The concept for our Race & Sports project took shape over two years ago. It was our BIG IDEA to focus our efforts and connect local history with the local community, tackling our mission to prove that History is not the past; it is the story we tell about the past. And every person has a unique and powerful story to tell.

We believe that the new No Playbook website captures the powerful and impactful story of desegregation in Charlottesville and Albemarle County from the viewpoint of those who experienced it firsthand.

The Race & Sports project began with a focus on athletics in order to zoom-in on the complexities and nuances of desegregation—where Black and White youth directly cooperated and competed. Many contend that sports helped integrate America. Others see the culture of sport perpetuating stereotypes that limit opportunities for African Americans. Our project explored these interpretations to see how they played out in local history—to find out whether interracial cooperation on athletic teams had a positive effect on the desegregation process.

We quickly learned that the story must be broader. Some athletes we interviewed said that color was not an issue—“it was all about winning.” Yet, they also saw limitations to their camaraderie; the team only existed on the court or field. In search of those limits, we expanded our interviews. While we used athletics as an entry point, the oral histories venture beyond sports and reveal how school desegregation made and also broke communities. No Playbook is a story about the human experience during a time of dramatic social change. One consistent theme we kept hearing was that desegregation had “no manual” and that “there was no preparation”—that there was no playbook. Drawing on these insights, the new website is called No Playbook: School Integration During Massive Resistance.

The website is now active, but it is not, and never will be, a completed story. Forty interviews are included and we will continue to add more. Thanks to the hard work of our oral history team, the web designers at Journey Group, and most importantly, the confidence our interviewees have shown in us to collect, preserve and interpret their important stories, these oral histories are now continued on page 2.
No Playbook continued from page 1

public. The website is built for a general audience to allow anyone to explore audio clips, images, and the background materials for the people, places, and ideas covered. And the website also allows researchers and others to immerse themselves within the experience and impact of desegregation through the viewpoint of those who lived it. And there is so much more that can be done with these powerful local stories. This summer we will engage with local educators to create K-12 focused inquiry-based educational resources with the oral histories we have gathered. We have also applied for a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) planning grant to produce a traveling exhibit that can carry these important stories to schools, libraries, and other public spaces throughout the county and region. And, our ultimate goal has always been to produce a quality documentary film that will reach audiences throughout the country.

The No Playbook website is just the first step. ACHS views this as a launching pad for a larger initiative to promote interest in and the use of oral histories more broadly (See the Addie Patrick Going Digital! item in this newsletter). The ACHS believes that everyone has a story to tell, and we are seeking partners and funders to help us collect, preserve, and share more of the stories of our diverse community and its experiences. Help us preserve local history – donate today! Make sure to check out the new website at noplaybook.albemarlehistory.org and let us know what you think!

Oral Histories Going Digital!

ACHS volunteer, Addie Patrick, is set to kickstart a digital library for our oral history collection. The ACHS has a sizable collection of audio cassettes and tapes—about 460—from various community history projects through the years. The collection includes audio recordings of Bernard Chamberlain’s “Community History” series dating to the mid-1970s, recollections of local World War II veterans, folk music performances, and ACHS board meetings, presentations, and walking tours from the 1990s. Access to the collection is limited due to its analog format, though a few have been digitized for ACHS special projects, like Paul Gaston’s oral history interview published in the the Magazine of Albemarle Charlottesville History, Vol. 78, 2020. This spring, Addie will combine her passion for oral history collection access with her coursework for a Master’s of Science degree in Information Sciences through the University of Tennessee. Her immediate goal is to digitize a portion of the oral history collection. In consultation with ACHS staff, she is considering a variety of factors in selecting what to digitize, including the condition and age of the tapes, and the subject matter. Addie will create digital files from the old tapes and create a digital library that will be accessible to the general public through our website.

An important part of this project is ensuring that the work is sustainable. For Addie’s school project, only a small sample of the oral history collection will be digitized, but we are thinking big, and the long term goal is to digitally publish the entire collection. With her kickstarting effort, volunteers in the months ahead will work to complete this work. In addition, the documentation she creates for her school project will be an important source for analog digitization and digital libraries that we can share with all ACHS members and patrons for their own personal audio materials. For example, Addie recently used the same type of audio digitization equipment available at ACHS to digitize her dad’s college band mix tapes. Now, those memories are available for her dad and his former bandmates to enjoy, forty years later.

Depending on volunteer interest and ACHS resources, Addie foresees the Oral History Digital Library project as a catalyst for other digitization projects through the ACHS and in partnership with the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library. In the meantime,
I have been President of ACHS for a little over a year. And I am EXCITED! We have so many projects and initiatives that I have trouble keeping track of all of them. Really, it is quite remarkable to see the breadth of our activities over the past three years since Tom Chapman was hired as Executive Director. We are re-envisioning the myriad ways to serve Charlottesville and Albemarle County. And we are SUCCEEDING in our efforts to do so.

Think about it: We have revived Hatton Ferry, the only pole-driven ferry in the country, which will operate again this upcoming season from April to October. Walking tours for city residents and tourists have been reinstated and expanded. Our programs, now in hybrid form, range the gamut from highlighting authors who have written books of local interest, to filmmakers, archaeologists, historians, teachers, and musicologists. ACHS has partnered with the City of Charlottesville to discover the history of the enslaved individuals whose unmarked graves lie outside the Pen Park cemetery walls, bringing this important local history to life through the voices of the descendants. We are carrying out a substantial oral history project, and making what we have gathered accessible to everyone through the No Playbook website, giving voice to and preserving heretofore undocumented stories of both Black and White students on the front lines of desegregating local high schools. And next, we will work closely with local teachers and students to develop educational on-line resources using the oral histories we have gathered. We provide both paid and unpaid internship opportunities, thereby educating young people about the history of their community, while also learning from our youth their perspective on our shared past. We are actively working to develop Cvillepedia as a resource for community knowledge. Our local history research library is buzzing with volunteers who are helping researchers and are digitizing online materials. And the list goes on and on.

We do all this with very minimal staff. Our aspirations are large. Our resources are still too small to accomplish all we want. Please support us. We need your help to collect, preserve, and interpret your local history!

– Phyllis Leffler
Phyllis.leffler@gmail.com

Oral Histories continued from page 2

those interested in Charlottesville and Albemarle County history will soon have electronic access to oral histories which have rarely been heard since they were originally recorded decades ago. We are actively looking for volunteers to help with this project. Contact us for more information.

Pen Park Update — Descendant Outreach and Summer Interns

If you have been reading these newsletters, following us on social media, or the news, then you know about our Pen Park project partnership with the City of Charlottesville. If not, a quick summary: In 2019, the Charlottesville City Council approved funds for an archaeological examination by ground penetrating radar (GPR) of possible unmarked graves located outside the walls of the Gilmer, Craven, and Hotopp family cemeteries. In 2020, Sam Towler began research to understand the documentary evidence available for enslaved workers on the historic Pen Park plantation. The initial archaeological studies and documentary research provided preliminary information on the number and locations of grave sites, as well as the family lineages of people who were enslaved on the plantation. Over the next two years, with the help of UVA interns, over a thousand individual and place names were added to a relational database, we held three public programs partnering with JMRL and the City, and through word of mouth, connected with descendants in the local community.

In January 2023, thanks to UVA Architectural School graduate student, Josephine “Jo” Blount, who “externed” with ACHS over her winter break, we convened with three descendants of the Pen Park enslaved community: Diane Brown Townes, Lorenzo Dickerson, and Stephen Waller. From this meeting and their shared interest in memorializing and honoring the burial site of their ancestors, the beginning steps were taken to envision and create a Pen Park Descendant Group by identifying some core principles, values, and priorities that should guide the memorialization process:

continued on page 4
Ineke La Fleur.

Security: Throughout the process of memorialization, the security and preservation of the burial site is of utmost importance, and is fundamental to honoring those buried there and their legacy. Securing the site can mean physically protecting it from damage or desecration by the installation of a temporary barrier separating it from the surrounding golf course, and may also entail further defining the exact extent of the burial ground, to determine the number and precise locations of burials.

Respect: Respect is crucial to the memorialization process. Memorializing the burial ground is an essential act of honoring and paying respect to the Descendants’ Ancestors. Respecting those individuals and their memory requires honoring both the sadness and joy of the burial site, respecting both the physical space as well as its legacy and meaning for Descendants, and as the living embodiment of their Ancestors, the Descendants deserve to be treated with respect and have their own livelihoods, stories, and contributions celebrated as extensions of their Ancestors’ legacies. Respecting Descendants as living representatives of those who were enslaved and buried at Pen Park means centering their wishes and voices for the memorialization of the site. Any attempt by other actors or institutions to control or co-opt this process would go against the spirit of respect for the memories of those buried there. The Descendants therefore claim the right to a ‘bottom-up’ memorialization process steered by their vision for how best to honor their ancestors.

Telling the Story: The Descendants are driven by the desire to articulate, interpret, and spread the cultural memory and sense of homeplace that ties Pen Park to other areas of meaning for the Descendant families. They are committed to telling the stories of their ancestors at Pen Park, within a larger interconnected network of Sites of Conscience in the area. By honoring the burial ground in conversation with other spaces of importance, they are guided by the affirmation that local history is family history.

The ACHS will have two UVA Institute for Public History interns working this summer on the Pen Park project. The interns will conduct new research, complete reports on specific individuals and family lines found within the data, and participate in oral history interviews with members of the descendant community. The interns will work in close collaboration with the Pen Park Descendants and others involved in the project, including Jeff Werner – City of Charlottesville Historic Preservation Planner; Shelley Murphy – UVA Enslaved Laborers Project Lead Researcher; Sam Towler – Local Historian and Central Virginia History Researchers member; and Lorenzo Dickerson – Maupintown Media Filmmaker and Local History Storyteller.

In the News

Hatton Ferry Now Has an Endowment!

Thanks again to John and Trula Wright and the Margaret Hulvey Wright Charitable Trust, we now have a $105,000 endowment to keep the ferry riverworthy into the future. We will be having a Hatton Ferry Community Day on Saturday, May 6, 2023, at 2:30pm, to celebrate with our generous donors. Join us and take a ride on the Hatton Ferry! The annual proceeds from the endowment fund will help us cover insurance and maintenance costs to keep the ferry crossing the James. But to do that, we need volunteers to serve as ferry operators and to share the history of the last poled ferry in the country with visitors. If you, or someone you know, is interested please contact Sterling at hattonferry@albemarlehistory.org. The Hatton Ferry will operate this season from 10:00AM to 2:00PM every Saturday and Sunday starting April 15th and lasting through October, including some Holidays. The ferry will run dependent on James River water levels. Follow the Hatton Ferry Facebook page for updates on river conditions.

They Say Good Help Is Hard to Find??

Here’s what’s in the pipeline from our student worker! Ineke La Fleur, a third year double major in Political & Social Thought and History at UVA, was hired by the ACHS to work on Cvillepedia after her first year of college. After a year of researching and writ-
The Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society acknowledges the following benefactors, organizations, and volunteers who provided financial and in-kind support between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022. Their investment in our work helps us put our Mission and Vision into practice.

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The Little Wiki that Could...

If you've been following our work you know of our keen interest in Cvillepedia. Cvillepedia is a community resource for all things Albemarle County and Charlottesville. Anyone can make edits to this online encyclopedia, adding to the thousands of articles about people, places and events of significance in our local community. Cvillepedia is already an important resource for anyone who wants to learn more about Charlottesville and Albemarle County's past and present. The ACHS is working to keep this little wiki alive and growing, however, what will really determine Cvillepedia's future is for it to be used and expanded by members of the community it represents. What can you add to the story? Go to cvillepedia.org/SpecialRequestAccount and request an account today!

Taking Care of the Collections

Thanks to a $10,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, on March 14 and 15 the Northeast Document Conservation Center conducted a full preservation assessment of the ACHS collections and provided a workshop on current best practices in preservation with staff and volunteers. The preservation assessment report will provide an outline for next steps in preserving the ACHS's collections into the future.

The Magazine

The 2022 Magazine is in final design production as this newsletter goes to print, but we still need your help in funding the printing and mailing costs. The Magazine represents an important and tangible part of our mission — to collect, preserve and interpret. Please consider a gift to support the Magazine of Albemarle Charlottesville History. Contact Tom Chapman at executivedirector@albemarlehistory.org or 540-222-9956.

Good Help continued from page 4

ing articles about Charlottesville's history for Cvillepedia and giving a conference talk about what local wikis can do for the community, she came back for more! After her second year, she focused on two main projects: teaching community members about Cvillepedia, and curating an exhibit of local portraitist Frances Brand's artwork. Brand (1901-1990) was a U.S. Army major, a civil rights activist, a world traveler, a devoted churchgoer, and a portrait artist, among other things. In the 1970s, Brand undertook a series of portraits of individuals from Charlottesville and Albemarle County that would become the Gallery of “Firsts.” Ineke recently completed an article for the next Magazine of Albemarle Charlottesville History about Brand's life and work. She is a student member of the Local Knowledge Working Group through the UVA Democracy Initiative. The working group seeks to bridge the town-gown divide and promote Cvillepedia as a shared community resource.

we have attempted to tie all of our programs and projects to Cvillepedia, so that any new local history we learn is preserved and shared online. On February 23rd, we held a Cvillepedia edit-a-thon at Jefferson-Madison Regional Library (JMRL) Downtown Central Branch where Sean Tubbs explained how he uses online resources to update the site, including a chronology feature within Cvillepedia that allows searches to find information for what happened locally every day of the year going back to the 1700s. The edit-a-thon is one in a series to promote our new partnership with radio station WCHV (107.5 FM) to celebrate their 90th anniversary in 2023. Together, we will use the research on Cvillepedia to create on-air segments that will run from May to September chronicling 90 local historical events that occurred over the past 90 years the radio station has been on air. The 90 for 90 series will culminate with an anniversary celebration to be held on September 15th — so be sure to hold the date and keep an eye out for more information!

In 2022, the ACHS was accepted to join the Local Knowledge Working Group as part of UVA's Democracy Initiative to better understand the local informational environment and further expand and promote Cvillepedia as an information resource by, for, and about the whole community. In late-June, the Working Group will hold a Democratizing Local Information Symposium, with local experts discussing how we can enhance our community's ability to both access and share information in ways that promote more and better democratic engagement. Cvillepedia is one of the most developed small wikis in the world. It is a valuable resource for anyone who wants to learn more about Charlottesville and Albemarle County's past and present. The ACHS is working to keep this little wiki alive and growing, however, what will really determine Cvillepedia's future is for it to be used and expanded by members of the community it represents. What can you add to the story? Go to cvillepedia.org/SpecialRequestAccount and request an account today!

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IN MEMORIAM
Thomas Irving Crowell III
(1921-2022)

On October 10, 2022, after a life well lived, Thomas Crowell passed away at Martha Jefferson House Infirmary at age 101. Crowell lived an extraordinary life. He grew up in Caldwell, New Jersey. He completed his undergraduate studies at Harvard University in 1943 and worked as a chemist on the Manhattan Project. Crowell remembered that the project was so secret no one he collaborated with knew what they were working towards. When he read the news of the Hiroshima attack, it was a terrible shock. After WWII ended, he entered graduate school at Columbia University, earning his Ph.D in 1948. Crowell met Robert E. Lutz, the renowned UVA organic chemistry professor, at a conference in Chicago who suggested that he interview for an opening at UVA. He was quickly hired. During his tenure at UVA he served as chairman of the chemistry department from 1957 to 1962, retiring from the university in 1984, though he continued his chemistry work in his home laboratory until the age of 90. Crowell was an enthusiastic amateur musician, who considered the French horn his primary instrument, and played with the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, the UVA University Singers, the Massachusetts N.Y.A. Orchestra, the Columbia University Orchestra, the Virginia Symphony, and was president of the Harvard University Orchestra. Additionally, Crowell loved to be inspired by nature. He could almost always be found wearing his hiking boots and loved to spend much of his time in the woods of New Hampshire and Maine or Virginia’s Blue Ridge. Sally Cary Booker remembers her dear friend as “a most extraordinary Renaissance man whose fountain of knowledge expanded from Bach and Beethoven to the Appalachian Trail to sailing to all aspects of nature and astronomy. You just can’t imagine his breadth of knowledge, an ever curious mind.”

Volunteer Needs – Join us!

Email programs@albemarlehistory.org or call (434) 296-1492

• Tour Guides for our guided history walking tours
• Researchers to help us answer the numerous inquiries we receive.
• Oral History enthusiasts to help Addie Patrick with our Going Digital project.
• Cvillepedia.org to help make it the go-to resource for local history.
• Greeters to provide ACHS hospitality to every guest that walks through our doors.
• Hatton Ferry operators and history ambassadors.
On the Calendar

Sign up for virtual events on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/ACHistSoc or email us at info@albemarlehistory.org with questions and for additional information.

- **Guided History Walking Tours** – By appointment, Court Square, Maplewood Cemetery, the Downtown Mall, and Special Themed tours offered all year round. $8/person. Contact Sterling at programs@albemarlehistory.org or 434-296-1492.

- **Hatton Ferry** will be open every Saturday and Sunday (and some holidays) 10am-2pm through October, weather permitting. Follow us at www.facebook.com/HattonFerry for updates on closures or changes in running times.

- **May 20, Saturday, 12pm at The Center at Belvedere** – Dr. Kathryn Coker will discuss her book *Virginia Prisoner of War Camps in World War II*. During WWII, Virginians watched as German and Italian prisoners invaded the Old Dominion. At least seventeen thousand Germans and countless Italians lived in more than twenty camps across the state and worked on five military installations. Farmers hired POWs to pick apples. Fertilizer companies, lumberyards and hospitals hired them. At first a phenomenon of war in Virginia’s backyard, these former enemy combatants became familiar to many—often developing a rapport with their employers. Join Dr. Coker as she takes you on a tour of the camps, the daily lives of the POWs, and the enduring effect they had on Virginia.

- **June 23, Friday, 7:30pm and June 24, Saturday, 3pm and 7:30pm** – “Can’t Feel at Home” an original play by Dr. John T. Glick at the PVCC Theater – This play tells the story of families displaced from the Blue Ridge Mountains in the 1930s to allow for the construction of Shenandoah National Park and Skyline Drive. Presented by JoeBob Productions and the Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society at the Piedmont Virginia Community College, Dickinson Theater, 501 College Drive, Charlottesville, VA. Tickets $25 in advance through Eventbrite (CFAH-Albemarle.eventbrite.com) or $30 at the door. Scan QR code for ticket link.

- **June 30, Friday 12pm-3pm at Studio IX** – Local Knowledge Working Group – Cultivating Local Knowledge Symposium, with local experts discussing Cvillepedia and how we can enhance our community’s ability to both create, access, and share information in ways that promote more and better democratic engagement. Stay tuned for additional information. STUDIO IX LOCATION: 969 2ND STREET SE, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

- **September, Date and time TBD** – Heather S. Cole will present “At Home with the Virginia Presidents,” an engaging armchair travel and history talk about the eight Virginia-born presidents and the sites that shaped their lives. We will travel the state—from Staunton to Charles City and Wytheville to Winchester—to (virtually) visit the homes and historic sites of the Virginia presidents. Attendees will learn a bit about the presidents’ lives, take a peek inside their homes, and get ideas for their next history road trip.
Support the Mission of the Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society

Stay connected with all things local history by finding us on
Facebook, Twitter, and Youtube.

Become a member, join our email list, or make a donation > www.albemarlehistory.org.

Use the enclosed membership envelope or scan the QR code to Support Local History!

Our Vision
Our vision is to reimagine and reinvent the role of the historical society in the twenty-first century: to be a strong civic organization that embraces, in all that we do, the diversity of our community’s history and experience, and promotes a greater understanding of our past, to enlighten the present and foster an inclusive history for future generations.

Our Mission
History is not the past; it is the story we tell about the past. Every person in Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville has a unique and powerful story to tell. Through collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history of our community, we are committed to informing, inspiring, and bringing together all people, creating opportunities for new relationships and new understandings.

Our Values
Our work is grounded in a belief in the worth and dignity of every human being. We respect people, communities, and cultures. We value discovery, creativity, integrity, and diversity. We believe in the potential for history to enrich our lives and to create stronger relationships and more vibrant communities.

We approach our work with integrity and transparency.