Norfolk Southern laid a parallel set of tracks through the town, thus making the county a major east coast rail corridor. During the early months of World WAR II, more than **100** freight and passenger trains passed through Orange each day.

• **The Civil War Museum at the Exchange Hotel in Gordonsville** has served as a hotel, a Receiving Hospital for Confederate and Union troops, and the Freedman's Bureau Hospital for newly freed slaves.

• The train station sat idle for **17** years after Amtrak declined to designate it a "flag stop" in 1979. In 1998 it became the site for the Orange County Department of Tourism & Visitors Bureau.

• Today, the population of Orange County is approximately **34,000** and many founders' descendants still reside here.

Orange County Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 133
Orange, Virginia 22960
www.VisitOrangeVirginia.com

The Orange County Department of Tourism & Visitors Bureau is committed to raising the awareness of Orange County; enhancing its image; and promoting its interests and name recognition - locally, nationally and internationally.

The top ten states of visitor origin are Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, New York, Florida, California, Ohio, New Jersey, and Texas. Florida, California, and Texas have been in the top ten for the past six years!

International visitors have come from all continents, with the exception of Antarctica. The United Kingdom, Canada, Thailand, and Germany have the largest visitor percentages of all the countries.

Look for our other publications:

ORANGE COUNTY
VIRGINIA
www.VisitOrangeVirginia.com

It Happened In Orange County

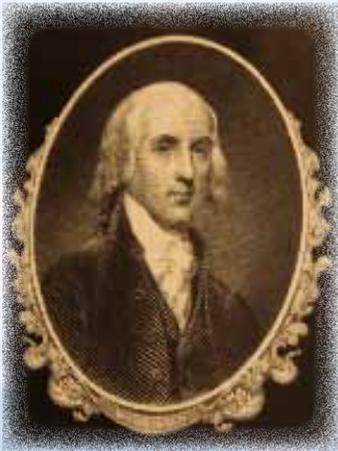*Civil War Museum at the Exchange Hotel in Gordonsville*

Pictures by Toyita Rivera

Orange County's rich past is evidenced by the books written about it, the number and variety of its historical landmarks, and the many visitors who come from all over the world.

• The Orange County area was first settled in 1714, when Alexander Spotswood (Lt. Governor of Virginia from 1710 to 1722) established Germanna as an English frontier settlement for indentured German metalworkers and their families.

• In 1734 the county was established and named in honor of William, Prince of Orange, and husband of Anne, Princess Royal of England. The towns of Orange and Gordonsville were incorporated in 1870 and 1872, respectively.

• Orange County was the home of our fourth president, James Madison. He and wife Dolley retired to Montpelier, and lived there until his death in 1836. Mrs. Madison sold the property in 1844.

• The county was also the birthplace of our twelfth president, Zachary Taylor, in 1784. More than one site, including Montebello near Barboursville, claims to be the birthplace. Taylor's descendents still live in the county today.

• In 1734, Orange County's boundaries included territory that would later become Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and West Virginia.

• Gold was commercially mined in Orange until 1937. More than 6,000 troy ounces were exported in a peak year.

• Orange County is a primary producer of grapes, and one of the major producers of wine in the state of Virginia.

• The story goes that Orange County in California was named for Virginia's Orange County by the winner in a poker game. The town of Orange was incorporated in 1872 and Orange County founded in 1734.

• St. Thomas Episcopal Church on Caroline Street has a Tiffany stained-glass window. General Lee worshipped there when his army was quartered in Orange County during the winter of 1863-64. His pew remains there to this day.

• Main Street in Orange was the site of a Civil War cavalry battle known as the "Orange Courthouse Engagement." Stonewall Jackson was in search of a federal "Army of Virginia."

• In 1888, one of Virginia's worst railroad disasters occurred at the "Fat Nancy" Trestle west of the Town of Orange. Several involved were Civil War soldiers returning from a reunion in Gettysburg.

• The predecessor of today's CSX Railroad came through Orange in 1854. In 1880, the predecessor of today's

Experience   Remember   Celebrate!