

The Messenger

OF THE CHESTERFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

Issue Number 50

October 1999

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Journalism

A news sense is really a sense of what is important, what is vital, what has color and life —what people are interested in. That's journalism. —*Burton Rascoe*

99chsnl4.pub

Museum Moments

By Jim Hollomon
Assistant Director

Well, the dog days of summer are about over. Along with co-sponsoring many 250th anniversary events this summer, we had some other fun events involving recognition of volunteers and welcoming new members. More programs of this kind are planned for the future.

We are about to enter our next season of programs and events for our sites. An important part of this season is school tours. We already have more than 45 classes on the books for this year and we are just getting started! This is a very challenging and rewarding part of our programming at the Historical Society. Consequently, I make another appeal for your assistance with our tours. We have a very dedicated group of docents who enjoy their work and work well together as a team. However, we still need more! Come on and join in the fun. If you are interested, please give me a call at 748-1026 for more information.

Finally, we continue to get good comments on the renovations to the museum. Current exhibits will remain until the first of next year to close out the 250th celebration. The next step of renovation also continues in phase II, working in improving the lighting in the galleries. Stay tuned for updates on the permanent and future changing exhibits.

**Chesterfield
Historical Society
Officers**

President — Rebecca P. Badger

1st Vice-President - Doris Hancock

2nd Vice-President - Rachel Lipowicz

Recording Secretary - Phyllis K. Bass

Corresponding Secretary - Tamara Puster

Treasurer — G. David Brown

Directors

Beverley Coleman,
Russell Harris, James Daniels,
Paul H. Shelton,
Horace "Pete" Mann, III,
Dr. George Partin,
Arline McGuire,
Betty Matthews, Angela Wilderman

Staff

Nancy Carter Crump,
Executive Director

James W. Hollomon,
Assistant Director
Jan Suttentfield,
Administrative Assistant
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

BYLAWS REVISED

The Bylaws of the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia are being revised. If you wish to receive the draft you may obtain a copy after October 8, 1999 from:

- the Historical Society offices at Castlewood
- the 1917 Courthouse
- the October quarterly meeting

Approval of the revised Bylaws will be voted on by the membership at the January quarterly meeting.

New Members

We welcome the new members who have joined the Chesterfield Historical Society:

Beam, Mr. & Mrs. Walter
Bollinger, Ms. Elaine C.
Boyd, Mrs. Ruth
Burney, Ms. Elinor Sue
Eberhard, Mrs. Ethel H.
Gleason, Mrs. Sarah F.
Gregory, Mr. Marcus W.
Harmon, Mr. & Mrs. John
Sloan, Mr. Forest
Sullivan, Mrs. Virginia
Watkins, Mr. & Mrs. Randolph



Important Notice

In order to publish *The Messenger* in a timely fashion, we wish to remind you that 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. Thank You.

Executive Director Retires

by Nancy Carter Crump

Many CHS members are already aware that for medical reasons I am retiring as Director of the Society on October 1st. At the urging of my physicians and my family, and with my own awareness of decreasing stamina related to Post-Polio Syndrome, I feel it is important both for the Society and for my own health that I step down. I would like to take this opportunity to say how grateful I am to the numerous CHS members who have called or written to offer their support and to wish me well.

When I accepted this position nearly six years ago, the directive I received was to "move the Society forward and in a different direction." In looking back at my tenure as director, I believe the organization can take pride in those things that have been accomplished. For me, the following stand out:

1. the stabilization and repair of Magnolia Grange;
2. the repairs, renovation, and restoration of the 1917 Courthouse's first floor to its original appearance;
3. the acquisition of Castlewood and the 1999 archeological dig there;
4. the complete refiguration and upgrading of the County Museum, untouched since it first opened in 1981. This created space for changing exhibits, an enlarged permanent gallery, and a better "traffic flow" on the first floor; provided needed storage space in the cellar, and enhanced safety measures on both floors;
5. the computerization of our museum collections, and professionalization of their care and maintenance;
6. the Lunchtime Lecture series and new special events;
7. the opening of the Society's Museum Shop;
8. the Society's leading role in Chesterfield County's 250th anniversary celebration;
9. the initiation of an ongoing intern program.

These changes have moved the Society from a locally focused operation to an organization that has acquired a regional reputation as a dynamic role-player in the museum field.

None of this would have been possible without the help of many people. Above all, I am indebted to a handful of loyal, dedicated volunteers who have donated thousands of hours to the Society and its day-to-day activities. Individual CHS board and committee members have provided steady support throughout this period of change, as have staff personnel, both current and in the past. A sincere and heartfelt thank you goes to the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors as well as the County Administrator, who recognized our needs and provided most of the funding for the physical changes that have taken place. County departments that include General Services and Public Affairs have been generous with their help. We have been fortunate to have continuing advice and interest from museum professionals in Virginia and North Carolina. To all of these people, I offer thanks, along with my sincere best wishes for the Chesterfield Historical Society and its future.

Gift Shop

SIZZLING SUMMER SALE IN PROGRESS

35% off all merchandise*
Do your Christmas shopping early!

* excludes afghans and 250th items

Out On A Limb

Time flies! The summer has been busy for all of us, especially with all the events associated with the 250th Anniversary of Chesterfield. The Genealogy Committee has continued to work on the 1860 census, abstracting and typing the records; abstracting the tithables; answering letters from researchers. The *Marriages of Chesterfield* has been formatted for publication and the index is "under construction."

Several committee members will be participating in Publick Day at Henricus on September 17 and 18. This year instead of selling gingerbread cookies, we will be offering genealogy kits with information on how to do genealogy and research forms.

The Historical Society webpage contains a section on the Genealogy Committee and plans are underway to add more information this fall including place names and Bible records. If you have Bible records and obituary notices for your Chesterfield ancestor, please send us a copy.

Visit the Historical Society webpage at <http://members.aol.com/angenatree/cchsva.html>.

Submitted by Angie Wilderman

1917 Courthouse "ADOPT A CHAIR" PROGRAM CONTINUES

We thank Life Member, William David Eppes, who has dedicated his courtroom chair in memory of Senator John Wayles Eppes 1773-1823.

Now is your opportunity to be a part of Chesterfield County's history. For a cost of \$250 each, you can sponsor a courthouse chair in memory of - or in honor of - a relative or friend. Remember! Your contribution to this program aids the Society's educational programs. It is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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

Another Library Indexing Project

The Library is the proud beneficiary of another master indexing project from Donna Schneider.

She has recently completed an index of issues Number 1-46 of The Messenger, 1982-1998. This extensive index contains twenty-four pages of double columns in small print, citing thousands of names of people, places and events covered in our newsletters. This will enable researchers to locate more quickly information which we have published through the years.

You will recall that Donna also indexed the 1888 and 1930 Chesterfield County maps which showed the property owners in the county in those times.

Thank you, Donna! We appreciate all the volunteer hours which you contributed to the Society through this project!



Museum Stores of Richmond

Present the

1999 Holiday Shoppers Fair

Friday, October 29 * 10 am - 9 pm
Saturday, October 30 * 10 am - 5 pm

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
E. Claiborne Robins Visitors Center
1800 Lakeside Avenue
at the corner of Lakeside Ave. and Hilliard Rd.
just minutes north of downtown Richmond
off Interstate 95

free on-site parking
no admission charge to enter event or visitors center
there is a fee to enter the Garden

*A museum collection where you get to walk
away with the exhibits
Shop for unique and unusual gifts from some of
Richmond's finest museum stores.*

Agecroft Hall
Beth Ahabah Museum
Chesterfield Historical Society
Children's Museum of Richmond
Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen
Henricus Historical Park
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
The Library of Virginia
Maymont
The Museum of the Confederacy
Science Museum of Virginia
The Valentine Museum
Virginia Historical Society

For more information, call (804) 262-9887, ext. 324

The Society wishes to thank these persons who have
contributed the following books to the Library:

Bruce Burton . . . Burton Chronicles of Colonial Virginia
Estate of L.L. Cashion . . . A History of Highland County, Virginia
Madeline Condrey . . . Grange Hall High School Yearbook, 1932-33
Jim Daniels . . . Henry Duke, Councilor, His Descendants and
Connections. Hanover County Taxpayers, Saint Paul's Parish.
Hanover County Chancery Wills and Notes.
Jeanette Ortiz . . . Manual for Museums
Donald R. Traser . . . Virginia Railway Depots
Arthur C.S.S. Winfrey . . . Ancestors and Relatives of Arthur C.S.S.
Winfrey
Glenn Woodward . . . Descendants of William "The Immigrant"
Hatcher, 1612/13-1680

In addition, these books have been donated anonymously:
A Threatened Seventeenth Century Archaeological Site, "Kingsland"
The Clay Family
Leading Branch Families in America, 1633-1904
Chesterfield County Fair Premium List, 1954
Chesterfield County Fair Premium List, 1958

**Announcing
the Chesterfield Historical Society's
Fall Quarterly Meeting**

**The Dedication of the
Mary Randolph Highway Marker**

**Speaker: Dr. Dan Mouer,
Virginia Commonwealth University**

**Topic: "Mary Randolph and the
OTHER American Revolution"**

When: Sunday, October 24, 1999 at 2:00 P.M.

**Where: Bermuda Hundred: on the lawn at the residence of
Mrs. Fred Gray**

RAIN LOCATION: TBA

Bring lawn chairs!

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: To commemorate Mary
and her husband, David Meade Randolph, Presquile Island
will be open for tours on Saturday, October 23rd, from
10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. * WEATHER PERMITTING.**

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

**Chesterfield Historical Society
Financial Report
January 1, 1999 through June 30, 1999**

Receipts:

Dues Received	\$ 8,631.00
Programs and Committees	5,913.12
Donations Received	39,491.91
Gift Shop Sales	14,194.63
Investment Income	<u>3,009.10</u>
Total Receipts	\$ 71,239.76

Expenses:

Programs and Committees	\$ 52,917.79
Salaries and Payroll Taxes	6,105.91
Printing	2,938.29
Gift Shop Purchases	12,851.29
Administrative Expenses	3,083.48
Insurance (one year premium)	<u>1,143.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 79,039.76

Decrease in Fund Balances \$ <7,800.00>

Add: Fund Balances 1/1/99 \$129,361.51

Fund Balances 6/30/99 \$121,561.51

Summary of Fund Balances 6/30/99

<u>Fund</u>	<u>1/1/99</u>	<u>Increase <Decrease></u>	<u>6/30/99</u>
General Fund	\$ 23,514.73	\$ 3,204.68	\$ 26,719.41
Historic Sites	70,883.41	<12,390.69>	58,492.72
War Memorial	24,808.45	505.57	25,314.02
Genealogy	2,861.99	65.06	2,927.05
Batteau	1,327.29	<1,364.57>	<37.28>
Cemetery	2,803.25	957.95	3,761.20
Civil War Sites	662.23	1,222.00	1,884.23
O'Dell Book	<u>2,500.16</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>2,500.16</u>
Totals	\$129,361.51	\$<7,800.00>	\$121,561.51

