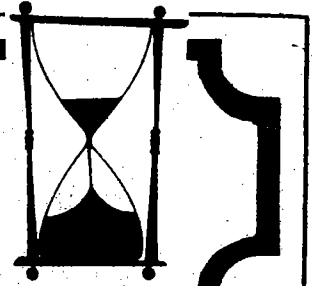


The Messenger

Number 12, October 1987



The Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia, P.O. Box 40, Chesterfield Courthouse, Virginia 23832

All Things Are Possible, Says Bateau Committee

In 1983 two Chesterfield residents were greatly interested in the excavation of the area which is now recognized as the "James Center" on Canal and Cary Streets. These county residents attended numerous meetings with the Virginia Canal Society obtaining information about the canal system and the bateau as a means of transportation. Jay Schutte and Paul Kreynus appealed to the Chesterfield Board of Supervisors in January 1986 to build

a historical bateau replica from drawings taken of the boats from the Richmond Great Basin Excavation. A resolution was passed giving permission for such a project with the name of the boat to be "Lord Chesterfield."

Working as a committee under the Chesterfield Historical Society and with the help and guidance of Mrs. Lucille Moseley, the Bateau Committee began to collect materials and funds from private donors. The

50-foot double-bottom cargo vessel was constructed in the east end of Chesterfield Mall located at Route 60 and 147 in Chesterfield County.

Jay Schutte as Captain and Paul Kreynus as Chairman worked to oversee construction, gather volunteers, and raise funds while planning for the first James River Bateau Festival in May of 1986.

The Crew, in period dress, launched the "Lord Chesterfield" on its maiden voyage on the Appomattox River in May, 1986 at Puddle Duck Road for a very joyous and festive occasion. This launching was historical in that it was the first bateau on the Appomattox in over 125 years. The crew was proud of its accomplishments and the media loved the event.

The 1986 festival had ten other area bateaux participate in the 8-day trip from Kentucky to Richmond. Paul Kreynus organized an excited and ready group to participate in the county's 4th of July celebration.

Upon its return the bateau was on public display in Chesterfield Mall for a two-month period.

The fall months were busy. The crew launched its boat into the Swift Creek Reservoir participating in the first Richmond Patriotism Day. The holiday season was especially rewarding as the "Lord Chesterfield" was paraded before thousands on December 16th in the Jaycee Parade down Broad Street in Richmond. The Bateau Committee has participated in over two dozen civic events since January 1986.

In June of 1987 an article appeared in *National Geographic Magazine* featuring the "Minnie Lee" and its captain Joe Ayres. This brought more attention to the project. The Chesterfield Bateau was invited to pole in an event for the Virginia Canal and Navigations Society in Alexandria, Virginia. The Alexandria Canal Tide Locks were restored and dedicated May 16, 1987. This allowed an additional ex-

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The Lord Chesterfield bateau (pictured at front) "poles" its way through the water on a recent excursion. It has represented the county and the historical society in

QUARTERLY MEETING
Sunday, October 25
3:00 in the afternoon

The Virginia Bateau
Chesterfield Berry Farm
See Page 7

Calendar of Events

Until NOVEMBER 15

Special exhibit in the Museum: "Muskets and Minie Balls, Weapons of the Confederacy" Special Exhibit at Magnolia Grange: "Sunday Best, Victorian Children's Clothing"

OCTOBER 25

Quarterly meeting of the Historical Society, Chesterfield Berry Farm.

OCTOBER 29

Re-placing of the highway marker for the Midlothian Coal Mines, Midlothian Middle School, 11:30 a.m.

NOVEMBER 7

A special tour of the Museum of the Confederacy and the Virginia Historical Society will honor our Museum guides

NOVEMBER 11

Veteran's Day ceremonies at the Courthouse, 2:00 p.m. to include the re-placing of the Courthouse highway marker.

NOVEMBER 22

Opening of Christmas exhibit in the Museum: "Antique Toy Trains."

NOVEMBER 29

Opening of Christmas Exhibit at Magnolia Grange: "Nineteenth Century Dolls and Toys"

DECEMBER 3, DECEMBER 13 and DECEMBER 20

Special Christmas Sunday tours of Magnolia Grange, featuring holiday decorations, music, and refreshments. Tours on the hour, 1-5 p.m.

DECEMBER 12

Return of silhouette artists, Helen and Nel Laughon. Call for appointment.

DECEMBER 12

In cooperation with Parks and Recreation sponsoring "Legendary Christmas," Museum, Historical Society, and Magnolia Grange, 6-9 p.m.

SPECIAL NOTE

September 15th a luncheon took place honoring our volunteer workers in the Historical Society and library.

September 30th a trip to Montpelier and the restored Exchange Hotel in Gordonsville honored our volunteer docents at Magnolia Grange.

New Exhibits Still on Display Until November 15

"The Jefferson Connection: Tobacco in Colonial Chesterfield" is the title of the new exhibit that opened September 13 at the museum. The display features tobacco inspector's licenses from 1779 and 1780 for Chesterfield residents.

These documents were signed by then Governor Thomas Jefferson.

The exhibit "Muskets and Minie Balls, Weapons of the Confederacy" contains Civil War muskets, pistols, sabres, and swords. A 32-star national flag captured by Pettigrew's Division of Confederate troops at the Battle of the Wilderness in May 1864 is on display for the first time in this exhibit. Photographs of Chesterfield's Fort Darling, Fort Zabriskie, and Battery Dantzer by Matthew Brady complete this display at the museum.

Magnolia Grange is the site of the exhibit "Sunday Best, Victorian Children's Clothing." This is a collection of hand-made children's dresses and bonnets of the 19th century.

Chesterfield Historical Society Officers and Directors, July 1987 - June 1989

President	Mr. W. Baxter Perkinson
First Vice-President	Mrs. Joan Gleason
Second Vice-President	Mr. Steven Perkins
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Ann Muttart
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Frances J. Peterson
Treasurer	Mrs. Donna K. Schneid
Directors	Mr. John Pearsall
	Ms. Lee A. Chase
	Mr. Robert "Peppy" Jones
	Mrs. Arline McGuire, Past-President

Committee Chairmen

Archaeology	Dawn Burns
Bateau	Paul Kreynus
Cemetery	Margaret Bruggess
Civil War Sites	George Fickett
Cookbook	Nancy Dunnivant
Genealogical Records	Angie Wilderman
Highway Markers	Lucille Moseley
Hospitality (A volunteer is needed for this position. Please call 748-1026 if you can help fill position.)	
Library	Waverly Winfree
Magnolia Grange	Richard Gates
Membership	Steve Perkins
Museum	Cary Adams
Picture Collection	Hugh Goodwyn
Program	Joan Gleason
Publications	Jeanette Ortiz
Publications Review	Lee Shepard
Publicity	Terry Jones and Sam Epper
Special Events	Lucille Moseley

Well-Known Silhouette Artists to Return to Magnolia Grange December 12

We are pleased to announce Helen and Nel Laughon, professional silhouette artists, will return to Magnolia Grange on Saturday, December 12, from 10:00 a.m. til 4:00 p.m. They were so well received last Christmas that we have requested that they come again and are delighted that they have accepted our invitation.

They will be cutting silhouettes of both adults and children using the techniques of the early nineteenth century. Silhouettes are priced at \$15 for two copies of one person or \$13 per person if there is more than one person from the same family. Please call 748-1026 for an appointment time.

The mother-daughter team has worked professionally in museums around the country since 1969, travelling up to 30,000 miles annually for their scheduled appearances. Besides residents Ford and Nixon they have cut silhouettes of Billie Jean King, King Gustaf of

Sweden, and the horse, Secretariat. Their work has taken them to the National Portrait Gallery, the Corcoran, Smithsonian, Boston Athenaeum, Old Sturbridge, Old Salem, Shakertown, as well as many Virginia museums.

Rodney Armstrong, director of the Boston Athenaeum, where "people lined up in the

street waiting to get in" when the Laughons first worked there, noted the pair's success when he said: "Charm, grace, thoughtfulness, and imagination are all used by the Laughons to extract the most hidden characteristics of their subjects. No other silhouettists working today are as skilled at that as these two ladies."



Archaeology Committee Digs at 1760 Site in County

The Archaeology Committee has been very busy this summer working on a ca. 1760 house or tavern site in Chesterfield. Along with many interesting artifacts such as clay pipe bowls, an iron key and a porcelain doll's head, we have just begun uncovering an expanse of laid brick which may turn out to be a walkway, a floor, or a large hearth. We dig on Saturday and Monday mornings and need more volunteers - no experience necessary. This site is zoned Heavy Industrial and is considered endangered. Don't miss this unique opportunity for a "hands on" approach to the history of our county. Be involved in preserving Chesterfield's rapidly vanishing past. Please call Dawn Burns, 748-7932 evenings, if you are interested in volunteering.

Wonderful Ideas for Christmas Gift-Giving Abound at Museum, Magnolia Grange, Historical Society

When you begin to do your shopping for the holiday season, don't forget the little specialty shop that doesn't have long lines or pushy crowds that can make the Christmas rush unpleasant. The name of this wonderful shop? Your Chesterfield County Historical Society. This year we have two new items for sale. Author, Wayne Beachy has contributed four hundred copies of his book *The Extraordinary Ordinary Christmas: Matoaca 1870, A Story of Chesterfield County*, to the Society. This children's book, especially appropriate for Christmas giving, sells for \$3 plus tax. We are grateful to Wayne for his generous gift.

The second new item for sale is a reproduction of an important Civil War map which is on permanent exhibit in the Museum. Entitled "Thirty-Five Miles Around Richmond," the map was drawn by the well-known cartographer, Jedediah Hotchkiss, in 1867 and shows the major Confederate and Union fortifications in the several counties surrounding Richmond. Battlegrounds in Chesterfield are especially well defined. The map, measuring 28" x 24", is appropriate for framing and is priced at \$10 plus tax.

Other items we continue to carry are:

Chesterfield County, Early Architecture and Historic Sites, a 518-page hard cover book by

Jeff O'Dell (\$18.50)

The 1888 LaPrade map of Chesterfield County, which is of particular interest because it indicates all of the families who lived in the county at that time (\$13.50).

Chesterfield Courthouse scenes note paper 10/package (\$3.00).

Magnolia Grange note paper 10/package (\$3.00).

Our popular magnolia pewter collection includes:

Paper weight (\$15.00); Bookmark (\$12.00); Tie tac (\$10.00); Stickpin (\$12.00); Bracelet (\$16.00); Necklace (\$15.00) and Pierced earrings (\$16.00).

All of our society sale items are subject to tax which is not

included in the price list above. Please contact us at (804) 748-1026 or by writing if you have any questions about items or if you would like to have an item mailed to you or as a gift to a relative or friend.

If after reading through our gift list you have still not hit upon the perfect something for someone special, why not give them a gift membership to the Chesterfield County Historical Society? At only \$10.00 per year, a membership includes a year's subscription to the *Messenger*, free admission to Magnolia Grange, and invitations to the quarterly meetings which are held at various local historical sites. It's a lot of gift for a little price!

