



The Messenger

Issue #32 • April 1995

Spring blooms with history and fun!



**Saturday,
April 22, 1995
Centralia House
Tour
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Tickets:
\$8.00 in advance
\$10.00 at the door
(see story page 2)



**Sunday,
April 23, 1995
Quarterly Meeting
2:00 p.m.**

at Castlewood
(see next column)



**Sunday,
May 7, 1995
Plantation Day
Magnolia Grange
12 noon - 5 p.m.**



The Journal to Debut at April Meeting

The inaugural issue of the *The Journal* will be the focus of the **Spring Meeting of the Chesterfield Historical Society on April 23, 1995 at 2:00 p.m.**

The Journal is a new annual publication which will be a booklet with researched articles on topics related to Chesterfield County history. The Journal committee has worked very hard on this first issue and the Society extends its deepest thanks and appreciation to the members of this committee: Paul Shelton (chairman), Lucille Moseley, and Steve Cormier.

Paul Shelton will be our speaker. His topic will be "Truly Recorded: The Lives and Duties of Chesterfield's Early Clerks." You will be able to pick up your copy of *The Journal* at this meeting. It promises to be a treasured addition to your library.

Our spring meeting will take place at Castlewood which is located 2/10 of a mile east of Chesterfield's Historic 1917 Courthouse at the corner of Route 10 (Iron Bridge Road) and Krause Road.

Castlewood is hailed as one of the finest Federal period house in the county.

The most recent addition to Castlewood was completed circa 1817-19. The house boasts a formal five part plan with separate staircases to the wings and one exterior walkway as well as a finished room in the basement (O'Dell, p. 298). Castlewood has molded plaster ceiling medallions and beautiful mantels and woodwork. The house was built by Parke Poindexter who was clerk of the court from 1812 until his

death in 1847. Castlewood is currently owned by Chesterfield County.

As the weather is rarely the same throughout the county, the following policy has been established: In the event of cancellation or change of location due to inclement weather, notice to the public will be provided at least two hours in advance via the answering machine at Society Headquarters. This may be reached by dialing (804) 748-1026.

This meeting will be held outdoors. Please bring lawn chairs or blankets.

Come One Come All... Plantation Day

Sunday, May 7, 1995

at

**Magnolia Grange
10020 Iron Bridge Rd.
Chesterfield**

12 Noon - 5 PM

Period Crafts
Food

Dancing
Children's Games
Storytelling

Dancing
Tours of the House
....and more!

Details (804) 748-1026

☺ Welcome

New Members!

The Society extends a warm greeting to those new members who joined as of 1/1/95:

Elizabeth Asbury
 Coralee Baker
 Reynold Baker
 Shirley Benak
 Mike Benak
 John Butler
 Marie Butler
 Jane Clark
 William Colwell, Jr.
 Clarence Cowles
 Larry Crow
 Anne Daniel
 Conley Edwards
 Carole Edwards
 Rhonda Field
 Charles Field
 James Friend, Jr.
 Dana Gay
 William Gerloff
 Jerryetta Gerloff
 Jeffrey Grau
 Christopher Hooper
 Kathryn Hooper
 Jennie Howe
 Lucy Huband
 Lorraine Hudson
 Porter Hudson
 Donald Jones, Jr.
 Scott Josenhans
 Stephen King
 Robin King
 LaRay Mason
 Cyrus Nicholas
 Barbara Oliver
 Reginald Roberts
 Buddy Rudd
 Sheppard Smith
 Margie Smith
 Timothy Wilson
 Becky Wright
 Dana Zaffuto

☺ Don't Forget..!
Dues were due January 1, 1995. Don't Forget how important your membership is to our success!

❖ THANK YOU!

The Society wishes to thank the following persons who have contributed:

To our Library:

Jim Daniels, in memory of Bobby Robertson: Book:
Pocahontas Descendants

Wesley W. Horner, II: Book:
A Personal Inquiry Into the Genealogy of My Horner Family in America

Lucille Moseley, Books:
Old Homes of Essex County, Virginia and Portraits in the Historic Hanover County Courthouse

John Hale Stutesman: Books:
William Bass, 1682-1752 and Thomas Bass, - 1769

Bettie Woodson Weaver:
 Book:
Midlothian Highlights of Its History

To Magnolia Grange

Mr. Jewett Field -
 6 teaspoons and 1 ladle of coin silver and 2 knives and forks with wooden handles (all 18th c. pieces).
 19th c.

Mrs. Erma Clarke-
 Early 20th c. Battenburg lace coverlet and pillow scarf.

(next column)

To the Museum:

Shoosmith Brothers -
 Television and VCR (for use in programs).

Centralia House Tour Set for April 22

Please make plans to attend the Chesterfield Historical Society's Centralia House Tour to be held Saturday, April 22, 1995 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The sites to be included on this tour are Buckhead Springs, Circle Oaks, Hedgelawn, the Peyton Grymes House, and the First Baptist Church of Centralia.

Block tickets are \$8.00 in advance and may be purchased at Society Headquarters (10011 Iron Bridge Road), The Country Store (Chester), J.B.'s Hallmark (Meadowbrook), Central Virginia Bank (Brandermill), or Midlothian Apothecary (Midlothian).

Tickets may also be purchased on the day of the event at the door of each site for \$10.00.

For further information, call (804) 748-1026.

❖ Oral History Project to Begin

The Library Committee needs your help in compiling a list of older citizens for oral history interviews.

We have agreed to undertake an oral history project for the Society whereby we will interview older, long-time residents about their memories of various facets of county life when they were young. When we visit them we plan to take along a tape recorder and then soon thereafter transcribe these conversations into written form.

We need suggestions from you, our members, of persons to interview. You live all over Chesterfield and know who these
 (next page)



people are in the various neighborhoods. Please give us a call or write us a note and inform us about good possible interviewees before these valuable sources of local history are gone.

Send your suggestions to Lucille Moseley, 2200 Mt. Hermon Road, Moseley, VA 23120, or call 794-5907. Thank you so much!

Our Committees in Action
Wooldridge Children's Graveyard

Several months ago, two tombstones were discovered in a ditch along the road leading to Eppington in southwestern Chesterfield County. Found by Chesterfield County police officer Kevin Smith, who lives on the Eppington property as caretaker, the stones were taken to Police Property where they were catalogued and dusted for fingerprints. **The Cemetery Committee of the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia** was notified and was able to view and photograph the stones. The gravestones turned out to be those of two young boys named George E. Wooldridge, who died August 14th, 1855 at age 6, and William T. Wooldridge who died on December 8th of the same year, at age 8.

This was a distressing but interesting situation. Who were these boys? Who were their parents and where did they live? Why

did they die so young and most importantly, in which cemetery did their markers belong?

The committee's first step was to check the 1850 Federal Census where it was found that the family of William T. and Mary S. Wooldridge lived in the Upper District of Chesterfield County, Virginia. The family consisted of William and Mary and their four children, Izabella, Drucilla, William and George. From the names of surrounding families we guessed that this family lived in the Midlothian area. The committee then consulted the Chesterfield County Death Register and found entries for both boys listing them as the children of William T. and Mary S. Wooldridge. The cause of death was scarlet fever.

A search of Chesterfield County deed books turned up a deed between William T. Wooldridge and Sarah Moore who is shown as one of the Wooldridge's neighbors on the 1850 census. The deed, dated 10 December 1855, conveyed to William Wooldridge one fourth of an acre of land on the northeast corner of Sarah Moore's land "being now as a graveyard." The small lot bordered on the lands of David Winfree and George Hancock. We knew these names were associated with the Midlothian area and a check of the Chesterfield County 1888 census map showed the Moore land to be in the Otterdale area of Midlothian. This narrowed it down quite a bit but we were still looking for one quarter of an acre land in thousands.

During this time, the committee was searching the lands of Cornelius Buck. It was suspected that he had built a house called Buck Hill in the Coalfield Road area of Midlothian that had fallen down many years ago. We wanted to check the property to see if there might be an old family cemetery there. We contacted Mr. John Russell who knows that property and arranged to meet with him. On the day we met, construction on Coalfield Road unfortunately prevented access to the Buck Hill site. Mr. Russell kindly offered to take us to another cemetery that he knew of in the Otterdale area. After a ride over twisty Otterdale

Road and a few dirt paths full of mud puddles, we arrived at a piece of land measuring 10' x 20'. There under a tree were two stone bases with the initials G.E.W. and the other reading W.T.W. We'd found it! These were the grave sites of the two little boys whose markers were found at the opposite end of the county.

The goal of the Cemetery Committee is to locate and record burials in Chesterfield County. Though we try our best to make sure cemeteries are preserved, we usually do not repair them or them or the stones. This situation was different than any other we'd come across and some action needed to be taken to restore the gavestones to their proper places. In addition, William's stone had been broken at the time that it was thrown into the ditch and also had a section missing due to an earlier mishap. It would need repair work before it could be reset. Both stones are quite heavy and we realized immediately that we would need help getting them back to their proper places. Mr. Thomas Crowder, president of Metalstone Corporation of Petersburg generously donated his time and services for the repair and resetting of these tombstones. Both have been beautifully cleaned, and William's stone is now in one piece again. We must wait for warmer weather before the stones can be reset. A small ceremony is planned for late April with all involved parties invited to attend. Petals and Bows Florist of Chesterfield has donated flower for the occasion. The tombstones will again rest on the graves of William and George Wooldridge who shall be given the dignity and respect they deserve. *-Cemetery Committee*

NEXT ISSUE...


Tips from our genealogy committee on beginning your genealogy!

Committee News

The **Lord Chesterfield Bateaux** has announced it's 1995 schedule. On April 22 the Lord Chesterfield will be at the Earth Day Celebration at Byrd Park in Richmond. On June 25th rides will be offered on the James River at Maidens from 10 A.M. - Noon, along with other bateaux during the annual James River Festival race. *will be* Donations accepted for a fish ladder on the James River. September 16th will see the Lord Baltimore at the Appomattox Riverside Park.

The **Batteau Committee** has agreed to help move a batteau to Great Falls National Park that is being donated to the park. *(next column)*

The **WAR MEMORIAL COMMITTEE** continues to seek donations toward the building of a memorial to honor our Veterans. To date, more than \$17,850.00 has been collected. Contributions may be made to the **WAR MEMORIAL FUND**, in care of the Chesterfield Historical Society.

 **From the Recording Secretary...**

The annual luncheon meeting of the Chesterfield Historical Society was held Sunday, January 22, 1995 at 1 p.m. at the Sheraton Park South. There were approximately 50 attendees.

After a few words of welcome by Society President Jim Daniels and grace offered by Bettie Weaver, attendees enjoyed lunch.

(next column)

The Messenger

Jennifer D. Grau, Editor
Staff: Susan Johnson, Jeannette Ortiz, Roger Warden.

Sterling Hawkins, the newest member to the Board was introduced. Laurie Horner introduced the speaker, Colonel Howard A. McCord, Sr. who gave a very interesting and informative talk and slide presentation entitled "Indians and Archaeology of Chesterfield County, Virginia". As a token of appreciation, the Society presented Col. McCord with a copy of *A Time to Remember*.

Laurie Horner announced plans for a spring house tour to be held in in Centralia.

It was announced that the next quarterly meeting would be held at Castlewood on Sunday, April 23.

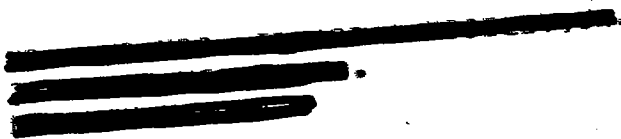
With no further business, the meeting was adjourned

Jennifer D. Grau, Asst. Director for Tamara Puster, Recording Secretary.

Send all correspondence to:
Jennifer D. Grau, Editor, *The Messenger*, P.O. Box 40,
Chesterfield, Virginia, 23832

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

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Add Your Name to Our Volunteer Roster

The Chesterfield Historical Society is in search of new volunteers to staff its genealogical library, the County Museum, Magnolia Grange and to serve on our committees. If you are looking for an opportunity to share your talents, please complete the form below and return it to us. We need you.

✂-----

Check all that apply:

I am a member of the Society and would like to learn more about volunteering. I have indicated by preferences below.

I am not a member of the Society but would like to join. I have filled out the information below and enclosed a check for \$ _____ for membership dues.

I am interested in the following volunteer opportunities (*check all that apply*):

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| ___ Archaeology | ___ Library | ___ Bermuda Hundred |
| ___ Batteaux | ___ County Museum | ___ Magnolia Grange |
| ___ Cemetery | ___ Picture Collection | ___ Office |
| ___ Civil War Sites | ___ House Tour | ___ Messenger |
| ___ Hospitality | ___ Genealogy | ___ Publications |

Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Address: _____ State, zip: _____

New Members Only: ___ **Individual (\$12)** ___ **Couple (\$20)**

___ **Family (\$25)** ___ **Student (\$5)**

___ **Sustaining (\$100)** ___ **Corporate (\$500)**

Memberships are yearly (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31). Make check payable to: *The Chesterfield Historical Society.*

Mail this form to:

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

THANK YOU!

We would like to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU to all of our Museum, Magnolia Grange, and Courthouse volunteers. Your dedication and interest make it possible for us to have our facilities available to the public. Without you this would not be possible.

The following people donated their time in 1994 and are listed by their cumulative hours since the commencement of service:

10-100

PAT AULT
MICHELLE BOWERS
LYDA CUNNINGHAM
JIM EMORY
MARY KAY GATES
LINWOOD HUDSON
CINDY MOSHIER
HELEN PATRICK
MARSHALL PEARMAN
MERLE WALDRON
GRACE WEBB

101-250

AL COVINGTON
DOROTHY HAWKINS
IRMA KAUFMAN
VIVIAN LOVE
BETTY MATTHEWS
LUCILLE MOSELEY
SARAH PAGE
DICK PAGE

251-400

REBECCA BADGER
THELMA BEACHLEY
VIVIAN FOGLE
CLARE HOBSON
MARY PLUMMER HUMPHREY
ROVENA JONES
NORA LANGFORD
RACHEL LIPOWICZ
ENGLAR ROOP
JOE VADEN
ANGIE WILDEMAN

401-550

KATHLEEN BAKER
MARY BARNES
LILLIAN CUBBON
MILDRED DAFFRON
MARTHA DUBOSE
RACHEL HOLMES
ELIZABETH JOHNSON
FRANCES MORRIS
HELEN PERKINS
TAMARA PUSTER
LAURA SLOAN
RUBY WILLIAMS

551-700

GWEN COALTER
HELEN GOYNE
GORDON JONAS
TERRY ROACH

701-999

MARGARET BURGESS
FAY CECIL
NATALIE DAY
MARY ELIZABETH JONAS
FRANCES MACKENZIE

1000-2000

NANCY DUNNAVANT
PATTIE GRADY
MARY MAYS
BUDDY MCGUIRE
MARVIN REED

OVER 2000

ED MOSELEY