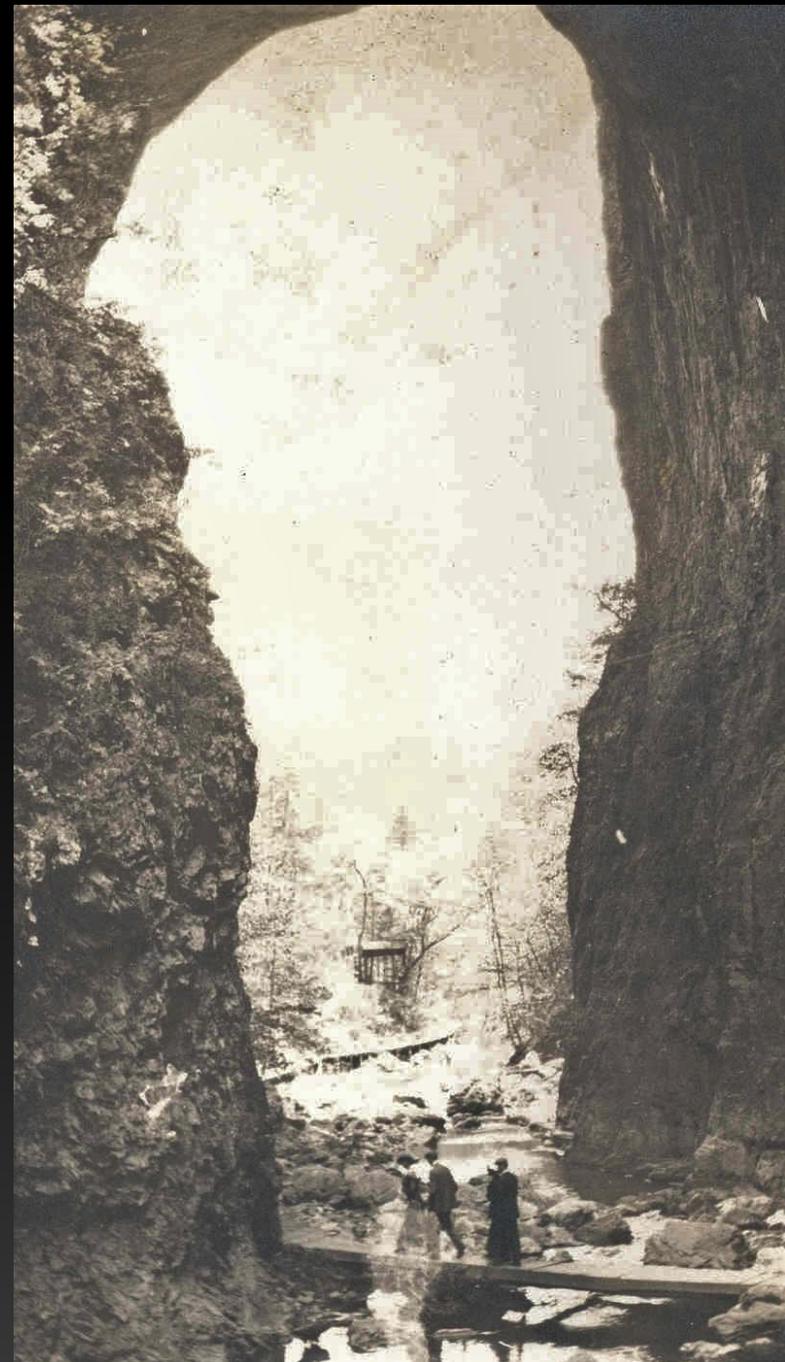


**Closeup of Miley's Miniatures: Cedar Creek, Wooden Walkway
Compare to colored print, Cornelia's letter**



Natural Bridge 1917, Male & Female Tourists (Gilliam Scrapbook W&L)

Vertical Framing
Halo Effect
Natural Bridge 1917

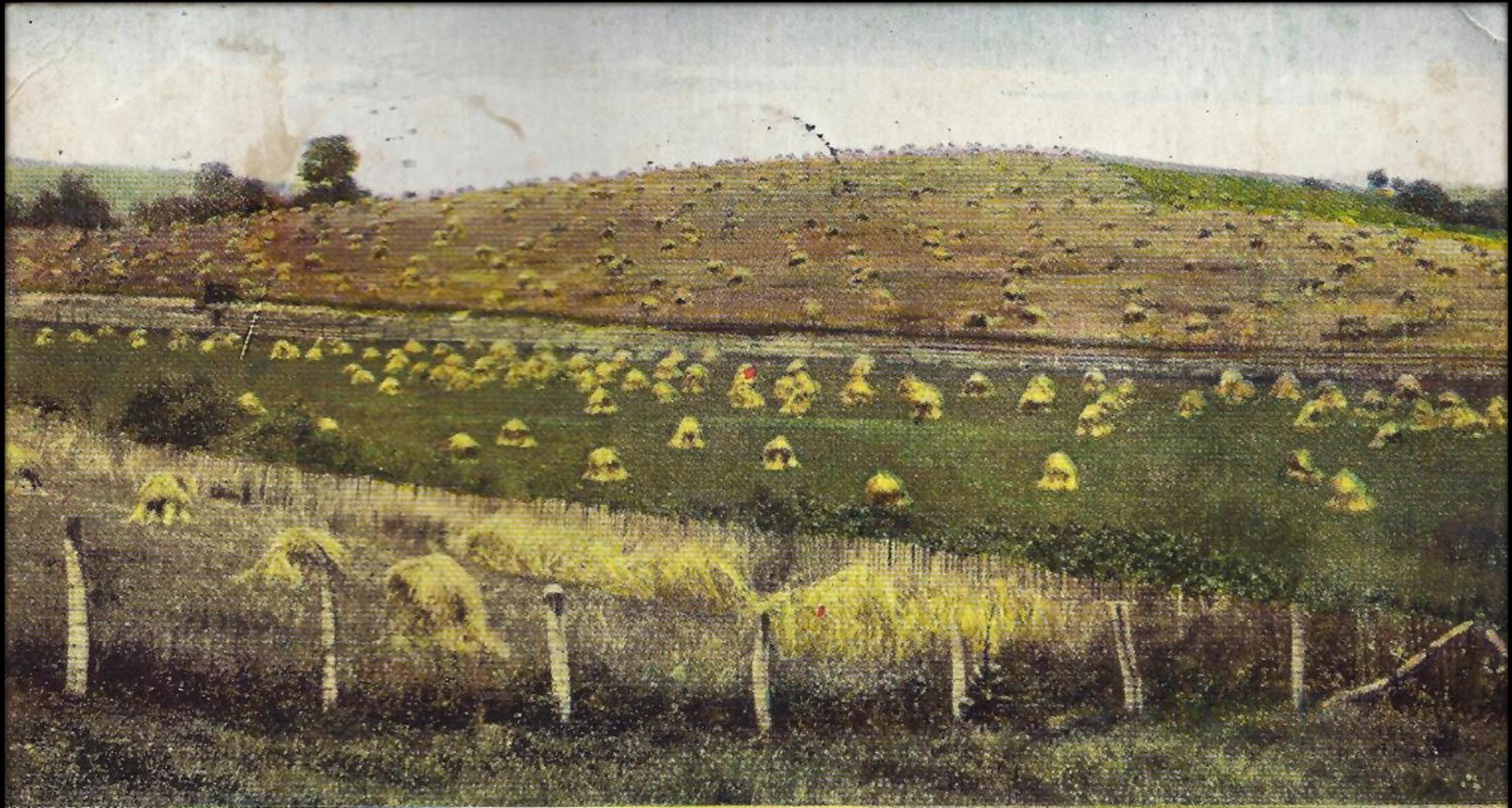




1898: 'Colored Baptism' at Cedar Creek
cf. published account by daughter of Col. Parsons (Pres. N.B. Forest Co.)

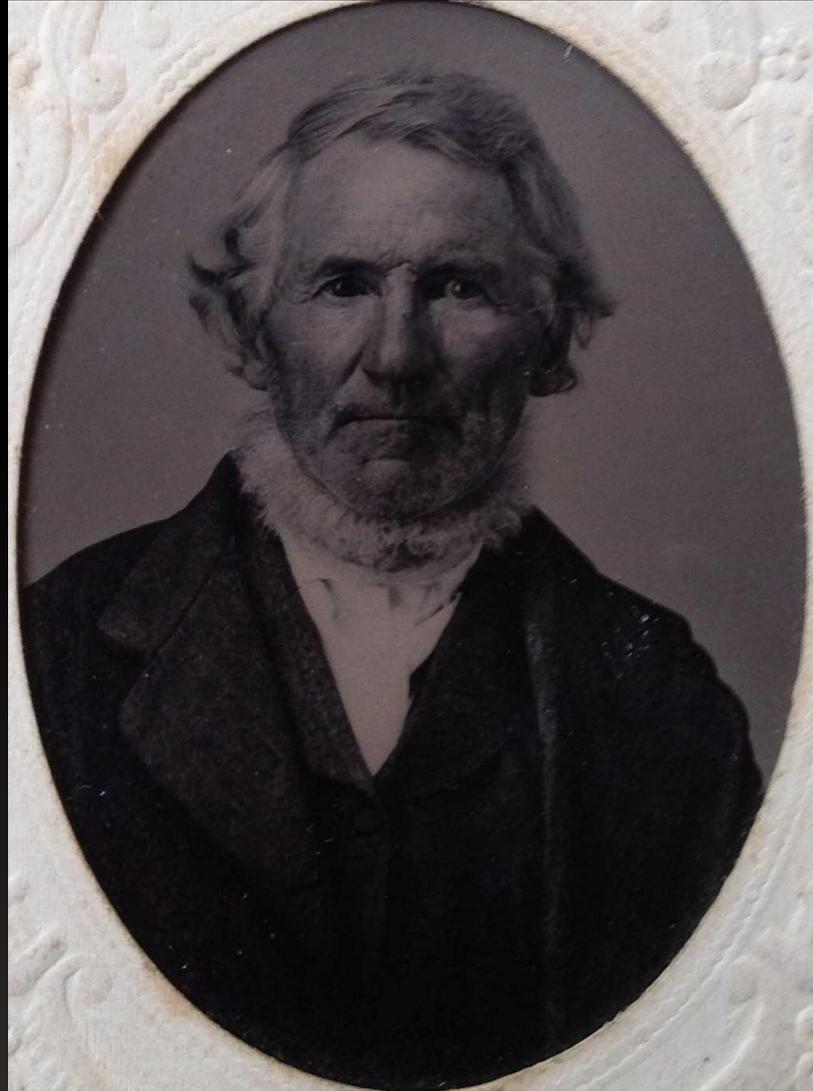


**Rockbridge's other Icons: House Mountains & Saddle
w/neighboring Farmland, dotted Families**



VIRGINIA WHEAT FIELD, ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY.—(123)

*I wish you'd please send me two late town papers. Hinton,
Va.*

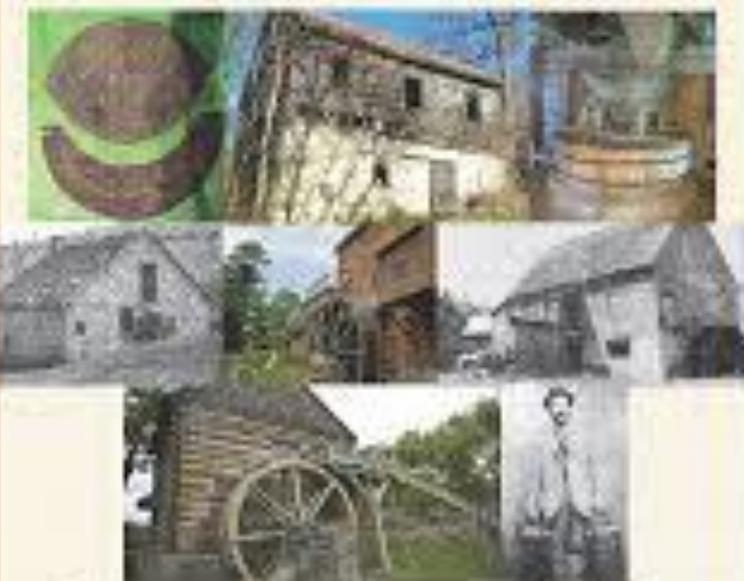


Matthias Rapp (RHS Program, April 8)



Rapp's Mill: est.1836 (photo 1897)

BROWNSBURG MUSEUM



GRAIN INTO GOLD

Milling & Distilling on the Dividing Waters

BROWNSBURG ON ROUTE 252
IN NORTHERN ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Open Saturdays 10-4
and Sundays 1-4

April through November

FREE ADMISSION



Country, Town, Transportation, Industry: Jordan's Point 1870 –
(painted by James H. Waddell, RHS Collections, Loan to Brownsburg Museum)





Michael Miley: Jordan's Point, House Mountain, East Lex Railyard

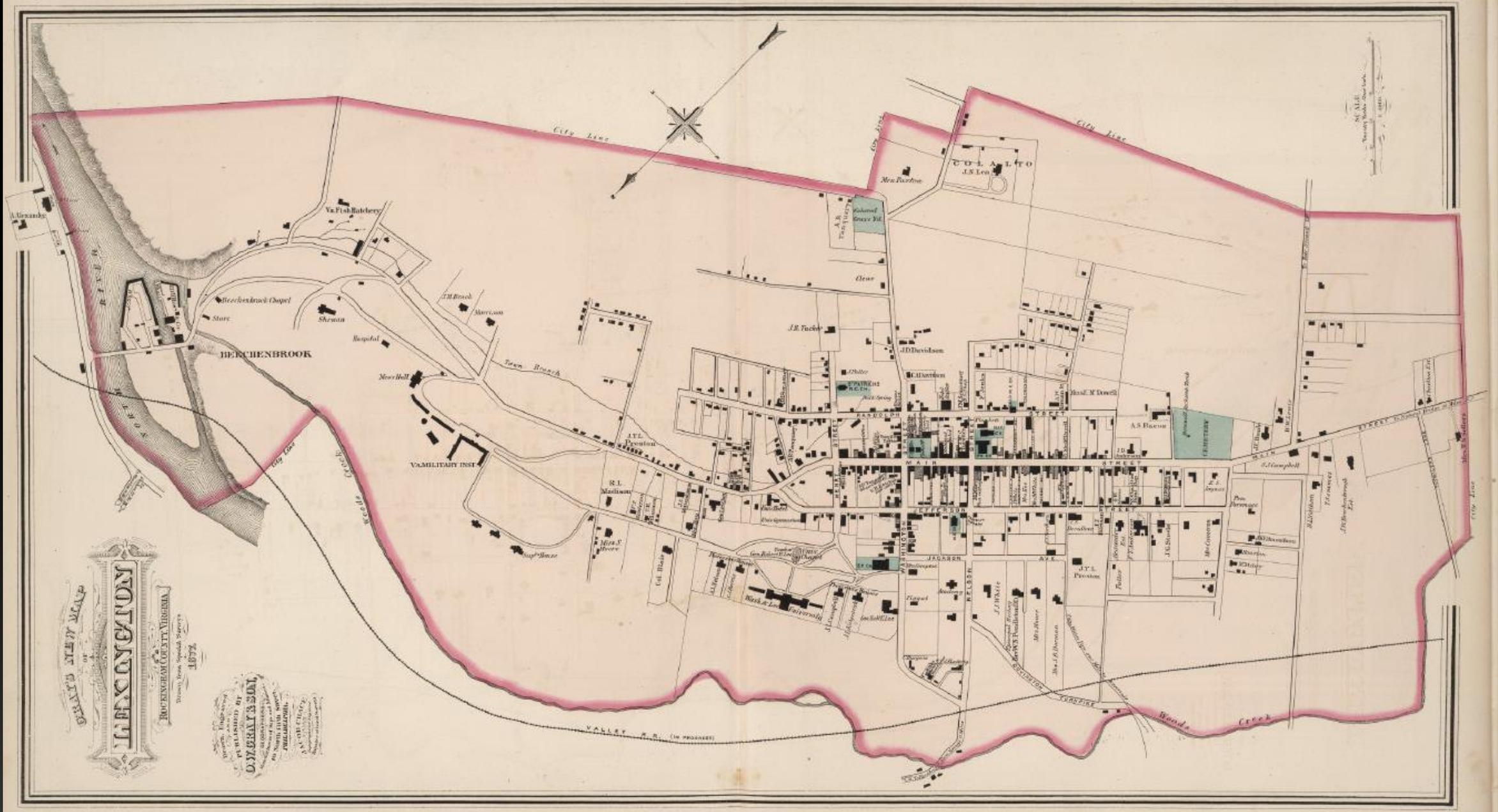


The Home of Michael Miley

**Lexington Home of Michael Miley (previous photo of JP, Maury, House Mtn, Railroad)
Keeper of Tropical Greenhouse; Annually pride in his 'first tomatoes in Lexington'**



1877 Jordan's Point: Natural Crossroads, Travel and Industry

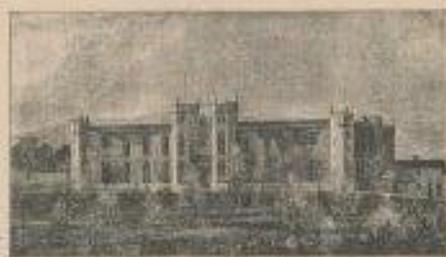


GRANT'S BEST MAP
OF
LEXINGTON
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA
From the Special Survey
1877

PREPARED BY
O. MERRITT'S SON
109 N. 3rd St. Phila. Pa.
PUBLISHED BY
A. S. WOOD & CO.
109 N. 3rd St. Phila. Pa.

Lexington (1877)

MAP OF
 The Property of the
 Lexington Development Company
LEXINGTON
 Rockbridge County
 Virginia
 August 27,
 1891.



LEXINGTON

AN
 Educational Centre.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| W. R. L. D. | V. R. I. |
| Language and Science. | Military Science. |
| Law. | Engineering. |
| Engineering. | Chemistry. |
| Anne Smith Academy for Young Ladies. | |



THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA AND THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

PHOTOGRAPH BY SHANKS & COMPANY

THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA AND THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH



1891 Development Plan, Lexington (closeup)
Intensely subdivided West and North



Walker & Wood Brothers: 1911

From Farm (Walker's hog & cattle farm near Walker St.) to Town (Main St. butcher shop)



**Walker & Wood Brothers Sanitary Meat Market
(aka Willson-Walker House, aka Macado's)**



Harry Lee Walker

Farmer, Entrepreneur, Mason, Deacon of First Baptist

Pillar of Black Business, Religious Fraternal Communities

One of Lexington's most prosperous businessman (with meat contracts to VMI, W&L)



Eliza Bannister Walker: Singer, Poet, Activist

Eliza B. Walker's Political & Spiritual Poems (1920s)

SPIRITUAL POEMS:

"I'M GOING TO FOLLOW JESUS"

ACTIVIST POEM: "YOU CAN'T LIVE ALWAYS"

FUNDRAISER FOR ORPHANAGE & OLD FOLKS HOME

I'm Going to Follow Jesus.

Composed by Mrs. H. L. Walker, Sanitary Meat Market,
Lexington, Va.

Please contribute at least 25 cents for the benefit of the
OLD FOLKS HOME, Lexington, Va.

I am going to fight a battle with satan, sin and strife,
Jesus is my Captain and how hard will be the life,
Yet he has given to me my orders and I must go or die,
Nothing can harm me for my Lord is nigh.

CHORUS—I am going to follow Jesus,
I am going to follow Jesus,
Though the task seems hard for me to share,
Yet I must obey his orders without a tear or sigh
Nothing can harm me for my Lord will be nigh.

I asked the Lord for something for idle hands to do,
Whilst the souls of men are dying when the Master calls for you
Yet the task He's given 'tis hard for me to try
Tho' nothing can harm me for my Lord will be nigh.

A thousand snares awaits me whilst through this world I go
But if Jesus be my leader I'll follow where he goes;
Although the roads be rugged and up the mountains high,
Yet nothing can harm me for my Lord is nigh.

I'll take the task He has given me and do what e'er I can,
And when the harvest is o'er my pay I will demand,
A humble seat at Jesus' feet with my Lord nearby,
Danger cannot harm me for my Lord will be nigh.

You Can't Live Always.

Composed by Mrs. H. L. Walker,
Sanitary Meat Market, Lexington, Va.

Please contribute at least 25 cents for the benefit
of the OLD FOLKS HOME, Lexington, Va.

Read the Genesis as a plan,
God made mountains then he made man;
It tell us as we read on down,
Moses our leader in the bull rush found.

CHORUS:

I know you can't live always,
No you can't live always,
You can't live always,
You don't want to die in the Egypt Land.

Pharoah was a wicked man,
He didn't obey my God's command;
There was a rod that ruled the flood,
And all the water turned to blood.

The midnight hour the angel came,
They would not reverence Jehovah's name,
All through the land went the greatest cry,
All the first born had to die.

Pursued Egyptians on the day,
To overtake them on their way,
But Moses' hand was on the rod,
Stand still and see the glory of God.

Then God told Moses what to do,
Lead the children, lead them through,
He led them down to the water's side,
He spake to the water, and the water divide.

Help Her Build It - Buy a Memorial Block - Now! -

REV. J. I. MARSHALL
WASH. D.C.

MRS. BESSIE BRIGGS
WASH. D.C.

"LUCKY" ROBERTS
NEW YORK CITY

BUY A
BLOCK

YOUR CLUB
SHOULD BUY ONE

YOUR CHURCH
SHOULD BUY ONE

LEXINGTON MEMORIAL OLD FOLKS HOME AND ORPHANAGE

MORRIS CAFETERIA
RICHMOND, VA

COLUMBIA LODGE
ELKS - WASH. D.C.

DR. I. THEO. PARKER
WASH. D.C.

DIXIE SCOTT
LEXINGTON, VA

REV. WILMANAKOO
WASH. D.C.

S.A. WAR VETERANS
WASH. D.C.

REV. G. B. HOWARD
PITTS. PA.

REV. E. CARTER
PITTS. PA.

REV. J. ASHBURN
COL. O.

DR. A. BROWN
RICH. VA

MRS. G. CHAPMAN
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HOWARD DENTAL
COLLEGE, WASH. D.C.

Wm. M. DAVIS
WASH. D.C.

WRIGHT'S COL.
ORCHESTRA LOHIO

PROF. J. S. HARRIS
K.C. MO.

REV. S. THURSTON
LEXINGTON, VA.

J. FINLEY WILSON
THE EAGLE WASH. D.C.

REV. W. R. BROWN
PITTS. PA.

DR. R. M. GURE
WASH. D.C.

DOCTOR
F. NAPPER
WASH. D.C.



NOT A SHADOW BUT A REALITY. THIS HOME WILL BE BUILT OF CEMENT BLOCKS AND A MEMORIAL BLOCK WILL BE PLACED IN ITS WALL FOR EACH CONTRIBUTOR. LET US MAKE A BLOCK FOR YOUR CHURCH, LODGE, SELF, ETC., ADDRESS LEXINGTON OLD FOLKS HOME at 1832-9th St., N.W.

Eliza Walker's 1920 Ad Campaign (DC): Buy a Memorial Block for Lexington Old Folks Home and Orphanage



**Eliza Bannister Walker, with Violet, Virginia, Annie
Orphanage Fundraising Postcard for WW1 Soldiers (1918)
Front Porch of Walker Family Farmhouse (near Sheetz/ Walker St.)**



**Rural Families, Country Schools
Collierstown Graded School 1907-8**



Orchard, House Mountains, House: Collierstown, early 20th cen.

Forests, Farms, Families and ...

Flags

- *Flags as Symbols of Place, Tradition, of Value
- *Flags mark personal, family, community identities
- *Flags – of place, politics, people – always shift over time
- *Flags are fundamentally raised in relation to other
Symbolic ‘Standards’

Flags of Rockbridge

How have they changed over Four Centuries?

What do they signal?

How and Why do they matter:
whether flown here, or beyond?

Key Distinction:

Civic/ Political/ Jurisdictional Flags

Military Flags/ Institutional Flags

“Lexington’s Flag Flap”

Documentary (30 min)

<https://tinyurl.com/LexingtonFlagFlap>

Note: this documentary was filmed in 2012

Pre-Charleston

Pre-Lee Chapel re-placements

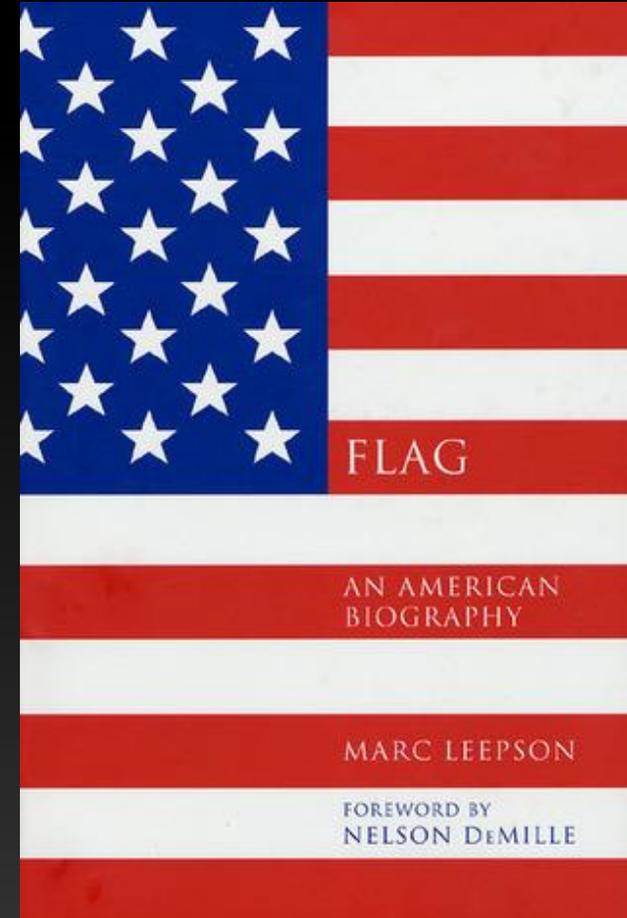
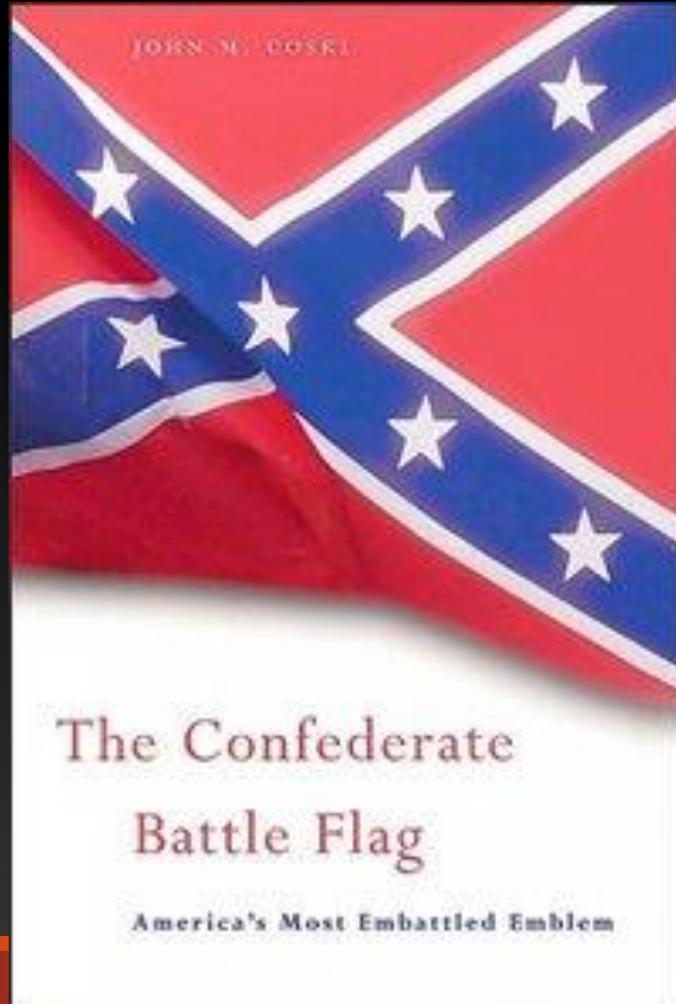
Pre-‘Billboard Hill’ & Interstate Flags

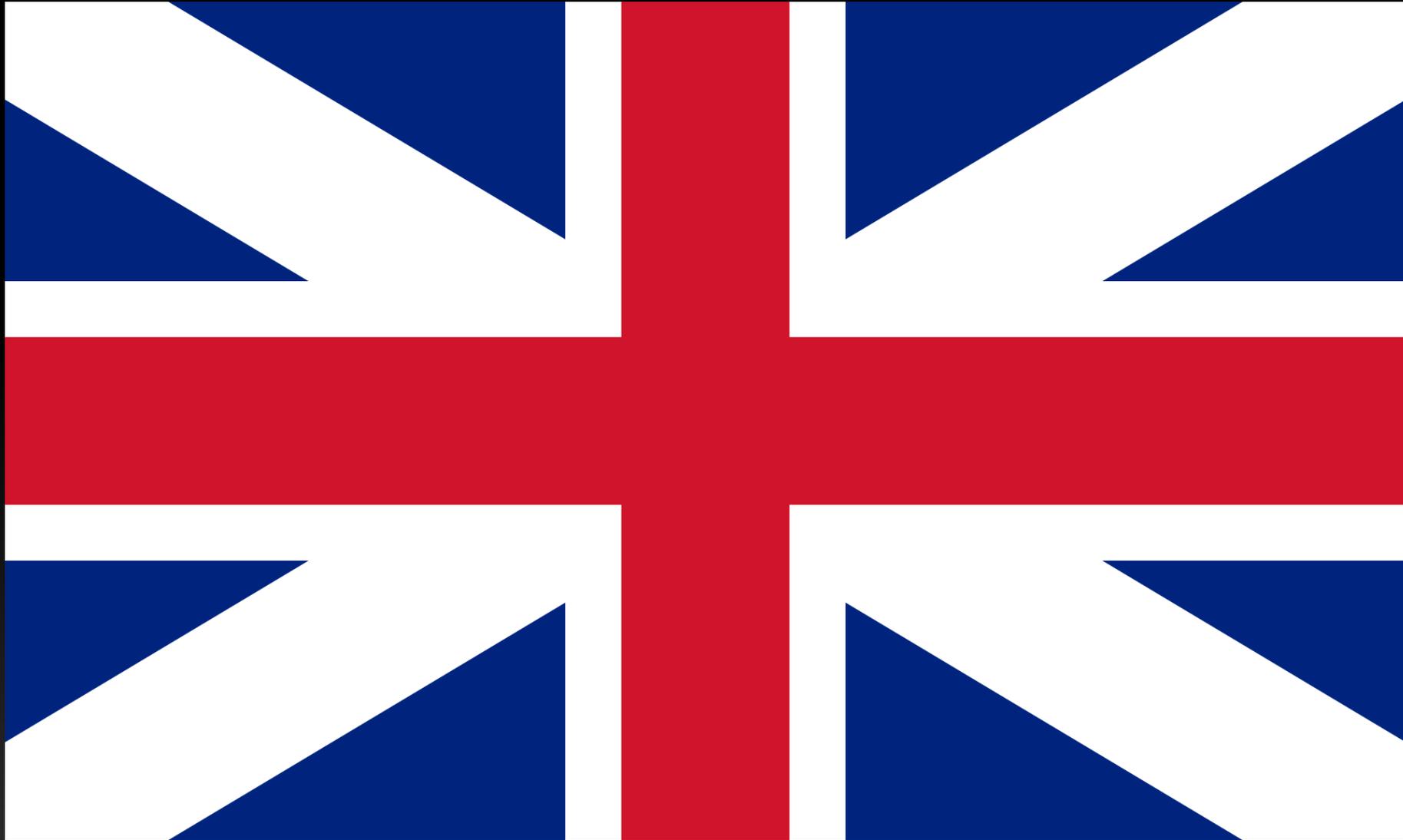
Pre-SCV v. MLK parades...

Contexts keep shifting.

Key References:

Lexington Civic Flag Ordinances (1993, 2011) & Federal Legal Appeals





1739 Borden Grant: Union Jack (1707-1776)



1776: General Washington's Grand Union Flag

1750: George Washington surveyed Natural Bridge

1796: President Washington gave 100 shares of James River Canal Stock to Liberty Hall Academy, soon re-named Washington College

1844: 'Old George,' carved from a log found floating in North (Maury) River is placed atop Central Colonnade, now Washington Hall, facing Lee Chapel





Rockbridge's 'First Flag' (County Founded 1778)

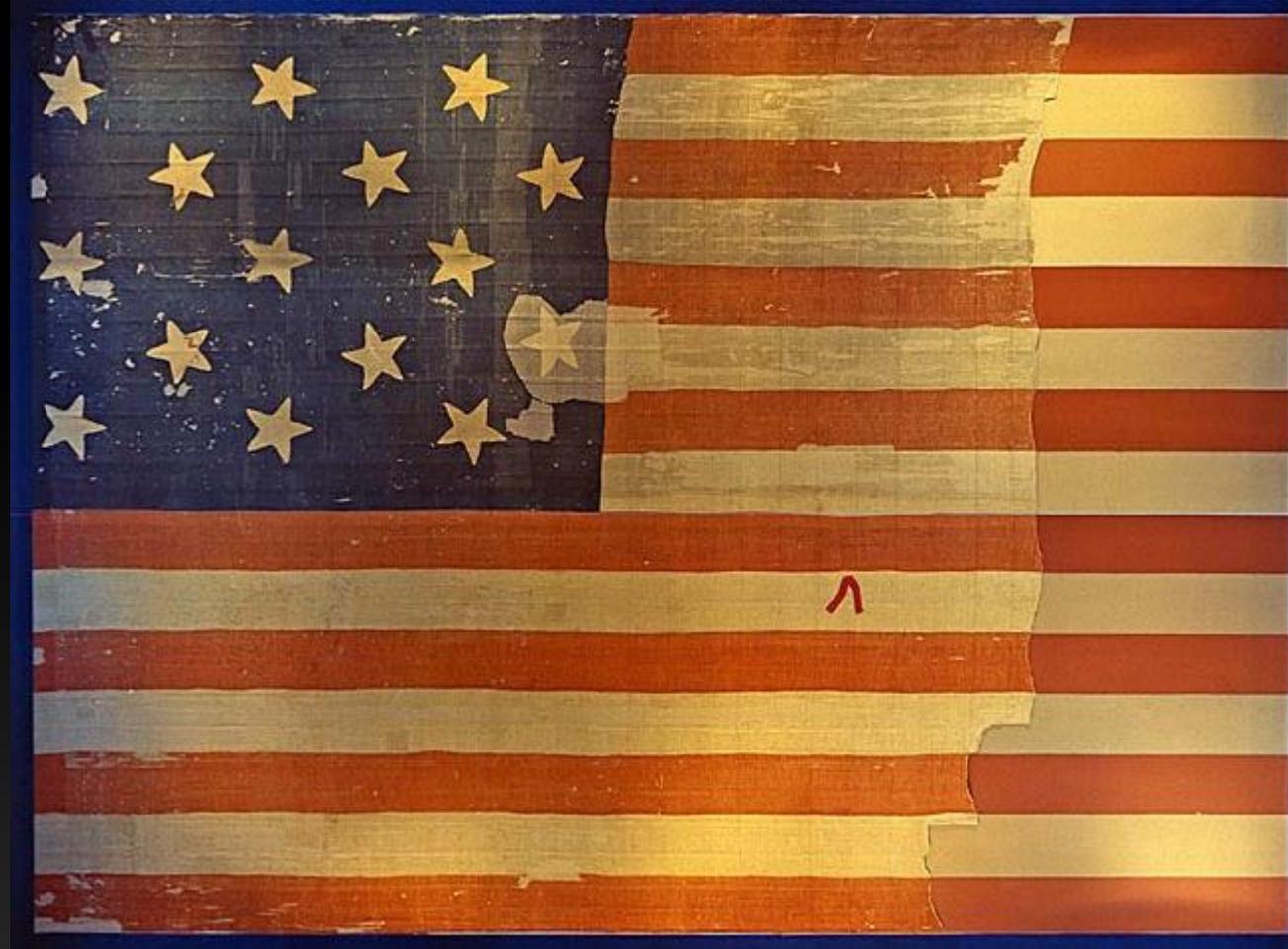
1777 Continental Congress:

Resolved: that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation



15 Star US Flag (1795-1818)

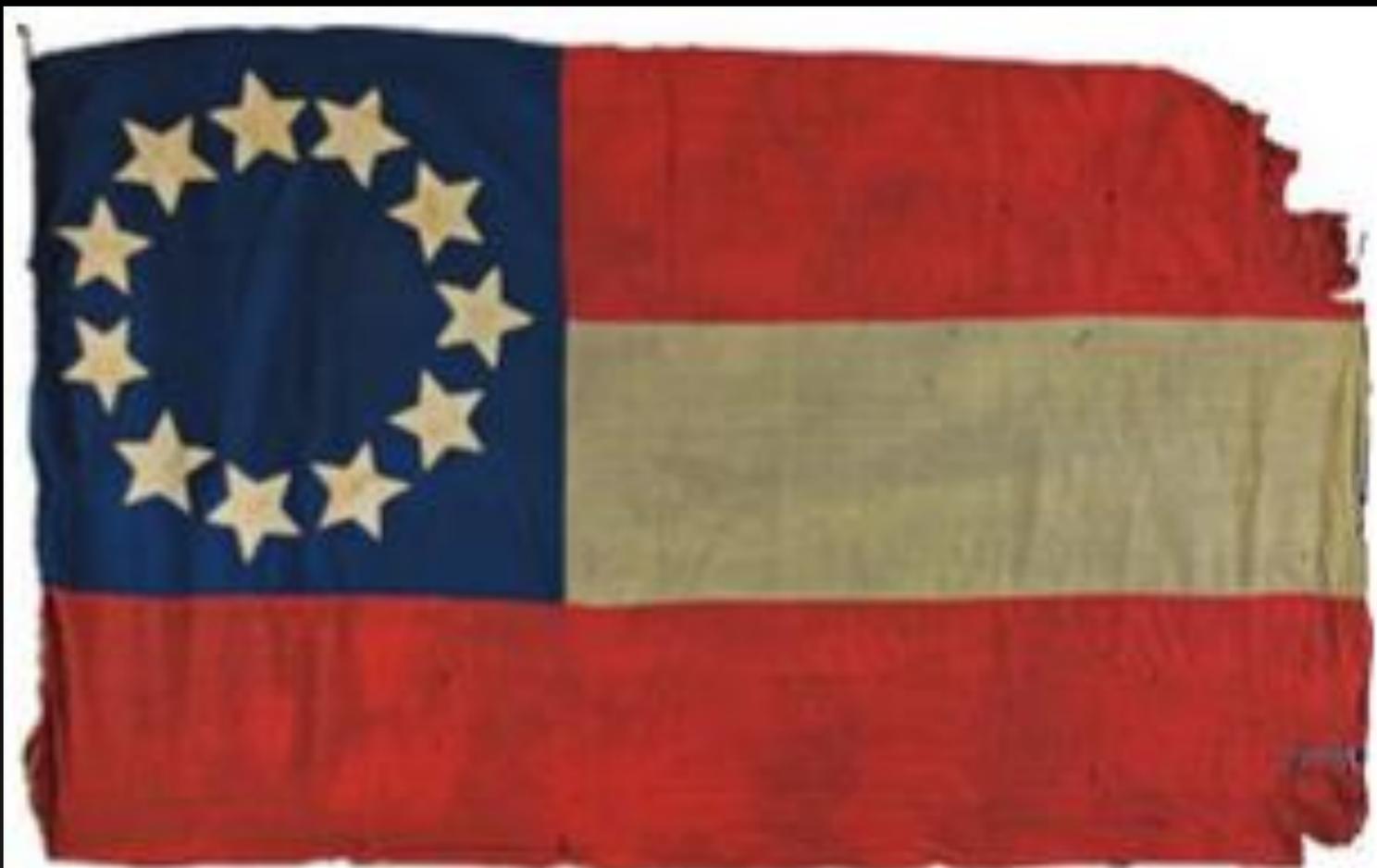
**17 states during Lewis and Clark Expedition (1803-1806)
20 states when finally changed (well after War of 1812)**



‘Star Spangled Banner’: 30x40’ Garrison Flag at Ft. McHenry
sewn in 1813 by Mary Pickersgill, with her daughter,
two nieces, two African-American servants



**27 Star – 1845 (eve of Mexican War)
(when RHS' Campbell House Built)**



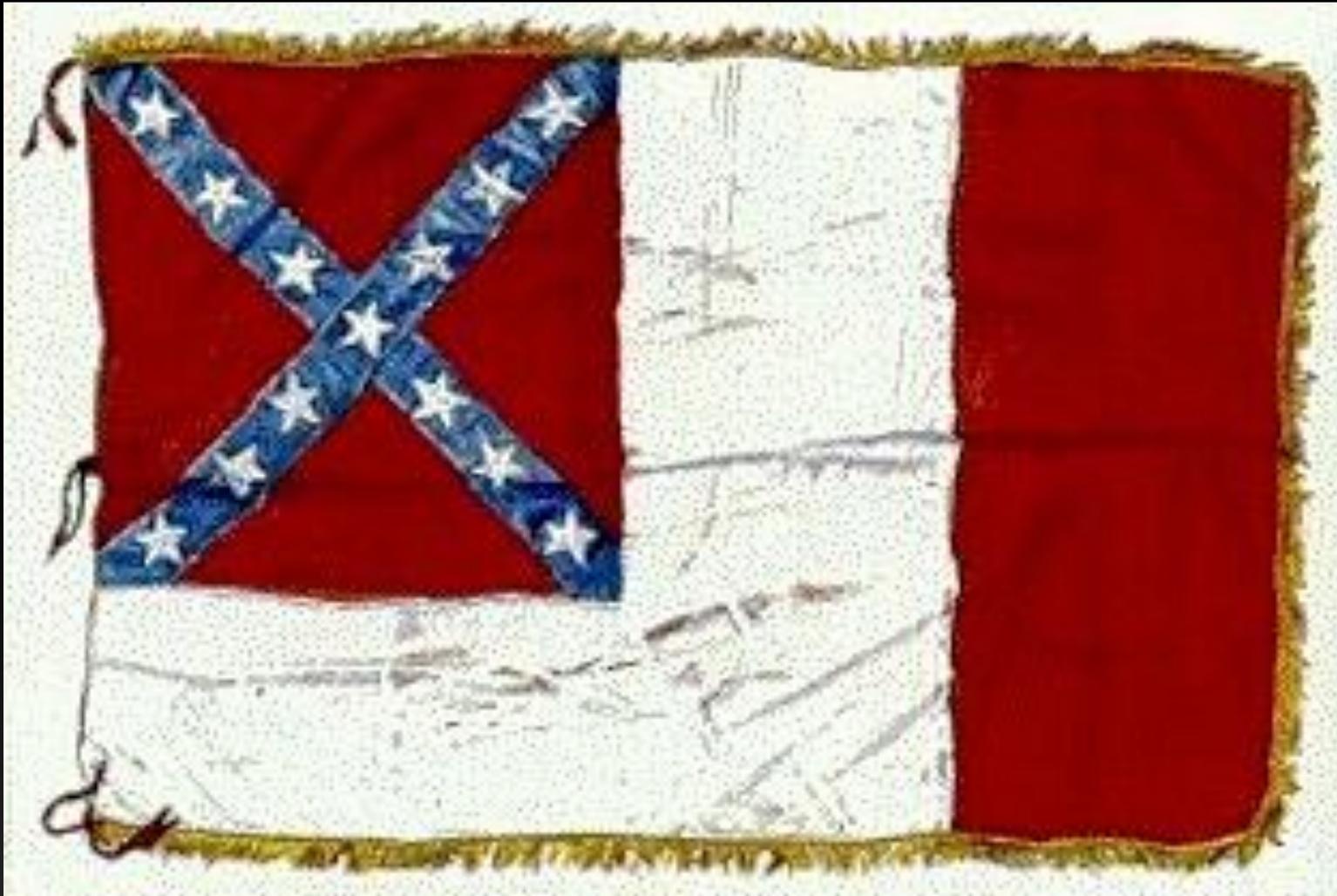
The first national flag, the Stars and Bars, was used in 1861, but fell out of favor because it resembled the U.S. flag.

‘Stars and Bars’: 1st National Flag of CSA
7 star pattern; March 4, 1861; 13 stars in Dec.1861
VA becomes 8th state to join CSA, seceding April 17, 1861



2nd National Flag of the CSA (May 1, 1863)

**13-Star 'Southern Cross' represents 11 states then in Confederacy,
plus KY and MO, despite their failed efforts to secede**



3rd National Flag of CSA

**(March 4, 1865, one month before Appomattox)
addition of red stripe diminishes white field, in battle**

Battle Flags, not Jurisdictional Flags

STONEWALL BRIGADE: 5TH VA INFANTRY



CONFEDERATE NAVAL JACK

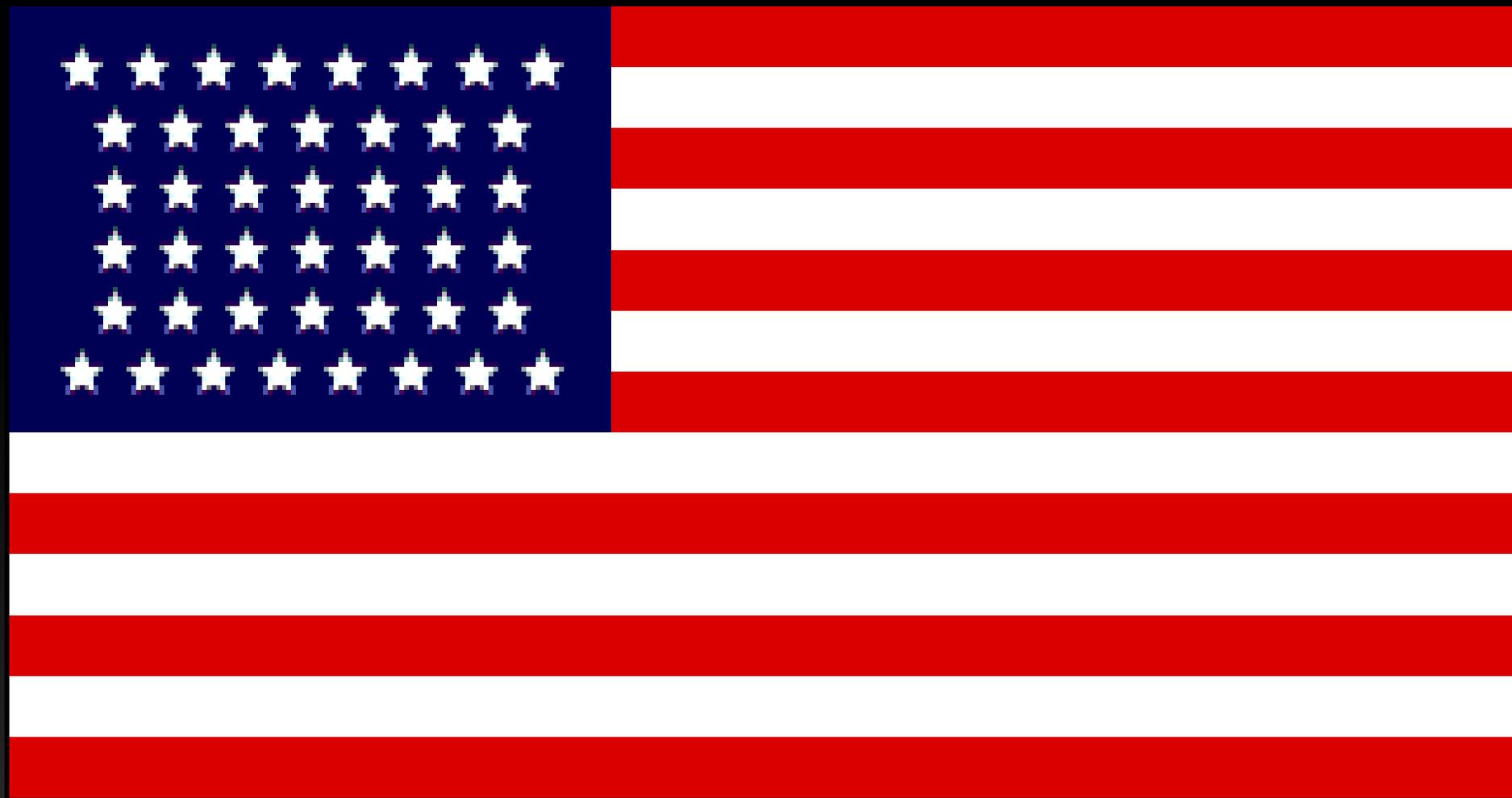




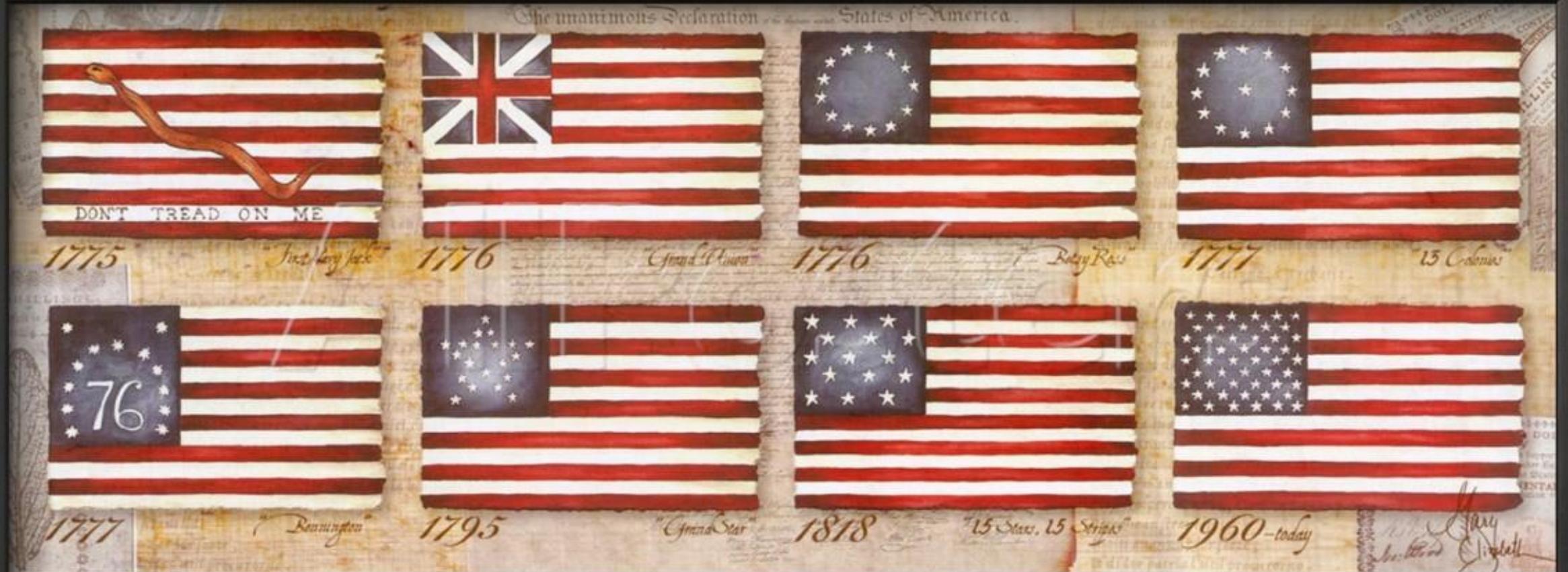
35 Star Flag (1863-5)

West Virginia becomes 35th state during Civil War 1863

'Hunter's Raid' / VMI Burned / Margaret Junkin Preston Journals: June 1864



44 Stars (1891)
(Buena Vista Founded 1892)



1912 Executive Order (Taft):

Officially standardizes flag pattern for governmental use, restricting local, customary use, variations.



Range of Symbols and Patterns: Shifts over Time, and Place



48 Stars 1912- 1959 (RHS Founded 1939)
(consistent pattern through WW1, WW2, Korea)



50 Stars 1959 - ????

Lexington formally incorporated as VA City (1966)

(above) US Flag raised at WTC, now in National 9-11 Memorial Museum, NYC



**Official Flag of the Commonwealth of Virginia:
Variations and Continuity
Who is the Tyrant?**



Virginia Flag:
Adopted April 30, 1861 (Secession Spring)
Still the official pattern today



Rockbridge Rifles Flag: Nov. 7, 1859
3 weeks after John Brown's Raid on Harper's Ferry
18 months before Virginia State Flag adopted



**Blue Ridge Division – U.S. 80th Infantry
WW1 ‘Doughboy Helmet’ with Blue Ridge Insignia– 1918**



Confederate Naval Jack: D-Day, June 6, 1944

**Flown on USS Herndon, Lead Destroyer, Normandy Invasion,
Admiral Granville Moore, USN, Lexington, VA**

DONATED IN MEMORY OF
ADMIRAL GRANVILLE ALEXANDER MOORE, USN
AND MRS. EMILY WOODWARD MOORE,
BOTH OF WHOM WERE BORN AND RAISED IN LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA.
THIS FLAG WAS HANDED DOWN TO ADMIRAL MOORE AS A YOUNG MAN BY
ONE OF HIS RELATIVES WHO CARRIED THIS FLAG DURING THE CIVIL WAR.
ADMIRAL MOORE CARRIED THIS FLAG THROUGHOUT HIS NAVAL
CAREER FROM 1923 THROUGH 1957. THIS FLAG WAS FLOWN DURING
THE INVASION OF NORMANDY ABOARD THE USS HERNDON DD638,
THE LEAD DESTROYER IN THE INVASION FORCE.

THE FLAG IS PROUDLY DONATED BY
ANGUS S. SCHMELZ, RADIOMAN 2/C USN,
WHO SERVED ABOARD THE USS HERNDON DD638.
THIS WAS A GIFT FROM ADMIRAL AND MRS. MOORE

Confederate Naval Jack: D-Day, June 6, 1944

Flown on USS Herndon, Lead Destroyer, Normandy Invasion,
Admiral Granville Moore, USN, Lexington, VA

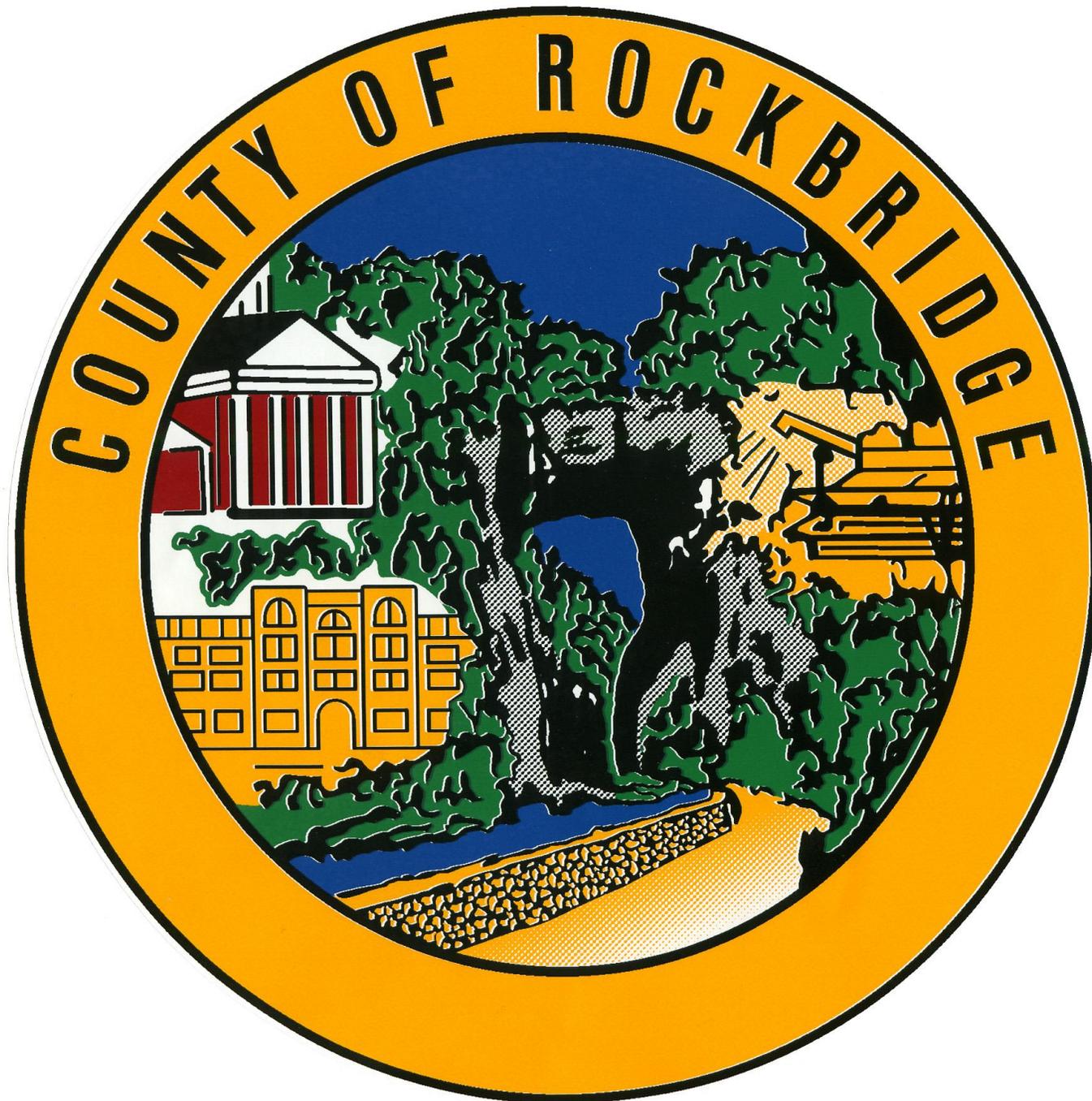


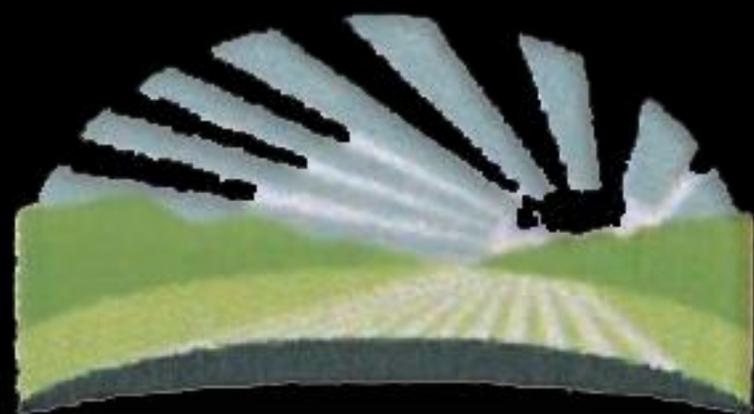
1960s 4th of July Parade: See 13-Star 'Constellation' Pattern on Patriotic Bunting (consider, too, Lexington's MA namesake)



**Political Histories and Natural Histories
Sen. Warner and Gov. Dalton: 1980 W&L Mock Con**







Buena

Vista

VIRGINIA



**Proposed Lexington Flag, 1976 (RHS Collections)
offered to Lexington Bicentennial by Dennis Dixon**



RHS Logo: Designed 2017



**To return ... What do you see here?
Nature? Social Histories? Tourism? Preservation?**



**How do we represent nature?
How do our forms to do so change over time?**



NB National Historic Landmark -- 1998

Natural Bridge State Park

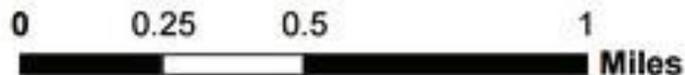
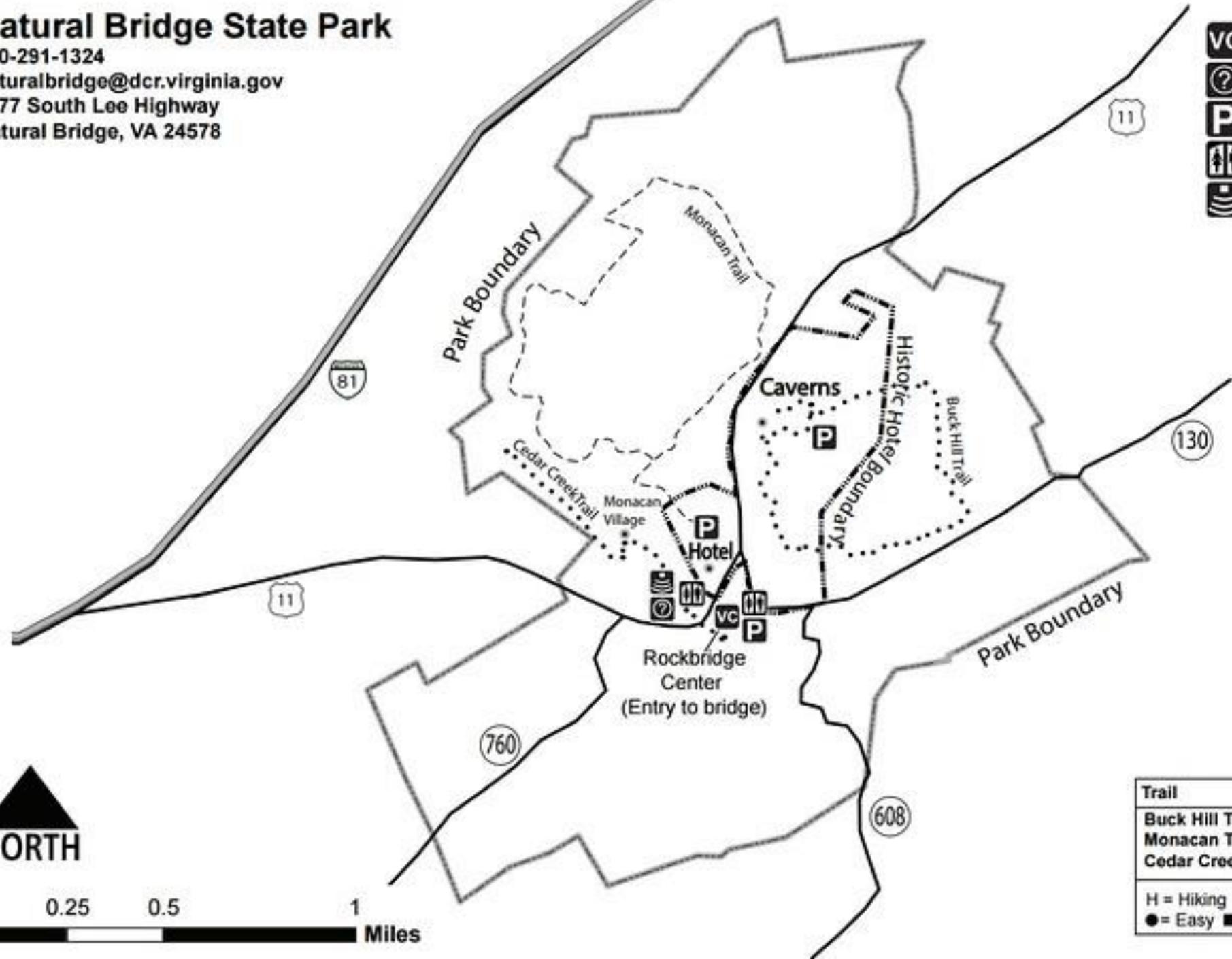
540-291-1324

naturalbridge@dcr.virginia.gov

6477 South Lee Highway

Natural Bridge, VA 24578

-  Visitor Center
-  Gatehouse / Snackbar
-  Parking
-  Restrooms
-  Amphitheater



Trail	Mileage	Usage	Difficulty
Buck Hill Trail	1.80	H	■
Monacan Trail	3.30	H+B	■
Cedar Creek Trail	0.80	H	●

H = Hiking H+B = Hiking and Biking
 ● = Easy ■ = Moderate ◆ = Difficult



NBSP: Monacan Indian Living History Exhibit



**RHS 'Lewis & Clark Discovery Trunk'
One of 12 granted by Lewis & Clark National Trust (2013)**



Rockbridge Students meet Lewis and Clark ...
... through Nature *and* History



**RHS Science and History Curriculum Unit on Hurricane Camille
Buena Vista (8-20-1969)**

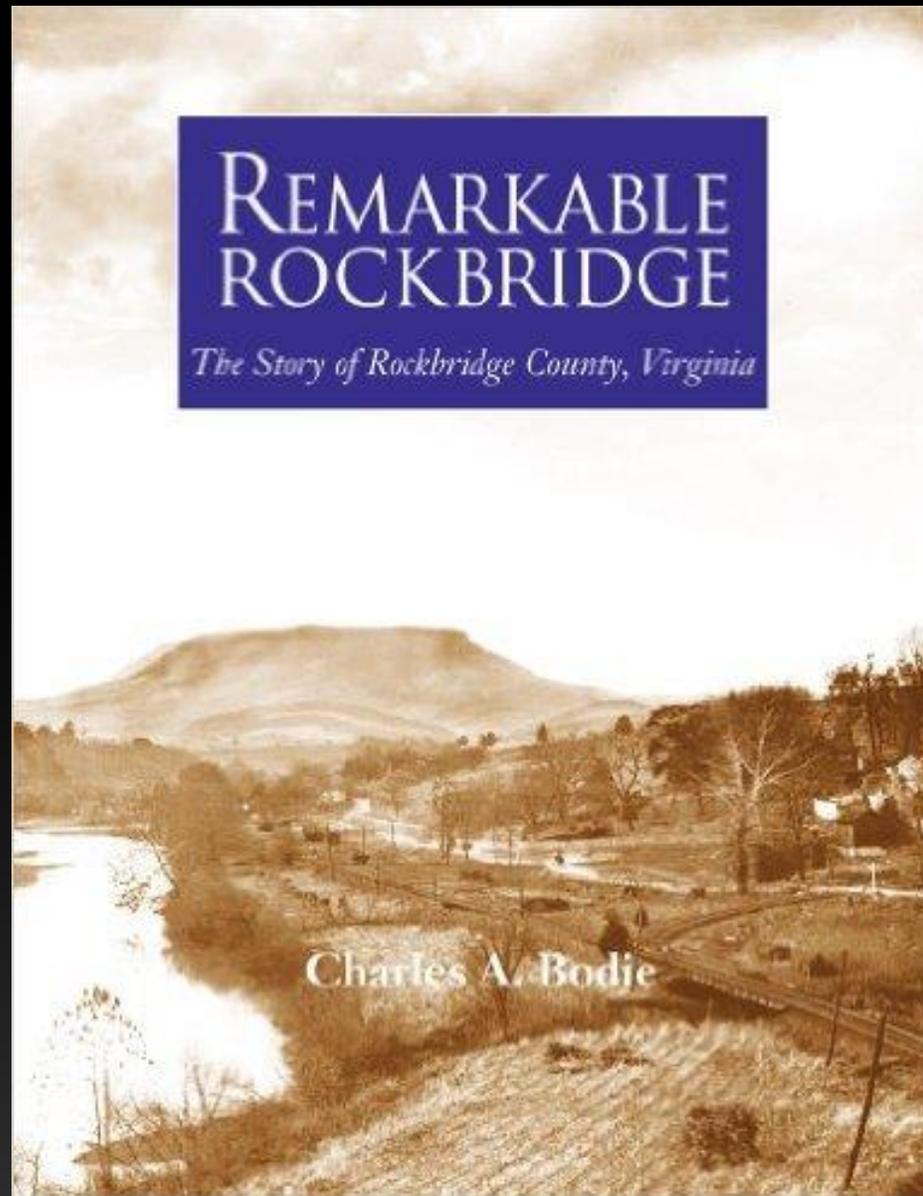
WASHINGTON AND LEE ALUMNUS



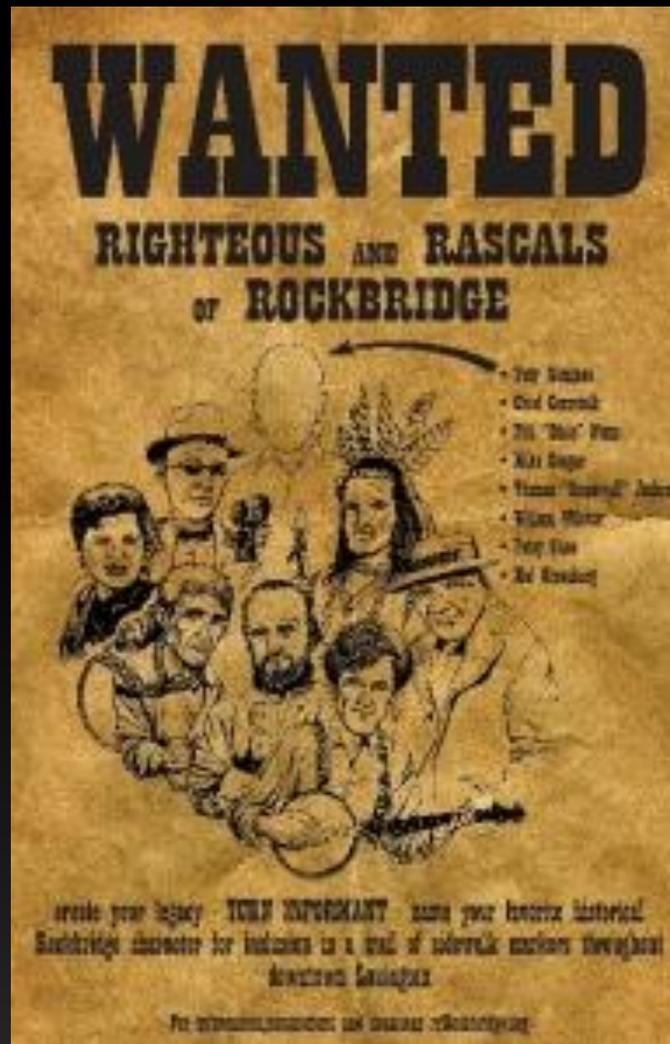
THE FLOODS OF AUGUST

**Mother Nature wrecks the Maury
RR Tracks post-Camille (1969)**





**RHS' Legacy and Rockbridge Themes:
History, Community, Nature, Art, Industry, Education**



RHS' New Stories: Walk in the Footprints of History
THE RIGHTEOUS AND RASCALS OF ROCKBRIDGE

rrRockbridge.org

HARRY LEE WALKER
AF-AM MERCHANT
LEX. MEAT MARKET 20 C
ACTIVIST WIFE, ELIZA
OWNED BLANDOME, LEX.

MARGARET J. PRESTON
POETESS OF THE SOUTH
WROTE "BEECHENBROOK"
FATHER W & L PRESIDENT
MARRIED VMI FOUNDER

BENJAMIN BORDEN, SR.
OBTAINED ROYAL LAND
GRANT 1739 FOR
EARLY SETTLEMENT OF
ROCKBRIDGE CO.

THOMAS JEFFERSON
VA GOV; 3RD US PRES.
BUYS NATURAL BRIDGE
1774: "MOST SUBLIME
OF NATURE'S WORKS."

**How do we tell the Stories?
Of our Citizens? Of our Cities and County?
Of our Social and Natural Histories?**

Visit



The RHS library and exhibitions are open to the public free of charge.

Events

Press **F11** to exit full screen



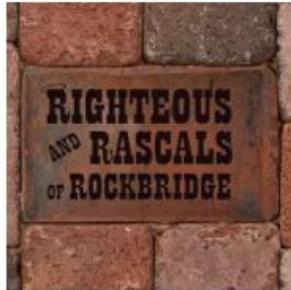
Find details about upcoming RHS events and programs.

Education



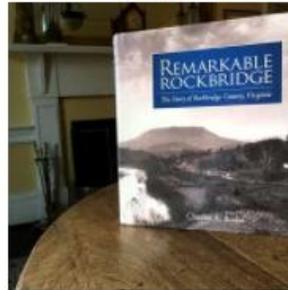
Discover the *Past Educating the Present* through our educational programs.

RRR



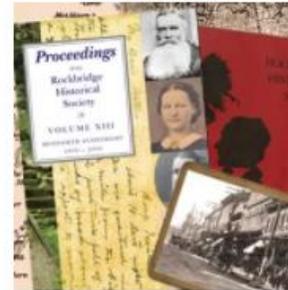
Stroll through the streets of downtown Lexington and discover our historic pavers.

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Resources



Find research help through RHS publications, genealogy tips, and our partners.

Rockbridge Historical Society
P.O. Drawer 1409 (Mailing Address)
101 E. Washington St. (Physical Address)
Lexington, VA 24450-1409
(540) 464-1058
RHS@RockbridgeHistory.org



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