

The Messenger

OF THE CHESTERFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

Issue Number 46

October 1998

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CHS & VCU Archeological Field School Offered At Castlewood!

by:
Nancy Carter Crump

Earn undergraduate-level college credits and/or maintain teacher certification

Sign up for six credits of upper-level course work in anthropology, to be offered on Saturdays between 9 and 5 on the grounds at Castlewood. Also available is a Friday morning lab at VCU to work with objects that are excavated from the site. Being offered not only as a means of maintaining teacher certification, but as an opportunity to gain undergraduate-level university credit, archeology at Castlewood offers a unique opportunity to gather information on early plantation life near Chesterfield courthouse. Teachers who cannot attend the Friday morning lab will be allowed to make other arrangements with the instructor, Robin Ryder, Director, Archeological Research Center, VCU.

The Castlewood site was occupied beginning as early as the late 18th century, with the present house being completed between 1815 and 1817 by Parke Poindexter. Archeological examinations of the site are designed to shed light on the day-to-day lifestyle of the people who lived there, including women, children, servants, and African-American slaves, all groups of people who are not well represented in primary and secondary history sources.

This is an anthropology course that will concentrate on social relations between the individuals who lived and worked at the site and how the objects that they owned and used reflect their relationships to each other. **The course will satisfy content area requirements for elementary and middle school teachers, history and social science teachers, special-education teachers, and librarians.**

This field school is the preliminary step toward a new, long-range educational program for the Chesterfield Historical Society, to supplement the current school program now being offered.

Write or call the CHS office at 777-9663 for further information.

**Chesterfield
Historical Society
Officers**

President — T. Palmer Condrey

1st Vice-President - Rebecca Badger

2nd Vice-President - Doris M. Hancock

Recording Secretary - Susan Poe

Corresponding Secretary - Tamara Puster

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Executive Director

James W. Hollomon,
Assistant Director

Jan Suttentfield, Secretary
Tamara Puster, Gift Shop Manager
Anthon Bond, VSU, Intern
Jenny Croxton, VCU, Intern
Jo Kittner, VCU, 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) 777-9663 for Information

Editor

Mason T. Chalkley

**Contributing
Editor**

Nancy Carter Crump

**MUSEUM
MOMENTS**

By: Jim Hollomon
Assistant Director of Museums

What a busy summer we have had, with nearly 3,000 visitors at our museums during June, July, and August this year. Many of them were students participating in the Virginia History Initiative's TimeTravelers program, who came to see our sites with their families.

Now, fall is upon us again and that means two things: cooler weather and the return of school groups for our regularly scheduled educational programs. We are adding school tours on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays this fall, to compensate for the court's continued use of the 1917 Courthouse each Tuesday and Thursday. As always, we welcome volunteers to assist in our tours, and hope many of our members will decide to join our volunteer team.

After a successful run throughout the spring and summer, the exhibit on Chesterfield County's Native Americans has come down. The new exhibit, "Tools of their Trades," features objects from our own collections used by county professionals in the accomplishment of their duties. The exhibit will be up until the holiday season.

New acquisitions to the museums' collections include:

Wedding dress, ca 1910, worn by Chesterfield resident, Hester Anne Bass. Gift of Mrs. Anne Taylor;

Architectural models of Castlewood and Eppington. Gift of Mr. Roy Hamilton;

Stainless horseshoe pattern used to make horseshoes for the Fuller Company and town residents of Cayasauqua, PA. Gift of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Bedics;

Framed document: 1856 Chesterfield County returns from the Presidential & Vice Presidential elections. Gift of Mr. Douglas Kellner;

Miscellaneous papers & documents relating to World War I. Gift of Mr. James Welton Long;

Nine registration books from the Matoaca voting district, Ettrick Precinct, 1920s-1940s. Gift of Mr. & Mrs. J. Peyron Goodall.

We are grateful for these and all gifts. The generosity of our donors allow our museums to continue to grow and improve.

The Height of Fashion

Come see the most exciting fashion event of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries on Friday, October 30, at Wrexham Hall.

The Chesterfield Historical Society will sponsor this first-ever period fashion show featuring original and reproduction dresses, gowns, and men's and children's attire. This one-of-a-kind event is sure to be the highlight of the fall season. With models displaying period clothing, this original production will be an entertaining and exciting event that you won't want to miss. Some of our models include WCVE's May Lily Lee and Renny Bush Humphrey, Matoaca District Supervisor. Gene Cox from News Channel 12 will narrate the evening production and Tim Timberlake of WRVA will narrate the luncheon.

Proceeds from the fashion show will be used for educational programs at historic Castlewood. The cost for the luncheon is \$20 per person or \$35 per couple. The cost for dinner is \$35 per person and \$60 per couple.

These tickets are sure to go fast and seating is limited. Make your reservations early!

For more information, call 777-9663.



Photo by: Joelle Ligon, Public Affairs

Quarterly Meeting

The Chesterfield Historical Society's quarterly meeting will be held at Physick Hill, 14300 Physick Hill Road, Winterpock at 2:00 P.M. on Sunday, October 25th.

The owners of Physick Hill, Gay & David Hay are hosts for this meeting.

The meeting is free and open to the public. Please call the Society offices at 777-9663 for further details. Castlewood is located at 10100 Iron Bridge Road.

Reminder to all Members

Our business offices have relocated to Historic Castlewood (located just East of the Historic Courthouse on the corner of Krause and Iron Bridge Roads).

Please note **new phone numbers** for the Society offices effective immediately:

Main Number	777-9663
250th Anniversary Coordinator	777-9653
Fax	777-9643

The old number of 748-1026 will remain active at the Courthouse for coordinating tours and for the Gift Shop

—Nancy Carter Crump

Important Notice

In order to publish The Messenger in a timely fashion, new guidelines have been established for submissions, as follows:

December 1 for January issue (calendar listings only)
 March 5 for April issue
 June 5 for July issue
 September 5 for October issue

Editor Mason Chalkley's schedule is very full and if he is to continue his volunteer commitment to *The Messenger*, it is important that this schedule be kept. He asks that all articles submitted be copied to a floppy disk in Word 6, Windows 95, with hard copy attached for editing purposes.

CHS Interns Welcomed

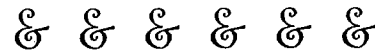
The historical society welcomes three interns this fall who come to us from two local universities.

For the first time, a student from Virginia State University joins our intern program. Recommended by the Department of History faculty, Anthone Bond is a senior at VSU, majoring in history education. His research project this semester will focus on Chesterfield County's early tobacco culture. The resulting paper will aid in preparation for a museum exhibit to be open next Spring as a part of Chesterfield County's 250th anniversary celebration.

Jo Kittner, a graduate research assistant in the Department of Art History at Virginia Commonwealth University, received a law degree from the University of North Carolina in 1989, and has practiced law in North Carolina and Virginia since that time. Her project for the Chesterfield Historical Society, beginning next Spring, "will be to curate an exhibit of important works of furniture and decorative arts from Chesterfield County" in the county museum, under the supervision of VCU faculty member, Dr. Charles Brownell. Researching, planning, and preparing the exhibit will lead to an opening scheduled tentatively for the spring of 2000.

Returning to us for another semester is Jenny Croxton, who was with us as our summer intern this year. Jenny, a senior in the Department of History at VCU, will continue to focus on small museum management, assisting at the Castlewood office, and helping with tours and special events.

Nancy Carter Crump serves as resource person and supervisor for the Historical Society's intern program.



Thanks to St. Matthews

Our thanks to **St. Matthews Episcopal Mission** and especially **Ruth Lefevre**, for donating the wonderful turquoise refrigerator we are using at our new Castlewood office.



We welcome thirty-five new members who have joined the Chesterfield Historical Society between June 15 and September 15, 1998:

**Allen County Public Library
(Ft. Wayne, IN)**

**Ms. Michelle Biron
Frances & Jim Bratt
Ms. Mildred Brunner**

**Ms. Jenny Croxton
Erin & Jerry Cruise
Maureen & Jerry Demers**

**Mr. Darren Demoret
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Etheredge
Ms. Susan Fitzgerald
Jo Garey**

Mr. William Henry Gibbons, III

**Ms. Betty A. Hall
Ms. Patsy Hayden
Susan & David Irvin
Mrs. Beth Leney**

**Ms. Eugenia R. Middleton
Virginia & James Quarles**

**Mr. Lane B. Ramsey
Elizabeth & Randy Robertson**

**Ms. Jean B. Robinson
Warren Seay
Richard Spain
Mr. R. L. Stern**

Moir & John Turner

**Ms. Fay P. Wade
Ms. Kathi Williams**



CHS Fourth-Quarter Calendar-of-Events

HOLIDAY MUSEUM SHOPPERS' FAIR

**Thursday, Oct. 22 (5-9 P.M. By invitation only:
special members' event)**

Friday, Oct. 23 (10-6 P.M.: General Public)

Saturday, Oct. 24 (10-5 P.M.: General Public)

Location: Library of Virginia

QUARTERLY MEETING

Sunday, Oct. 25 (2 P.M.)

Hosts: Gay & David Hay, owners

Location: Physick Hill

14300 Physick Hill Rd., Winterpock

Program: TBA

NEW EVENT! PERIOD FASHION SHOW

Friday, Oct. 30 (12:30 & 7 P.M.)

Chairmen: Lu Henderson & Mary Elizabeth Jonas

Location: Wrexham Hall

10301 Old Wrexham Rd., Chesterfield

To benefit: Castlewood Educational Programs

(See announcement on page 3 for further details)

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, December 5 (1:30-5:30 P.M.)

**Locations: Magnolia Grange, 1917 Courthouse,
Museum & Jail**

NEW EVENT! A 19TH-CENTURY CHILDREN'S TEA WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 12 (2-5 P.M.)

Chairmen: Betty Matthews & Rachel Holmes

Location: Magnolia Grange

To benefit: Historic Sites Educational Programs

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Wednesday, December 16 (12:30)

**Speaker: Libbey Oliver, former manager, Colonial
Williamsburg Floral Services**

Topic: Colonial Christmas Decorations

Location: 1917 Courthouse

To benefit: Historic Sites Programs

**Call the Chesterfield Historical Society offices at 777-9663
for further details.**

JOIN THE CHESTERFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN ITS "ADOPT A CHAIR" PROGRAM AND SUPPORT NEW EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS PLANNED AT CASTLEWOOD!!

Don't miss the opportunity to be a part of Chesterfield County's history! At a cost of \$250 each, you can sponsor a courthouse chair in memory of - - or in honor of - - a relative or friend and support the Society's educational endeavors.

As the courtroom in the 1917 Courthouse nears final renovation, period chairs, identical to those originally in the courthouse, are being refurbished and will be installed in the next few weeks. While the chairs' original wood is beyond repair, the cast iron frames are in excellent condition and will be used. A Michigan company is replacing the seats and arm rests with new wood. They are also sandblasting the iron frames, painting them a brass color to match other fixtures in the courtroom.

Full-sized models of the chairs are on display in the courtroom, where they may be seen when the court is not in session.

Call the Chesterfield Historical Society at 777-9663 for further details.

Please use the order form provided below.

YES! I want to sponsor a 1917 Courthouse chair! My check for \$ _____ for _____ (# number of chairs) is enclosed. The commemorative brass placque should read:

(limit: 4 lines; 16 characters per line)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Your check, made payable to the Chesterfield Historical Society, is fully tax-deductible.

See page 7 for before and after photos of chair.

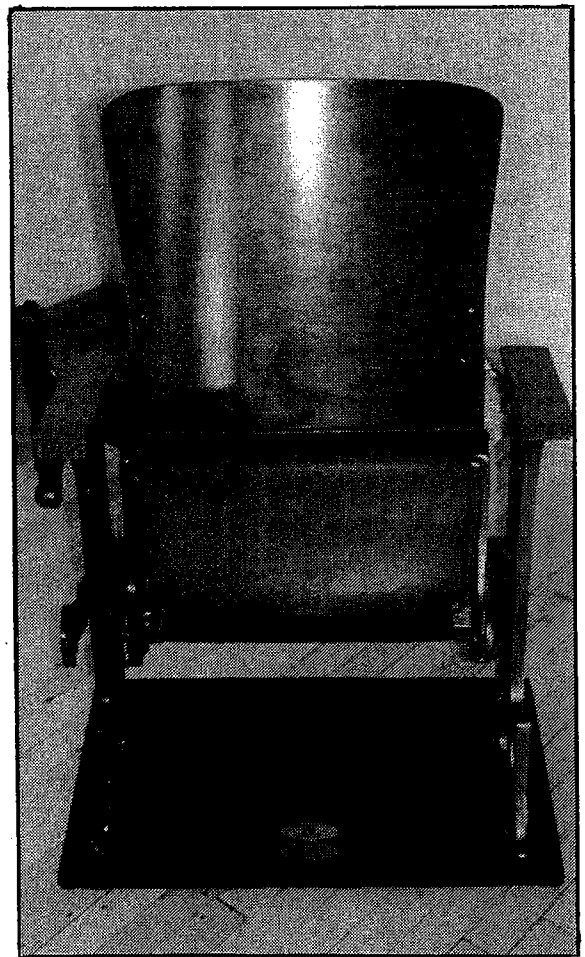
Oral History Project

Kristin A. Thrower, a life-long resident of Chesterfield County, has agreed to oversee an oral history project for Chesterfield County. Ms Thrower, a Monacan High School graduate, received her Bachelor of Arts in History at Virginia Commonwealth University in 1996. She has since completed the required course work for the Master's Degree. Her thesis topic is on Miller & Rhoades Department Store.

The oral history project for the Society will examine the rapid evolution of Chesterfield County from a rural county into a highly suburbanized county with a population close to a quarter million. As social history is just beginning to examine the phenomenon of post-World War II suburbia, Chesterfield is prime example of how the county's evolution affects everyday life, from changing consumer habits to county planning. The goal of the project is to understand the changing society through individual experiences. The project will benefit all residents of the county, and will contribute to a broader understanding of history, both local and national.



“Before”
Restoration



“After”
Restoration

Library Collection Grows In Value

By: Lucille Moseley

Our research library continues to prove its worth as more and more citizens, media persons, government officials, businessmen, and other libraries depend on us to answer their history questions.

Many researchers, of course, want to trace their family tree, some coming to Chesterfield from all over the nation seeking their ancestors in our county. New residents of the area find they now live adjacent to the remains of the Midlothian or Clover Hill coal mines and want to learn what is nearby or underneath them. Developers ask what historic events occurred where they are building new subdivisions, seeking appropriate names for the streets. Local schools, churches and villages plan anniversaries and celebrations, requesting their history as they plan these events. Newspapers and TV stations request photographs and information as they cover various news stories.

We are able to answer many of these questions because of the generous donations you have provided in the past to our growing collection. In the future, as you clean out or downsize your possessions, please remember us! We need all kinds of materials in the library - books, maps, letters, family Bible records, newspaper clippings, photographs, genealogical records - anything pertaining to Chesterfield County.

Naturally, we like originals, but will accept Xerox copies if you wish to keep the originals. We will carefully preserve these, making them available to future researchers.

Please help us to continue building our collection as we become a recognized source of information on Chesterfield.

Gift Shop

By: Tamara Puster

Please stop by the Courthouse Museum Shop and take advantage of our 25% off End of Summer Sale. It is never too early to do your Christmas shopping!

Also, please plan on attending the Holiday Shoppers Fair on October 22nd from 5:00 - 9:00 P.M., October 23rd from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. and October 24 from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. at the Library of Virginia and support your Museum Shop.

1999 Membership Dues

Due to the increase in postage, printing and general office expenses incurred by the Historical Society the Board has voted an increase in annual membership dues:

Student	\$10.00
Individual	\$20.00
Senior Citizen	\$15.00 (65 & older)
Household	\$30.00 (living in same house)
Benefactor	\$500.00
Corporate	\$1,000.00
Honorary	Approved by Board of Directors

Renewal notices will be mailed in November, 1998.

**Dues run on a calendar year basis from
January - December**

By: Doris Hancock, Membership Chairperson

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

*Gravestone Inscriptions & Burials of Chesterfield County,
Virginia*



*Compiled by
The Cemetery Committee of the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia*

*Edited by
Rachel Baker Lipowicz*

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Gravestone Inscriptions & Burials of Chesterfield County, Virginia

*Pre-publication price: \$20.00 per book until Nov 1, 1998. Tax: \$0.90 per book.
Postage & handling \$4.00, first book; \$1.50 per additional book.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Number of copies ordered: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

Payable to: Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia

Send order form & payment to: Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia/ PO Box 40/
Chesterfield, VA 23832. Attn: Cemetery Committee

If you wish to save on postage and handling by receiving your copy at the Chesterfield Historical Society, indicate here and we will call you upon publication. _____

(cemetery committee use only)

Amount Received: _____ Date: _____

Received from: _____

Received by: _____

Mail _____ Hold _____

*price after Nov. 1, 1998 will be \$24.00 plus tax, shipping & handling.

