

Sargeant's Chronicles

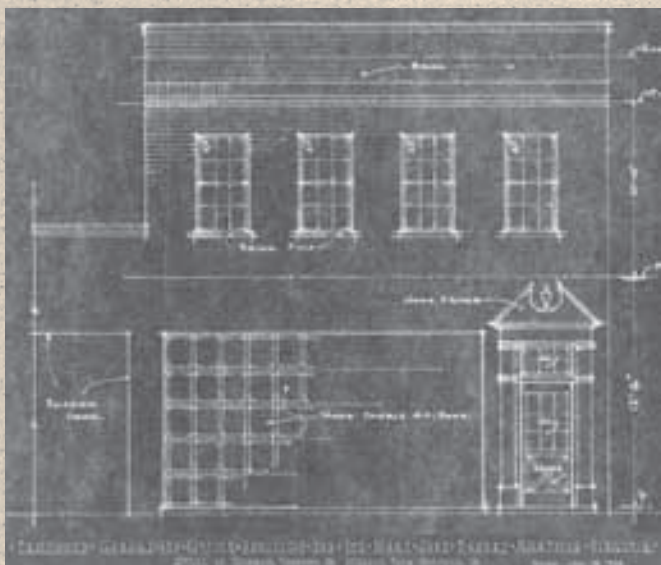


VOLUME 5 ■ NUMBER 3 ■ SPRING 2011

Norfolk Public Library

A landmark long associated with the Greek business community in Norfolk was the former Mary Jane Bakery complex, located on the southwest corner of Monticello Avenue & E. 16th Street. From 1939 until it closed in 2001, those who passed by the factory were treated to the aroma of fresh baked bread coming from within its ovens.

The buildings had originally been constructed as a middy blouse factory by Marcellus Hofflin, President of the Mar-Hof Company. The original structure was a 6,000 square foot two story brick building located at 1513-1515 Monticello Avenue on the corner of E. 16th Street. Construction began in December, 1916 and was completed in 1917 at a cost of \$6,000. As the demand for middy blouses boomed following World War I, a three story addition containing 11,250 square feet was built next door at 1509-1511. Completed in 1920, the new structure cost \$29,000. However, Hofflin died suddenly in November, 1926 and by 1928, the factory was vacant. Left to his widow and later their two daughters, the buildings were rented to a variety of businesses over the next 10 years. A 1933 photograph shows the



Architectural Rendering of Mary Jane Bakery Office Building & Garage by Thurmer Hoggard, Jr., Architect {1944}.

COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA.

LOST
NORFOLK:

Kotarides

BAKING COMPANY/

Mary Jane
BAKERY FACTORY

1509-1515 Monticello Avenue
& 117 E. 16th Street

BY WILLIAM B. INGE

larger building occupied by the Rankin Transfer & Storage Company while Orkin Exterminating Co. rented the corner building.

In 1939, the Kotarides Baking Company moved from its Church Street location to the larger structure. The following year, the building was substantially altered by Alex. O. Ferebee {1893-1978}, a prominent Norfolk architect best known for his apartment building and co-op designs. Two years later, Kotarides purchased both buildings for \$18,500. The corner building was kept as rental property and was occupied as a factory for the Southern Venetian Blind Company for a few years. Commencing in 1944, a number of major additions and improvements were done to the bakery building as well as for new construction on parcels directly behind both buildings. A handsome two story structure to house the firm's offices and garage at 117 E. 16th Street was built in March of that year for \$10,000. It was designed by Thurmer Hoggard, Jr. {1905-1969}, a talented local architect whose career has been unjustly neglected. Further alterations to the main Kotarides

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Professional Printing Center

Subscription rate: Free

Sargeant's Chronicles is

published quarterly by the
Sargeant Memorial Collec-
tion, Norfolk Public Library

Purpose:

To promote the
collection of the Sargeant
Memorial Collection and
Norfolk Public Library.

To educate readers
about the rich history of
Norfolk and Virginia based
on research and materials
within the Sargeant Memorial
Collection.

To educate readers about
current research, resources, and
trends within genealogy and
other historical research fields.

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Collection about availability
of back issues, gift subscrip-
tions, subscriptions, and
change of address.

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235 East Plume Street
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ISSN: 1937-4925

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building were done that same year by Bernard B. Spigel {1895-1968}, another eminent Norfolk architect. The smaller factory building was completely rebuilt in 1957 and incorporated into the bakery complex. By the time further improvements were completed in the 1960's, the bakery site encompassed the entire block stretching back to Granby Street.

Citing a "lack of automation that made it uncompetitive with others in the industry," the Kotarides Baking Company and its Mary Jane Bakery abruptly closed its doors forever on September 7, 2001. An auction of the remaining equipment took place in April, 2002 and the property was sold for redevelopment. The entire bakery complex was demolished in January of 2005 and The Alexander At Granby apartment complex occupies the site today.

SOURCES:

"Marcellus Hofflin, Manufacturer, Dead." *The Virginian-Pilot*, November 2, 1926.

"Bakery Sells Assets To Pay \$93,000 In Back Taxes." *The Virginian-Pilot*, April 26, 2002.

The Library of Virginia: A Guide to the Norfolk {Va.}, Building Inspection Office, Architectural Drawings and Plans, 1898-1980. Proposed Garage and Office Addition for the Mary Jane Bakery {1944}, Box: 17 Control Number: 214.

The Library of Virginia: A Guide to the Norfolk {Va.}, Building Inspection Office, Architectural Drawings and Plans, 1898-1980. Addition to Mary Jane Bakery {1940, 1944}, Box: 17 Control Number: 215.

Recent Acquisitions:

We have added a substantial collection of genealogy books for Virginia; the following is an example of the books recently received.

- Alexandria – Church Records for Alexandria & Fairfax
- Fauquier County – Tombstone Inscription 2 volume set and Deed Book 1808 - 1810
- Washington County – Marriages 1853 – 1880
- Fairfax County – Implied Marriages
- Charles City County – Records 1737 – 1774
- Powhatan County – Wills 1777 – 1795

Please check our online catalog for books for a Virginia county or city you have been researching.

- Neal, Lois S., A. T. Skeen, Elizabeth E. Ross, and Frances Holloway Wynne. *Abstracts of Vital Records from Raleigh, North Carolina, Newspapers*. Raleigh, N.C.: North Carolina Genealogical Society, 1995. 3 volumes.
- McBride, Janet, and Ransom McBride. *Divorces and Separations from Petitions to the North Carolina General Assembly, 1779-1837*. Raleigh, N.C.: North Carolina Genealogical Society, 2009.

- North Carolina Genealogical Society. *Bible Records of North Carolina: Contributed by Persons with N.C. Ancestors*. Raleigh, N.C.: North Carolina Genealogical Society, 2005.
- Reaves, Bill, and Beverly Tetterton. *North Carolina Freedman's Savings & Trust Company Records*. Raleigh, N.C.: North Carolina Genealogical Society, 1992.
- Jim Hines - Collection of music programs from the various Norfolk performing groups including the Norfolk Symphony Orchestra.
- 6 color aerial photographs of Norfolk & Elizabeth River (20" x 16"), given by Thomas A. Young, Norfolk, VA.
- From Dr. Lewis "Jay" Taylor, IV, Norfolk, VA: copies of old photographs: Bishop John Newton (VA) Mr. Shields of Norfolk, and the old Shield Cottage, 1899 Virginia Beach.
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church: copies of two old photographs of Mrs. Lucy Tabb Okeson.
- From Mrs. Lucy McCormack: 12 books and 10 copies of the Maury High School newspaper during the 1950s.
- From a vendor: 12 small pictures of Ghent taken during the 1930s.
- From Robert Hitchings: pictures of Mary Jane Bakery, Norfolk, VA.

Website: LDS Family Search

<http://www.familysearch.org>

FamilySearch.org is the website sponsored and updated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It contains sections for historical records, family trees, and their library catalog.

The website allows you to access the “Historical Records” section to see some of the available records on databases on their site and on other sites as well such as Footnote.com. The search engine for Family Search will even display any available family trees posted on the website. Coverage is international; however the majority of records focus on the United States, Europe, and Latin America. Most of the records available are on microfilm and can be sent to a local LDS Family History Center. The website also offers databases of the vital and immigration records for the United States. FamilySearch.org is definitely a worth-while free online resource to help you in your family research.



A MAN NAMED *Kotarides*

BY ROBERT B. HITCHINGS

In 1906, a young man from Tripolis, Greece came to America with his wife and son. Like so many other immigrants during the early part of the 20th century, they were seeking a better life and more opportunity. His name was Alexander Paul Kotarides and he settled in Norfolk, Virginia. Having learned the baker's trade in his native land, he went to work in a baker's shop. Seven years later, he established his own business, the Kotarides Baking Company, located at 439 Church Street. With only ten employees, he catered to the restaurant trade. Deliveries were made by horse and wagon, which became a very familiar sight on the streets of Norfolk! However, after about twelve years, he longed for his native land and went back home to Greece in 1925 where he remained until his death in 1955.

Before leaving Norfolk though, to perpetuate the business he had founded and effectively guided, he established a partnership with his oldest son Paul and Paul Yeonas, also a baker in Norfolk. The Kotarides Baking Company continued with this partnership basis until February 25, 1935, when it was incorporated with Paul Kotarides as President



Alexander Paul Kotarides



Paul Kotarides

and Mr. Yeonas as Secretary and Treasurer.

The company kept pace with the times, employing the latest methods of bread making and modernizing baking facilities. In 1939, the company moved to the corner of Monticello Avenue & E. 16th St. Eventually, their operation extended through to Granby Street. Later the company enlarged its operations beyond the restaurant trade to include wholesale outlets in Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Newport News, Hampton and Williamsburg. Its most famous products were Mary Jane Bread, rolls and Ice Box Cookies.

From humble beginnings, with sound judgment and vision, the Kotarides family opened up a small quaint bread store and over the years, built a bread business that was part of Norfolk for many generations. Mary Jane bread became synonymous with the Kotarides family.

SOURCES: _____
Whichard, Rogers Dey. *The History of Lower Tidewater Virginia*. (New York: Lewis Historical Pub. Co, 1959). Vol. 3. 214 – 215.

Hellenic Woman's Club:

100 years of Unwavering Service

BY W M . T R O Y V A L O S

The Hellenic Woman's Club, formed in 1910 as the Greek Ladies' Benevolent Association, has been the heart and soul of Norfolk's Greek community since its inception and has a long history of providing stability for the newly arrived Greek immigrants to Norfolk. Mrs. Mosca Santos along with Mrs. Paraskevi Papoulias Christopoulos, Mrs. Archie Padis, Mrs. A. Kavadias, and Mrs. K. Arhakos were the founding members of this new club. The influx of immigrating Greeks to Norfolk established the need for a Greek school for the children of these families, and Mrs. Santos led the association in establishing the Greek school and encouraging the men of the community to form the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Norfolk. The association purchased the church's first wooden cross for their new home in the former Christ Church building on Freemason Street. The group continued to give its unwavering support to the church and school throughout the 1910s and 1920s. The association sponsored countless dances, dinners, plays, and other activities for the ever growing Greek population in the area. By 1933, the ladies became more involved in the greater Norfolk community affairs with their support of the Joy Fund and the American Red

Cross. The Great Depression did not dampen their determination or resolve to support the local Greek population; the women redoubled their efforts to provide increased monetary and material support.

During World War II, the club sponsored numerous dances, dinners, and drives in support of Greek people caught up in the German occupation. The club,

for Greeks back in the home country and the women canvassed the community and local stores. This resulted in the donation of huge amounts of clothing, medicines, and food—all of which was sent back to Greece. In 1944, the club changed its name from the Greek Ladies Benevolent Association to the Hellenic Woman's Club. After the war, the club was very active in conjunction with the Greek Church's board to assist in the building of the new church on its current location on Granby Street.

The years between 1945 and 1953 were extremely busy for the group. The club continued to provide assistance to the church and its school; in addition, it became more active involving other civil affairs. The club sponsored the Greek library at the U. S. Marine Hospital, began participation in the local March of Dimes drive in 1949, and the city's Christmas Toy Shop program.

1954 proved to be a pivotal time for the club with the inception of the annual bazaar, now known as the Greek Festival. The first bazaar was begun as fundraising for the club to support the Church and the club's numerous projects and donations. The bazaar has grown by leaps and bounds to become the largest and oldest ethnic festival in the Tidewater area. The group also finally had a new home with



in November 1939, collaborated with the Greek Church board to conduct a Greek War Relief Drive, in which they collected over \$20,000 to send back to Greece. In 1941, a committee was formed to go out into the community and gather clothing

**Photo Insert:
Sophie Punsalan**

**Front Row (LtR):
Mary Vourlas, Stella Brangan,
Mary Pachinakis, Anne Georges,
Helen James, and Lona Liostaos.**

**Middle Row (LtR):
Virginia Elliott, Virginia Russell,
Kathy Valianos, Anne Dragas,
Carolyn Papafil, and Elizabeth Woods.**

**Back Row (LtR): Helen Aoia,
Kathy Stephanitsis, and Linda Forehand.**

*IMAGE COURTESY OF THE
HELLENIC WOMAN'S CLUB*



the construction of the new building for the church in 1955. In the past, members had to find any space available to them to meet including member's houses, church sanctuaries, and rented spaces.

The club was especially proud of having been able to provide the final \$4000 to pay off the church's mortgage in December, 1959 and members took part in the burning of the mortgage note. The Hellenic Woman's Club has continued ever since to give unwavering support of the Greek Church and the Greek community in Norfolk. They continue fundraising efforts through

dances, bazaars and other various activities, giving back the funds to the church and local community. They have expanded their tireless support for other local organizations and causes including the Joy Fund, Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters, Salvation Army, Battered Women's Shelter, Norfolk Botanical Gardens, Physicians for Peace, Cooley's Anemia Foundation, EVMS Strelitz Diabetes Center, and the Boy Scouts.

Without doubt, *the Hellenic Woman's Club* is one of the Norfolk community's greatest assets!

SOURCES: —————
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. *75th Anniversary 1911-1986 Memorial Album*. Norfolk, VA: Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 1986.

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. *50th Anniversary 1911-1961 Memorial Album*. (Norfolk, VA: Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 1961.

Hellenic Woman's Club. *Hellenic Woman's Club 1910-2010 Centennial Memorial Album*. Norfolk, VA: Hellenic Woman's Club, 2010.



**Group photograph
of the Norfolk
Hellenic Woman's Club
members, taken at the
100th Anniversary luncheon
in 2010 by Paul Trahadias.**

*IMAGE COURTESY OF THE
PHOTOGRAPHERS*

Virginia Historical Society Creating Searchable *Online Slave Database*

The Virginia Historical Society (VHS) recently received a \$100,000 grant from Dominion Resources and The Dominion Foundation to fund the creation of *Unknown No Longer: A Database of Virginia Slave Names*. This free, online database will contain personal information about enslaved Virginians gleaned from some of the more than eight million processed manuscripts in VHS collections.

“The *Unknown No Longer* database is the first of its kind and will serve as a national model,” said VHS president and CEO Paul Levensgood. “The database will be a valuable tool for academic researchers, family historians, and genealogists alike. A website visitor could enter as much or as little information as he or she knows about a particular African American to conduct a search. The results can lead to previously unknown connections between people, families, and places.” *Unknown No Longer* will be searchable through the use of a variety of keywords, such as name, gender, location, occupation, and plantation. It will also include images of original source documents for easy reference.

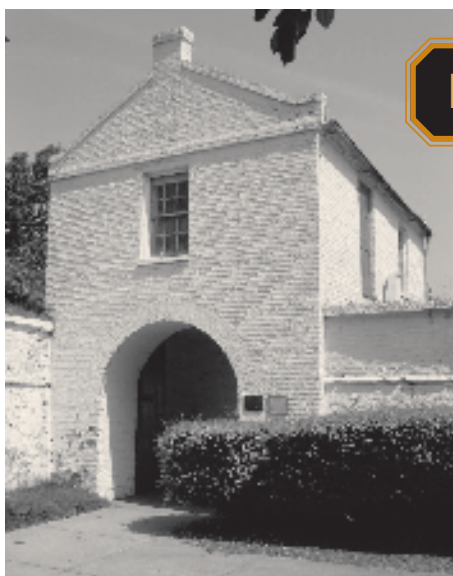
“We have witnessed a growing audience frequenting the VHS in search of information that our records might provide, such as names

of enslaved people, plantation sites, occupation and family relations, values, and birth, death, or sale dates,” said VHS chief librarian Frances Pollard. “We want to provide the more than 2 million visitors to our website another, more detailed tool to access remotely specific information about potentially thousands of people.”

The VHS will be officially launching *Unknown No Longer* in September 2011 with 1,000 names in the searchable database. Information in the database will be updated as relevant material in the VHS manuscript collection is processed and new documents come into VHS possession.

“This project is an example of both the VHS and Dominion’s commitment to using technology to increase access to historical collections and our dedication to reaching out to a diverse constituency,” added Levensgood.

Source: _____
Virginia Historical Society
http://www.vahistorical.org/news/pr_unknownnolonger.htm



Norfolk Historical Society Upcoming Events:

Fort Norfolk

Fort Norfolk will be staging encampments on Saturday, June 18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Self-guided tours are available during the week. Photo ID is required for admittance.

The fort is located in the Ghent section of Norfolk at 801 Front Street. Enter the fort through the Southampton Ave. gate. Admission and tours are free.

Source: _____
Norfolk Historical Society
<http://www.norfolkhistorical.org/fort/index.html>

ON-GOING SMC GENEALOGY WORKSHOPS

SMC staff offers the following workshops, free to the public, at Norfolk Main Library.

For more information or to register for a class, please call 757-664-7485 or email: localhistory@norfolk.gov

Beginning Genealogy is offered every month to help new genealogists begin their search. Searching wills, deeds, marriage and other court records will be covered as well as other basic information resources. The program will conclude with a tour of the Sargeant Memorial Collection and time for questions and answers.

Norfolk Main Library - Conference Room

Saturday, May 7 @ 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 4 @ 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 9 @ 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 6 @ 2:00 p.m.

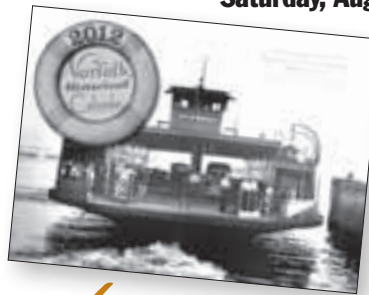
Saturday, September 10 @ 2:00 p.m.

How to Use On-line Genealogy Databases is offered once every quarter (typically the third Saturday of the month) and teaches researchers how to use Ancestry.com genealogy database and other online genealogical resources. **Space is limited to 12 people per class. Please register in advance by calling (757) 664 - 7485.**

Norfolk Main Library - Computer Lab

Saturday, May 21 @ 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 20 @ 2:00 p.m.



Coming Soon! The 2012 Norfolk Historical Calendar

will be available this June! It makes a perfect gift that everyone will appreciate! You can purchase it at any NPL branch library or find the order form online at www.npl.lib.va.us.

Our Gratitude to... We would like to thank the following people for their generosity in donating to the Sargeant Memorial Collection, and/or the Norfolk Public Library Foundation.

Jim Hines, Hampton, VA

Joan L. Nusbaum, Norfolk, VA

Thomas A. Young, Norfolk, VA

Dr. Lewis "Jay" Taylor, IV, Norfolk, VA

Robert Hitchings, Norfolk, VA

Mrs. Lucy McCormack, Norfolk, VA

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Norfolk, VA

About the Sargeant Memorial Collection Endowment

The Norfolk Public Library Foundation has set up seven different endowments to enhance and improve the collections, technology, programming and buildings of the Norfolk Public Library system. In particular, the Sargeant Memorial Collection Endowment, known as the local history and genealogy endowment, was established to preserve and protect fragile and often one-of-a-kind items in the library's local history collection. In conjunction with the 80th birthday of the Sargeant Memorial Collection in 2007, the NPL Foundation announced its campaign to raise over \$1.5 million dollars during the next ten years for the Sargeant Memorial Collection Endowment. A current donation or inclusion in your estate planning will be greatly appreciated. If you have questions, please contact Robert Hitchings at (757) 664 - 7485.

Please Consider a Gift or Donation to the Sargeant Memorial Collection

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____
 Email: _____

How would you like to help?

- Volunteer
- Donate Materials
- Sponsor a Book, Map or Microfilm
- Monetary Donation for Immediate Use*
- Donate to SMC's Endowment Fund**

Please mail back to:

Sargeant Memorial Collection,
 Norfolk Public Library
 235 East Plume Street
 Norfolk, Virginia 23510

* Please make checks to: Norfolk Public Library

** Please make checks to: Norfolk Public Library Foundation

Sargeant
Memorial Collection
Norfolk Main Library

*Norfolk's Local History
& Genealogy Collection*

235 East Plume Street
Norfolk, Virginia 23510
(757) 664-7485

Fax: (757) 664-7319

http://www.npl.lib.va.us/SMRT/smr_home.html

Email: localhistory@norfolk.gov



www.npl.lib.va.us

235 East Plume Street
Norfolk, Virginia 23510

HOURS OF
OPERATION:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday:
10:00am – 9:00pm

Friday & Saturday:
10:00am – 5:00pm

Sunday:
1:00pm – 5:00pm

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*Published in part by the generosity of
the Friends of the Norfolk Public Library.*

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Images From Norfolk's Past: Tuskegee Airmen Stop in Norfolk for War Bonds Drive



First Row (LtR):
Capt. Maurice Johnson, Capt. Charles H. Hall, and Capt. Herbert E. Carter.

Back Row (LtR): Lt. Willie H. Fuller and Lt. Price D. Rice.

Six Tuskegee Airmen (99th Fighter Squadron) visited Norfolk's Booker T. Washington High School for the Sixth War Loan Rally on December 15, 1944. The event raised roughly \$70,000 for the war effort. There were over 1,000 African American residents from Norfolk in attendance.

Collectively, the airmen flew over 426 missions in North Africa and the Italian campaigns during World War II. Captain Hall is credited with shooting down three aircraft, of which two were downed in a single mission.

PHOTOGRAPHER:
NORFOLK LEDGER-DISPATCH PHOTO STAFF

SOURCE: _____
Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch, December 15, 1944;
page 22.