

The Messenger



Issue #28
29

July 1994

Society Activities Around This Summer



Sunday, July 24th
Quarterly Meeting to
be held at historic
Salem Baptist Church
(see next column)



July 21, 28
&
August 4, 11
Heritage Crafts for
Kids
(see story page 4)



August 13 & 14
Dutch Gap Encampment

*Join the CHS Civil War
Sites Committee for living
history at Henricus Park
(End of Route 615
/Coxendale Road).
10AM-5PM Sat. &
10 AM - 3PM Sun.
This event is FREE.*

**For additional info on these
events, phone 748-1026**

Quarterly Meeting July 24th

The Summer Meeting of the Chesterfield Historical Society will be held at **Salem Baptist Church on Sunday, July 24, 1994 at 2:30 PM.** Our speaker for the occasion is Mr. Robert Young Clay, Genealogy Reference Archivist at the Virginia State Archives. Mr. Clay is a renown and highly requested speaker to historical and genealogical organizations. It is our good fortune to have him speak to us on "An Introduction to the Clay Family of Chesterfield."

According to W.R. Pankey's The History of Salem Baptist Church, the structure was built in 1797 making it the oldest standing church in Chesterfield. Although there is no documentary evidence to support this claim, the architecture exhibits evidence that this date could be accurate. A ceiling medallion (which has been covered by remodeling), the size of the building, beaded siding, and flush board tympanum are features of the Federal period (O'Dell, Jeffrey. Early Architecture and Historic Sites, page 360). (next column)

O'Dell notes that Salem Church was established in 1794 as an interdenominational body and constituted as a Baptist Church in 1802 under the direction of Eleazer Clay. He also led the establishment of many other Baptist Churches in Chesterfield.

Salem Baptist Church is celebrating its 200th anniversary this year. The church will be placing special emphasis on this milestone during the month of September and the highlight of these festivities will be the Homecoming Service which will recognize this bicentennial.

Salem Church is located at 5930 Centralia Road which runs between Iron Bridge Road (at Chesterfield Meadows Shopping Center, just east of the 1917 Courthouse) and Chester Road. Be sure too attend this meeting on July 24th so that you will not miss visiting this historic site and hearing a most interesting speaker!

Coming Soon....
The Journal of the
Chesterfield Historical
Society!

>Welcome New Members

The Chesterfield Historical Society is pleased to welcome the following new members who have joined the Society since February 14, 1994:

Vickie Hutson Adams
Charles Peyton Adams
Vena Lee Baird
Carl K. Chafin
Mary Ellen Douglas
James Emory
Nancy Carter Crump
(Emory)
David H. Gates
Mary Kay Gates
Heath Gates
Matthew Gates
Patrick Gates
William Hastings
Susan Hastings
Cameron Hastings
Kelly Hastings
Caitlin Hastings
Justin Hastings
Charles S. Moody, Jr.
Thomas S. Price
June T. Price
David Ross
Marianne Siegrist
Stephen Siegrist
Evelyn M. Smith
William R. Smith
Kevin Smith
Brian Smith
Tim Smith
David Smith
Page Thomson Steele
David Swift
Karla Tash
Virginia State Library
& Archives
Diane C. Stubbins
Luther L. Wright, Jr.

Thank You!

We thank the following individuals for shortfall donations:

Clyde C. Anderson, Jr.
L.A. Belcher
Walter L. Boyd
John V. & Patricia B. Cogbill
Fay Myers Cecil
Martha G. Du Bose
Russell H. & Helen K. Leonard
Nancy D. Morrisette
Martha I. McCormick
David W. & Janet Morgan Ross
Lewis O. & Ann H. Shelton
Dr. Benjamin B. Weisiger, III
Mary P.E. Hunphrey

Gifts to Our Collections

We thank the following individuals for their generous donation of items to our collections:

To the Library:

Nancy Carter Crump - Book:
Hearthside Cooking

Arvil D. Hancock - Book: **The Hancock Family of England and America.** (next col.)

Mary E. Howe - Book: **A Documentary History of Eppington, Chesterfield County, VA**

Richard Jones - Map: Bermuda Hundred Area, 1692.

Frances MacKenzie - Book:
History of Chesterfield County

Lucille Moseley - Book: **Robertson Cheatham of Appomattox/Campbell County, VA**

Dr. Benjamin B. Weisiger, III -
Microfilm: 1850 VA Census,
6 rolls

To Magnolia Grange:

Lucille Moseley - Handmade crazy quilt and mattress for antique doll bed.

Mamie Sink - Antique dressmaker's form

To the Museum:

Wayne Beachy - Scale model of the gravity railroad for exhibit and copies of his book, **An Extraordinary Ordinary Christmas, Matoaca 1870** to sell in our gift shop.

Ethel Sledd - Confederate Savings



Virginia First Lady
Susan Allen visited
Magnolia Grange in May.
She is pictured here with
Executive Director Nancy
Carter Crump (left),
and docent Frances Morris
(center).

CHS Archaeology Committee Works Locally With College of William & Mary

The Virginia State Department of Historic Resources contracted archaeologists from the College of William & Mary to work on a local site. Our own archaeology committee members worked side by side with the W&M team for three weeks in April.

Evidence of a possible forge, tavern and three other dwellings have been uncovered and the location of a cobblestone road running through the area has also been determined. The remains of a circa 1780's house with a brick foundation and double "V" shaped hearths is being worked on. The 17-1/2' x 20' brick foundation indicates that the house, while small by our standards, was a substantial dwelling for its time and location. Some of the artifacts that have been uncovered are pipe stems and bowls, straight pins and fragments of wine glasses, royal pattern creamware dishes, wine bottles, pearlware, tea cups and candle snuffers.

(next col.)

The visiting archaeology team was impressed both with the site and work that the CHS Archaeology Committee has done. The W&M team has prepared a rough draft of the final report which will discuss the site and recommendations on its future treatment.

Any Society member interested in working with the Archaeology Committee should leave their name and phone number at the Society office (748-1026). They will be contacted about joining the weekly work groups.



Explore Your Family Tree

- Trace your own roots
- Share your interest in genealogy with others.
- Help researchers from across the country in their quest!

**Join the Genealogy
Committee**
Call 748-1026
for more info or to join!

Model of Gravity Railroad Is New Museum Exhibit

The County Museum has a new addition to its exhibit on railroading in Chesterfield: a model of the horse-drawn, coal-carrying railroad that ran from Midlothian to Manchester from 1831-1851, known as the gravity railroad. Two colorful dioramas depict the railroad in operation during the quiet rural days in Chesterfield before the Civil War. Scale-model people, horses, fences, and painted backgrounds lend authenticity to the minutely-detailed coal cars that run along the iron-strap rails of this replica of America's second-oldest railroad.

Wayne Beachy, a native of Petersburg who now lives in Midlothian, took 100 hours to assemble the model after devoting ten to fifteen hours of research in the Society's library to master the details of the project. Mr. Beachy also toured the few remaining sites of the gravity railroad that are still visible in the Midlothian area. Thirty years of model railroading plus several books on local history are reflected in Mr. Beachy's work, which he has donated to the museum for permanent exhibit.

He hopes that someday the Society may be able to preserve one of the remaining sites of the gravity railroad and interpret that part of the county's history on a larger, more dramatic scale.

The Messenger

Jennifer D. Wright, *Editor*

Contributing Reporters:

Steve Cormier
Jeanette Ortiz

CHS Hours of Operation

All Museums:

10 AM - 4PM Monday- Friday

1 PM - 4 PM Sunday

Closed Holidays

Research Library:

10 AM - 4 PM Monday - Friday

7 PM - 9 PM Second Thursday
of Each Month

More info & Group Reservations:

(804) 748-1026

From the Recording Secretary...

On Sunday, April 24, 1994 at 2 PM, in lieu of our regular quarterly meeting, the Chesterfield Historical Society celebrated the 381st anniversary of Bermuda Hundred with a ceremony dedicating a new historical highway marker at Bermuda Hundred. It was a beautiful day on the lawn of Mrs. Frederick Gray's house by the river.

Highlights of the day were speeches by Commander Robert I. Money of the Royal Navy Staff and archaeologist L. Daniel Mouer, Ph.D, of Virginia Commonwealth University. Beautiful music was provided by the Women's Chamber Ensemble from Thomas Dale High School. The new marker was unveiled by Cary and Meggy Tucker, granddaughters of Mrs. Gray.
-submitted by Tamara Puster

Calling All Blantons!

The Worldwide Blanton Convention for all Blanton Family members and their kin will be held September 23-25, 1994 at the Day's Inn in Cave City, KY. For more info call Col. Rudolph D. Blanton (502) 369-7763 or Col. Mary Louise Blanton (803)582-8446.

Heritage Crafts for Kids Begins Soon!

Summer is finally here and at Magnolia Grange that means one thing - **HERITAGE CRAFTS FOR KIDS!** Four workshops to be held on **Thursdays, July 21 & 28 and August 4 & 11** will be available to youngsters ages 8-11. On July 21 participants will learn to make homemade bread and churn butter. July 28th will be a special day! We'll make homemade cookies and ice cream to serve our parents who bring a bag meal and join us for lunch. On August 4th Jacqueline Hayward will teach us to make scented potpourri. Roxanne Groff joins us on August 11th to show us how to make a traditional applique quilt project to take home!

Classes are \$10 each per child per class or sign up for all four classes at the bargain rate of \$25 per child. All classes held on given dates from 10 AM - 1 PM (except the Aug. 11th class - 10 AM-2PM). For more info or to receive a registration form, call the Society at 748-1026.

Questions? Comments? Messenger?

Let us know! (804)748-1026

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

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