

Fluvanna County Historical Society
PO Box 8
Palmyra, VA 22963

April 26, 2007

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact Judy Mickelson 589-7910

**Rick Britton to Present Historical Society
Lecture on “General John Hartwell Cocke”**

The latest in a series of Fluvanna County Historical Society lecture series will feature well-known Albemarle County historian and author, Rick Britton. His subject will be one of Fluvanna’s most famous citizens, General John Hartwell Cocke of Bremono. The lecture will be held on Thursday, May 31, 2007 at 7:00pm at the Historic Courthouse in Palmyra. A reception will follow the lecture at the Society’s headquarters, Maggie’s House.

Rick Britton is an award-winning historical journalist, whose work on the history of the Old Dominion has appeared in The Washington Times and The Richmond Times Dispatch and Virginia magazine. He is the author of Albemarle & Charlottesville: An Illustrated History of the First 150 Years published in 2006 by the Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society. He is also the editor of The Magazine of Albemarle County History and a published map artist. He has had a life long interest in John Hartwell Cocke’s life and its impact on local history.

John Hartwell Cocke (1780-1866) was Fluvanna County’s most prominent citizen in the 19th Century. Cocke rose through the commissioned ranks during the War of 1812 to become a brigadier general. Returning to his Fluvanna plantation after the war, he used his wealth and influence to champion unlikely causes including temperance, the building of the James River and Kanawha Canal, progressive farming practices and enlightened views on slavery. He was a founder of the University of Virginia and served on its Board of Visitors from 1816-1851.

The public is invited to attend the lecture and the reception at Maggie’s House. There is no fee for the lecture.