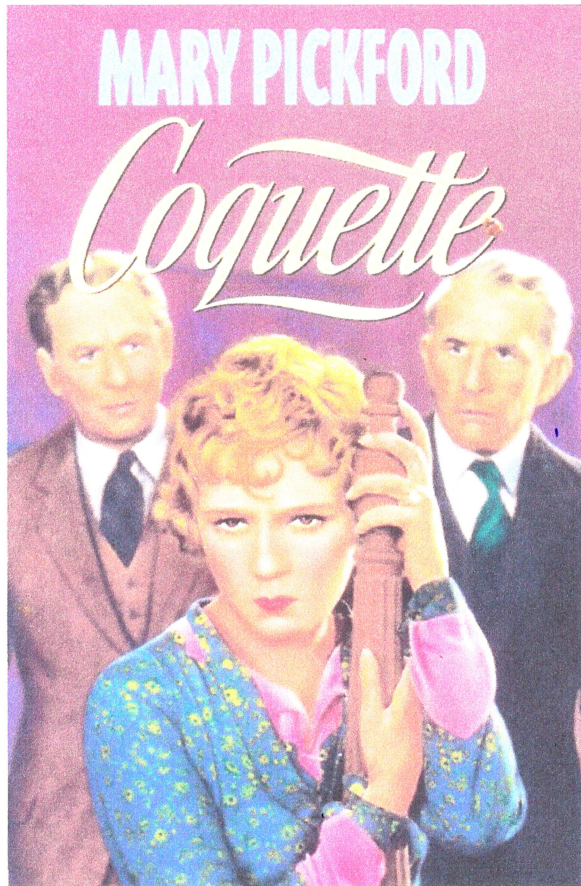


Richmond County Historical Society

'Those who don't remember their ancestors don't deserve to be remembered!'

June, 2019 Newsletter



The June 17th Richmond County Historical Society monthly meeting will be held at the Rockingham City Hall beginning at 7 p. m.

The program will be given by John Hutchinson. He will present a 1929 movie starring Mary Pickford. The movie story is an adaptation of a stage production which was, to avoid legal action, roughly the story of William B. Cole's murder of Bill Ormond in Rockingham in 1925. The trial of Cole drew nationwide interest.

Hutchinson used the trial for his Master of Arts, Dept. of History, thesis at the University of Virginia. While the movie is being shown, he will point out who represents Elizabeth Cole, W. B. Cole, Robert Cole, Bill Ormond, John Porter and attorney Fred Bynum. These have leading parts in the movie.

Actress Mary Pickford won a 1929 Best Actress Academy Award for her part in the movie. She portrays Norma Besant, a socialite who falls in love with a man, portrayed by Johnny Mack Brown, who is unacceptable to her father. Brown's character name is Michael Jeffery.

In the movie story, Norma continues meeting with Michael. But when they are seen together late one night, her father, gun in hand, fatally shoots Michael and is charged with murder.

A trial follows. The movie version is not nearly as sensational as the trial in Rockingham which attracted national attention, bringing in newspaper reporters from all over the South. Local newspaperman I. S. (Ike) London was hired by several large, national newspapers to telegraph coverage of the trial. The jury came from Union county, crossing the Pee Dee River by ferry.

Although a major movie, the run time is one hour, fifteen minutes.

As has been the custom for a number of years, the Historical Society will not have a July meeting, the next meeting being Aug. 19th.