

2018 Tour of Fluvanna County, Commonwealth of Virginia

THANK YOU

We particularly want to thank today's bus driver, Mike Sheridan who is our current Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors; be sure to engage with him in discussions during breaks. Our Narrator today is Overton McGehee, whose mother Minnie Lee McGehee wrote a large number of the Bulletins of the Fluvanna Historical Society, which are available for purchase at Maggie's House in The Village.

Fluvanna County consists of 282 Square miles or 180,484 acres, about two-thirds of which is forested. Elevations range from 200 feet above sea level at Columbia to 550 feet near places like Zion Crossroads. The Virginia Department of Transportation maintains over 400 miles of roads in the county, 100 of which we will traverse today.

Some demographics – population according to the 2010 census was 25,691, 15.7% of whom were over age 65 while 23% were under age 18. The population at that time consisted of 81.5% Caucasian Americans, 15.6% African-Americans and 2.1% classified as other. In the 1940s, the population was only about 7,000, the lowest it had been since 1820. The decade of most rapid growth was between 1990 and 2000, with an increase of 60% in the population.

More information on what we will see today is available at the county library and with the Fluvanna County Historical Society office in Palmyra (which was part of your walking tour).

Today we will point out a lot of businesses that we pass nearby. We will also point out many churches since they define some of the county's history and culture as well as being landmarks. Members of your class may have a direct relationship with locations we mention today.

There is no need to take notes. We'll post the narrative after the trip and provide you with a county map. Many properties that we point out are out of view from the road whether the leaves are on or off the trees, so you will at least get proximity and historical perspectives. Keep in mind that many of these properties are PRIVATE or have restricted access, so please, do not enter without permission.

We will be stopping at Bremono just before lunch. It is very important to be mindful of their privacy in all manners of photography and communications external to the FLDP.

We have bottled water available on the bus for anyone who wants some. Note that Public restroom facilities are scarce along the route – Next opportunity is in about an hour and a half.

BUS TOUR IS 8:00 TO 4:00 P.M. (8 HOURS TOTAL), 8 HOURS – 4 HOURS DRIVING TIME = 4 HOURS FOR STOPS with estimated arrival times on tour day.

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Carysbrook Complex for bathroom break | 15 minutes (arrive about 9:30) |
| 2. BREMO PLANTATION | 30 minutes (arrive about 11:30) |
| 3. FUMA for lunch and bathroom break | 60 minutes (must arrive at 12:00) |
| 4. DUNBAR ROSENWALD SCHOOL | 60 minutes (arrive about 1:10) |
| 5. THISTLE GATE VINEYARD bathroom and refreshments | 60 minutes (arrive about 2:10) |

LET'S DRIVE.....

You've been to the library. As we leave the building on your left is the Sheriff's office, where you would also find the Emergency Communications Center and Dispatch for Fire and Rescue. Our current Sheriff Eric Hess participated in FLDP Class 12.

WE'LL TURN RIGHT ON 53 AND HEAD NORTH
Grace and Glory Lutheran Church – is on your left

WE'LL DRIVE INTO PLEASANT GROVE AND TURN AROUND AT THE INTERSECTION TO GET A CLOSER LOOK AT THE HADEN HOUSE and the newly built Farm Museum.

Pleasant Grove Plantation

The County purchased this 960 acre plantation in 1994. Since then it has become a center of county activity with the construction of the Sheriff's office, the library, and new high school which we will see soon. It has athletic facilities, a dog park, a community garden and 22 miles of hiking and riding trails including access to the Heritage Trail which is a walking trail to the Village of Palmyra. Across the fields it's bordered by the Rivanna River. Events held at Pleasant Grove include a weekly farmers' market on Tuesdays during the summer months, Old Farm Day in May, the Fluvanna County Fair in August and other family fun days. We are turning out at the game fields.

Pleasant Grove Manor (the **Hayden House)**

This homestead is the centerpiece of this county property. It is associated with many of the "founding families" of Fluvanna County. It is a Virginia Historic Landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Over one hundred and sixty years ago, William Douglas Haden purchased property which today is simply known as Pleasant Grove. The 1855 Pleasant Grove House is the only one of its kind seen from the road along Highway 53. Its detailing is a combination of late Federal Elements with only a few hints of the Greek revival style that was in common use at the time. Its' role in the County's social and economic history are significant. Plantations such as Pleasant Grove depended on the adjacent Rivanna River batteaux and the canal that operated in the early 1800s to transport harvested tobacco crops and locally milled corn, wheat, and oat flour downriver to Richmond markets and warehouses. Pleasant Grove was a vibrant and active farming operation, producing wheat, corn, oats and tobacco. Fluvanna County Parks and Recreation now has offices here and maintains the homestead which includes a wonderful historical museum that is well worth visiting.

The house is open seven days per week, M-F 8-5, S-S noon-4.

The **Farm Museum** was just completed this summer. It is designed to be a glimpse into the farming heritage of Fluvanna, during the time before and during the Industrial Revolution. The Museum will show antique agricultural and general farm equipment for maintenance and cropping. It will house part of the collections of several Fluvanna residents, including John McGehee, Overton's uncle.

As we leave we are passing community gardens and the pollinator garden. Further questions about the gardens and about our Fluvanna Parks and Recreation facilities can be held until we stop at Carysbrook for bathroom break when a representative of Parks and Rec will be available.

WE'LL CONTINUE NORTH ON 53

Fluvanna County High School – on your right here at the northwest end of Pleasant Grove. The current building was approved for construction in 2009, and the high school was moved and began operating in 2012. Fluvanna Co. Schools now has 3,554 students PK-12. This site was used by FLDP Class 12 to hold a Volunteer Fluvanna Fair which was very successful in adding new volunteers for most of the 50 organizations that participated.

Lazy S Farm...Fruit Hill Orchard...

Calvary Chapel – at the end of Martin Road on your right

This non-denominational congregation began in 2004 with a few people. By 2014 they built a 26,000 square foot church with a 500-seat sanctuary. Now about 450 people worship there on Sundays.

Cunningham Methodist Church – on the left is one of 8 active Methodist congregations in the county. Later we'll talk about Fluvanna's important history in the evolution of the Methodist religion in America.

WE TURN RIGHT HERE onto SOUTH BOSTON ROAD

You'll see to your left **Haden Chapel United Methodist Church**, an African American congregation, which shares their building with a Seventh Day Adventist congregation. The sharing of buildings by various denominations and congregations has occurred many times in the county.

If we continued straight on **RTE 53** we would pass....

Sts. Peter and Paul Church, one of two Roman Catholic Churches in Fluvanna. Founded in 1989 now has about 1300 parishioners, an active charitable men's group the Knights of Columbus.

Also we could have seen the largest of 3 **shopping centers** near the Lake Monticello community off Turkeysag Trail, the location of Food Lion, **Hudson Henry Baking Co. (factory, not store front)**, Union First Bank and others.

Also **The Villages at Nahor**, a senior living community.

Effort Baptist Church, one of 23 active Baptist congregations. They are the location for distribution for Meals on Wheels in the county.

NOW ON SOUTH BOSTON ROAD

Lake Christian Church, on the left
Houchens Place, on the right, a parcel recently purchased by Habitat for Humanity to build homes

We're approaching the ONLY traffic signal in the county

The second **shopping center** in this area

On your left is the location of **Lake Monticello Volunteer Fire and Rescue (and Water Rescue)**.

This is the polling place for Rivanna District.

There are voting districts in the county and we will pass the polling stations for each one today. In addition to Rivanna, they are:

Columbia District – Kents Store ARC building

Fork Union District – Fluvanna County Community Center

Cunningham District – Antioch Church

Palmyra District – Palmyra Fire Station

On the left, one of five gates into the Lake Monticello community

Lake Monticello

This is a 350 acre man-made lake was created by a dam built in 1969. It was expected to take at least a year for water to fill the lake. About the time it had only about 34ft of water, Hurricane Camille came and finished filling the rest of the lake overnight, including populating the lake with fish from upstream overflows. Up ahead we will pass the toe of the dam that creates Lake Monticello.

The Lake Monticello community has about 4600 lots and 4400 homes and its residents make up about 43 percent of the county. The Lake Monticello Home Owners Association has about 95 (full time and part time) employees. You will learn more about Lake Monticello Home Owners Association in a future session.

The area near the dam was once named **Bernardsburg** (now known as Crofton) after an early owner of this parcel of land, and near the top of the dam once stood a few buildings where the Boston family lived. All that remains are a couple stone fireplace chimneys, a small cemetery and, closer to the river, the foundation of a mill. Near the foundation is a 32 inch diameter cast iron "spur gear", probably too heavy for anyone to move. Segments of a "ring gear" can be seen in the front garden of a house on Jefferson Drive opposite the marina.

If you drove up the hill on Lake Monticello Road, you would see...

Lake Monticello Main Gate

Village Oaks and River Oaks – subdivisions and **Crofton Plaza Shopping Center** with Fluvanna Hardware and other businesses of interest

WE'LL STOP AT THE ENTRANCE TO AQUA VIRGINIA WASTEWATER

TREATMENT PLANT - **Aqua Virginia** provides potable water and wastewater treatment for the Lake Monticello community and others nearby

Rivanna River – which we will soon cross at the Crofton Bridge, is very significant to the county

The Rivanna River flows NW to SE through the county. It was used as a transportation route by natives long before the arrival of European settlers. The first attempts to improve the waterway consisted of little more than removing logs and other debris that interfered with travel by canoe. Thomas Jefferson helped influence Virginia legislation to make the river navigable. And by 1806, the “Rivanna Company” was constructing wing dams, nothing more than piles of rocks in the rapids that forced the water into a single stream in the center of the river. Then from 1827 to 1850, the “Rivanna Navigation Company” built wooden locks and dams that enabled larger craft called batteaux to replace the canoes. The dams backed up water, so water depth was deeper and the water was “flat” instead of going over small rapids.

Batteaux were shallow draft double-ended boats, poled or dragged along by the boatmen.

In the 1850s the beautiful cut-stone locks were built along with tow paths so horse-drawn canal boats could make it all the way to Albemarle County. Nine of these stone locks were in Fluvanna, some of which can still be seen. The locks built along with mill dams, improved transportation and linked the Rivanna with the James River and Kanawha Canal at Columbia.

By 1880, the James River - Kanawha Canal Company had the rights to maintain these waterways. It was sold to a predecessor of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company which quickly completed a rail line up the James River on the canal towpaths, thus replacing the James River – Kanawha Canal. But as part of the purchase agreement the company committed to maintain the Rivanna Canal until a railroad was built to replace it. Hence in 1908 with the construction of the Virginia Air Line Railroad the Rivanna Canal was finally abandoned.

From where we are right now, about 500 feet downstream are the two Union Mills locks. These and the lock at Palmyra are the only locks in the county that are on public property. Built in the 1850's, these locks are listed on the National Register. The upper lock here is completely exposed whereas the lower lock here has been silted over by river flooding. It is possible to visit these locks by parking at the Crofton Boat launch and then walking carefully across the bridge to this side of the river and behind the wastewater plant. You will be on the towpath of the former canal.

LET'S DRIVE.....

Crofton Bridge and Boat launch, on the left

There are three **boat launches** maintained in the county by Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries

1. On the James near the mouth of the Hardware River
2. On the Rivanna here at Crofton
3. On the Rivanna at the village of Palmyra

And just outside the county

1. At Scottsville on the James and
2. On the James at Columbia, but across the river from the county, opposite the mouth of the Rivanna entering the James

The **county flag** reflects the importance of the rivers in the early life of the county. There are two blue lines on a yellow field. The blue line across the bottom of the flag represents the James River, and the diagonal line represents the Rivanna. In the center of the flag is the seal, with an image of the arsenal that was at the Columbia armory which we will talk about when we get to Columbia. There is also a branch of a persimmon, trees which grow wild in our county.

More on the Rivanna can be found in books available for purchase at the Historical Society and at the Pleasant Grove House.

Morris Tavern on your left. Privately owned.

This is one of at least 20 taverns that once served travelers through Fluvanna County. We will see some of the other taverns on our tour today.

As we travel these roads, many of which are ancient, predating European colonization, realize that travelers on horseback could do about 25 miles a day. There were usually accommodations every 7 miles or so, so travelers could stop to eat or stay overnight.

Roads originally followed Native American footpaths and often kept to high ground between the many streams and rivers in central Virginia. For example, route 250 is between the watersheds of the Rivanna/James and the North Anna to our north.

These streams were also important in the early days because water power was a significant source of energy for milling, which included processing of grains as well as operating saws.

AT THE STOP SIGN AT BOSTON AND UNION MILLS ROAD

Pace-Steger Place, one of the many historic homes in Fluvanna County –

If we turned to the right we could find the **Fluvanna SPCA**

WE'LL TURN LEFT ON RTE 616 / UNION MILLS ROAD

We are crossing Mechunk Creek. North of here was **Payne's Mill** on Oliver Creek. It was one of over 40 water-powered mills once operated in Fluvanna. This was the last in operation. Unfortunately it was destroyed by the floods of 1969 and 1971. Only two other mill structures remain standing in the county, **Bremo Mill and Solitude Mill** (which can be seen on the left going south on Rt 15 outside the village of Palmyra).

WE'LL ASK TO DRIVE SLOWLY AS WE PASS A LOG CABIN ON THE LEFT

At the entrance to **The Union you will see a log house**, a former hunters lodge that originally stood near Route 15, and see stone gate posts that were moved here from the gates of a mill race on the Rivanna. Union Hall itself was built in 1831 and burned in the late 1960's. It was rebuilt in a Jeffersonian style using material salvaged from the original house to the extent possible.

SLOW AGAIN, PLEASE

Oakland Farm and School – on the right

The Oakland School is a highly regarded institution for up to 50 grade school children who have learning difficulties. Parts of a historic home there predate the American Revolution. In the 1800's the house was split in two parts, each of which became a wing of a new central structure. That wide central hall had front and back doors to take advantage of the prevailing wind which was referred to as "southern air-conditioning".

Union Mills Methodist Church (historical) – on the right

Note the two doors. The smaller one leads to a loft for use by the slaves. This small structure was moved here in the mid-nineteenth century. Today this church is used for Sunday services for children of Oakland School.

Cumber Farm – on the left

This is another house that was originally built in the 18th Century but was later enlarged. During the Civil War, it was the home of Alfred Mosby, father of the legendary Confederate officer, Colonel John Mosby.

Plants and Things – a seasonal retail nursery

AHEAD WE'LL BRIEFLY PASS THROUGH ALBEMARLE COUNTY and maybe catch a glimpse of **Boyd's Tavern** (Albemarle County) as we turn right onto Three Notched Road.

WE'LL TURN RIGHT ONTO RTE 250 / THREE NOTCHED ROAD, STOP BRIEFLY

Three Notched (Chopt) Road, Richmond to Charlottesville - the name is derived from three blazes on trees marking the route (hypothesized to honor George III of England). Not the eco-friendly way we'd blaze trails today. Look for the signs as you drive between Richmond and Charlottesville.

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR IN FLUVANNA COUNTY

Although there were never any major battles in Fluvanna County, there was action of great significance to the outcome of the American Revolution.

In 1780, The British adopted a "Southern Strategy" to defeat the colonial rebellion. With command of the seas, they were able to capture Charleston in May, 1780. However, their land forces were not adequate to sustain an invasion inland. They hoped for enough loyalist support to make up for their shortfall of forces. But victories by both sides led to a stalemate in the Carolinas. As a result, the British turned their attention to Virginia.

The British under Cornwallis, Benedict Arnold, Banastre 'Bloody Bennie' Tarleton and John Simcoe were faced by the Americans under Lafayette, Steuben and others. After some fighting near Richmond, Lafayette abandoned Richmond and moved northwest. Steuben fell back to Point of Fork near Columbia to defend the arsenal and train recruits.

On June 3, 1781 Cornwallis sent Tarleton on a raid to Monticello and then to Charlottesville with the purpose of capturing Virginia's Governor Thomas Jefferson and Virginia legislators who had fled to Charlottesville. However, Jack Jouett made his famous overnight ride on June 4-5, 1781, and was able to warn Jefferson who along with most of the others escaped capture.

On June 5-6, Simcoe raided Point of Fork and destroyed the remaining American military stores as Steuben retreated southward. Simcoe was then joined by forces under Cornwallis and Tarleton with the intent of marching toward Charlottesville with the enlarged force.

Meanwhile, Lafayette had been joined at Boswell's Tavern by riflemen under General 'Mad Anthony' Wayne bringing the two armies to about equal strength. Lafayette's militia took an old road from Boswell's and on June 12-13 camped on a hillside overlooking Mechunk Creek and Three-notched Road effectively blocking the British move toward Charlottesville. The Redcoats turned back, and eventually returned to the Tidewater area. The two forces skirmished in that area throughout July before the British consolidated their forces at Yorktown in early August.

George Washington wrote to Lafayette on August 15 instructing him to keep Cornwallis at Yorktown and to expect additional aid from the North. At the same time, the French fleet under Admiral DeGrasse arrived from the West Indies to block Hampton Roads and deny the British support from the sea. By end of Sept, the siege of Yorktown was complete and the British surrendered on Oct 19, 1781.

The action in Fluvanna County was a turning point of the war even though hardly a shot was fired. Details of this action are on a web address that we'll provide.

Allegre's (Lafayette's Hill) Tavern – a mile ahead across US 250, the bus can't turn around there. It's where Lafayette stayed while his troops camped on a nearby hill. Today it's a private home.

WE'LL TURN RIGHT ON US 250 –
AT THE STOP SIGN AT BOSTON AND UNION MILLS ROAD

Central Virginia Wine Region – the sign on your right

Virginia has 7 of the 187 American Viticulture Areas (AVAs designate for the soil, climate, and prevalent varietals). Also, Virginia is divided into 9 wine regions for the marketing the wine of more than 250 wineries. This Central Wine Region is the second largest of the Virginia wine regions with about 73 wineries. We will visit the first of the two Fluvanna County wineries later in this tour Thistle Gate Vineyards and visit the second for one of your Thursday evening sessions, Cunningham Creek Winery.

Beaver Dam Baptist Church – on the right

Cosner Brothers (M&M Auto Salvage) – an area studied for county economic development. Now owned and to be operated by different management, but still as an **auto parts recycling facility**.

Fluvanna Women's Correctional Center – a state facility on the right

This location was once a camp for males with minor offences...whose baseball team was reputedly ready to take on all comers. The current women's correctional facility was opened in 1998 with (now) a capacity of 1240 inmates. They have 392 full-time employees plus a number of contractors.

TURN RIGHT ON TROY ROAD AND THEN LEFT ON INDUSTRIAL WAY

That is currently Fluvanna's largest **industrial area**, the location of many small businesses. Further commercial development in this northern section of the county is envisioned in the County long-term plan.

By far the largest is the **Better Living** complex which has several warehouses from which they sell to contractors and directly to anyone. For major home improvements, you name it and they probably have it.

Another business to visit there is **Red Rocker Candy**. Their products are available online and in retail stores as far away as California, Florida, Texas, and Massachusetts. Red Rocker Candy was "snack of the day" on the Rachel Ray Show in 2008, and featured in Paula Deen magazine in Dec 2014 and in the Aug 2015 issue of Virginia Living. You can visit their company store Tuesday through Sunday.

Lafayette School – moved from Charlottesville in Oct 2014. This private, non-profit school provides for up to 24 students K-12 with emotional or behavioral disorders.

STOP IN THE RIGHT TURN LANE

Van der Linde Recycling – they have about 219 employees making them the largest non-governmental employer in the county. No longer takes food waste, including the recycling can waste we put out to the curb. That is now handled by County Waste and is taken to be processed in Richmond. They (Van der Linde) now concentrate on construction and demolition waste recycling and they take untreated wood and mulch it. They can still take

large loads of cardboard ourselves to the center to be recycled. The conveyor belts and system is still the same— can still look at the video on their web page, but it's now sorting through the construction and demo debris. They do not require the recyclables to be disposed separately from other household wastes. The separation is done in their facility using a combination of mechanical and manual operations. They claim to recycle 80% of the residential solid wastes received.

Kloeckner Metals – blue buildings on the left

A German company, Kloeckner Metals is the third largest metals distributor in the world. This is one of almost 60 distribution centers across the US and there are many more especially through Europe. They distribute steel, stainless steel, brass and aluminum sheets, bars, tubes etc. to the manufacturing and construction industries. They have about 35 employees in Fluvanna County.

There is no connection with the German company, Kloeckner Pentaplast, a plastics fabricator and distributor whose US operation is in Gordonsville.

LET'S DRIVE.....

BFI Transfer Station "Transcyclery" – on the right

This facility also accepts wastes from residential and commercial sources and ships it to landfills in other parts of the state for disposal.

Another group of small businesses

TURN RIGHT ON 15, THEN RIGHT AGAIN ON LITTLE CREEK RD TO

Palmer Solar Farm

This is the Palmer Solar Center which is operated by Coronal Development Service...Grover Palmer, a 39-year veteran of Central Virginia Electric Coop who retired in 2002, and his wife, Wanda. Leased about 41 acres of their land in Troy to host the eponymous Palmer Solar Center. Previously contracted out to corn and soybean growers, the land proved attractive for solar development because of its flat ground and close proximity to co-op electricity grid infrastructure.

There are about 25 acres of solar panels with additional open space around it. In May of 2018, Governor Northam "flipped the switch" to turn on the grid. The facility sends power to the Central Virginia Electric Coop to power about 1200 homes. There is a second solar farm nearby in Goochland County to the east.

Northland Forest Products – down Rte 795 on the right

Northland is a distributor of many types of quality lumber grown in North America and elsewhere. Their specialty is hardwoods and they can provide all sorts of thicknesses, lengths and widths, planed or un-planed. Their headquarters is located in New Hampshire and another location is in Manassas, VA. They employ about 30 people in our County.

WE'LL TURN RIGHT ON RTE 613 – Bybee's Road, then back to 250

We won't turn right to go down Bybee Church Road, which originally ran from here near Three Notched Road, past **Bybee's Race Ground** to appx the current route 15 which was called Courthouse Rd at that time. There was a settlement at Bybee store, including a school called Center Hill.

A church later built was named after the road, Bybee Baptist organized in 1832 and rebuilt 1953.

RETURN AND CONTINUE ON ROUTE 250 TO KENTS STORE WAY

The **county line with Louisa County** to the north is approximately parallel to Rte 250, called the Richmond Road. The Richmond Road in turn was a replacement of the original Three Chopt Road between Richmond and Charlottesville. Because of variations in the road, one enters and then leaves Fluvanna into Louisa County.

With a bit of time now we can mention the top **Employers in Fluvanna**
Fluvanna County Public School District **510** (3554 students PK-12)
Women's' Prison, **392** plus contractors
Van der Linde Recycling, **219**
FUMA, **180**

THEN TURN RIGHT ON KENTS STORE WAY, THEN LEFT ON GRACE JOHNSON ROAD

On the left is the pumping station for the **water pipeline** being constructed now to provide water for commercial development along the 250 corridor we have just driven through. Economic development in this zone is hoped to benefit the county by shifting some of the tax base to businesses, so that a smaller percentage of expense would be borne by the private property owners.

RETURN TO KENTS STORE WAY TURN LEFT TO GO SOUTH

Kents Store

There are several historic homes there but unfortunately many cannot be seen from the road. Here's a brief description of that area. According to tradition, James Madison Kent, JR opened his store there in 1845 when his brother, M. L. Kent, brought the first load of merchandise from Columbia in a large oxen- drawn wagon. (Earlier maps show "Holland's Store" at this location.) Ownership of the store passed to his sons, George H. and Aubrey Kent in 1883 and it soon became the commercial center of the area. Subsequent ownership of the store passed to J. R. Kirkpatrick and after World War II to his son-in-law, Augustus Krell, who advertised the business as "The Biggest Little Store in Virginia."

On the right is the Fluvanna Agricultural Recreation Center, called ARC, which is the **polling place** for the Columbia voting district.

Also on the right is the Kents Store **Firehouse**, one of 4 firehouses in the county:
Kents Store

Palmyra
Fork Union
Lake Monticello

On the left is the Kents Store Post Office

Post Offices

Over the years, there have been about 95 post offices in Fluvanna. Many of them lasted for little more than a year. A few were so obscure that even today their locations cannot be identified. These include names such as Pinta, Elliottsville, Laurel Spring and Cherry Grove, which, incidentally, was open only for a month and ten days. Today, there are just six post offices in Fluvanna County, Palmyra, Troy, Kent's Store, Columbia, Bremo Bluff and Fork Union.

Fluvanna has the distinction of having the first rural mail delivery in Virginia. A monument to the first rural letter carrier, Frank W. Shepherd, is in the Lyles Church cemetery where we will pause up ahead.

Gold Mines

Gold was discovered in this part of the county in 1832, part of a belt that crosses the Piedmont region. In the past, according to one 19th Century mineralogist, "There are gold-bearing localities in Virginia and North Carolina which, if not equal to those in California at present, will be of greater importance in the future." Some fifteen mines of record were worked in the county during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Reportedly, most of the gold deposits in Fluvanna remain untapped.

Today, there is an organization called the Virginia Gold Hounds that meets regularly to pan for gold and conduct other activities related to gold mining. They can be located by an Internet search.

USGS has identified 61 total mineral deposits in Fluvanna, 27 of which have produced ore in the past. These sites where deposits identified in outcrops, shallow pits, or drill hole samples

[Gold](#) (47) [Sulfur](#) (7) [Silver](#) (3) [Manganese](#) (2) [Mica](#) (2)

CONTINUE ON VENABLE ROAD TO WILMINGTON, ZIG ZAG TO LYLE'S CHURCH CEMETARY

WILMINGTON

We turn left on Rising Sun Road, then right onto what is currently called Courthouse Road that runs on to Palmyra village.

If we turned right on Rising Sun, we could see...

Evergreen School— which looks like but is not a Rosenwald school – Mozell Booker attended and her father drove the school bus. This building was also likely the location of Linsey's Ordinary for changing horses on the old Stage Coach Road. Mozell Booker is one of our county supervisors and we will meet her this afternoon.

We take a short left on **Rising Sun Road**. This road is also part of an old route (Stage Coach Road) that connected Wilmington to Stage Junction. There were inns/taverns at Columbia on the James River, then coming west at Stage Junction, Wilmington, at the Old Evergreen School, Rising Sun Tavern, Morris Tavern near Union Mills and Boyd Tavern.

Rising Sun ends here at Wilmington, the continuation of the road toward the southeast is now named Wilmington Road which was part of the old Stage Coach Road. It continues to Stage Junction and then on to Columbia in the far southeast corner of the county. We will be getting to Columbia by another route today. Originally known as **Lisles, Wilmington** was a center of trade and small industries even before the Revolutionary War. It was located on the overland routes that connected Richmond, Charlottesville, Columbia and Fluvanna Courthouse. The original name continues in use at Lyles Baptist Church.

Take a good look at the houses at the intersection then we'll describe them. (We'll turn right and circle behind Lyles Baptist Church, the oldest church in the county.

There were three main structures here including a **Mill House**, which we've been told by a long time county resident that it was 'not' the nice renovated set of buildings on the corner.

Currin's Tavern – brick home further out

The tavern was built on the site of the former Lisles tavern about 1824 by Sheriff James Currin, who was active in many county enterprises. He undoubtedly took advantage of the expanding stagecoach travel and that one of the first post offices in Fluvanna had recently been opened almost in his front yard. The tavern may have been built in two stages, with the rear portion being Currin's home. An upstairs dormitory for male travelers was in the front part and local legend says that it doubled as a "ballroom" where Lafayette danced. A large taproom was in the basement which had a separate entrance from the Stage Road.

Cole's Tavern – across the street, white house set back

Cole's Tavern, originally Horatio Will's tavern, first appears in the tax records of 1820 when Horatio Wills applied for a license to operate an "ordinary in his home." William J. Cole bought the property in 1830 and gave the tavern the name it bears today. General Lafayette visited Wilmington in 1824 during his reprise tour of the United States. At a celebration with a number of Revolutionary War veterans, he reportedly offered a toast: "The county of Fluvanna and Mechunk Creek – where upper and lower Virginians rendezvoused to show the enemy the road to Yorktown."

WE'LL TURN RIGHT ONTO, COURTHOUSE ROAD

Lyles Baptist Church– on the left.

WE'LL TURN LEFT ON RTE 615, CARYSBROOK ROAD

If we continued on Courthouse Road, we would pass

Holland Page House –on the right. A very distinctive log home 3 miles east of Palmyra, now owned by the

Fluvanna Historical Society, available for tours upon request.

Chatham

This plantation 2 miles down Hell's Bend Road, RTE 609, was started as early as 1785. The brick home which is still beautifully maintained was built between 1823 and 1826 by Dr. John M. Wills. Subsequently it served as office for two more generations of Wills doctors. Currently it is a private home. It is visible from the road, especially when the leaves are off the trees; and please, always respect the privacy of private property.

CROSS THE RIVANNA RIVER

Carysbrook

Shortly after the death of its owner, Wilson Jefferson Cary, the original house burned. The present house was built for his widow, Virginia Randolph Cary, in 1827 – 28. It was designed by John Hartwell Cocke and built by Walker Timberlake, both administrators of Cary's estate. The brick house, visible from the Plantation Entrance on Carysbrook Road, is of Flemish bond with two stories over a full basement. Stepped gables at each end culminate in chimneys. The north elevation facing the Rivanna River has a two story projecting gable which accommodates the interior stairwell. A 1905 sales brochure describes Carysbrook as one of the best known estates in Virginia and one of the oldest. There are two miles of river front on the Rivanna which serves as a lawful fence, and also served as a means of transportation to the railroad depot at Columbia, twelve miles by river and nine miles by road.

INTERSECTION OF CARYSBROOK ROAD AND RTE 15, JAMES MADISON HIGHWAY

Carysbrook Elementary School, on the right at the next intersection, grades 3 and 4.

TURN LEFT ON US 15

John Jasper – historical marker across US 15

The Rev. John Jasper, one of the best known black preachers of the 19th century in Virginia, was born a slave in Fluvanna County on 4 July 1812. After working in a tobacco factory, Jasper had a religious awakening in the later 1830s and became a preacher. Self- educated, Jasper was renowned for his fiery oratorical style and for the sermon, "De Sun Do Move," first delivered in 1878 and preached to more than 250 audiences, including the Virginia General Assembly. He organized the Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church in Richmond in 1867. Rev Jasper died in late March 1901 and is buried in Richmond. (There is a plaque on Brown's Island on the James River in Richmond)

Carysbrook Buildings Complex– Parks and Rec access to Gym restrooms

This building was the first countywide white high school in Virginia. It opened in 1934 and served beyond desegregation in the late 1960's with the last graduation in 1976. None of the county schools were large enough for the combined student body so a new high school was built (today's Middle School buildings on

Central Plains) whose first graduating class was 1977.

For a while the county library was here. The **Social Services Department** continues to occupy the building. Also, the Dept. of Parks and Recreation and (MACCA) the **Monticello Area Community Action Agency** make use of the facilities today.

The centerpiece of the structure, its auditorium had fallen into disrepair. In 1992 citizens of the community realized the potential for the facility. They formed the **Fluvanna Arts Council** with the objective of restoring the auditorium and installing up-to-date lighting and sound systems. With a lot of volunteer effort the project was completed and dedicated on Oct 1997 as the **Carysbrook Performing Arts Center**. Look for their annual schedule of performances

CONTINUE SOUTH ON RTE 15 JAMES MADISON HIGHWAY

National Filter Service NFS

This Fluvanna-based company provides HVAC coil cleaning, air filter and water filter services for various businesses, primarily restaurants, all across the country. They have about 65 employees nationwide. About 15 employees are based here.

Lion's Club Park – on the left

An example from one of almost 100 nonprofit and county organizations contributing to the people of Fluvanna.

Dixie

At one time, this crossroads was thriving as a commercial center with a restaurant, motel and garage.

WE'LL TURN LEFT ON RTE 6, EAST RIVER ROAD

Snead's Tavern – used to house one of the post offices in Fluvanna

Inklings Ink – a printing company AND the **Thistle and Stag Meadery** (honey wine)

New bridge over the **Rivanna River**

Rassawek Indian Village – historical marker on the right

Nearby, Rassawek was the principal location of the Monacan Indians according to Capt. John Smith's 1612 map of Virginia. Smaller satellite villages were located within a few miles. Monacans belonged to the Siouan language group and were enemies of the Powhatans to the east. They occupied Virginia's Piedmont until the expanding English colony pushed them west and south. Other reports suggest they were subject to attacks by the Iroquois from the north. Just a century after the founding of Jamestown in 1607 only remnants of the tribe survived. Today, Monacan descendants live near Bear Mountain in Amherst County.

The other historical marker is for the nearby **Point of Fork Arsenal**. We'll describe Point of Fork as we cross the James River and you actually see Point of Fork.

Columbia – Incorporated in 1788, Columbia was officially an incorporated town of Virginia until 2015 when residents formally voted to un-incorporate and cede the town boundaries to Fluvanna County. Back in 1838, Columbia had grown to twenty dwellings, four stores, one non- denominational house of worship, one common school, two tailors, three boot and shoe factories, two cabinet makers, one wheelwright, one carpenter and one blacksmith.

Reputedly, Columbia came within just a few votes of being designated the state capital. Batteaux provided commercial transport to the town. Then by 1840 the James River and Kanawha Canal enabled larger horse drawn and steam powered boats to service Columbia. In 1880, the laying of the Richmond and Allegheny Railroad (later the C&O/CSX) on the towpath ended the days of the canal. In time, however, the development of highways and the demise of passenger service on the railroad ended Columbia’s days as a transportation hub and most of the industries closed. Disastrous floods in 1969 and 1972 severely damaged the lower portion of the town.

WE’LL TURN RIGHT ON 690, COLUMBIA ROAD

CROSS THE JAMES RIVER BRIDGE

Point of Fork – on the right, named for the junction of the James and Rivanna rivers

WE’LL MAKE A U-TURN AT THE JAMES RIVER BOAT LAUNCH

Point of Fork Arsenal Archaeological Site

We won’t actually visit the site today which is 2 miles up the Rivanna River. It is not known precisely when an arsenal was established at Point of Fork, but the earliest existing documents date from 1781. During the American Revolution, the arsenal served as a munitions warehouse, a weapon repair shop and a place for training recruits. At that time, there was no standardization of the parts for guns, so each part was made and fitted individually by hand.

The original commandant was Baron von Steuben, a German who was helping the colonists in their effort to defeat the British. The arsenal was raided on June 5, 1781, by Lieutenant Colonel John Graves Simcoe, commander of the Queen’s Rangers, in a move coinciding with Tarleton’s raid on the legislature at Charlottesville. Buildings were burned and supplies destroyed. However, before Simcoe's troops reached the arsenal, von Steuben was able to get all of his troops and most of the arms across the James River to safety. Some of the larger cannons were dumped into the river where they could be recovered later on. This is another site on the National Register of Historic Places.

The armory building is the centerpiece of the **county’s seal**, which, in turn, is in the center of the county flag.

CROSSING THE BRIDGE AGAIN WE’LL GO STRAIGHT ACROSS RTE 6 INTO COLUMBIA

Memorial Baptist Church – on the right founded in 1842

WE'LL TURN LEFT ONTO CAMERON STREET

St. Joseph's Catholic Church and shrine to Saint Mary Katherine Drexel.

St. Katherine came from the prosperous Drexel family of Philadelphia, where Drexel University was founded by her uncle. St. Katherine took an avid interest in the material and spiritual well-being of African-Americans and Native Americans. In the late 1890s, her sister Louise purchased 1600 acres on the James River known as Camp Wakeham for mission schools. A convent was built for the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, the order of nuns founded by St. Katherine that established the mission schools. The Camp Wakeham chapel became St. Joseph's Church. St. Katherine set up 63 schools across our nation, and had 500 nuns in her order at the time of her death in 1955. She was canonized a saint in 2000 by Pope John Paul II. St Josephs is now a sister parish with Sts. Peter and Paul near the traffic circle.

WE'LL TURN LEFT ONTO WASHINGTON STREET

St. John's Episcopal Church, on the right, founded in 1850

WE'LL TURN RIGHT ON RTE 6, EAST RIVER ROAD

On the left is an **old train depot**

On the right, **Columbia Baptist Church**

James River and Kanawha Canal – we're parallel to the James River here.

This waterway located along the north shore of the James River connected Richmond and the Tidewater area. Completed in 1840, it was used until the current C&O railroad was built in 1880. The largest structure along the canal was an aqueduct over the Rivanna near Columbia. Yankee marauders tried unsuccessfully to blow up the aqueduct during the Civil War, but the Virginia Highway Department succeeded where the Yankees failed. After a modern railway bridge was installed upstream, they blew up the structure leaving little evidence of its presence.

WE'LL TURN LEFT ON RTE 656, BREMO ROAD (Should be about 10:25)

Point of Fork Plantation

Located at the end of Route 624, the large Classical Revival mansion of Point of Fork Plantation is one of two nearly identical houses erected in the 1820s by William Galt for his two great-nephews. Born in Ayrshire, Scotland, Galt migrated to Virginia in his early youth and settled in Richmond where he became a prosperous merchant. He became associated in business with his niece's husband, John Allan, foster father of Edgar Allan Poe. And, his successful business ventures enabled him to acquire extensive landholdings in Fluvanna County where he established two plantations, Point of Fork and Glenarvon.

Point of Fork ranks among the major examples of plantation architecture in the upper James region. The handsomely proportioned house has highly sophisticated architectural detailing. The large portico is one of the early uses of the Greek Doric order in Virginia. The very even Flemish bond brickwork is outstanding, and wood features such as the exterior Doric cornice and the spiral stair in the interior are exceptional. This home

was purchased around 1950 by a doctor whose wife currently lives there. Point of Fork Plantation is on the National Register and listed as a Virginia Historic Landmark.

Rivanna Farm – on the left (cue: green mailbox)

Farming at this site began in 1839 by Joseph Payne. Fluvanna's main cash crops were wheat and tobacco; secondary were hay and apples. Joseph Payne, like most Fluvanna farmers, devoted his farm to these crops. Existing documentation shows that Payne planted sixty acres in corn, forty acres in wheat, and seventy-five in hay. Tobacco, in particular, was a very valuable commodity nationally, as well as in Europe. Joseph Payne's surviving ledger books record the harvesting and pricing of large quantities of the plant.

Virginiaplaces.org/agriculture/tobacco.html.

Tobacco growing and processing dominated Virginia's economy for over three centuries, and transformed its landscape. Tobacco wears out the land, exhausting minerals and nutrients from the soil. The first Virginia colonists to acquire ownership of land were positioned to gain great wealth, permitting them to abandon old fields and plant in fresh soil that would produce great quantities of the crop.

The hunger for new land was fundamental to Virginia's colonial claims to the Ohio River Valley and to Kentucky. Virginians seeking new places to grow tobacco created conflicts with Native American tribes long after Powhatan's paramount chiefdom had been subjugated and the Coastal Plain had been occupied by European trespassers. Early towns in Virginia, including Alexandria, developed at locations where tobacco inspection stations and warehouses were built.

Growing tobacco is very labor-intensive, so in the 1600's the Virginia gentry who had acquired land needed to import a labor force.

Imports of indentured servants were spurred by grants of headrights, but the supply of interested immigrants from England declined after the end of the English Civil War and restoration of Charles II to the throne in 1660. Religious and economic refugees were recruited from France and what today is Germany in the 1700's, as were the Scottish settlers in Ireland who sought greater opportunity in the New World.

However, by 1700 it was clear that the Virginian leaders had committed to getting their labor from Africa. In the second half of the 17th Century the Virginia gentry institutionalized and expanded slavery for one primary reason: to obtain the labor needed to farm tobacco. Without tobacco, slavery in Virginia may have died out as the practice did in the northern states - and without the economic factor of slavery, Virginia might have chosen to stay with the Union rather than join the Confederacy in the American Civil War in 1861-65.

Virginiaplaces.org/agriculture/tobacco.html.

The house at Rivanna Farm built in 1839 is of the Italianate Style. It and all of its outbuildings are on the National Register.

Rivanna Farm, still largely intact architecturally, embodies the typical self-sustaining farm of its day and provides historical information about agriculture and transportation during this historic period.

The Railroad

The Richmond and Allegheny Railroad (the C&O/CSX) was built through Fluvanna County in 1889. It crossed many Fluvanna County farms along the towpath of the James River and Kanawha Canal. The Rivanna flag station established at Rivanna Farm in 1884 became an important point for passenger and freight service, and was utilized intensively by Joseph Payne as well as by neighboring farmers and their families for crop distribution and travel.

West Bottom Church – on the right at West Bottom Road

Glenarvon – at the end of the road on the left

The dwelling house at Glenarvon Plantation located at the end of Route 655 displays the high architectural quality found in many of the antebellum mansions lining the upper James River. Following the Colonial period, numerous great estates were established in the region west of the fall line. As can be seen in the houses they erected, the planners exhibited as keen an interest in fine design and construction as the previous generation had done in the Tidewater area. Glenarvon is especially distinctive as one of a pair of identical houses with its twin, Point of Fork, just downstream, which were built at the same time for two brothers. Both houses are characterized by graceful proportions and refined detailing coupled with large Greek Doric porticoes, thus demonstrating the stylistic transition from the delicate Adam style of the Federal period to the more massive Greek revival style that was occurring in Virginia in the 1830s. Glenarvon is listed on the National Register.

Bremo Recreation Area – (a Dominion Virginia Power sign on the left)

This well-hidden site is actually still owned by Dominion Virginia Power but has been assigned to the county to operate as a recreation area. The facilities include covered picnic tables, charcoal grills, a children's playground and others. The facility can be rented through Fluvanna Parks and Recreation.

Spring Garden – on the left

Spring Garden is on a tract of several thousand acres originally patented by Richard Cocke in 1725. In 1859 the house and some of the land were acquired by Henry W. Wood and it remained in the Wood family for 100 years. Tradition says that the back portion of the house was originally one room over one room, built in the 1700's as a hunting lodge. The front portion (probably built in 1822) was two stories over an English basement. The two separate houses were only connected by an open walkway on the second story level. The space between the houses under that passageway was used by carriages to drive through and deposit passengers at either doorway. The front and rear houses were finally joined by a connecting hallway. The original staircases were closed off and the present stairway was built in the connecting hall.

Most of the dependencies have vanished and only a few crape myrtles remain from the famed garden behind the house. Before trees obscured the view, it was said that one could see 9 miles up and down the James River. Virginia Power purchased the property in the 1970's and completed a magnificent restoration. For a time it was used as a conference and training center. More recently it was given to Elk Hill to be used as the Spring Garden School for Girls, a nonprofit school funded by Medicaid and CSA. In 2015 they have 8 girls aged 14 through 18 with mental health issues, all from Virginia.

Bremo Power Station

The original power plant which first operated in 1931-1932 had two coal-burning units producing 15 megawatts each. These 2 coal-burning units were permanently shut down in 1972. In the 1950s new units were built generating a total capacity of 250 MW. Until 2013-2014, the plant was coal fired using 2500 tons of coal per day which was delivered by rail. When the plant was coal-fired it employed about 75 persons. Then in 2014 Dominion Virginia converted the Bremo Power Station to use natural gas and produced until closure this spring 227 MW) with a staff of 29 employees.

Ash settling pond – on the left. Ash is the residual product of the burning of coal. Dominion Energy is draining ash ponds on the property that held the byproduct of burning coal over the plant's decades of operation. In 2016, the company reached an agreement with the Southern Environmental Law Center on the process for treating wastewater from the ponds and the process for closing and capping the ponds. The ash ponds contained a total 327,000 sq yards of residual. Removal of most of the ash is supposed to be finished as of October. The residuals have been moved to another location the North Ash Pond operated by Dominion Power. The remaining former pond site will be contained with embankment and covered with grass. Monitoring of surface water will continue. Cost of closure \$2.8 million.

Dominion Power still operates a station north of here, in Buckingham, Bear Garden. This is a more fuel-efficient plant. The Bremo plant was fired during times of peak demand and now is in a status of Cold Reserve, and could be reactivated should market conditions change.

WE'LL TURN RIGHT ON RTE 657, BREMO BLUFF ROAD

Bridgekeeper's House – northwest corner of 656-657

Fairview – northeast corner of 656-657

Bachelors Quarters, white building up to the left

Grace Episcopal Church, red brick on the left

Bremo Slave Chapel – moved here from Bremo

It was originally constructed in 1835 as a slave chapel for Bremo, the vast plantation of General John Hartwell Cocke. While separate chapels for slaves can be found on large plantations in the Deep South, the Bremo Slave Chapel is the only known structure used for such a purpose in Virginia. The simple board-and-batten Gothic Revival structure represents the culmination of the planner's deep concerns about the morality and practicality of the institution of slavery, and of the religious state of the slave. It's registered as a Virginia Historic Landmark

Sears Kit Home further up on the right

WE'LL TURN LEFT ON US 15 – SOUTHBOUND, CROSSING THE JAMES AND MAKING A U-TURN TO RE-ENTER FLUVANNA AND BE ABLE TO SEE THE EXTENSIVE FIELDS OF BREMO TO THE NORTH.

THEN WE'LL TURN RIGHT ON WEST RIVER ROAD (Arrive NLT 11:00)

Bremo Plantation National Historic District

A historic district in the United States is a group of buildings, properties or sites that have been designated by one of several entities as having historical or architectural significance. Bremo Plantation is one of four such districts in Fluvanna County, including the Fluvanna Courthouse Historic District, the Seven Islands Archeological and Historic District, and the Scottsville Historic District.

The name 'Bremo' is derived from the village of Braemore in England which was the original home of the Cocke family.

The Bremo Historic District consists of 3 plantation house groupings and their outbuildings, all built by General John Hartwell Cocke (1780–1866) at Bremo Plantation, a 1725 land grant. The first to be constructed was Bremo Recess (1803–1809); the second and most important of the three, Upper Bremo was completed in 1820; the last was Lower Bremo built circa 1844 at the same time as Bremo Recess was extensively remodeled.

Upper Bremo is designed in the Palladian Roman Revival style made popular by Thomas Jefferson. The man who designed Upper Bremo was John Nielson, a master carpenter who had worked at Monticello. The noted architectural historian Fiske Kimball has described Upper Bremo as the most nearly perfect of all the houses in the Jeffersonian tradition. Also at Upper Bremo is a large stone barn, which is undoubtedly the finest neoclassical barn in the United States.

Bremo Recess and Lower Bremo achieved their present exterior form circa 1844 and are both rare examples of Neo-Jacobean style architecture inspired by Bacon's Castle in Surrey County. Significant outbuildings at Bremo include a stone barn, a mill (one of only two still standing in the County), and a small Greek temple. The barn is topped by a clock and bell that were gifts of Lafayette in exchange for some wild turkeys that he had received from General Cocke.

The entire group of houses and farm buildings at Bremo, taken together, forms one of the most remarkable collections of early-nineteenth-century structures in the United States. Not only do they possess outstanding architectural interest, but having always remained in the possession of the family that built them, they present an undisturbed and remarkably well preserved social document of early-nineteenth-century America.

AFTER BREMO, WE'LL TURN LEFT ON US 15 –

PCC church on the left

Fork Union Envoy Nursing Home, on the right

Fork Union Presbyterian Church, on the right

Fork Union Baptist Church, ahead on the left

ENTERING FUMA, WE'LL TURN RIGHT ON ARBOR LANE

LUNCH BREAK

Fork Union Military Academy –

FUMA is a private school for boys in grades 7 through 12. They have about 425 students. FUMA is the second largest non-governmental employer in the County with 180 employees. You will learn more about FUMA in a later session.

AFTER LUNCH

WE'LL TURN LEFT RIGHT AND CONTINUE ON RTE 15 TO THE Fork Union Community Center, one of the county polling places and the home of Fluvanna County Parks and Rec.

TURN AROUND AND THEN TAKE A RIGHT ON RTE 6 WEST

Fork Union Sanitary District (FUSD) – on the left

The Fork Union Sanitary District provides potable water to about 450 customers of the Fork Union community and the Fork Union Military Academy. Sewage disposal is left to the individual property owner. FUMA has its own sewage treatment plant.

SLOW AS WE APPROACH THE GREEN COHASSET SIGN ON THE LEFT

Cohasset Station Virginia Air Line Railway – on the right... Commonly known as the “Virginia Air Line”, this 28.9 mile long stretch of track was completed in 1909. It connected the C&O line at Strathmore (Bremo) with the C&O main line at Lindsay near Gordonsville. Other stations in Fluvanna included Fork Union, Carysbrook, Rockaway, Palmyra, Wildwood, Troy and Zion. Prior to opening this railroad, passengers who wanted to travel by rail from stations along the James River to Charlottesville had to first travel to Richmond. The last round-trip passenger train from Strathmore to Lindsay ran on August 1, 1973. The Cohasset station is the only one that remains. Structurally, it looks today much as it did when the Air Line was in operation.

WE'LL TURN LEFT ON RTE 650, Mountain Hill Road

STOP AT NEW FORK BAPTIST CHURCH – MEET MOZELL BOOKER

New Fork Baptist Church and New Fork School

First High School for African-Americans in Fluvanna County. Before this modest frame structure was built in 1934, African-Americans needed to leave the county to attend high school. This first county high school for African-Americans was replaced with a newly built S. C. Abrams High School in 1936.

Dunbar Rosenwald School. We will stop and have a moment to go inside this restored school building. Among Fluvanna's most important historic resources are its early 20th Century African American schools including the New Fork High School and the four existing Rosenwald schools. Julius Rosenwald, a philanthropist and head of Sears Roebuck, donated funds for construction of schools for African American children throughout the south in a concerted effort to bring educational opportunities to everyone, as elaborated on a recently released Los

Angeles Times documentary film. Fluvanna County participated in the program by assisting in the building of six (6) Rosenwald Schools, four (4) of which are still standing.

The NAACP, local churches, and the Fluvanna County Historical Society have launched a program to restore the Dunbar Rosenwald School on Route 650 and the New Fork High School, to create a museum of early 20th Century African American educational history

Old Cocke Road Milestone

In 1828, while serving as Overseer of Roads for Fluvanna County, General Cocke arranged to have a road built from near his Bremo Plantation to the County Courthouse at Palmyra. He had his workers place milestones and direction markers along the road. Here we can see one of the directional markers on which is inscribed "Right to Scottsville Left to Lises Mill". Two of the milestones are now in the front garden of the Stone Jail Museum in Palmyra and we will see another one later on this tour.

High Mountain Acres, Habitat for Humanity – 4 homes on the left

Using largely volunteer labor, this organization builds homes for deserving families who otherwise could not afford home ownership. The homes are not provided for free. The recipient owners must assist in the construction, assume a mortgage albeit at very favorable rates, pay the taxes and insurance and maintain the home. High Mountain Acres was

RIGHT AT THE INTERSECTION WITH SHORES ROAD, PAUSE TO MENTION...

Lowfields Farm, located at the end of route 658, this magnificent plantation provides a vista of for miles up and down the James River. A "conservation easement" ensures that this will remain intact for the future.

Melrose – toward Lowfields, just down 640 on the right

Melrose was built by Charles Alexander Scott (1777–1843) just after he completed his five- story brick mill a few hundred yards away on the James River. The brick for both buildings was burned on the property. Scott was in his early thirties when he built these fine brick buildings. He was a member of the powerful Scott family who operated Scott's Landing, founded Scottsville, and built Albemarle's first courthouse in Scottsville, as well as distinguished houses such as Mount Walla. In addition, his maternal grandfather was Joshua Fry, professor of mathematics at William and Mary, who along with Peterson Jefferson was commissioned as the Jefferson-Fry survey team who drafted the first accurate map of Virginia in 1752.

Western View – down RTE 640 from Melrose, set back and hard to see

Western View is a rare example of the evolution of a dwelling from a two-room cottage to a two-part dwelling whose final form makes no attempt to present a sophisticated ensemble. The early portion (circa 1790) still exemplifies a simple, rural dwelling of the Virginia Piedmont. Its plastered walls, woodwork, and handsome chimney—with remnants of a chimney pent—are more finely crafted than similar early Fluvanna County houses. The 1824 brick Greek revival section, even in unrestored condition, is marked by a simple elegance in its proportions and fine workmanship. This Greek revival addition is one of only a handful of buildings in this style in Fluvanna County.

ON SHORES ROAD

Seay's Chapel on the left, another property on the National Register of Historic Places.

Caring for Creatures –on Sanctuary Lane

Caring for Creatures is a not-for-profit foundation established in 1987. It was the first "no kill" sanctuary for homeless cats and dogs in Central Virginia. It provides for the well- being of animals at risk and can support up to 200 residents at a cost of \$1,000 daily. It receives no government funding and keeps its doors open thanks to the generous contributions from caring individuals in our community. Caring for Creatures encourages a sense of responsibility in the people of our community by promoting programs and policies that help stem the number of animals entering care facilities. Their ultimate goal is to place the animals into loving homes. And those animals not adopted continue to receive quality care as long as needed.

Union Baptist Church

Conservation Easements – more about the county

We said Lowfield Farms has a conservation easement. Also, north of Columbia is the Granite Hills Conservation Easement. These are among more than 20 conservation easements, including both open space and historic preservation easements, in the County. Under Virginia's conservation easement programs resources are preserved in perpetuity: tracts of otherwise developable land are protected from development, and historic easements protect important landscapes and structures from inappropriate alterations. In exchange for donating an easement, the grantor can receive both Federal and State tax benefits. More than 10,000 acres of Fluvanna County, or about 6% of our land, and some of Virginia's most important historic properties, including Bremono, are in easements.

Scottsville Independent Baptist Church, on the right

CONTINUE LEFT ON CUNNINGHAM ROAD

Cunningham Grade School, on the right, now closed

LEFT ON RTE 6

Kidd's Store

Forest Pro – a new and used forestry equipment company

Tapscott Brothers – a logging company

Links Choice – located about a mile north of Kidd's Store on Kidds Dairy Road

A company that processes and sells over 20 million used golf balls annually. Most of the balls they obtain are retrieved from ponds and streams on golf courses, in the United States and around the world. At their facility, they grade, sort and sometimes refinish the balls which are then sold via the internet or at pro shops all over the country. They employ about 30 people in Fluvanna.

Cross the new bridge over the **Hardware River**, replacement for the historic “Temperance Bridge”

Thistle Gate Vineyard – our next stop on the right

The first winery located in Fluvanna County. A brief stop here will provide owners George and Leslie Cushnie the opportunity to talk about their winery. Leslie was in FLDP Class 13. (NOTES: there is enough time for glass of Wine or tasting today though it would be at your expense, not covered by the tour. Also, before you buy any bottles of wine today, be aware that alcohol cannot be taken aboard the school bus.) Great chance to meet and mingle with classmates.

TURN LEFT ON RTE 6, THEN LEFT ON ROLLING ROAD AT KIDDS STORE

Rolling Road is a road name that reflects on the history of tobacco growing. After harvest and curing, the tobacco was loaded into hogsheads, large wooden barrels. These were moved down to the river for shipment by rolling them on high ground. The barrels were either pushed by laborers or hooked up to teams of oxen or horses.

We will pass **Modesto Greenhouse** on the right. This business is operated by long-time residents of Fluvanna, founded in 1850, currently operated by the Goins family. 600 acres. They market grass-fed beef, eggs, hay and potted plants.

We also pass Longacrea Road that takes one to **Scheier Natural Area** (on Cunningham Creek). This 100-acre site was donated to the Rivanna Conservation Society in Fluvanna in 1997, which later merged with a similar organization in Albemarle and is now the Rivanna Conservation Alliance. There are 3 miles of woodland trails down to Cunningham Creek. The trails are open year round during daylight hours. They host workshops from spring to fall on natural history subjects there. The property is maintained locally by Friends of the Scheier if you are interested in participating. In addition, they do a great service of monitoring water quality in the river.

To the left, off Transco Road, is a portion of the **Williams Gas Pipeline**, a pumping facility.

Antioch Church. This is another of the polling places for the county, the Cunningham district.

CONTINUING ON ROLLING ROAD, WE WILL LEAVE FLUVANNA AND BRIEFLY BE IN ALBEMARLE COUNTY.

Scenic views of the Blue Ridge Mountains are on the left at Reventon Farm.

TURN RIGHT ON RURITAN LAKE ROAD

We are passing **Ruritan Lake Road**, named for a 50-acre lake with public access north of our current location; good fishing.

US Bicycle Rt 76. Extends from Williamsburg/Yorktown to Missouri. Established in 1982 In Fluvanna there are 23 miles of designation, entering in the northeast portion from Goochland County to our east , through the

Village of Palmyra, coming west on 53, and then along Ruritan Lake Road. There is a possible project for Leadership to work on implementing the recommendations of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District to improve cycling safety along this route and generally in the county. We will also be travelling on another section of the bicycle route on Courthouse Rd later this morning.

PASSING BRANCH ROAD ON THE RIGHT

Antioch Brewing Company Branch Road, using locally sourced ingredients. No tasting room as yet.

Tenaska Power Plant, Branch Road. This is a gas-powered electricity generating facility, using steam turbines. They employ 29 full time workers. The plant can power 940,000 homes.

Also accessible from Ruritan Lake Road is **Middle Fork Farm** – weather permitting strawberry picking in the spring. Associated with Cunningham Creek Winery.

Central Virginia Sporting Clays on Middle Fork Road off of Longacre Road Branch road a public shooting range.

FURTHER ON RURITAN LAKE ROAD

Cunningham Creek Winery – our second county vineyard, opening in 2016

TURN RIGHT ONTO ROUTE 53, TOWARDS PALMYRA. AT TRAFFIC CIRCLE, TURN RIGHT TO GO SOUTH ON RTE 15 TO CENTRAL PLAINS RD

Fluvanna County Public School System

The Fluvanna Public School System has five fully accredited schools. As of 2015 it serves 3561 students in grades K-12 with 510 employees including teachers, administration, maintenance, and transportation.

Ahead on the right, West Central Elementary School serves Pre-K and Kindergarten. It is in part of the Central Elementary building which has grades 1 and 2. Carysbrook Elementary is on US 15 at Carysbrook with grades 3 and 4. The middle school (former high school) serves grades 5, 6 and 7. And the new High School includes grades 8 through 12.

Abrams Building, on the left across from Central Elementary

We saw the first high school for African-Americans, the New Fork School. It was replaced in 1936 by the S. C. Abrams High School. The school was named for the Rev. Samuel Christopher Abrams who, as the Jeanes Supervisor for Fluvanna was the highest-ranking African-American official in the county. The Jeanes Fund, a northern philanthropic effort, was endowed to improve instruction in the “Negro schools” of the south. When the doctrine of separate but equal was finally set aside, the Abrams building became the first integrated junior high school for the county. It now serves as a facility for special education programs.

CONTINUE LEFT ON CENTRAL PLAINS RD

Cocke Road Milestone – on the right near a telephone pole

This is another milestone from the old Cocke Road. It was moved here where it could be seen and preserved. Another milestone is now part of a wall at Bridal Hill, a historic home located behind the post office in Fork Union.

RETURN TO US 15 NORTH TOWARDS PALMYRA

Solitude Mill...the brick building down the hill on the right

We mentioned that over 40 water-powered mills once operated in Fluvanna County. Most of the mills were of the overshot wheel design. Solitude Mill is one of only three that escaped destruction during the Civil War. Some of the Bremono Mill structure still stands, but Payne's Mill was lost in the floods of 1969 and 1971.

"Texas Jack" Omohundro Birthplace – historic marker on the left

Born at Pleasure Hill Farm in 1846 about 1 mile west of the marker. At age 17 he served as a scout under the command of General J. E. B. Stuart. Later he was a renowned and heroic plainsman of the old west. Texas Jack along with his friend "Buffalo Bill" Cody started the first "Wild West" shows in America. He died in Leadville, Colorado in 1880.

PALMYRA, the "Fluvanna County Courthouse Historic District" – you already had a walking tour. The status of the county seat in Fluvanna was in question from the county's inception in 1777 until 1828. Two referenda were necessary before the decision was made to move the seat to Palmyra.

The first public building erected was the stone jail, completed in 1829. The jail was built by John G. Hughes, a stonemason, and is markedly similar in style to several of the farm buildings Hughes had built for General Cocke at Bremono. The Old Courthouse completed in 1831 has been in continuous use since. In addition to county buildings, the village of Palmyra consisted of fourteen dwellings, one Methodist church, one mercantile store, one tavern, one merchant, a gristmill and sawmill, one woolen factory, two saddlers, two tailors, one boot and shoe factory, one tanyard, one cabinetmaker and several carpenters and coopers. There was also a "fine bridge across the Rivanna."

You can notice on the right, buildings with retail businesses. **The Golden Fish** is one of the retail places in the county where locally produced goods and/or groceries can be purchased. Others include **The Local Eats** in the shopping center across from the Lake Monticello Fire House and **Cunningham Creek Winery** on Ruritan Lake Road.

GLEN BURNIE - another National Register property (now Marvin Moss's home) is located about a quarter mile north of Palmyra. Built in 1829 for Elizabeth Cary, it is significant for its architecture as associated with General John Hartwell Cocke. It's one of the small number of houses and other buildings in this County attributed to him, and is remarkable for its excellent condition and integrity, both interior and exterior. Distinctive features of Cocke's buildings include the use of brick coping, corbelled cornices, steeply pitched rooflines and decorative brick vents on the gable ends. In addition, Cocke sometimes designed buildings in a cruciform plan such as the stone jail in Palmyra. Many of these features are seen at Glen Burnie. The interior

plan consisting of a central hall flanked by two large rooms and two smaller rooms is similar to that found at Carysbrook.

CONTINUE NORTH ON RTE 15

Old Palmyra Elementary School, now the **School Board** offices on the left.

Palmyra Fire House, the last of the polling places we will pass by today.

TURN AROUND AND HEAD BACK TO THE LIBRARY RTE 15 AND THEN RIGHT ON RTE 53.

BROKEN BACKT CHURCH – About 2 miles north of Palmyra is a small monument to the Broken Backt Church, the first and arguably the most important Methodist Church in the Commonwealth. While under construction, a tree fell and broke the ridge pole. Rather than replace it, the pole was repaired leaving a permanent sag in the roofline and thus creating a “broken back.” The first Methodists were Societies within the Church of England. They depended on ministers ordained by the Established Church of England to administer the sacraments. But with the outbreak of hostilities in 1776 many ordained ministers returned to England. In 1779 lay preachers assembled in conference at the Broken-Backt Church to resolve this shortage. They determined to ordain themselves to perform weddings, conduct funerals and administer the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion. Methodists in other states did not agree with this practice and appealed to John Wesley in England. After the close of the Revolutionary War, Wesley took official action forming the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1784.

The first meeting to establish the Methodists was held at **Solitude Plantation House**. As we turn onto Rte 53, it is up on the hill behind the E.W. Thomas grocery store.

On the right behind First Run Café is the **Palmyra Boat Launch**, on the Rivanna, on the right – it is about 6.5 miles downstream from Crofton and 16 miles further downstream to Columbia and Point of Fork.

RETURN TO FLUVANNA COUNTY LIBRARY.