



## NEWS RELEASE

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### ORANGE COUNTY LIBRARIES OFFER HISTORY EVENTS

Orange County, VA - The Orange County Public Library System is highlighting its rich history this fall as part of its new experiential adult reading program, titled "Read & Explore," that will be conducted from September 1<sup>st</sup> through October 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> - Historical Event at the Main Library - 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**  
Historian Lynn Rainville's program, "*God's Acre: Protecting African American Cemeteries*," focuses on the fascinating history of African-American cemeteries in central Virginia. Lynn Rainville earned her Ph.D. in Near Eastern anthropology and archaeology in 2001. For twenty years, she taught anthropology and archaeology at various colleges and universities, including Dartmouth, University of Virginia, and Sweet Briar College. For the past decade, she dedicated most of her time to studying historic African-American cemeteries and enslaved communities on antebellum plantations, including 200 years of African-American history at Sweet Briar. She is currently working as a public historian on World War I projects.

**Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> - Historical Event at Ellwood Manor - Grounds Open at 12:00 Noon**  
*Tour of Ellwood*, a circa 1790 plantation, with a rich Civil War heritage, sponsored by the Wilderness Branch Library. Bring a picnic lunch, if you wish, and a camp chair! There will be a fascinating *lecture by accomplished scholar and speaker Dr. Chris Mackowski* on Stonewall Jackson at 1:30 p.m. Guides will then lead tours of the Manor House, walking trails, and gardens. Be sure to bring sturdy footwear to walk the trails. This event is being held in partnership with the Friends of Wilderness Battlefield. Ellwood Manor is operated by the National Park Service.

**Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> - Historical Event at the Main Library - 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**  
*Civil War Relic Hunting*. Join Robert (Bob) Painter, head of the Rapidan River Relic Hunters Association, to learn about metal detecting for Civil War relics in the area. Bob has led a number of organized digs on historic sites in the local area. The Rapidan River Relic Hunters Association (RRRHA) was formed in June 2011 with the goals of, "preserving our history with integrity *and* remembering the Civil War soldiers with honor." The club headquarters is located in the East Orange Ruritan Building in Unionville, Virginia.

**Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup> - Historical Event at the Woods Center - 7:00 p.m.**  
Dr. Peter G. Rainey, Chairman of the Civil War Study Group, accomplished speaker, author, and amateur historian, will present a *lecture titled, "CMR: Culpeper Mine Run Road with Battle of the Wilderness."* This event will take place at the Woods Center in Lake of the Woods, located at 108 Fairway Drive. Light refreshments will be provided by the Wilderness Friends of the Library group. The event is being held in partnership with the Civil War Study Group, and is sponsored by the Wilderness Branch Library.

**Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> - Historical Event at the Main Library - 7:00 p.m.**

*Presentation on Orange County History.* Frank Walker is presenting, "The Inside Track on Tracks Through Time," a program going behind the scenes of the making of the Orange County Rail Fan brochure and the sharing of cool facts that didn't make the brochure. Frank is a former farmer and retired lawyer who founded a historical tourism company. He is also the author of "*Remembering: A History of Orange County, Virginia*" and active in many area heritage associations. This event is sponsored by the Orange Friends of the Library group.

**Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> - Historical Event at the Gordonsville Branch - 7:00 p.m.**

*Viewing of Documentary Film.* Phil Audibert will screen his short documentary on the history of Orange County and speak about the film. Phil is an author (*Local Folks-Sketches of Orange County Personalities*), a professional musician (two traditional Irish bands), and freelance photographer and writer. In the past, Phil has been a beef farmer, a ski instructor (Level II), a B&B operator, an editor, and a radio news director.

These events are free to attend and open to all adults. No registration is required.

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