

Bridges Newsletter

a publication of the
Fauquier Heritage & Preservation Foundation
April 2022

Announcements

- **We are open** on Tuesdays from 10 am to 4 pm or by appointment
- **New email address** effective 1 December 2021: gottlibrary@gmail.com
- **New website address:** www.gottlibrary.org.

HELP!

Our Porch Floor Has Failed!



We need help so someone does not have to fall through our front porch! As an all-volunteer, non-profit organization we have had to close our front porch access owing to the imminent collapse of the front porch floor. **Anyone wishing to contribute money, materials or labor would become our hero!**

Come Read Old Local News

How would you like to spend the afternoon reading a 1925 *Fauquier Democrat*, an original 1832 edition of the *Chief Justice* (Marshall, VA) or maybe the 1819 edition of *Paladium of Liberty*? You can now do just that at the Sinclair Education Center. The FHPF recently acquired the archives, 1820s—2006, of the *Fauquier Democrat* along with early editions of other local newspapers. We have the *Fauquier Citizen*, *The Remington News*, *The Southern Echo*, *The Tri-County Herald*, and others.

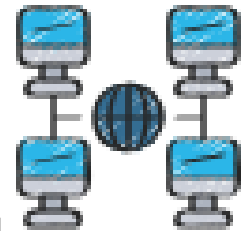


The complete list of papers and editions will be listed on our website shortly. So come on over, sit down, and read a newspaper or two . . . or three . . .

In addition to the newspaper archive FHPF was pleased to accept the newspaper's photo collection. An index of the photos, which includes people and places, will also be on our website. Both the newspaper and photo collections are housed in the Sinclair Education Center.

FHPS Receives Surge of Technology

FHPS wants to thank the Jesse and Rose Loeb Foundation for a grant to upgrade the technology in the Gott Library. New computers with large screens, a new network, printers and a high-tech document scanner will enable our county residents and our visitors from far and wide to conduct their research projects much more easily and with greater efficiency.



The John K. Gott Library | 4110 Winchester Road | P.O. Box 594 | Marshall, VA 20116
Phone: 540-364-3440 | Email: gottlibrary@gmail.com | Website: www.gottlibrary.org

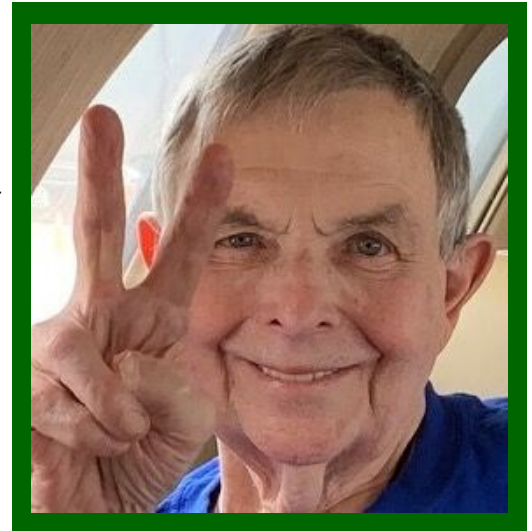
Library Hours: Tuesday 10:00—4:00
Education Center Hours: By Appointment

Dr. David C. Collins, FHPF Friend and Supporter

The Fauquier Heritage and Preservation foundation lost a good friend and supporter with the death of Dr. David C. Collins of Learning Tree Farms, Delaplane, on Dec. 31, 2021.

Founder and CEO of a pioneering high-tech company, in retirement Dr. Collins was focused on expanding educational opportunities for young people through technology. He was also committed to historic preservation, and helping those in his community.

Dr. Collins was one of the benefactors involved with the acquisition of the building that houses the Robert L. Sinclair Education Center, and acquired and restored *The Hollow*, John Marshall's boyhood home in Markham.



His commitment to education took several forms. From 2002-2007, Dr. Collins offered *Adventures in Learning*, free school field trips at Learning Tree Farms, and when it appeared likely that Claude Thompson Elementary School at Rectortown would have to be closed due to a lack of water, Dr. Collins purchased adjacent property and drilled a well at his own expense to provide the needed water.

Dr. Collins is missed by those who were privileged to know him.



From the files of T. Triplett Russell

Land, Land, and More Land

In colonial times it was natural for a man to want to own land that might be passed down to his sons and grandsons. Most took up land grants with that in mind. However, some had a lust for land in quantities far beyond any amount they could conceivably cultivate or use. It is astonishing how many of these had, in fact, no one to leave it to.

The prime example was Lord Fairfax himself. The Fairfax Proprietary, between the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers and extending to the Blue Ridge mountains, contained about two million acres. That would seem to have been enough for any one man, but Lord Fairfax had his heart set on five million, an area about the size of Massachusetts, and that is what he eventually got. However Lord Fairfax had no children and left what remained of his estate after his death, to a nephew he hardly even knew.

Robert "King" Carter did have sons and grandchildren, whose interest in the 300,000 acres he managed to acquire before his death was not very great. One of them, George, who owned an immense tract in Fauquier County, hardly bothered even to look at his estate. When he died childless in London, it was sold to George Washington, a man with a positive mania for acquiring land. He had no children either.

Charles Burgess almost wrecked his estate in his attempt to hold over 20,000 acres in Fauquier. He had no sons and most of his estate was sold soon after his death, to pay his debts. The rest was sold by a grandson, Colonel Burgess Ball, as soon as he could.

Then there was the Reverend Alexander Scott, Rector of Overwharton Parish. He tried to give his immense holdings to his brother-in-law, who wisely declined, pointing out that he had a half-brother in England who had a better right to it. Probably none of these men was so much interested in the land as in the fun of acquiring it. However, it would be better not to tell that to George Washington.