

# *Richmond County Historical Society*

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

## **March, 2019 Newsletter**

***Shipped: 100 blankets infested with smallpox***

On Monday, March 18 evening at 7 o'clock John Hutchinson will answer the "who" and "why" of the above headline, and give other instances where he has found very interesting, and sometimes amusing, tidbits of Richmond County history on the Internet. He uses several sites, each a special place to research.

As usual, the monthly meeting will be held at the City Hall. It will be open to the public, so bring or notify a friend. There will be revelations of interest to both historians and genealogists which Hutchinson will share.

### ***Hotels in Richmond County***

The recent demolition of the 1927 Long's Hotel building in Rockingham across from the court house brings down to two the final hotel buildings still standing in Richmond County. Those two are the Ellerbe Springs B&B, built as a 36 room hotel in 1906 and the former Central Hotel in Hamlet, built in 1909, still in use for small businesses.

Hamlet at one time had three large hotels due to railway passenger service. Rockingham, as the county seat, has had several. They followed small taverns, the first known being Long's Tavern built in 1833.

The first large hotel in Rockingham was built in the 1870s by William C. McDonald. It was located near the present Capital Bank. That hotel was demolished to build a three story Richmond Hotel in 1890 which burned in 1903. On that site was built the Rockingham Hotel in 1908. It was demolished in the late 1970s. Hamlet once had the grand and eloquent Seaboard Hotel, opened April 1, 1900. The dining room was famous far and wide and also very popular with local people. It was demolished in the mid-1930s.

In 1924, L. G. Fox built a three story hotel, naming it the Richmond Hotel. It was located at the corner of Lee and Franklin streets, later becoming Hallum Furniture and then R. W. Goodman Furniture.. This building was also recently demolished, the two former hotel locations to make space for a new Richmond Community College School of Business building.

(Editor's Note) How many remember the Long's Coffee Shop once in the basement of the now gone Long's Hotel? It only seated about 15, but was a very popular downtown place for lunch. It was operated by Mrs. Walter F. Long, Sr and Mrs. Betsy Long Sammons. Related, they did all cooking and serving. (JNC)