

The Messenger

OF THE CHESTERFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

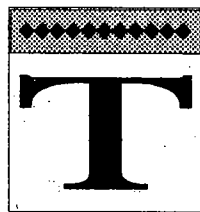
Issue Number 38

October 1996

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Challenge Grant Offered



The Culinary Historians of Virginia has extended a \$500 challenge grant to the Chesterfield Historical Society to fund a highway marker commemorating Chesterfield native, Mary Randolph, the first Chesterfield County woman to be so honored.

Mary Randolph, the granddaughter of Archibald Cary, was born at Amphill in 1762 and grew up at Tuckahoe, the Randolph plantation in Goochland County. In 1782, she married her cousin, David Meade Randolph of Turkey Island. For many years during the close of the 18th century, they made their home at their Bermuda Hundred plantation, Presquile, before moving to Richmond. Financial reverses created enormous difficulties for the family and in 1808, Mrs. Randolph opened a boarding house where, by all accounts, the culinary skills and lavish hospitality for which she had long been noted brought instant success to her business venture.

Her knowledge of Virginia cookery led Mary Randolph to compile recipes she had accumulated throughout her adult life. They were published in her book, *The Virginia Housewife*, in 1824; the book was an instant success. Now recognized as the first regional cookbook in America, *The Virginia Housewife* stayed in print up into this century.

The Culinary Historians is interested in commemorating Mary Randolph, one of Virginia first culinary artists. They believe it would be

(Continued on page 6)

**Chesterfield
Historical Society
Officers**

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

Mason Chalkley, Palmer Condrey,
Jim Daniels, Mary Kay Gates,
Charles Gray, Samuel Hilbert,
Mary Plummer Humphrey,
Baxter Perkinson,
Susan Poe,
Bettie Weaver

Staff

Nancy Carter Crump, Executive
Director

Jennifer D. Grau, Assistant Director

Tamara Puster, Gift Shop Manager

Kay Valentine Pate, Office Assistant

Jennifer Eikmeier,
Collections Management Intern

Julie Marsh, Student Intern

**Hours
of
Operation**

All Museums

10:00 A.M. — 4:00 P.M.

Monday — Friday

1:00 P.M. — 4:00 P.M. on Sunday

Call (804) 748-1026 for Information

Editor

Mason T. Chalkley

Courthouse Update

The library and back office, closed since June for repairs by the county (see July *Messenger*), should reopen by the end of October with a bright and shiny new look both inside and out. Termite and water damage in both rooms has been repaired and flooring replaced where needed. As we go to press, the floors are being refinished and the exterior of the building is being repainted. Our friends from the county's Building & Grounds department have painted the walls and provided new lighting fixtures. If all continues according schedule, we should begin reshelving books and replacing furniture in late October. We are especially grateful to **Willie Nunnally of Nunnally's Furniture Company who has donated a beautiful 9x12 oriental-design rug to brighten the back office.** Mr. Nunnally's family are long-time county residents and supporters of the Society.

**Researching Chesterfield History
is Topic of 1996 Issue of
*The Journal***

The current issue of the *Journal*, scheduled for publication in time for Christmas, is a guide to doing research on Chesterfield County history. The lead article, titled "Discovering Chesterfield's History in its Loose Court Records," is an informative and anecdotal guidebook to the Chesterfield County & Circuit Court Records at the Library of Virginia, in Richmond. Until recently, these loose paper records were inaccessible to the public. They now await the researcher and the genealogist and their skills at cracking open the mysteries of the past. Look for your issue in time for the holidays.

The Courthouse Gift Shop

Do Your Holiday Shopping With Us!

Exciting things are happening in the CHS gift shop! We are receiving new shipments daily in preparation for the Christmas season. Please stop by and see our new merchandise and consider doing your Christmas shopping with us. Every gift shop sale benefits the Society. Here are some of the new items for Christmas 1996 gift giving:

- 1996 Limited edition "Eppington" Christmas ornament. These exclusive ornaments are selling fast. Shop early!
- Our exclusive reproduction Delft punch bowl, "One Bowl More Will." The excavation at Magnolia Grange is the only one known to have yielded bowls inscribed with this phrase. **PLEASE ORDER TODAY TO BE ASSURED CHRISTMAS DELIVERY.**
- The "Success to Trade" Delft punch bowl, also from the Magnolia Grange collection. Both bowls custom-designed by potter, Michelle Erickson, of Period Designs.
- Our CHS logo golf shirts, sweat shirts, and tote bags.

We also have a variety of new books available:

- Old Manchester and its Environs, 1769-1910* by Dr. Benjamin Weisiger
Chesterfield County, Virginia: Deeds - 1749-1756 by Dr. Benjamin Weisiger
Archaeology for Young Explorers, by Patricia Samford & David L. Ribblett
CCC Cookbook, by the National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni
Midlothian - Highlights of Its History, by Bettie Woodson Weaver
Almost Possum Stew, by Waterman Will Turnage (the second batteau cookbook)
Virginia's Ghosts, by L.B. Taylor, Jr.
Civil War Ghosts of Virginia, by L.B. Taylor, Jr.
Virginia Civil War Battlefields, by Peter Lockwood
Hearthside Cooking, by CHS director, Nancy Carter Crump
 ... and much more!

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

Your Ukrop's Golden Gifts Can Benefit CHS

Again this year, CHS will be participating in the Ukrop's Golden Gifts Program. Simply by using your Valued Customer Card whenever you shop at Ukrop's between September 30 and December 7, you can donate to the Society. Ukrop's will keep track of your purchases electronically and send you a Golden Certificate in the January issue of their Valued Customer newsletter. Send the certificate to CHS and you will have made a much needed and worthwhile donation. You can earn even more for CHS by buying specially marked Coke, Nabisco, Duncan Hines, Hershey, Tide, and Folgers products.

If you would like, you can specify that your gift go to a specific committee. Just attach a note to your certificate stating your wishes and Jennifer will be happy to see that the specified committee receives your portion of the total donation to CHS. The following is a list of some active CHS committees: Archaeology, Batteau, Bermuda Hundred, Cemetery, Civil War Sites, Genealogy, Library/Picture Collection, Magnolia Grange, County Museum, Oral History, and War Memorial. If you have questions or would like to know more about the Golden Gift Program, contact Jennifer Grau at 748-1026. Thank you.

We Remember

The Chesterfield Historical Society extends its deepest sympathy to the family of W. Hugh Goodwyn who passed away on August 25. Hugh was a charter member of the Society as well as a dedicated volunteer. Hugh spent many years collecting and taking pictures of everything related to Chesterfield County including buildings, people, and events. He took his picture collection around to many organizations while he could and then donated it to the CHS library.

Hugh's qualities of being a hard worker, a true gentleman, and a good friend with a kind heart will be sorely missed.

New Herb Garden Now Ready To Receive Visitors

Stop by Magnolia Grange to see the lovely new herb garden, now located by the well. Pat Merrill, Karen Artis, Carol Dunham, and Valerie Burgess (all members of the Woodland Pond Garden Club), with assistance from CHS member, Rebecca Lette, prepared the site and planted herbs appropriate to the early nineteenth century under the direction of Master Gardener Jacqueline Shoaf. **Our thanks to the Woodland Pond Garden Club who donated materials and plantings for the garden and who will continue to maintain it, and to Jacqueline Shoaf who donated her time to this project.**

The old herb garden will be replaced with an heirloom vegetable garden, to be planted next Spring. These gardens will enhance interpretation at the Grange and will enable school children who visit there to experience the sight, feel, and smells of nineteenth-century kitchen gardens as part of their tour.

Evaluation Continues at Magnolia Grange

Moisture and structural problems in the parlour and dining room at Magnolia Grange are still being evaluated by the county. Joseph D. Lahendro, architectural historian for the APVA, is acting as consultant for the county and will over-see the repairs. We hope to see this project firmly underway in the near future.

**YOU CAN
HELP!**

Volunteers Needed

There are numerous opportunities for service with the Society. **Volunteers** are urgently needed to maintain the high standard of commitment to our public. **Guides** are especially needed to assist at **Magnolia Grange & the Museum**. Will you get involved to help out in a fun-to-do effort that really provides a meaningful service to the community? **Call NOW!**

Gifts

Thank You!

We thank the following individuals who donated items to our collections during this past quarter:

To the Magnolia Grange Collection:

Phyllis Bass - A c.1900 violin which belonged to her grandmother.

To the County Museum Collection:

Pattie B. Perdue - A February 1916 issue of *The Chesterfieldian*, a Chesterfield County newspaper.

To the Museum Education/Study Collection:

Anonymous Gift - Three large 19th-century charcoal portraits, a trapunto-top box, 66 photographs and two tin-types, late 19th-century.

Terry Roach - A 44-star American flag, c. 1891-1896, which was displayed in an armory in Whiting, Indiana during WW II.

Joy Armstrong - Seven articles of ladies' clothing, early 20th-century.

Other Gifts:

Woodland Pond Garden Club - Materials and plants for the wellhouse herb garden at Magnolia Grange. They have also offered to maintain it.

Jacqueline Shoaf - Time and labor for the wellhouse herb garden.

Willie Nunnally of Nunnally's Furniture - A 9' x 12' oriental-style rug for the back office in the 1917 Courthouse (CHS headquarters).

Gifts to the Society Library will be acknowledged in the next issue of *The Messenger*.



**WELCOME
TO
OUR
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 July 1996:

- Doris Barden
- Arthur & Carol Bergeron
- Charlene Bullard
- Spencer Campbell
- William T. Carpenter
- William T. Carpenter, III
- Joan Collins
- James Cook, Jr.
- Carl Cunningham, Jr.
- Bonnie Davis
- Karen Dynia
- The Ellett Family
- Patricia Futch
- Nothera Goyne
- Charles Gray
- Joe Lange
- Frances Burroughs Loba
- Ruth LeFevre
- Freddie W. Nicholas
- Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Stastny
- George & Catherine Woods
- Barbara Yandle



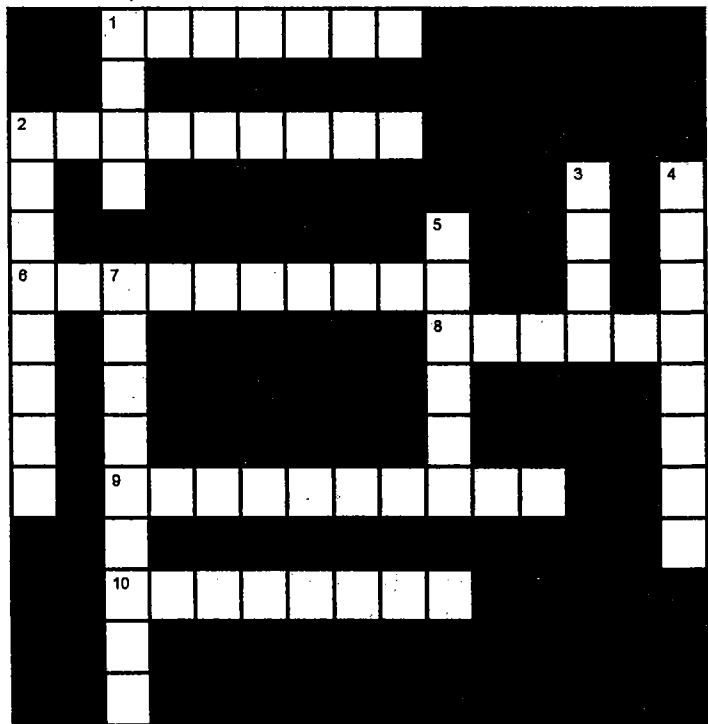
Oral History Project Continues . . .

The Oral History Project has taped a second interview. Bettie Weaver and Dorothy Hudson were filmed, "Remembering the Good Times at Historic Bethel Baptist Church." A special thanks is extended to these two ladies who prepared a charming and interesting dialogue on their memories of the Bethel Church and the Midlothian area.

If you would like to get together with a friend or two and reminisce about your church and/or community, please call Laurie Horner at 739-2837. We have received a few suggestions since the last *Messenger*, but we need more. Also, we need camera operators for this project.

When our library reopens, tapes can be viewed there by appointment.

Historic House 2
Mason T. Chalkley



Jul 29, 1996

Across

- 1. 1815 Federal period set on cliff above Appomattox River
- 2. Beside Franks Branch built by an orphan
- 6. Post-bellum Winterpock with clay used in brickmaking coming from own yard
- 8. Built 1906 by Theodore Page from New York
- 9. Side-passage mid-nineteenth century plain facade Ettrick area
- 10. Only recorded late 19th century Chesterfield house built on original 'L' plan

- Italianate-style but built between 1912-1920
- 2. Two-story central-passage house on Goode Creek
- 3. Matoaca house moved to present location by ox team around 1913, demolished in 1977
- 4. Off Hopkins Road, named for its original setting at the edge of a wooded tract
- 5. Georgian Revival house built by wholesale candy salesman
- 7. Built 1899-1900 and pulled-down 1973 to make way for Meadowbrook apartments

Down

- 1. Appearance of mid-nineteenth century

Solution
found elsewhere in publication!

(CHALLENGE, Continued)

appropriate to recognize **Mrs. Randolph's achievements by erecting a highway historical marker near her Bermuda Hundred home.** The **Chesterfield Historical Society Board** supports this challenge grant and is **asking for contributions from its members. Funds totaling \$600 are needed to complete the project.** Your contribution, in any amount, will help the CHS to meet the challenge grant offered by CHVA. **Contributions must be received by December 31st to meet the deadline.** Please note on your check, made payable to the Chesterfield Historical Society, that your donation is for the Mary Randolph highway marker.



**Mary Randolph,
1762 - 1828**

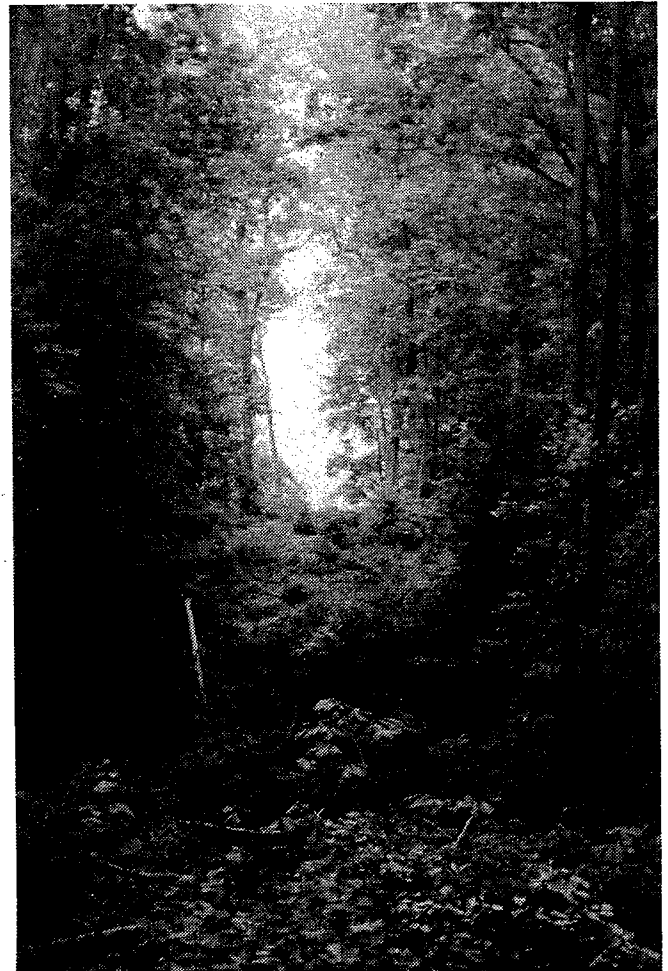
Plans for the marker's unveiling will be announced at a later date. Please call the CHS office for further information.

mission during which it was formally named St. Matthew's. Reverend Michael Murphy, vicar of the mission, presented the first class for confirmation.

According to Mrs. Polly Williams, diocesan staff representative for the western office, "We are delighted to have such a wonderful place to worship and look forward to a long relationship with members of the Chesterfield Historical Society. We feel we have found a home."

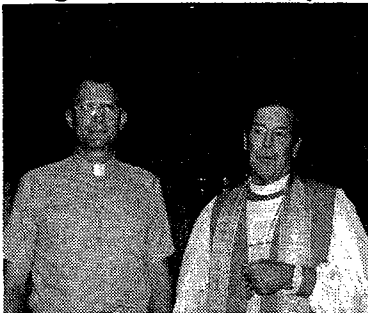


View from platform atop Battery Dantzler down to James River



Unusual Use!

Under the management of the Chesterfield Historical Society, the Historic 1917 Courthouse fills many roles. On Sundays, for instance, it is being used for the county's new Episcopal mission, with services held every week in the courtroom at 9:00 A.M. CHS members who encouraged this arrangement include Judge and Mrs. Ernest Gates, other members of the Gates family, and



**Rev. Michael Murphy (Left) and
Rgt. Rev. Frank Vest (Right)**

the Val Puster family.

On August 25th, the Right Reverend Frank H. Vest, Jr., Bishop of The Diocese of Southern Virginia, made his first Episcopal visit to the

BATTERY DANTZLER

On Saturday morning, June 22, a hot, muggy day I might add, final cuts were made to the trees that obstructed the view from Battery Dantzler down to the James River. The trees were cleared so that citizens can get a better perspective from the battery which is situated high above the river. This will help visitors understand the battery's importance in the Civil War.

Battery Dantzler was built in May 1864 to protect against Union gun ships coming up the James River in hopes of capturing Richmond, the capitol of the Confederacy. The battery also served as an anchor on the north end of the Howlett line which ran from this point on the James down to the Appomattox River. The Howlett line was a defensive line built by Confederate General P.T. Beauregard's troops as part of the effort to bottle up General Benjamin F. Butler's Army of the James who were encamped down on the Bermuda Hundred peninsula.

Originally named Fort Howlett after the Howlett House which stood nearby, the fort was renamed Battery Dantzler, to honor Colonel O.M. Dantzler of the 22nd South Carolina Volunteers who fell, mortally wounded, on June 2, 1864. Mounted in the battery were several large guns that included Brooke's Rifles, Columbiads, and Dahlgrens. The earthworks and emplacements for these guns can still be seen today.

To reach Battery Dantzler, take Route 10 eastbound 1/4 mile from Interstate 95 to Bermuda Triangle Road. Turn left on Bermuda Triangle Road and travel 1/4 mile. The road will curve to the left, turning into Battery Dantzler Road. The county park entrance will be on your right.

I would like to express a special thanks to my father, John Netherland, Rob Netherland, Mark Jacobson, Stan Kennedy, and Randy Watkins who helped me in cutting the viewing path down to the James River. Also, I would like to express my gratitude to the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Boy Scouts of America who have helped with maintenance and interpretive markers at the park. Thanks also to George Fickett for all of his Civil War preservation efforts.

Jerry Netherland,
Member, Civil War Sites Committee

Library of Virginia Announces Dates for Closing and Opening

The Library of Virginia is in the process of moving into its new facilities at 800 E. Broad Street, in Richmond. The Chesterfield County collections will be moved to the new facility beginning in late October, but microfilm copies will be available in the Reading Rooms until the old building's closing date of November 27, 1996. The new facility will open to the public on January 3, 1997 with a formal dedication and grand opening in May of that year.

