

NELSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Nelson County Historical Society is organized to create and promote an interest in historical education and research leading to the preservation of artifacts, documents, written records, and buildings related to the history of Nelson County.

Society meetings are usually held at 2 p.m. on the second Sunday of the month at The Nelson Center, Lovingson, Virginia.

You are invited to join the work and fun.

Membership rates are:

- Individual—annual \$15.00
- Family—annual \$20.00
- Individual Life Membership—\$200.00

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Please make check payable to
Nelson County Historical Society

Mailing address
Nelson County Historical Society
P.O. Box 474 • Lovingson, VA 22949

PROJECTS OF THE SOCIETY FOR 2011 INCLUDE:

- Holding meetings with historical programs
- Working with the Oakland Museum Board to further the development of Oakland-Nelson County Museum of Rural History
- Processing requests for genealogy inquiries
- Maintaining the historical society files in the Nelson Memorial Library
- Sponsoring publications of historical significance to the history of Nelson County

www.nelsonhistorical.com

TICKETS

Block tickets for **\$15.00** are available at the
Nelson County Visitor Center
Lovingson, VA
1-800-282-8223 or 434-263-7015

On the day of the tour, block tickets (only) will be sold at Christ Episcopal Church (10:00 a.m.–noon) and at Montezuma and Bon Aire (11:30–5:00 p.m.). No individual home tickets will be sold for this tour.

THANKS TO OUR BROCHURE SPONSORS



85 Callohill Drive
(U.S. 29)
Lovingson, VA

UNION

UNION FIRST
MARKET BANK
Brenda R. Mayo,
Branch Manager
124 Main Street
Lovingson, VA



8181 Thomas Nelson
Highway
Lovingson, VA
434-263-8688

NELSON
EYE CENTER OF
TOMETRISTS 

Dr. Robert Krym, *Op-
tometrist*
Joe Cannon, *Optician*
356 Front Street
Lovingson, VA



*A special thank you to the
Nelson County Garden Club for the
flower arrangements at the tour sites.*

1807



PRESENTS ITS 21ST Nelson County Historic Home Tour and the Virginia Historic Highway Marker Unveiling—

*“Boyhood Home of the Rev. Dr. W.A.R.
Goodwin, Father of Colonial Williamsburg”*

Saturday, May 14, 2011

10:30 a.m.—Christ Episcopal Church
Goodwin Marker Unveiling and Program

11:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.—Tour of homes and properties
in the Norwood and Wingina communities

VISIT HISTORIC PROPERTIES ALONG THE JAMES RIVER IN NELSON COUNTY

Historic Christ Episcopal Church and
Goodwin historic highway marker

Montezuma

Bon Aire

St. John's Baptist Church

Wingina Store and Post Office

DIRECTIONS TO TOUR AREA

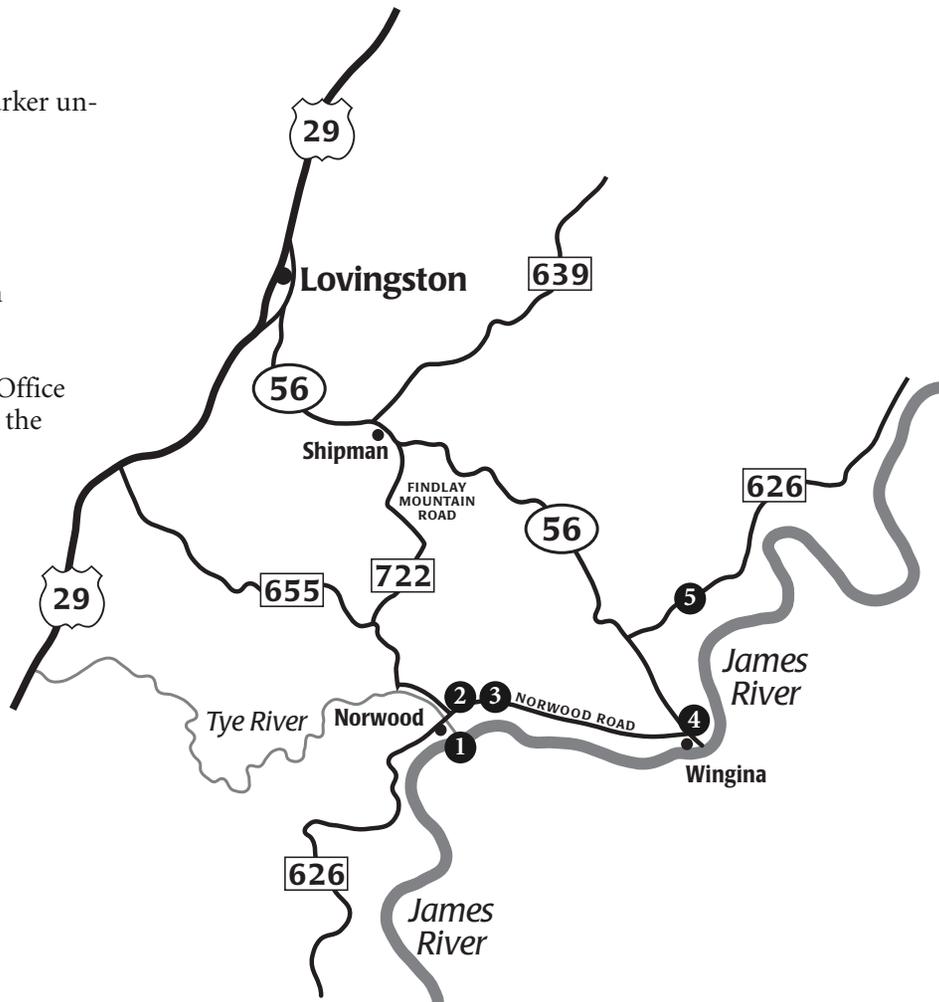
From Lovingsston, take Route 56 East for 15 miles to Wingina. Turn right onto Norwood Road to tour the Wingina Store and P.O., Montezuma and churches along Norwood Road from Wingina to Norwood, a distance of approximately 6 miles.

Alternate route from Lovingsston to Norwood, take Route 56 East 5 miles, turn right on Findlay Mountain Road, right on Williamstown Road (722), and left onto Variety Mills Road (655) to left onto Norwood Road.

Bon Aire—directions from Lovingsston, take Route 56 for 12 miles and turn left on Cabell Road (626) for 3 miles.

- ① Christ Episcopal Church
8852 Norwood Road
(Site of the Goodwin marker un-veiling)
- ② Montezuma
9327 Norwood Road
- ③ St. John's Baptist Church
9939 Norwood Road
- ④ Wingina Store and Post Office
13711 Norwood Road at the intersection of Route 56
- ⑤ Bon Aire
1843 Cabell Road

(Tour sites do not have to be visited in the order listed above)



LUNCH

St. John's
Baptist Church
9939 Norwood Road

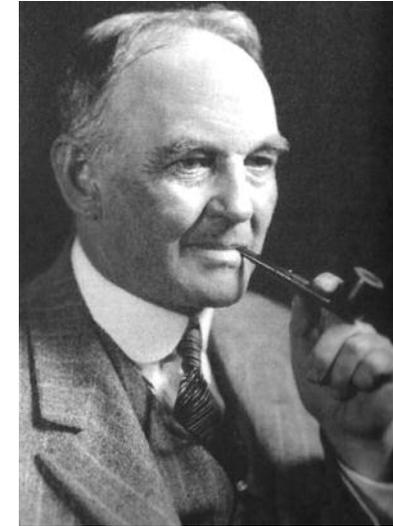
Cost: \$8.00

Reservations appreciated, but not required:
434-263-8168 or maryfannie@gmail.com

No other accommodations for lunch are available
in the immediate area.

Public restrooms are available for the tour at
St. John's Baptist Church.

Boyhood Home of Rev. Dr. W.A.R. Goodwin (1869–1939) “Father of Colonial Williamsburg”



BORN IN Richmond in 1869, William Archer Rutherford Goodwin lived in Norwood from 1871 until he entered Roanoke College in 1885. Goodwin's childhood education and strong religious background helped shape his adult endeavors. While he was an Episcopal Rector at Bruton Parish Church in

Williamsburg, his vision of restoring the colonial capital captured the interest of philanthropist John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Their friendship and mutual respect inspired Rockefeller to begin the city's restoration in 1927 and to invest millions in Colonial Williamsburg. Goodwin was credited with the persistence, wisdom, and enthusiasm to preserve a Virginia historic treasure.

W.A.R. Goodwin in Norwood, VA

In 1871, Goodwin moved with his parents from Richmond to Norwood (New Market), not yet two years old.

The Goodwins first lived with the Ribble family in the Cabell-Ribble-Heath house, on the north side of Norwood Road overlooking Christ Episcopal Church.

The family soon moved to Altavista, a Gothic style house, a few hundred yards behind the Ribble's house.

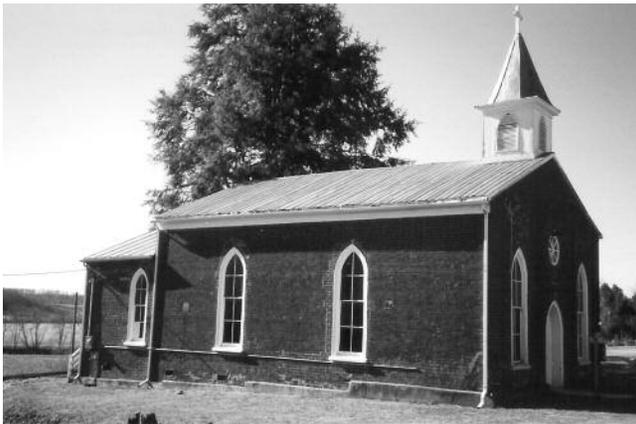
A strong influence of religion, especially by his mother, along with his attendance at Christ Episcopal Church helped to shape his adult life.

He began his education in Norwood in a log school near his home and later attended a school at Montezuma, a short distance from his home.

Goodwin left Norwood in 1885 to attend Roanoke College along with his cousin, Frank Ribble.

1

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



(Site for the W.A.R. Goodwin
Virginia Historic Highway Marker)

Christ Episcopal Church was built in 1844–45 on land donated by the Cabell family at New Market (Norwood). This historic Episcopal church in the Nelson Parish of the Dioceses of Virginia produced several young men who became clergymen and missionaries. The first minister for the church was Rev. Mr. F.D. Goodwin, grandfather of W.A.R. Goodwin. As a youth growing up in New Market, W.A.R. (Will) attended Christ Church where his mother was Sunday School superintendant, and his father was senior warden. Another minister from Christ Church was the Rev. Dr. William Cabell Brown. While a missionary, he translated the Prayer Book into Portuguese, and later became a Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia.

In recent years, services were held the second and fourth Sundays, until the mid-1990s, when declining membership forced the church to close. For a few years, a portion of the building was used as a U.S. Post Office for the Norwood community. The original pews and pulpit furniture remain in the church.

The building was purchased in 2010 with plans for restoration and to become “Christ Church—A Center for the Arts” for the surrounding communities. The church will be open for the May 14th tour.

OWNERS: Helen Cannon, Trudy Hale, and Kathleen Free

2

MONTEZUMA



Montezuma is one of a group of approximately eleven 18th- and early 19th-century Cabell family homes built along the James River in Nelson County. Erected around 1790, Montezuma is a notable example of Piedmont Virginia Federal architecture. Its impressive scale, distinctive plan, fine woodwork and a Roman Revival dwarf portico set it apart from more standard farmhouses of the period and region. The property, initially known as Spring Hill, due to the large number of springs, was later changed to Montezuma because it was built over an Indian burial ground.

Montezuma’s interior is both sophisticated in plan and detail. Thomas Jefferson is often associated with the design of Montezuma, because of his friendship with the Cabell family, the house floor plan and use of certain exterior details. The two-story main block with a one-and-one-half-story wing, is laid with a Flemish bond pattern. The interior has an asymmetrical design and retains some of its fine woodwork, including mantels, doors and built-in cupboards in several locations. Some areas exhibit original painted “graining,” an art of painting ordinary woods to resemble desirable species of wood, such as tiger maple or mahogany.

Originally built by Col. William Cabell, Montezuma was owned from the 1920s by the Somerville family, descendants of Col. William Cabell. In 2009 the property was purchased by Margaret and Robert Sanford, who are in the process of restoring the

home and grounds. They are meticulously preserving the home to carefully maintain its historical significance and architectural integrity of a classic Piedmont Virginia home.

Montezuma is on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

(Due to restoration in progress, parts of the house may not be open for the tour.)

Restored Summer Kitchen at Montezuma



A group of several outbuildings, including a summer kitchen, were positioned north of the house. The Sanfords have totally restored the log kitchen using the logs and chimney stones on the site. A stone walkway has been uncovered leading from the back of the main house to the summer kitchen.

A formal boxwood garden which once contained two gazebos is behind the house. A Cabell family cemetery is located to the north on the 7-acre lawn of Montezuma.

W.A.R. Goodwin—connection to Montezuma

“At age 11 or 12, [Will Goodwin] entered a private school taught by Miss Kemp Kinckle at Montezuma, a quarter mile below his home. When Norwood opened a public school, Will left Montezuma for a seat on its benches.” (page 26, *A Link Among the Days*, by Dennis Montgomery, 1998)

OWNERS: Margaret and Robert Sanford

3 ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH



In 1885 the church was founded in the home of Sister Jane Crockett Brown. In 1887 **St. John's Baptist Church** was established from the mother church, St. Hebron Baptist Church, at Wingina. Seventeen African-American men were donated land by the Cabell family to build a church in their own community of Norwood. St. John's has had a total of five installed pastors during its 126-year history. The first pastor, Rev. William Bailey, served the church for 64 years and was succeeded by Rev. Charles Hughes, who served until his death. Rev. George Bolden followed Rev. Hughes and serviced for six years, followed by Rev. Robert A. McCray, who served 32 years until his death in 2002.

In recent years, with the continued growth and need for a larger church, the St. John's members built a new church building along Norwood Road, a few miles from the original one. The congregation moved into their new church in September 2009. Their current pastor is Rev. Rodney Allen Sandidge, Sr. The church continues to have dedicated members who are proud of their heritage and diligently contribute to the growth and stability of their church.

Visitors may tour the church and a DVD history of St. John's Baptist Church will be shown throughout the afternoon.

4 WINGINA STORE AND POST OFFICE



C.I. Johnson and Son, owners of the store, began their business in a building across the James River bridge in Buckingham County. The business sold ties to the C & O Railroad for construction of the railroad. They moved the business to the Wingina location to be closer to the railroad depot. The store was built in 1920 and served as a general store until 1991.

The area's first post office was named Harwicksville. In 1888 it was changed to Wingina, with John Yarborough serving as the first postmaster. Although the country store business is no longer in the building, the Wingina Post Office remains. It serves the communities of Norwood and Wingina in Nelson and Buckingham Counties. Barbara Wood is the postmaster.

During the 1969 Camille flood, the James River rose to just a foot below the store porch. In 1972 it rose above the counters of the store and in 1985, it rose inside the store to within a foot of the countertops.

On May 14 there will be several exhibits relating to the area. Displayed in the building will be post office memorabilia, country store items, and a collection of Native American artifacts from the Monacan Indian sites in the area.

During the afternoon the Nelson Music Project, sponsored by Oakland—Nelson County's Museum of Rural History, will have county musicians at the store.

5 BON AIRE



Bon Aire, near Warminster, is a Federal-style home on a high hill with panoramic views of the James River and its bottom lands—property all once held by the Cabells. Built ca. 1798 for George Cabell Jr., the house is patterned in plan and detail after Point of Honor in Lynchburg, the home of a cousin, Dr. George Cabell. The Federal "T" brick house is laid in Flemish bond with three interior end chimneys. Jeffersonian influence is seen in the Chippendale railings on the double portico and in the staircase, which is tucked in a side arch between the entry hall and the library.

The house was remodeled in the 1940s and again in the 1950s. The addition of Doric columns on the front and a balcony with supporting iron brackets beneath the portico, a country kitchen and annex were some of the changes made to the house.

Ownership of Bon Aire has changed many times through the years. Lewis Ramsey, the present owner's father, purchased Bon Aire in 2000. The owners are continuing to restore and renovate this historically significant property along the James River.

Bon Aire is on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

A demonstration of 18th-century open hearth cooking will be exhibited on the day of the tour.

OWNERS: Adrienne Young and Luke Ramsey