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Clarke County in War Time

A Community History

LOCATION, NATURAL FEATURES AND RESOURCES

This county was named in honor of General George Rogers Clarke, a famous pioneer Indian fighter who was born in Albemarle County and most of whose notable exploits were done in the northwest territory, which Virginia later gave to the United States. Clarke County lies in the famous Shenandoah Valley in the northern part of the State, bordering on the Maryland line. It was formed from Frederick in 1836. Area, 189 square miles; population, 7,165.

The surface of the central portion of the county and west of the Shenandoah River is undulating, the soil limestone and unsurpassed for fertility and productiveness. The land east of the Shenandoah is mountainous and portions produce excellent blue grass when cleared, affording fine pasture for sheep and cattle. Farm products are the grains, potatoes and fruits. Special attention is given to the wheat, corn and hay crops, the lands being among the finest in the State for wheat. Large quantities of apples and peaches are annually shipped, fruit growing to perfection. The raising of cattle is extensive, and also fine horses. The Shenandoah River flows through the county from south to north, while the Opequan is on its western border. There are a limited number of trout and large and small mouth bass in the streams.

The Shenandoah Valley branch of the Norfolk and Western Railway, Hagerstown, Md., to Roanoke, Va., traverses the central part of the county from north to south. The Valley branch of the Baltimore and Ohio extends through the northwest. Rural roads are excellent. Bus lines connect with Winchester and Washington. There are two accredited high schools—at Berryville and Boyce. Agriculture is taught in the Boyce School.

Berryville, the county seat, is a thriving town of more than a thousand people. It is connected by bus with the Old Dominion Railway from Washington to Bluemont, in Loudoun County. Boyce is also an important town with a State bank and high school.

In proportion to size, Clarke is one of the wealthiest counties in the State. At the head of the famous Shenandoah Valley, it is noted for its healthful climate, beautiful scenery, productive land, intelligent and enterprising people.

A few miles from Berryville, on the road to Front Royal, is White Post, so named because in days before the Revolution, Lord Fairfax, who lived at Greenway Court, nearby, had a white post planted at the cross roads to direct travelers to his house. A village grew up around the cross roads, and to this day people keep a white post standing on the public road. Many tourists make the journey to White Post every year to see the famous old mansion.*

CHURCHES IN WAR TIME

The churches of Clarke County held special patriotic, intercessory and memorial services. Grace Church, in Berryville, held such a memorial service in commemoration of Major Lloyd Williams when a tablet was unveiled to his memory. This church subscribed for Liberty Bonds, and twenty-seven of its men and one woman were in the service. The rector, Rev. Malcolm S. Taylor, was a chaplain with the Second Corps. There was a weekly procession of the children through the streets of Berryville, with flags, music and singing, concluding with prayers at the church.¹

Mr. B. D. Chambers, rector of Cunningham Chapel Parish, reported sixteen men in the army from his parish, five in the navy, two in the marines and one in Red Cross service. It would appear that the men resided in Millwood. They were George H. Burwell, Jr., J. T. Burwell, Edward G. Butler, Maurice J. Dunlap, Jr., Joseph Eidson, S. Dalman Estep, Walter A. Estep, Harry W. Frost, Donald N. Gilpin, Kenneth N. Gilpin, Holmes Grim, Prescott Huidkoper, Charles A. Jones, Jr., E. S. Tucker Lindsay, James B. Lindsay, Charles Mullikin, Winston S. Lindsay, James H. Nolan, Eston Randolph, Percy Randolph, William F. Randolph, McClure Scott, Joseph Sipe and Marshall C. Willingham. The Millwood Church also subscribed for \$1,000 worth of Liberty Bonds, and the sum of \$2,000 was sent to the Belgian and Near East Relief.²

A service flag and the national colors were displayed by the congregation of the Methodist Church at Berryville, of which Rev. J. Herbert Bean was pastor. This church united with three other churches in Red Cross work, meeting weekly at workrooms, supplying garments to soldiers and to hospitals, and engaging in local relief work. A Thrift Stamp

*See "Virginia," published by Department of Agriculture and Immigration, p. 155.

¹Report of Rev. Malcolm S. Taylor, V. W. H. C. files.

²Report of Rev. B. D. Chambers, V. W. H. C. files.

rally was held by the church during the War Savings Stamps campaign in June, 1918, and more than \$3,000 worth of stamps were sold and \$250.00 subscribed by the church societies. The following men and women were in service from this church: Lieutenant C. H. Iden, Charles L. Roland, Walter C. Hardesty, Sergeant Olin W. Beall, John H. Coleman, Charles J. Enders, Sergeant Ralph E. Galloway, Charles Le-Roy Whitaker, Sergeant Wilmer H. Gaver, Frank Barr, and Harry L. Boxwell. Charles A. Blake and Jacob Blake were in the Postoffice Department, and Miss Cora Shackelford was a Red Cross nurse.³

DRAFT LAW AND MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS

The Selective Draft Board for the county was composed of W. W. Smallwood, Eugene Glover and J. Edward Harris, all of Berryville. Of the 561 men registered, 234 were called for examination, 188 were accepted as physically fit, and 94 were certified to the district boards. There were eight enlistment credits and the net quota was only 57.¹

There were 1,424 men registered in the three drafts, of which number 222 were accepted at camp.²

The citizens of Millwood and Boyce held a joint meeting in July, 1917, for the purpose of forming a home defense company. The records show that such a company drilled twice a week during the period of the war, having the status of Home Guards.³

Toward the end of July, 1918, a Virginia Volunteer Company known as "The Berryville Guards" was formed in Berryville. This company was partly recruited from the surrounding territory. A full history of this organization may be found in "Virginia War Agencies, Selective Draft and Volunteers."⁴

According to "Virginians of Distinguished Service in the World War" and supplement to Volume V of this series, the following Clarke County men received special distinction: J. G. B. Campbell, cited by Petain, Croix de Guerre and silver star citation; Lieutenant John R. Castleman, Distinguished Service Cross and silver star citation; Rear Admiral Albert Montgomery D. McCormick, commended by Secretary of Navy; Captain William Graham Reynolds, Distinguished Service Cross, French Croix de Guerre; Captain

¹Report of W. H. Ballengee, V. W. H. C. files.

²"Virginia War Agencies, Selective Draft and Volunteers," pages

³Adjutant General's report for 1918, p. 48.

⁴"Virginia War Agencies, Selective Draft and Volunteers," p. 360.

253 and 276.

⁵Source Volume IV, Va. War History Commission publications.

Lloyd William Williams (deceased), cited by division commander, silver star citation, cited in G. O. 88, French Croix de Guerre; Colonel William Holland Wilmer, Distinguished Service Medal; Corporal James B. Lindsay, silver star citation.⁵

Miss Florence Holtzman, of Clarke County, was in Paris when the war began. She proffered her services to the French Government and was instrumental in establishing five hospitals. In recognition of her services a hospital for children was named for her.⁶

Mr. J. W. Lloyd had five sons in service—Charles, Grover, Linton, Thomas and Howard.⁷

Those who died in service from the county were: Captain Lloyd Williams, Robert E. Russell, Oliver L. Smallwood, Wilmer W. Wiley, James W. Lanham and Oliver W. Ashby.⁸

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Mr. John B. Neill was county chairman for the First, Second and Third Liberty Loan campaigns. District chairmen were Rev. Herbert Bean, Battletown; B. O'F. Randolph, Greenway; A. Withers, Longmarsh; J. L. Carper, Chapel District. The maximum apportionment for Clarke in the Second Loan was \$113,800, \$80,500 of which was subscribed by 261 citizens of the county.⁹

The women of the county secured 390 subscribers to the Third Loan. The quota for this loan was \$64,800 and the amount subscribed was \$126,400, the number of subscribers being 740.¹⁰ The King's Daughters conducted a canvass of the county for the Third Loan.¹¹

Mr. Joseph F. Moore was county chairman in the Fourth and Victory Loans. Mrs. E. Jacquelin Smith had charge of the women's work. In the Fourth Loan the women secured 231 subscribers who purchased \$90,450 worth of bonds.¹² The maximum apportionment for the county in this loan was \$140,000 and subscriptions totalled \$191,750. There were 692 subscribers.¹³

Clarke County's quota in the Victory Loan was \$108,700. The women secured 226 of the 424 subscribers and \$90,650 of

⁵Source Volume I, Va. War History Commission publications.

⁶Report of Mrs. Hugh M. Nelson, Sr., V. W. H. C. files.

⁷Ibid.

⁸Ibid.

⁹Report of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond.

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Clarke County records, V. W. H. C. files.

¹²Report of Mrs. Hugh M. Nelson, Sr., V. W. H. C. files.

¹³Report of Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond.

the amount subscribed.¹⁴ The total amount subscribed was \$177,506.¹⁵

The total subscriptions for all loans, exclusive of the First, for which no figures were kept, amounted to \$576,300. This amount was subscribed by 2,117 citizens and exceeded the quota by \$149,000.¹⁶ The following workers received medals: Mrs. John Lee, Miss Ellen Baker, and Miss Theodora Cox.

War gardening was extensively carried on in the county. Classes in the canning and drying of fruits were held, and "meatless" and "wheatless" days were observed.¹⁷

RED CROSS

For many months before the United States entered the war, the people of Clarke County had been making and sending garments to foreign armies through the Virginia War Relief. When our country declared war on Germany a mass meeting was called by the Woman's Club of the county at the court house in Berryville for the purpose of arousing sufficient interest to establish a working unit of the American Red Cross. Messrs. W. A. Bradford, George H. Burwell, Jr., Dr. L. M. Allen and Rev. J. H. Bean made addresses. A committee was nominated to undertake the work of organization, and on April 24, 1917, the following officers were elected: Mrs. Henry B. Gilpin, chairman; Mrs. Hugh M. Nelson, vice-chairman; Mrs. W. T. Lewis, secretary, and Mrs. J. T. L. Jones, treasurer.

The chapter was accepted by national headquarters in June, 1917, as an auxiliary at large with a working committee composed of the chairman, secretary, treasurer (who at this time was Dr. L. M. Allen), Mrs. Blackburn Smith, Mrs. George H. Burwell, Jr., Mrs. A. Cummins, Mrs. John B. Neill, Mrs. F. B. Whiting and Dr. A. P. Osborne. The auxiliary became a chapter on December 14, 1917. When the nationwide Christmas drive was inaugurated in 1917 the Clarke County Chapter had only 293 members, but when the drive ended there were 889 enrolled, and by May, 1919, the membership had increased to 1,610.*

The allotted quota for Clarke County in the Red Cross drive in May, 1918, was \$1,500. The county subscribed \$3,646.59, the colored people contributing \$206.75 of this amount.

¹⁴Report of Mrs. Hugh M. Nelson, Sr., V. W. H. C. files.

¹⁵Report of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond.

¹⁶Ibid.

¹⁷Report of Mrs. Hugh M. Nelson, Sr., V. W. H. C. files.

In August, 1918, a Home Service section was organized with Hon. Blackburn Smith as chairman, and the following committees in the various districts: Battletown District—Miss Alice Dugger, Mrs. S. F. Baughman, Dr. A. P. Osborne, Miss V. Voroces. Greenway District—Mrs. Thompson Sowers, Mr. R. G. Mitchell. Chapel District—Rev. B. D. Chambers, Joseph W. Lloyd, J. L. Carper. Longmarsh District—Mrs. B. F. LaFollette and John M. Fishpaw. The members of this section worked among the families of soldiers in the county. Rev. Malcolm S. Taylor was made chairman of the section after his return from overseas.

In September, 1918, the chapter began a drive for second-hand clothing for war sufferers and refugees. The allotment for the chapter was 1,000 pounds, and 3,000 pounds were collected. The Boy Scouts, under the leadership of Frank Timberlake, rendered efficient help in this drive.

A Junior Auxiliary was formed with Miss Edwards and Miss Wolfe in charge at Berryville, Miss Johanna Wright at Wadesville, Miss Cox at Boyce, Miss Houghton at Kinderhook, Deaconess Boyd near Bluemont, and Miss Shepard and Miss Hickman at Gaylord. Rev. B. D. Chambers was chairman.

Because of the scattered rural population, frequent meetings were not possible and the making of surgical dressings was not undertaken. Seven thousand of the larger and more difficult garments for soldiers, and hospital supplies were furnished by the chapter.¹

The War Chest Fund contributed \$5,348.15 to the Red Cross. The Home Service committee spent \$300. Membership fees netted the chapter \$1,350.²

WAR WORK AND RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS

In September, 1918, Clarke County citizens decided to adopt the War Chest method of dealing with war demands. Pledges to the War Chest amounted to \$22,000, and about two-thirds of this amount was collected. The Red Cross received 40 per cent of the fund, the Y. M. C. A. 25 per cent, the Virginia War Relief Association 15 per cent, the Y. W. C. A. 10 per cent, benevolences 2.5 per cent, and Armenian Relief 2.5 per cent.

Before the War Chest drive was inaugurated the county subscribed \$1,500 to the Y. M. C. A. From benevolences and other unexpended funds \$1,500 was given to the Salvation Army.

¹Red Cross history to this point was taken from report submitted by Mrs. Hattie N. Gilpin in V. W. H. C. files.

²Red Cross questionnaire, pages 4 and 5, V. W. H. C. files.

The citizens of the county sent quantities of books and barrels of magazines to the American Library Association.³

POST-WAR CONDITIONS AND ACTIVITIES

The American Legion has been active in the county since its organization. Its program includes the building of a community house. The war-time agencies have been combined into a County Community League which functions under the direction of committees, such as health, recreation, farmers' clubs, etc.⁴

³Clarke County Records, V. W. H. C. files.

⁴Clarke County records, V. W. H. C. files.