

Appomattox County Sheriffs 1845-Present

Donald D. Simpson

The Office of Sheriff

- The word Sheriff is derived from the Anglo-Saxon term "Shire-reeve". This person was responsible for a particular area. (town reeve, port reeve, shire reeve)
- The English established the office of Sheriff as early as 1066 to keep peace, collect taxes, maintain order and serve orders from the King's Court

The Office of Sheriff

- The English Magna Carta had 63 clauses, 27 were related to the office of Sheriff.
- Sheriffs are the original "community police officers"
- Rural populations are served well by the concept of Sheriff law enforcement.
- The shift to a modern police department concept was the result of urbanization, late 1800's . Robert Peele.
- This is a transition we are still witnessing today based on public expectations

The Office of Sheriff

- From the formation of the County in 1845 the office was originally an appointed position for the primary purposes of tax collection, service of orders from the court and jail maintenance.
- The Sheriff and Treasurer were sometimes the same person.
- The Sheriff was paid a percentage of taxes collected, and by inmates housed and arrested.
- The Virginia Constitution of 1851 provided that the office be an elected position.
- The term was originally set at 2 years.

The Office of Sheriff

The Sheriff is the only locally elected constitutional law enforcement officer of the Commonwealth of Virginia, as provided in the Constitution of Virginia, and is elected by the citizens of his or her locality every four years. Accordingly, the duties of the sheriff are not spelled out in any one document, law or regulation.

Law Enforcement – Sheriffs are responsible for primary local law enforcement in all counties without a police force, but also have responsibility for law enforcement in all localities in which they serve. In eighty-six of Virginia’s counties, the sheriff is the primary local law enforcement agency, responding to all of the crime calls and calls for service from citizens.

Jail Administration – The Code of Virginia provides that sheriffs are responsible for all locally operated jails. Sheriffs also sit on all regional jail boards, and in some cases operate regional jails in Virginia. As such, sheriffs are responsible for transporting inmates to and from state institutions and maintaining security in local jails while transporting inmates to trials and other community services as required by local jail standards and court orders. Today, local jails range in size in Virginia from a few dozen inmates to over a thousand inmates and the operation thereof can be, and is, a very complex system of services to the jail community.

Service to the Courts – Court services are the responsibility of all Virginia’s sheriffs. In each locality, the sheriff is responsible for the security of the courthouse, the courtrooms and the trials while they are underway. Sheriffs are responsible for the security and sequestering of the jurors and notification of jurors for court service. Additionally, sheriffs’ offices are responsible for the service of hundreds of thousands of court papers per year, ranging from divorce proceedings and child custody cases to simple civil suits among citizens.

In addition to these services, sheriffs are called upon to promote DARE programs and services for victims and witnesses of crime as well as participate in civil commitments to the citizens of their locality to protect the basic health and welfare of those citizens.

The Courthouses



New Appomattox County Courthouse.

Appomattox Courthouse 1846



1892



1906

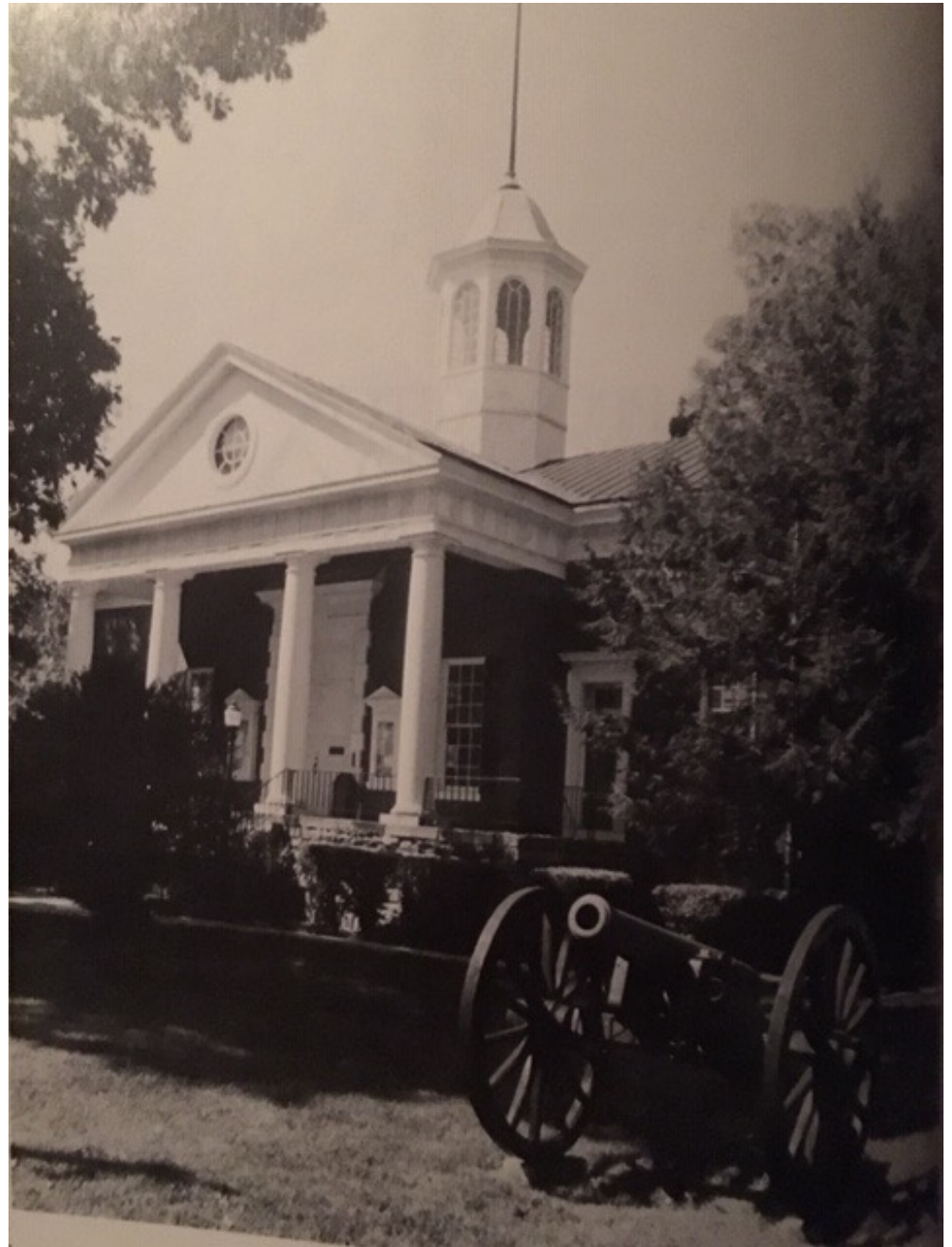


Mid century



New Appomattox County Courthouse.

1984



2003
Carver
Price
School



Courtroom



2004



The Jails



Appomattox County Jail 1860-1950



Appomattox
Jail 1892-
1980



Jail escape



Appomattox
Sheriff's Office
and Jail
1981-2011
(jail closed)



The Sheriffs
of
Appomattox
1845 to
Present



Vara Stanley 1965

- Joel Watkins
- George T. Peers
- William Paris
- Wilson Hix
- W.T. Johnson
- William H. Gills
- Willis A. Plunkett
- T.B. Bryant
- S.P. Coleman
- Frank McKinney
- H.W. Mckinney
- David T. Robertson
- Walter S. Conner
- L.L. Stanley

Nathaniel Featherston 1948

- Joel Watkins
- George Peers
- William Paris
- Wilson Hix
- W.T. Johnson
- William Gills
- Willis Plunkett
- T.B. Bryant
- S.P. Coleman
- Frank Mckinney
- H. Winston McKinney

William D.
Hix

Absent from both Stanley and Featherston list.

A Place Called Appomattox, William Marvel, 2000. Pg. 194, 272

David A. Plunkett

Missing from both prev. lists.
(Farrar 1989)

Historical Notes
of
Appomattox County, Virginia

Lynchburg Virginian, Jan. 11, 1860 - "The Speakership"

NO SPEAKER YET !!! - - - It took the House until the 1st. of February four years ago.

Lynchburg Virginian, Jan. 17, 1860 - "Death of Appomattox Sheriff"

David A. Plunkett, Esq., Sheriff of Appomattox County, died very suddenly at his residence, at Appomattox Court House, yesterday morning. Mr. Plunkett was a gentleman of great personal popularity in his county, as was attested by the large vote by which he was elected. He was about 32 years of age. He leaves a widow, Mrs. Mary E. (McDearmon) Plunkett and four children.

Lynchburg Virginian, Jan. 17, 1860 - "Merchant Bank"

Col. Thomas H. Flood, of Appomattox, has accepted the post of Cashier of the Merchant's Bank of Lynchburg.

Lynchburg Virginian, Jan. 18, 1860.

Married, on the 4th. of Dec., by the Rev. John C. Hamner, Mr. John Lee and Miss Macky A. Cheatham, all of Appomattox County.

Lynchburg Virginian, Jan. 19, 1860 - "The Responsibility of the Speakership"

Thomas Rudd 1847

Missing from previous lists.
(Farrar 1989, pg 61)

Married on the 20th., instant, by the Rev. William Harris, Mr. Jefferson w. Phelps of Appomattox, to Miss Frances daughter of Mr. Wm. Louery of Bedford County.

Lynchburg Virginian, Nov. 22, 1847.

Those appointed to a commission concerning efforts to save the charter of the Richmond and Ohio Railroad, by selling stock are: Henry Flood, John Johns, John W. West, Thomas H. Flood, Washington Hunter, Sterling C. Anderson and Zach-eus Cheatham.

Council Journal, Va. State Library - Appomattox County Notes.
Vol. 67 - Nov. 23, 1847.

Advise that Thomas Rudd, 1st. nominee, be commissioned Sheriff of Appomattox County as recommended by the County Court.

Lynchburg Virginian, Jan. 24, 1848.

Married on the 12th., instant, by Elder Thomas A. LeGrand, Capt. Wyatt Abbitt, to Miss Sarah, daughter of Mr. Obadiah C. Jenkins, all of Appomattox County.

Lynchburg Virginian, Jan. 27, 1848 - " Notice "

The claims due Ambros and Willis Plunkett, have been put in our hands for collection, those indebted to them, or to Willis H. Plunkett individually, will please call and settle immediately, as further indulgence can not be given.

Irving and Rhoane, Attorneys.

Lynchburg Virginian, Feb. 7, 1848 - " Whigs of Appomattox "

Will call at the Court day, to appoint delegates to the State Convention

William Matthews 1849

(Farrar 1989,pg.72)

excellent rooms, the very best that the surrounding ward 100 good stalls. The doors are never closed to receive customers at any hour.

Geo. W. Raine, Clover Hill
Appomattox County, Va.

Ref: Lynchburg - C.L.Mosely, John Wills, E.D.Christian, Chas. W.Statham,
W.R.Roane, W.D.Branch. D.E.Spencer, Glass and Woodson.
Charlotte - Wyatt Caldwell and Thos.T.Bolling.
Buckingham - P.A.Bolling, John Hill, Henry Spencer, Dr. Chas.E.Davidson
and Novel Cobb.
Campbell - W.A.Poore, J.C.Murrell, German Jordan, B. Finch and. Col.
Wiley.
Farmville - Thos. W. Epps and Col. J.Carrington.
Appomattox - Sterling C. Anderson, Washington Hunter, John H. Plunkett,
Samuel Glover, Dr. Isham Bass, Col. Jas. Hamner, Dr. W.D.
Christian, Geo. W.Fuqua, Dr. Joel Flood, R.J.Boaz and Capt.
Henry Beasley.

Council Journal, Va. State Library, Appomattox County Notes.
Vol.68, Nov. 19,1849.

Advise that William Mathews be appointed Sheriff of Appomattox County, because of 1st. nomination.

New
Sheriff,
first line of
duty
death

- Deputy Sheriff William McDearmon, 1845
- (Marvel, pg.8-9)

Plunkett Election 1856 (Farrar 1989)

gathered at last like a shock of corn in its season, full of years, le-
him an unsullied reputation, and an ample fortune, the results of his
and well directed efforts.

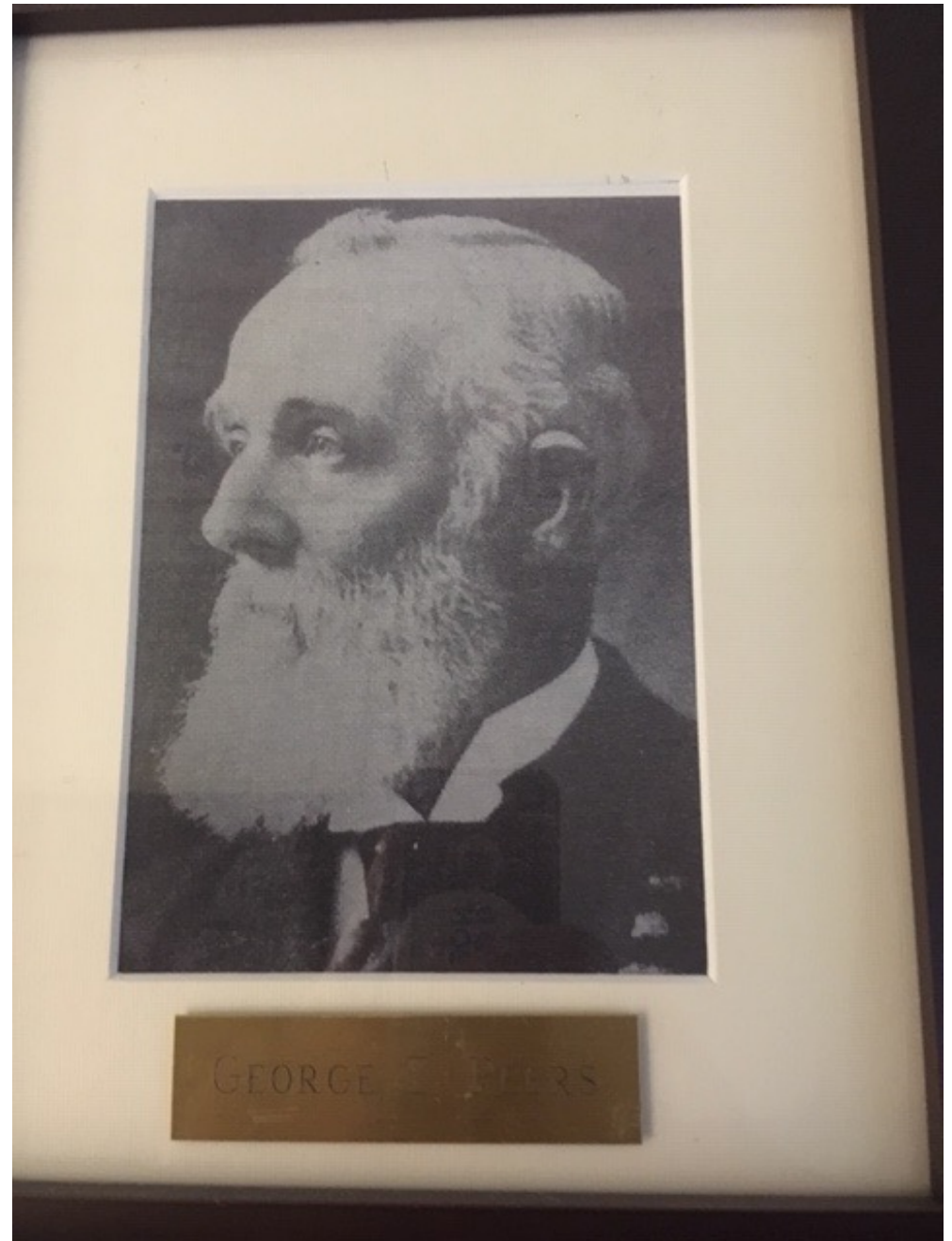
Lynchburg Virginian, May 3, 1856 - "Appomattox County Election Returns"

Wm. L. Jackson, for Lt. Governor (no oppo.)	--- 587	<u>Votes.</u>
Henry F. Boccock, for County Clerk (no oppo.)	--- 676	
David A. Plunkett, for Sheriff	--- 290	
Wilson Hix, for Sheriff	--- 190	
Thos. R. Reeves, for Sheriff	--- 173	
Wm. L. Cheatham, for Surveyor	--- 389	
A. McD. Browning, for Surveyor	--- 248	
A.A. North, for Commissioner of Rev.	--- 410	
W.S. Davidson, for Commissioner of Rev.	--- 230	
Arch'd. Bigbie, for Commissioner of Rev.	--- 12	

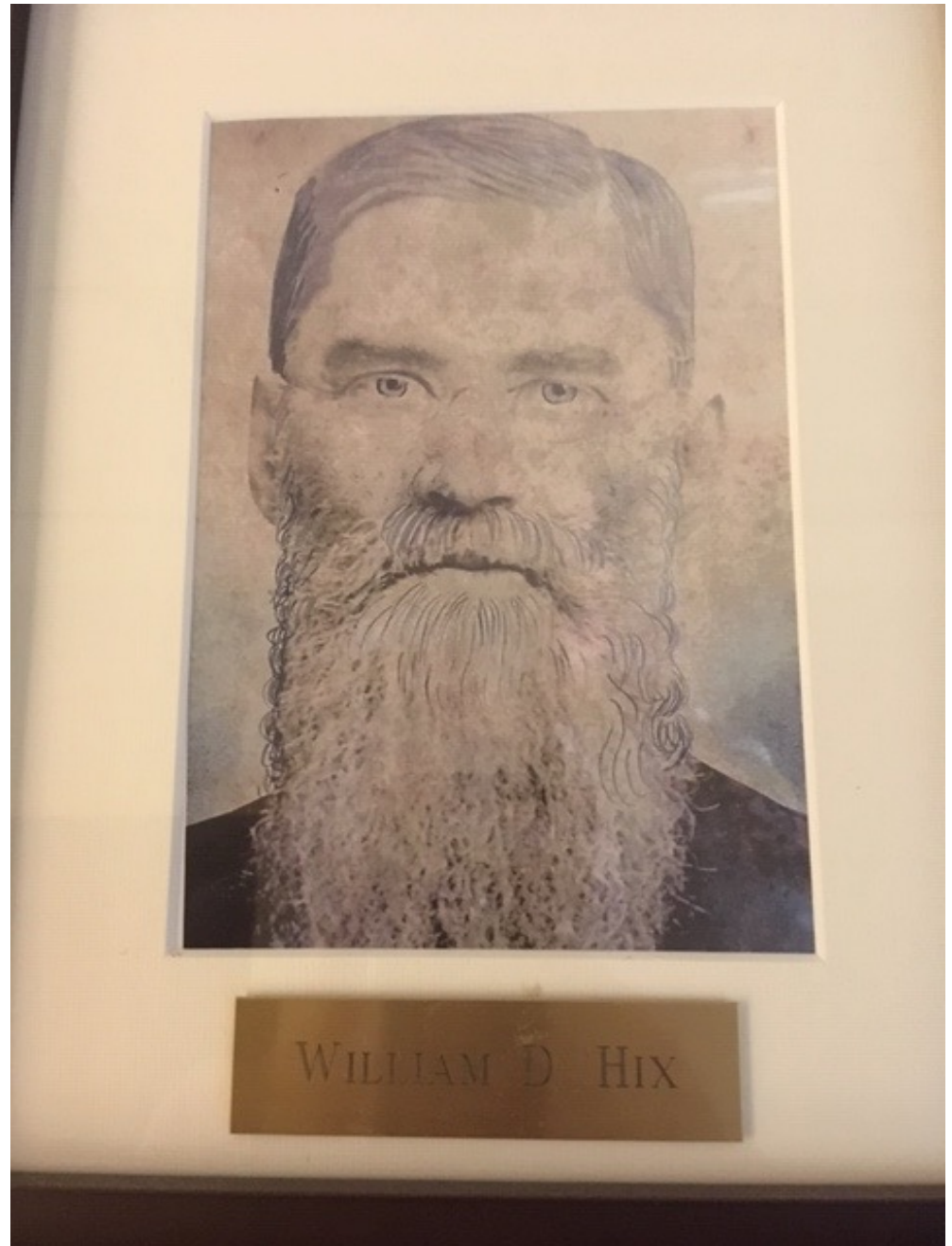
Lynchburg Virginian, June 2, 1858 - "Affairs in Appomattox"

On may 29th. a young lad named Jenny while out hunting, passed throu
Abbitt's yard, and being angry with one of the negro men who had taken
in the kitchen, stood thereinto, and severely wounded a negro woman.

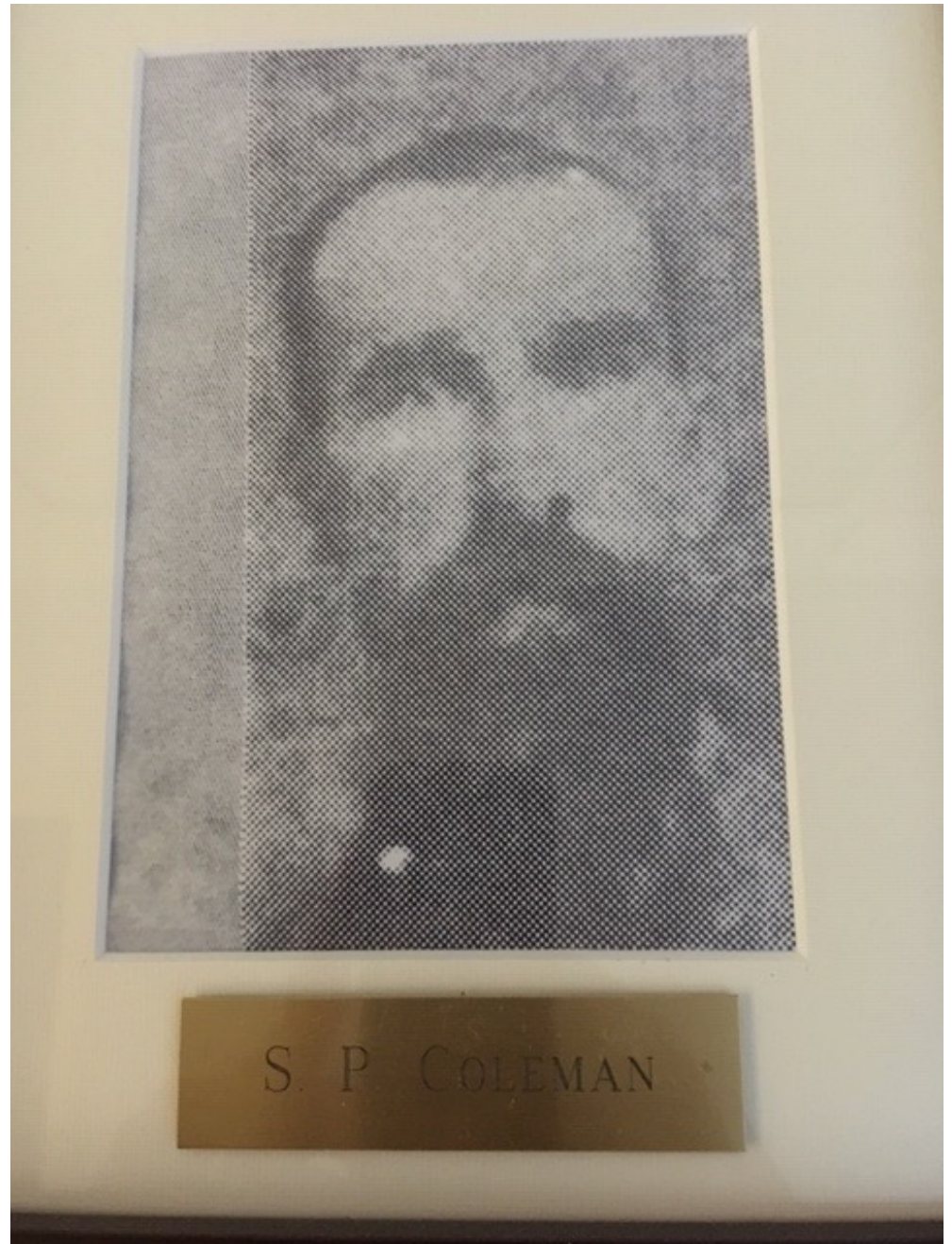
George T. Peers



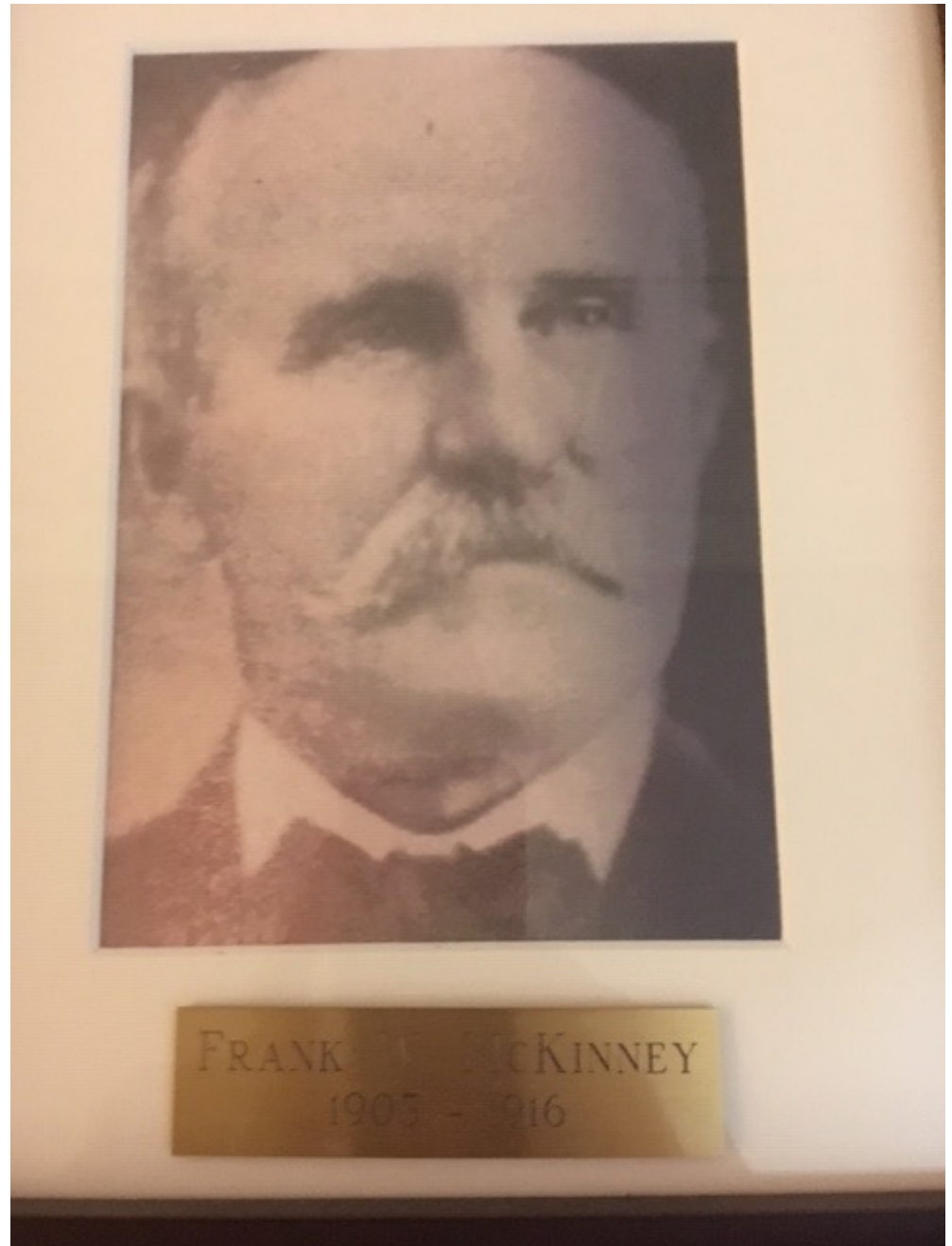
William D. Hix



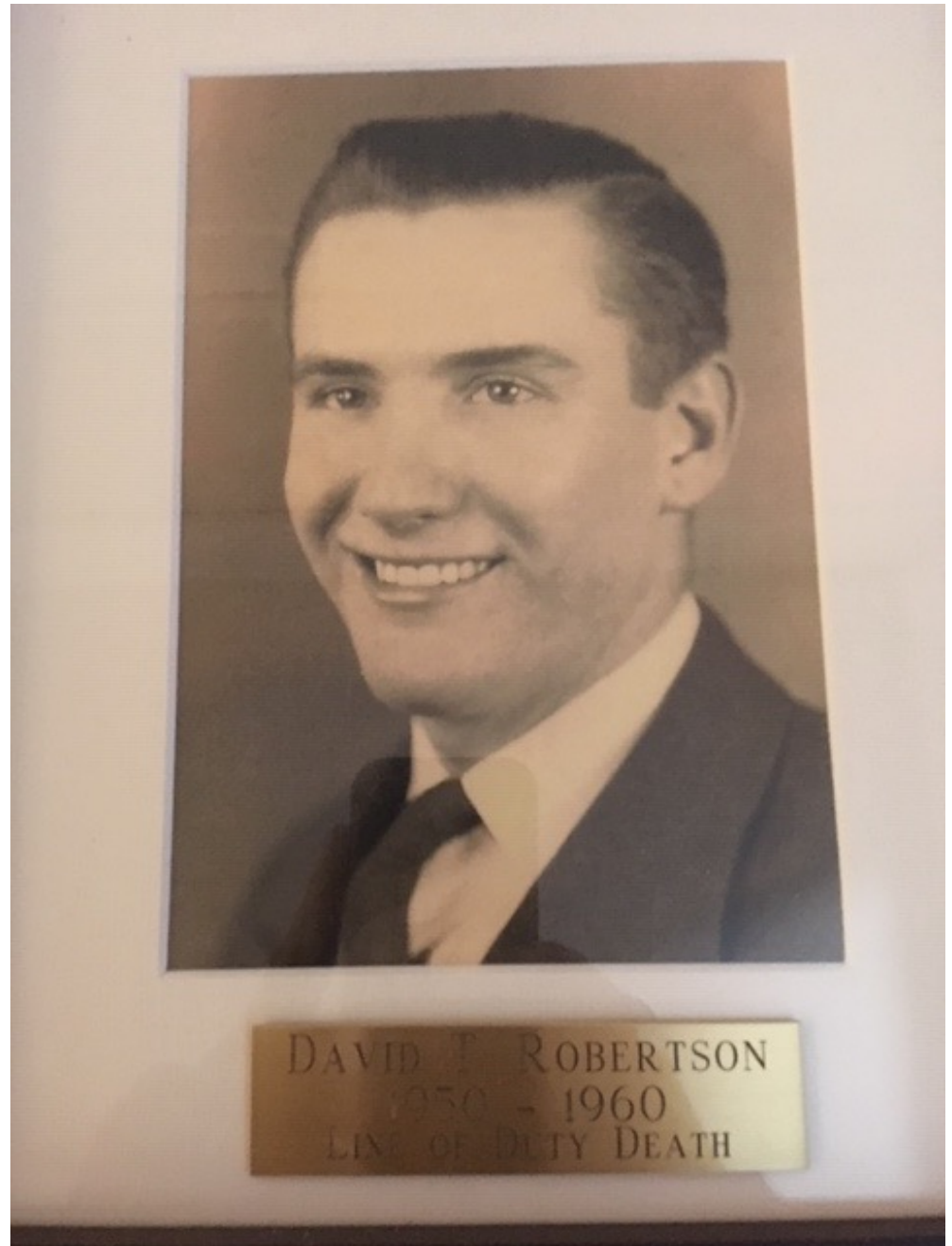
S.P.
Coleman



Frank W.
McKinney



David T.
Robertson
1950-1960



Tagged [Robertson](#)

[Leave a comment](#)

David T. Robertson Appointed Sheriff

Posted on [27 February 2009](#) | [1 comment](#)

29 May 1950 – “David T. Robertson, 30-year-old former Marine and owner of the National Photo Service and Supply Company, Inc., is the new sheriff of Appomattox County.

“He was appointed Saturday by Judge Joel W. Flood to finish the unexpired term of the late Sheriff Herman W. McKinney.

“Robertson is a former private detective and has been a deputy sheriff for the past several years. He is [a] fingerprint and ballistics expert.”

Source

<https://lindagoin.wordpress.com/tag/robertson/>

5/8/2017

Robertson's Scheme for Sinners

Posted on [5 March 2009](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

26 September 1951 – “Sheriff David T. Robertson devised a novel but effective way of checking suspected “sin spots” in rural Appomattox County.

“Robertson peered through holes bored in the trunk of a car which a new deputy drove to honky-tonks.”

Source

“Sinners Get Caught by Peeping Sheriff,” *The Times Record* (Troy, New York), 26 September 1951, pg. 3.

Posted in [Slice of Life](#)

[Leave a comment](#)

Tagged [Robertson](#)

Sheriff killed 1960

Robertson Death, Conner Injury

Posted on [27 February 2009](#) | [1 Comment](#)

20 December 1960 – “Walter S. Conner, 52, is the new sheriff of Appomattox County.

“Conner, a deputy sheriff for 10 years, has been appointed by Circuit Judge Joel W. Flood to fill the unexpired term of the late David W. Robertson, 40.

“Sheriff Robertson was killed Dec. 11 when his car skidded on a icy highway as he drove to a Lynchburg hospital to visit Conner, who had been injured an hour earlier in an auto crash.”

Source

“Virginia Briefs,” *Kingsport Times* (Kingsport, Tennessee), 20 December 1960, pg. 16.

Copyright © 2009 by David W. Robertson, Appointed Sheriff

Walter
Conner
1960-1963



Stanley
wins

Election

William Jr., Pat Beverly, Anne Claudia thews, en Rog, ada Mas-Cornelia r, Betty by Cole-ll, Judy y cutt, le Stan-Sandra a Morris Debby

2,737 V

A total of 2,737 out Tuesday at Ap ty's ten precincts county - wide three county sup Democratic prim Sheriff's Retired State L. L. Stanley def Sheriff Walter S vote of 1594 to 1




L. L. STANLEY

JOHN CURTIS CALDWELL

Vote in Appomattox County

Sheriff Com. of Clover Southside Stonewall
Revenue Hill Dist. Dist.

Precincts	Conner	Stanley	Caldwell	O'Brien	Webb	Wood	Irby	Harvey	Cole	Martin	Scruggs
Agee	57	99	89	65	—	—	—	—	—	129	26
Chap	101	65	136	28	—	—	40	96	30	—	—
Chesterwood	18	41	49	10	—	—	10	22	26	—	—
Clover Hill	167	175	205	136	254	83	—	—	—	—	—
Court House	528	640	709	361	—	—	249	267	556	—	—
Oakville	124	222	288	56	—	—	—	—	—	282	59
Pamplin	77	112	145	43	164	23	—	—	—	—	—
Rocks	33	58	75	16	59	31	—	—	—	—	—
Stonewall	69	156	181	45	—	—	—	—	—	77	146
Walker's Co.	32	26	46	12	44	12	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1206	1594	1923	772	521	149	299	385	612	488	231

Music Cl Set Aug.

Appomattox A Southern Baptist a music clinic Au ing to the Ass director, Rever Waddill, of Spou Church. Host ch erty Baptist, Ap H. "Mack" Sn music, at South Seminary, Wake and Phillip Yo music of First Hendersson, N. instructors. Cho nists, and other sons are invited

Progress Shows C Funds I

Maurice S. W of Field Service Letter to the k

L.L. Stanley
1963-1971



New uniforms



LESLIE LENWOOD STANLEY-SHERIFF
JAMES EUGENE RICHARDSON-DEPUTY
Photo taken in 1964-First time
for uniforms, Sheriff's Dept.,
in Appomattox County. This is
the official uniform for all
sheriffs and their deputies in
the state of Virginia.

Courthouse crew 1965



J.E.
Richardson
1971-1996



Richardson Deputy oath 1963

of Appomattox County, Va.

G.H. Parent Co.
Ashland, Va. Form No. 119-P—V. C. 1950, Sec. 49-1

State of Virginia, County of Appomattox, to-wit:

I, James E. Richardson, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of Virginia, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon me as Deputy Sheriff of Appomattox County, Virginia according to the best of my ability. So help me God.

James E. Richardson

I, Ardah B. Gordon Deputy Clerk in and for the Circuit Court of Appomattox County, in the State of Virginia, do certify that James E. Richardson this 26th day of December 1963 personally appeared before me in my office aforesaid and took and subscribed the above oath.

Ardah B. Gordon, Deputy Clerk of the Circuit Court of Appomattox County, Va.

Richardson Sheriff Oath

G. H. Perrot Co.
Ashland, Va. Form No. 119-P—V. C. 1950, Sec. 49-1

State of Virginia, County of Appomattox, to-wit:

I, James E. Richardson, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of Virginia, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon me as Sheriff of Appomattox County according to the best of my ability. So help me God.

J. E. Richardson
I, Aedra B. Gordon Clerk of the Circuit Court in and for the County of Appomattox, in the State of Virginia, do certify that James E. Richardson this 29 day of June, 1971, personally appeared before me in my County aforesaid and took and subscribed the above oath.

Law Order 99 Aedra B. Gordon, Clerk

Richardson adds K-9

APPOMATTOX
Times 25¢

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Appomattox, VA
Permit #83

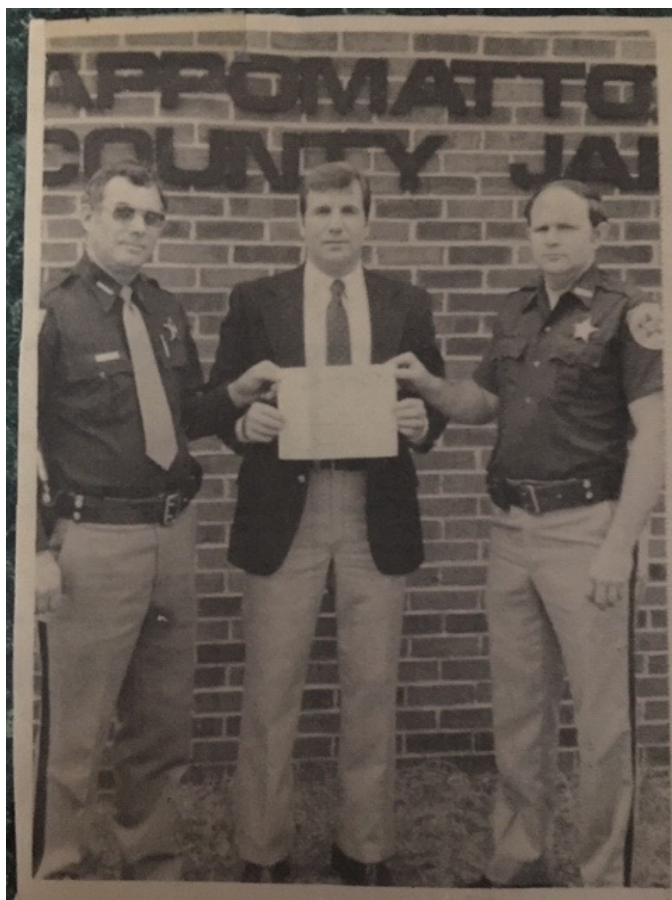
Volume 1, Number 21 August 26, 1992

Department adds two dogs



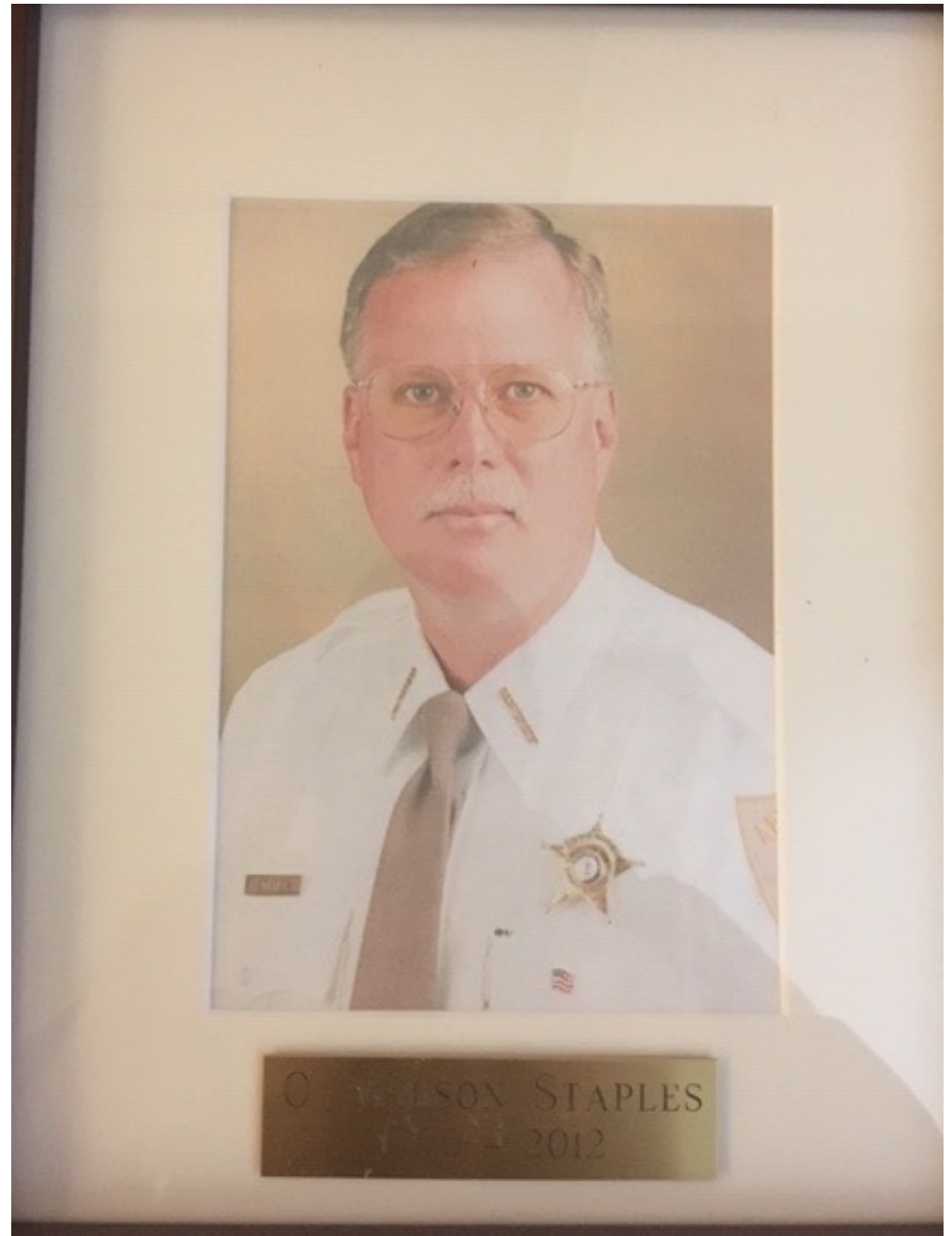
NEW POLICE DOGS—There are two additions to the Appomattox County Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Gene Richardson (left) is shown holding the county's new drug dog, Sergeant, and Deputy Roy Hopkins (right) is shown with the new patrol dog, Major. Sergeant and Major will live and work with Hopkins, who trained with the two dogs for 12 weeks.

Photo by Diane Higgs



Jail Certification

O. Wilson
Staples
1996-2012



Swearing in



 **RE-ELECT** 

STAPLES

SHERIFF

by  MyCampaignStore.com 800-928-9480

Authorized by O. Wilson Staples, Candidate. Paid for by Betty G. Craft, Treasurer



TIMES - VIRGINIAN



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Vol. 116, No. 45

Appomattox, Virginia

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

75 cents

Staples, Henderson triumphant



Appomattox County Results From Tuesday's Local Races

PRECINCTS	Sheriff		Commissioner of Revenue		County Board of Supervisors		County Board of Supervisors		County Board of Supervisors		Spencer App. Rte.	School Bd. Fall River	School Bd. Vicksburg	Off. of Court	Treasurer	Comm. Atty.
	Wilson Staples	Ricky Baldwin	Sara Henderson	Sandra McCormick	Thomas Conrad	Darlene Reed	Shawn Armstrong	Gay Tanner	Earl Pickett	Stacy Garrett	Willie Craft	Bobby Waddell	Wes Williams	Barbara Williams	Janet Beller	Darrel Puckett
Vera	291	101	214	171					126	240	348			369	367	329
Pamplin	339	379	449	246					310	356	590			638	645	584
Chap	268	95	191	171	191	167						303		345	335	307
Spout Spring	467	186	385	263	375	262						586		618	625	573
U.S. 460	369	229	297	294			146	426					504	563	562	515
Stoneswell	274	155	188	242			76	344					353	386	395	375
Courthouse	535	337	426	428										810	811	741
Oakville	483	245	317	409										669	652	602
Agre	192	89	110	170										258	256	231
TOTAL	3,218	1,812	2,577	2,394	566	429	222	770	436	596	938	889	857	4,656	4,648	4,257

Tanner, Conrad, Garrett also win contested races

By MARVIN HAMLETT
Editor

Wilson Staples and Sara Henderson were the two big winners in Tuesday's election in Appomattox County.

Staples defeated Ricky Baldwin, 3,218-to-1,812, to retain his position in a hotly contested Sheriff's election.

Henderson, meanwhile, edged Sandra McCormick 2,577-to-2,394 in a close battle of first-time candidates trying to succeed Monte Mays, who will retire as Commissioner of the Revenue on Dec. 31.

Staples, a three-term sheriff, won eight out of nine precincts. Only the Pamplin Precinct prevented a Staples sweep.

Henderson did most of her

January 19, 2010 National Spotlight



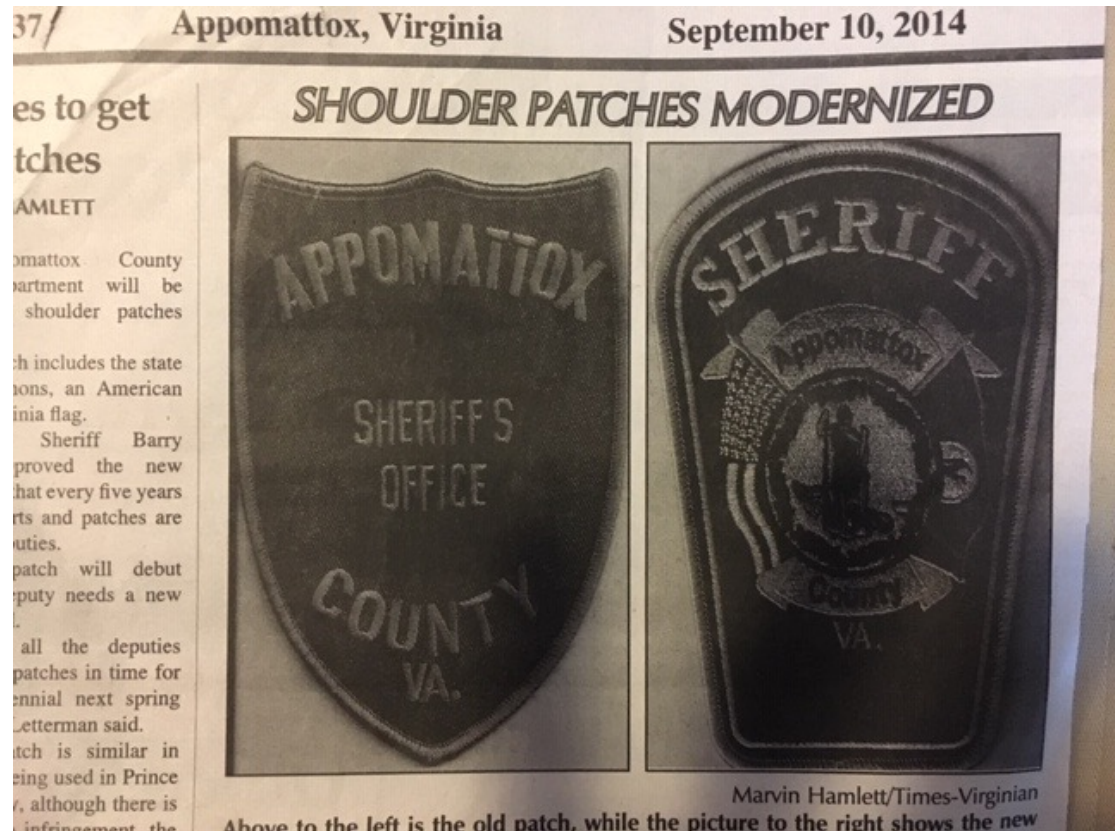
victims in Virginia shootings ...

cnn.com

B. E.
Letterman
2012-
present



New Patches



Wall of honor

