

# The Messenger

April 1990  
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The Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia, P.O. Box 40, Chesterfield Courthouse, Virginia 23832

## THE GREAT BEATTIE MURDER CASE

During the summer of 1911, a murder occurred in Chesterfield County that captured the interest of the entire nation. Attention was suddenly and dramatically focussed on a tiny and remote courthouse which heard the case of what was to become the most famous murder trial in the County's history. It was a desperately hot summer, shortages of ice water were reported and the Governor had requested that citizens pray for rain.

What follows below is a narrative based on actual local headlines, newspaper articles, periodicals and books that covered the murder case. The case made front-page news in the New York Times and the St. Louis Times-Dispatch. It is a story of human frailty and tragedy. Unfortunately, such heinous crimes sometime make history — this is a case that did.

Railroads were the "kings" of transportation and commerce in the early 20th century. Railroads linked cities with accessible and affordable transportation. The eventual successor of rail transport, the automobile, was only beginning to menace the highways in 1911. Cafes, shops, and services were all located at railroad stations. Union Station, the capital's rail hub, was the place to be to head to points east, west, north and south.

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He was in Union Station in Washington, D.C. when he first learned the shocking news. Mr. Owen just arrived at Union Station with the Pennsylvania train and had ordered breakfast at 7:30 the morning of July 19. Awaiting breakfast, he read the paper to learn that his daughter had been murdered the night before in Richmond, Virginia.



*Mrs. Louise Owen Beattie,  
the Murdered Wife*



*Henry Clay Beattie, Jr.,  
the Convicted Man*

The elderly grey haired man cried out "my daughter" and collapsed on the floor. He later composed himself and caught the first train south.<sup>1</sup>

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It did not take long for the news of the heinous crime to spread. The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported that the Forest Hill area of South Richmond was "greatly aroused over (the) crime".<sup>2</sup> Headlines reported that..."Mrs. H.C. Beattie, Jr. brutally slain by man who escapes...shot dead as

she sat in car with husband while returning from trip into Chesterfield County last night..."

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In 1911, Chesterfield County represented the southern frontier of Richmond. Chesterfield's Bon Air and Manchester settlements were well known to Richmonders. Midlothian Turnpike was already the main commercial corridor heading westward. It was a long stretch of dirt road handling pedestrians, horse drawn vehicles, and the newly arrived automobile. In those days,

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### QUARTERLY MEETING NOTICE

The spring meeting of the Society will be held at Bon Air Christian Church, 2971 Buford Road, on Sunday, April 29, 1990 at 3:00 p.m.

Mrs. Elizabeth Richardson of the Bon Air Historical Society will make an informative presentation on victorian homes in Historic Bon Air village. Following her presentation, there will be a guided walking tour of the historic homes in that section of Bon Air.

Refreshments and a social hour will follow. Join us for an interesting afternoon!

# Reports ♦ Reports ♦ Reports

## COOKBOOK BEING REPRINTED

Our cookbook entitled In the Chesterfield Manner which we published in 1987 is being reprinted. Cookbooks will be sold in the gift shop at Magnolia Grange and should be available by April.

Other items available there include note paper, magnolia blossoms of pewter made as paperweights, stickpins, necklaces, and bracelets.

In the Historical Society Gift Shop, we carry the book, Chesterfield County, Early Architecture and Historical Sites; reprints of the 1888 LaPrade Map of Chesterfield County and the Thirty-Five Miles Around Richmond Map of 1867; and note paper. Remember us when you are in need of such gifts!

## TITLE OF FIRST HOSPITAL IN AMERICA DISPUTED

While I will concede that Pennsylvania Hospital may be the first modern hospital in the nation (MH, September 15, page 84), I ask you to look to 1611, when the first hospital in the New World, Mount Malady or Mount Malada, as it was known, was built at the Citie of Henricus on a high bluff along the James River.

Frances Earle Lutz, in his 1954 publication, Chesterfield: An Old Virginia County, describes Mount Malady on the first page: "Even before the first incorporated town, Chesterfield had the first American recorded hospital, a 'guest house' with eighty beds at Mount Malady, above Dutch Gap."

Earlier, Ralph Hamor, a careful contemporary writer (circa 1614) described Mount Malady as "a retreat or guest house for sicke people, a high seat and wholesome air." From another contemporary observer, Mr. Lutz says, "Here they are building also an Hospitall with forescore lodgins (and beds alreadie sent to furnish them) for the sicke and lame, with keepers to atten them for their comfort and recoverie."

The Henricus Foundation proudly claims title to the first hospital, and we jealously guard that reputation.

John N. Pastore  
Chairman  
The Henricus Foundation  
Chesterfield, Virginia

## FOUNDATION GRANT RECEIVED

In January, the Society received its largest gift ever from a foundation when a grant of \$15,000 came to us from the Gwathmey Trust to be used for archaeology at Magnolia Grange. This, together with \$10,000 from the state of Virginia and \$3,485 from our "\$25 per square yard" project which many of you supported, will enable us to secure professional supervisors from the Archaeological Research Center of Virginia Commonwealth University for several months. We are grateful to this foundation for its generous support and to the family which it honors.

## HELP WANTED!

The Historical Society is looking for a volunteer computer programmer with Cobol and DMS experience to help with some exciting projects. If you would be able to donate some time, please call Angie Wilderman at the Historical Society Office. Thank you!



## MAGNOLIA GRANGE ON GARDEN WEEK TOURS

Magnolia Grange will be the only house in Chesterfield County to be open for Historic Garden Week in Virginia, April 21 - 29.

Sponsored by the Garden Club of Virginia, Historic Garden Week draws thousands of tourists from all over the nation who come to see homes, both old and new, decorated for this annual springtime pilgrimage in Virginia. We are delighted to participate in this event and hope to have our share of visitors.

We will be provided with flower arrangements by seven Chesterfield County Garden Clubs, and our docents in period costume will interpret the history of the plantation house for visitors. Our tour days are April 22, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 29. We invite all of our members to also visit during that week and participate in the event!



## ◆ Reports ◆

continued

### GENEALOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

The marriage records (abstracts from the consent letters, bonds and minister's returns that are on microfilm) have been entered into the computer. Proofreading continues; this includes rechecking microfilm for questionable abstracts and correcting typographical errors. Please feel free to come in and use the computer to inquire about Chesterfield marriages. If you need information about a particular marriage and live out of town, please write us.

Our newest project is indexing volumes of genealogical books in our library. BASSES AND THEIR KIN is now indexed. Our desire is to eventually have a computerized surname index for all our materials. We need volunteers, however, to help on this project. Each volunteer works exclusively on a volume of his or her own choice.

Don't forget our Family History Project. Not only are we delighted to have your pedigree charts and group sheets but any anecdotes, family history, Bible records or copies of newspaper articles are welcome additions.

We have received the following inquiries from researchers around the country; some have information to share and others are in need of assistance. Please lend them a hand or perhaps you can refer them to someone you know who is working on their line. Queries have been received from the following:

### ☛ QUERIES ☛

**CONDITT, CONDUIT, CONDREY, RUDD, FARGUSON, VADEN, BEASLEY:** Seeking information on William Conditt, Sarah Conduit/Conditt and allied lines. From: Miss Wanda Clark 1304, E Miami, McAlester, OK 74501

**BAKER, COBBS, SHARP, HANCOCK:** I have the following line I'd like to work on with someone. William Sharp to VA. 1611; Isaac Sharp, Robert Sharp, Henry Sharp, Mary Sharp married Mathew Cobb, Elizabeth Cobb, Martin Baker, John Baker, Martin Baker, Thomas Baker, Sr., John Baker. I have the manuscript (copy) of Dr. Harr M. Hyatt on the Bakers plus considerable information on the Cobbs. Just want someone to work with me. I've been at it 35 years. Can help anyone working on Samuel Hancock, 1760.

From: Robert W. Evans, 401 Bellaire, Waco, TX 76712

**CHANDLER:** Seeking the parents of Thomas Chandler. Who was Boswell Chandler and William Woodson Chandler?

From: Mrs. Margaret Ferry, 2368 Tachevah Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

## ◆ Queries ◆

**RISON, FOSTER:** I am trying to learn more about ancestors of mine who lived in Chesterfield County during the late 1700's and the early 1800's. My great grandmother was Martha Elizabeth Rison. She was born in Chesterfield County ca. 1820. She was the daughter of John Rison and Jane Foster of Chesterfield County. The Risons had lived in Chesterfield County for many generations. Both of my great grandparents are buried on President's Hill at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond.

From: Jerome Gary, 2003 Kalia Road, #17-H, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

**BLANKENSHIP, WILSON:** Seeking the parents of Silvester Blankenship married Anne Wilson.

From: Sandra Simpson, 5046 S. Lamon, Chicago, IL 60638

### BEATTIE MURDER, *continued*

only the most prosperous had the "vile contraptions" that menaced the highways. The Times-Dispatch carried articles attesting to the lack of traffic laws and regulations governing vehicles and the fact that "fully 1,000 cars in Virginia on which a license tax for 1911 has not been paid".<sup>3</sup> Another story noted that "the smoking machine which has been run out of every city where laws are rigidly enforced will get the first attention of the (Richmond) police".<sup>4</sup>

Mr. Henry C. Beattie, the son of a prosperous Michigan merchant from Manchester, drove a yellow Buick — a rather flashy status symbol for a boy from the "southside".

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The headlines in the papers that summer dealt with a civil war monument proposed for Vicksburg, Mississippi. Senator Heyburn of Idaho was verbally attacking Mississippi Senator Williams for requesting a naval monument in remembrance of Confederate Naval officers.<sup>5</sup> Meanwhile, the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Bull Run was being remembered by Union and Confederate veterans near Manassas, Virginia.

The weather in the summer of 1917 was "the" issue — the rising price of ice and its short supply caught many people by surprise. The July 13th Times-Dispatch reported that "never in the history of Virginia has

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### *The Messenger*

of

The Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia

Bradford S. Hammer, *Editor*

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## BEATTIE MURDER, *continued*

there been such a long spell of oppressive weather....it has created an abnormal demand for one product which is absolutely essential in such times, and the small supplies sent out had to be guarded just as if it were gold instead of the article which is cheap and plentiful in ordinary months".6

Governor William Hodges Mann issued a proclamation calling for the people of Virginia to pray for rain...."because the draught has become so serious...that the water supplies of the cities are threatened ... and great suffering may result".7

\* \* \*

## THE MURDER

A shocking headline on July 19 appeared in the Petersburg Index Appeal describing a "murder occurring five miles from Richmond on Midlothian Turnpike while Mr. and Mrs. Paul Beattie were motoring...shot made at close range, the entire load entering Mrs. Beattie's face. The article noted that an "unidentified white man who escaped" had performed the atrocity...". Bloodhounds brought from Goochland were searching for the trail of the murderer. Mr. Beattie described the man as "tall, with a long beard".8

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"You have got all the road", said Beattie and then he put on the power to pass." The man raised a shotgun he was carrying and fired at close range at the couple in the car. Mr. Beattie jumped from the car and grappled with the slayer, who gave him a smashing blow across the face with the butt of his gun, leaving an ugly scar. They fought for a moment, and as Beattie got possession of the weapon, the stranger disappeared. Springing back into his car, Mr. Beattie was horrified to find the bleeding body of his wife lying across the seat. He tossed the shotgun into the tonneau and started the car to Richmond steering with one hand while he held the body with the other. "Mrs. Beattie is only 23 years old", reported the paper, "...she was married a year ago and is the wife of a South Richmond department store owner and banker."9

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When the citizens of Richmond and Chesterfield arose that morning of July 19 and read the news of the previous day, a thrill of horror went through almost every heart. "An atrocious murder had been committed, and the victim was a defenseless woman, the mother of a five-week old child".

The papers reported that the murder was committed on Midlothian Turnpike, about five miles from the city. The place of the murder was close to the intersection of Providence Road and Midlothian Turnpike, near the railroad track (C & O) right-of-way. The time of the murder was placed at shortly before 11:00 a.m. The initial story's indicated that Henry Clay Beattie (1529 Porter Street, South Richmond-Manchester) quickly returned in his automobile, after the murder, to the residence of Thomas E. Owen with the dead body of his wife in his arms. He told the family members of a tall highwayman, with a beard, that had met him on the road and said "you had better run over me" and then he replied, "you have got all of the road," and undertook to go by him, whereupon the highwayman raised his gun and fired. As the Petersburg paper headlines noted, Mrs. Beattie's face was literally blown off. Henry Clay Beattie indicated that he had wrestled with the stranger and the gun, which was an old-fashioned single barrelled shotgun. The stranger then ran and he, Beattie, threw the shotgun in the back of his yellow Buick and drove immediately back to the Owen residence. During transit, he said, the gun was apparently lost — it had inadvertently fallen out of the vehicle. The Richmond Police Department, both

officers and detectives, and the County Sheriff's Department began to work immediately on the case. Bloodhounds were dispatched from a Penitentiary Farm in Goochland. After a long search the bloodhounds never caught the trail of the tall stranger and only remained in the general vicinity of the murder.10

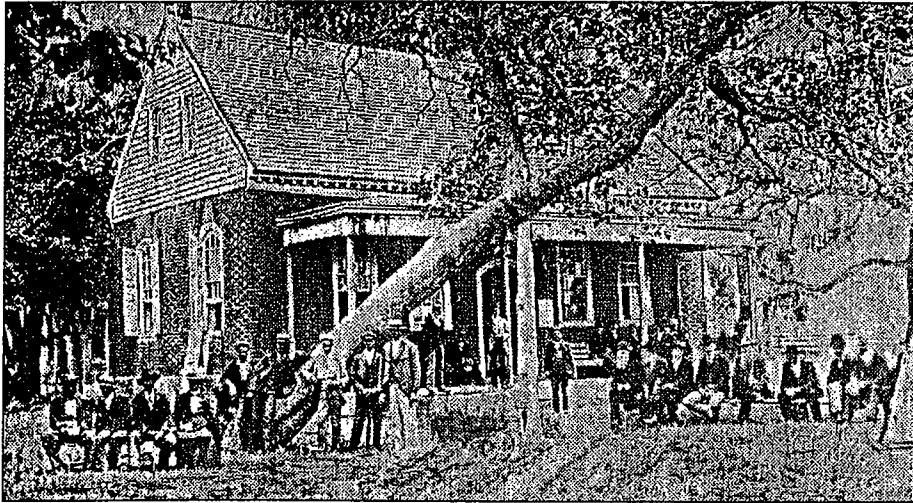
Henry Clay Beattie and Miss Louise Owen were both from south Richmond and had been married 15 months and had just born a child five weeks prior to the murder. Mrs. Beattie was buried at Maury Cemetery on July 20. A large group of people assembled for the burial ceremony. The papers reported that Beattie seemed somewhat grieved. The events that ensued to determine the perpetrator of the crime and the Court proceedings that took place immediately after the murder, captured both statewide and national news. Such a heinous crime that was directed to such an attractive and new mother, obviously caught the sympathy of the American people."11

The Richmond papers reported that County Coroner Loving began a systematic examination of the crime scene at once. The key piece of evidence, the gun, which Mr. Beattie said had been placed in the back of the car was missing. The Coroner had to determine whether it had jolted out in the wild ride back to the Owen residents or whether it had fell to the ground when Beattie had first thrown it on the tonneau. The scene on Midlothian Turnpike was bizarre; officer with lanterns and motor cars with strong search lights patrolled the roads in a desperate attempt to find the missing shotgun. The same time they were looking for any scrap of evidence or trail of the assailant.

The Beattie's had been staying with Mr. Thomas E. Owen in Chesterfield County who was Mrs. Beattie's Uncle and a cousin to Benjamin P. Owen the private secretary to Governor Mann. It was Mr. Thomas E. Owen who contacted the Henrico County Sheriff's Department to obtain the bloodhounds from Goochland. Arrangements were made for them to be put on the murder scene at daylight. The Richmond City Police Department sent a detail of mounted Police under Sergeant Sowell to search for any evidence in every direction of the crime. Another Richmond Police Officer, Detective Sergeant Wrenn of Richmond was one of the first officer's to arrive on the scene and begin his own investigation.

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On Thursday, July 20, the Petersburg Daily Index Appeal reported that the "Beattie Murder", was a blank mystery. One headline indicated that a young negro suspect was arrested, but held only for a short time. The yellow Buick automobile that Beattie owned had been placed in custody in a locked garage as evidence in the case. Papers reported that the car that the husband and the wife were riding in could furnish a clue. Meanwhile, the County Sheriff's Department, assisted by officers from Henrico and Richmond were still scouring the crime scene, assisted by private citizens. Much speculation delted with who was the actual perpetrator of the crime. The Petersburg paper reported, "that question has been asked by every person in the city at least a dozen times a day, and it is still being asked. The answer always is who? There are only two persons on earth who really know who really did commit the awful butchery of the wife of less than a year — they are the husband and the man who committed the crime".12 "The facts surrounding the case were sketchy so far. It was a clear night. The roadside was absent of pedestrians and apparent passersby's. Beattie indicated that his wife immediately fell at the report of the gun, and that her head struck the shoulder of her husband. He indicated that he immediately leaped from his yellow automobile and grappled with the man in the road. Beattie estimated that the man was more than six foot tall and weighed possibly two hundred pounds. The papers noted that Mr. Beattie was a small man, perhaps weighing only 140 pounds and was a foot shorter than the man who he indicated committed the dastardly deed. Beattie apparently




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The Chesterfield Courthouse, with crowd during the trial.

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succeeded in wresting the murder weapon away from the assassin and by doing such received a nasty superficial head wound from the butt of the weapon.

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The newspapers reported that the police had their ideas about the crime but they were not talking. The police indicated that they had a few good and reliable theories. Speculation centered around the motive for the crime. The papers indicated that no motive had been suggested by police. Some theories indicated that perhaps robbery was the intent of the assailant.<sup>13</sup> The papers reported "that Beattie told a straight story". Beattie had recounted the history of the evening by indicating that he had asked Mrs. Beattie to take a short ride with him approximately six miles away from the city to return later that night. The Petersburg paper indicated that "the case is a mystery, but the police, and the County officers involved are confident that they will get the right man at the physiological moment". News accounts from Mrs. Beattie's neighborhood indicated that Mrs. Beattie was "a beautiful young woman". Neighbors were indeed shocked and grieved at the result of the tragedy. Mrs. Beattie was a petite and pretty brunette, vivacious and exceedingly attractive. "She was popular among a large circle of young people in Manchester and had scores of friends."<sup>14</sup>

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## THE INQUEST

After the initial shock of the news reports regarding the murder, attention was focussed on the task of finding the motive and clues of the crime. The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported that Coroner Loving and Magistrate Jacob and the Commonwealth's Attorney Gregory had a prolonged conversation with Special Detective Scherer who is believed to be hot on the trail, and "would not leave it to attend the Corner's Inquest". Corner Loving, in light of all of the activity involved in terms of looking for clues and related evidence, decided to adjourn the inquest jury early to permit a accurate stenographic record of the testimony that had been submitted as part of the inquest. The Beattie's were protesting the fact that the yellow Buick had been secured and not available for use. Mr. Beattie, Sr. asked if he could not have bond for the production of the motor car saying that he would see that it was untouched - that it wouldn't even be cleaned if necessary. The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported that County, City and special officers proceeded to investigate on their own lines, apparently jealous of each others actions. "Jealousy almost reached an open breach just before the inquest" when Special Officer Jarrell appeared with the shotgun at the home of Magistrate Jacob where the inquest was to have been held. Some arguing transpired between officials as to who should really hold the alleged murder weapon. The issue was immediately resolved by County Corner Loving

who ordered that both Mr. Beattie's clothing, the automobile and the weapon should be turned over to the Court as evidence. The jury was to meet at the home of Magistrate Jacob at 6:00 that evening.

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Local papers reported that there were the complaints of some citizens that the police lacked direction and are working independently without concerted action. The belief is growing that their activities are leading in the same direction and that the arrest may be expected at any time. The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported that a large number of people called at the Owen home, among them Judge Ernest H. Wells of South Richmond; Sheriff Mercer of Richmond; Captain Alexander Wright, of South Richmond; John Alsup and Carol Montigue; Detectives Wiltshire and Wrenn; Officers Jarrell and Flynn of the Chesterfield Police.<sup>15</sup>

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By Friday, July 21 the whole thrust of the news reports and investigations began focusing on Henry Beattie, Jr. A woman was called to testify at the inquest, Miss Beulah Binford, who had not previously been reported to be related to the case that caused the inquest to be an instant news sensation. The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported "abandoning all other lines of inquiry, Detectives engaged in tracing the murder of Mrs. Henry Clay Beattie, Jr., who was shot at Midlothian Turnpike...devoted their efforts yesterday to a rigid cross examination of her husband and a minute examination of his past life.<sup>16</sup> Beattie was under the grill for many hours by the detectives at the home of County Corner J. G. Loving, but whatever results the officers obtained, has been kept to themselves."<sup>17</sup> It was also reported that the close cross examination of Beattie yesterday afternoon, at the Loving home, was followed by a similar cross examination of Miss Beulah Binford, described by detectives as the "woman" in the case. Papers reported that Beattie had been very cool and stayed during the inquest examination. Apparently Beattie had known all the while that police activities had been largely centered on him. The paper reported that, for two hours, this went on and telephones were busy at the Loving residence.

The Loving residence was dotted with officers in plain clothes and uniforms. The yellow Buick in which Mrs. Beattie was killed was being examined very carefully. Officers were demonstrating the relative position of the occupants and the apparent conflicts with some of the statements made by Beattie. Beattie had stated that the assailant was 6 feet from the car when the gun was fired. The angle also seemed to be in conflict with the wound on Mrs. Beattie's face. If Beattie's assertions were true, the bullet clearly had to have penetrated the windshield before hitting Mrs. Beattie. The windshield of the car was not damaged. It was reported that the morning sessions were not necessarily confined

## BEATTIE MURDER, *continued*

exclusively to an examination of the Binford woman. Other witnesses were called who were near or around the scene of the murder that Tuesday night. It was reported that several motorists known to have been on the road that night were examined. Some people, who were believed to have heard a shot, were also called.

\* \* \* \*

The funeral of Mrs. Beattie was held on July 20, 1911 at 10:00 a.m. The funeral service was held at Central Methodist Church in South Richmond. It was the same church that she was married in on August 24, 1910. The body was removed on July 19th from the Owen home on North Road in Forest Hill to the Beattie residence on Porter Street in Manchester. Interment services were held at the Maury Cemetery. The papers reported that it was a very solemn occasion, well-attended, with many prominent people from the community. The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported "there were many floral tributes, and an even larger gathering of people had assembled at the grave, in the Beattie section in Maury Cemetery. Mrs. Beattie was buried in her bridal gown of grey, the casket being covered with grey broadcloth, antique silver handles and trimmings. In the course of his prayer, Mr. Phiffer, Reverend of Central Methodist Church, made touching reference to the tragedy of Tuesday night".18

The newspaper articles the next morning expressed the sentiment of the community. "There is no use in trying to disguise the fact that the community has already convicted Beattie. So strong is this feeling that he would be forced to seek a change of venue were his trial scheduled for Richmond or in the Southside. He will be tried in Chesterfield County. Innocent or guilty, the thousands in this town have branded the prisoner as the most brutal murderer that ever faced a jury. Public sentiment is overwhelmingly against him."19

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On the confession of Paul D. Beattie, obtained yesterday in Richmond, while the county authorities were conducting the coroner's inquest in Chesterfield County, Henry Clay Beattie, Jr., was arrested by Detective-Captain McMahon shortly after 3 o'clock as he sat at the dinner table in the home of his father, at 1529 Porter Street, South Richmond.20

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"From Cell, Beattie sends bitter word denying guilt."21

\* \* \* \*

The Binford Woman, gloomy and dispirited, sees no hope of furnishing bond.22

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The lawn at Chesterfield Courthouse was crowded with eager spectators, packed densely about the porch. Young Beattie sat silently beside his father, whose hand rested on the younger man's shoulder in a caressing way. Douglas Beattie, the brother, was visibly troubled by the evident intention of the jury to return an adverse declaration. Through the windows could be seen the jurymen with the Coroner and the Commonwealth's Attorney, studying the form of the paper. Attorney Smith expressed confidence in his ability to meet the charges in a higher court, but tacitly admitted that on the face of the evidence presented the Coroner's verdict would accuse his client.23

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The Henrico jail has comfortable rooms for prisoners awaiting trial, and Beattie's friends preferred to have him there, where his meals might be sent in, and where other arrangements could be made for his convenience, rather than to have him taken at this time to Chesterfield

Courthouse, as accommodation for prisoners there is said to be both limited and primitive. He will, of course, be moved to Chesterfield by the day the grand jury assembles.24

Acting on the advice of his grandmother, Mrs. Elizabeth Black, of 207 Allen Avenue, Paul D. Beattie, of 201 Randolph Street, freely admitted yesterday that he had purchased the shotgun with which Henry C. Beattie, Jr. is alleged to have killed his wife on Tuesday night. Having disclosed the full story of buying the weapon to his wife, Mrs. Ruth Houchens Beattie, his bride of little more than a year, she repeated it last night to The Times-Dispatch.

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"I knew nothing of his figuring in the awful affair until last night," she said. "Since the terrible crime of Tuesday, the nervousness of my husband had been very apparent, but until last night he refused to tell me the story."25

The Coroner's inquest fails to bring out a single fact to relieve the gloom of suspicion resting upon the accused - gruelling examination of Paul Beattie - Miss Binford collapses when arrested. Richmond, Virginia, July 22 - Henry Clay Beattie, Jr., aged twenty-six, son of a wealthy merchant, banker and capitalist is tonight a prisoner in Henrico County jail and stands charged by the coroner's jury with being the murderer of his twenty year old wife.26

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Richmond, Virginia, July 22 - "I hope that the detectives who have been working the case will continue to display the same energy in the future that they have in the past and if they do they will certainly find the guilty party".

This was the statement made by Henry C. Beattie, Jr., tonight as he sat in his cell in the county jail, to a deputy sheriff.

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Beulah Binford is also in the same jail, the two latter being held in five thousand dollar bail as witnesses. Paul Beattie is taking his detention complacently, declaring "they failed to put anything over on me today and I am prepared to prove an alibi at any time."27

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For intensity of interest and depth of popular feeling nothing in all the annals of crime in Virginia can quite approach the Beattie case, which reached a long expected, but none the less sensational climax yesterday afternoon in the arrest of the husband of the dead girl.28

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Charged with the murder of his wife, Henry Clay Beattie, Jr. around whom a storm of popular clamor and excitement has raged for three days, went yesterday afternoon to a solitary cell, where, without hope of bail, he will await a further summons from the law.29

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It soon became evident that Paul Beattie was too much excited to be placed on the witness stand, and fearing that the boy might work himself into a state of mental collapse, Coroner Loving ordered his removal to the City Home Hospital, under charge of officers. He revived when taken from the scene of the inquest, and at the City Home was able to walk into the building without assistance. The physicians expressed no doubt that he will be able to testify when the inquiry is continued today.

\* \* \* \*

"I, Paul D. Beattie, hereby state that during the week of July 10 Henry C. Beattie called me up at my home and asked me to meet him at the corner of Short and Main Streets, which I did, and after meeting

Continued on page 7

# REPORT OF THE TREASURER

DECEMBER 31, 1989

BALANCE AT JULY 1, 1989

\$69,361.80

## INCOME:

Bateau Committee	533.80
Civil War Sites	972.57
Donations	608.38
Dues	6,225.00
Genealogy	41.00
Historic Sites Book	654.90
Interest	2,179.57
Magnolia Grange Admissions	881.99
Magnolia Grange Donations	9,892.50
Magnolia Grange Pewter	42.00
Magnolia Grange Conference Room Rent	25.00
Maps and Tubes	404.00
Note Paper Sales	<u>33.00</u>

22,493.71

## EXPENSES:

Bateau Committee	428.66
Civil War Sites	804.80
Computer	993.17
Genealogy	6.83
Historic Markers	100.00
Hospitality	71.47
Library	130.82
Magnolia Grange	14,987.63
Messenger	717.89
Miscellaneous	208.27
Note Paper	62.50
Office Expense	450.16
Photographs	33.09
Postage	406.24
Service Charges	<u>119.16</u>

19,520.71

## NET INCREASE

2,973.00

\$72,334.80

## ASSETS:

Petty Cash	200.00
Genealogy Petty Cash	20.00
Life Member Certificate	200.00
Cash-Dominion Bank Money Market	42,329.69
Cash-Dominion Bank Checking Account	12,122.98
Cash-Investors Money Market	17,479.97
Magnolia Grange Fund	

72,352.64

## LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	<u>17.84</u>
	17.84

BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 1989

\$72,334.80

Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce E. Honderich

## LEESBURG TOUR

Join us on June 2nd for our fifth annual bus trip to another historic area of Virginia. This year we will be going to Leesurg in Loudoun County in the Virginia hunt country to visit Morven Park and Outlands, two nineteenth century plantations, with lunch at the Red Fox Inn in Middleburg.

You will recall our tours in past years to Stratford Hall, Scotchtown, Monticello, Ash Lawn, Kenmore, the Mary Washington House, and last year, to Bacon's Castle, Chippokes, etc. Travelling with friends who have common interests makes for a delightful day.

We will leave from the Courthouse at 8:00 a.m., returning around 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$36 per person, which includes bus transportation, admissions and lunch. For reservations, send check payable to the Chesterfield Historical Society, P. O. Box 40, Chesterfield, Virginia 23832 by May 25th. Your guests are also welcome.

Please join us!

## BEATTIE MURDER, *continued*

him, we talked for a while, and he asked me to buy him a shotgun, whereupon I asked him what he wanted it for, and he didn't tell me what he wanted it for. I told him that I would, whereupon I went to a pawnshop in Sixth Street and priced a single-barreled shotgun, the kind he had advised me to get, and on the following Saturday night, about 10:15 o'clock, which was July 15, 1911; in company with Henry C. Beattie, in his, the said Henry C. Beattie's automobile, I went to the pawnshop and secured the gun, paying \$2.50, and delivering the guns to Henry C. Beattie whereupon we both get into the automobile, and he, the said Henry C. Beattie, brought me home, arriving at home around 11:15 p.m. July 15.

I also state that I bought three shotgun shells from W. B. Kidd's hardware store, at the corner of Harrison and Cary Streets, on the afternoon of July 15, 1911, and gave them to Henry C. Beattie."

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Criminal history in Virginia will hardly furnish a more dramatic scene than witnessed yesterday on the lawn of Coroner J. G. Loving, on the

