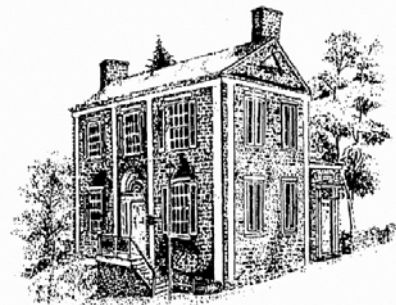


Rockbridge Historical Society

Est. 1939

HEADQUARTERS • CAMPBELL HOUSE
EAST WASHINGTON STREET AT RANDOLPH STREET
(540) 464-1058 • rochist@hotmail.com • www.rockhist.org
P.O. Box 1409 • Lexington, Virginia 24450-1409



The past educating the present.

GUIDE TO ROCKBRIDGE HISTORY AND GENEALOGY RESOURCES IN LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA

The Rockbridge Historical Society is pleased to provide the following information for the convenience of those interested in history or genealogy research in Lexington/Rockbridge County. Anyone visiting from a distance should always call ahead to confirm days/hours of operation. Try to visit early on a weekday to allow sufficient research time. An overnight stay at one of downtown Lexington's delightful small hotels or bed and breakfast establishments is guaranteed to maximize both pleasure and efficiency.

THE ROCKBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Rockbridge Historical Society, founded in 1939, supports a wide variety of endeavors relating to the preservation of, and education about, local history. It owns and maintains three historic buildings in the heart of Lexington, collects historic furniture, artifacts, photographs, maps, and a wide variety other documents; operates a museum, holds six meetings per year (every other month) at which leading scholars lecture on local history, periodically publishes the RHS Proceedings, produces a regular newsletter, and is sponsoring a new comprehensive history of Rockbridge County, which it is hoped will be published in time for the Society's 70th Anniversary in 2008.

The Society's headquarters and exhibition space at Campbell House is always a good place to start. The Society has excellent secondary sources, and can provide direction and suggestions as to how best to conduct local genealogical or historical research.

Campbell House is located on Washington Street, at Randolph Street, across from the Lexington Visitors Center. Telephone (540) 464-1058. Email: rochist@hotmail.com. Website: www.rockhist.org.

Current Operating Hours

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday – Open 10-4

Saturday and Sunday – Open 1-4

Monday and Tuesday – Closed

Museum Schedule

The Campbell House Museum of the Rockbridge Historical Society depends largely upon volunteer docents to provide access to its reference library and exhibits. Operating hours may sometimes be subject to change without notice.

Visitors should contact the director prior to arrival at 540/460-3046 or rochist@hotmail.com to confirm Campbell House will be open to the public. Often an appointment can be made for a visit on days, or during hours, the museum is otherwise closed.

Directions to Campbell House

Either north- or southbound on I-81, take Lexington Exit # 188. Drive westbound on Rt. 60 (Nelson Street) from I-81, proceed several miles. As you come into town, you'll pass the Kroger Grocery on the right, and go up a hill to a traffic signal at the entrance to Col Alto (Hampton Inn). Turn right onto Washington Street. Proceed 2-3 blocks down the hill to the Lexington Visitors Center on the right. Park in their lot. Campbell House is just west of the Visitors' Center, and across the street, at the intersection of Washington and Randolph Streets.

Coming south on Rt. 11 (either off of the I-81/I-64 interchange, or passing it) proceed a couple of miles south, down the hill, cross the bridge over the Maury River, and bear to the right just south of the bridge. This takes you south on what becomes Jefferson Street. After about one mile, the street divides into two one-way streets. Continue straight ahead. At the second block past this "Y," turn left on Washington Street. Proceed east 2 blocks. Campbell House will be on the right, and the Visitors Center just beyond it on the left.

Coming north on Rt. 11 (as from Natural Bridge), proceed through Lexington, remaining straight on Main Street. About one half mile past the city limits, the Stonewall Jackson Cemetery will appear on the right. Proceed about 3 more blocks, and turn right on Washington Street. Proceed east 1 block. Campbell House will be on the right, and the Visitors Center just beyond it on the left.

LEXINGTON VISITORS CENTER

Any trip to the Rockbridge area should begin at the Visitors Center, located at 106 East Washington Street, across from the headquarters of the Rockbridge Historical Society. This wonderful organization is open year-round, including weekends and most holidays. Their employees can provide visitors with maps, information on dining, accommodations, and entertainment and many other planning suggestions, to insure a successful area visit. Telephone (540) 463-3777. Email: lexington@rockbridge.net. Website: www.lexingtonvirginia.com.

Schedule

Open every day, including holidays. June, July and August - 8:30 am to 6:00 pm. September through May – 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Closed Christmas and New Years Day.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, LEYBURN LIBRARY WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

The Society's considerable collection of historic documents is maintained in the archives of Washington and Lee University library, located three blocks west of Campbell House (north of Washington Street and west of Jefferson Street). This catalogued collection is free and open to the public. The W&L library also has local newspapers on microfilm from 1835 up to within the past two years.

The Special Collections archivists are happy to locate and copy reasonable quantities of materials. There is a copying charge. They can be reached by email as follows: Vaughan Stanley, Director, at stanleyv@wlu.edu or Lisa McCown, Special Assis-

tant, mccownl@wlu.edu. Mailing Address: Leyburn Library, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA 24450. Telephones: Vaughan – (540) 458-8649; Lisa – (540) 458-8663. Website: <http://www.home.wlu.edu/~stanleyv/speccoll.html>.

Schedule

Open weekdays between Labor Day and Memorial Day, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, whenever school is in session. Summer hours are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm (occasionally closed for lunch). Holiday hours vary.

ROCKBRIDGE REGIONAL LIBRARY

Library headquarters has an excellent genealogical section. A reference librarian is available for assistance. The main library is located two blocks from Campbell House, at 138 South Main Street. Telephone (540) 463-4324. Website: www.rrlib.net. (The regional library's website has a wonderful array of genealogical links.)

Schedule

Year-round: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday – 9:00 am to 5:30 pm. Tuesday and Thursday – 9:00 am to 9:00 pm. Saturday – 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Between Labor Day and Memorial Day: Sunday – 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Closed on holidays.

LEXINGTON/ROCKBRIDGE CIRCUIT COURT

The clerk's office of the circuit court has family and real estate records dating back to the 1778 founding of Rockbridge County and the City of Lexington. The courthouse is located on Main Street, at Washington Street, one block from Campbell House. Mailing address: Clerk of Court, 2 South Main Street, Lexington, VA 24450. Telephone (540) 463-2232.

Schedule

Open year-round, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Closed weekends and holidays.

ROCKBRIDGE AREA GENEALOGY SOCIETY (RAGS)

A private association of persons interested in local genealogy. RAGS mailing address is P. O. Box 92, Rockbridge Baths, Virginia 24473. Website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~varags/>

Schedule

Monthly meetings are held at 7:00 pm, in the Rockbridge Regional Library, on the second Thursday of each month, Visitors are welcome.

LDS FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS Church) maintains a nice genealogy facility in Rockbridge County, southwest of Lexington. They have a wealth of information to share.

Contact Person – Ms Peggy Goodsell (Home Telephone: 540/261-1056) Center Telephone: 540/463-7111 Address: 1340 Thornhill Road (on the way to Collierstown)

Schedule

Open all year, Tuesdays: 10-1; Thursdays: 7-9; other times by arrangement with Ms Goodsell.

ARCHIVES OF THE PRESTON LIBRARY VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

The archives at VMI's main academic library contain a wealth of primary sources containing general information on Rock-bridge, Lexington and Civil War history. Excellent genealogical materials are also there. But these relate almost exclusively to people with a significant connection to VMI – as for example, former cadet, faculty member, staff, or member of one of VMI's many associated boards and organizations.

Director – LTC Diane Jacob. Special Assistant – Mary Laura Kludy. Telephone (540) 464-7566. Address: Archives, Preston Library, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Virginia 24450. Email: archives@vmi.edu. Website: www.vmi.edu/archives.

Schedule

Open all year, including summer, 8:00am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday. Closed during school holidays.

STONEWALL JACKSON HOUSE MUSEUM

Located in restored circa 1801 house, which was the only home Jackson ever owned. One of the nation's finest small house museums, Stonewall Jackson House contains furniture, furnishings, and décor from Jackson's time in Lexington. He resided there during his marriage to Mary Anna Morrison. Information and artifacts associated with Jackson; museum shop with prints, books, Jackson biography and genealogy materials and information. No archived collections of historic documents. Not designed to be a research facility.

Executive Director – Michael A. Lynn. Curator – Cathy Wright. Mailing address: 8 Washington Street, Lexington, Virginia 24450. Telephone: (540) 463-2552. Website: www.stonewalljackson.org.

The Stonewall Jackson House is located one block west of the Lexington Visitors Center, at 8 Washington Street. Its administrative headquarters is next door, in the Davidson-Tucker House (circa 1870), at 10 Washington Street.

Schedule

Open all year, including summer, 9:00am to 5:00pm, seven days a week. Closed Christmas Day.

VMI MUSEUM

Located in the lower level of Jackson Memorial Hall, the VMI cadet chapel. Wide range of historic artifacts, related in some way to VMI. Some incidental material on local and Civil War history. Very knowledgeable staff. No archived collections of historic documents. Not designed to be a research facility.

Director – COL Keith Gibson. Special Assistant – Barbara Blakey. Mailing Address: VMI Museum, Jackson Memorial Hall, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Virginia 24450. Telephone: (540) 464-7232. Email: blakeybj@vmi.edu. Website: www.vmi.edu/museum.

Schedule

Open all year, including summer, 9:00am to 5:00pm, seven days a week. Closed during school holidays.

GEORGE C. MARSHALL RESEARCH LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

One of the premiere repositories of original source materials on World War II, the Marshall Library and Museum is located adjacent to the VMI post, on the parade road. It has a wide variety of materials on practically every facet of World War II. Its greatest strength, of course, is General Marshall's own papers, as well as papers and materials related to his military and government service. President and CEO of the Marshall Foundation – Vacant; Director of Library/Archives – Paul Barron, Ext. 230; Museum Director – Julie Kemper, Ext. 225.

Mailing Address: P. O. Drawer 1600, Lexington, VA 24450-1600; Location: VMI Parade Telephone: (540) 464-7103. Email: marshall@marshallfoundation.org. Website: www.marshallfoundation.org.

Schedule

The museum is open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm every day except Christmas. The research library is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, and is closed on major holidays.

HISTORIC LEXINGTON FOUNDATION (HLF)

A tax-deductible, charitable organization, devoted to saving and rehabilitating architecturally-significant historic structures. This group can provide assistance and information on regulations and procedures relating to historic preservation easements and scenic easements, as well as associated tax credits, and can furnish information and assistance with nominations of properties to the state and/or national registers of historic places. Information is also available regarding compliance issues arising out of the Lexington historic preservation planning district. Some limited information regarding specific historic homes is available from HLF as well.

Executive Director – Leslie A. Giles

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 901, Lexington, VA 24450-0901; Location: W&L Campus Telephone (540) 463-6832; Email: hlf@rockbridge.net. Website: www.hlf-lexingtonva.org.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF VIRGINIA ANTIQUITIES (APVA)

A state-wide, tax-deductible, charitable organization, devoted to saving and rehabilitating architecturally-significant historic structures and places. The local chapter of this group can provide information on historic preservation, and can furnish information to assist nominations of properties to the state and/or national registers of historic places.

Information regarding specific historic homes in the Rockbridge area is also available from the local chapter of this organization, as they conducted an exhaustive survey of area properties as part of an ongoing state-wide project. Information is also available regarding the history of local canal and river transportation systems during the past two centuries.

Local chapter members who are willing to provide information on the above subjects – Tom and Marta Kastner; (540) 261-1221.

APVA Chapter mailing address: P. O. Box 525, Lexington, VA 24450-0525; no office; no telephone; no email or website.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH SOURCES

Rockbridge County was formed in 1778 from two adjoining counties – Augusta and Botetourt. The county's northern 3/4th (including Lexington) came from Augusta County. The southern 1/4th came from Botetourt. Accordingly, court, and other records prior to that date will be found in those counties, depending upon the individual or family's geographic location.

AUGUSTA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Local genealogical and historical records and artifacts. Located in a renovated railroad station in Staunton, Virginia. President (2004) – Kenneth W. Keller; Website: www.augustacountyhs.org

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 686, Staunton, VA 24402-0686; Telephone: (540) 248-4151 Schedule: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9:00 am – Noon.

BOTETOURT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Local genealogical and historical records and artifacts. Located on Courthouse Square, Fincastle, Virginia. Museum Director – Position Vacant; Society President --Mailing address: P. O. Box 468, Fincastle, VA 24090-0468. Email: ehonts@aol.com. Telephones: {Museum} (540) 473-8394 {Society} (540) 473-3713.

Schedule

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday: 10:00am to 2:00pm; Sunday: 2:00pm to 4:00pm.

VITAL RECORDS

The Virginia Office of Vital Records can furnish certified copies of death records for the periods 1853 through 1896 and 1912-present for \$10 each. Birth and marriage records for varying periods are also available. The Vital Records Office is located at 1601 Willow Lawn Drive, Suite 275, Richmond, VA 23230. Mailing Address: P. O. Box 1000, Richmond, VA 23218-1000. Telephone: (804) 692-3592. This agency can also be reached on the Internet at its website as follows: <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/vitalrec/f08.htm>.

VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY (VHS)

VHS is one of the older state historical societies in the nation. Founded in 1831, its first president was John Marshall, the first chief justice of the United States. Since 1946, it has been located in the Battle Abby, a magnificent building on the west side of the Boulevard, in Richmond, where it maintains its exhibit space, library, archives, storage, and administrative offices. VHS has a very large and important collection of primary and secondary source materials on Virginia history, which is available to the public. This includes considerable material relating to Lexington and Rockbridge County.

Location: 428 North Boulevard, Richmond, Virginia 23220; mailing address: P. O. Box 7311, Richmond, VA 23221-0311. Telephones: Main: (804) 358-4901; Library: (804) 342-9677 Genealogy information: (804) 342-9649; Museum Shop: (804) 342-9671; Education Office: (804) 342-9652; Fax: (804) 355-2399.

Staff: Charles F. Bryan, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer (804) 342-9656; email: charles@vahistorical.org; E. Lee Shepard, Director of Manuscripts & Archives (804) 342-9670; email: leeshepard@vahistorical.org; Frances Pollard, Director of Library Services (804) 342-9686; email: fpollard@vahistorical.org.

Schedule

Monday-Saturday 10-5 / Sunday 1-5 (galleries only)

THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA (VIRGINIA STATE LIBRARY)

800 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219-8000

Main Telephone: (804) 692-3500. Voice TDD: (804) 692-3976.

Departments: Archives: 804-692-3888; Library: (804) 692-3777; Government Publications: (804) 692-3562; Circula-

tion: (804) 692-3547; Interlibrary Loan: (804) 692-3532; Library Shop: (804) 6923524; Library of Virginia Foundation: (804) 692-3900; Publications: (804) 692-3999; Records Center: 804-236-3705; Records Management: 804-692-3600; Special Collections: (804) 692-3703.

Schedule

The reading rooms and collections are CLOSED to the public on Mondays.

The Exhibitions, Cafe and Library Shop are OPEN on Mondays.

The reading rooms are OPEN Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM.

The reading rooms are open with limited staff on Saturdays.

Please check the holiday calendar for other closings.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES (VDHR)

An agency of state government, which is devoted to every aspect of historic preservation in the Commonwealth. Its headquarters are in Richmond, and it has four regional offices around the state. For additional information, visit the agency's excellent website.

Central Office: 2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, VA 23221

Main Telephone Number: (804) 367-2323

Website: <http://statevipnet.org/dhr/>

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

The Rockbridge Historical Society is not able to provide genealogical or historic research for the general public, or even for its members, beyond answering brief, well-defined questions. Visitors to Campbell House, however, will find an excellent reference library, along with direction from a docent in doing their own research. This service is free of charge. Photocopying is available at ten cents per page.

Although the Society does not endorse any private individual for this purpose, the following ladies have been identified as willing to undertake such work.

In alphabetical order, they are:

(1) Ms Carol Hite Harlow; Phone: (540) 348-5262; Email: charlow1@ntelos.net.

(2) Ms Jean Robinson; 11 Edmondson Avenue, Lexington, VA 24450; Phone: (540) 463-4453

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