

The Messenger

JANUARY 1993 - NUMBER 22 23



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

FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

After discussion, our Board of Directors recently requested an evaluation of our publication goals and directed that I appoint a committee to study these and make recommendations on the subject.

Accordingly, the committee, chaired by Judge Ernest Gates, has reported and recommends that the current semi-annual **Messenger** be revamped as a quarterly newsletter to keep the membership better informed of our activities. Under separate cover, an annual journal with more scholarly researched historical articles should be produced.

This newsletter is a trial issue of our beginning efforts, all subject to the approval of our Board of Directors. Suggestions and contributions from our members are sincerely appreciated.

We hope you will like our new style!

Gordon E. Jonas, President

QUARTERLY MEETING

Plan to attend our luncheon meeting on **Sunday, January 24th**, at Meadowbrook Country Club, 3700 Cogbill Road, at 1:00 p.m. The speaker will be Hugh Miller, director of the Virginia Department of Historic resources, who will talk on Virginia Historic Landmarks in Chesterfield and point out other important sites in the area which merit designation. We look forward to hearing this noted state official! In addition, annual reports will be distributed, giving you an assessment of our accomplishments in 1992.

If you wish to have your copy of our new book signed (see related story, page 2), the author, Dorothy Silvers, will be attending.

The menu for the luncheon offers you a choice of roast beef or turkey. The price, which includes dessert, tax, and gratuity, is \$12.00 per person. For reservations, send you check to our office by **Monday, January 18th** and indicate your menu choice.

We need your support!

HERITAGE CRAFTS CLASSES FILLING RAPIDLY

Spaces in this year's **Heritage Crafts Classes** at Magnolia Grange are filling at a rapid pace. Upcoming classes, which include knitting, beginning tatting, and advanced tatting have limited space left. Another beginning tatting class and a new addition, bobbin lace making, are filled.

If you are interested in participating and would like additional information and/or a brochure, phone Jennifer Wright at 796-1479 or 748-1026. Hurry! These classes are expected to fill soon!

**SALE OF HISTORY BOOK
PROVES SUCCESSFUL**

Initial response to our new book, **Chesterfield, An Old Virginia County, Volume II**, has been overwhelming! Written by journalism professor Dorothy Fuller Silvers, it was published by our Museum Committee. Of this first printing, introduced on November 1st, we have already sold almost half of the original 1,050 copies. At this rate we will soon need a second printing!

If you have not yet purchased your copy, you may obtain it from the Museum for \$26.13 (includes tax). Please add \$2.50 per book if you wish us to mail it to you. A few copies of Volume I are still available at the same price or you may wish to have the set for \$45.00 plus \$2.03 tax and \$4.00 postage.

Other publishing goals of the Society for the coming year include a history of the county judiciary written by Judge Ernest P. Gates for which we have been awarded a grant of \$2,500 from the Lind Lawrence Foundation to fund the printing. Also, a pictorial history of Chesterfield is being prepared by our Picture Collection Committee under the leadership of Hugh Goodwyn and with assistance from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy and C&P Telephone Company.

In addition, consideration is being given to re-printing the popular but out-of-print **Chesterfield County, Early Architecture and Historic Sites** by Jeffrey O'Dell when funds become available.

If you enjoy writing and have produced a manuscript on Chesterfield's illustrious history we invite you to submit it to our Publications Committee for their consideration as a future project. Your ideas are always welcome!

W I S H L I S T

The Board of Directors has adopted as a major goal for 1993 that we purchase a new personal computer. It will be valuable to:

- 1) Keep our financial records.
- 2) Organize our membership roll.
- 3) Produce brochures and newsletters such as this.

If you wish to make a contribution to this fund we would welcome your assistance.



OUT OF THE PAST

The photo at left was taken in front of Ruffin & Graves Merchandise Store, ca. 1915. The small building to the right was the town's only barber shop in that year. Haircuts were only 15¢. The store caught fire and burned to the ground in 1928.

Chester, Virginia
c. 1915

OUT ON A LIMB

Connecting with other researchers and sharing information are important facets of genealogy. If you are looking for information and corresponding with others, please always enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE). Remember too, for best results when writing to courthouses and libraries, ask for one item of information (i.e., marriage, deed, will, or burial, etc.) concerning one surname at a time.

Mary Parker, 1409 Elm Terrace, Titusville, FL, 32780, **ECOFF** and **CHALKLEY**
and

John Shroeder, 5418 Inverchapel Road, Springfield, VA 22151: looking for information on the **ACUFF**, **ECOFF** family. He would like to know how Ecoff Road came by its name. Mr. Shroeder is a member of the Fairfax County Historical Society and Genealogical Society and is willing to look for information for researchers in that area.

Margaret Snavelly Jones, Rt. 2 Box 10-L-7, Medical Lake, WA 99022-9802: Judith **COLEMAN** appears to be the widow of Abraham **BAUGH**. She is looking for records for Judith Coleman.

Russell Leeton, 4040 Porte De Palmas #28, San Diego, CA 92122: looking for Benjamin **LEETON/LEATON**, son of Hugh Leeton, ca. 1790.

Mr. & Mrs. Wesley W. Gordon, 3269 N. Mtn. View Dr., San Diego, CA 92116-1736: looking for the burial place of Cornelia **HAIGHT** Cook, wife of Pardon **COOK**. Does anyone have information about Movius Bros. Farm Machinery and Furniture?

R E M I N D E R

The Chesterfield Historical Society is still collecting your Ukrop's **Golden Gifts** receipts. We must have them called and turned in by January 30th in order to receive 2% of the total as a cash-back donation from Ukrop's. **Please turn in your receipts as soon as possible!** THANK YOU.

OUR APPRECIATION

The Society wishes to thank the following persons who have generously donated to our collections:

To The Museum:

Mrs. Phillip K. Morton - Washing Machine, wooden, c. 1900.

Gordon Smith - **Stars & Stripes** newspapers, 15 Nov. 1918 and 3 Jan. 1919.

Bryan Walker - Two benches, restored, from the Old Courthouse, for use on the Museum porch.

To The Library:

Rev. R.H. Clark - Book: **The Family of Reverend Ralph Hampton Clark**

Martha DuBose - Map: **Adventurers and Planters at Arrowhatocks in Henrico County, 1611-1665.**

J. Porter Hudson - Book: **A Notebook of Early Hudson History**

J. Louis Longest - Book: **The History of the Longest Family**

Lula L. Maul - Booklet: **Providence Methodist Church; Historical Sketch and Church Directory**

Lucille C. Moseley - Booklet - **Bethel Baptist Church, 1967 - 1992**

Franda Pedlow - Manuscript: **Clay Family Papers**

John Hale Stutesman - Manuscript: **Hallsboro Neighborhood and Its Families**

Jerome Traver - Book: **Some Descendants of Three Early Henrico (Chesterfield) County, Virginia Settlers: James Hill, John Puckett, and John Fowler**

William E. Trout, III - Book: **Appomattox River Seay Stories**

To The Historical Society:

Richard Long - Sharp VHS Camcorder

To Magnolia Grange:

Freddie Ridout - Twenty-five Christmas ornaments for re-sale, pewter, with picture of Magnolia Grange and history engraved on them.

NEW BOOK OF BATEAU STORIES AVAILABLE

Copies of the new book, **Appomattox River Seay Stories; Reminiscences of James Washington Seay, The Last of the Appomattox River Batteamen** are available at the Chesterfield Historical Society office or by calling Nancy R. Dunnivant at (804)748-6764. The cost is \$12.00 per copy. If you want it mailed please add \$1.50 for postage. Copies will also be available at the January quarterly meeting at which time Dr. Trout will be available to sign them. The beautiful color print cover and interesting stories inside make this a nice addition to anyone's collection.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

We welcome the following new members who have joined the Chesterfield Historical Society since October 1992:

- Mr. Wayne C. Boggs, Mrs. Martha DuVal Bolling
- Mr. David L. Campbell, Mrs. Ruth B. Epes,
- Mr. Joe H. Ferguson, Mrs. Sharon B. Garber,
- Mrs. Brenda P. Ham, Mr. Jerry W. Ham,
- Mr. Marshall McKenzie, Mrs. Mary McGinnis,
- Mr. Kevin McGinnis, Mrs. Elizabeth J. Matthews,
- Mrs. Rose A. Meyer, Mr. John H. Ortiz,
- Mrs. Shirley Marple Olson, Mrs. Mattie Pierce,
- Mrs. Ann M. Robertson, Mrs. Becky Robinette Wright

DID YOU KNOW . . .

... that Midlothian Turnpike (ca. 1807) was the first paved road in Virginia?

HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR NEW MESSENGER?

We hope that you are enjoying your copy of the Messenger. Let us know - we need your input to make it great!

Also, suggestions regarding the Society, the museums, and our other activities are always welcome. Questions, comments, or concerns may be sent to the Chesterfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 40, Chesterfield, VA 23832, ATT: Jennifer Wright. Or feel free to call us at (804) 748-1026. We look forward to hearing from you!

HELP US TO GROW! Pass along the application below to your friends and family who would enjoy membership in the Chesterfield Historical Society!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE () _____

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|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| _____ Single Membership | \$12 per year | _____ Student Membership | \$5 per year |
| _____ Couple Membership | \$20 per year | _____ Sustaining Membership | \$100 per year |
| _____ Family Membership | \$25 per year | _____ Corporate Membership | \$500 per year |

I am interested in serving on the following committees: _____

The membership year is July 1-June 30. New memberships commencing after Jan. 1 are half price. Please enclose this form and make check payable to: Chesterfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 40, Chesterfield, VA 23832. Dues are tax-deductible.

CHESTERFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 40
CHESTERFIELD, VA 23832

