

Senior  
Statesmen of  
Virginia

www.seniorstatesmen.org



## MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next meeting of the **Senior Statesmen of Virginia** will be held on **Wednesday, December 12, 2012, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm** at the **Branchlands Manor House**  
1300 Branchlands Drive

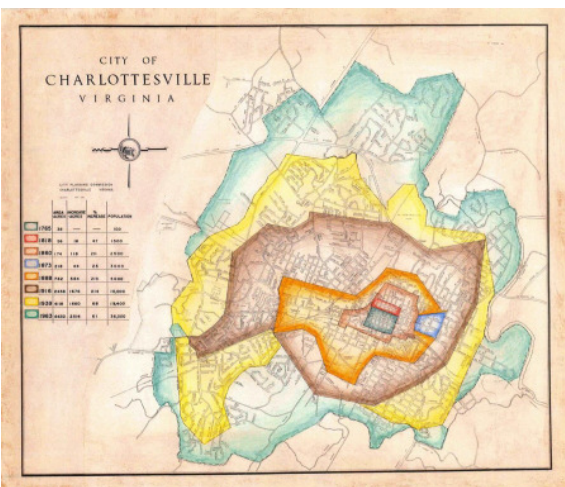
# Senior Statesmen of Virginia Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Senior Statesmen of Virginia will be held at the Branchlands Manor House on Wednesday, December 12, beginning with a complimentary buffet lunch at 12:00 pm provided by Branchlands.

In order to assure appropriate seating and meal planning, SSV members who are planning to attend **must RSVP no later than Friday, December 7**, by calling **973-5932** or sending an e-mail to [sueliberman@embarqmail.com](mailto:sueliberman@embarqmail.com).

### ANNUAL MEETING: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

The election of officers and directors will be held at the Annual Meeting. The nominating committee, comprised of **Tom Boyd** and **Bill Davis**, presents the following slate of nominations for 2013 SSV officers and directors: **Bob McGrath**, vice president and program chair; **Jim Perkins**, marketing and publicity; and **Charles Smith**, program committee. Please note that the following directors will continue to serve next year as they finish out the second year of their current two-year terms: **Sue Liberman**, president; **Bill Davis**, secretary; **Jim Peterson**, treasurer; and directors **Grace Zisk**, **Tom Boyd** and **John McCauley**. Given the relocation of Past President **Bill Hodson** to his new home in Florida last year, the 10th board position of immediate past president will remain vacant until the expiration of **Sue Liberman's** term as president.



### LAST MONTH'S MEETING

**Steven G. Meeks**, president and chief executive of the Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society, drilled down through Charlottesville's 250 year history when he presented a program on November 14 entitled, "Charlottesville 1762 to 2012--a 250 Year Celebration." After presenting a mother-lode of facts and figures regarding the history and development of the city of Charlottesville, Mr. Meeks treated the audience to a virtual tour of the permanent residents of the Maplewood Cemetery, established in 1827, the first of two

*Continued overleaf...*



Photo courtesy of Dan Gould, Charlottesville Podcasting Network

## *Charlottesville 1762 to 2012--a 250 Year Celebration (continued from previous page)*

public cemeteries in the city. None of the churches at the time had cemeteries, and so persons were buried in backyards of residences and this was becoming a real health issue. Maplewood Cemetery is the permanent resting place for a large number of native sons who have had an impact far beyond the confines of Charlottesville.

Here's just one: this gentleman was born in 1827. He attended the Virginia Military Institute and should have graduated in 1849 but he had problems with frequent misbehavior (this was one of the reasons his father had sent him to VMI). He was suspended and joined the U.S. Army. He fought in the Mexican-American war and was injured and so he returned to Virginia where he was readmitted to VMI and graduated. He entered teaching but became dissatisfied. Joined an express company in Alabama and then a surveying company. In 1859 he traveled west and became interested in the expansion of the postal services. He was one of the founders of the Pony Express and is credited with making the first complete ride along the Pony Express route. But after six months he became argumentative with the other partners and quit. He joined the Pacific Telegraph Company and was instrumental in stringing the first lines, and at this point was responsible for putting the Pony Express out of business. The Civil War was starting and he returned to Virginia where he joined the Confederate war effort. He served as a purchasing agent for the Confederacy in Europe and as an intelligence officer. He apparently did so well that he was able to purchase Monticello in 1864 (the property was soon confiscated by the Union). He was sent on a secret mission to Washington DC and he was there when Lincoln was assassinated. He was identified as a spy and arrested. He was then released after swearing a loyalty oath to the Union. He headed back west to Texas and started another stage route express line and also founded a town bearing his name. The town became the county seat, but unfortunately it had been constructed in a low lying area and was wiped out by a flood—even including the county court house. Only the cemetery there remains. In March 1871, while dining in a Georgetown restaurant, he choked on a fish bone and two days later a doctor tried to remove the bone, but in the process severed an artery and he bled to death. His family brought him back to Charlottesville and he was buried in the family plot with a modest marker in the Maplewood Cemetery.

So, dear reader, who was this man, and who are the other apparitions you may see emerging ghost-like behind the text of this article? And what are their stories—all of which are just as compelling and convoluted as those of the gentleman just described? Even though you were unable to be present to learn first-hand, all is not lost because you can hear the enthralling ins-and-outs of this marvelous presentation by getting on your computer and clicking on : <http://www.cvillepodcast.com/category/senior-statesmen/> which will take you to the Charlottesville Podcasting Network where you can hear the program in its entirety.

**The Senior Statesmen of Virginia** is pleased to **welcome** four new members, **Lois Kannensohn**, 1325 Branchlands Drive, Apt. D, Charlottesville, VA 22901-1768, 434-295-7260; **Dorine Kitay**, 1325 Branchlands Drive, Apt. E, Charlottesville, VA 22901, 434-974-7451; **Patricia Odend'hal**, 1185 Partridge Lane, Charlottesville, VA 22901, 434-978-3119; and **David Whitcomb**, 3208 Rye Hollow Lane, Charlottesville, VA 221903, 434-244-3208.

*The purpose of the Senior Statesmen of Virginia, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational and advocacy organization is to enable seniors to identify and articulate their viewpoints on the issues affecting all the citizens of Virginia; to encourage knowledge of and active participation in the public processes of government; to disseminate information about the social, governmental, and educational institutions; and to prepare resolutions stating positions on member-selected issues for distribution to appropriate public officials.*

*Membership in the SSV is open to all past and present citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. **Join now!** Annual dues are just \$20.00. Mail your check in the amount of \$20.00, (payable to "SSV") to Senior Statesmen of Virginia, P.O. Box 6591, Charlottesville, VA 22906. Telephone: 434-806-4474. E-mail: [iimp@videoprovirginia.com](mailto:iimp@videoprovirginia.com)*

**Please visit our website at: [www.seniorstatesmen.org/](http://www.seniorstatesmen.org/)**

## **Senior Statesmen of Virginia**

P.O. Box 6591

Charlottesville, VA 22906