

The Messenger of the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia

No. 1

Chesterfield Co., Va.

February, 1982

News Notes:

On September 23, 1981, the first meeting of the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia was held at the main Chesterfield Library on Lori Road. The charter sheet was signed by 258 charter members. The membership now includes 273 people. Officers elected for a 2 year term are:

President - Judge Ernest P. Gates;
First Vice-President - Lucille Cheatham Moseley;
Second Vice-President - Judge Lawrence A. Belcher;
Recording Secretary - Robert Preston Jones;
Corresponding Secretary - Vera Robertson (Mrs. James M.);
Treasurer - George W. Moore, Jr.

The following committee chairmen were appointed:

Historical - Pattie Grady (Mrs. Ellis B.)-790-1600;
Museum - Edward A. Moseley, Jr.;
Program - Lucille C. Moseley - c/o Library 748-1601;
Publication (editor) - Mary Ellen Howe (Mrs. Edward G.)-748-9373;
Telephone - Ella Lee Crump - 739-2127;
Circulation - Joyce Bell (Mrs. Robt. H.)-282-6817;
Finance - George W. Moore, Jr. - 272-1316;
Membership - Lawrence A. Belcher - 649-7591 or 272-4784.

The Historical Committee, under the capable hand of Pattie Grady, has been divided into the following sub-committees:

Preservation - Pattie Grady, temporary chairman;
Archaeology - Williams Childs, group chairman;
Historical Research - Barbara Burchett, group chairman;
Cemetery - Loxley L. Cashion.

The Historical Committee has planned for the next two years the following projects:

1. Comprise a place-name directory of all historic homes and sites in Chesterfield County and to determine on which of these sites we should place historical markers.
2. Survey, research, and plan an archaeological dig within the County.
3. Visit, compile, and index lists of graveyards within the County with the future plan of publication of said list.
4. Compile and index current obituaries listed in the area newspapers of individuals buried in Chesterfield County.
5. Preserve important historical records and documents within the County.

Persons interested in helping on any project or serving on any committee please call the appropriate above listed chairman.

Anyone wishing to join the Society should send his or her name and address to Mr. George W. Moore, Jr., Treasurer, 9801 Midlothian Pike, Richmond, Va. 23235. Dues are \$10.00 per person a year.

The next scheduled meeting is April 25, 1982, at 3 p.m. and will be held at "Clover Hill", the home of Dr. and Mrs. L. Lush on 16401 Clover Hill Drive off Coalboro Road. On July 25, 1982, the meeting will be held at Point-of-Rocks Park.

During November of 1981, the Society acquired the research papers of Mrs. Maria Johnson on the history of Chester, Va. This acquisition was made possible by donations from the following people: Dr. Wm. F. Callery, Dr. Nancy B. Waikus, Dr. R. David Prugh and Dr. Stephen L. Bissell. On behalf of the Society, we would like to express our gratitude.

This is the first issue of the MESSENGER. Publications will be semi-annually in April and October. Its purpose will be to report the activities of the Chesterfield Historical Society, to feature articles written about the county, to list county graveyards and bible records, and to be a means of communication between all the members and other historical societies.

[ISSN No. 0731-3012: © 1982 by Chesterfield Historical Society of Va.]

--the Editor, Mary Ellen Howe

History of Chesterfield County, Virginia

by Bettie Woodson Weaver

This brief history of Chesterfield County is being written with vivid memories of the Bicentennial Surrender Celebration at Yorktown, October 19, 1981. As "recreated" redcoats with their colors encased marched to the beat of drums between long lines of American Continentals, militiamen, and splendidly dressed French soldiers, Chesterfield's Daniel Trabue came to mind. On October 19, 1781, this twenty-year old soldier witnessed the surrender. Trabue described in his journal his elation and that of countless other American troops on that glorious October day. He and his cousin Lieutenant John Trabue were privileged to witness one of the greatest events in our nation's history. Trabue was justly proud of the role he and his officers and comrades played in forcing the surrender of Cornwallis' army.

What role did Chesterfield County play in this momentous event and in others which helped shape the destiny of our nation?

Chesterfield County, Virginia was formed from Henrico County in 1749 and probably received its name from the Fourth Earl of Stanhope, England's famed Lord Chesterfield. The county has never given our country a President, but the father and grandfather of President Thomas Jefferson lived at Osborne's on the James River. Archibald Cary of Amptill in Chesterfield Co. chaired the committee instructing Virginia delegates at the Continental Congress to vote for independence. John Wayles Eppes, Jefferson's son-in-law, Samuel Goode, John W. Jones and Benjamin Watkins Leigh served in the Congress of the United States.

Early History

Few traces remain of the Appomattox and Monacan Indians who fished in Chesterfield's James and Appomattox Rivers, roaming and hunting its rolling woodland centuries ago. The village of Matoaca, Matoaca Magisterial District and Pocahontas State Park bear the name of Chief Powhatan's favorite daughter, Pocahontas (Matoaka). She was tutored in the Christian faith by the Rev. Alexander Whitaker of the Henrico Church and John Rolfe, a tobacco planter and her future husband. During this time she visited in the Henrico Town home of Deputy-governor Sir Thomas Dale, who in 1611 had sent groups of settlers upriver from the disease-ridden Jamestown lowlands to the healthy higher land in the present Chesterfield County. Dale's Henrico Town on Farrar's Island is an almost forgotten ruin today. Down river at Bermuda Hundred smokestacks from a giant industrial complex now rise where Dale's palisaded settlement once stood. His name is remembered in Dale Magisterial District, Thomas Dale High School and (Dale's) Dutch Gap.

The Huguenots

In 1700, several hundred Huguenot refugees had fled France because of religious persecution. They moved onto a 10,000 acre grant of fertile land along the south bank of the James River, which centered around a deserted Monacan Indian town near the present Powhatan County line. The industrious Huguenots soon spread out from the Manakin town settlement into the present Powhatan and Chesterfield Counties where many of their descendants still live. Their two-front door houses remain in northern Chesterfield today. Huguenot Memorial Bridge, the proposed Huguenot Park and Huguenot Road bear their name.

Industrial Firsts

Chesterfield claims many firsts, especially in industry. Falling Creek was the birthplace of two great American industries, iron and coal.

The first iron furnace in the United States was built on Falling Creek. The furnace was constructed at the mouth of the creek where it empties into the James River. Opechancanough's Indians put an end to the Falling Creek iron works in the Great Massacre of 1622. The Indians killed many settlers in Chesterfield, massacred the iron workers and their families and destroyed the iron furnace. The Iron Works site remained a wilderness until 1928 when DuPont erected its ten million dollar fibers plant nearby.

A coal pit on the headwaters of Falling Creek is mentioned in the 1737 will of Hannah Brumall Tullit and was left to the children of her brother John Brumall. This is the first record in the United States of coal being mined for other than local use. The coal pit was on the headwaters of Falling Creek near the present area of Midlothian. In 1816 the first recorded coal mine explosion in the United States sent flames 200 feet into the air at the Etna Pits on Falling Creek in Midlothian. The first train in Virginia, the gravity-mule-drawn Chesterfield Railroad, hauled coal from the Midlothian area coal mines to the wharfs on the James River in the Manchester area. Claudius Crozet, former engineer in Napoleon's army, surveyed the railroad bed. The Chesterfield Railroad paid large dividends and helped make stockholders such as Nicholas Mills wealthy. While the Railroad was hauling coal across the northern part of the county, Appomattox River water power as a source of energy was turning the southern end into a textile center. The Ettrick Manufacturing Company and the Matoaca Manufacturing Company (among the first cotton mills in the South) provided a livelihood for hundreds of people, often entire families. These mills were, however, unable to endure competition from the more efficient Danville cotton mills.

The Revolutionary War

During the Revolutionary War, Gov. Thomas Jefferson had chosen Chesterfield Courthouse as the location of the Continental Training Post and General Rendezvous for recruits from the entire State of Virginia. Here, in the winter of 1780-1781, the great Prussian drillmaster Baron Frederick von Steuben assisted post commander Col. Wm. Davies in drilling the new recruits. Steuben trained the men as replacement troops for Gen. Nathanael Greene's Southern Army. (Greene was fighting hit-and-run battles in an effort to hold off Gen. Cornwallis' superior British forces in North and South Carolina and Georgia.) The intense suffering of the nearly naked recruits at Chesterfield Courthouse during the bitter winter of 1780-1781 is comparable to that endured at Valley Forge. Yet Von Steuben, Davies, and the men persevered. Eight hundred trained and fairly well-equipped replacement troops marched southward from Chesterfield. The men arrived when Greene needed them most; the last four hundred reached North Carolina just before the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Gov. Jefferson, however, sorely needed these troops when the British invaded Virginia in 1781.

Traitor Benedict Arnold and British Gen. Wm. Phillips pushed up the James River into Chesterfield. They pillaged and destroyed property along the James and Appomattox Rivers. On April 27, 1781, Phillips' redcoats raided Chesterfield Courthouse. They burned the interior of the Courthouse and destroyed the Chesterfield Training Post. Von Steuben's forces, too weak to resist, withdrew to the vicinity of the coal pits. Fortunately Court Clerk Thomas Watkins removed the county records to safety before the British arrived. Later Cornwallis sent daring British Col. Banastre Tarleton galloping into Chesterfield with 300 cavalymen. His forces surprised the militia in an old field near Archibald Cary's Mill on Falling Creek. Several Americans were killed and about forty captured. Cornwallis skirted Chesterfield and he, too, ravaged the Virginia countryside on his way to Yorktown and defeat.

The Civil War

Enemy soldiers invaded Chesterfield once again during the Civil War. In 1862, news spread through the county that five Federal gunboats were sailing up the James River in an effort to reach Richmond, the new capital of the Confederacy. Cannons from Chesterfield's Bellona Foundry had been hastily rolled into place at Fort Darling high above the James River on Drewry's Bluff. Here Major Augustus Drewry's force, composed mostly of old men, farmers, mill hands and boys, was ready that misty April morning as the boats, including the ironclad Monitor and Galena, rounded the river bend. After several hours of heavy firing from both sides, the Federal forces reversed their engines and withdrew. Drewry's Bluff had saved Richmond. Later, during Gen Grant's seige of Petersburg in 1864-65, Union Gen. Benjamin Butler brought 30,000 troops into the Bermuda Hundred Peninsula. Meanwhile, Gen. A. V. Kautz and about 3,000 Federal cavalymen swept past Chesterfield Courthouse. They were on their way to destroy the Richmond and Danville Railroad depot and telegraph offices at Coalfield Station (Midlothian). The raiders also tore up part of the railroad tracks in an effort to cut off the coal supply to Richmond.

Four Confederate generals were Chesterfield natives. Edward Johnson of Salisbury and Henry Heth of Black Heath were neighbors, both graduates of the U.S. Military Academy. Young M. Moody and David A. Weisiger participated in the Drewry's Bluff-Petersburg fighting.

Chesterfield coal caused the removal of the capital of the Confederacy from Montgomery, Alabama to Richmond, Virginia. It was Chesterfield and Henrico coal which fueled the Bellona Foundry on the James River in Chesterfield.

When the retreat order was given, long lines of gaunt men in tattered gray abandoned Petersburg and trudged through Chesterfield toward Appomattox. (Once again the Court Clerk, Nathan Cogbill, removed county records to safety.) Gen. Robt. E. Lee paused long enough on April 3, 1865, to enjoy dinner at Clover Hill, the Cox family home, now owned by Dr. and Mrs. L. Lush. Following the surrender to Grant at Appomattox on April 9, 1865, the weary veterans with their bony horses made their way home. They found fences down and rusty farm tools lying in fields overgrown with briars and weeds. Some returned to chimneys standing alone amid piles of ashes. Yet with loved ones by their side, they were able to make a new beginning. Soldiers Aid Societies in many Chesterfield churches stood ready to help needy families with gifts of food and clothing.

Our Legacies

The county's sole possible surviving Church of England meeting house, Wood's Church, now houses a Methodist congregation. Several church sanctuaries such as Bon Air Christian and Chester Presbyterian are a century old. In spite of the fact that Baptist ministers were imprisoned in the Chesterfield jail for preaching without a license (1770-1774), the persecuted dissenters organized and built numerous Baptist churches in the county. Tomahawk and Skinquarter Baptist Churches are more than two centuries old.

Among the few mansions remaining in Chesterfield today are Eppington and Olive Hill standing near the banks of the Appomattox River. Archibald Cary's Amphill was moved to Richmond when the DuPont Plant was built on the site.



"Chesterfield Museum"

Photo by Beth Landi

The sturdy brick walls of the colonial Chesterfield Courthouse withstood burning by the British during the Revolutionary War. The walls could not, however, withstand a 1917 Board of Supervisors decision to demolish the building and construct a larger courthouse on the site. For this reason, today, the Chesterfield Museum is housed in a replica of the 1750 courthouse and not in the original structure.

In our rush to become a heavily populated industrial county, let us not emulate the unfortunate decision of the 1917 Board of Supervisors. Let us, instead cherish and preserve our historic landmarks. A bit of our history vanishes every time an earth mover bites into the embankments of the 1830 Chesterfield Railroad bed near Route 60 or topples an ancient oak to make way for a shopping center parking lot, or moves an unprotected family graveyard for a housing development.

As our nation heads toward a Yorktown Tricentennial in 2081, let us look back in contemplation on Chesterfield's glorious past and at the same time, let us, Janus-like, look forward in anticipation to Chesterfield's promising future.



Trip to the Robertson Homeplace

by Mary Ellen Howe

On Sunday, November 22, 1981, Mr. L.L. Cashion provided a delightful trip to the old Robertson homeplace in Chesterfield Co., Va. Twenty-two enthusiastic people (many of them Robertson descendants) made the trip in two pick up trucks filled with straw. The day was sunny and cold and perfect for the "Hay ride" that led about 2 or 3 miles deep into the woods off River Road. The dirt road ended just a short distance from the graveyard, which is surrounded by a low hand-laid stone wall of flat rocks. Mr. Cashion estimated that at least 40 people were probably buried there. Only one stone remains and was placed there by descendants of the family.

After leaving the cemetery it was necessary to walk 1/2 to 3/4 mile through dense woods to reach the homesite. As they paralleled the river, glimpses of it could now and then be seen through the autumn trees. The group was rewarded

at the end of their walk by a breathtaking view from a cliff overlooking the Appomattox River where the home site is located.

The old well still remains. It is 90 feet deep and lined with handmade brick. Also visible are the foundations of the home and chimneys and some outbuildings that were used during that time period. The house was built, according to Mr. Cashion, somewhere between 1760-70 by John Robertson, Sr., and his wife Ann Walthall Robertson.

Cameras clicked and movie cameras rolled as many people recorded their trip. Then, as the visitors left, their footsteps crunching in the autumn leaves, the Robertson homeplace was returned again to the silence of the woods.



Wood's Church

by

Elizabeth Guy Richardson

The site of Wood's Church has apparently been occupied by a house of worship longer than that of any other church existing in Chesterfield County today. The church sanctuary itself (at 8301 Hickory Rd.) is the only one in the County said to contain Colonial timber.

Tradition and previous writers seem to agree that Wood's Church was founded during the Colonial Period by the Episcopal Church, then the Established Church of Virginia. But a dispute as to the exact construction date apparently started in 1857 when Bishop Wm. Meade wrote that an unnamed "reliable source" said repairs to the church in 1848 revealed an upright beam bearing the date of 1707. Such an early date seems to be refuted by Bristol Parish's first vestry book of 1720-89. These records, backed up by a 1724 letter from its minister to the Bishop of London, show that in the early 1720's there existed in the Parish only one chapel (Ferry Chapel on the Appomattox River) and one church, Jefferson's near the James River. Other chapels built later by Bristol Parish were described by the nearest creek and could not have been Wood's Church. In 1735, Bristol Parish and the Wood's Church area became part of the new Dale Parish. However, all Dale Parish Colonial records have been lost.

In 1755-56, the earliest documentary evidence occurs referring to Wood's Church. Chesterfield County records mention that a road was proposed to be opened "from the New Church to the bridge over Swift Creek below Yowls Branch and thence into the road to the courthouse by John Vest's". Wood's Church is located near a creek known since Colonial days (according to author George C. Mason) as Church Branch, a tributary of Yowls Branch (now Franks Branch). Since no other church was in the vicinity, it may be assumed that this was Wood's Church and that it had just recently been built. Mason believes that it became the second Mother Church of Dale Parish.

Tradition and legend say that the Church was named for Abraham Wood, who was prominent in the 1600's as an explorer, soldier, commissioner of justice, and representative to the Virginia House of Burgesses. He lived at and was in command of Ft. Henry (Petersburg) which was granted to him along with over 3,000 adjoining acres and 406 acres across the Appomattox River. He may have purchased land which included the future site of Wood's Church. He died about 1683 and, therefore, seems an unlikely namesake, but

the church could have been named for a descendent, or from a neighboring property labelled "Wood's" on the 1888 LaPrade map of the area.

Prominent Chesterfield families such as the Leighs, Randolphs and Tuckers were early attendants of Wood's Church. During the Revolutionary War, a company of Pennsylvanians camped there the night of July 15, 1781. In 1785-86, Rector Wm. Leigh preached at several Dale Parish Churches including Wood's. However, this end of the county was among the first to attract open dissenters of the Established Church, and even before the Revolution, Wood's Church began to lose membership. After the war it was left to stand idle. Around 1790 it was used by Methodists, but they dwindled, too.

In 1795, Wood's Church was for the first time mentioned by name in a deed. Daniel Dyson bought the property at an auction, August 7, 1793, held at Mrs. Gill's house "near Wood's Church". Then after a long gap, William Mead gave the following account (from an unnamed source) in his 1857 book:

"About 1831 or 1832, the old deserted church was repaired by the united efforts of two bodies of Christians (Methodists and Presbyterians according to Mason), and occupied by them until it was abandoned by both in 1848. Another repairing being found necessary, it was undertaken by a gentleman attached to the Episcopal Church. By him it was restored to the Episcopalians, and at his invitation the first sermon preached by a minister of that body. Before the next Sunday, however, the house had been entered, the main door fastened up, a lock put upon a side-door, and the building taken possession of by one of those bodies which had deserted it ("some fervent Methodist"). Anxious to recover their lawful right to this venerable building, the Episcopalians of the neighbourhood made application to the judge to appoint two of their number to hold it as Episcopal property. The application was rejected on the ground that it was public property and belonged no more to Episcopalians than to any other body of Christians."

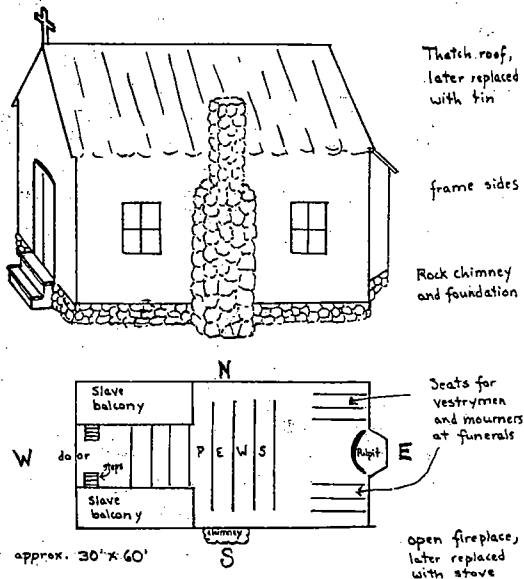
It was during this last repair that workmen discovered the date 1707 on an upright beam.

In order to secure their right to use the church, trustees for the Methodists and Presbyterians obtained a deed to the property from Daniel Dyson on March 15, 1848. Dyson deeded to them "the lot on which the house now called Wood's Church is situated" on condition that they keep on it a place of worship for the use of the Methodist or Presbyterian Church. Furthermore, "when vacated and unoccupied by members of said church they shall permit the ministers or preachers of other churches" to occupy and preach there.

Before the Civil War Mrs. J.D. Simpson recalled that Hickory Road was wide enough for four to ride abreast, and when her family arrived at the Church, the footman would unroll a carpet from the coach to the Church door so that her feet never touched the ground. The Church was lighted by candles and was heated by an open fireplace. The best seats were reserved for magistrates and families of wealth. There was a large gallery where the slaves who had driven their owners' surries, buggies, or wagons to church were seated, and each family had their own designated tree to tie their horse to.

As described by older members, the old church sat under three oaks on the crest of the hill behind and slightly west of the present church. It ran east and west (typical of Colonial churches), with the front door at the west end

facing an old section of road. Miss Virginia Jackson, describing the old church in 1950, recalled that it was approximately 30 x 60 feet with a thatch roof which was later replaced with tin. Its foundation was of rock, as was the chimney midway along its south wall. This at first had an open fireplace, later a stove. The pulpit was in the center of the east end with seats for vestrymen and mourners at funerals on either side. On each side of the front door were steps to the two slave balconies, located on either side at the west end of the church. (Mrs. Rachel Dance drew up the accompanying sketch and floorplan of old Wood's Church from this description.)



Old Wood's Church [torn down 1890]

It has been said that General Robert E. Lee's army passed in front of Wood's Church on the morning of April 3, 1865, on its retreat to Appomattox - indeed, John Dyer told Rachel Dance that his mother gave water and "such as she could spare" to Lee and his soldiers who rested at Wood's Church that morning. However, amateur Civil War historian Baxter Perkinson says that General Lee actually passed through the area on River Road to the south, and that it was part of his army under General John B. Gordon who used the Hickory Road route in front of Wood's Church.

In 1877 the old church was repaired and painted by Methodists. The Reverend Philip Slaughter writes in 1879 that Wood's Church "has often been repaired, nothing now remaining of the original structure but a skeleton framework, which being heart pine is still well preserved".

By 1890 the building had reached such an age that major renovations were felt to be necessary. The congregation debated whether to repair or rebuild, and it was decided to tear down the old church and rebuild on approximately the same site.

Consequently, the structure was carefully disassembled, and in the process, the old beam bearing the date 1707 reportedly came to light again. Walter Dance Sr., L.H. Rhodes, and David Perkinson recalled seeing it, and said that it was reused in part of the new church now covered by its heating system. Much of the original church's timber framing was used in the new one.

A newspaper clipping owned by Mrs. Dance read: "August 7, 1890. The cornerstone of Wood's Church in Chesterfield County was laid this afternoon with Masonic

ceremonies by Petersburg Lodge #15." A circular medalion under the present church's front gable also bears its building date: H O WOODS 1890".

Older members told Rachel Dance in the 1920's that the situation of the new church was changed so that it would face south towards a newly-cut section of Hickory Road. They also thought there had been a problem with either the old or new structure sitting partly on land not owned by the Church. Because of this, the Church acquired an additional one acre in 1890 ("the land not used as church to be used as cemetery") and a quarter of an acre in 1901.

In 1895 the Church was rededicated "land upon which Woods Old Church formerly stood". This was necessary because of "the removal of the old Church from the land aforesaid and thereby vacating same, and is supposed that the said land reverts to the assigns of Daniel Dyson".

A detailed description of the new Church's interior is given in **Wood's Methodist Church**. The sanctuary walls were of white plaster with black walnut woodwork. The windows had many small square panes in a frame curving slightly and pointed at the top, and on the outside had shutter blinds that could be closed to keep out the sunlight. New pews, lectern, and chancel rail were made by a Mr. Bernard Godsey in 1879, the pews of a naturally-finished wood with contrasting black walnut ends.

The sanctuary was heated by two iron wood-burning stoves at the center of each side, with the stove pipes going up overhead and joining together to go through the center of the roof via a chimney stack. Later two separate chimneys were built for these pipes. Lighting was provided by two oil chandeliers, one in the center front, one in center back, each composed of four globed lamps which had to be lighted by one of the "good brothers" standing on some object with a long stick with fire on the end. These were replaced with gas lights by 1918, and a few years later with carbide lamps (donated by Ernest Rudy from his store, according to Rachel Dance). Then a Delcro battery system was installed, along with a new set of seven lighting fixtures which were eventually converted to use regular electricity when it became available.

Throughout most of its life, the Church had only one room. The Church School had to make do with different corners of the one-room building, separated only by curtains, until wings were added in 1949 and 1954. The large two-story cinderblock Education Building was built at the end of one of the wings about 1960.

The first major redecoration of the interior took place in 1952, at which time the front of the sanctuary was elevated, the choir moved behind the minister's desk, the walls painted pale blue and woodwork and pews painted white. Stained glass windows, salvaged from the Catholic Manse in Petersburg, were added in 1956.

Mr. and Mrs. Mason Chalkley add that more recent changes include a small vestibule addition in 1961, a transfer of the pulpit from the center to the side of the sanctuary about 1970, and aluminum siding in the last few years. Plans for the immediate future call for extending the back of the Church to make more room for the choir, and moving the pulpit back to the center of the church.

Behind the Church is its cemetery. A plat showing the names and locations of those buried in the cemetery is mounted in a wood case by the cemetery gate east of the Church. West of the Church is the smaller and apparently older Rudy cemetery with stones bearing dates as early as 1856.

Last year Wood's United Methodist Church Acquired its own full-time minister. Its present membership is 266. Interestingly, included among these are a number of families who have been members of Wood's since the 1800's and perhaps earlier - names such as Dyson, Dance, Rudy, Perkinson, Graves, Burton, etc.

Today, Wood's Church sanctuary remains in the simple white structure of yesteryear - a reminder of eternal verities among the more modern homes that surround this oldest of church sites still in use in Chesterfield County.



Museum News:

--Evelyn Murphey--

The Museum Committee of the Historical Society met jointly with the Board of Directors of the Chesterfield County Museum on November 18, 1981, with 23 persons present. The purpose was to determine ways whereby the Society can assist and work with the Museum program.

The Chairman was Ed Moseley. Several sub-committees were appointed. Jean Childs and Ruby Williams will seek volunteers to help staff the museum. If you are available to help one day per month please call Mrs. Childs at 275-6012 or Mrs. Williams at 748-0886.

Mr. Waverly Winfree and Col. Horace Mann will co-chair the Acquisition and Evaluation Committee. Mr. Winfree and Mary Lou Wiley will research the old jail.

The Chesterfield Museum opened in 1980 and is located on Court House Square and except for holidays is open daily from 10-4 p.m. and 1-4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Genealogical Corner:

Inscription on the only tombstone in the Robertson graveyard, located on a dirt road that runs 2 or 3 miles into the wood off River Road (where it intersects with Walkes Quarter Road) towards the Appomattox River:

*Our mother, Catherine Robertson
Consort of John Robertson, Jr.
Died Dec. 31, 1821, aged 41 years.
She was an affectionate mother and in her the poor found
a friend.*

*Also in memory of John Robertson, Sr. d. 1798
And Ann Robertson, his wife, who d. 1803
Erected by B.M.R. and J.G.R.*

New Books Available: THE DESCENDANTS OF THOMAS CHEATHAM OF CHESTERFIELD CO., VA. by Lucille Cheatham Moseley; cost \$12.00, may be purchased from Mrs. Moseley at the main Chesterfield Library.

To be available in late February or March of this year - CHESTERFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SITES by Jeff O'Dell; cost will be \$15.00 to \$18.00, may be obtained at all branches of the Chesterfield Library. Check with Bill Ernst 748-1053.

Information Sought:

Marilyn M. Blank, 812 N. Hidalgo Ave., Alhambra, Calif. 91801. Researching and needing information of the following names: Pane/Paull (before 1820); Newby; Morgan; Bowman (before 1820 not in western part of state); Wm. Wood d. 1758 - his dau. m. John Morgan (before 1800's); Farmer, Cheatham, Pollard, Hatcher, Branch.

Articles printed in the MESSENGER are footnoted as to sources of reference. The footnotes are on file with the Society and will be made available to anyone wishing to use them for research.

All communications concerning the MESSENGER may be sent to the Editor, Mary Ellen Howe, 10 Ravenscroft Road, Petersburg, Va. 23805.