

# The Messenger

October 1993 - Number 26

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



## Quarterly Meeting to be held at Battery Dantzler

It is our pleasure to be holding a **Member's Preview of Battery Dantzler** as the fall meeting of the Society on **Sunday, October 24th, at 2:30 P.M.**

The 1.29 acre site fronting on the old channel of the James River has been donated to the county by Air Products Corporation who, in turn, have given custodianship jointly to the Chesterfield Historical Society and the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Chester Station Camp. We are charged with developing and maintaining it as a new county park.

We invite you to hear George Fickett, chairman of our Civil War Sites Committee, speak on "Battery Dantzler and the Bermuda Hundred Line, 1864-65" and then go with him as he leads a tour of the site.

**Directions:** Take Route 10 seven miles beyond the Courthouse and turn left one block beyond a red light onto Bermuda Triangle Drive. Go to the end of the road, following the signs.

**Please bring your own lawn chair or blanket!**

## County Pictorial History For Sale

This fall, for the first time, copies of the Chesterfield Historical Society's popular picture collections will be available by mid-October in a book entitled *A Time To Remember*. The volume contains over 200 pictures of scenes of special occasions and just plain everyday life. Covering the period from the 1860's through the 1960's the book will be sure to stir the memories of older readers and intrigue younger ones

with views of what the county looked like way back when. Priced at just \$20.90 (including tax) for this collector's edition, the book is available either at the Old Courthouse or through the mail (\$2.50 extra for postage).

Copies of this book will make ideal gifts for family and friends. Get your copies while they last!

*-Contributed by Jeannette Ortiz*

## New Officers Elected

*Officers and directors who will lead the Society for the coming two years, July 1993-1995, were elected at our last quarterly meeting. We applaud their commitment to serve as we lend them our whole-hearted support! They are:*

**President:** Jim Daniels  
**1st Vice-President:** Laurie Horner  
**2nd Vice-President:** Fay Myers Cecil  
**Recording Secretary:** Tamara Puster  
**Treasurer:** Charlie Quaff  
**Assistant Treasurer:** Sam Hilbert  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Rebecca Badger

**Directors:**  
Steve Cormier  
Arlene McGuire  
Glen Morgan  
Dick Page  
Baxter Perkinson  
Paul Shelton  
Dr. Robert Wagenknecht  
**Past President:** Gordon Jonas

## Ukrop's Golden Gifts

As in past years the Historical Society will once again participate this fall in Ukrop's Golden Gifts Program. Save their yellow receipts from September 27 - December 4 and send them to us in December for a 2% cash back donation to the Society. **Thank you very much.**

## FROM THE OUTGOING RECORDING SECRETARY

The annual Summer meeting of the Chesterfield Historical Society was held on the afternoon of Sunday, July 25, at the old Courthouse. A large number were in attendance for this meeting, in which we elected and installed new officers and board members. The new president, Jim Daniels, presented a gift from the Society to outgoing president Gordon Jonas. New officers and board members were installed by outgoing board member John Pearsall. After these formalities were concluded, Jim Daniels introduced our speaker, Dr. Wyatt Osborne, who spoke on the history of the different seventeenth- and eighteenth-century settlements called Osbornes. The first settlement was on the northern end of Coxendale, at the Osborne plantation called Fearing. The second settlement, dating to the 1760s, was south of Fearing, across the river from the western tip of Farrar's Island. Dr. Osborne used slides to present this history. In concert with Dawn Burns' presentation of artifacts from the second Osbornes site, Dr. Osborne's talk was truly fascinating. The meeting was concluded with light refreshments.

*-Contributed by Paul Shelton*

## Are Your Dues Current?

If you have not paid your 1993-94 dues, we assume that you do not wish to remain an active member. Therefore, we regret to inform you that this will be your last issue of *The Messenger* and that your name will reluctantly be removed from our mailing list if we do not hear from you by **November 1, 1993**. Questions? Call us at (804) 748-1026.

## From the Membership Chairman...

We want to thank those members who responded promptly in renewing their membership with a special THANK YOU to those of you who included a donation with your dues payment. Every gift, large and small, is appreciated.

Welcome aboard our new members who have joined us during the period July through September:

Mrs. Frances Abbott  
Dr. James L. Abbott  
Ben H. Bailey  
Bruce W. Baker  
Stephen W. Berry, Jr.  
Mr. and Mr. Houston Vaden Blair  
Mrs. Walter L. Boyd  
Paige S. Brockwell  
Andrea Cote  
Eleanor D. Darby  
Helen M. Davidson  
Christopher Elliott  
Johnathan B. Elliott  
Judge and Mrs. Herbert C. Gill, Jr.  
Cornelia Smith Goddin  
Marie Stringer Kaehler  
Barbara C. Little  
Barbara A. McHale  
John L. McHale, III  
Kristi Orcutt  
David L. Phillips  
Barbabra C. Pill  
Emma M. Pill  
Maria A. Pill  
Mark B. Pill  
Rachel M. Pill  
Rebecca A. Pill  
Curtis L. Rice

Many thanks go to our sustaining and corporate members.

### Sustaining Members:

Dr. & Mrs. James L. Abbott  
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Hilbert  
Mr. & Mrs. Irving G. Horner  
Col. & Mrs. Gordon E. Jonas  
Mr. & Mrs. Russell H. Leonard, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. John Pearsall  
Mr. C.B. Safritt, Jr.  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Wagenknecht

### Corporate Members:

Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company, Raymond E. Gross, area manager.

The Lind Lawrence Foundation  
-Contributed by Fay Myers Cecil

## Thank You

We wish to thank the following members and friends who have contributed to our collections:

### To the Museums:

Chesterfield Fire Dept. Dive Team - An iron ladel, probably from Bellona Foundry and Arsenal.

Ingrid E. Godwin - A wooden yoke, used to carry buckets of water.

Lee Goode - A World War I postcard from France.

John D. Harper - A Colonial hoe

Mildred Luck - Items for our Country Store exhibit

Edward Moseley - 4 copies of World War II Stars and Stripes newspapers.

Charles Richter - Collection of Chesterfield Police Dept. items.

Peter M. Sierlecki - World War II leggings.

### To Magnolia Grange:

Ingrid E. Godwin - Victorian calling cards.

### To Our Library:

Martha DuBose - Book: *Landowners of Cowendale, Chesterfield County, Virginia*

George Fickett - *Record of the Federal Dead Buried (from Point of Rocks Cemetery) at City Point.*

Keith Francis - *Dupree Family genealogical charts, 1699-1857.*

Pattie Grady - *1856 Map of Manchester, 1859 Map of Manchester, The Brunsford Family.*

Sue Hughes - *The Bolling Volume*

Edward Moseley - *V-Mail from World War II, nine letters.*

John Pearsall - *Three volumes, William & Mary College Quarterly, 1938.*

Charles Richter - *Richter Family papers, 1904-1911.*

Joyce Lee Smith - *Temple, Newell, Lynch, and Other Family Notes, 1616-1971.*

-Contributed by Lucille Moseley

## The Perfect Gift...

A gift membership to the Chesterfield Historical Society. Call us for details. 748-1026

## In Memory of Waverly Winfree

Waverly Keith Winfree, a dedicated member of the staff of the Virginia Historical Society for nearly thirty-two years, died suddenly on August 16, 1993.

Born in Chesterfield County on 15 July 1933, Waverly attended local schools and joined the staff of the Virginia State Library after high school graduation in 1951. He received his B.A. in history from the University of Richmond and a M.A. degree in history from the College of William and Mary two years later. He then returned to the State Library as a professional archivist until he joined the staff of the Virginia Historical Society as assistant curator of manuscripts in 1961. Promoted to curator in 1970, he began his own private manuscripts appraisal business about 1976.

Waverly was also a charter member and longtime officer of the Chesterfield Historical Society and chaired its library committee.

The Virginia Historical Society is accepting contributions in his memory which will be directed to a special fund to purchase 19th century Virginia manuscript materials. Along with that tangible tribute, staff (of the Virginia Historical Society), colleagues, and friends will long cherish the memory of this man for his knowledge, his straightforward approach, his enigmatic smile, and that quiet, contagious laugh. He will be missed.

-From *In Memory of Waverly Winfree* by E. Lee Shepard, Senior Archivist, Virginia Historical Society

## Visit the Village Day

The third annual Visit the Village Day will be held Saturday, October 23, 1993, 10 AM - 4 PM in the village of Midlothian located on Rt. 60. Events include sales by local merchants, a carnival and crafts fair at Midlothian Middle School, as well as a parade featuring Scottish bagpipes beginning on Crowder Drive at 10 AM. In addition, a Civil War re-enactment camp and a concert by the U.S. Army Band will highlight the event. Parking is free and there will be free trolley rides, historical displays, home cooked food, and entertainment all day.

-Information contributed by Bettie W. Weaver

## From the Files of the Chesterfield County Court of 1831...

In 1831, a slave named Nat Turner led a revolt in Southampton County that claimed the lives of over fifty white residents. So alarmed were white authorities that retaliation was nearly two-fold. Not since the slave uprising against French planters in Haiti nearly twenty years earlier had white Virginians been as fearful for their safety.

Chesterfield in 1831 was much like any piedmont county. A heavy producer of tobacco, it required a heavy force of slave labor. In fact, by 1850 nearly sixty percent of the county's population was enslaved. While there were never any full-fledged slave revolts in Chesterfield, a single incident in late 1831 certainly must have seemed like one to George Scully, an overseer on the Stratton plantation.

Scully was overseeing a team of slaves when he decided that one slave, Tom, was acting impudently and needed to be disciplined. With the assistance of another overseer, Scully wrestled Tom to the ground, punching him in the stomach several times, then tied him. According to Scully's deposition, heard in Chesterfield court during the February session of 1832, Scully and his colleague laid on Tom about a hundred lashes, "laid on lightly," he stressed. Afterwards, Tom was sent back to the fields, where he seemed to work as well as the others. After about a half hour, Scully's companion rode to the other side of the plantation. When he was out of view, Tom and the other slaves began walking toward Scully -- hoes, axes, and sticks in hand.

Tom was the first to strike, using a large stick. Stating to Scully, "You have had your satisfaction. Now I will have mine," he began to beat furiously at Scully while the other slaves watched on. A slave named George then walked up to where Scully lay half-conscious, and lifted his axe. When George decided not to strike Scully with the axe, the terrified overseer made his escape.

Charges were brought against both Tom and George. In their trial, George was acquitted and Tom was ordered to be sold south. The court records give no clue as to what became of George Scully.

The lawsuits and court judgments found in the Chesterfield County court records (housed at the Virginia State Library and Archives), illustrate best the changing human condition through the centuries of local history. The above case, Commonwealth vs. Tom and George, is but a small part of a much larger whole. As a regular feature of *The Messenger* during the coming two years, I will use this space to summarize a variety of cases that can be found only in the loose papers of the County Court.

*-Contributed by Paul Shelton*

### Committee Profile: THE BERMUDA HUNDRED COMMITTEE

Did you know that there is a community in Chesterfield County that has been continuously occupied by English-speaking peoples for 380 years, and by Algonquian-speaking Native Americans for thousands of years before that? Here in the early 1600's Sir Thomas Dale defeated the fierce Appomattox Indians and established the first settlement in English America where a man could own his own land. Here John Rolfe, the husband of Pocahontas, began the production of tobacco, so essential to the survival of Virginia. Here in 1781 Benedict Arnold, now wearing British scarlet, established his headquarters and sent away the spoils of his raids against Richmond and Petersburg. Here in 1864 the notorious "Beast" (Benjamin) Butler landed an army of 40,000 Yankees in his ill-fated campaign to capture Richmond, and here they stayed for almost a year. Here in 1993, in the shadow of three huge manufacturing plants, lives a small community of African-Americans, some of whom trace their ancestry to Archibald Batte, a free Black merchant who owned slaves.

Last year a committee was formed to do everything possible to preserve the history of this community. Chaired by Jim Daniels, CHS president, it is called the **Bermuda Hundred Committee**. Working with Dr. L. Daniel Mouer of Virginia Commonwealth University, who has conducted extensive archaeology

work at the site, the committee has met with members of the Bermuda Hundred and Enon communities to discuss strategies for preserving and interpreting this scene of so much of our nation's history. Last month, Steve Cormier, a member of the Society's Board of Directors, agreed to co-chair the committee with President Daniels.

Meetings of the committee will be held beginning this month to pursue plans for a state highway marker near the site and to push forward Dr. Mouer's proposal to establish a national historic district at Bermuda Hundred. If anyone is interested in joining the committee, please call the Historical Society at 748-1026. This is your chance to help preserve what is perhaps one of the most important historical sites in the nation.

*-Contributed by Steve Cormier*

### Calendar of Coming Events

- October
- Virginia Archaeology Month. Exhibit: Artifacts from the dig at Magnolia Grange. *Magnolia Grange*
  - 17 - 31 Exhibit: Artifacts from a Domestic House Site, 1780's. *Central Library*.
  - 23 Museum Exhibit at Midlothian Village Day, 9 AM - 4 PM.
  - 24 Fall Meeting of the Society at Battery Dantzer, 2:30 PM (see p. 1 for details).
  - 31 Sale of our new book, *A Time to Remember*, with signing by the authors, *Old Courthouse*, 1 PM - 3 PM.
- December
- 2 - 31 Christmas Decorations of the 1830's by nine Chesterfield Garden Clubs, *Magnolia Grange*.  
Exhibits "An American Tradition: A Visit to the Circus, 1900-1950" by Margaret Wright, *Magnolia Grange*.  
Homemade Dolls of the 1830's, *Magnolia Grange*.  
Old Fashioned Toys by Margaret Wright, *Museum*.  
Dolls of All Nations by the Southern Bebes Doll Club, *Museum*.  
A Victorian Christmas Tree by Richard Jenkins, *Museum*.  
Antique Christmas Cards, *Museum*.
- January
- 5, 12, 19, 26 Heritage Craft Class: Basket making with Amelia Nicholson, 9:30-11:30, *Magnolia Grange*.

## *A Victorian Christmas*

Beginning today we will be accepting your entry in our *Victorian Christmas Ornament Contest*. The winner will receive a one-year membership to the Chesterfield Historical Society in the name of his/her choice and the winning ornament will be displayed on our museum Christmas tree. Second prize will be a \$5.00 gift certificate to our gift shop, and third prize will be a \$3.00 gift certificate also to our gift shop.

Each ornament should be of material, design and workmanship reflective of the Victorian era and should not exceed 6 inches in height. Winners will be chosen by a select panel of judges with the final decision being made by our Christmas tree designer, Richard Jenkins.

All entries will become the property of the Chesterfield Historical Society and should be at the Historic 1917 Courthouse (Society Headquarters) by 4 P.M., **Monday, November 15, 1993**. Please be sure to include your name, address, and phone number with your entry. Good Luck!

## Queries...

*Mr. Edward L. Frost III of Hendersonville, NC writes:*

"I have two personal items belonging to **James W. Phaup**, Confederate soldier, 6th VA Infantry, Weisiger's Brigade, Mahone's Division.

I would like to give these to a direct descendant upon reasonable proof. Do you know of any descendants of this man...? **J.W. Phaup** married **Betty Magruder**. I think there are some descendants named **Wilkinson**...Any descendant can write or call me directly."

*Mr. Edward L. Frost III  
2122 Kanuga Rd.  
Hendersonville, NC 28739  
Phone: (704) 692-7154*

### *Did You Know...*

...that in 1614 Bermuda Hundred was incorporated as the first town in America?

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

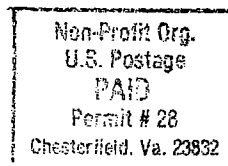
I am interested in serving on the following committees:

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

Make checks

via to the Chesterfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 40, Chesterfield, VA 23832

**Chesterfield Historical Society  
P.O. Box 40  
Chesterfield, Virginia 23832**



*Visit Our Gift Shops  
for Distinctive Chesterfield Items  
for Christmas Giving*

**The Historical Society**

Pewter Christmas Tree Ornament featuring the Old Courthouse	\$10.00
<u>Books:</u>	
<i>A Time to Remember</i>	\$20.00
<i>The Extraordinary Ordinary Christmas, Matoaca 1870</i>	\$ 1.00
<i>The Watkins Family</i>	\$25.00
<i>Appomattox River Seay Stories</i>	\$12.00
Notepaper featuring the Old Courthouse, package of 10 notes/envelopes	\$ 3.00
<u>Maps:</u>	
"Chesterfield County, 1888"	\$13.00
"35 Miles Around Richmond, 1867"	\$10.00

**Magnolia Grange**

Pewter Magnolia Blossom Paperweight	\$15.00
Historia Sites in Virginia Poster including Magnolia Grange	\$ 5.00
Notepaper featuring Magnolia Grange, package of 10 notes/envelopes	\$ 3.00
<u>Books:</u>	
<i>In the Chesterfield Manner (cookbook)</i>	\$10.00
<i>Cooking in the Young Republic (cookbook)</i>	\$ 3.00
<i>Early Settler Life Series:</i>	
<i>Early Christmas</i>	\$ 7.95
<i>Early Family Home</i>	\$ 7.95
<i>Early Pleasures &amp; Pastimes</i>	\$ 7.95
<i>Early Settler Children</i>	\$ 7.95
<i>Early Settler Storybook</i>	\$ 7.95
<i>Early Settler Travel</i>	\$ 7.95
<i>Early Settler Farm Life</i>	\$ 7.95

**Museum**

<u>Books:</u>	
<i>Chesterfield, An Old Virginia County, 1607-1954</i>	\$25.00
<i>Chesterfield, An Old Virginia County, 1955-1989</i>	\$25.00
<i>The above two as a set</i>	\$45.00
<i>Sir Thomas Dale, a Biography</i>	\$ 2.00
<i>Chesterfield County Coloring Book</i>	\$ 2.00
<i>Pocahontas</i>	\$ 7.95
<i>The Powhatan Tribes</i>	\$ 9.95

*Add 4 1/2% Virginia sales tax to all items. If you wish us to mail any of these items, call us at 748-1026 for amount of postage and handling.*

