

# The Messenger

Number 13, April 1988



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

## SILVER in the Lives of Virginians

by James H. Willcox, Jr.

Silver has played a major role in life in Virginia since the earliest days of exploration. Many of the early explorers, even prior to the settlement of Jamestown in 1607, were searching for the great treasures of silver and gold; they were not looking for land on which to grow tobacco and forests in which to trap animals. In 1608, just one year after the settlement of Jamestown, there were two goldsmiths, two refiners, and one jeweler in the Colony. These men most likely did not practice their trade but were sent in search of riches similar to those that were being found by the Spanish in Central and South America. They were to be disappointed in that silver (and gold) would not be found in abundant quantities on the North American continent until over two centuries later when large quantities of silver and gold were found in the West.

John Hammond, the author of a pamphlet, "Leah and Rachel," wrote in the middle of the seventeenth century that there was a good store of silver in the houses of many of the planters. This had either been inherited from English relations or been purchased in England. Much of the early silver did not survive in its original form due to the desire of the colonists to have items of the latest fashion. In 1655 Colonel Richard Lee took some of his plate to London to have its fashion changed. The loss of early silver not only occurred in the colonial period when people such as Colonel Lee carried silver to England to be converted into fashionable silver. Silver was also melted and restyled by American silversmiths. In more recent times much old as well as relatively new silver was melted down as the result of the tremendous rise in silver prices when the Hunt Brothers attempted to corner the silver market.

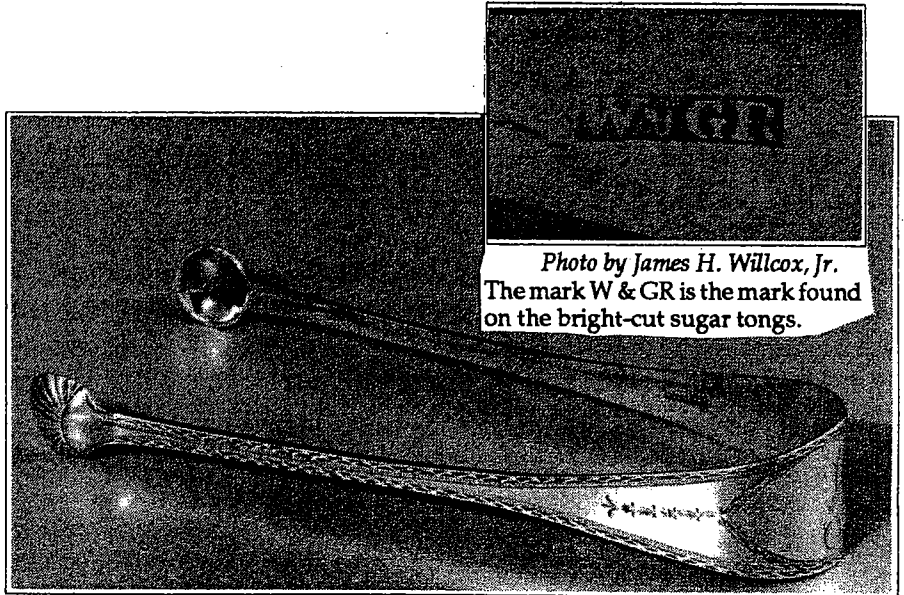


Photo by James H. Willcox, Jr.  
The mark W & GR is the mark found on the bright-cut sugar tongs.

Photo by Katherine Wetzel

### Sugar Tongs - Richmond, c. 1790, William and George Richardson L 5 7/8"

These bright-cut sugar tongs, which were made by the Richardsons, represent some of the most sophisticated silver made in the city during the early days after the capitol was moved from Williamsburg. These brothers worked in partnership from 1782 until approximately 1800.

William Fitzhugh, of Stafford, had a great quantity of plate which he bought not only for its useful and ornamental qualities, but because he believed it to be a safe investment for his children. As wealth in the colony of Virginia increased during the eighteenth century the amount of plate also increased. In 1769 the silver plate belonging to William Byrd

III of "Westover" consisted of no less than 382 pieces.

Since most of the colonists were Englishmen and their tastes were English, they wanted items in the latest English fashions and purchased them either through their representatives in London or

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## Quarterly Meeting

April 24, 1988 - 3 p.m.

at the home of Jim Daniels

1800 W. Hundred Road, Chester, Virginia

Speaker: Chris Calkins Topic: The Howlett Line

Bring a lawn chair!

# Reports ♦ Reports ♦ Reports

## Lord Chesterfield Bateau Committee

If you are seeking river adventure, don't mind hard work and are willing to dress in period clothes, the Lord Chesterfield Bateau is the place for you.

Paul Kreynus and the rest of the bateau crew invite you to join their committee now so you can participate in the exciting events that this group will take part in during 1988. They will be on the Rappahannock River in May and the James River, as part of the week long Bateau Festival, in June. On dry land, they will take part in the Historical Society's Mayfaire and the Fourth of July Extravaganza.

The bateau crew is proud of the work they did on their five-day trip on the Appomattox River from Farmville to the Lake Chesdin area. The crew met this challenge in order to reopen the river so that other bateau groups could travel the river after 100 years without any bateau travel.

You may contact Paul Kreynus at P.O. Box 24, Midlothian, Virginia 23113.

## Cemetery Committee

The Cemetery Committee will sponsor a Blandford Church and Cemetery tour in Petersburg on May 15, 1988, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. All members of the Chesterfield Historical Society and their guests are invited to join us. A 50¢ donation will be collected for the church tour. Parking is available at the church in Petersburg where we will meet.

Recently our committee has resumed locating and visiting family graveyards, recording the information from tombstones and taking pictures of the area. The data will be added to our permanent files. This committee has contributed 273 hours of volunteer service this quarter.

For further information about this committee or the Blandford tour, please contact Margaret Burgess at 748-5727 or the Chesterfield Historical Society at 748-1026.

## Cookbook Committee

Congratulations! Due to the combined efforts of members who contributed recipes, committee members who worked diligently and members who braved the elements to sell our cookbooks, we are over the top with over 1,000 copies sold, and a tidy profit secured to bolster our treasury. Again, thanks for your cooperation.

## Archaeology Committee

Due to the cold and wet weather, the Archaeology Committee has not recently been digging at the 1760 house site in Chesterfield, but they are looking forward to the spring digging season. Chairwoman Dawn Burns has been working on her certification in archaeological laboratory procedures with the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation in cooperation with the Council of Virginia Archaeologists and the Archaeology Society of Virginia. Mrs. Burns is also learning more about artifact conservation techniques by volunteering one day a week at the VCU Archaeology lab.

The Archaeology Committee always welcomes volunteers who would like to join in the fun of discovering the past. 2

## Volunteers Needed

We are very much in need of additional volunteers in the office of the Historical Society to answer the phone and greet visitors. As we become increasingly well known in the community, it is of great importance that we be fully staffed.

If you love history and love people, this could be a very meaningful job for you, and your assistance would be extremely helpful to the society. Training will be provided. Please phone our office at 748-1026 for more information.

## John Howlett's Tavern

In June 1987, bulldozers began to clear a driveway in front of Magnolia Grange Museum House and as the dirt was scooped up, wine bottles and bowls began to fall out! Donna Schneider and I collected them, and the bowls were identified by Lyle Browning, State Department Archaeologist, as being colonial delftware, circa 1750-1760, from England.

The dirt was dumped on a lot belonging to Mr. C. Porter Vaughan, and with his permission, we began a salvage dig each day for an hour or so in the afternoon. So far, over 45 delftware bowls have been uncovered, along with clay pipe stems, pottery, wine bottles, porcelain, whiteware, creamware, chamber pots, and iron pieces. After seeing so many layers of decomposed brick and some scorched pieces of delftware, we came to the conclusion that this was indeed John Howlett's tavern of 1749, which probably suffered a small fire and was abandoned around 1780-1800. Research has seemingly verified all of these facts but more work needs to be done.

During the fall months of the dig, senior students from Clover Hill, Meadowbrook and Midlothian High Schools, came out to help for two weeks. A backhoe, driven by Robert Strickland from the Engineering Department of Chesterfield County, helped pull away layers of heavy brick that became too difficult for me to remove. Roger Branch, and several others from this department, also helped dig when the backhoe was used.

Dr. Dan Mauer, director of the Archaeology Laboratory, at Virginia Commonwealth University, came to see the artifacts and graciously agreed to help catalog them. Gwen Brandon, Conservator of the Archaeology Laboratory, has been identifying and treating the metal pieces so that they can be kept from further deterioration - a time-consuming job since one piece of iron can take months to properly conserve.

Dr. Mauer will conduct a Phase I Archaeological Dig around Magnolia Grange for Chesterfield County to identify any important archaeological areas left, and possibly locate the outbuildings surrounding the house. Shelving will be built in the conference room at Magnolia Grange in the near future, and the artifacts will be on permanent display there.

- Mary Ellen Howe

## Quarterly Meeting

Mr. Chris Calkins of the National Park Service, Petersburg National Battlefield Park, will be the guest speaker at our April 24th quarterly meeting. Mr. Calkins' talk is titled "The Howlett Line: Its Inception and Evacuation 1864-66."

The meeting will take place outdoors at the home of Mr. Jim Daniels. Mr. Daniels states that his home is located on property that was originally called Ware Plantation. The present house dates from 1942 and is constructed of materials removed from Cameron Castle and an old mill. The house rests on part of the foundation of two earlier houses. Dr. Howlett lived in a house on this location that was destroyed by Union gunboats during the Civil War. A second house was constructed on the location, but was taken down when the present house was built by Harold Goyne.

To learn more about the Howlett line and its significance in Chesterfield history, and to view the location of part of the Howlett line as well as the site of the Howlett home, be sure to attend the quarterly meeting.

Mr. Daniels' home address is 1800 W. Hundred Road, Chester. Directions: heading toward Hopewell on Route 10, turn left at Lowe's Hardware (approximately one mile past Route 1/301 and 10 intersection). The house is at the end of this road which leads into the Bermuda Industrial Park. Don't forget to bring a lawn chair!

## Past – Present – Future

Chesterfield County (part of Henrico until 1749) can boast a past dating back to 1611 in American history. So many families whose names we find during that early period are still in service to Chesterfield today. The daily events, hardships, accomplishments, and dreams of those early families are part of our history. We owe so much to those who did the recording of and preserving of those records. Allow me to mention two of those who recorded and preserved those records. Court Clerk Thomas Watkins during the American Revolution saved the county records by removing them before the British burned Chesterfield. It was Court Clerk Nathan Cogbill who buried the county records before the Union troops set fire to the county buildings during the Civil War. These records are now stored in the Virginia State Archives in Richmond.

Our future is being shaped by the fact that we are one of the state's fastest growing counties. All around us we see subdivisions, schools, office buildings, libraries, churches, offices, hotels, expressways and bridges going up seemingly overnight. Yet, as our future develops we have not forgotten the examples of Mr. Watkins and Mr. Cogbill; we are preserving our past as we walk proudly into our future.

The Chesterfield Historical Society was established on September 23, 1981. We now have over 900 members, 21 active committees, and 75 volunteers trained to assist in interpreting the three historic buildings – Magnolia Grange, the Museum and the Old Jail (the Society's office). The future looks bright for Chesterfield. As one of those early settlers might have said, "Thanks to a kind and loving God and to those that went before us."

– W. Baxter Perkinson, Sr.  
President

## ◆ Queries ◆

**CLAYTON, COLEMAN:** Seeking family information and parents of Francis CLAYTON, born early 1700s (Caroline Co., Va.?), died Chesterfield Co., Va. (will dated 4 November 1777). What was his wife Elizabeth's maiden name? Children were: Thomas, Lucy, John, Frances, Joseph and Betty. Did son Thomas (born ca 1751 Chesterfield Co., Va.) marry Sarah COLEMAN? Sarah's father was Richard COLEMAN (died ca 1791, Rutherford Co., NC). Who was her mother? Also need information on Philip CLAYTON, (died 1786 Culpeper Co., Va.), married Ann COLEMAN (?) daughter of Richard or Thomas COLEMAN. Were his parents Samuel and Elizabeth (Pendleton) CLAYTON of Essex Co., Va.?

– Rosemary Hollis, 2000 Cypress Point Drive  
Corona, CA 91720

**BLANKENSHIP:** My great-grandmother was born Elizabeth D. BLANKENSHIP on January 29, 1826, somewhere in Virginia. I am trying to determine the county or town where she was born. It is believed that she had at least one brother named Jesse C. BLANKENSHIP. Elizabeth was married in Bloomington, Ill., to Evan Cadwalader EVANS on April 20, 1836. I would appreciate any information on place of birth and family.

– Don Evans, 152 Grant Avenue  
New Providence, NH 07974

**BRANCH, ELLISON, ROBERTS, BACON:** We are in need of help in our search for our ancestor Edward BRANCH who married Elizabeth ELLISON. Their daughter, Phanny (Phaemma) married Henry ROBERTS in Chesterfield Co. in 1815. We have a great deal of information on this family and on the Branch family which I will gladly copy for any researcher who will agree to do this search. The problem is that there are so many Edward Branches; we cannot locate records of our own. We are also looking for information on a family named Bacon that includes Sarah BACON.

– Mrs. Mary Toerner, 94 Shoshone  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

## New Permanent Exhibit

A photograph collection of early public and private schools in Chesterfield County, developed by Hugh Goodwyn, has recently been added to the permanent exhibits in the museum. Featuring one-room schools from the Rosalie Dorset School on Genito Road of 1885 to pictures of the county's first high school built in Chester in 1907, the collection also shows many students from that time period. In addition, a horse-drawn school wagon of 1913 used on Hickory Road is featured.

# Silver

Continued from Page 1

through members of their families still living in England. In fact, not only did they want English silver, but they wanted London silver since they considered it to be more fashionable than the "country silver" produced elsewhere in England. These English tastes continued in Virginia until the passage of the Stamp and Townshend Acts just prior to the American Revolution. The duties imposed by these acts on silver and other items reduced the availability of English silver. It was at this time that the number of silversmiths in Virginia began to increase and colonial-made silver became fashionable.

One excellent indicator of the balance between English and locally-made silver during the colonial period is the large amount of ecclesiastical silver surviving in Virginia today. In the comprehensive exhibition of "Church Silver of Colonial Virginia" at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in 1970, of the 124 pieces listed, 121 were made in London, two in Germany, and one in the Colony of Connecticut. If there was any colonial church silver made and used in the Colony of Virginia none remains today. Since the styles of ecclesiastical silver have changed to a much lesser degree than domestic silver and most of the pieces were given as memorials, church silver, as compared to domestic silver, has survived less altered.

The earliest documented piece of American made silver is a dram cup made by John Hull and Robert Sanderson in Boston shortly after they formed their partnership in 1652. The earliest documented silversmith working in Virginia was John Brodnax, who first settled in Henrico County and later moved to Middle Plantation (now Williamsburg) in 1694. No documented silver made by him remains. The golden age of silversmiths in Virginia was basically the one hundred years between the mid eighteenth and the mid nineteenth centuries. This period included the years in which Virginians ceased importing English silver due to the passage of the Stamp and Townshend Acts up to the period of industrial development when most of the silver began to be made in the industrial centers of the North. During this period over 400 silversmiths worked in Virginia. This compares with approximately the same number in Maryland, more than 150 in North Carolina, and more than 300 in South

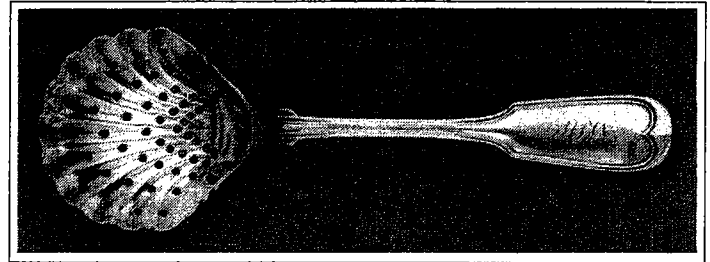


Photo by Katherine Wetzel

**Sugar Sifter – Richmond, c. 1850,  
Mitchell & Tyler, L 6 3/4"**

The firm of Mitchell & Tyler (1845-1866) was one of the largest makers and retailers of silver in Richmond in the mid nineteenth century. This fiddle thread, sugar sifter represents "coin" silver made during the transition from the "coin" to the sterling standard to satisfy the taste of the early Victorian period.

Carolina. These are all approximate numbers as the records are incomplete for the early periods. As expected, the largest concentration of silversmiths in Virginia were in the eastern cities – Richmond had the most with 60, followed by Norfolk with 49, Alexandria with 47, and Petersburg with 36. There were 46 towns and cities in Virginia (including what is now Virginia and West Virginia) which had at least one silversmith. These numbers include silversmiths and retailers and jewelers who placed their marks on pieces of silver. There is no documentation of any silversmith having worked in Chesterfield County.

The first known silversmith to work within the city of Richmond was James Galt, who moved from Williamsburg to Richmond in 1766. He remained in Richmond for five years before moving back to Williamsburg.

Some of the more famous local Virginia silversmiths were:

<u>Silversmith</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Charles P. Adriance	1790-1874	Richmond
William Cowan	1779-1831	Richmond
Henry Hyman	working 1845-1852	Richmond
William Mitchell, Jr.	1795-1852	Richmond
John H. Tyler	?-1883	Richmond
Thomas W. Bell	working 1838-1848	Petersburg
John B. Cooke	working 1838-1843	Petersburg
James Geddy	1731-1807	Williamsburg & Petersburg
Charles Lumsden	working 1832-1856	Petersburg & Richmond
Thomas Nowlan	working 1848-?	Petersburg & Richmond

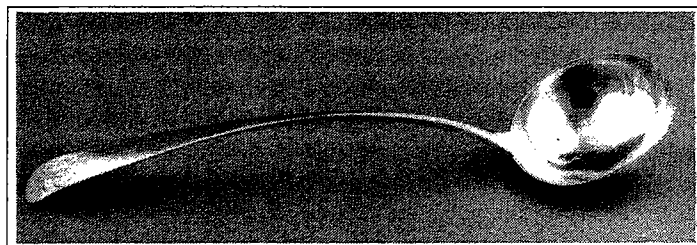


Photo by Katherine Wetzel

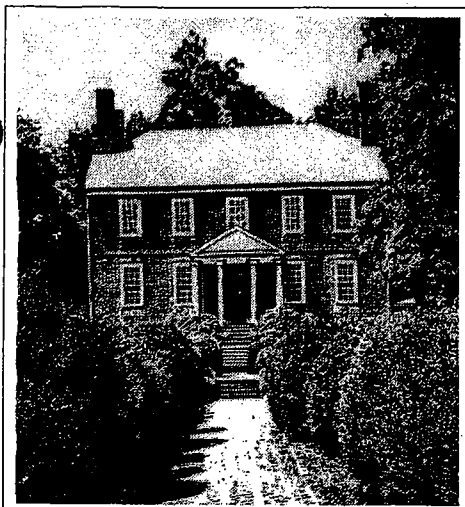
**Punch Ladle – Alexandria, c. 1790,  
Charles A. Burnett, L 13 1/4"**

Burnett worked in Alexandria c. 1790-1800 and then in Georgetown, DC, c. 1800-1849. He was noted for the silver which he made for the government of the United States. Some of these items included the skipper which held the seal of the United States for the Treaty of Ghent and considerable silver for the Indian trade.

Many of these men were prominent citizens of the localities in which they worked. Captain William Richardson was the founding Captain of the Richmond Light Infantry Blues and mayor of the city of Richmond in 1801 and again in 1807. William Mitchell, Jr. was on the building committee for St. Paul's Church and was elected one of the founding trustees of Hollywood Cemetery.

Likewise there were some important partnerships and firms involved in manufacturing and/or retailing silver and

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By C.W. Packard

Kenmore is one stop on trip.

## Destination: Fredericksburg!

The society is sponsoring our annual spring bus trip on Saturday, May 7, to historic sites in Fredericksburg, and you are invited to join in the fun.

Departure will be at 8 a.m. sharp from the parking lot behind the Chesterfield Courthouse. We will arrive in the Fredericksburg Visitor Center by 9:30 a.m. The morning tours will include the Rising Sun Tavern, the James Monroe Law Office, and the Apothecary Shop.

Lunch will be served at the Kenmore Inn, with a choice of chef's salad plate or a fruit salad plate. In the afternoon, we will tour Kenmore, home of Fielding Lewis and his wife Betty, sister of George Washington, and the Mary Washington House. There will be an hour to browse in antique shops on our own before departing at 4:30 p.m. in order to arrive at the Chesterfield Courthouse by 6 p.m.

Reservations and payment are due by April 22. The all-inclusive price for the trip is \$27.50. Make checks payable to the Chesterfield Historical Society. Please indicate lunch preference when you sign up. See you on the 7th of May.

## Silver

Continued from Page 4

other items of jewelry. Some of the more important firms were:

<u>Firm</u>	<u>Working Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>
Jennett & James	1849-1866	Richmond
Johnson & Reat	1804-1815	Richmond
Mitchell & Tyler	1845-1866	Richmond
Wm. & Geo. Richardson	1782-1800	Richmond
Nowlan & Co.	1866-after 1908	Richmond

The firm of Mitchell and Tyler was probably the most noted of these and more silver with the Mitchell & Tyler mark appears on the market than from any other firm or maker. Much of the silver with their mark was probably made by other manufacturers and marked and retailed by them. Many of the larger pieces with their mark also bear the mark of the manufacturer.

The primary source of silver for these craftsmen was either silver coins or melted-down, broken or out-of-style silver items. Therefore, most of the silver made during this period is known as "coin" silver with a content of approximately 900/1000 parts (90%) silver. This compares with the current sterling standard of 925/1000 parts (92.5%) silver adopted about 1860 - approximately the same time as the production shifted from the local shops to the manufacturing centers of the Northeast. Early silver was sold on the basis of weight, plus charges for "making" and an extra charge for engraving.

Usually the only mark on pieces of "coin" silver was the touch mark of the silversmith. This mark was usually either the initials or name of the silversmith or partnership. Initials were generally used as touch marks in the eighteenth century but by the early nineteenth century most silversmiths were spelling out their names or names of their firms. A few craftsmen also used the name of the city in which they worked while even fewer marked the year in which the silver was made or the street address of their shop. Only two Richmond silversmiths marked their silver with the location - Lewis Hyman (working 1845-1850s) marked his products "H. Hyman.RHD." Much more of the Norfolk-produced

silver was marked with the location than Richmond-produced silver.

The American system of marking silver makes it difficult to determine when a piece of silver was actually manufactured. If a silversmith worked over a long period of time and used the same mark, the collector must then study the form of the silver to approximate the actual date of manufacture. On the other hand, the British use an assay mark, a city mark, a date mark and a maker's mark which facilitate the identification of their silver.

The manufacture of silver by large companies began in the 1840s although there were also many individual silversmiths who continued to work. This transition to large-scale manufacturing was necessitated by the tremendous increase in demand for silver products due to the increased wealth of the middle and upper classes. Indications are that complete, unmarked pieces of silver were shipped from Philadelphia and elsewhere to be marked and sold all over the United States. In addition, identical milled and cast ornaments, spouts, finials, and bodies appear to have been supplied to and assembled by local craftsmen. Well before the end of the century the mass distribution of completed wares eliminated most local silversmiths and the majority of the silver articles made in America were produced by the large manufacturing companies, such as Gorham, Tiffany, Samuel Kirk & Son, Steiff, and Whiting Manufacturing Company.

There have been several temporary exhibits of Virginia silver in the Richmond area during the past year such as the Loan Exhibit of the Richmond Academy of Medicine Auxiliary Antique Show and the exhibition of Virginia-made and English-made, Virginia-owned silver at the Virginia Historical Society. However, the reinstallation of the American Collection at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts which is expected to open in the spring of this year will contain a number of pieces of Virginia-made "coin" silver. James H. Willcox, Jr., the author of this article and the lecturer at the meeting of the Chesterfield Historical Society on January 24, has coordinated or assisted with the above exhibitions. Further information on Virginia-made silver is available in George B. Cutten's *Virginia Silversmiths* published by Dietz Press Inc. of Richmond in 1952.

## New Members

The following people have joined the society since the last edition:

Mr. and Mrs. George F. Hoover Midlothian, Virginia	Mr. C. W. Packard Richmond, Virginia
Mr. Conley L. Edwards Richmond, Virginia	Mrs. Raymond Begtrup West Milford, N.J.
Ms. Virginia K. Quarles Midlothian, Virginia	Ms. Lorie C. Davis Chester, Virginia
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hornung Midlothian, Virginia	Mr. Joseph H. Todd, III Richmond, Virginia
Mr. and Mrs. Van Sewell Midlothian, Virginia	Mrs. Rosemary Hollis Corona, California
Ms. Janet T. Lambert Richmond, Virginia	Mr. James A. Borys Midlothian, Virginia
Rev. and Mrs. Morgan S. Smart Petersburg, Virginia	Mr. Ovid A. Raikes Richmond, Virginia
Ms. Janet Morgan Alexandria, Virginia	Mrs. Suzanne C. Rudd Chesterfield, Virginia
Ms. Mary McCaffree Jefferson City, Missouri	Ms. Irene W. Husband Richmond, Virginia
Mrs. Nora R. Lanford Richmond, Virginia	Mr. Patrick C. Poulsen Chesterfield, Virginia
Mrs. Richard K. Wetzel Chesterfield, Virginia	Mr. Roy N. Norton, Jr. Richmond, Virginia
Ms. Doris J. Slayback Altamonte Springs, Florida	
Mr. John E. Smith Colonial Heights, Virginia	
Mr. and Mrs. Wallis M. McCormick Chesterfield, Virginia	
Dr. and Mrs. William P. Wagner Richmond, Virginia	
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Glidewell Chesterfield, Virginia	

## Gifts to the Collection at Magnolia Grange

Iron pots, wooden bowls, chamber pot .....	Dr. Louise Jones
24 pieces black transfer tea service, c. 1820-1850 .....	Robert M. Woodcock
Child's chair, walnut, mid 1700s .....	Robert M. Woodcock
Porcelain creamer, 18th century .....	Robert M. Woodcock
Hand blown, air twist wineglasses ....	Robert M. Woodcock
Hand blown 19th century water jug .....	Robert M. Woodcock
Hand blown decanter with stopper, c. 1800 .....	Robert M. Woodcock
Hand blown decanter, c. 1800 .....	Robert M. Woodcock
Gin bottle, 18th century .....	Robert M. Woodcock
Oval frame portrait, 18th century .....	Robert M. Woodcock
Cooper's Virgil, 1837 book .....	Robert M. Woodcock
Silhouette of Martha Ann Catherine Major, b. 1805 & 1867 .....	Robert M. Woodcock
Book - <u>Virginia Selections, 1860</u> .....	Robert M. Woodcock
Sugar snips .....	Robert M. Woodcock
Dominoes in wooden box, 19th century .....	Robert M. Woodcock
Silhouette .....	Robert M. Woodcock
Sampler - "Marie Bolling" .....	Robert M. Woodcock

## Contributions to Magnolia Grange

E.I. DuPont de Nemours  
RECO Foundation  
C & P Telephone  
Ethyl Corporation  
American Tobacco Company

## Contributions to the Museum

Lind Lawrence Foundation  
J. C. Penney  
United Virginia Bank Foundation  
William B. Gates, III  
Chesterfield Ruritan Club  
Preston Holmes  
Mrs. Marguerite Christian  
Edward A. Moseley, Jr.  
H. Cary Adams  
Zane G. Davis



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## Gifts to the Historical Society Library

### Books

- Winckler, J. A. Jr. At Rest in the Trinity Episcopal Church Cemetery. Gift of the author.
- Hull, Robert E. The Lush Family History. Gift of Donald R. Jones.
- Weisiger, Benjamin B. The Weisiger Family. Gift of the author.
- Weisiger, Benjamin B. Marriage Bonds and Ministers Returns Chesterfield County Virginia, 1816-1853. Gift of the author.
- Weisiger, Benjamin B. Chesterfield County Virginia Wills: 1774-1802. Gift of the author.
- Weisiger, Benjamin B. Chesterfield County Virginia Deeds 1749-1756. Gift of the author.
- Lutz, Francis Earle. Chesterfield, An Old Virginia County. Gift of Mrs. Francis McKenzie.
- Chesterfield, Earl of. Letters to his Son. Gift of Elton Beverly.
- Ironmonger, Elizabeth. History of the Womens Christian Temperance Union. Gift of Mrs. Thelma Beachley.
- Weisiger, Benjamin B. Powhatan County Virginia Wills 1777-1795. Gift of the author.
- Friend, Carter Watkins. The Descendants of Captain Thomas Friend 1700-1760, Chesterfield County Virginia. Gift of Mrs. Martha DuBose.
- Weisiger, Benjamin B. City of Richmond Virginia Wills 1782-1810. Gift of the author.
- Virginia Genealogical Society. Death Notices from the Richmond Virginia Newspapers 1821-1840. Gift of Dr. Benjamin B. Weisiger.
- Weisiger, Benjamin B. Prince George County Virginia Wills and Deeds 1713-1728. Gift of the author.

### Artifacts Donated to the Museum

- Tobacco Planter ..... Mrs. Margaret Burgess
- Stoneware Crock ..... Mrs. Polly Veninga
- Argant Lamp ..... Robb Woodcock
- Ladies' High Laced Shoes,  
c. 1900 ..... Mrs. Virginia M. Burton
- Fireplace Shovel ..... Dr. Louise Jones
- Brass Spittoon ..... Dr. Louise Jones
- Coffee Mill ..... Dr. Louise Jones
- Rug Beater ..... Dr. Louise Jones
- Assorted Crocks ..... Dr. Louise Jones
- Numerous small items for  
our Country Store Exhibit ..... Dr. Louise Jones
- Book - A New System of  
Domestic Cookery, c. 1807 ..... Mrs. Elizabeth Hardman
- Filmstrip Projector and  
Tape Recorder ..... Marvin Reed

- Weisiger, Benjamin B. Prince George County Virginia Records 1733-1792. Gift of the Author.
- Weisiger, Benjamin B. Prince George County Virginia Miscellany 1711-1814. Gift of the author.
- Good Shepherd Episcopal School. A Collection of Essays on Forest Hill and the Surrounding Community in South Richmond. Gift of Pattie M. Grady.
- Osborne, Annabelle and Weisiger, Benjamin B. Marriage Notices from Richmond Virginia Newspapers 1821-1840. Gift of Dr. Benjamin B. Weisiger.
- Freeman, Mrs. Edmond Uroe. Branch - Ferrer - Worsham Ancestry. Gift of Pattie M. Grady.
- Chesterfield County Police Department 1924-1984; 60th Anniversary Commemorative Album. Gift of Don Beville.

### Manuscripts

- Robertson Family Bible Records 1789-1929. Gift of Mrs. Mary Crowell.
- To My Grandchildren. Gift of Mrs. Mildred Perdue Daffron.
- Walthall, Cox, and Friend Family Chart. Gift of Mrs. Martha Gresham DuBose.
- Walthall Family Papers. Gift of Doris J. Slayback.
- The Osborne Line 613-1949. Gift of Lucy Morton Hudgins.
- Walke Family Papers. Gift of Pattie M. Grady
- Weisiger Family Bible Records, 1783-1905. Gift of Dr. Benjamin B. Weisiger.
- Cox Family Papers. Gift of Mrs. Martha DuBose.

The Society is grateful for the numerous contributions received in loving memory of Robert M. Woodcock.

### Calendar of Events

#### April 24

Quarterly meeting of the Historical Society, 3 p.m. at the home of Jim Daniels.

#### May 7

Bus trip to Fredericksburg, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

#### May 15

Trip to Blandford Church and Cemetery Tour in Petersburg, 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

#### May 21

Mayfaire, a 19th century crafts fair at the Museum and Magnolia Grange, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

#### Until May 31

Special exhibit in the Museum of wood carvings by Buddy McGuire, John Jonkowski, David Osborne and Ed Yaw.

# Take a Step Back in Time at the Third Annual **Mayfaire**

Mayfaire is coming! Mark your calendar for May 21 when we will have our third annual Mayfaire. With craftsmen on the Court Green in front of the Museum and on the lawn of Magnolia Grange, we will hold a spring celebration of exhibits and demonstrations of traditional 19th century crafts.

Among the talented craftsmen who have accepted our invitation to participate are: Jan Fitzgerald, weaver; Pat Collins, spinner; Sam Shiplett, pewtersmith; Emily Martin, grape vine sculptures; Margaret West and Charlotte LaRoy, basketry; Dudley Fuller, wooden toy maker; the Richmond Quilters Guild; Marie Morris, tatting; and the James River Wood Carvers.

Special exhibits include a parade of antique cars from the Acca Temple Car Club, a Civil War re-enactment group from the 21st Virginia Regiment, the Chesterfield Bateau and its costumed crew, plus musicians and dancers from several local sources. Special tours of Magnolia Grange and the Museum will be given throughout the day.

Brunswick stew and ham biscuits will be served for lunch, with strawberries available for taking home.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In case of rain, all events will take place on the following afternoon from noon to 5 p.m.

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

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