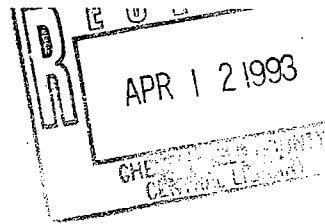


The Messenger

April 1993 - Number 24

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



QUARTERLY MEETING TO BE HELD AT PRESQUILE

The quarterly meeting of the Historical Society promises to be a real "spring fling" and we hope all of you will attend! We will meet at a site that probably is unfamiliar to the majority of our members: Presquile National Wildlife Refuge at Bermuda Hundred, on Sunday, April 25th at 2:30 pm. This is a section of the county with great historical significance, but we have long neglected to recognize its importance.

Our speaker will be Dr. L. Daniel Mouer, director of the Archaeological Research Center at Virginia Commonwealth University, who will speak on the extensive archaeology which he has done in the Bermuda Hundred area.

To get to Presquile from Chester continue on Route 10 East about 7 miles, turn left onto Allied Road, drive beyond the factories to the river. Turn left onto a dirt road to the ferry and park your car. We will cross over by ferry.

Remember to bring your lawn chair and dress casually. For your information, you may wish to read pp. 14-17 and 284-287 in your O'Dell book before coming to the meeting.

Although we hope for a bright sunny day, in the event of rain we will meet in the Old Courthouse.

PLANTATION DAY MAY 2nd

Years ago, when Virginia plantations such as Magnolia Grange were working farms instead of historic landmarks, each one was more than a source of tobacco, cotton or corn. They were home to the families that owned them and the

people who worked them. And because those people often numbered a hundred or more and the farms were far apart, plantations were similar to small villages.

Occupants raised, hunted for or grew most of their foods, made their own cloth and made clothes and linens and produced many household necessities such as furniture, candles, soap and herbal medicines.

Children of plantation owners often received their early schooling at home, and as they grew older, they were instructed in how to run a farm or a household. Some owners had their own chapels and held their own religious services, and they provided much of their own entertainment for holidays and other occasions.

On May 2, the public is invited to take a look back in time at Virginia plantation life at Magnolia Grange's annual Plantation Day. Tours of the Federal-style house will be given, and craftspersons will give demonstrations on the grounds of plantation household tasks such as baking bread, dipping candles, carding wool, quilting, tatting, making ice cream, caning chairs, and tending bees.

The event also will feature a storyteller, Colonial dancing, fiddling and performances of spiritual songs. Re-enactors portraying a Civil War unit and the crew of a James River batteau, used to transport tobacco and other crops, will be present as well, and full-size replica batteau Lord Chesterfield will be on the grounds.

Plantation Day will run from 12:30 - 5 p.m. Down-home foods such as ham biscuits and fried chicken will be sold, and there will be pony rides and period games for children. Admission to the event is free, and tours of the house will be \$2 for adults, \$1.50 for seniors and \$1 for students.

-Contributed by Pam Wiley

THANK YOU!

We thank all of you who recently contributed your Ukrop's receipts from their gift program to non-profit organizations. We realized approximately \$150 from your participation, which we added to our computer fund.

That, combined with additional contributions from several of you, enabled us to purchase a Procorp IBM compatible computer with Windows capabilities.

We are now using our new equipment for this newsletter, other brochures, our financial records and our membership roll! Thank you for your support!

We wish to thank the following members and friends for their generous gifts to the Society:

To Magnolia Grange:

- Mildred Daffron - Framing of photograph
- Betty Matthews - Hand vacuum cleaner
- Mrs. George Moore - hand woven 1850 coverlet

To the Museum:

- Elton Beverly - Civil War shell fragment
- Robert Burton - World War II foreign currency
- Arline McGuire - Framed photograph of the Tidewater and Western Railroad, circa 1900.
- Everett Rhotten - Civil War shell fragment
- Louis Woodcock - Rubber fireman's coat and hat, circa 1950

To the Library:

- Betty M. Beverly - Book: The History of Buckhead
- Evelyn Cox - Booklet: The History of Enon Baptist

Church, 1849-1949

Mildred P. Daffron -
Manuscript: *Cogbill Family Papers*

Joan Girone - Books:
This Is Our Story: Bon Air United Methodist Church & We Are Family, One in Christ (Bon Air United Methodist Church)

Frances MacKenzie -
Booklet: *Some Old Historic Landmarks of Virginia & Maryland*

Lula Maul - Booklet:
Providence United Methodist Church

Lucille Moseley -
Booklet: *Bethel Baptist Church: A Book of Memories*
Mrs. C.C. Partin -
Manuscripts: *Nunnally Family Bible Records, 1818-1912, Perkinson Family Bible Records, 1844-1910, & McLannan Family Papers, 1793-1806*

John Reed -
Manuscript: *Folkes Family Bible Records, 1743-1935*
Vera P. Robertson -
Booklets: *Centennial, Ivey Memorial United Methodist Church, 1882-1982 & Ivey Memorial United Methodist Church, 1882-1990*
Dr. Benjamin Weisiger -
Periodicals: *The Southside Virginian Genealogical Journal, 1982-1992.*

SPRING TRIP TO NORFOLK PLANNED

In previous years many of us have enjoyed the fun and fellowship of our annual bus trip to various historic sites in Virginia including those to Charlottesville, Fredricksburg, Lynchburg, Surry County, Loudoun County, etc. So join us on **May 24th** for another delightful day with Society members as we travel this year to Norfolk.

We will tour the 1680 Adam Thoroughgood House, the Norfolk Botanical Gardens, the 1792 Moses

Myers House and the Chrysler Museums with lunch at Waterside. We will depart from the parking lot behind the Museum at 7:30 a.m. returning between 6:30 and 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$30.00 which includes bus transportation and all admissions. Lunch will be on your own.

For reservations send a check to the Chesterfield Historical Society by May 7th. Your guests are also welcome.

CHESTERFIELD FOURTH GRADERS VISIT MUSEUMS

Each spring, they show up by the busload, and they've got plenty of questions.

Between 3,000 and 4,000 schoolchildren tour the Chesterfield Museum Complex each school year. While as many as 1,200 first-graders visit Magnolia Grange and the Museum to see the Christmas holiday exhibits, the majority of the children are fourth-graders, whose tours tie in with their studies of county and state history.

Museum Director Lucille Moseley said tours for school groups are available throughout the school year, but most groups schedule their visits between mid-March and the first week in June.

Two classrooms of children usually visit at a time, and their visits take about three hours and require seven guides, Mrs. Moseley said. "For most schools, it takes two or three days to get (all of the fourth-graders) through." For schools that do not send groups to the museum complex, a program in which artifacts are taken into the classroom is available.

Many of the fourth-graders already are familiar with some of the items in the county museum. There are photographs of 14 items or exhibits in the museum's collection in the textbook

on Chesterfield history that is used in the county public schools. The children tour not only the museum, but also Magnolia Grange, the Old Jail, and the historic Old Courthouse building, where they participate in a mock trial. Defendants who are found guilty are marched by their classmates to the pillory on the jail's front porch.

"At Magnolia Grange," Mrs. Moseley said, "they are curious about the absence of bathrooms and closets. Some think that a child who slept in the nursery trundle bed was stuffed underneath the larger bed each night."

And frequently, she added, "they ask if I live there."

But if life in the Magnolia Grange house seems that real to them, she said, "that's kind of a compliment in a way."

-Contributed by Pam Wiley

FROM OUR RECORDING SECRETARY

The regular winter meeting of the Chesterfield Historical Society took place at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, January 24th, at the Meadowbrook Country Club. After enjoying lunch, members enjoyed a fascinating talk about historic landmark designations presented by Mr. Hugh Miller from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. With the use of slides and anecdotal stories, Mr. Miller explained what historic landmark designation means in Virginia, including the procedures taken to place a site on the register, as well as the legal limitations of such a designation. In addition, Mr. Miller discussed several sites in Chesterfield that either have or merit landmark designation.

-Contributed by Paul Shelton

COMMITTEE PROFILES

Editor's Note: Over the next several issues of the Messenger all of the Society's committees will be highlighted. This will give you an opportunity to read about what the various committees do and hopefully to spark your interest in joining one or more of them.

The Historical Society employees two paid staff members. The **Personnel Committee** oversees these positions and makes recommendations to the Board about them. -*Charlie Quaiff, Chairman.*

At our quarterly meetings light refreshments are provided by the **Hospitality Committee**. The group purchases the food and drink before the meeting day. At the time of the meeting the committee is responsible for setting-up and cleaning-up the snack area. -*Dick Allen, Chairman*

The **Magnolia Grange Committee** is responsible for the furnishings, restoration, preservation, and operation of the Magnolia Grange Museum House. The group works to raise funds to support their work on the house and its furnishings and to encourage visitation to the house. The house's primary role is to serve as an educational tool in aiding children and adults to learn about the past. House tours are conducted by volunteer docents who learn the history of the house and its furnishings during a training period.

Committee members meet an average of once a month while docents are usually assigned on weekly basis. -*Arline McGuire, Chairman*

- *Article Contributed by Jeanette Ortiz*

MANY THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

If you have ever visited the County Museum, Historic Courthouse, 1892 Jail or Magnolia Grange or have done research in the genealogical library, chances are you were assisted by one or more of the approximately 80 volunteers who donate their time and talents to the Historical Society on a weekly basis. To this dedicated group we owe a gigantic **THANK YOU!** Without them it would be impossible to keep our museums open on a daily basis.

In addition, we would also like to thank all of you who serve on the various committees of the Society. Your enthusiasm and commitment have made us one of the most successful societies in the state!

The following people contributed time to our museum and library facilities in 1992 categorized by their total donated hours since the commencement of service to the Society :

1 - 50 Hours:

Helen Creekmore, Al Covington, Helen Patrick, Jennifer Perry, Mary Kay Gates, Linda Henderson, Betty Matthews, Cen Waters, Elizabeth Barker, Marcia Eppes, Ann Shelton, Margaret Connelley

51 - 100 Hours:

Pat Ault, Patsy Murphy, Dick Page, Sarah Page, Merle Waldron, Beverly Rothert, Vivian Love, Audrey Elliot, Sandra Boatman

101 - 200 Hours

Gay Robinson, Mabel Sullins, Edie Winston, Dot Hawkins, Mary Plummer Humphrey, Rachel Lipowicz, Melle Mayo

201 - 300 Hours:

Joe Vaden, Rebecca Badger, Esther Bass, Thelma Beachley, Clare Hobson, Rachel Holmes, Karen Morris, Margaret Robertson, Englar Roop, Agnes Evans, Patsy Jewett, Isabel Steiner, Kathleen Baker, Helen Brown, Martha DuBose, Terry Roach, Angela Wilderman

301 - 400 Hours:

Mary Barnes, Lillian Cubbon, Frances Morris, Helen Perkins, Peg Ragland, Laura Sloan, Vivian Fogle, Helen Goyne, Fay Cecil, Elizabeth Johnson, Rovena Jones, Nora Langford

401 - 500 Hours:

Lona Bowen, Ruby Williams, Mildred Daffron, Tamara Puster, Gwen Coalter

501 - 750 Hours:

Charlie Quaiff, Irene Bissett, Natalie Day, Gordon Jonas, Mary Elizabeth Jonas, Margaret Burgess, Pattie Grady

751-1,000 Hours:

Mary Mays, Marvin Reed, Frances MacKenzie

1,001 - Or More Hours:

Buddy McGuire, Nancy Dunnavant, Sam Hilbert, Ed Moseley

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

March, April, May, June - Tours for 4th graders in Chesterfield schools, daily, 9:30-1

April 18-23 & 25 - Historic Garden Week in Virginia, Magnolia Grange

April 25 - Quarterly meeting of the Society, Presquile, 2:30 PM. Dr. L. Daniel Mouer, speaker.

May 2 - Plantation Day, Magnolia Grange, 12:30-5 PM.

May 22 - Annual spring bus tour for Chesterfield Historical Society members, to Norfolk, 7:30 AM - 7:00 PM.

July - "Heritage Krafts for Kids", Magnolia Grange, 9:30-11:30 AM.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Chesterfield Historical Society welcomes new members who have joined between Jan. 1 - Feb. 22, 1993:

Donna Cottrell
Rebekah Robin Johnson Daniels
Elizabeth Taylor Davis
Dr. Halcott T. Haden
Phyllis P. Haden
Andrea L. Hale
Susan B. Hastings
William S. Hastings, Jr.
Mindy M. Helms
Jacquelin J. Johnston
Amelia B. Nicholson
L. Keith Nicholson
Kris Paavola
Glenn R. Pratt
Marion B. Pratt
Lori Thomas
David Welchons
Mary D. Welchons
W. Courtney Wells

OUT ON A LIMB

We need your help!!!
If you have interesting family history to share or factual tidbits, please consider sharing them with the Genealogical Records Committee for inclusion in the Family History File. We need copies of Bible records, obituary notices, and old letters that relate to people who lived in Chesterfield and surrounding counties. Information from these records links families who moved from the area to one another and is the documentation that researchers need to complete their family charts.

QUERIES:

Mrs. Nancy Turpin Fiske Milne, P.O. Box 872 - 4 Norwich Meadows, Norwich, Vermont, 05055 is hoping to obtain information about **Col. Thomas Turpin** who married **Mary Jefferson**.

Lorene Berry, Rt. 10, Box 1080, Lufkin, TX, 75901 needs the name of the first and second wives of **James Flournoy**. He died in early 1801.

-Contributed by Angie Wilderman

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: () _____

I am interested in serving on the following committees:

_____ Family Membership (\$25 per yr.)
_____ Single Membership (\$12 per yr.)
_____ Corporate Membership (\$500 per yr.)
_____ Sustaining Membership (\$100 per yr.)
_____ Couple Membership (\$20 per yr.)
_____ Student Membership (\$5 per yr.)

Make checks payable to the Chesterfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 40, Chesterfield, VA 23832

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