

# The Messenger

OF THE CHESTERFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

Issue Number 55

January 2001

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### Ability

There is something that is much more scarce, something finer far, something rarer than ability. It is the ability to recognize ability.  
--Elbert Hubbard

Consider the postage stamp: its usefulness consists in the ability to stick to one thing till it gets there.  
--Josh Billings

Ability is of little account without opportunity.  
--Napoleon Bonaparte

2001chsn1.pub

## Director's Message

by Dennis P. Farmer

Well winter is upon us now as I look towards the New Year and our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as an historical society. For an organization such as ours twenty years is just a first step towards a future that can be a great many more years to come. As an historian, I suppose I should take a long view of these things but it is just this "life span" that makes working at the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia a joy and a challenge.

The joy comes in many forms. You all as members providing skills and interests to combine into a whole that are much greater than its parts makes this a happy place to work at. The discovering of the past and fitting it into the future has always been vital to me. Working with school children in tours, programs and outreach is a personal vocation that I still enjoy 23 years and hundreds of thousands of kids later. The museum professionals with whom I work and learn from as well as the many others who aid me in gaining knowledge in my field. Lastly but by no means least, the volunteers and others who make up the lives blood of any historical organization.

The challenges are many as well. Up keep and maintaining our sites, the funding and resources needed and recruiting members and volunteers are just some of our tasks here at the Society. Often it is the skill and willingness of our fine board of directors that comes forward to the task, in many cases the staff and myself, but as well, it is friends and volunteers whole care about Chesterfield and our heritage.

In February and March we will offer the Lunctime Lecture series, so please call in and support these events. We have some great programs and wonderful folks taking their time to inform and entertain so call in your reservations soon. By this spring the museum renovation will be completed, even now the painting of the waterproofing project in the basement is under way. Soon final labels and a new media presentation for the Society will be installed and offer our guests a brief introduction to Chesterfield's long and interesting past.

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**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**

Dennis P. Farmer  
Executive Director

James W. Hollomon,  
Assistant Director  
Jan Sutzenfield,  
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

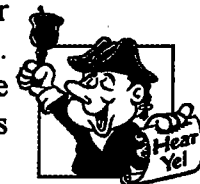
**Director's Message, cont'd**

I would also like to take time to thank Matt Stafford, a young man who provided a winter internship for us. Matt did over forty hours of hard work cleaning Castlewood from basement to second floor. Often simple "housekeeping" is not high on the list of things to do, so Matt's efforts and the pride he took in doing a job right are all the more helpful. Thanks Matt and good luck with school.

**Membership News**

By Rachel Lipowicz

It's time to renew your membership with the Chesterfield Historical Society. To continue to receive The Messenger and other benefits of membership, please remit your dues using the enclosed form and envelope. Your continued support is appreciated and we hope you'll enjoy the many activities CHS has planned this year.



**UKROP'S GOLDEN GIFTS PROGRAM**

Please remember to save your Ukrop's Golden Gifts receipt when you receive it in the mail and forward to the Society. As always, these funds will greatly benefit the Society and we appreciate everyone's support. **THANK YOU!!!**

**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
- 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.

# Museum Moments

Happy New Year to One and All! Well, we just wound up another year. Time sure can fly. Last year was supposed to be so scary with the "new millennium." Fortunately, it was rather uneventful - at least on a global level.

We did have quite a year at the Historical Society in 2000. Following the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary year we looked forward to a little breather. Ha, Ha! The word came down that the courts were taking over the 1917 Courthouse, full-time, at the end of our school group season in Mid-June. So, late spring saw us move the Museum Shop and Research Library down to Castlewood. Following another successful school tour season, my office was relocated to Magnolia Grange.

In the midst of all this, we returned all the objects from the Museum that had been borrowed for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. At the same time we gutted the upstairs galleries of the Museum for repairs. Over the summer and into early fall, the permanent Chesterfield history exhibit was re-installed. Also, in the new gallery, a temporary changing exhibit was installed in November on veterans in Chesterfield. This coincided with the dedication of the first phase of the new wall in front of the 1917 Courthouse, commemorating Chesterfield veterans. Just recently, another upgrade in the Museum was completed. Water proofing was done on several walls in the basement where moisture has been a continuous problem.

Losing the Courthouse did not deter the Spirit Walk this past year. In place of a visit to the courtroom, a very scary stop at the 1892 Jail was added. Finally, another successful year of cooperation with local garden clubs produced a beautiful Magnolia Grange, all decked out for the holidays and our annual open house.

With 2000 now behind us, looking back, things were not so bad. We had no Y2K problems here and we dealt with our upheaval smoothly. Change, after all, can be a good thing. Staff, volunteers and even visitors are beginning to settle into and get used to our new operating scheme. Now, we can look forward into the new year, with plans for continued improvements in the Museum, new brochures for promoting our sites, securing funding for Magnolia Grange repairs, new programming through outreach, and of course our usual madness of school groups in the springtime. These are all positive signs for a good year in 2001 for the Historical Society.

Closing on this note, I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season, and again to all of you, a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

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## O'KENNON'S STORE

Mr. Cecil F. Belcher presented to the Society a display case from O'Kennon's Store located off of River Road in Matoaca. The following was provided by Mr. Belcher.

"My grandfather, James Edward O'Kennon, 1852-1947, a first generation American; his father had arrived in New York from Longford Co., Ireland in the early 1800s. Mr. O'Kennon operated a general store on River Road (presently about the 9200 block), from the mid-twenties until about 1936. This display case, bought second hand, was used to contain items such as pocket knives, alarm clocks, pocket watches, fountain pens, pencils, writing paper, etc. The store also sold groceries, gasoline and kerosene oil. My father, Alex Belcher, built the store when Mr. O'Kennon was no longer able to work his farm. My father also supplied the store several times each week upon his return from Petersburg where he was employed by the ACL RR Co. He drove a Model A Ford Pickup Truck. River Road was not paved until the thirties. When Mr. O'Kennon was no longer able to manage the store, it was sold and not long after, it was closed." --Cecil Belcher 1/2001

Many thanks to Mr. Belcher, and Dr. George Partin and Mr. Pete Mann who started us out to the Belcher farm more than a year ago. The farm has provided us about a dozen wonderful artifacts and Mr. Belcher is continuing his generous support. The display case is now back to work at Castlewood in the Museum Shop. Drop in and see this wonderful artifact back at work again. Also, our thanks to Bruce Dove and his crew at Parks and Recreation for the truck and the labor in moving the case.

## Out On A Limb .....

Submitted by Angela Wilderman

What a peaceful holiday this has been, no Y2K fuss, just family, decorating, cooking, baking, visiting. Genealogy and research takes a back burner at this time of year and that's good. It gives researchers down time at the libraries and archives but provides a great opportunity to visit family members and add the oral history to the family history. Did you get a few good nuggets?

Look for upcoming information on the Chesterfield County Marriage Book which has been indexed and is in the process of going to the printers. It is over 400 pages of abstracts of consent letters, bonds and ministers' returns including the reel of microfilm and frame number(s) with a complete index.

## Some Genealogy and History....

Chesterfield County, VA, Court Order Book 8  
(Continued) page 176

Richard Blume Pltf, John Bolling Deft: In Debt Judgement confessed by the Defendant for four hundred and seventy seven Pounds ten Shillings and six Pence with Interest thereon from the first Day of November one thousand seven hundred and ninety ninety-one.

Page 177, Chesterfield County November Court 1788

Elisha Chaulkley P vs Drury Blankenship D: Case Dismissed at the Pltfs Costs.

Present Geo Woodson Gentleman Justice. Absent Blackman Moseley G Justice

On the Motion of William Stephens who gave Bond as the Law directs, Ordinary License is granted him.

William Walthall Pltf vs James Fergusson Deft: Case

The Report being now returned in their Words to wit Pursuant to an Order of the worshipful Court of Chesterfield County, we the Subscribers have heard the Matter in dispute between William

Walthall Plan James Fergusson Dft in the County Court of Chesterfield and do award that the said Fergusson pay unto the said Walthall the Sum of ten Pounds current Money of Virginia. Given under our Hands this 30th Day of October 1788. Samuel Hatcher King Graves Judgment for the same and Cash.

Currel Keen P vs Robert Donald and Jesse Cogbill Defts: Motion on Refiling Bond Notice proved as to Donald and Judgment vs. him for 36 Pounds five Shillings with Interest thereon from July the 14<sup>th</sup> 1784 til paid and costs. Whereupon the said Robert Donald prayed an appeal to the General Court which was granted him on his giving Bond as the law requires within twenty Days.

John Rudd Pltf vs Thomas Rudd Dft: Ejectment On the motion of the Defendant by his Attorney a Commission is granted him to take the Deposition of Mary Rudd a Witness de beneisse.

John Rudd Pltf vs Thomas Rudd Det: Ejectment On the Motion of the Plaintiff by his Attorney a Commission is granted him to take the Depositions of William Williamson and Abbagal Baubeach Witnesses de beneisse. And it is agreed on by the Parties by their Attorneys that the legal Evidence admitted on this Cause may be made use of in the several Suits brought by John Rudd agst the said Thomas Rudd Peter Clarke William Winfree and Francis Baugh for the money(?) of Lands.

Page 178 Chesterfield County November Court 1788

Steward Jackson appearing according to his Recognizance upon the Complaint of John Williams Whereupon the matter of the said Complaint being full heard it is ordered that the said Steward Jackson do give Severity to be of good behaviour towards all Persons particularly to the said John Williams for the Space of six Months ensuing the Date hereof Whereupon the said Steward Jackson with Richard Baugh who severally acknowledged that is to say the said Steward in the Sum of ten pounds and the said Baugh in the Sum of ten Pounds to be levied & Yet upon this condition that if the said Steward shall be of good behaviour.

Ordered that the Court adjourn till 10 OClock tomorrow. Thos. Bolling.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rebecca Badger

We've had a very busy fall here at CHS. Our Veteran's Day Memorial service was especially poignant with the dedication of the War Memorial Wall. W. Baxter Perkinson, Sr. saw the culmination of many years of tireless work as the first phase was presented to our citizenry on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Upon completion of this duty he immediately flew to Gettysburg, PA. The approach was harrowing-turbulent winds with no lights at the small airport. They remained aloft for an hour searching for a lit runway. Then, upon landing in Chambersburg, transportation wasn't available but through the kindness of a gentleman who noticed Baxter's Combat lapel pin, his car was offered for the trip. A belated appearance at the Gettysburg Banquet hosted by J.E.B. Stuart Camp #1506 Sons of Confederate Veterans became a reality. Another dedication took place that day. The W. Baxter Perkinson Camp 1926, SCV was presented by Commander Larry L. Beane II. We are continually blessed by association with the talent and devotion that Baxter so generously awards to the preservation of history.

On December 9<sup>th</sup> we extended Christmas greetings by opening Magnolia Grange and Castlewood. Many dedicated volunteers presented Revolutionary reenactments and Victorian festivities as our gift to the public.

Finally, on December 13<sup>th</sup> Margaret Wright's lecture on Staffordshire tea sets topped our holiday season at the Annual Toy Luncheon. Again, members and volunteers made wonderful food and dedicated their time and talent to create a memorial event. In addition, our beautiful Museum Shop has been open at these special times offering patrons an opportunity to purchase gifts for the holidays.

Many, many thanks for all of you who make our organization an enriching journey of history's importance in our lives. Happiest New Year to you and yours.

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## Bowman Civil War History

By: Hazel Bowman Cole

The discovery of coal by one of the slaves that lived on the Clover Hill Plantation brought many changes to the Winterpock area of Chesterfield County, Virginia. The Cox family owned the Clover Hill Plantation.

Immigrant workers from Scotland, Ireland, Germany, and England, as well as, local men were hired to mine the coal. Mr. Cox realized the need for faster transport of the coal shipment to anxious buyers. He had a railroad built from the mine to the main line of the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad. The mine was very productive and brought more trades to the Winterpock area. In addition to the influx of new families, there were hotels, bar rooms, general stores, a blacksmith shop and other new construction added to the Winterpock community. The Episcopal Denomination established Trinity Episcopal Church to provide the spiritual needs.

The payroll for the Clover Hill mine had such names as Blankenship, Bowman, Cox, Donahoe, Lucas, Miles, Smith and others. These men left the mine to start the Rough and Ready Volunteers of Clover Hill. The Civil War was already in progress, having started April 12, 1861, and these concerned citizens saw the need for unity. The Rough and Ready later became Company D of the 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment with Asa Reynolds Smith, an executive of the Clover Hill Railroad, as Captain. Azer P. Smith was elected First Lieutenant and Alexander Lucas from Aberdeen, Scotland was elected Second Lieutenant. James Piper Cox was appointed Third Lieutenant. Cox, the youngest of the rank, was well educated. His education and family prominence gave him the advantage over the illiterate miners and immigrants. These volunteers were very brave men to say the least.

Robert Bowman enlisted June 15, 1861, for a one year period in the Rough and Ready Volunteers of Clover Hill. He re-enlisted for war for a two year period April 30, 1862, Company D, 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment Virginia Infantry.

James M. Bowman enlisted for war March 15, 1862, at Clover Hill by Lieutenant Cox for a three year period in Company D 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment Virginia Infantry. He was trained at the Norfolk Fairgrounds and assigned to a regiment. Cont'd page 6

## MIDLOTHIAN COALFIELDS A "LUMP" OF HISTORY

At the County Fair Summer of 2000, a gentleman upon seeing his ancestor's name Samuel GOLDEN (GOULDIN, born in England) upon our 1850 Census of miners in Chesterfield related this account.

Samuel had had a nightmare about digging his men out of sand. When he awoke in the morning he was not feeling well. His wife wanted him to stay home. He promised he would return at mid-day after he made sure his men were OK. (Instead newspaper accounts say he was found in the office with his noon meal). His wife wrote the full account (of his dream and the explosion) in the family Bible, which was later loaned to the JEWETT family. It was never returned and none of that family knows what happened to it. There is an account written by a member of the JEWETT family in our historical society's library, under Coal Mines; Midlothian. Since the bible can no longer be used for reference, it is hard to tell just what was written.

As with other social groups, the coal miner's daughters often married coal miner's sons, who sometimes also became coal miners. After composing a list of those who died in any of the 29 explosions, it can be discerned that a few families suffered fatalities in each generation. Others seemed to have lost all of their sons. There was probably not even one family who did not have someone of kinship who expired in one of these explosions from 1810-1885.

If anyone knows the name of the GOLDEN descendant; or anyone related to the JEWETTS of England (not JOUET); or any other personal information about these courageous workers please call us. It is hoped to have some personal information to use at the future Grove Shaft exhibit area.

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### **Bowman History, cont'd**

As dawn was commencing on June 30, 1862, the Confederate 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment Company D and others under the leadership of Mahone advanced northeast to Bracketts Field near White Oak Swamp in an attempt to sever the Union retreat route. As the Confederates came into view, the Union artillery opened fire. The Confederate battery retaliated. The 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment acted as a guard for other Confederate troops. After the action a report was issued that one officer and seventeen enlisted men were killed with eighteen enlisted men wounded. This was the highest casualty of the Brigade.

Under Mahone's leadership the 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment Company D returned to Charles City Road. The weakened Confederate artillery once again opened fire. The Union forces responded. Union gun boats stationed nearby in the James River discharged huge naval shells into the valley. The guns, not being positioned properly for a direct hit, exploded in the tree tops above the 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment. They were of such magnitude that large branches and tree limbs fell on the troops causing difficulty in their defense. The action continued until nightfall. Other units, as well as the 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment Company D, tried to drive the Union Army off Malvern Hill to no avail. "Billy Yank was too much for Johnny Reb."

A General who fought near the 41<sup>st</sup> wrote later that the fire of the enemy was beyond anything he had ever witnessed. The shells in the dark of night, bullets whizzing by, the noise of artillery and small arms rolling onto the battle field were enough to make the bravest soldier shrink in fear.

Cont'd back page

## **Chesterfield Historical Society**

### **Lunchtime Lecture Series 2001**

The Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia will offer its seventh year of Lunchtime lectures by noted museum and educational professionals. All lectures will be held in the Ballroom of the 1817 plantation house "Castlewood", home to the Society Museum Shop, Library and offices. With plenty of parking, please plan to enjoy the warm setting of one of the best ballrooms in Chesterfield. Located at 10201 Iron Bridge Road across the street from Burger King's. Participants are invited to bring a brown bag lunch to enjoy during the lecture. Admission per person is \$5.00 for the general public and \$3.00 for Society members. Active Society volunteers and CHS Board members are admitted free of charge. Space is limited so we recommend that you make reservations early by calling 777-9663.

Wednesday, February 21, 2001 "John Smith and Gabriel Archer, 1608" presented by Mr. Ron Furqueron and Mr. Dennis Farmer.

A living history look at the roles of two early English settlers at Jamestown, the lawyer, Captain Archer and the soldier, Captain Smith. Come and be part of the council at Jamestown as these political rivals met again in 1608.

Wednesday, February 28, 2001 "Old Jeb: A Slave Speaks on Old Chesterfield"

By Mr. Wali Brandon

A presentation by our Society's important new committee into the role of African Americans here in Chesterfield County. Please come and enjoy this thoughtful program, done in "first person" with insight and research on the "particular institution" in Chesterfield County before the Civil War.

Wednesday, March 7, 2001 "The Cockade Society, a look into the lives of the past" presented by Mrs. Mary Ellen Anderson of the Cockade Society. Mary Ellen operates the Marsh-Anderson House in the Village of Ettrick and the Tea Room, offering truly out of the ordinary decorated cakes, teas and other memorable fare. "Things taste better in small places."

Wednesday, March 14, 2001 "To Cloth a Lady and to Armour a Knight" a special program that will dress a woman of 1860 from her "unmentionables" on up and then, Sir Thomas Dale will, with his servant, put on his complete Armour for your enjoyment.

Presented by Ms. Betty Ownesby and Mr. Dennis Strawderman.

Wednesday, March 21, 2001 "House Calls: Chesterfield medicine of 1870" presented by Mr. Keith Southall. A look into the old county doctor and his black bag. "Doc" Southall will explain and explore medicine of the post Civil War years and display much of the art of the doctor for all to see.

Wednesday, March 28, 2001 "The City of Henricus, 1611 to 2007" presented by Mr. Walt Heyer, Executive Director of the Henricus Historical Park. Walt will present the history of Virginia's second City and its plans for the future to 2007. Take a look at what has happened, will happen in 2001 and what is next for this exciting Chesterfield site.



### **Bowman History, cont'd**

Robert Bowman spent a great deal of time in and out of the hospital during his war years. His general health and battle wounds caused him many problems. He suffered from chronic rheumatism. He was at Camp Winder Division 4 Hospital in Richmond, Virginia and the C.S.A. General Hospital in Danville, Virginia at various times. He was home on sick leave July 1863, 1 September 1863. He appeared on the receipt roll for clothing April 27, 1864. He entered Chimborazo Hospital Number 5 in Richmond, Virginia in June 1864, for trouble with a shoulder wound that occurred February 1863. He was granted a sixty day furlough for sick leave in June 1864. He was granted permission to spend that time at his home in Winterpock. Robert was a prisoner of war in 1865. He took the U.S. Oath of Allegiance in Manchester, Chesterfield County, Virginia, on April 28, 1865. Having taken the oath of parole he was permitted to return to his home in Winterpock, Virginia. Robert Bowman returned from the war to his wife Mary and heir children. He went to work as a miner in the Bight Hope Coal Pits. He died in the Bright Hope mine explosion April 3, 1867. His father, Henry Bowman, was manager of the pits. He identified his son's blackened body. I have never known where Robert was buried nor anything about his wife and children.

James M. Bowman deserted at the Regiment Camp on Charles City Road July 9, 1862. This was his final roll. As a young child I was told by my Father that James (Jim) Bowman hid in a cave in the Clover Hill area until the duration of the war. He lived with his aged parents until they died. Ann Moxley Bowman died September 20, 1869. Her Husband, Henry Bowman, died September 18, 1869, two days earlier. It is not known where they are buried. On April 28, 1870, James M. Bowman, age 39, married Elizabeth Traylor, daughter of Amie Moore and Newman Green Traylor. They had two children that lived to adulthood. Emily Mae Bowman and Walter James Bowman. Elizabeth died in childbirth on June 18, 1860. James M. Bowman lived the remainder of his life with his daughter Emily Mae Bowman Cashion and her family. Emily Bowman Cashion and her family lived in a house on Lucas Hill on the present day Coalboro Road, Winterpock, Virginia. He died May 13, 1912. It is not known where he and his wife Elizabeth are buried.

James M. Bowman's son, Walter James Bowman, married Minnie Florence Pinkleton on July 12, 1897, in Clover Hill, Virginia. They lived in the old hotel that faced the drive way to Lucas Hill. It was here that Walter and Minnie's first child was born October 9, 1898, Logan Bryan Bowman. Logan in my Father.

Hazel Bowman Cole  
Born May 9, 1929  
Winterpock, Virginia

Ref.  
41<sup>st</sup> Virginia Infantry, Company D  
Virginia Infantry, 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. VA Histories Series  
William D. Henderson, Chesterfield Regiments

**The Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia**  
**P.O. Box 40**  
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