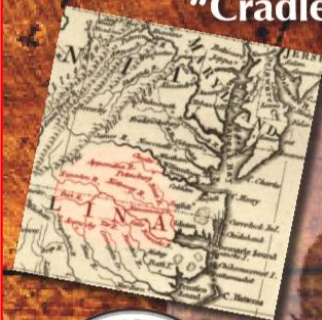


The Old Brunswick Circuit

"Cradle of Methodism"



The Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization that exists to promote preservation and interpretation of significant sites within Methodism's earliest circuit. www.OldBrunswick.org

2019 Annual Newsletter

The Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation (TOBCF) is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization formed in 2004.

While seeking to preserve and interpret key historical sites along the 18th and 19th century Methodist Brunswick Circuit, it shares its legacy of faith, history, and education with the public.

TOBCF emphasizes this diverse local heritage by using these sites as learning laboratories and cultural facilities for education and social interaction.

TOBCF strives to research, preserve, and develop historical interpretation of three properties:

- **Ebenezer Academy Memorial Park**—site of the first Methodist school in America;
- **Canaan—the Dromgoole House**, the home of an early Methodist circuit rider, the Rev. Edward Dromgoole, and later home of his son an early 19th century U.S. Congressman;
- The original campus of **Randolph-Macon College (RMC)** in Boydton, VA, which later became the **Boydton Institute**, an impactful training school for freed slaves and Black Americans.

The Dromgoole House: Saved from Calamity

While cutting the grass on the grounds of the historic Dromgoole House, Tom King, one of our dedicated volunteers from Henrico NC, noticed something that needed immediate attention. One of the chimneys had drastically begun to tilt—leaning about six inches toward the back of the house, and it was taking part of the house with it. It had actually flexed the studs inside the house and the stone base under the chimney



Tom King points to the collapsing chimney.
(Courtesy: Lea Beazley/Lake Gaston Gazette-Observer)

had also started collapsing outward to one side. King couldn't let this happen given the Edward Dromgoole House is the only remaining circuit rider home established under the United Methodist Church, Virginia Conference. It was built in 1798 by Edward

Dromgoole (1751–1835) and today sits on 16 acres of land. According to a nearby historic marker on N.C. Hwy. 46, the Dromgoole House “was an important hospitality and educational stop for Methodist preachers, including the first American Methodist Bishop, Francis Asbury.” In 2008, it was purchased by The Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation so it could be preserved and restored to its original state. There was no telling the damage that would be done to the entire structure if this chimney should collapse.

Due to the urgency of the situation, King, who has done all the preservation work on the house so far, reschedule his other contractor work and



Front view of the Dromgoole House showing scaffolding around the chimney
(Courtesy Lea Beazley: Lake Gaston Gazette Observer)

immediately got busy stabilizing the chimney. First, he used 4-inch-by-6-inch timbers and long threaded rods with nuts and washers to clamp the chimney in place against the house, tying it to one of the large corner-framing members. Chimneys built in the 18th century and well into the 19th century were typically built on a base of stones and dirt and were just sitting on top of the ground. Because of this type of original construction, King excavated by hand the



Close up view of scaffolding on the Dromgoole house chimney.

inside of the chimney base, from the first-floor firebox down to the ground, leaving only fixed

stones to hold the weight of the chimney. Next he washed the stones of all the loose dirt and dust to promote the bonding together of the remaining base stones, and to give support to the chimney, as it sits. He then filled the remaining structure

of the chimney base with concrete to unitize the whole foundation under the chimney. This concrete serves several purposes. It bonds the outside layer of stones together, to keep them from falling outwards-- as they had already started to do. The concrete also supports the whole interior structure of the chimney from under which any original support had already fallen out, putting so much weight on the outside layer of bricks that they were being crushed.



Tom King getting one of the large chimney stones back in place

Only the outer, exposed layer of bricks are hard, high fired bricks, but they can only support so much weight. Lastly the concrete provides something strong enough to allow the whole chimney to be jacked back into proper position. The final steps of this chimney stabilization process can only be done after sufficient funds for the job are donated.

Challenge Grant:

Triggers Donations for Chimney Repairs

Because this chimney's deterioration appeared so quickly, TOBCF was short of funds to pay for King's much appreciated rescue work. But a generous, anonymous supporter presented us with a challenge grant offering to match two dollars to every dollar donated by others toward the work done at the Dromgoole House. From that fund drive we raised \$26,454 which fortunately covered King's labor cost

and material expenses to date. Many thanks go to him working in the hottest of summer heat to stabilize the chimney in its leaning position! Thanks also to Lea Beazley and the *Lake Gaston Gazette* Observer for running an article with photos about the leaning chimney at the Dromgoole house and requesting the public's support.

But more funds are still needed because the Dromgoole House actually has two chimneys, and King reports the second west chimney urgently needs similar treatment. You can see that a vertical crack, from this chimney's base, continues to grow. You can look at it, and tell that the crack is fresh where it spreads up the chimney. However, stabilizing the second chimney may not be quite as costly because some of the material used in stabilizing the first chimney can be reused for the second. In addition, unlike the first chimney, prior owners have not made foundation changes that weakened its original footing.

Donor House Found & Purchased

It was a big blessing that the tilting chimney at the Dromgoole house was noticed before much greater damage ensued. However, TOBCF was the recipient of another unexpected blessing when a small house that had been constructed in the same time period as the Dromgoole went up for sale.

Before the opportunity escaped us, a generous couple of benefactors supporting TOBCF quickly bought it. Being of the same vintage, this little house will be a donor house from which we can harvest parts that need to be replaced in the Dromgoole House as well as in the Helensha Cottage. There are enough duplicate parts in this donor house to restore anything that needs to be replaced in the Dromgoole House. This provides us with the advantage of being able to retain historical accuracy during restoration without incurring the extra cost of tasks like special milling and other unique replication activities.

The greatest challenge to the donor house is its location: 100 miles away from the Dromgoole house. Help will be needed and extra cost incurred in moving the harvested parts from this far away. All free work offers and tax free donations are welcomed.

First Tours of the Dromgoole House

The Dromgoole house has reached that point of restoration that even an untrained eye can begin to appreciate the special nature of this historical structure. On Saturday July 20, 2019, Tom King led TOBCF's first Saturday tour of the Dromgoole house. Despite the severe summer heat, we had a small group of interested history buff who attended and stayed for over an hour. As restoration moves forward hopefully we will begin to see even greater community interest and support.

Boydton Institute's Notable Students & Staff: Highlighted at the College of William & Mary

The month of March brought with it the exciting opportunity for the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation to give a presentation about the Boydton Institute at the College of William and Mary's 9th Annual Lemon Symposium. The history of the Boydton Institute linked so closely with Symposium's overall theme of "Celebrating Legacies, Constructing futures: Four Hundred Years of Black Community and Culture," that the College was quick to accept our written proposal to speak and participate in a panel discussion.

In 2009, the Board of Visitors for the College of William and Mary acknowledged that the university had "owned and exploited slave labor from its founding to the Civil War; and that it had failed to take a stand against segregation during the Jim Crow Era." As a result, the Board offered its support for the establishment of *The Lemon Project: A Journey of Reconciliation*. The Project was named for Lemon, in honor of a man who had once been enslaved by the college. This project serves as a multifaceted and dynamic attempt to rectify wrongs perpetrated against African Americans by the College of William and Mary through action or inaction. An ongoing endeavor, the Lemon Project focuses on contributing to and encouraging scholarship on the 325-year relationship between African Americans and the College, and building bridges between the College and its community.

Held at the School of Education on March 15 and 16, 2019, this symposium included a series of panels and speakers covering topics that touched on the 400th anniversary of Africans first reaching Virginia soil. A wide variety of activities, such as film screenings and lectures, provided students, faculty, staff and members of the community a chance to learn about Virginia's legacy with slaveholding and black civil rights.



Ann Keeling & Faithe Norrell answer discussion questions at the Lemon Symposium

The Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation's presentation, "Preserving Boydton Institute: An African American School from Reconstruction into the Jim Crow Era," highlighted the Boydton Institute, a black educational facility established on

the outskirts of Boydton, Virginia and operating in the abandoned buildings of the original campus of Randolph Macon College.

Richmond artist and historian, Faithe Norrell, and Board member, Ann Keeling, teamed up to give a presentation conveying the impressive character of three people who had either taught, studied or were leaders at the Boydton Institute.

After briefing the audience on our foundation and its three historical sites, we showed two video clips. These clips were



Jim Mott, TOBCF president, networks with Symposium attendee while manning TOBCF's exhibit table.

"virtual" introductions to (1) one of Boydton Institutes most notable graduates, Rev. Vernon Johns and (2) one of Boydton institutes most dedicated teachers, Mrs. Mary B. Mullen Hench. Ms. Norrell concluded the presentation by giving an account of the Boydton Institute's first African-American principal, Dr. Charles S. Morris. Her talk became more personal in nature

and her account drew greater attention when she showed never-before-seen family photos and revealed

that Dr. Morris was her grandfather.

After Ms. Norrell spoke, we were excited that she had the opportunity to meet and talk with Dr. Robert Vinson. Dr. Vinson, who was in the audience, was the author of *Ethiopia Shall Stretch Forth from America to Africa: The Pan-African Crusade of Charles Morris*. He is currently writing a book about Dr. Charles Morris.

Mother Nature Strikes Minor Blows at Boydton Site

In the first few months of 2019, a tree fell on the north side of the main Randolph Macon College and Boydton Institute building. Although it fell straight toward the building, luckily no damage was done to the walls. With the recent help of one of our volunteers, this tree has been cut up and the wood moved away from the building close to the surrounding fence.



Tree that fell toward the walls of the Randolph Macon College and Boydton Institute main building

On July 29, 2019, the town of Boydton, Virginia, experienced severe weather: a straight-line microburst. The power was out for over 25 hours and lots of trees downed. It appears that the wind-shear came from southwest and toppled the wooden roof off the "well" which houses the bell in yard of the Helensha Cottage, but did not damage the bell itself. Although this bell and "well" have come to be recognizable features connected to the cottage, they have no longstanding historical significance. They were placed there by Rev. John McKenry when he owned and lived in cottage in 1970s and 80s. Rev. McKendry was also the one who had the brick entrance gates installed



"Well and Bell House" broken up by microburst

The strong winds also ripped some shingles off of the southwest corner of cottage roof. Afterwards, board member, Walter Beales walked the property, picked up limbs and sticks and reported no other damage including to the main Randolph Macon College/Boydton Institute building.



In September we got word from a Boydton supporter, Dr. Susan Hundley, that the large tree near the Helensha Cottage had been struck by lightning. We will need to keep a watchful eye on this tree as spring approaches to determine if it is going to survive the trauma of the strike.

Lightning struck tree at Helensha Cottage.

Discovered: Deep Hand-dug well

While installing power lines underground on the north side of Jefferson Street, Dominion Energy discovered a hand-dug well on our Randolph Macon College/Boydton Institute property. Observers described the well as the deepest hand-dug well they had ever seen. Initial rough measurements indicate that it is about 50 feet deep. It still contains clear water and appears to be lined with either brick or stone.

In his *History of Randolph Macon College*, the author, Mr. Scanlon, reported one of the pranks that the Randolph Macon



Well found on Jefferson Highway --Covered for safety.

College students played was to "fill up the well with pine logs, in order to have it cleared of rats, cats, and hares." This may be the campus well of which they spoke but further evaluation is needed to confirm this assumption. We have already contacted several experts for advice on how to proceed with managing the well site including (1) Ms. Erin James Ling, Extension Associate and Coordinator of Virginia Household Water Quality Program at Virginia Tech (2) Amy Hawkins Mecklenburg County's Master Well Owner agent, and (3) Christina Ekhooff, Executive Director of the *Virginia Well Water Association*. Dr. Brian Bates, Anthropology & Program Coordinator at Longwood University and Dr. Michael Clem, Eastern Region Archaeologist for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources have both expressed a willingness to help us with historical evaluation of the well.

Solemn Assembly: Reconciliation at Helensha Cottage

In 1910 the ownership of the Boydton Institute property passed between two faith-based organizations: from the *Faith Mission at Home and Abroad* to the *Christian and Missionary Alliance* (CMA). This was done as part of a merger of these organizations both of which operated schools for African Americans. Afterwards, the CMA was to operate the Boydton Institute until about 1924.

The Christian and Missionary Alliance (CMA), is an international, evangelical Protestant denomination, with roots in the ministry of Albert B. Simpson (1843-1919). Rev. A. B. Simpson was a Canadian Presbyterian minister who formed an interdenominational missionary society in 1887. This Alliance was categorized as a society rather than a denomination up to 1971. It is characterized as an amalgamation of Christians from various ethnic and religious experiences.

The missionaries of the Alliance were laymen who received special training for this work. Many were also unmarried women. One aim of the society is to cultivate a spirit of frugality, great simplicity and self-denial in their missionary work. Of their own choosing, their missionaries are not paid a fixed salary, but only receive an adequate amount to meet their

actual expenses in the field. They willingly give their lives in service and in unpretentious faith in God to take care of them through friends and congregations at home.



Attendees at the Solemn Assembly-- Guest speaker Rev. Donna Baptiste standing on the far left.

Minister Donna Baptiste is a licensed worker with the Christian and Missionary Alliance. She is working on reconciliation of the CMA with their past dealings with African American community. She has already dealt with the

issues surrounding CMA missionaries of color in the early 1900's. She also wants to deal with the African American Schools that the CMA operated. Toward this purpose, a Solemn Assembly was held on Jun 15, 2019 at the Boydton Institute.

A Solemn Assembly is a time of prayer: remembering the good as well as clearing past issues. It is a very personal time to those connected with the Helensha Cottage, Randolph Macon College and the Boydton Institute and the podium was shared by three such people.

First to speak was Lewis Turner, great great grandson of the Honorable William O.

Goode. Goode wrote the original Charter for the Randolph Macon College while serving on the Virginia State Legislature. When Randolph Macon College relocated to Ashland, much of its campus was subsequently reopened as the Boydton Institute with the purpose of educating African Americans. Turner addressed the issues related to the Randolph Macon College. Next, Minister Donna Baptiste led the group through a thoughtful service offering up remedies, encouragement and heart-felt reasons for reconciliation. Walter Beales, whose family has lived for generations in Boydton, concluded the service by sharing information about the many distinguished men who attended school at this historic site.

On display were reports about how, in 1909, the students from the Boydton Institute had responded quickly to help the town of Boydton extinguish a fire that ravaged a large number of businesses around the town square.

Upon her departure Rev. Baptiste made known her organization's continued interest and support. A substantial donation was raised by attendees to be applied to TOBCF's preservation of the Helensha Cottage.

This Solemn Assembly opened hearts and connected attendees to each other through their common yet diverse histories.

Thanks to Lewis and Sylvia Turner for coordinating this event.

Competing to Receive African American Cultural Heritage Action Funds

In the end of 2018, the National Trust for Historic Preservation opened a competition for grants designed to advance ongoing preservation activities for historic places such as sites, museums, and landscapes that represent African American cultural heritage. These grants financed from the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund ranged from \$50,000 to \$150,000. They could be used to support work in four primary areas: Capital Projects, Organizational Capacity Building, Project Planning, and Programming and Interpretation. TOBCF's efforts to preserve the Helensha Cottage aligned perfectly with the goals of this grant. Motivated by that fact, board members worked closely together and submitted the requisite letter of intent just in time to meet the 15 January 2019 submission deadline.

Notwithstanding our best joint efforts, the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation's name did not appear on the list of grant winners that came out in May. But all was not lost and hope restored when we realized that one of the organization that was on the list of successful grant recipients was the Virginia Humanities Council.

The Virginia Humanities Council's goal is to use this new grant to establish and staff a statewide African American historic preservation advocacy and resource team to expand interpretation of the historic places and people affiliated with African American life in rural and urban Virginia.



**"The Times-Dispatch", Richmond, VA
March 22, 1909**

TOBCF plans to take advantage of any new resources available to the Virginia Humanities Council's through this new grant. We are hoping their resources will help us develop the Boydton Institute historic site as an authentic platform from which the community and the state can tell the many, diverse narratives connected to the Boydton Institute--from Post Civil War through Reconstruction into the Jim Crow Era.

Getting Pointers from an Expert

Our participation in the Lemon Symposium at the College of William and Mary gave us the perfect opportunity to meet the Keynote speaker Christy Coleman, chief executive officer of Richmond's newest American Civil War Museum.



Christy Coleman, CEO, of the American Civil War Museum in Richmond

At the end of July, Jim Mott, president of TOBCF, made arrangements for him and another board member to tour that museum and to have one-on-one time with Ms. Coleman. She graciously gave of her time to discuss and critique TOBF's preservation, fundraising, and public outreach activities.

Her first recommendation was for the TOBCF to join and take full advantage of

the resources available through *the American Association for State and Local History* (AASLH). As their website describes it, "AASLH is the professional association for history-doers: whether you are the director of a history museum, a volunteer at a historical society, a genealogist, an educator at a historic house, a history teacher, an avocational historian, an archivist, or in one of the many other important roles in the history field, AASLH is your community." You can learn more about this organization at <https://aaslh.org/>.

Secondly, she assessed our projects as being very worthwhile but suggested that we develop a written business plan that includes project cost estimates laid out on a phased timeline. Such a long range plan would both structure OBCF's future activities but also would be more likely to generate support from potential funders.

Lastly, she was very complimentary of TOBCF's large brochure developed last year by board member Carol Corker. For easier recognition of our organization, she advised us to consider displaying all our written and media material using a single unifying visual graphic.

Leaving Ms. Coleman's company we were very appreciative of her words of advice and we were motivated to implement the changes she suggested. We were also excited to see on our tour of the American Civil War Museum, the following photo, which the museum had enlarged to a wall-sized mural. It illustrated the first African Americans who served in the

Virginia State Legislature. Among them was Mr. Britton Baskerville Jr., an 1883 graduate of the Boydton Institute.



Britton Baskerville Jr., Boydton Institute graduate (far right)

Demolition Begins on Helensha Cottage's "Modern" Addition

The Helensha Cottage was built shortly after the Boydton Institute opened in 1879. It was erected as a residence for the first and longstanding head-mistress of the school, Mrs. Helen Sharpe. It was later named in her honor. It is this building that is most emblematic of the history of the Boydton Institute and for that reason the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation strives to preserve it through renovation. Our vision is to use it as a museum that engagingly conveys the history of the Randolph Macon College and Boydton Institute campus, as a place for cultural and related community activities, as a working office, and for overnight lodging of interns, visiting advisors and lecturers.

Sometime around the 1980's a brick extension was added to the northeast corner of this house. This allowed for the enlargement of the kitchen and the addition of a garage. As a result of the addition, the proximity of a lean-to style building that was on the north side of the house ended up being much closer to the house than before. It appears that the lean-to may have been modified at the same time the extension was added. In its most recent condition, the lean-to had a concrete floor and a tin roof. The garage also had a concrete floor but the garage's shingle roof was severely deteriorated and in several areas was open to the sky. In addition to years of neglect, the way the extension was constructed caused greater deterioration to the main part of the house, especially where the two were joined.

The Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation has secured the services of several different experts to evaluate the structural condition of the Helensha Cottage. They all identified the fact that the floor in the back east corner was showing demonstrative signs of instability. Fixing the floor requires examining and stabilizing the foundation—a much larger and

more expensive challenge—especially since the floors are only about 8 inches off the ground.

In preparation for work on the foundation Tom King used an excavator to demolish the deteriorated “modern” brick extension-- including the garage, and the lean-to shed.

The wood and tin that was removed from the roof was piled behind the house from where the town later helped us remove it. While King was able to excavate the concrete floor of the shed, the concrete under the main garage floor was too thick to break up with his small excavator.

Later, Jim Mott, OBCF president, took some of the staff and several of the students from the Petersburg Pathways Organization to work at the Helensha Cottage.

Pathways YouthBuild is a youth leadership development and career readiness program. It focuses on leadership development, placement (job and postsecondary education), academia (H.S Diploma and GED), vocational education (health care, construction, and logistics) and mentoring for youth in Petersburg, VA and the surrounding areas. The OBCF has partnered with Pathways over the last few years using our historic sites as locations for their training in various hands-on construction skills.

Mott rented two electric “Jack” Hammers and took his generator. This equipment allowed the young men from Pathways to break up the concrete floor of the shed that Tom King had excavated several weeks earlier. The young men from Pathways learned how to use a Jack Hammer and probably slept well that night.

Based on a proposal put together by Pathways, the opening in the outer kitchen wall that was left exposed after the modern brick extension was removed, has been closed in. Pathways supplied all the labor as part of the training for their students and OBCF had most of the materials on hand. As a result of all this work, the Helensha Cottage is wrapped for the winter in all the necessary places and is now secure.

Get the Scoop on Rev. Devereux Jarratt: Everyone is Invited

“In 1772, Robert Williams preached on the courthouse steps in Norfolk and Virginia Methodism was born. In 1774, he formed the Brunswick Circuit, including within its bounds the Anglican parish of the Reverend Devereux Jarratt, a man of supreme importance to the growth of Methodism in Virginia.”¹

The Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation will explore Devereux’s contributions to Methodism through a program with presentations given by three speakers.

Dr. Art Thomas is an adjunct professor of Church History at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington D.C. Dr. Thomas will begin the presentation with his talk *Introductions to Devereux Jarratt and His Leadership in the First Great Awakening on the Old Brunswick Circuit*.

Mrs. Betty Ann Rex Spiers will introduce her husband, Robert “Bobby” Jarratt Spiers and explain his family’s links to Devereux Jarratt.

Bobby Spiers retired after serving the Commonwealth of Virginia’s Public School System for more than 30 year as a music teacher and is a member of the Reveille United Methodist Church in Richmond. He will use his many teaching skills to conclude the presentation by impressing upon us the significant part that Devereux Jarratt played in the development of Methodism in Virginia.



Speakers (left to right) : Dr. Art Thomas, Mrs. Betty Ann Rex Spiers and Mr. Robert "Bobby" Jarratt Spiers

The Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation seeks to restore historic Methodist sites within the Old Brunswick Circuit. This was the circuit that was associated with the evangelistic preaching of Devereux Jarratt and Edward Dromgoole.

Everyone is invited to attend this yearly special program to be held at 11:00 a.m. on February 29, 2020 at the Lawrenceville United Methodist Church, located at 300 West Church St., Lawrenceville, Virginia.

Conversations and discussions will continue after the program as we partake together of pre-ordered box lunches. Please call 757-582-5359 or send an email to atkeeling@verizon.net before February 26th if you wish a \$10 box lunch ordered for you.

Hope to see you there!

¹ From the *Pagan to the Nottoway: The Occupation of the land by the Europeans 1607-1800* By Ulysses P. Joyner, Jr. 2008. Pg. 61.

Work at the Helensha Cottage: Side Benefits for the College Grounds

While TOBCF had use of the excavator for the work done at the Helensha Cottage, we grubbed up all the big vine roots, and trees growing against three sides of the main brick Randolph Macon College and Boydton Institute campus building. However, vegetation on the east end was grown up too thick, and since the fallen bricks on that end have not been removed, no more clearing could be done there. All the vines and trees that were pulled up were piled in the yard away from the building. It should be dry enough by this summer that a bush hog will be able to shred most of it.

The vines will probably still have some small roots that will soon send up new shoots, but they will be seriously setback for at least a decade, and any new growth will be much easier to kill with herbicide.

You Too Can Help!

You may be connected to one of the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation's historic sites in one of numerous ways.

For example you may be a:

- Resident of Mecklenburg or Brunswick County who wants to champion and celebrate your county's heritage
- Alumnae or descendent of an alumnae of Randolph Macon College who recognize the roots of your college are in the original Boydton Campus
- Descendent of an alumnae of the Boydton Institute who want to commemorate their accomplishments and the impact of that school on the community
- Methodist interested in the growth of your denomination and seeking to honor the role it played in American history.
- Scholar interested in the interwoven development of education and religion in America
- Passionate arm-chair historian who just loves local stories of the past.

The members on the Board of Trustees of the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation invite you to offer up your thoughts, knowledge, and skills toward helping to preserve the Dromgoole House, the Helensha Cottage and/or the ruins of the original Randolph Macon College and Boydton Institute main brick building.

You can become a member of the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation by paying the following annual membership dues:

| | | |
|-----------------------|----|-------|
| Individual Membership | -- | \$25 |
| Family Membership | -- | \$40 |
| Supporting Membership | -- | \$75 |
| Sustaining Membership | -- | \$100 |

Your volunteer help is also greatly needed because TOBCF board of trustees is a small group of individuals and as you can tell from this newsletter, there is much work to be done. Some of our board members live as far away as Northern Virginia, Tidewater Virginia and even West Virginia. Thus, local support makes a great difference in our ability to succeed.

Equally important, we want our historical sites to contribute to the well-being of the local communities—to represent what makes these places special and to foster community development that is authentic to the community's unique identity.

Ways You Can Help:

- Talk to us—give us your encouragement and support
- Talk to others—tell them about our historic & educational sites
- Tell others what we are doing and what we want to do
- Send us stories and photos connected to our historic sites
- Identify students who attended Boydton Institute or staff that worked there and tell us their stories
- Nominate yourself or others to become a board member
- Keep a protective eye on our sites.
- Invite us to speak at your community organizations or in your classrooms
- Provide your “strong back and muscles” to help with heavy duty landscaping and restoration work
- Offer up your graphic art and media communication skills to help us promote our historic sites in the most professional way possible
- Offer your landscaping and gardening skills to help us make our sites attractive and inviting
- Help us get to know your community better
- Give tours of our site to interested visitors or to visiting experts and advisors.
- Make a donation : mail to the treasurer of the Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation, Alice Carol Maitland, P.O. Box 414, Alberta, Virginia 23868.

We have been excited, encouraged and thankful with the number of community members who have already so generously offered up historical photos and information; maintenance and technical assistance; and lodging--as well as generous monetary donations. **THANK YOU!**