



The Messenger

of the
Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia

Issue Number 35

January 1996

Magnolia Grange Celebrates Yule Season with Gifts & Decorations

Magnolia Grange was aglow this past Christmas Season as the Society kicked off their annual celebration of Magnolia Grange in Holiday Dress on December 3rd, 1995. The Grange was decorated with local greens and berries arrangements and wreaths donated by several local Garden Clubs. Handmade ornaments of the period trimmed the tree. Docents in flowing French empire dresses led tours through candle lit rooms, and the Dining Room table was set for a formal opulent dinner of boiled turkey with oyster gravy. Harp and pianoforte music wafted through this grand house while ladies and gents in Colonial costumes from the Colonial Dance Club and Heritage Dancers of Williamsburg danced English Country dances, later being joined with young ladies from the Carey Clark Dance Academy of Chesterfield. Quilts, graciously loaned by Society Members, decorated the upstairs. Children and adults were greeted at the top of the stairs with an antique toy exhibit and quilt of Magnolia Grange by Margaret Wright. To complete this magical transformation back into time, a Revolutionary War encampment of the 7th Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line stoked their fire, fired volleys from their rifles and mesmerized young and old with narrations of battles and 'the life as a Continental soldier'.



Mrs. Margaret Marshall Bushnell with Harp

Excitement permeated through the house with the arrival of several new gifts on loan to Magnolia Grange. A classical harp, with Egyptian Revival overtones and excellent gilded gesso ornamentation, circa 1835, was given by Margaret Marshall Forsyth Bushnell. In addition, Mrs. Bushnell, a direct descendent of Chief Justice John Marshall, has already given the dining room table, chairs and sideboard. Mrs. Bushnell, who attended the Magnolia Grange in Holiday Dress with her husband Nathan Bushnell III, also presented to the Grange a set of Regina stoneware dishes, circa 1850, which were used by the Marshall family during the 19th century. These lovely blue and white transfer ware dishes consist of plates, a turkey platter, a soup tureen, vegetable bowls, and a large punch bowl. Two fancy chairs, now placed in the Office, were also gifts of Mrs. Bushnell. Without gracious loans and gifts, Magnolia Grange would not be the splendidly restored home that we have today.

Chesterfield Historical Society Quarterly Meeting
Sunday, January 28, 1996

Defense General Supply Center - Officers' Club

12:30 Buffet Brunch with Cost \$9.50 which must be Reserved and Paid for by Jan 24th

Please mail checks to CHS, P.O. Box 40, Chesterfield, Virginia 23832

Speaker details in upcoming flyer.

Quarterly Membership Meeting

The Quarterly Meeting of the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia was held on Sunday, October 22, 1995. About 60 members were in attendance at the 1917 Courthouse. President Laurie Horner welcomed all and invited members to bring a friend to our meetings.

Minutes were read and approved.

Doris Hancock reported that the total in all banks is \$143,197.83.

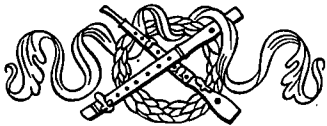
Nancy Carter Crump reports that Magnolia Grange is receiving a donation from the Bushnell family of an antique harp, two Lafayette Chairs, and antique blue and white china. The Museum has been painted and the exhibits have been rearranged to allow more space for activities with school groups. The gift shop is now open and ready for business. Many thanks to the County for all their help, as well as Shirley Hudson and Martha Miles for making the valances and Linwood and Porter Hudson for hanging them. Please stop in and visit our lovely gift shop.

Jim Daniels was presented with a plaque in recognition of his services as President of the Historical Society of Virginia 1993-1995.

Doris Hancock introduced the speaker, Dr. Carl Lounsbury. Dr. Lounsbury gave a talk and slide presentation on activities around Virginia county courthouses.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Lipowitz
Recording Secretary



Memorial Veterans Wall - Note the Special Insert describing the Remembering Veterans Print with proceeds used to construct the Chesterfield County Memorial Veterans Wall. Signed copies are \$35.00 with checks made to the Historical Society, attn. Joyce Honerick.

Docents

Museum Guides Needed

Help! The Museum and Magnolia Grange need your help! February through March will see most, if not all, 2nd Graders in Chesterfield County tour our Museums. If you like children and can donate 2-4 hours per week either morning or afternoon shifts, we can use you. Orientation classes will begin soon to instruct Docents in giving the most informative tours geared to these inquiring minds. Contact Nancy Carter Crump at the Museum Office for details.

Ukrop's

Again this year, the Society will be participating in Ukrop's Golden Gifts Program. You will be receiving your accumulated points in January's Ukrop's Valued Customer Magazine. Simply write on it that you would like your donation to go to the Chesterfield Historical Society and send it or bring it to us! Any questions - call Jennifer at 748-1026. Thanks.

From the Cemetery Committee:

As reported in the last issue of The Messenger, we have recently undertaken to copy a collection of photographs from the State Library of Virginia. This collection consists mainly of historic homes in Manchester and Chesterfield Counties. It has been catalogued and is now available for use in our Library. These photographs should be an immense aid to genealogists and those interested in early architecture of Chesterfield County. We are in need of about \$170.00 to cover the cost of the project and tax deductible donations are still being accepted. Please mark your contributions to go to the "Document Project".

New Members:

R.W. Phillips, Richmond Virginia
Rosemary Bowers Dodd, Glen Burnie, Maryland
Edna Baldwin, Conroe, Texas
Frances E. Caffrey, Richmond, Virginia
Mary Rose Robertson, Falls Church, Virginia
Bill J. Terry, Connelly Springs, North Carolina
Lucy Swainson, Provo, Utah
Wilbur E. and Catherine M. Traylor, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Samuel and Anita Price, Richmond, Virginia
Margaret and Nathan Bushnell, III and Children, Richmond, Virginia
David & Rebecca Lette, and Children, Chesterfield, Virginia
George Ramsey, Suffolk, Virginia
Mrs. I.V. Crawford, Tyler, Texas
Vickie L. Schreffler, Richmond, Virginia
Dennis Nofsinger, Midlothian, Virginia
Sandra Kerr, Richmond, Virginia

We warmly welcome you into our Society and look forward to your acquaintance in the near future.

*A Review, by Aimee Brooks,
Fall 1995 Intern with the Chesterfield Historical Society*



At the beginning of my internship at the Chesterfield Historical Society, I first gathered information from several museums around the country to compose a collection-management policy and the paperwork associated with museum work, such as contract of gift forms. A collection-management policy is a document that a museum uses as a guideline for all of its future collection activities such as accessioning and deaccessioning. Among other things, the gift and loan forms will help establish a paper trail with regards to ownership.

After writing the collection-management policy, I inventoried the museum's entire collection. This inventory will help define the strengths and weaknesses in the collection. Although I grew up in Richmond, I confess that I did not know much about the Chesterfield Museum. During my inventory, I discovered several fascinating items including A.P. Hill's sword, the Commission of Peace, and the Thomas Jefferson tobacco licenses. I also discovered Magnolia Grange and all of its treasures.

I have set up a new collection storage area in the Old Jail. New metal shelves have been added to store artifacts that were previously stored in a closet along with the hot water heater, cleaning supplies and holiday decorations. The new storage area will allow for better protection against detrimental agents such as humidity, pests, flooding, and spills that occur in shared storage. With proper measures being taken, the Museum's collection will last for future generations and for many years.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at the Chesterfield Historical Society. I have gotten the opportunity to observe inner museum workings and meet all the wonderful people involved with the Society. Thank you for showing me such a good (and let's not forget educational) time!

We would like to thank the following members and friends who have so generously donated to our collections recently. Words can never express our gratitude for these gifts.

To the County Museum:

Mr. Rodney Fitzgerald - World War II photograph of a DuPont Women in Production Services Parade

Mr. Howard D. Ashcraft - Copy of his Book, As You Were: Cannon Company, 34th Infantry Division, 168th Infantry Regiment, World War II.

Jamestown-Yorktown Educational Trust - Life-size figurines of Captain John Smith and Chief Powhatan.

To Magnolia Grange:

Mrs. Phyllis Bass - Late 19th to early 20th century flatware made of metal and an unknown material and a set of vintage linen napkins.

Mrs. Margaret Bushnell - Two federal period fancy chairs, an 1835 harp and circa 1850 stoneware dinner service for six, with accompanying serving pieces.

Also, a note of special thanks to the following people who have lent items from their personal collections for recent exhibits:

Rodney Fitzgerald, Lew Shelton, Robert Watts, Mark Patton and Gordon Jonas - Photographs and memorabilia for our World War II exhibit at the Museum.

Pattie Grady, Margaret Wright, and Ruby Williams - Quilts and quilt racks for our recent exhibit at Magnolia Grange.

The Southern Bebes Doll Club - "Dolls in Native American Dress" for our holiday exhibits in the Museum.

Margaret Wright - Selections from her toy collection for a holiday exhibit at Magnolia Grange.

Colonial Williamsburg - Faux food for our holiday table at Magnolia Grange.

To the Library:

Betty Lou Anderson

Richard T. Baker

Estate of Loxley L. Cashion

Chesterfield Circuit Court Clerk

School Report of Lula Cox, Enon School, 1887.

Chesterfield Petition of August, 1775 and Muster Roll of Chesterfield Soldiers, Company C, 9th Virginia Infantry, 1861.

Leigh, Watkins, and Old Families' Bible Records 1781-1876.

Manuscript: The Chesterfield Jail of 1842 and Courthouse Addition of 1805.



From the Batteau Committee:

Richmond Riverfront Development Ground Breaking

On a beautiful sunny day, Monday, October 2nd, 1995 the Lord Chesterfield Batteau, with its Captain Paul Kreynus, Co-captain Will Turnage and crew members David Welchons, Steve Grossclose and Reggie Roberts participated in the Richmond Riverfront Development Corporation ground breaking ceremony.

The batteau crew met at the W.O. Grubbs Crane Service on 12th street where the positioning crane lifted the batteau up, over the fence and into the Haxall Canal. We then poled up the Canal to Browns Island where the Riverfront Development and Canal Renovation project hope to renovate. These once busy canals were used to transport goods and merchandise from the upper James River to Richmond for sale and distribution. Once envisioned by George Washington some 200 years ago, the canals eventually were replaced by railroads.

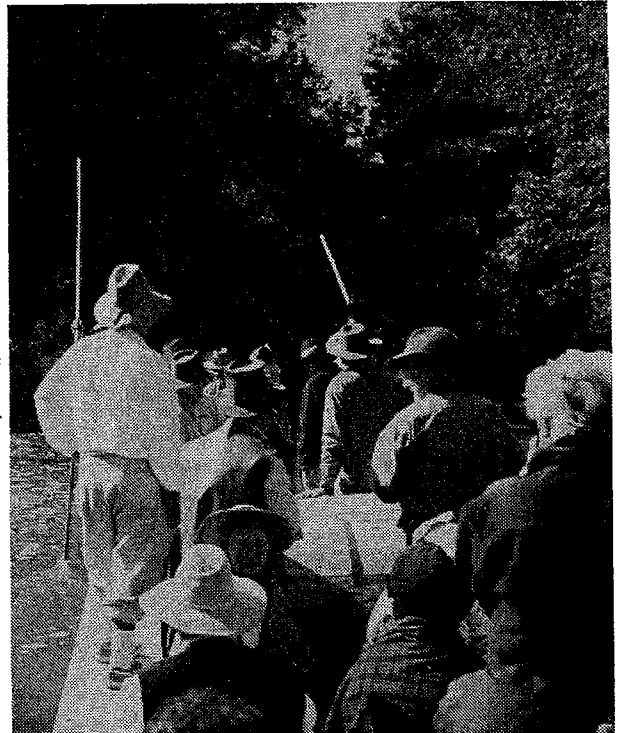
Dignitaries as the honorable Leonidas Young, Mayor, City of Richmond, Brenton S. Halsey, President of the Richmond Riverfront Development Corporation and others joined in this ground breaking ceremony. The Lord Chesterfield fired a loud cannon to honor the beginning of a new era.

Submitted by David Welchons
Crew Member, the Lord Chesterfield Batteau

Poling Up the Appomattox Canal

In late October, the Chesterfield Batteau committee poled up the Appomattox Canal with the Richmond Power Boat Squadron on board. The crew were in costume and a video was shot that may be shown on This Morning America. Historian Bill Trout gave an enlightening talk of the canal and its people. The rest of the afternoon was spent enjoying a "low country boil". A grand time was had by all.

Submitted by Nancy R. Dunnavant
for Captain Paul Kreynus





Membership: The Membership year runs from January 1 to December 31 and dues for 1996 are now due. Please enclose your check with this form and make payable to: Chesterfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 40, Chesterfield, VA 23832. Dues are tax deductible. Thanks.

Membership Application

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Telephone Number (_____) _____

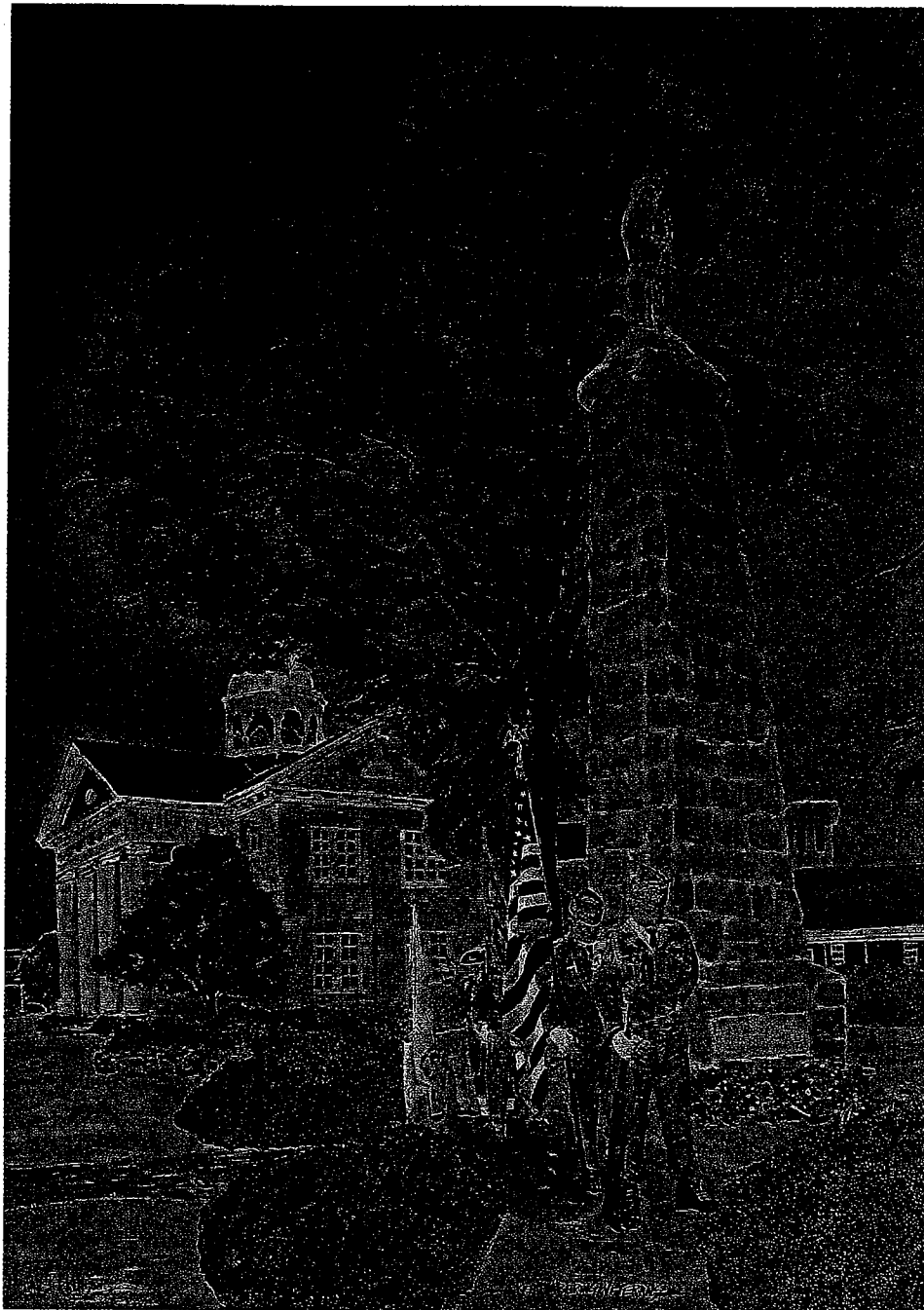
_____ Sustaining Membership \$100 per year	_____ Two years \$ _____
_____ Family Membership \$25 per year	_____ Individual Life \$200
_____ Couple Membership \$20 per year	_____ Donation \$ _____
_____ Single Membership \$12 per year	_____ I wish to volunteer
_____ Corporate Membership \$500 per year	to serve on the following
_____ Student Membership \$5 per year	Committees: _____

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

Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia
 P.O. Box 40
 Chesterfield, Virginia 23832
 Telephone (804) 748-1026

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For more information contact W. Baxter Perkinson, Sr., (804) 590-1861



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Prints available at the Chesterfield Historical Society Office, Old Courthouse, after Veteran's Day, November 11, 1995



