

CCHA Bulletin



November 2024

Caswell County Historical Association
THE OFFICIAL SITE OF THE CCHA & THE RICHMOND-MILES MUSEUM



Historical Events in November

November 9, 1989
Berlin Wall Comes Down

November 22, 1963
President Kennedy assassinated

November 3, 1957
Russians launch Sputnik II

November 5, 1941
Order given to bomb Pearl Harbor

November 11, 1941
Armistice Day - Veterans Day Recognition Began

November 6, 1860
Abraham Lincoln Elected President

November 26, 1789
George Washington declared first Thanksgiving
President Lincoln made Thanksgiving
an official holiday in 1863



2024 CASWELL VETERANS DAY RECOGNITION



Steve Schaick
(pronounced “Shike”)
will be the special guest speaker.

Schaick is an ordained Presbyterian minister who retired in 2021 from the United States Air Force as a Major General and the 19th Chief of Chaplains. Originally from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, he enlisted in the USAF to earn college money and ended up staying 42 years.

The annual Veterans Day 2024 event will be held in Yanceyville at the Town Pavilion on
Monday, November 11
11:00 a.m

This is an outdoor event so bring your chairs.

Each year one day is set aside to Honor all Veterans still alive; Memorial Day is for the Veterans that gave their all for all the freedoms we observe every day.

Please join your friends from the surrounding area to thank all the Veterans for their service to our country.

Click ***Here*** for More Details from The Caswell Messenger.





Spotlight on Caswell County WWII Veteran William Vernon Briggs

William Vernon Briggs was born in Caswell County on September 29, 1925. He was the third of seven sons of Lemuel Hassel Briggs and Nannie Kimbro Briggs of the Leasburg Community. In addition to William Vernon, Mr. and Mrs. Briggs would have two other sons who served in the US Military. The oldest brother, Alvis Briggs, served in the US Navy from 1942-1946, and Hassell Briggs, served in the US Army from 1946-1947.

Vernon Briggs, as he was known as, entered the US Navy on October 12, 1944. His draft card describes him as being 5'8" blonde hair and blue eyes and weighing 150 pounds. He received training at the United States Naval Training Center Bainbridge (USNTC Bainbridge) at Port Deposit, Maryland under the Commander of the Fifth Naval District, based in Norfolk, Virginia. the training center sat between various important naval centers of World War II: about 35 miles northeast of Baltimore, Maryland, and 75 miles from Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. By the end of World War II, the center had trained 244,277 recruits who transferred to various ships and stations throughout the world.

After additional training at the USNTC in Miami he was sent to Houston, Texas and he boarded the USS Pembina (AKA200) on May 22, 1945, and the ship was commissioned on May 25th. The ship was named for Pembina County, North Dakota and was a cargo ship that was constructed for the U.S. Navy during the closing period of World War II.

From there he sailed to Panama and crossed the International Date Line on July 24, 1945. He sailed to the Marshall Islands, Philippines, Manila, Okinawa, and arrived in Japan Yokosuka on January 2, 1946. He was assigned to the ship until January 22, 1946, when it was decommissioned. Briggs achieved the rank of a Sc2 (Seaman Second Class) and was discharged from service on July 3, 1946.

After returning home he married Mary Frances Hamlett of Roxboro, with whom he had corresponded during the war. They were married on February 14, 1948. According to the US Federal Census of 1950, they were living in the Longhurst Community in Person County. He was employed as a twister in a textile mill. He later became an insurance agent and was employed by American General Insurance Company until his retirement. Mr. Briggs was a member of Longhurst United Methodist Church in Roxboro and served on numerous boards and committees.

William Vernon Briggs died on June 5, 2019, and is buried in Person Memorial Cemetery. He was survived by his three children, Gregg Briggs, Jimmy Briggs, Sr., and Roddy Kimbro Briggs.

Thank you for your service to our country.

A special thanks to Linda D. Briggs from the Richmond Miles Museum for her donation of Mr. Briggs' Naval Artifacts.



Spotlight on Caswell County WWI Veteran Walter Madden

Walter Madden was born in Caswell County on May 5, 1894, to Henry Madden and Lucy Ann Blackwell Madden. He was educated in the local school system.

He registered for the draft on June 1, 1917, in Caswell County. At the time he registered for the draft he was employed by D. Fowler, JR. and Company in Haverstraw, New York, located at the widest point of the Hudson River. He was inducted into the US Army on June 18, 1918.

Walter Madden was sent to Camp Taylor, Kentucky for training. Camp Taylor was named for the 12th President of the United States, Zachary Taylor. Camp Zachary Taylor was the largest of sixteen military training camps built in the United States during World War I. The camp was constructed in only 90 days employing 10,000 workers. About 150,000 soldiers trained at the camp from September 1917 to the end of the war in November 1918.



After training for 3 months, he was transferred to Camp Merritt located in Bergen County, New Jersey. Camp Merritt was named for Wesley Merritt who served in the American Indian Wars, and Spanish-American War. He also served as Superintendent of West Point. Camp Merritt was the U.S. Arm's largest staging area for soldiers bound for French and Belgian battlefields. 570,000 men passed through, staying mere days before riding trains and ferries to Hoboken, where they boarded transport ships. Captain Harry S. Truman and Sgt. Alvin York were among the soldiers that passed through the camp.

Walter Madden would serve with Co. C of the 801st Pioneer Infantry. Colonel George F. Hamilton was the commanding officer. His company of 244 men would sail from Hoboken, New Jersey, Pier 5 on September 8th at 8:30 am. aboard the USS Manchuria to France (see photo below of the Manchuria).



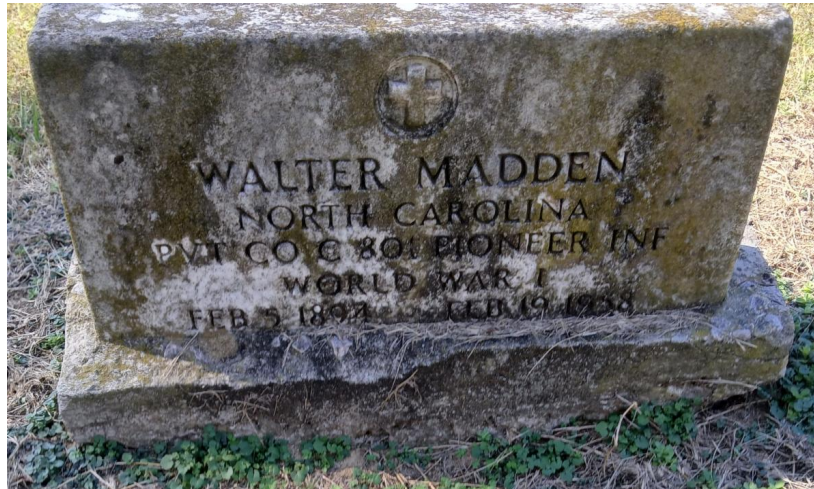
While in France, the 801st was assigned to the 1st U.S. Army. Pioneer Regiments were comprised of African American soldiers. They prepared trenches and battlefields for combat. After the battles they cleared the fields of carnage and ordinance, spent and unspent. During the final push in the war, The

Meuse-Argonne Offensive, some of the Pioneer Infantry units fixed roads and cut barb wire. Additionally, the preserved books from the local libraries. After the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918, they helped repair France while they awaited their return home.

Pvt. Madden sailed from Brest, France aboard the USS Acon on May 23, 1919. He arrived at Newport News on June 5, 1919. Records were unavailable for his life after the war; however, the 1940 census lists him living with his nephew, William Henderson and wife, Annie in the Locust Hill Community in Caswell County.

On February 19, 1958, Walter Madden died at the Winslow Hospital in Danville. He was buried in the church cemetery of the Yanceyville Baptist Church (see gravestone below).

Thank you for your bravery and sacrifice.



Nonprofit Organizations that Support Veterans

Click on bold title below for link to website

Quilts of Valor

Quilts of Valor Foundation began in 2003 with a dream, literally a dream. Founder Catherine Roberts' son Nat was deployed in Iraq. According to Catherine: The dream was as vivid as real life. I saw a young man sitting on the side of his bed in the middle of the night, hunched over. The permeating feeling was one of utter despair. I could see his war demons clustered around, dragging him down into an emotional gutter. Then, as if viewing a movie, I saw him in the next scene wrapped in a quilt. His whole demeanor changed from one of despair to one of hope and well-being. The quilt had made this dramatic change. The message of my dream was: Quilts = Healing.

Wreaths Across America

For over 30 years, Wreaths Across America has worked with volunteers to lay wreaths on veterans' graves during December. National Wreaths Across America Day is Saturday, December 14, 2024. Quilts of Valor Foundation will help Wreaths Across America to remember and honor our veterans by laying memorial wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes.

Triad Honor Flights

To transport America's Veterans to Washington, DC to visit those memorials dedicated to honor the service and sacrifices of themselves and their friends. Although Triad Honor Flight was incorporated in 2020, flights from Greensboro were held from 2009-2011. Organized by Rotary District 7690, around 1300 WWII Veterans were transported to Washington DC. We are very excited to now be including all

Veterans to include WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War and all those who served in between.



Click on logos for info

Halloween was Spooky at the CCHA this year!!!



The CCHA team encountered hundreds of goblins this year at the Annual Caswell County Halloween Candy Trail on Monday, October 28! Scenes above show the excitement.



Click on photo above to view a flashback of Thanksgivings past

CHRISTMAS

 IN MILTON 

Saturday, Nov. 30. • 5-9pm

Come one, come all for a merry evening in our festive little town

5:00PM LIGHTING OF THE TOWN TREE

5:30-6:30PM LETTERS TO SANTA & ORNAMENT MAKING FOR KIDS AT THE ART GALLERY SIDEWALK AREA

7:00PM WALK THE LIGHTED & MUSIC FILLED TRAIL TO REACH THE NORTH POLE TO DROP OF YOUR LETTER TO SANTA

7:30-8:30PM PHOTO OP WITH SANTA AT THE MILTON 66



& THERE'S MORE!

MILTON 66 NIGHT MARKET

MILTON66 5-9 PM

CRAFTS, VENDORS, CHRISTMAS TREES AND MORE!

FOOD TRUCK

TACOS AL VAQUERO

LIVE MUSIC

KRISTY WILKINS

Milton

Click on these graphics to learn more information



2024 Caswell Tree Lighting Festivities

**Yanceyville Town Pavilion
& Historic Downtown Square**
158 E. Church St, Yanceyville, NC 27379

Friday, December 6 - 6:00 pm

**Tree Lighting, Holiday Music, Santa, Food
Trucks, Makers Market and More**



The Town of Yanceyville, Caswell County Government, Caswell Historical Association,
Lights Committee, Arts Council, and Tourism Development Authority are
bringing this event to the community.

Click on these graphics to learn more information



CHRISTMAS *Parade*

"The Spirit of Christmas"

Saturday, December 7

10 AM

Downtown Yanceyville, NC

To register, visit:
www.caswellchamber.org/chamber-events.org

www.caswellchamber.com
ph: 336-694-6106



Join Us

See what is going on in the community
from a historical perspective.

All are welcome.

Annual Memberships - \$35

15 Main St., Yanceyville, NC 27379 | 336-694- 4965
CaswellCountyHistory.org

The Caswell County Historical Association Bulletin

Emailed February - April - May - June - August - October - December

Watch for the 'Lives and Times' long form newsletters March - July - November

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