

The Messenger

OF THE CHESTERFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

Issue Number 48

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Laws

If you like laws and sausages,
you should never watch either one
being made.

—Otto von Bismarck

99chsnl2.pub

Historical Society To Play A Major Role In Anniversary Celebration

By Mike Steen, 250th Special Events Coordinator

On May 25, 1749 the County of Chesterfield was formed from the County of Henrico for the ease of its citizens to attend church, and court functions. The 250th Anniversary of this founding event is fast upon us and plans have been made for a year-long celebration in honor of the events and people that have helped to shape our common history.

The Chesterfield Historical Society will play a very important role in this year's events. As a cooperative partner in both the planning and implementation of the event schedule, the society has been able to keep the focus of the anniversary on the history of the County. Of the eighteen primary events planned for this year, thirteen of them are directly associated with important historical events. These include a re-enactment of the 1749 House of Burgesses on May 25, the DuVal Wedding re-enactment on June 5, the Summer Reading programs at the County Libraries, An Evening at Eppington on June 26, Randolph Farm living history on August 7, and the Mary Randolph project on August 14.

This year the theme for the County Fair will be local history, and we will conduct a program on the 1773 Baptist Preacher Trial on September 26. To finish out the year there will be a re-enactment of 1773 Court Days on October 9-10, the Grove Shaft Park dedication on October 16, a gospel choir concert on October 17, and a ghost tour of the Courthouse Complex on October 29.

The closing event for the celebration will occur on December 4. This will include a Revolutionary War encampment at Castlewood circa 1781, a Civil War Encampment at the Courthouse,

Continued on Page 2

**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

Treasurer — David Brown

Directors

Beverley Coleman,
Russell Harris, Laurie Horner,
Rachel Lipowicz, Betty C. Leviner,
Horace "Pete" Mann, III,
Dr. George Partin,
Marshall Pearman,
Bettie Weaver, Angela Wilderman

Staff

Nancy Carter Crump,
Executive Director

James W. Hollomon,
Assistant Director

Jan Suttentfield, Secretary
Tamara Puster, Gift Shop Manager

**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

Celebration, Cont'd.

and an 1890s Christmas program at Magnolia Grange. The other five primary events focus on modern social history to include a Community Field Day on May 22, a 17th century church service at Henricus Park on May 23, a golf tournament on June 28, a sailing regatta on July 24, and a community fair at Cloverleaf Mall October 30 through November 7. This is a very full year, and the Chesterfield Historical Society will have a major presence throughout the programs. For the historical programs, the society serves as the source for the historical information used in the planning of the event; its volunteers will help conduct the programs. During community events the society will have an opportunity to set up displays not only to recruit new members, but to also let the community know about the ongoing work that is being done.

The 250th Anniversary Celebration also has several special projects that the Historical Society, in the long range will be able to both take credit for and benefit from. The first is the museum renovation project. The new floor plan and exhibit space will allow us to not only continue interpreting the history of the County with permanent exhibits, it will also allow room for a second changing-exhibit gallery. The new exhibits will bring both new and long time patrons to the museum, and the changing gallery exhibits will keep them coming back again and again. The second program is the County Oral History Project. This will begin in the fall and the historical society library will become the repository of this extremely important part of our local history.

The last project is the development of educational resource packets. These will be classroom ready teaching components relating to local, "Back Porch History." These will be structured for use not only in the schools and libraries, but for adult education programs as well. The resource packet project will also include a series of traveling exhibits which will be available for loaning out for educational programs. The Historical Society will also receive a collection of reproduction clothing and artifacts from the 250th Anniversary programs. The clothing and equipment kits can then be used to expand the educational programs that are offered throughout the year. The 250th Anniversary Celebration provides the Historical Society with the opportunity to assume the lead in the promotion of local history both during the anniversary and the years to come.

Please contact me at 777-9653 for further details and to volunteer for this important celebration.

Virginia Commonwealth University's 1999 Field Archaeology Program At Castlewood

This summer we are looking forward to beginning an exciting new project in Chesterfield County in collaboration with the Chesterfield Historical Society. We will be conducting a survey and initial test excavations in the yard of Castlewood, a late 18th century plantation house in Chesterfield, Virginia. The project will be under the supervision of Dr. L. Daniel Mouer.

Castlewood is the new home of the Chesterfield Historical Society, and the work we do will help to provide a more complete interpretation of life on this plantation. Our initial survey will be throughout the grounds immediately surrounding the house, but our more intensive testing will be focused on identifying and testing the slave quarters, the kitchen and other workshop/workyard buildings and features. Preliminary inspection suggests that the site has suffered very little disturbance. It should be in pristine condition, and this should prove to be an exciting and valuable project.

To participate for credit, enroll in Field Archaeology (ANTH375) 6 Credits. The class runs July 15th -August 13th, Monday through Thursday, 8:30 - 4:30. We will meet initially at the Sociology and Anthropology Department, 312 North Shafer Street, conference room. After the first few days of orientation we will meeting daily on site in Chesterfield. For those living in Richmond without transportation, we will arrange a car pool with expenses to be shared.

Costs for the program vary considerably depending on the enrollment status of the student. The typical student will be charged approximately \$930 for tuition and fees. Please consult the VCU Summer Studies Schedule of Classes for more details. This publication is available online at <http://www.vcu.edu/ocp/summer/docs/99registration.html>; There will also be a small cost for your personal field excavation kit.

Volunteers are welcome and appreciated as long as they are 16 or over and willing to commit to a minimum of five days work on the site. Please contact me for more information.

I look forward to seeing a great turnout for an exciting project this summer. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail me.

Dan Mouer
Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology
Virginia Commonwealth University
804-225-4036
<http://saturn.vcu.edu/~dmouer/homepage.htm>
dmouer@saturn.vcu.edu

New Members

Regular

Ms. Jane P. Andrews
Ms. Beth Baker
Ms. Susan M. Bradbrooke
Mrs. Cindy Bradford
Mr. Louis Diller
Mr. Rodney W. Fitzgerald
Mrs. Betty Hay
Mr. Richard W. Hogan
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph M. Hopfensperger
Mr. L. Ralph Jones, Jr.
Ms. Billie T. Kelley
M/M Ronald W. Lester, Brock, Holly and Gene
Ms. Margaret Martin
Mrs. Susan Prugh
Ms. Sally Richards
Ms. Sharon K. Thompson
Mrs. Liesbeth Vanderlinden-Brusse
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel L. Westra, Rachel and Reed
Ms. Ann Whipp
Ms. Pamela C. Wiley
Mr. Timothy L. Wilson
Ms. Nancy M. Woodall
Mr. Wayne Young

Benefactor

Many thanks for our first benefactor membership:

Dr. and Mrs. James L. Abbott



**Attention Residents
of Chesterfield County**

SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENA

My husband, Bill, and I are compiling a book on angelic happenings, ghostly manifestations, hauntings, apparitions, or other supernatural phenomena that have taken place in Chesterfield County through the years. If you (or a friend, neighbor or relative) have a story to tell or you know of someone who might be willing to share their story, experiences and information with us, please take the time to E-mail us at www.JaneBennett@MCI2000.com or telephone us at 804-748-5610.

**New
Lord Chesterfield Batteau**

While participating in the 1998 James River Batteau Festival, the crew discussed and committed to building a second batteau, due to the wear and tear the original craft has endured during its 13 years of service in re-enacting 1800s living-history projects throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. During this time the batteau has been poled over 2,000 miles on the Appomattox, James, Rapahannock, Potomac, and Staunton Rivers, and towed 3,000 miles on its trailer. These activities along with the weather, bug infestation, and wood rot led us to this decision.

The Batteau Committee has purchased new oak beams for the king plank and ribs, as well as cypress boards for the hull planking. We have arranged with the Chesterfield Technical Center to use their carpentry shop power tools to cut the beams, and the Virginia Forestry Service for use of a shed to construct the new boat.

We will launch the second LORD CHESTERFIELD BATTEAU on the James River in Lynchburg, June 18th, so we can continue to represent the Society and the County in the 14th JAMES RIVER BATTEAU FESTIVAL.

Museum Moments

By Jim Holloman, Assistant Director

Spring is finally here again! It is a welcome time of change when everything blossoms. Blossoming is also going on within our museum. Right now we are again bursting out with school groups. They are scheduled every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from late January through the second week of June. This keeps us busy and as always, we are looking for good volunteers to help with the school children.

The museum itself is blooming with new changes in conjunction with the celebration of the 250th anniversary of Chesterfield County. Following a renovation of the back gallery last year, the front gallery is now undergoing a transformation with generous funding from Chesterfield County. It will create space for two special exhibits during the anniversary celebration; one featuring the life and times of Lord Chesterfield, and the other on tobacco history in Chesterfield. Following the anniversary year, one front gallery will house the permanent exhibit of Chesterfield history while the two remaining galleries will be for changing exhibits. These changes in the exhibit space will move the museum forward into the next millennium, with new ideas for the new century.

The Historical Society also continues to procure objects for the collections that can aid in telling the exciting story of our county. Two recent acquisitions to the collections include a pair of 1960s dresses and a 1943 poll book from the Midlothian district of Chesterfield County. If you have any objects you might like to donate, I would be happy to talk with you. Please give me a call at 777-9663.

Notice

Chesterfield Historical Society "Web Page:"
<http://members.AOL.com/angenatree/cchsva.html>

Fax Number is 804-777-9643

OUT ON A LIMB:**QUERIES**

LOCKETT. CHEATHAM. PRIDE. WATKINS, Francis Lockett and Mary Cheatham of Chesterfield. Mary's parents were Francis Cheatham and Mary Pride. His parents were Thomas Cheatham Jr. b. ca 1686. These people were from Chesterfield Co. VA. Francis Lockett's son, James Lockett, married 1784 Elizabeth Watkins, daughter of John and Mary Hudson Watkins. Sharon Kay Thompson, RR #1, Box 60, Orleans, NE 68966

The Society received this obituary notice from K.W. Blankenburg:

HAZEL CHEATHAM BLANKENBURG (10113115 11113197) was a sixth-generation descendant of Thomas *Chetham (1644145.1126), who was in Henrico County as early as 1677 and in 1691 purchased 300 acres on Proctor's Creek from Martin and Frances Elam for 2,000 pounds of tobacco.

*Hazel's immigrant ancestors always spelled his name as I have above i.e., Chetham.

The National Genealogical Society's 1999 NGS Conference in the States will be held in Richmond, Va at the Richmond Centre from May 12 through May 15, 1999. Call NGS 103-525-0050 for further information & registration.

The Genealogical Records Committee is formatting data from the county's marriage records. These records include consent letters, bonds, and minister returns from 1711-1853. Our goal is to get the book to the printer before the next millennium.

The library has received request on the following surnames and places: Morrissette, Archer, Clarke, Daniel, Hudson, Lockett, Gates, Woodson, Logwood, Baugh, Roberts, Bolling, Gibbs, Woodcock, McCollum, Puckeft, Goins and Whitby Estate.

Some tips for managing your genealogy project:

- (1) Start with yourself and work back.
- (2) Verify your information.
- (3) Cite your sources.
- (4) Interview family and friends.
- (5) Use family group sheets to organize.
- (6) Check the chronology of events in your ancestor's life.
- (7) Visit the Chesterfield County Historical Society Library!

** The Historical Society library is open to the public on the second Wednesday of each month from 7:00 until 9:00 P.M.

DFA Richmond Meeting Set In June

The DuVal Family Association will hold its first meeting in over half a century June 3 - 6 at the Omni Hotel in Richmond, Va.

The weekend will include a genealogy workshop/seminar; visits to historic Ware and Abingdon churches, dinner at Seawell's Ordinary, a visit to Clay Bank where Daniel DuVal arrived on March 5, 1701; and a tour of Highgate, the site of the DuVal home near the Piankatank River at Freeport.

A visit to St. John's Church, site of Patrick Henry's "Give Me Liberty" speech, is also on the agenda. Samuel DuVal was a member of this church and is interred on the grounds.

Questions: Call Cy Rilee at 505-828-0249 or Katherine Lewis at 804-360-1087

LIBRARY NEWS

We thank the following friends who have so generously contributed books to our library:

-Bruce Burton, Burton Chronicles of Colonial Virginia, a history of an old county family.

-Donald Traser, Virginia Railway Depots, including several in Chesterfield County.

-Arthur C.S.S. Winfrey, Ancestors and Relatives of Arthur C.S.S. Winfrey, as well as the Winfrees of Chesterfield.

Please note a correction to a contribution acknowledged in our last issue. We inadvertently listed a collection of papers donated by Richard T. Baker as The Longwood Family. It should be The Logwood Family. We apologize for the error.

VOLUNTEERS! VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteers are urgently needed in the following areas:

Docents for Magnolia Grange and Museum

Gift Shop

Library

Office

Please check the area you would be interested in and mail to the Chesterfield Historical Society, P. O. Box 40, Chesterfield, VA 23832 or call 777-9663.

NAME

PHONE NUMBER

We extend a warm welcome to our two new Castlewood volunteers, Marie Butler and Jackie Westra, who have joined us in recent weeks. Jackie will be working with special projects on an as-needed basis. Marie is with us every Wednesday as part of the great team of Castlewood volunteers (Anne Mann - Tuesday; Irma Kaufman - Friday). We hope to fill the Monday and Thursday slots in the very near future.

Adopt-A-Chair Program Update

The following sponsors have responded to the "Adopt A Chair Program" in the 1917 Courthouse to help raise funds for educational programs planned at Castlewood:

- Richard T. Baker** - inscription: BAKER FAMILY AND FALLING CREEK AND HALLSBORO BY RICHARD T. BAKER
- Esther P. Bass** - inscription: H. AUBREY BASS JR. FAMILY
- Mr. and Mrs. James W. Bratt** - inscription: IN MEMORY OF MRS. HATTIE POTTS
- Chesterfield County Fair Association** - IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF ALL THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE CHESTERFIELD COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION SINCE 1911
- Theodora Cogbill** - inscription: THEO T. & GILLIAM H. COGBILL, GIVEN IN MEMORY BY THEODORA COGBILL
- Mr. and Mrs. Ernest P. Gates** - inscription: IN MEMORY OF O. B. GATES SR. AND IDA HEATH GATES (2 CHAIRS)
- Manchester Moose Lodge #699** - inscription: COURTESY OF MANCHESTER MOOSE LODGE #699, CHESTERFIELD, VA
- Mr. and Mrs. Horace Mann III** - inscription: IN MEMORY OF ANNIE V. MANN AND HORACE MANN JR.
- Mrs. J. Royall Robertson** - inscription: J.R. ROBERTSON JR., PRESIDENT, MUSEUM 1976; BOARD OF SUPERVISORS 1983; COMMUNITY LEADER
- Rachael B. Rooke** - inscription: IN HONOR OF HOWARD CARY ADAMS, TREASURER OF MUSEUM FROM 1985 TO 1989
- Joyce Lee Smith** - inscription: IN MEMORY OF HELEN D. SMITH, TEACHER 50 YRS., CCPS



CHESTERFIELD ON MY MIND

REVISIT THE 1920s AND "SWING" THE NIGHT AWAY
AT CHESTERFIELD COUNTY'S 250th ANNIVERSARY PARTY

FRIDAY, MAY 21ST

7:00 to 11:00 P.M.

HOLIDAY INN-KOGER CENTER SELECT

Cost: \$35 per person
heavy hors d'oeuvres
cash bar available

The Moonlight Serenaders
will perform swing and
recent popular music

1920s CLOTHING OR BLACK TIE REQUIRED

CALL 777-9653 TO MAKE RESERVATIONS



Membership Application
(Membership Year: January 1 - December 31)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number: (_____) _____

- _____ Student Membership \$ 10.00 per year
- _____ Individual Membership \$ 20.00 per year
- _____ Senior Citizen (65+) \$ 15.00 per year
- _____ Household (in same house) \$ 30.00 per year
- _____ Benefactor Membership \$ 500.00 per year
- _____ Corporate Membership \$ 1,000.00 per year
- _____ Renewal _____ New Member

- _____ Honorary Membership
(approved by Board of Directors)
- _____ Two Years \$ _____

_____ Donation \$ _____

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) 777-9663

The Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia
P.O. Box 40
Chesterfield, Virginia 23832

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