

The Messenger



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

Number 28

April 1994

April 24th Meeting to Celebrate Founding of Bermuda Hundred

The spring meeting of the Chesterfield Historical Society will be held on **Sunday, April 24, 1994, 2:00 PM at Bermuda Hundred** in the Enon area of the county.

Our main speaker will be Dr. L. Daniel Mouer, director of the Archaeological Research Center at Virginia Commonwealth University, who will highlight the history of Bermuda Hundred from colonial times to the present. Dr. Mouer has done extensive work at Bermuda Hundred and is writing the Society's application to designate the area as a National Historic District. He will display artifacts from his extensive digs at the site and will update us on the progress of our application to the Department of Historic Resources.

To remind us of the connection of Bermuda Hundred to the history of English-speaking people everywhere, Commander Robert Money, a member of the Royal Navy Staff in the British Embassy in Washington, will present a message to the people of Chesterfield County from the Governor of Bermuda.

A new highway marker for Bermuda Hundred will be unveiled at the meeting and afterwards will be placed on State Route 10 a mile south of the site. County and state officials will be on hand to help dedicate the marker.

Continued on page 2, col. 1

Plantation Day Set for May 1st

Once again this year, Magnolia Grange will celebrate Plantation Day. This year's festivities will be held on **Sunday, May 1st, 12 Noon - 5 PM**.

Scheduled activities include demonstrations of quilting, spinning, knitting, basket weaving, bobbin lace making, and tatting. Wood carving and 19th century wood working will also be demonstrated along with bee keeping and corn grinding. Displays on herbs and archaeology as well as a cooking demonstrations will also highlight the event. Children can enjoy period games and pony rides. Tours of the house will be available at regular admission fees. For more info, phone 796-1479.

Calendar of Coming Events

☞ April 24 - **Quarterly meeting of the Society** at Bermuda Hundred, 2:00 PM.

☞ May 1 - **Plantation Day** at Magnolia Grange, 12:00 PM - 5:00PM.

☞ May 21 & 22 - **Battery Dantzler Living History Weekend** (see related story p.2).

☞ July - **"Heritage Krafts for Kids"**, a series of four weekly craft programs at Magnolia Grange for children, grades 2 - 5. Sign up your child or grandchild! Call for more information (796-1479).



Children enjoy stories told by Mary Dance at Plantation Day 1993.

Bermuda Hundred (continued)

Re-enactors from the colonial and Civil War eras will add a touch of living history to the occasion. Local high school students will sing patriotic songs during the festivities.

To get to Bermuda Hundred, follow Route 10 east from Chester, past Enon, to the stop light at Allied Road. Turn left - north - onto Allied Road and follow that road past the factories to the village of Bermuda Hundred. (This is the same route you would take to the Presquile National Wildlife Refuge.) The meeting will be held beside the James River across from Mrs. Gray's house at the northern end of the village. Seating will be provided, but it may be wise to bring along your own lawn chairs. In the event of rain, please come to Bermuda Hundred United Methodist Church, Florence Avenue and Route 10.



Welcome Our New Members!

We extend a warm welcome to those who have joined the Society since January 1, 1994:

Mrs. Hazel Cheatham Blankenberg
Mr. G. David Brown
Mr. James H. Burnette
Mrs. Carolyn M. Bush
Mrs. Dixie H. Harris
Mrs. Virginia P. Hogan
Mrs. Ellin Howell
Mr. William H. Howell
Mrs. Audrey W. Partin
Mr. Kenneth R. Shelton
Mr. Stephen Lewis Shewmake
Mr. Neil H. Wilson
Mr. R. Westwood Winfree

Notice!
Important Membership Information! See page 4

Thank You!

We would like to thank the following persons who generously donated gifts to the Society:

To Magnolia Grange:

Doris DeHart - U.S. Constitution Bicentennial bowl, Lenox China.
Ingrid Godwin - Victorian doll bed (c.1900); baby shoes (c.1910); little girl's embroidered coat (c.1910).
Eileen Honkala - Lady's dress form (for clothing exhibits)
Sally Wolfe - Embroidered sampler (c.1812).

To the Museum:

Jesse Avery - Single plow (c.1890-1900)
Edith Harvey Cooke - World War II Japanese sword and silver coronet (c.1915).
Ingrid Godwin - Toy wheelbarrow, store thermometer, and postcard album with postcards (c.1910).

To the Library:

Chesterfield Utilities Dept. - Book: **Bellona Foundry, Cabin, Bateau Road, Mound, and Yak Pasture**
Book: **The Rockpile Site.**
Steven A. Cormier - Book: **The Siege of Suffolk, the Forgotten Campaign, April 11 - May 4, 1863;** Microfilm: **Muster Roll of the 14th Virginia Infantry, Civil War.**
LaPrade Brothers Surveyors - Map: **Chesterfield County, 1930.**
Lucille C. Moseley - Book: **Vestry Book of King William Parish, Virginia, 1707-1750;** Book: **Robertson Cheatham of Appomattox/Campbell County, Virginia.**

John W. Pearsall - Periodicals: **The Huguenot**, 13 issues.

Donna K. Schneider - Index for **Record of the Federal Dead Buried from Libby, Belle Isle, Danville and Camp Lawton Prisons and Point of Rocks Cemetery at City Point.**

Rev. Wilbur Sims - Manuscripts: **Civil War Stories of Chesterfield**

County.

Sara Lois Story - Book: **Pictures of Life.**

Westwood Winfree - Book: **African-Americans Under Segregation, Our Own Brand of Apartheid.**

Battery Dantzler Dedication Celebration May 21-22

Col. Olin Miller Dantzler was killed on June 2, 1864, while leading his men in an attack on Ft. Dutton on the Bermuda Hundred line. Dantzler of St. Matthew, SC was in charge of the 22nd South Carolina Infantry at the time of his death. Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard renamed a battery at the north end of the Howlett line, on the James River, in honor of the fallen Dantzler.

On May 21 and 22 the re-enactors of the 12th Virginia Infantry will give visitors a glimpse of what camp life was like for Civil War soldiers. Their ladies will demonstrate how camp followers lived. Tours of the Battery will be conducted on both days.

At 2 P. M. on Sunday, May 22, there will be a dedication of a memorial at Battery Dantzler. Battery Dantzler is located off of Route 10 on Bermuda Triangle Drive behind the old Lowe's store.

Any descendants of the Dantzler family who plan to attend the dedication are asked to contact George Fickett, Jr. at (804) 541-3033.

In Memory of Charlie Quaiff

Charles Reid ("Charlie") Quaiff, Sr., treasurer of our museum committee and treasurer-elect of the Chesterfield Historical Society Board of Directors, died of cancer January 6, 1994, at his home. He was 71.
(continued on page 4, col. 1)

From the Recording Secretary

The winter meeting of the Chesterfield Historical Society was held on Sunday the 23rd of January at Ruth's Chris Steak House. President Jim Daniels welcomed everyone including several new members. After a delicious lunch the meeting was called to order. Treasurer Sam Hilbert presented the treasurer's report, which was approved. It was announced that, regrettably, Lucille Moseley was retiring. Everyone will be very sorry to see her go. The secretary's minutes were approved as read.

Steve Cormier, Chairman of the Bermuda Hundred Committee, reported that our next meeting will be held at Bermuda Hundred on April 24th. A State Highway Marker will be dedicated and Dr. Daniel Mouer, of the VCU Archaeological Research Center will be our speaker. There will also be archaeological displays and re-enactors present. Hugh Goodwyn reported that sales of the pictorial book "A Time to Remember" are strong. Palmer Condrey, Chairman of the Magnolia Grange Committee, reported that the committee met in November to set up a three year plan. Goals mentioned were to restore Magnolia Grange to its original appearance, to operate so that as many as possible may tour the facility, and to raise funds for these goals. Baxter Perkinson reported that the War Memorial Committee held the largest memorial day service in the state at the Courthouse Green with over 200 people in attendance.

Paul Shelton sent a report stating that the new Journal will be released in early spring or summer. Laurie Horner congratulated Jim and Robin Daniels on the birth of their son. Laurie then introduced our guest speaker, Betsy Weaver Brandt, daughter of Bettie Weaver. Betsy gave a fascinating account of the murder trial of the former occupant of Belgrade, Antonio Robiou.

Moseley Retires Marking 10 Years of Service

Lucille Moseley, Executive Director of the Chesterfield Museums, retired effective March 16, marking ten years of service as museums director for the Chesterfield Historical Society.

When hired in 1984 as its first professional museums administrator, Mrs. Moseley was charged with supervising the daily operations of the Chesterfield County Museum and the 1892 Jail. Moseley's job grew with the addition of Magnolia Grange and in 1990, the Historic 1917 Courthouse. Currently, the County Museum lists 1,120 cataloged items and Magnolia Grange lists 502.

Mrs Moseley is a founder and charter member of the Society which now reports nearly 1,000 active members. She has served as its first program chairman, its second President, as a director, and on numerous committees. Through her work with the Society she has been instrumental in the placement of several historic highway markers throughout the county and the publication of three books detailing the county's history. She is currently involved with the development of Bermuda Hundred as an historical attraction and the publication of a scholarly journal to be produced by the Society this year.

With the help of nearly 50 dedicated volunteers, Mrs. Moseley has increased museum visitation hours to six days per week and developed various programs at the museums including "Plantation Day" and "Heritage Crafts" classes for children and adults at Magnolia Grange. Tours developed by Moseley for elementary school children attract approximately 4,000 students each year. In addition she has expanded the collection of the Society's genealogical research library to over 1,000 manuscripts, books, maps and other materials. (next column)

Moseley's dedication to the community, the preservation of its history and her love of the museums and their collections have left an indelible mark that benefits us all.

Even though both she and her husband, Ed, plan to continue as museum and Society volunteers (when they are not traveling), those who are accustomed to seeing her everyday will miss her.

Welcome Aboard!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Nancy Carter Crump, who assumed the duties of Executive Director on March 24th. Ms. Crump holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in history, with a minor in English literature, and has done graduate work in public history at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. She received fellowships in historical museum interpretation from the American Association for State and Local History, and was a MESDA fellow in 1992.

Ms. Crump was the Educational Programmer for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation from 1979-1981. Since that time, she has been self-employed as a Historic Sites Consultant and Culinary Historian. She was Research Historian for Evelynton Plantation, where she developed the interpretive program. Other clients have included the Smithsonian Institution, the Science Museum of Virginia, Shirley Plantation, and the Staunton and Petersburg Tourism Departments, as well as sites in North Carolina and New Orleans. She taught history and humanities at Rappahannock Community College from 1978-1984.

Her first book, Hearthside Cooking, a history of Virginia foodways, was published in 1986. Her articles have appeared in numerous publications, including Virginia Cavalcade, the Colonial Williamsburg Interpreter, the Journal of Early Southern Decorative Arts, (continued next page)

and the Tarheel Junior Historian. She has led numerous workshops and seminars on historic foodways and a variety of topics in Virginia history. She is a founder and president of the Culinary Historians of Virginia.

Ms. Crump brings with her a strong museum background, as well as a commitment to overseeing the growth of the museums and the Society. She looks forward to meeting and working with its members.

Quaiff (continued from p.2)

As treasurer of the museum committee and chairman of the personnel committee, Charlie was largely responsible for the move to computerize the Society's finances. During his service as treasurer and museum guide, he contributed over 775 hours of volunteer service to the Society since joining in 1990.

A retired 32- year employee of Chesterfield County and a long-time member of Beulah United Methodist Church, his charitable work for the Society as well as the county are an enduring testimony to his love of Chesterfield and its citizens.

Messenger Staff:
Jennifer Wright (Editor), Steve Cormier, Jeanette Ortiz, Lucille Moseley (Contributing Reporters), Donna Schneider (Data Entry).

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

Committee Commentary

As part of a Virginia State Library and Archives exhibit, "Catalyst for Change: Virginia's Canals", the **Lord Chesterfield Batteau Committee** placed the batteau on display near the Library and Capitol Square March 8th. Members of the committee were on hand to provide information about the building and the use of batteaux.

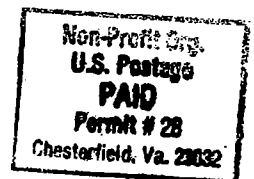
The **Cemetery Committee** reports that they recently attended the dedication of the restored Gregory family graveyard at Bellwood where the earliest known burial was a 1835. The committee assisted officials there in locating descendants. The cemetery and tombstones were cleaned by Bellwood personnel, the area was fenced and a plaque was placed on a brick base commemorating the family members who were interred there. Following the ceremony, they attended a reception at the Officers' Club where they were graciously received."

(continued next column)

The **Archaeology Committee** continues to work on the c.1780 house site they discovered last spring. With assistance from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, the College of William and Mary Archaeological Resource Center has been contracted to conduct a 3-week survey of the area with the assistance of our volunteers beginning in mid or late April.

Membership Year to be January - December

The Board of Directors has determined that it will be to the advantage of the Society to change our membership year from July 1 - June 30 to the calendar year, January 1 - December 31. Dues amounts will remain the same. Current dues, paid through June 30, 1994, will be extended through December 31, 1994. We hope to make up income lost during the 6 month adjustment period with donations and an extensive membership drive. **Start signing up new members now!** Awards and gifts will be presented to those who sign up the most. Look for further information in the next issue of *The Messenger*.



MR. AND MRS. H U. COALTER, JR.
4301 OLD HUNDRED ROAD SOUTH
MIDLOTHIAN VA 23112