

THE MESSENGER



OF THE CHESTERFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

Issue Number 37

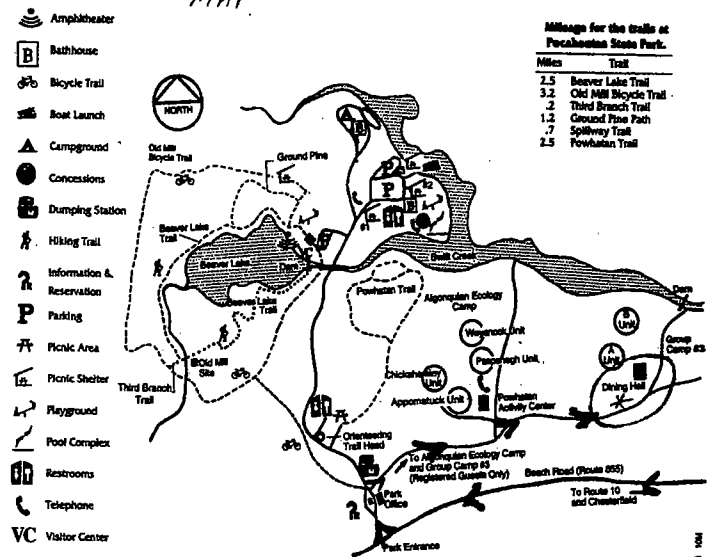
July 1996

The Society's July Quarterly Meeting

The July Quarterly Meeting will be held at 2:00 pm on Sunday, July 28th at the Pocahontas State Park (air-conditioned) Dining Hall. The speaker will be Kathleen Adams, Historian for the Pocahontas Chapter #124, Civilian Conservation Corp.

DIRECTIONS: Route 10 to Beach Road to Pocahontas Park. Go through the park entrance, pass the gate and park office. Turn right and follow signs to the dining hall.

The Chapter has prepared a cookbook which may be on sale at the meeting.

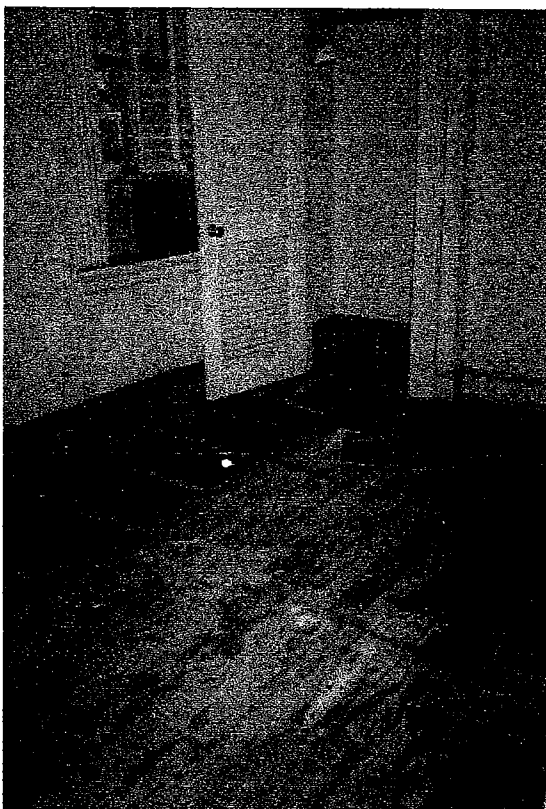


A Message from the President

For nearly eighty years, the historic courthouse has been a significant part of Chesterfield County's history, serving first as its circuit court and in more recent times, as the headquarters of the Chesterfield Historical Society under a contractual arrangement with the county that has proven to be mutually beneficial. This old building is now badly in need of renovation. Please support the funds requested in the General Services budget to begin this work.

Recently, severe termite and water damage was discovered in the back office, a room that originally served as the judges' chambers. With a large portion of the sub-flooring and floor joists gone (see accompanying photographs), a potentially hazardous situation existed. This necessitated closing the back rooms of the courthouse so that repairs could be made. The floor has been replaced and over the next few weeks, it will be sanded and refinished; the room itself will be repainted before it is opened again as an extended part of our research facilities. At that point,

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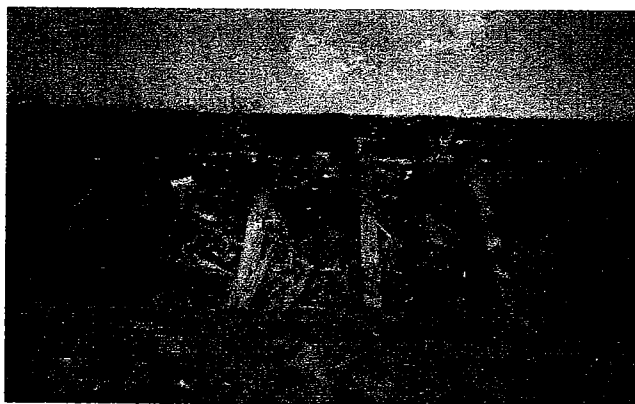


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the genealogical library will be examined to determine whether or not the damage has extended into that room.

This is not the first evidence of termite damage in the 1917 Courthouse. While cleaning and painting the old Commonwealth Attorney's office for use as our new gift shop, active termites were found and treated by the county. If they had not been discovered, the courthouse, on the State and National Register of Historic Places, would have continued to deteriorate.

These projects have been undertaken by the county's General Services Department, which has been unfailingly responsive to the structural needs at all our sites. Its support has been important to our operation. A \$50,000 request by General Services to begin renovations in the 1917 Courthouse was eliminated from the 1997 budget.



Nearly 4,000 people visited the Historic 1917 Courthouse in 1995 (see visitation figures elsewhere in *The Messenger*). It serves increasingly as a mini welcome center for Chesterfield County. Numerous visitors stop by daily to get information on the county, with queries ranging from the historical to basic questions such as where to buy a dog tag or pay taxes. People are fascinated with this old courthouse and its significance to Chesterfield County's history.

Since this courthouse is often the first place visitors and newcomers stop, it should represent the best that the county has to offer. In addition to its use as a focal point for those who are visiting Chesterfield County, the building has been "scouted" by the Virginia Film Industry for use in movies filmed in the area. It becomes, therefore, increasingly important to repair this historic courthouse; over time, it should be restored to its original appearance.

—Laurie Horner

The Chesterfield Historical Society expresses its deepest thanks to Susan Poe for her excellent work as editor of the Messenger for the last two issues. We regret that she cannot continue as editor, but we appreciate the superb job that she did during this time.

Plantation Day 1996

Plantation Day was held at Magnolia Grange on Sunday, May 19th this year from 1 pm - 5 pm. Despite temperatures that reached nearly 100 degrees, we had approximately 300 people who took part in the activities on the grounds. Approximately 170 of those also toured the house.

We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations who participated and helped to make this day a success: **Bill Walker** (dance caller), **Mabel Lewis** (soloist), **CHS Genealogy Committee** (information table), **Hospitality Quilters** (quilting), **Susan Dawson** (tattling), **Dot Williams** (wool carding), **James River Wood Carvers** (wood carving), **Jolene Newman** (spinning), **Kay Michael** (CHS membership information) **Harry & Helen Goyne** of Goyne's Apiary (bee keeping), **Tamara Puster** and **Shirley Hudson** (CHS Gift Shop), **Kathy Chain** of the Herbs of Happy Hill (herbs), **Vanessa Poe** and **Lauren Stuhldreher** (children's games), **CHS Archaeology Committee** (archaeology exhibit), **CHS Cemetery Committee** (plant and baked goods sales), **Woodland Pond Swim and Racquet Club Swim Team** (food and beverage sales), and **Barbara Hinton** (Victorian side-saddle rider).

We would also like to thank the following volunteers who helped in a variety of ways including giving tours of the house, collecting tour admissions, set up and clean up: **Sam and Anita Hilbert**, **Vivian Love**, **Phyllis Bass**, **Susan Poe**, **Bebe Alexander**, **Laura Sloan**, **Mildred Daffron**, **Nell Yoss**, **Rachel Holmes**, **Mary Plummer Humphrey**, **Vivian Fogle**, **Marshall Pearman** and **Irma Kaufman**.

Request for Corrections to the O'Dell Book

Chesterfield County: Early Architecture and Historic Sites by Jeffrey O'Dell has been out of print for several years. Weekly we receive queries from those interested in purchasing the book when it is reprinted.

Mr. O'Dell did a wonderful job with an extremely large project. Much of his information came from oral interviews. As any scholar knows, new or conflicting information often comes to light as soon as a book comes out in print. This is no reflection on the author; it is simply that research is an evolving process. There is always a margin of error even in a small work; this increases with the size of the work.

Before his death, Mr. O'Dell expressed to his mother his desire that corrections be made in the reprinting of his book. Therefore, we need your help. If you know of corrections that are needed in the book, please send this information, including page number and documentation, as well as an address and phone number where you can be reached to:

Chesterfield Historical Society
Attn: O'Dell Book corrections
P.O. Box 40
Chesterfield, VA 23832



A Time To Remember

As of January 1, we have sold 1,162 copies of *A Time To Remember*, with approximately 838 copies remaining. The printing costs of \$17,500 have been paid off, and a profit of \$5,740 has been realized. The remaining inventory of *A Time To Remember* will add additional revenue to the Historical Society when sold.

Gift shop manager Tamara Puster has announced a new sale price of \$17.00 per copy. We appreciate your support as we undertook this project and request your help as we seek to sell the remaining copies.

Many thanks are due to Hugh Goodwyn, chairman of our Picture Collection, for the countless hours which he spent traveling around

the county, contacting long-time residents and having their treasured photographs copied for our files. From well over one thousand photos which he collected, we chose about two hundred to tell the story in *A Time To Remember*. Thank you, Hugh!

Lucille Cheatham Moseley



The Oral History Project

For a long time, the Chesterfield Historical Society has tried to solicit the submission of written local history that includes memoirs, stories, and life experiences related to Chesterfield County. Unfortunately, very few such documents have surfaced. We continue to request and encourage the contribution of written local history.

While waiting for you to come to us, we decided that we would also come to you! Thus, the Oral History Project was created to videotape interviews with current and former county residents. These tapes will document where your family lived, what life was like in your neighborhood, how your community has changed, who the people were that you remember, what they were like, and so on.

Our first interview, which included Ed Moseley, Irby Brown, and Zane Davis on "The History of the Museum Committee," has already been videotaped. Another taping is planned on the "History of the Chesterfield Historical Society." Interviews are needed on every community in Chesterfield County as well as other topics of historical interest.

Many historical societies have had an active oral history program for years. We need to get going! This cannot be done by a few people. Maybe you can help with the following:

1. We need the names of those people that need to be interviewed or those who will volunteer themselves.
2. We need suggestions on communities or topics to be documented.

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3. We need people who can interview.
4. We need video-camera operators as well as people who have equipment to edit and duplicate videotapes.
5. We need people interested in transcribing the dialogue so that a written copy will be available.

You may only want to work on one project or you may want to continue your involvement. If you are interested on any level, please call Laurie Horner at 739-2837.

Laurie Horner



Historic Chester Buildings to be Commemorated in Christmas Ornaments

The Historical Preservation Committee of the Kiwanis Club of Chester is offering the first in a series of Christmas ornaments depicting historic Chester landmarks. The 24k gold-plated ornament this year is a replica of Chester Presbyterian Church as it appeared in 1878. Following the chronological order of establishment, St. John's Episcopal, Chester Baptist and Chester Methodist churches will be featured in successive years. Other historic Chester village landmarks will be selected for depiction in 2000 and beyond. The ornament is attractively boxed for gift giving. Order now for receipt in November.

Proceeds from this project will allow the Kiwanis Club to continue its support of scholarships at Lloyd Bird and Thomas Dale High Schools, a John Tyler Community College Scholarship, the Bensley-Bermuda Rescue Squad, The YMCA of Chester, Key and Keyette clubs at Thomas Dale, and the Terrific Kids program at Curtis, Enon, Wells and Harrowgate Elementary Schools.

In Bygone Days



The E. Thomas Hatcher family enjoys a winter afternoon in their front yard in Chester, 1914. The church in the background is Chester Presbyterian Church at its original location on Winfree Street. (Photograph from the collection of Paul Hunter Shelton)

To order, send a check for \$12.00 along with your name, phone number and address to KIWANIS CHRISTMAS, 11431 Rochelle Road, Chester, Virginia 23831. When the ornaments are available in November, you will be notified when and where to pick up your treasure. Include an additional \$2.50 if you wish your ornament mailed to you.

A limited number of these ornaments will be available in the Historical Society's Courthouse Gift Shop.



Look for a future mailing on the Chesterfield Historical Society's own exclusive Christmas Ornament for 1996

New Members

The Chesterfield Historical Society continues to grow, with membership now numbering nearly 1,000 people. We welcome the following new members who have joined the Chesterfield Historical Society since April 1996:

DeRoy Beale
Mr. & Mrs. H. Otway Chalkley
Willie & Eva Cox
Arline Dowds
James H. Doyle
Diane Glover
Bonnie S. Harris
Ilona Hooper
George F. Hoover
Marjorie Klevenz
Virginia Lithgow
Suzanne F. Loehr-Lynch
Elmo E. Moore
Tom Puckett
Mr. & Mrs. Prince Robinson
A.J. Shoosmith
Gale Sussman
Becky Vaught
Margaret H. Wallace
Charlotte F. Weston
Paul W. Wynkoos (continued on next column)



The Chesterfield Historical Society wishes to acknowledge the many hours of hard work and dedication given by its various committees. Without you there would not be a Chesterfield Historical Society.
THANK YOU!

In addition, visitation dramatically increased in 1995. The number of visitors at all our sites was

1917 Courthouse
3,855 (up by 2,525 from 1994)
County Museum
3,985 (up by 2,154 from 1994)
Magnolia Grange
3,782 (up by 1,922 from 1994)



Gifts

The Chesterfield Historical Society wishes to thank the following individuals for their generous donations to our collections:

To the County Museum:

Mrs. R. L. Burton --- Chester High School beanie, commencement programs and assorted Chesterfield County Fair, Petersburg Fair, and 4-H ribbons, buttons and medals - all circa 1933 - belonging to her mother, Katherine Burgess Robertson.

To the Library:

Lucille Cheatham Moseley - Book: *More Cheathams* by Katharine E. Harbury.

Marvin E. Reed - Book: *Food in History* by Reay Tannahill.

Ronald A. Audet - Book: *The Burton Family of Chesterfield and Henrico Counties, Virginia*. Gift of the author.

Col. Horace Mann, III - Book: *The Mann Family of Matoaca, Chesterfield County, Virginia*.

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Leonard - Book: *The Virginia Branch of the Orcutt Family*. Gift of the authors.

Estate of Loxley L. Cashion - Book: *Hopewell Church, an Historical Glimpse* by Rev. Kirk Chapman Mariner.

3,000 Chesterfield County Second- Grade Students Tour CHS Museums This Year

Since the beginning of February 1996 through June 7, 1996, nearly 3,000 Chesterfield County public school students toured Magnolia Grange, the County Museum, the Historic 1917 Courthouse, and the 1892 Jail. With the able assistance of approximately 25 guides and docents, students participated in a mock trial, learned about the early Indian tribes of Chesterfield, visited our General Merchandise Store exhibit, and participated in a new hands-on activity. In addition, each class toured Magnolia Grange and its grounds, and visited the jail to see what incarceration was like in the early 20th century.

Our school guides and docents went above and beyond the call of duty to be sure that these young children had the opportunity to learn their county's heritage. Many of our guides came in two, three, or four times a week to help out and all were cooperative, enthusiastic, and most of all, patient.

A picnic to honor the guides and docents who assisted with this year's school tours was held on Friday, June 14th on the Courthouse green. The menu included sub sandwiches, chips, soda and cake. Door prizes donated by area businesses were given away. Our thanks to the following businesses that contributed prizes to the picnic :

Howlett's Tavern	gift certificate
Hair Apparent	gift certificate
Petals & Bows Florist	fresh centerpiece
Swineford Florist	potted mum
The Giftree	wooden recipe box
Radio Shack	AM/FM pocket radio
LB's Restaurant	gift certificates
Courthouse Gift Shop	CHS tote bag

Thank you for your generosity!

We thank all of our guides and docents who help us in so many ways throughout our facilities. We are in the midst of planning a similar event for

our entire volunteer staff in the fall. Watch your mail for further details!



Heritage Crafts for Kids Planned at Magnolia Grange

The Chesterfield Historical Society invites children ages 8 - 11 to participate in this year's Heritage Crafts for Kids program at Magnolia Grange (10020 Iron Bridge Road). The classes will be held every Wednesday, July 10 - 31, 1996, 9:30 am - 12 noon.

On July 10, Master Gardener Jacqueline Shoaf will present "Story-time in the Garden" in the Magnolia Grange herb garden. Let your child explore the simple pleasures of gardening while learning stories and myths. Come dressed to get dirty because participants will work in the garden and pot their own plant to take home!

Jolene Newman, an accomplished spinner and weaver who has taught at various summer and 4-H camps in the mid-west, will teach students basic weaving techniques. Students will use a card loom and different colored fibers to experiment with various weaves, such as the tabby weaves, in this class to be held on July 17th.

On July 24th, experienced quilters Cheryl Warner and Ruby Williams will teach participants how to make their own tote bag, perfect for carrying everything from suntan lotion to lunch. Best of all, you make it yourself!

Calligraphy will be taught by Chester Middle School art teacher Sherrie Zimmerman on July 31st. Participants will learn how to write upper and lower case italic letters using their very own calligraphy pen. Each student will also receive a souvenir goose quill and ink for practice at home!

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All classes require advance registration and payment at least one week (7 days) prior to the class date. Cost per class is \$18.00 per student or \$65.00 per student for all four classes. Cost includes instructional hours, tours of the house, some materials, and a snack. Class sizes are limited to ten students each so sign up early! For more information or to register, call (804) 748-1026.



Visit the Courthouse Gift Shop

The Courthouse Gift Shop, located in the old Commonwealth Attorney's office in the 1917 Courthouse, continues to draw visitors. Carrying an array of gifts, ranging from Virginia Metalcrafters jewelry to Nancy Thomas folk art, the shop welcomes shoppers on a daily basis.

Two of the Society's publications, have been reduced. Vol. II of the Chesterfield County history is now priced at \$20; *A Time to Remember* is offered at \$17.00 per copy. In addition, other items in the shop are newly priced or on sale.

Beginning on August 1, a 10% discount will be offered to members who present their membership card in the shop. Remember, proceeds will help support Society activities. If you have not stopped by the Courthouse Gift Shop, now is the time!

Official hours are 10-4 Monday through Friday, with additional hours by appointment. Call the office at 748-1026 for additional information.

Chesterfield Historical Society Officers 1996

President — Laurie Horner
1st Vice-President — Doris M. Hancock
2nd Vice-President — Sterling Hawkins
Recording Secretary — Rachel Lipowicz
Corresponding Secretary — Tamara Puster
Treasurer — David Brown

Directors —

Rebecca Badger, Palmer Condrey,
Jim Daniels, Mary Kay Gates, Samuel Hilbert,
Mary Plummer Humphrey, Baxter Perkinson,
Susan Poe, Paul Hunter Shelton

Staff —

Nancy Carter Crump, Executive Director
Jennifer D. Grau, Assistant Director
Tamara Puster, Gift Shop Manager
Kay Michael, Office Assistant
Jennifer Eikmeier, Collections Management Intern
Christi Aaron, Student Intern



Chesterfield Historical Society Fall Calendar of Events

September 28 — Celebrate the Wedding of Zuleime Duval and James L. Robertson: Magnolia Grange.

October 2 & 9 — Join us for Mid-Day Melodies: Courthouse Green.

October 4, 5 & 6 — Bring your Christmas List for the Museum Gift Shop Fair: Science Museum of Virginia.

October 27 — Quarterly Meeting

December 7 — Christmas Open House



Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Number: (_____) _____

____ Student Membership \$5.00 per year

____ Single Membership \$12.00 per year

____ Couple Membership \$20.00 per year

____ Family Membership \$25.00 per year

____ Corporate Membership \$500.00 per year

____ Renewal

____ New Member

____ Two Years \$ _____

____ Individual Life \$200.00

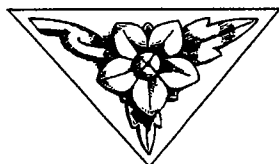
____ Donation \$ _____

Return to:

The Chesterfield Historical Society

P.O. Box 40

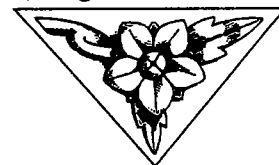
Chesterfield, Virginia 23832



Hours of Operation

All Museums: 10:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. Monday — Friday

1:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m. Sunday



The Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia

P.O. Box 40

Chesterfield, Virginia 23832

Telephone: (804) 748-1026

