

The Messenger

OF THE CHESTERFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

Issue Number 39

January 1997

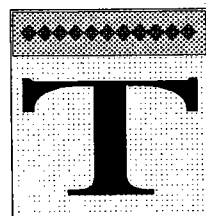
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Tomorrow's history
is but yesterday's mistakes
repeated today. —M.T. Chalkley

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Challenge Grant Matched!



Thanks to the generosity of Chesterfield Historical Society members, and with further support from the CHS board, the challenge grant offered by the Culinary Historians of Virginia has been matched. This will enable the two organizations to erect a state highway marker to Chesterfield County native, Mary Randolph (1762 - 1828), the first county woman to be so honored.

Donations are still being accepted for this project. We acknowledge the following individuals who have contributed thus far:

Margaret Bushnell
J.B. Cook, Jr.
Nancy Carter Crump
Frances Burroughs Loba
Baxter Perkinson
Diana Paulus

Plans for the marker's unveiling will be announced at a later date.

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

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Charles Gray, Samuel Hilbert,
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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

County Museum only

closed Sundays thru February

Call (804) 748-1026 for Information

Editor

Mason T. Chalkley

Chesterfield Historical Society **Library Re-Opens**

The genealogical research library located in the Historic 1917 Courthouse (10011 Iron Bridge Road) has re-opened. The library had been closed since May 1996 for structural repairs and painting.

The public is invited to utilize this free service for genealogical and historical research relevant to Chesterfield County and the state of Virginia. Resources available for use include published family histories, private manuscripts, maps, a newsclipping file, an extensive photograph collection, cemetery records, and more.

The library is open 10 A.M. until 4 P.M., Monday - Friday. The CHS Genealogy Committee also opens the library to researchers on the second Thursday of each month from 7 P.M. until 9 P.M. During library hours, CHS staff and volunteers will be on-hand to assist patrons.

For more information, please call (804) 748-1026.

Chesterfield Historical Society's Adult Heritage Craft Classes, Winter, 1997

March 5, 12, 19, 26 (Wednesday), 9:30 - 11:30 A.M.: Susan Dawson, Blue-Ribbon Winner, Virginia State Fair: Tatting for Beginners: "Basics of Traditional Lace-Making" \$25.00 total for four sessions, for Members; \$30.00 for Non-members.

March 10 & 17 (Monday). 9:30 A.M. - 12 Noon: Nancy Carter Crump, Culinary Historian: "Do You Need to Knead?" Class I: Learn basic bread-making techniques and take home your own ready-to-bake loaf; Class II: Use your new skills to create braided loaves & sweet breads. \$25.00 for two sessions for Members; \$30.00 for Non-members.

Advance registration and payment required. Please call the Society at 748-1026 for further information.

***The Chesterfield Historical Society Announces Its
1997 Luchtime Lecture Series***

- * Tuesday, Feb. 11: Dr. Edgar A. Toppin, Professor Emeritus, Virginia State University:
"The Black Presence in the Civil War"
- Tuesday, Feb. 18: Chris Calkins, Historian, Petersburg National Battlefield:
"Civilian Life in Petersburg During the Civil War"
- * Tuesday, Feb. 25: Leni Sorensen, Historian:
" 'So That I Get Her Again': Slave Women Fugitives in Anti-bellum Richmond"
- Tuesday, March 4: Helen Rountree, Professor of History, Old Dominion University:
"Pokey [Pocahontas]: The Real Scoop"
- Tuesday, March 11: Peter Hatch, Director of Historic Gardens, Monticello:
"Thomas Jefferson: Gardener"
- Tuesday, March 18: Bill Weldon, Character Interpreter, Colonial Williamsburg:
"Patrick Henry Chooses Revolution"
- Tuesday, March 25: Betty C. Leviner, Curator of Exhibition Buildings, Colonial Williamsburg:
"Williamsburg: A Walking Tour of William Byrd's London"

* Co-sponsored with the Chesterfield County Black History Committee

Admission: \$3.00 Active CHS members; \$5.00 non-members. Seating is limited; registration is required.

These brown-bag lunchtime lectures will be held in the 1917 Courthouse, 10011 Iron Bridge Road, beginning at 12:00 Noon. Call the Society office at 748-1026 for further information.

The Courthouse Gift Shop

Need a quick Birthday or "Pick-Me-Up" gift for a friend or relative? Please keep in mind that our gift shop keeps unique little gifts on hand all year long.

I'd like to thank everyone who has visited the gift shop in our first year and made it a successful venture for the Society.

**Happy New Year
to
All**

—Tamara Puster

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

Our Deepest Sympathy

The Chesterfield Historical Society extends its deepest sympathy to the family of Gordon Jonas who passed away in November, 1996. Gordon, along with his wife, Mary Elizabeth, was a dedicated long-time member of the Society. He served on the CHS Board of Directors for many years, three of those years as president of the Society. In addition, he was an energetic member and past-chairman of the Magnolia Grange Committee, giving freely of his time and talent as interpreter and committee member. Gordon worked tirelessly for the Society and his enthusiasm for Chesterfield and its history was infectious. We will miss his good humor, kind heart, and gentle spirit.

Collections Management

Since the last newsletter, I continue to keep track of the collections through our new computerized catalogue. It has progressed so that information on any object can be easily accessed within seconds. I enter new information as it comes in, and handle the hard copy paperwork as well.

Land records (which date back to the mid-19th century) donated from the office of Judge Gates several years ago are being transferred from a filing cabinet to archival storage. In protective boxes and acid-free folders, these documents will not deteriorate further as they wait until a researcher with time to spare wants to cross-index them.

The collections continue to grow, as the list of recent donations to the Historical Society indicates.

Thank you, donors!

—Jennifer Eikmeier

CHS Museums Celebrate The Holidays

The CHS museums' annual holiday festivities took place on Saturday, December 7th. All sites were open for what turned out to be a wet, blustery afternoon. Despite the weather, nearly 400 visitors toured Magnolia Grange, the 1917 Courthouse, the museum, and jail.

Magnolia Grange put on its holiday dress, beautifully decorated by eight local garden clubs, whose members have contributed their time and talent for several years to create festive arrangements throughout the house. Edwardian toys from the collection of Margaret Wright were on display, and special holiday music was provided by the Beulah United Methodist Church Bell Choir as well as the newly organized Chesterfield Choral Society. Costumed interpreters led guests through the house.

Across the street at the 1917 Courthouse, a lively crowd was also on hand to make their holiday purchases in the Courthouse Gift Shop and hear music performed by the Chester Middle School Choir. Refreshments were served during the afternoon and seasonal decorations added to the festive atmosphere.

The museum was also busy, with carving demonstrations by the James River Woodcarvers and

Gifts

Thank You!

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

To the Magnolia Grange Collection:

Mrs. Margaret Nissley - A waxed flower arrangement under glass, late 19th-century. Two sets of large pillow shams, late 19th-century, and a crocheted afghan.

Laura C. Bone - Collection of DuVal family photographs & postcards, c. 1900 - 1950; Store Account Book, c. 1894, belonged to B.J. DuVal, DuVal family letter, dated Sept. 4, 1868; Autograph Book, c. 1935, belonged to Katherine Britton (related to DuVals); Typewritten Speech, entitled "Benjamin Joseph DuVal" by Captain Miles P. DuVal, given Oct. 14, 1973 at Salem Baptist Church in Centralia; "The Reflector" Chester High School yearbook, 1937; "The Reflector" Chester High School yearbook, 1942; "The Wigwam" Richmond Professional Institute (now VCU), 1941.

To the County Museum Collection:

Mary B. Woodruff - A World War II Purple Heart medal & bar in their original case.

Elmer N. Zartman - A Tidewater & Western Railroad lantern, early 20th-century.

First Lady dolls, appropriate for the election year, on display through the courtesy of the Southern Bebés Doll Club.

Our thanks to the many volunteers who helped at all sites during the annual holiday open house. These special events, not to mention our day-to-day operation, could not take place without their commitment to the Chesterfield Historical Society.



**WELCOME
TO
OUR
NEW
MEMBERS**

The Chesterfield Historical Society wishes to welcome those who have recently joined us:

- Geneva D. Austin
- Larry Belcher
- Linda Belcher
- Jane Butzner
- Shirley Diller
- Dr. Gresham T. Farrar
- Stacey Frame
- Tracey Frame
- Lynn Dee Garrison
- Joan W. Gleason
- Londella Hamilton
- Georgia K. Hammock
- H. Russell Harris
- Walter Link
- Dona Link
- June B. Marchaman
- Willie Nunnally
- Phyllis L. Owen
- Linvil G. Rich
- Estelle G. Taylor
- Mike Thomas
- Carol H. Thompson
- Pamela C. Turner
- Rodney Lee Wells



Crossword Puzzle Contest...

The Historical Society is sponsoring a Crossword Puzzle contest and awarding to the first correct entry with the earliest post office postmark a \$5.00 gift certificate.

The contest is free and open to all individuals who wish to participate.

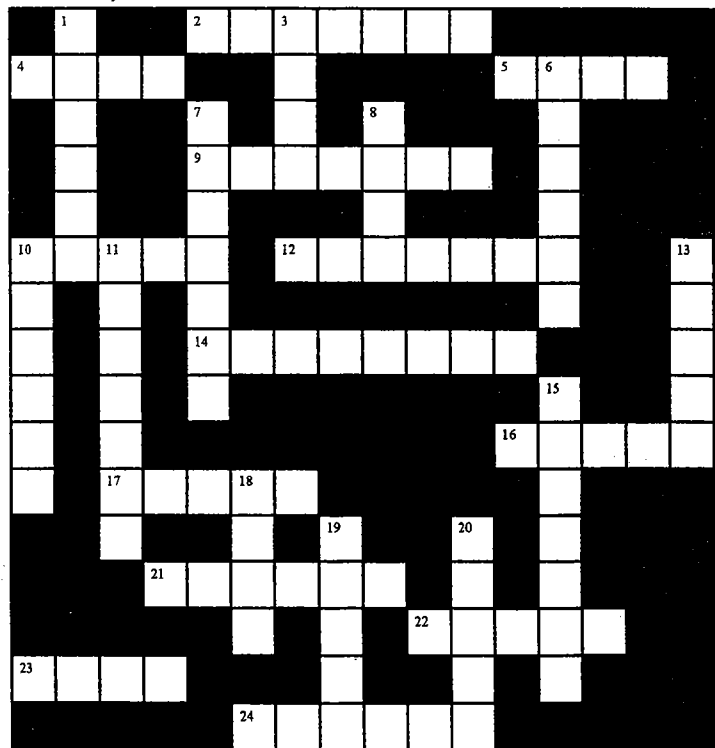
The winning entry will be notified by the Society and that person's name will be published in the following issue of The Messenger along with the correct solution to the puzzle.

The words selected for this puzzle combine history and geography for they are the names of world nations in the year 1975.

Test your knowledge as you study the clues.

—The Editor

World Nations
Mason T. Chalkley



Jan 2, 1997

Across

- 2. A Celtic tribe conquered by Julius Caesar
- 4. Bounded on north by Libya
- 5. Is the Mesopotamia of Western literature
- 9. Bounded by Italy on the south
- 10. Bounded by Pakistan on the west
- 12. Bordered by Norway on the north
- 14. 125 mile coastline on Gulf of Guinea
- 16. Bounded by Bangladesh on the west
- 17. Defined by the Nile River
- 21. Vikings emerged in 8th century
- 22. Former Belgian Congo
- 23. Lies 90 miles south of Florida
- 24. West Africa with west coast on Atlantic Ocean

Down

- 3. Originally Lane Xang in 14th century
- 6. Part of Tutsi-Hutu Kingdom
- 7. Original settlers were Arawak Indians
- 8. Is historical Persia
- 10. Independence declared in 1948
- 11. 70 mile coastline along Gulf of Guinea
- 13. Carved from British East Africa in 1963
- 15. Center of the Middle Danube Basin
- 18. Originally center of the Incan Empire
- 19. Off Florida discovered by Columbus in 1492
- 20. Was the British colony of Gold Coast

Down

- 1. Himalayan mountains beside Tibet

Chesterfield Historical Society Committee Reports

Genealogy:

Out On A Limb

Watch for "Ancestors," a ten-part television series, to be aired in January or February on public television. Each thirty minute episode consists of two parts - the first part features a family historian relating information about their family and about their research methods; the second part is a how-to segment. Call your local public television station and express your interest in this series and find out the actual date when it will be aired. If you need further information about working on your family research, visit the Historical Society Library which is a great place to begin your research. The library is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. and on the second Thursday evening from 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Our genealogy workshop, "Searching-On-Line and Off," was a great success. There were sixty-five researchers participating and all enjoyed the day's events. A variety of topics included **Getting Started**, the **Local History Room**, **Civil War Research**, **Genealogical Software**, **The Interview**, **Publishing Your Story**, and **Navigating the Internet**. The workshop was held at the Central Library with a box lunch from Homemade by Suzanne. Researchers contributed surnames to a database which was printed and distributed. Several researchers found new cousins sitting in the chair right next to them. Many thanks to Cindy Dutton, Emily Rusk, Pattie Grady, Earl Savage, Pauline Mitchell, Ann White, John Coski, and Louise Armstrong for the great job they did.

—Angie Wilderman

Queries

Byron Hill, P.O. Box 120603, Nashville, TN 37212, is looking for information on Green B. Hill, b. ca 1775 NC?/VA?/MD? m. Martha Ivey. Lived in Surry Co., NC (1800), Pendleton, SC (1800), Franklin Co., GA (1805), Jasper Co., GA (1812), Fayette Co, GA (1840), Randolph Co., AL (1854). Possibly connected with Isaac Hill line. Seeking parents of Green B. Hill. Please contact Byron Hill if you have any information that would be of assistance to him.

Members of the Historical Society: Please send in a brief query for publication. They will be published as space permits. Also, queries are subject to editing. Include your full name and address (include your e-mail address if you are on-line).

War Memorial:

The Veterans' Day celebration held in November was a rousing success. Despite the cold temperature, over 400 people were in attendance at ceremonies held on the courthouse green. General Donald Gardner was the featured speaker this year.

Over \$20,000 has been raised toward the War Memorial wall.

Time to turn in your Ukrop's Golden Gifts!

Thanks so much to all of you who are planning to donate your Ukrop's Golden Gifts Certificate to CHS this year. This month, you should receive in your Ukrop's Valued Customer newsletter a golden certificate that indicates the total amount of your gift calculated from purchases you have made at Ukrop's. Send the certificate in to us by **February 5, 1997**. You may make your donation a general one or indicate a committee which you would like to receive your gift. Simply attach a note naming the committee that you would like your donation to benefit. Thanks again for your donation to CHS!



*CHS Quarterly Meeting to Feature
Williamsburg Musician*

The Chesterfield Historical Society will hold its annual luncheon meeting on Sunday, January 26, 1997 at Swift Creek Mill Playhouse (17401 Jefferson Davis Highway, Colonial Heights), from 1 P.M. until 3 P.M. The meeting will feature a performance of a variety of 18th-century popular music pieces and a discussion of its importance to life in 18th-century Virginia by David H. Niebuhr. The title of Mr. Niebuhr's presentation is "Mozart's Macarena: Popular Music of the 18th Century."

"Cap'n Dave" Niebuhr has been a man of music and a man of the sea throughout his whole life. He spends his days as an oceanographer for the Virginia Institute of Marine Science where he is responsible for teaching classes for a wide variety of audiences. Cap'n Dave is also a man of history and music, his self-professed passions, performing for a variety of historic sites. His professional music resume includes performances at the United States Capitol and the White House and at several National Park Service locations. He has also performed in a variety of television and movie productions including the soundtrack of the "Allegheny Portage Railroad", the National Park Service's Visitor Center film, and in the Turner Network Television production of "Sea Raiders." He performs most often in and around the historic area of Williamsburg for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Swift Creek Mill was erected in the 1850s as a grist and flour mill. According to the late author and architectural historian Jeff O'Dell, writing in **Chesterfield County: Early Architecture and Historic Sites**, on May 10, 1864 during the Civil War, the building was in the thick of battle between the forces of Union General B.F. Butler and Confederate General George Pickett as Butler headed for to Richmond to capture the Southern capitol. Today the building houses a dinner theatre that still bears the name of the former grist mill.

Cost for the buffet lunch is \$11.95 per person and includes a full lunch, coffee and tea, dessert, taxes, and gratuity. Reservations and payment must be received by the Chesterfield Historical Society by Friday, January 10, 1997. Make check payable to: The Chesterfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 40, Chesterfield, VA 23832.

Phone (804) 748-1026 for reservations and information.

**The Chesterfield County Museum
Announces
Its Winter Hours**

The Chesterfield Historical Society announces new winter hours for the Chesterfield County Museum. The County Museum, located at 6805 West Krause Road in Chesterfield, will be open 10 A.M. until 4 P.M., Monday through Friday, and closed on Sundays. Sunday hours of 1 P.M. until 4 P.M. will resume on Sunday, March 2, 1997.

Magnolia Grange Plantation House, located at 10020 Iron Bridge Road in Chesterfield, will keep its regular hours through the winter. Those hours are 10 A.M. until 4 P.M., Monday through Friday, and 1 P.M. until 4 P.M. on Sunday.

For more information or to schedule group tours, call (804) 748-1026.

Membership Application

(Membership Year: January 1 - December 31)

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

____ Sustaining Membership \$100.00 per year
____ Two Years \$ _____
____ Individual Life \$200.00 per year
____ 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. on Sunday
Telephone (804) 748-1026

*The Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia
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Chesterfield, Virginia 23832*

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