

The Messenger

OF THE CHESTERFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

Issue Number 41

July 1997

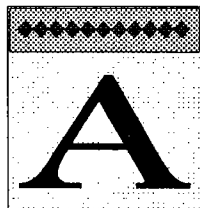
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This time,
like all times,
is a very good one,
if we but know
what to do with it.
--Ralph Waldo Emerson

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19th-Century Wedding Reenacted



An enthusiastic crowd of about 150 visitors attended the DuVal-Robertson wedding reenactment on Saturday, July 14th at Magnolia Grange. There, guests moved from room to room, led by interpreters who first introduced the wedding story unfolding inside the house.

Entering the parlour, visitors were able to eavesdrop on the conversation between the mother and sister of the groom with a local neighbor: a discussion of the couple's courtship, the wedding, and the planned honeymoon, as well as financial difficulties the DuVals had experienced. The groom's nieces added to the excitement. From the parlour, guests moved on to the dining room where friends of the family were there to help set the table for the wedding reception that followed the ceremony. An array of desserts that included a festive cake were being arranged on the table, along with rolled sandwiches of ham, chicken, and lettuce salads, all appropriate to the late 19th century.

Leaving the dining room, guests were taken upstairs where the bride, Zuleime DuVal, was dressing for the wedding, aided by her mother and sister. Fashions were appropriately discussed here, as well as the DuVal family life at Magnolia Grange. The plantation had

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**Chesterfield
Historical Society
Officers**

President — Laurie Horner

1st Vice-President - Doris M. Hancock

2nd Vice-President - Sterling Hawkins

Recording Secretary - Rachel Lipowitz

Corresponding Secretary - Tamara Puster

Treasurer — David Brown

Directors

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

James W. Holloman,
Assistant Director

Tamara Puster, Gift Shop Manager

Kay Valentine Pate, Office Assistant

**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

**Contributing
Editor**

Nancy Carter Crump

been sold and the DuVals would soon vacate the property.

Downstairs again, the visitors stepped into the office to listen as the bride's brother, James Robertson, and the minister went over details of the wedding, as well as legal and financial matters. Exiting by the side door, visitors were able to hear information on local events, national politics, and planned centennial festivities that were taking place in numerous American cities from the group gathered outside awaiting the ceremony.



These vignettes were followed by the wedding itself. Visitors gathered under a large tent, joined by costumed interpreters. Escorted by her brother and her fiancé's nieces, Zuleime met James in front of the minister who united them in marriage. After a lively reception, the young couple departed via carriage for their honeymoon journey.

We wish to thank all volunteers and friends who helped to make the DuVal-Robertson wedding festivities such a success. Among them are Phyllis Bass, Rachel Holmes, Robin Daniels, and Betty Matthews, who organized the lovely

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Chesterfield Historical Society
Summer Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, July 27, 1997

2:00 P.M.

at

Clover Hill Plantation

Topic:

“Clover Hill Plantation”

Speakers:

Palmer Condrey

Mark Wagner

Ken Shiflett

Directions:

From Hull Street: Take Winterpock Road off of Hull Street (Route 360). Take a right on to Beach Road at the Crump Store intersection. Take the second road on the left off Beach Road - Coalboro Road. Watch for signs. There is a long lane to the house.

From Route 10: Take Beach Road to Crump Store intersection. Go straight at the intersection (Beach Road). Take the second street to the left off Beach Road - should be Coalboro Road. Watch for signs. There is a long lane to the house.

The meeting will be held outside, so please bring your own lawn chair. In the event of rain, the meeting will be moved inside.

The Courthouse Gift Shop

If you are looking for unique gifts for special friends or family, then visit our gift shop and examine all the new summer items on display just for you.

—Tamara Puster

Now is the time and This is the Place!

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



For Your Support

We thank the following organizations, and Chesterfield Historical Society members who have made monetary contributions to the Society since April:

**Colonial Dames,
Dumbarton House,
Washington, D.C.
and
Clifton Robertson
Betty C. Leviner
Margaret Bushnell**



Gifts

Thank You!

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

To the County Museum Collection:

Richard T. Baker - two ceramic sherds and one cut-glass sherd, archaeological artifacts found at house site in area previously known as Hallsboro (near Old Hundred Road in northwest Chesterfield County);

Christopher Lee Cone - Civil War cannonball, six pounds, found near Courthouse Road and 288, probably used with Home Guard cannon;

Charles Evans Hughes - green "No. 1 Locker Writing" calligraphy pen, c. 1940s, originally given to Virginia students along with the 3rd grade Reader (already in our collection);

- "Locker helps you to create Your Own Writing, #5" instructional pamphlet, copyright 1944, by W.C. Locker, belonged to Beatrice Lorraine Johnson (signature on front cover);

- Copies of some of the biographical information Mr. Hughes has collected about Willis Clyde Locker, whose "Locker Method" taught writing to students (both children and adults) in Virginia public schools for over 50 years.

To Magnolia Grange Collection:

Diane Rulon - black "Mourning Cloth", probably 19th-century, used to drape over furnishings in the home of the deceased, approximately 11' x 5'.

What I gave, I have; what I spent, I had; what
I kept, I lost.
--Old Epitaph



The Chesterfield Historical Society wishes to welcome those who have joined us since April, 1997:

Nancy A. Berger
 Nancy Budd
 Rachel Burton
 James Clark
 Hazel P. Dodson
 James Henry Doyle
 Mr. & Mrs. John William DuVal
 Jacqueline Johnston
 Janet M. Jones
 Jan Medeiros
 Louise Nemecek
 Phyllis L. Owen
 Dr. Carol A. Preece
 Joy Prickett
 Mr. & Mrs. W. Jack Pulley
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Robertson
 Edward M. Rucks
 Margaret Schott
 Charles Schwartz
 Rodney Lee Wells
 John Young

No abilities, however splendid, can command success without intense labor and persevering application.—Alexander T. Stewart (1803-76) Irish-American Merchant



New Assistant Director of Museums Joins Team...

James W. Holloman, Jr., is the new Assistant Director of Museums for the Chesterfield Historical Society.

Holloman has a master's degree in education with an emphasis in museum studies from the College of William and Mary, and a bachelor's degree with a major in history from Old Dominion University.

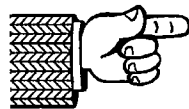
He has been active in the museum field for 17 years, most recently as administrator of Wilton House in Richmond. Prior to his employment there, he was director of Popular Grove Plantation in Wilmington, NC, and curator of collections and exhibits at the Gaston County Museum of Art and History, Dallas, NC. Mr. Holloman is an adjunct faculty member at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, where he teaches graduate courses in museum methods, specifically historic house administration and museum management. He also worked for the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation as a costumed interpreter and research assistant.

His professional memberships include the American Association of Museums, Southeastern Museums Conference, the American Association for State & Local History, and the Virginia Association of Museums.

Mr. Holloman, a native of Topeka, Kansas, lives in Midlothian. He is married and the father of three children.

YOU CAN HELP!

Wanted! Museum Volunteers!



We have openings for interpreters at all our sites, especially on Sunday afternoons in the museum. With new exhibits and interpretation planned for the near future, **NOW** is an exciting time to join the Chesterfield museum team! Call Pete Mann or Nancy Carter Crump at 748-1026 to find out how you can participate.

You Are Needed

Chesterfield Historical Society Committee Reports



Membership:

We are in the process of transferring our membership records to our new in-house computer system. Please bear with us through this conversion and let us know immediately if you experience any problems with receiving mailings, etc. We appreciate the monetary contribution Fay Cecil made toward the purchase of the program.

There are a number of members who have still not paid their 1997 dues! Don't let this issue of *The Messenger* be your last!

Historic Sites Committee Formed:

In an effort to centralize activities, as well as management of funds and resources, and to update programming and interpretation, the Museum and Magnolia Grange committees voted earlier this year to merge. Chairman of the new committee is Horace "Pete" Mann, III, whose father was a founder of the Chesterfield County Museum. The Historic Sites Committee has adopted the following Statement of Purpose:

The Historic Sites Committee of the Chesterfield Historical Society in Virginia oversees the Museums and Historic Sites within the Chesterfield County Courthouse Complex. Its purposes are to acquire, collect, preserve, and interpret historical sites and artifacts for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Looking ahead to the 250th anniversary of the county's founding, the Historic Sites Committee has recognized the need to update the county museum to allow space for changing exhibits and reorganize the permanent exhibit space. The need for providing more hands-on activities and the importance of increasing adult visitation was also discussed. Further plans will be announced as they develop.

Genealogical Records:

The Genealogical Records Committee often receives requests for information about places in Chesterfield. Through the years, families have passed down names of the home places or towns where their forebearers once resided and researchers, in turn, request additional information such as maps showing the actual location or history behind the name to make their family histories more interesting and meaningful.

We would really appreciate your assistance in helping us inventory names of interesting places you know and where they are located. Please send them to the **Genealogical Records Committee at P.O. Box 40, Chesterfield, VA 23832.**

A BIG THANKS

The Chesterfield Historical Society wishes to thank those who donate their time to the Society through work with committees and on our Board. We would also like to thank those who come in our facilities on a daily, weekly, or other regular time to volunteer their time.

Below is a list of those who have donated their time in our facilities in 1996 categorized by hours earned since commencement of service:

1 - 100 hours

Bebe Alexander
 Louise Armstrong
 Hem Bhardwaj
 Elder Bingham
 Catherine Clayton
 Joan Collins
 Elder Davis
 Shirley Diller
 Karen Dynia
 Jim Emory
 Kevin Foster
 Mary Kay Gates
 Laurie Horner
 Elder King
 Bonnie Kiniska
 Elder Brandon Larsen
 Patsy Murphey
 Vanessa Poe
 Courtney Puster
 Elder Sheldon
 Margie Smith
 Nell Yoss

101-300

Christi Aaron
 Pat Alling
 Dot Hawkins
 Linwood Hudson
 Shirley Hudson
 Jim Johnson
 Julie Marsh
 Cindy Moshier
 Irvin Owings
 Dick Page
 Sarah Page
 Helen Patrick
 Susan Poe
 Donna Schneider
 Ann Shelton
 Grace Web

301-500 hours

Esther Bass
 Phyllis Bass
 Thelma Beachley
 Mary Plummer Humphrey
 Irma Kaufman
 Nora Langford
 Vivian Love
 Betty Matthews
 Joe Vaden

501-700 hours

Rebecca Badger
 Kathleen Baker
 Gwen Coalter
 Lillian Cubbon
 Mildred Daffron
 Vivian Fogle
 Helen Goyne
 Pattie Grady
 Rachel Holmes
 Elizabeth Johnson
 Gordon Jonas
 Lucille Moseley
 Marshall Pearman
 Helen Perkins
 Laura Sloan
 Angie Wilderman
 Ruby Williams

701-900 hours

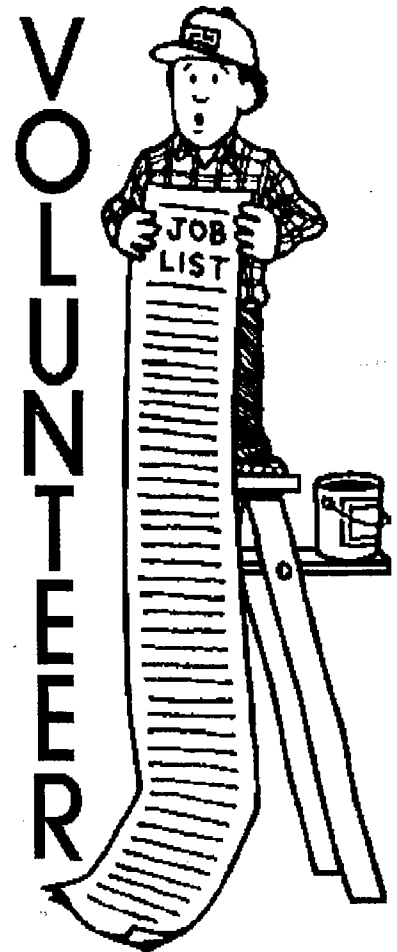
Mary Elizabeth Jonas
 Rachel Lipowicz

901-1,100 hours

Margaret Burgess
 Fay Cecil
 Terry Roach

1,501-2,000 hours

Mary Mays



Internship Completed

Please help us continue to care for our collections!

by Jennifer Eikmeier, Collections Intern

April 1996 - June 1997

The collections internship was created and funded by Risk Management so that the collections of Chesterfield Historical Society would be adequately inventoried, catalogued, and maintained. Inventories of the County Museum, the Old jail, Old Courthouse, and Magnolia Grange have been done, and the project of computerizing the catalogue (which was the primary emphasis for the position) has been completed. However, for this database to be fully effective, it must be maintained continuously in conjunction with paperwork on accessions, loans, transfers, temporary exhibitions, moves, etc. Also, more information regarding the artifacts must be collected (such as current appraisals, etc.) and the actual objects need to be physically maintained. In other words, only a permanent collections manager on staff will enable the Society to properly document and care for its collections. Since additional funds to continue the work have not been approved for the fiscal year starting July 1st, 1997, I regret to announce that my last day here at the Society is June 26th.

I would like to remind our membership that despite the completion of this internship, maintaining the catalogue paperwork, database, and the physical collections must be an ongoing priority. There is still much to be done just to bring the display and storage conditions to an adequate level of protection for the objects many supplies for urgently needed improvements have already been purchased. Our Director plans to continue requesting the creation of a permanent collections staff position from the County.

Wedding, cont'd

reception; Jennifer Grau and Jennifer Eikmeier, who designed programs, invitations, and souvenir buttons; the many volunteers who took part in the reenactment and helped with planning and research; and the enthusiastic support of Matoaca District Supervisor Renny Bush Humphrey.



All DuVal-Robertson wedding photographs courtesy of Harold Himes.

