

EARLYSVILLE PRESENTATION

MY MEMORIES OF 1940'S

First, I will share some memories from the 1940's. My Dad was fighting in World War II and Mom was working. From age three to nine I lived with my Crenshaw Grandparents on Jacob's Run Farm in Earlysville. We had no electricity, no phone, wood stoves to cook and heat during the day and no heat at night. We had no running water so it was an outdoor toilet. It was a 265 acre farm so there were plenty chores. My Aunt Ada Marie would take a two and a two and a half gallon zinck bucket to the spring for water and I would take a gallon coffee bucket, Anything needed to keep cool would be placed in the spring box. I could help bring wood in for the stoves. I could help feed the chickens, chicks, turkeys and ducks. I could help gather eggs and slop the hogs. I could go with Granddaddy to feed the horses and cows in the winter time. Monday was wash day so water had to brought from the creek. I could help churn the butter and set the table. At school age Ada Marie and I walked a mile out in the dirt or muddy road to Advance Mills Road to catch the bus and back in. One day a week granddaddy and I would make the trip to Earlysville in his 1929 Model A Ford. The first stop was the Post Office located in the front room of the Earl and Maude Head house across the road from the Union Church. Granddaddy would sit in the hallway and talk to everyone that came in. It was probably an hour but to me seemed like three. Next stop was Warren Woods Store next door, There would be more talking but I would get a nickel and my choice of a popsicle, a Tru Aide

orange drink or a bag of candy. Most of the time I selected the candy because I could make it last for a week. Once a month we would make the trip to Advance Mills to get corn ground for the chickens or wheat for flour. Granddaddy would pick a day when Monticello Dairy would be coming to pick up the cream can that we would leave by the road, take to the dairy and return the can. Cream cans are now antiques; we have one at our front door. If the Chestnut Grove Baptist Church door were open, we were there. I despised getting out in the dark to open the gates, there were two. We always looked forward to family reunions. Family would come every Sunday for dinner, the noon meal.

The community of Earlysville was founded in 1737.

That is what the sign says as you enter the business area of the Earlysville business community. But no name has been found until 1822.

As this area was being settled in 1735 the Monacan Indians were moving away from the Rivanna. It has been said there was an Indian path under the Old White Oak tree at the end of the runway

The original Episcopal Church building on Buck Mountain Road was completed between 1747 and 1750.^L The church was moved to its present site (approximately one mile from its original location) in 1860.

In 1755 350 acres of land was deeded to Nicholas and Mary Crenshaw as a wedding gift from Capt. William Carr and Suzanne Brooks Carr. This became Jacobs Run Farm, named after Jacobs Run Creek that runs through the farm. It is said this is the first property deeded to husband and wife in Albemarle County. The farm continues to be in the family. This parcel of land came from the 4,034 acres deeded to William Carr from his father who was granted 25,000 acres in Albemarle and Louisa Counties by the king of England..

Michie Tavern was an old landmark, the old Earlysville Buck Mountain Road structure dated back to the revolutionary period. It is said, Lafayette was put up there when it was on Buck Mountain Road by Thomas Jefferson for several days to enjoy some hunting. In 1784 Michie Tavern was a regular stop on a stagecoach route. Shortly after Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, became a tourist attraction, the structure was purchased, disassembled and moved to its present location on Monticello Mountain. Michie Tavern opened to the public in January 1928 at its new location. It is now a well known restaurant and gift shop. The interior, the food and the dress takes you back to the 1700's. Unfortunately, prices are at current rates.

In 1796 Ephraim Seamonds, Sr. and Mary sold one-thousand acres of land in what became Earlysville to Captain James Early . This is thought to be the land on the west side of what is now Earlysville Road. Deed Book 13 Page 416.

In 1801 Albemarle Baptist Church relocated to the village and changed the name to Buck Mountain Baptist Church. They took over the building the Episcopal Church vacated when funding from England discontinued. Albemarle Baptist Church was established in 1773 with forty-eight members, forty-six white and two black. I am a direct decedent of two of those members, George Twyman who lived at Oak Lawn and who was the Clerk of the Church and Jacob Watts who lived at Wakefield and who became the Minister, both who were farmers in what became Earlysville. Chestnut Grove Baptist Church is now celebrating their 250th Anniversary. So Earlysville is the home of the oldest Baptist Church in Albemarle County.

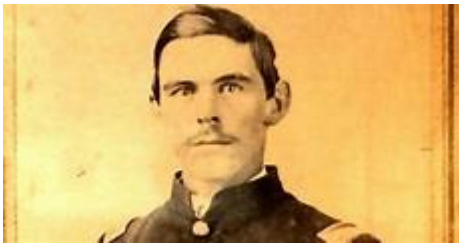
Some history - Back in the late 1770's Albemarle Baptist Church was meeting at the Lewis Meeting House. It was located on the Birdwood property out on Ivy Road, that was then known as Staunton Road. Thomas Jefferson visited the Church business meetings for several months obtaining ideas for his Separation of Church and State. After returning to his home at Monticello from being President, he thanked the church in a letter.

*In 1809 Capt. James Early from Orange County bought 1,894 acres of land on Buck Mountain Creek from the representatives of Major Henry Bruke, who had been a magistrate of Albemarle County and Major in the Eighty- eighth Regiment in the Revolutionary War and who died in 1803. The children of James and his wife Elizabeth were, John, James, Jacob, William, Lucy, Theodosia and Elizabeth.

*In 1822 John Early, the son of Capt. James Early, purchased from executors of father in law Richard Durrett, land known as Wakefield between Buck Mountain Road and Jacobs Run Farm, the Crenshaw Farm. John Early was first married to Sarah daughter of Richard Durrett of Wakefield.

Captain James Early died in 1822. That year son John Early purchased about one thousand acres of land on the west side of where Buck Mountain Road was located at that time, his Father James had purchased from Ephraim and Mary Seamonds in 1796. (Was it a purchase or will?)

*1822 – My research found that Earlysville was named From Capt. James Earl Early or John Early, or the Early family, the village of Earlysville derived its name. Since Capt. James Early died in 1822, my vote would go to him as it is written in the book, A Greene County History. Some research said John Early and one even had John Early the father of Jubal Early from Bedford, the Civil War hero. When Captain James Early was born about 1750, in St. Thomas Parish, Orange, Virginia, British Colonial America, his father, John Early, was 22 and his mother, Theodosia White, was 21. He married Elizabeth Davis Thompson in 1772, in Albemarle, British Colonial America. They were the parents of at least 5 sons and 2 daughters.



He died on 11 October 1822, in Orange, Virginia, United States, at the age of 73, and was buried in Earlysville, Virginia, at the Wakefield Cemetery. This cemetery is located on what once was the land of Richard Durrett. The land was passed to his son, Richard. Sarah Durrett and her husband John Early purchased the farm from the estate and the town of Earlysville is named after this Early Family. There are graves of the Watts, Durrett and Early Families. This cemetery is located on Private property and is in fair condition. James Early, A Patriot of the American Revolution for VIRGINIA with the rank of ENSIGN. DAR Ancestor # A035503

In 1833 the Episcopalians asked for the return of their building on Buck Mountain Road from the Baptist. The Union Church was constructed in a grove of chestnut trees in the village of Earlysville. It was used by the Baptist, Methodists and Presbyterians. The Baptist changed their name to Chestnut Grove Baptist. The Union Church still stands and deeded to Chestnut Grove Baptist Church. Special services are held there and the Easter Egg Hunt.

1835 - The Virginia Gazetteer - Earlysville, is pleasantly situated one and a half miles East of Longwood, and thirteen miles North of Charlottesville. It contains seven dwellings of business, one tavern, one general store, one

tailor, one wheelwright, one blacksmith's shop and one tan yard. Population was 35. I searched wheelwright, a Historical profession, craftsman who builds or repairs wooden wheels. I also looked up tan yard. A place where skins and hides are tanned or an area of a tannery set aside for the operation of tanning vats. I am thinking the village of Earlysville was from where Reas Ford Road is now to where Link Evans Lane intersects with Buck Mountain Road. There were two churches, the Buck Mountain Episcopal Church on Buck Mountain Road and The Union Church on Earlysville Road.

After 1859 Earlysville became an election precinct. They elected four magistrates. No longer appointed, they voted on the clerk of the court, surveyors, Commonwealth's Attorney and Revenue Commissioners.

In February 1864 Union troop invaders burned fences in Earlysville on their march to Rio Hills just north of Charlottesville where there was a skirmish. There is a Historical Marker in the Rio Hills Shopping Center.

By April 1866 Captain Tidball consulted with the magistrate of the Earlysville District about establishing classes for the freed blacks.

In 1879 Chestnut Grove Baptist Church relocated from the Union Church to its current location at the intersection of Buck Mountain Road and Simmons Gap Road.

EDUCATION

In 1906 Earlysville High School was constructed replacing the one room schools scattered throughout the area.

ONE ROOM SCHOOLS

Lone Pine - located on Rea's Ford Road – Now a home – Martha Garrison Mack's Dad attended until the bus ran.

Woodlands - located on Woodlands Road – Martha's Grandmother Wood attended.

Rivanna - located at intersection of Earlysville Road and Panorama Farm Road – Now a home

Happy Hollow - located on Happy Hollow Road – Martha's Grandfather Wood attended. It is off Link Evans Road.

Sandy Bottom - located on Earlysville Road just past the Oak Lawn Property that was home of the Twyman family. My grandfather Crenshaw attended there.

Longwood - located at the intersection of Buck Mountain Road and Simmons Gap Road near where Chestnut Grove Baptist stands. Longwood Plantation property.

There was a school for Black students on the Longwood Plantation.

There was a school for Black students on Advance Mills Road on the Horace Miller property. I am showing my age, I remember that one

I have photographs of some of these schools that will be in the book.

EARLYSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

1906 Earlysville High School opened with five rooms, four grade school and one high school

1910 2nd story was added

1914 2nd high school room added.

By 1912 The University of Virginia sent speakers from Georgia to Pennsylvania and not only Washington and Richmond but communities like Earlysville to explain what was available at the university.

By 1920 Albemarle County had accredited four-year high schools including Broadus Wood High School in Earlysville. At that time it was for grades one through eleven

1935 There was a fire – new school was built for grade school and temporary building for high school.

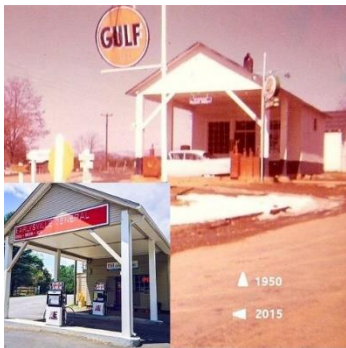
New name – Broadus Wood High School

When reconstructed in 1935/1936 it was renamed Broadus Wood High School after Mr. Broadus Wood who donated extra land for the school playgrounds. Mr. Wood also served on the Albemarle County School Board and was very active at the Broadus Wood school. His home well provided water for the school until the school had its own well. In the fall of 1953 Broadus Wood High School became Broadus Wood Elementary School for grades one through seven when the County consolidated the high schools into Albemarle High School. Since there are now middle schools, Broadus Wood now has first grade through grade five.

So 1953 was the last graduating Broadus Wood High School. Albemarle County consolidated the seven high schools for grades eight through twelve in Albemarle High School. Now we have middle school and Broadus Wood has a Special Ed Pre School and grades one through five.

1937 - Whytes Grocery Store was constructed by Jimmy and Clara Whyte. Whyte's was the first true grocery store. It also had gas. There was the Warren Wood store and the Lawrence Wood store that had gas and convenience items. Since the fall of 2014, Whytes has been the home

of the Earlysville Exchange, a thrift store sponsored by Chestnut Grove Baptist Church. All proceeds over and above expenses are donated to organizations that help people in the Earlysville and surrounding communities. Cash donations now exceed \$190,000 and merchandise amounting to over \$250,000.



In the 1940's this was Lawrence Wood's Store. It had some general items and gas. Lawrence was also a barber and had a barber chair inside. Now it is known as the General Store located at the intersection of Advance Mills Road and Buck Mountain Road.

Warren Wood had a similar store with general items and gas. It was located just to the right of where the Mud Dauber building now stands. I believe it opened in 1926.

MAJOR CHANGES

In July 1951 Charlottesville and Albemarle County agreed, with some aid of federal funds, to build an airport near Earlysville. The Charlottesville – Albemarle Airport opened on August 17, 1954. During the first four and one-half

months of operation Piedmont Airlines served 3,540 boarding passengers. In 1973 that number was 747,965 persons boarded Piedmont planes. These days we are served by American Airlines, Delta Airlines and United Airlines. Having a nearby airport resulted in added noise and available travel. It also resulted in rerouting Earlysville Road and Dickerson Road. First it was one or two Piedmont Airlines prop planes a day to now seven jet flights. Then the runways were lengthened and small jet planes were overhead more frequently. Soon larger jet planes replaced the smaller ones, noise increased and air traffic increased. Because of the runway expansion Pleasant Grove Baptist Church was forced to relocate. The old Historical White Oak Tree survived.

By 1974, Earlysville experienced some industrial growth. Big business came to Earlysville, Murray Manufacturing on Reas Ford Road and Specialties, Inc. on Earlysville Road provided employment opportunities and contributed to the growth of Earlysville. They opened plants and increased the demand for large numbers of employees. Families began to relocate in Earlysville and build houses. Fields and forest became subdivisions. They are no longer with us. Mr. Murray hired me in the position of Controller there for seven and a half years.

We got stop signs, I can remember when there were none. Whytes Grocery needed more space and constructed a new building and employed more people. It is now Earlysville Auto. The Post Office no longer fit in a room of someone's home. it required a building of its own and after one move is now located on a lot of its own. As population increased churches added space and the Rivanna Community Church has been added. More people means more pets, Earlysville now has an animal hospital. We had a restaurant for some years but it went out of business. Traffic has increased and is now a problem, it seems that people are in a hurry to get somewhere and thirty - five miles per hour is too slow. I remember, that was my Granddaddy Crenshaw's top speed even on Route 29. The state was considering changing the intersection of Earlysville Road and Reas Ford Road to a traffic circle. The latest numbers I found for the Earlysville expanded area: Population 4,895, Married 2,660, Single 1,445, Households 1,920, and Medium age 48.

Warren Wood's store is gone and the Mud Dauber Store is there. The Union Church and Episcopal church are still there. The meeting hall is still there. I think there are seven homes still standing from the nineteen forties.

EARLYSVILLE PEOPLE

- *William Carr – Owned 4,034 acres of land that became part of Earlysville.
- *John Dickerson, Sr. – Settled on the Rivanna River in 1705 when it was Louisa County
- *John Dickerson, Jr. – Worked on building new roads.
- *Capt. James Early - Land owner, Revolutionary War, Donated land near Buck Mountain for a church.
- *John Early – Donated land for the Union Church
- *Nathaniel “Link” Evans – From Bleak House Slaves. Took up a trade of blacksmithing, Was invited to attend]
- * Horace Miller - Mt. Zion leader, good neighbor, example
- *Ephraim Seamonds. Sr. - Provided for Rev. Army
- *Ephraim Seamonds, Jr. - War of 1812, Battle of Yorktown
- *George Twyman - A farmer, clerk of Chestnut Grove

*Jacob Watts – Second minister of Chestnut Grove

*Margorie Webber - Broaddus Wood Principal, church lead

*Broadus Ira Wood - Donated land for the school, served on Albemarle County School Board for 30+ years. Instrumental in improving education for black students.

*Warren & Elva Wood - Store owner, kind – Elva made donation to Union Church that helps with upkeep.

*Charles & Maud Crenshaw – The most important to me. Farmer, church leader, good example.

In more recent times we have had Earlysvillians serve our County and the State of Virginia.

*Clarence Roberts – Served as Commissioner of Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. Board and Chairman Albemarle County Service Authority.

*Claude Garver, Jr. – VDOT Deputy Commissioner for Administration. Member of the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

*And always remember. there are some who gave their life for our country.

Written and shared by Charles Crenshaw, March 2023.

Sources of information or confirmation of information

History of Albemarle County 1964. Located at the Albemarle-Charlottesville Historical Society.

Jefferson's Albemarle 1941 – A guide to Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville, Virginia. Located at the Albemarle-Charlottesville Historical Society.

Notebook – Union Church – Placed by Sylvia Jones, Former Historian for Chestnut Grove Baptist Church and a member of the Union Church Committee. Located at the Albemarle-Charlottesville Historical Society.

Echoes From My Heart.....Throughout The Generations 2020. Family history, family lines and community history. Written by Charles Conway Crenshaw. Located at the Albemarle-Charlottesville Historical Society.

Albemarle – Jefferson's County, 1727-1976

Echoes From My Heart.....Throughout The Generations 2020. Family history, family lines and community history. Written by Charles Conway Crenshaw. Available at the Albemarle -Charlottesville Historical Society and the Central Virginia Genealogical Association at the Mormon Church.

Albemarle – Jefferson's County, 1727-1976

A Greene County History written in 2002 by Donald D. Covey.

