



The Messenger

Issue #30 • October 1994

Fall Into Society Activities



Sunday, October 23
Quarterly Meeting
(see next column)



Wednesday,
October 12
Mid-Day Melodies
Lunch Time Concert
(see story page 2)



December 1994
Christmas Activities
Museum &
Magnolia Grange
(see story page 2)



Ukrops Golden Gifts Campaign
On Again
See story page 3!

CHS HOURS OF OPERATION

All Museums:

10 AM - 4 PM Monday-Friday

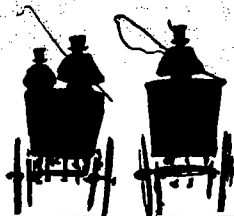
1 PM - 4 PM Sunday

Research Library:

10 AM - 4 PM Monday-Friday

7 PM - 9 PM Second Thursday of
Each Month

More info & Group Reservations
(804) 748-1026



"Bellona: From Iron to Yaks " Topic of October Meeting

The Fall meeting of the Chesterfield Historical Society will be held on **Sunday, October 23, 1994 at 2:30 PM at Bellona Arsenal**, the home of Frank and Cary Easterly. Our speaker will be archaeologist Lyle Browning whose topic will be "Bellona: From Iron to Yaks." Mr. Browning has done extensive archaeological research in the area and he will speak to us about the kinds of artifacts he has found there. He will also have some of these items for display.

Bellona Arsenal was built by the federal government in 1817, shut down in 1832 and then reactivated by the Confederacy in 1863. The federal government claimed the Bellona Arsenal property at the end of the Civil War and two of the eight buildings in this quadrangle shaped military complex were demolished by a subsequent owner some time after 1875. Three of the eight remaining buildings were renovated in the 1940's by Merle C. Luck and are now a part of the Easterly property.

Their residence is comprised of two workshops which were along the east row of the quadrangle. The third workshop, which is a brick structure, stands to the west. (O'Dell, Jeffrey, Chesterfield County Early Architecture and Historic Sites, pp. 388-389)

Directions to Bellona Arsenal:

If you are coming from Chesterfield, take Courthouse Road which turns into Huguenot Road after crossing Midlothian Turnpike. Stay on Huguenot until you come to Robious Road at Belgrade Shopping Center. Turn left onto Robious Road then look for Old Gun Road West and turn right. Go about two miles and you will see Young Manor Road on the right. Do not turn on Young Manor Road, but one mile past Young Manor Road look for a blacktop drive on the left with a sign that says Bellona Arsenal. Turn left onto this blacktop drive and be prepared in a short distance to bear right at a fork onto a gravel drive. Keep bearing right to the end of the gravel drive.

Bring your lawn chairs or blankets. In the event of rain, the meeting will take place at the 1917 Courthouse at Chesterfield Courthouse.

Fall & Holiday Activities Planned for Museums

There are some exciting events on the horizon at the Chesterfield Museum Complex for this fall and holiday seasons.

September 21 saw the first of two and possibly a series of concerts at the complex. The Rhythm-Aires played big band classics for a lunch time crowd.

October 12, the traditional Columbus Day, the Chester Brass Ensemble will perform military and Revolutionary music at the second of the Mid-day Melodies Concerts. The lively music will be performed from 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM. Listeners are invited to bring and eat their lunch while they enjoy the music.

November 13 - The opening of a new exhibit on Pocahontas will be introduced by Dan Hawkes, curator of the Jamestown Settlement, who will speak about the native princess. The exhibit will include artifacts from the County Museum as well as items on-loan from Jamestown Settlement, a division of the Virginia State Parks.

December 3-4 - The lawn of Magnolia Grange will be sight of a Revolutionary War Encampment. Come and see what life in the 1770's was like for soldiers of the time.

December 4 - After seeing soldiers on the lawn, come in out of the cold and see Magnolia Grange dressed up for the holidays. There will be live music and living history demonstrations going on during the house tours.

December 13 - Margaret Wright, noted collector and expert on antique toys, will present a lecture on late 19th

and early 20th century toys related to food. The toys will include toy-produce trucks, kitchen items, dishes and tea services.

December 31 - 6 to 9 PM. The Historical Society will join with the Department of Parks and Recreation to celebrate First Night. This non-alcoholic, family event will help usher in the New Year in a fun safe atmosphere. The 1892 Jail, Old Courthouse, Magnolia Grange and the County Museum will all be open to the public.

We will need help to keep all these buildings open for the evening hours. Please call Nancy Carter Crump at 748-1026 if you can help us keep our buildings open.

It's Not Too Late. ..

To make your shortfall fund donation to CHS. For every \$5 donation, you will receive one chance in our drawing for a Casio Portable Color Television to be given away at our Quaterly Meeting on Sunday, October 23.

Donations that will qualify you in the drawing may be made until the beginning of the meeting.

and don't forget...

Have you turned in the CHS volunteer survey you received in the mail recently? Even if you already volunteer, we need you to fill it out and send it in.

New Book on Courthouse Portraits Available Soon

Have you ever stood in the old Chesterfield Courthouse, now headquarters of the Historical Society, and noticed the many portraits lining its interior walls, and wondered who those people are? Twenty-five years ago, the local bar association launched a project to write a history of the old courthouse and biographies of these Chesterfield notables: judges, clerks of court, and other county citizens who have made significant contributions to the history of Chesterfield. One of those notables, Judge Ernest Gates, spearheaded the project and, after many years of effort, enlisted the assistance of Lucille Moseley, recently retired executive director of the Historical Society. The result of their collaboration is a new 82-page book entitled **The 1917 Courthouse of the Circuit Court of Chesterfield County, Virginia: Its History and Portraits**.

The book will be published November 1 by the Historical Society. It contains black-and-white photos of thirty-five portraits from the walls of the old courthouse and short biographies of each of the notables portrayed. The book will have soft covers, and its pictures and text will be printed on fine-quality enamel paper. It will cost \$10.45 (includes tax) and can be mailed for \$2.00 extra.

The first printing of the book will be only 300 copies, so members should place their orders early for this excellent Christmas gift to anyone
(continued on next page)

(COURTHOUSE BOOK, continued)

interested in the history of our county. Brochures with order forms will be available soon.

Congratulations to Judge Gates and Lucille Moseley for completing this important project so long in the making!

Ukrop's Golden Gifts

By simply using your new Ukrop's Valued Customer Card when you shop at Ukrop's, you can make a donation to the Chesterfield Historical Society. It's easier than ever! If you have questions about the program, call Jennifer (Wright) Grau at the Society 748-1026. Thank you!

Welcome New Members

We extend a warm welcome to those new members who have joined us as of June 14, 1994:

Gordon & Patricia Alling
Curtis Andrews
Lloyd Ballard
Pat Bean
Gale Burnell-Melchor
Evelyn Clarke
Catherine Cox
Harold Evans
Agnes Gish
Nan Howard
Linwood & Shirley Hudson
Betty Johnson
Paul Pierett
Kay Robertson
Bertie Sheehan
Virginia Tolson
Grace Webb
Kulla Winslow
Catherine Wooldridge

THE MESSENGER
Jennifer Grau, *Editor*
Contributing Reporters:
Steve Cormier
Jeanette Ortiz

Many Thanks..

...To those who have made donations to our shortfall fund for a total to date of \$704.50:

C. Porter Vaughan, Jr.
Ruth Stover
Bettye Rathbone
Hazel Blankenburg
Lillian Dunn
Harry & Helen Goyne
Mary Toerner
R.E. & Sarah Page
Joyce Jones
Mildred Moseley
Jerome & Laurel Lonnes
American Tobacco
Company
C. B. Saffritt, Jr.
James Rooks
Marguerite Christian
Charlotte Ferry
Esther Bass
Ed Barber

...To those individuals who donated the following:

Jacqueline Hayward - who donated her time, talent, and supplies to teach a potpourri-making class for Magnolia Grange's Heritage Crafts for Kids program this past summer.

Roxanne Groff & friend -who donated their time, patience, and supplies to teach applique quilting for Heritage Crafts for Kids.

An anonymous donor - for the portable Casio color television for our upcoming drawing.

... To the following individuals who have donated items to the library this quarter:

Mrs. Lillian Anderson Dunn -
Book: Bethlehem Baptist Church by Mrs. W.C. James 1790-1965.

THANKS (continued)

Frederick C. & Marilon Gamst
Book: Virginia's First Railroad on Falling Creek, About 1810.

Thomas F. Garner -
Manuscript: Historically Significant Sites on the Midlothian Coal Mining Company Tract

Pattie Grady - Manuscripts:
"The Wilkinson Family of Southside Virginia" by Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck; and
"Lawrence, Roberts, Hecter, Beggs, & Hardy Families" by Gayle King Blankenship.
"Blast from the Past: The Wilkinson Connection to the Burton-Childress Clan by Linda Hutchins Collier.

Maude Kirby - Book:
Midlothian, An American Village.

Mr. & Mrs. Willard Marquis -
Manuscript: LaFon Genealogy, 1750-1983.

William B. Newby, Jr. - Book:
The Newbys of Chesterfield County, Virginia.

Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources -
Archaeological Investigations at Site 44 CF 102, Osbornes/Gatesville Town, Chesterfield by Patricia L. Kandle et al.

Oops!

Please pardon our mistakes in the July 1994 issue:
-The issue number should have been #29, not #28.
-Our thanks to Mary Plummer Humphrey for a shortfall donation.
-Our thanks also goes to Ethel Sledd for the donation of Confederate Savings Bonds.

Visit Our Gift Shops for Distinctive Chesterfield Items for Everyone on Your Christmas List

| | |
|---|---------|
| Pewter Christmas Tree Ornament featuring the Old Courthouse | \$10.00 |
| Pewter Magnolia Blossom Paperweight | \$15.00 |
| Historic Sites in Virginia Poster including Magnolia Grange | \$ 5.00 |
| Chesterfield Historical Society Mugs | \$ 5.00 |

Books:

| | |
|--|---------|
| A Time to Remember | \$20.00 |
| The Extraordinary Ordinary Christmas, Matoaca 1870 | \$ 1.00 |
| The Watkins Family | \$25.00 |
| Appomattox River Seay Stories | \$12.00 |
| In the Chesterfield Manner (cookbook) | \$10.00 |
| Early Settler Life Series: | |
| Early Christmas | \$ 7.95 |
| Early Settler Children | \$ 7.95 |
| Early Settler Travel | \$ 7.95 |
| Early Settler Farm Life | \$ 7.95 |
| Chesterfield, An Old Virginia County 1607-1954 | \$25.00 |
| Chesterfield, An Old Virginia County 1955-1989 | \$25.00 |
| The above two as a set | \$45.00 |
| Sir Thomas Dale, A Biography | \$ 2.00 |
| Chesterfield County Coloring Book | \$ 2.00 |
| Pocohontas | \$ 7.95 |
| The Powhatan Tribes | \$ 9.95 |
| The Chesterfield County Courthouse of 1917* | \$10.00 |



Notepaper:

| | |
|--|---------|
| Featuring the Old Courthouse, pkg. of 10 cards/notes | \$ 3.00 |
| Featuring Magnolia Grange, pkg. of 10 cards/notes | \$ 3.00 |

Maps:

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| "Chesterfield County, 1888" | \$13.00 |
| "35 Miles Around Richmond, 1867" | 10.00 |

** Available November 1994. Pre-publication orders are being taken. For an order form, call 748-1026.*

NOTE: Please add 4 1/2% Virginia Sales tax to all items. If you wish us to mail you any of these items, call us at 748-1026 for amount of postage and handling.

From the Recording Secretary

The regular quarterly meeting of the Chesterfield Historical Society was held at 2:30PM on Sunday, July 24, 1994 at Salem Baptist Church. There were fifty (50) in attendance with Jim Daniels, Society President, presiding.

The reading of the minutes and the treasurer's report were both dispensed with at this meeting.

Fay Cecil, Membership Chairman, gave the report of the membership committee. She announced that the membership year had been changed from July-June to January - December and noted that shortfall contributions to date totaled \$545.00. For every \$5 donation, members will receive one (1) chance in a drawing for a Sony hand-held television to be given away at the October meeting.

Dawn Burns, Archaeology Chairman, gave the report of her committee. She reported that the College of William & Mary had surveyed the Osbornes site and found a probable forge and tavern among other structures. The committee is currently working on a c.1780 home site there. Currently, the group consists of 6-8 regular members who work on Saturdays. She conveyed that they are always looking for new members.

Jennifer Wright reported for the **Messenger** committee noting that the October issue had gone out on time and that new members are needed.

Paul Shelton, **Journal** Editor, reported that the first issue of the journal is due out by fall and that they are currently awaiting Dan Mouer's (VCU Archaeologist) report on Bermuda Hundred to be included in the premier issue. Paul invited members to submit ideas for and articles for next year's journal.

Jim Daniels introduced CHS Executive Director Nancy Carter

Crump to the membership and reported that he, Brad, Nancy and Jennifer had attended a reception at Tuckahoe given by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) honoring the new head of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Alexander Wise. Nancy informed the membership of Society events planned for this Fall: September - "Mid-Day Melodies" Concerts on the steps of the Historic Courthouse. Another is in the works to be held at Magnolia Grange.

October -Fundraiser - Rappahannock River dance cruise.
November -Pocohontas exhibit with Dan Hawks of Jamestown Settlement as guest speaker.

Laurie Horner introduced Dr. Marvin E. Jacobs, Pastor of Salem Baptist Church and Bettie Weaver, representing the Virginia Baptist Historical Society. Mrs. Horner presented Dr. Jacobs with the original copy of the 1830's minute book plus three bound copies. Dr. Jacobs in turn presented the original to the Virginia Baptist Historical Society. Bound copies will be in the possession of the Chesterfield Historical Society, the Virginia State Library & Archives and Salem Baptist Church.

Nancy Carter Crump made a plea for volunteers to help in Society headquarters, Magnolia Grange, and the County Museum. Fay Cecil noted that help was also needed to work a Society booth at the County fair.

Laurie Horner introduced our guest speaker, Robert Young Clay, Genealogy Reference Librarian from the Virginia State Library and Archives, who gave an interesting and informative presentation entitled "An Introduction to the Clays of Chesterfield". At the conclusion of his talk, Laurie gave him a copy of our recently published pictorial history.

It was announced that the next meeting of the membership will be

held on Sunday, October 23, 1994. Attendees were then invited to the church fellowship hall for refreshments and a to tour the old Salem Baptist Church.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer D. Wright
for Tamara Puster, Recording
Secretary*

Archaeology Committee Continues Research, Seeks Volunteers

The Archaeology Committee has been continuing to work on the 18' x 20' brick foundation in the county that was discovered last year. The plowzone over the foundation has been removed, revealing many artifacts related to a house or possibly a kitchen site. Now we are concentrating our work on the interior below the plowzone, recovering artifacts that date the building to approximately 1780-1820.

We have received the report from the College of William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research from the survey they did last spring, which recovered many other artifact concentrations, locating other structures that would have made up a community related to the foundation we have uncovered. Copies of the report have been made available at the CHS library, the Chesterfield Central Library, and the Department of Historic Resources in Richmond.

Volunteers are needed to work with our committee to dig on Saturdays. Any interested person may contact me at 748-7932.

*-Submitted by Dawn Burns,
Chairman, Archaeology Committee*

Want Ads

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED


The Society has an immediate need for energetic and knowledgeable volunteers who are interested in the county's history and enjoy working with the public. Initial & on-going training provided. Call Nancy Carter Crump for an appointment, 748-1026.

EDITOR

Seeking an individual to manage and edit the Society's quarterly newsletter, The Messenger, on a volunteer basis. Computer experience a plus. Staff will provide training and guidance to a dedicated individual. If interested, call Jennifer Grau, 748-1026.

FLOOR OR DESK LAMP

An attractive yet functional floor or desk lamp is needed for the Courthouse lobby. If you have one you would like to donate, call Nancy at 748-1026.



**Veteran's Day Memorial
Ceremony
Friday,
November 11, 1994
2 PM
Confederate Monument
on the Courthouse
Green**

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

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

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