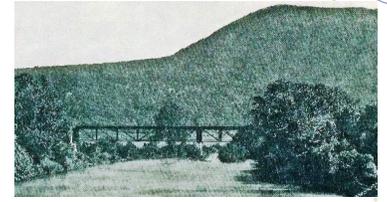


Strasburg Heritage Association



Volume 15

Winter 2015

Issue 1

Strasburg, Virginia

NEWSLETTER

strasburgvaheritage.org

Annual Meeting and Program

Strasburg in the Civil War – Places and People

Sunday, Feb. 22, 2-4pm

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Strasburg

The Northern Shenandoah Valley played an important role in the fighting that took place during the Civil War, with numerous battles occurring in the Strasburg vicinity. Thousands of Confederate and Union troops passed through town and sometimes stayed a while, often occupying buildings. Join us for a presentation about army occupation of Strasburg. Richard Kleese will set the scene for us and will focus on the many people who used the Hupp Mansion during the war. John Horan will talk about the occupation of St. Paul Lutheran Church and what happened to that historic building. Marie Spence will speak about the use of Strasburg Presbyterian Church, the oldest church building in town, as a hospital during the war.

The public is invited.

Join us for fellowship and refreshments

President's Letter

Barbara Adamson , SHA President

Each new year brings changes. Recently we've seen the deaths of several local citizens, well-known in the community, whose absence reminds us of the passing of time. John L. Hoffman was born at Strasburg in 1924 and loved his family and native Star Tannery. While he lived and worked elsewhere during his adult life, he continued to contribute to the history of his family and community. Mr. Hoffman passed away in June 2014. Martha Baker Jones, who passed away in December 2014, grew up in Strasburg and Fisher's Hill, and returned to her roots upon retirement, moving with her husband, Guy, to Mt. Olive. Martha enjoyed exploring family and local history, writing a book about the history of Mt. Hebron UMC Church and serving for many years on the SHA board. Mary Irene "Dickie" Wilson, who passed away just last month, was a great lady who served as town treasurer for many years, was a respected businesswoman in Strasburg, and contributed a great deal to the community during her long life.

Judy Troxell has decided to take a break from serving on the SHA board, having been a member of the board since 2005 and serving as vice president since 2009. Thank you, Judy. We know you will continue to contribute by staying involved in our many activities.

A Little Folk History

By
Kathy Kehoe

"I was a soda jerk" she laughed, "we all had the best time." -Beverly Bergy Boyer

Beverly Boyer was a Strasburg High School student in 1951 when she went to work for "Doc" Allen Vaughan at Vaughan's Drugstore. She worked there the summers of '49, '50 and '51, before studying nursing at Winchester Memorial Hospital. Beverly knew when she worked at the drugstore she wanted to be a nurse. Now 81 years old and retired, she and her husband Jack have been married for 61 years and still live in Strasburg. Beverly admired Doc Vaughan, remembering that "He really enjoyed the teenagers and little kids in the drugstore." And he told her "My business really picked up at the soda counter after you came to work here". She believes Doc was teasing but that he also meant it, because more of the teenagers, her classmates, started coming to the drug store after school. On Saturdays, when the drug store closed, Doc and his wife Ruth would take the kids who worked there to the Virginia Restaurant for cheeseburgers.

"It was a wonderful experience for me" said Beverly. " It was wonderful with the fellowship and people you met and all the little kids. I always put an extra dip of ice cream for the little kids" and Doc didn't mind. She remembers squeezing fresh oranges and lemons to add to the coke syrup to make flavored cokes, and using vanilla and cherry flavoring. Orange was not very popular, people preferred lemons more, and cherry was the most popular; milkshakes were 15 cents and ice cream cones were 5 cents for one dip, 10 cents for 2 dips, and she also made sundaes. Vaughan's didn't have a jukebox, but Doc would play a radio with popular tunes.

Charles Himelright also worked at Vaughans Drug Store when he was a sophomore at Strasburg High School in 1965. He stopped working there because he couldn't play football and work too, since the hours Doc Vaughan gave him were the same hours of after school football practice. Charlie worked the soda fountain and stocked shelves and sometimes delivered medicine to people in town. He still remembers the pricing code they used at Vaughan's Drug Store. Before pricing became computerized with UPC codes, stores used a simple code by assigning letters a specific number and then writing the letters on the products. Doc's pricing code back then was "PRISON BUCKLE". Charlie explained how if you write a number one through twelve in sequence under each letter, then you have a numerical code. So if an item wholesale cost was \$1.23, then the code would be written as P R I. If it was \$4.99 the letters would be S C C. This was how Doc could determine the retail price. Charlie went on to work in a sales career and he never forgot what he learned on his first job.

Barbara Artz Pacquin wrote her memories of Vaughan's Drug Store as a teenager in the early sixties and compared it to her life as a teacher at Strasburg High School a few years later:

"Picture it" Vaughn's Drug Store, King Street, Strasburg, Virginia, circa 1961. It's after school on a sunny afternoon, and I and my 8th grade girl friends walk from the almost-brand-new high school, passed the Presbyterian Church and Hotel Strasburg and head down town. We are heading to Vaughan's Drug Store where there are the usual medical and personal items on the shelves, but much more importantly, a soda fountain with twirling stools and several small tables with chairs. We girls crowd in and spend our "allowance" nickels and dimes for cokes, dips of ice cream, sundaes, etc. (My favorite was the 7-UP float with a scoop of vanilla). Sometimes there were one or two of us in the group and at other times there was a BUNCH. On occasion, I remember we took over the place, even arranging the chairs so we could all sit around one tiny round table. Is it ironic that much later I would teach 8th graders for about 17 years, causing me to realize now the level of voice volume that most likely occurred? Poor Dr. Vaughan—elderly in my memory—would have to caution us for our boisterousness and I seem to remember that once we were asked to leave. We girls had great fun on those afternoons: we were teenagers now, on top of the world and sure we were the center of the universe. I still remember sipping that ginger ale float and having good fun with my girlfriends of the class of '65. No names will be mentioned here, but I hope you're reading this and that your memory is as sweet as mine. A much belated "thank-you" to Dr. Vaughan!

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 Vaughn's was remembered into the seventies also. Sheryl Pangle Pifer remembers: "Making side trips to Vaughans Drugstore after school for a Vanilla Coke with Kathy Lanahan Coffelt! Vaughan's had soda counters with rows of Ice Cream Sundae dishes! Little glasses with fluted edges!! I also remember the sweet smell of the face creams, powders, and perfumes!"

"I broke my arm when I was six." remembers Deborah Huntsberger Winkler, "Dr. Winkfield set it and I got an ice cream at Vaughan's afterwards. It was Neapolitan in a square cone. I had never seen a square cone at that time. It was square to hold all three flavors of the ice cream. They cut the ice cream in a block so you got a taste of chocolate, strawberry and vanilla all at one time it made my broken arm feel so much better. Another thing about Vaughan's I remember is the smell when you walked in the door. It was a good smell, distinctive from anywhere else-- all the combinations of sodas, ice cream and different creams and medicine; it smelled sweet but it was different from any other smell."

Rich Orndorff Jr. remembers the big Santa Claus in the front window at Christmas time when he was a small boy and his Grandmother Helen Brill lived across the street above what is now Bygones. She would take him to see the big Santa in the window. This Santa was later displayed in the BB&T bank window and believed to be the same Santa each year that was once in Vaughan's front window. Trina Davison Bailey also remembers the Santa which she believes was sold at the Vaughan's Drug Store auction when it closed. She and her mother used to walk to town from their house past Pout's Hill outside Strasburg to her grandmother's house at the corner of King and Holiday. (The Rogers House) They would often go to Vaughan's for ice cream cones and take them back to the house front porch to enjoy them.

One of our local historians, Gloria Stickley, published "Strasburg, Virginia: Our History in Postcards" this past year. On page 15, under "Teenage hangouts" she writes of Vaughan's Drug Store. "Vaughan's Drug Store, formerly the Kneisley's Drug Store, was Strasburg's first pharmacy." She adds that after buying the business in 1906, Charles Kneisley added the popular soda fountain and "sold Cherry, Vanilla and Ammonia Cokes" . "It was later owned by Allen Lee and Ruth Vaughan.....and continued as a popular drug store until Mr. Vaughan's death in 1973."

Marcy O'Neil, in her book "Fix the Pumps" describes an ammonia coke as "Aromatic Spirit of Ammonia is a combination of ammonium carbonate and ammonia, as a 10% solution of ammonium hydroxide, mixed with water, alcohol and the essential oils of lemon, nutmeg and lavender." An ammonia coke was thought to settle the stomach and calm the nerves.



Dorothy Miller, niece of Allen and Ruth Vaughan, worked for her uncle for many years, remembers that Mrs. Vaughan managed a UPS pick-up and delivery and a Greyhound bus stop, selling tickets and posting the bus schedule.

Vaughan's Drug Store was a very important part of our small town culture and continues in our collective memories.



Match cover from Vaughan's Drug Store for sale on eBay.

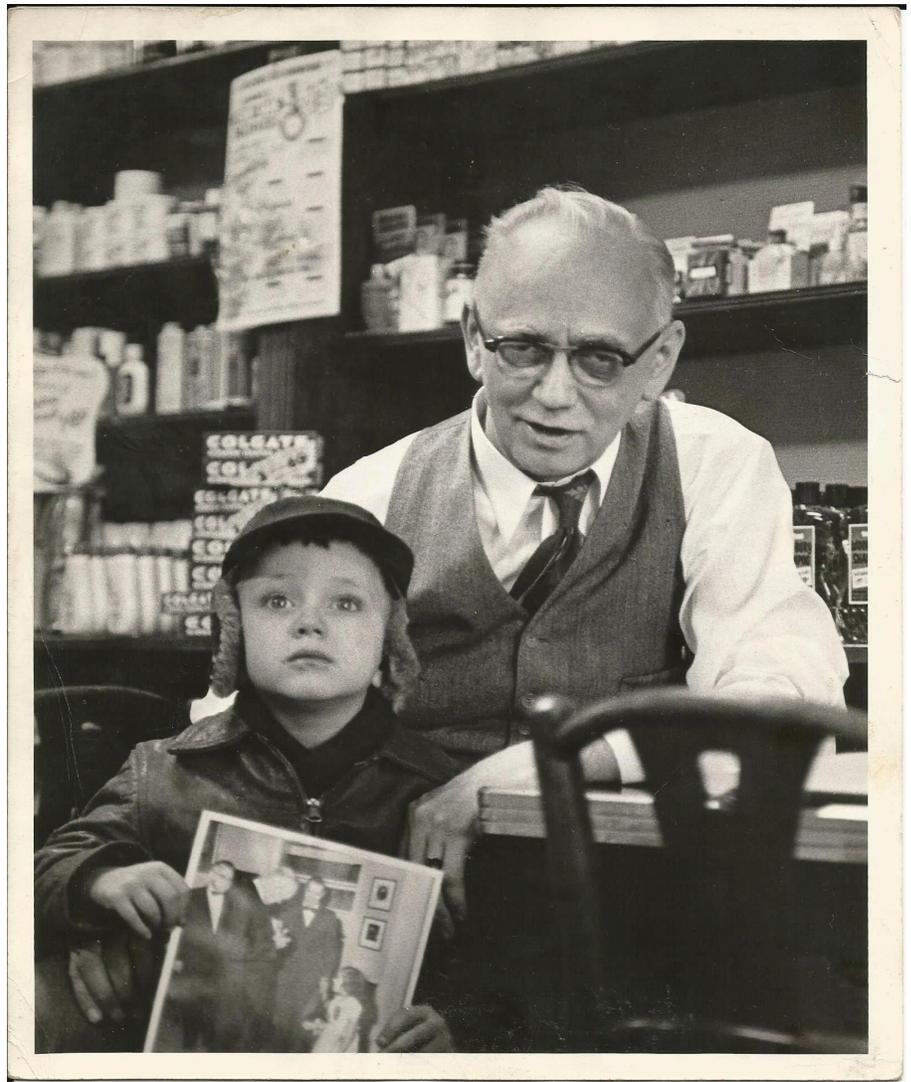


Dr. Allen Vaughan, Pharmacist at Vaughan's Drug Store, circa 1955, with Cliff Hupp.

Insert: President Eisenhower and Mary Kosloski, National Poster Child for the March of Dimes 1955

The Mystery Photographs

Dorothy Miller was doing some organizing at her house when she came across two 8 x 10 black and white photographs taken in Vaughan's Drug Store. On the back was written "Allen Vaughan and Hupp Child" so she took them to church and gave them to fellow Lutheran church member Abby Hupp Bright. Abby knew immediately the boy in the photo was her brother Cliff Hupp, and that he is about 4 years old, but the photos he is holding up are somewhat of a mystery. She remembers her great-uncle Ab, who was a photographer for President Eisenhower and speculates that he took the pictures. He often came to Strasburg to see his nephew Frank Hupp (Abby's father) who was also a photographer in town. Frank worked for Doc Vaughan when he was young and remained close to Doc. Abby said that her "Uncle Ab", Absloun Rowe, lived in D.C. and would often come to Strasburg to take his nieces and nephews hiking on Signal Knob. Afterwards they would stop at Vaughan's Drug Store for milkshakes and root beer floats. Dorothy Miller believes that Frank Hupp took the two photographs of Doc and Cliff. Those pictures held up in the photograph are actually pictures of President Eisenhower and a little girl on crutches, wearing braces. Uncle Ab, said Abby, may have had a special interest in raising money for polio as he wore a special shoe because he was born with one leg shorter than the other. Research found that seven year old Mary Koloski from Tennessee was the March of Dimes poster child in 1955 and had her picture taken with President Eisenhower and other celebrities. It looks like Ab Rowe, a photographer for the president, brought the photographs of Mary to Strasburg and showed them to his family, then Frank took the pictures of Doc and Cliff holding up the photos of the President. This is how a small town community solves a mystery. It began with the appearance of two photographs and ended with a story from the past.



Nominating Committee Report

Nominating Committee members Linda Williams and Sue Foster have reported that board members Dennis Hupp, Kathy Kehoe, Wendy Pieper, Tim Taylor, Judy Troxell, Laura Ellen Wade and Joan Williams are up for re-election to a two-year term. Judy has decided not to return to the board for this upcoming term and we thank her for her years of service. Member Shirley Maddox has agreed to stand for election to the SHA board at our Annual Meeting and Program on Feb. 22. Board members choose officers from among the board, with Laura Ellen Wade to serve as Vice-President, Wendy Pieper continuing as Secretary and Sue Foster continuing as Treasurer.

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Yoo Hoo! Dues are due in February!

We hope you will continue your support of SHA by renewing your membership. Our annual membership fee of \$20 is due in February and is much appreciated. Help us continue to support historic preservation in Strasburg, offer interesting programs and an informative newsletter. Thank you!



SHA Board of Directors 2014

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Judy Troxell

Vice-President

Sue Foster

Treasurer

Wendy Pieper

Secretary

Kathy Kehoe

Newsletter Editor

Bill Foster

Dennis Hupp

Dee Keister

Marie Spence

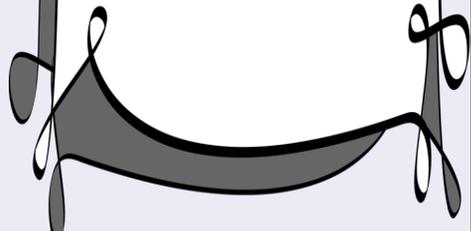
Tim Taylor

Laura Ellen Wade

Joan Williams

Linda Williams

Polly Wilson



Strasburg Heritage Association

PO Box 525

Strasburg, A 22657

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PO Box 525

Strasburg, VA 22657

www.strasburgvaheritage.org

Membership Application & Renewal

Name:

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MEMBERSHIP: Cost is \$20.00

Additional Donation: _____