

# The Messenger

OF THE CHESTERFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

Issue Number 57

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Under Front Mailing Label	

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### Brotherhood

Speak not too well of one who  
scarce will know  
Himself transfigured in its roseate  
glow;  
Say kindly of him what is, chiefly,  
true,  
Remembering always he belongs  
to you;  
Deal with him as a truant, if you  
will,  
But claim him, keep him, call him  
brother still!  
—Oliver Wendell Holmes

On this shrunken globe, men can  
no longer live as strangers.  
—Adlai E. Stevenson

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## Countrey of the Apamatica Native Americans in Chesterfield County

By Dennis P. Farmer

George Percy provided the earliest written description of what we now call Chesterfield County.<sup>1</sup> In the first river expedition commanded by Captain Christopher Newport, the English settlers landed in the "countrey of the Apamatica" on May 8, 1607. Very likely, an earlier Spanish effort in 1526 under the direction of Adeltaco<sup>2</sup> Lucas de Allyon had visited the area, but to date no detailed records of that event have been uncovered. The English found that First Nations people of the Algonquin-speaking Powhatan "Confederacy" were firmly settled along the northern bank of the Appomattox and both the eastern and western shore of the James River. These were the Appamattuck and the Arrohateck, part of the thirty or more chiefdoms known as Tsenacommacah. Yet another group of people lived in northwestern Chesterfield and eastern Powhatan counties, the Monacans, a warrior tribe that spoke the Siouan language and were long time foes of the Powhatan people.

The Appamattucks were one of six chiefdoms that Powhatan had inherited from his parents, of whom little is known. Between 1550 and 1580 the Powhatan "empire" or paramount chiefdom had the Powhatan, Arrochteck along with the Appamattuck living along the James River, while the Youghtanund, Mattaponi and Pamunkey were along the York River. By warfare, intimidation and diplomacy he added others such as the Kecoughtans about 1597-98 until some 30 chiefdoms with about 13,200 people were on hand in 1607. The Chesapeake he exterminated in a decisive conflict.<sup>3</sup>

The Appamattuck or Machodoc people enjoyed the rich and largely clear and level lands along the tidewater rivers and in 1607 had two principal towns or villages. The more important of them was along the mouth of Swift Creek, about where Point of Rocks park is now located, the other at Bermuda Hundred. Two smaller sites were located in Colonial Heights. Farther north along both sides of the James River, centered near Falling Creek were the Arrohateck people, a chiefdom that was added to the Powhatan Empire after 1580. While these communities may have had palisades of wood some ten to twelve feet high, designed to protect the village, it is likely that they were without such defenses. Both the Powhatan and Monacan people used slash and burn<sup>4</sup> to open farmland for crops and relied on hunting and fishing as well.

In 1607, the Appamattuck were lead by Opussunoquonske, the *weroansqua*<sup>5</sup> or "Queen of Apamatica". She was described by Percy as "attired with a coronet beset with many white bones, her ears hanged with copper, a chain thereof six times compassing her neck."<sup>6</sup> Another, more physical description, was the "Fatt, lustie, manly" woman, who provided a sour reception for the English. She refused to allow them to stand or sit near her and requested a demonstration of firearms, showing "not neere the feare as Arahatec".<sup>7</sup>

Cont'd, Page 5

**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,  
Bruce Baker, James Daniels,  
Paul Shelton,  
Ed Henderson,  
Dr. George Partin,  
Arline McGuire,  
Betty Matthews, Angela Wilderman

**Staff**

Dennis P. Farmer,  
Executive Director

James W. Hollomon,  
Assistant Director  
Jan Sutfenfield,  
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

**New Members**

Chesterfield Historical Society extends a warm welcome to the following members who have joined this quarter

Ms. Louise A. Berger  
Ms. Patrica D. Breeden  
Mrs. Betty J. Christiansen  
Ms. Mildred A. Crostic  
Mr. Paul J. Kellett  
Ms. Anne A. May  
Mr. Scott A. Peach  
Mr. David C. Swift



**President's Article**

*During my two year tenure as president of your board, many changes have taken place at CHS. We celebrated 250 years as a county and immediately moved on to the next millennium. An excellent organization marks change. Whether sites are replaced, added or enhanced we stand to the challenge. Our membership shows continued growth. There exists a wealth of talent and resources here and I count myself fortunate to have been party to these leaders and their endeavors. As we look forward to celebrating the first 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this fall, it is my hope that this momentum will propel our best treasure, ourselves, to cultivate the growing need to document and portray our singular stance in history.*

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# Director's Message

by Dennis P. Farmer

Looking outside at the fine late spring day and hearing the roar of my window air conditioner as it fights its battle against the heat, I am looking back over the quick rush of spring time into the hot and hazy days of summer. That was quick! The past spring has been very active for our Society. Efforts to repair the museum are finished and the new exhibits are installed. New display cases will arrive soon as will all new labels for our collections. Full inventories of artifacts and Society items are complete, waiting for a planned appraisal in 2002. The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee has set its plans for a wonderful number of special events, "old favorites" and new ideas.

As part of museum renovation phase III, a new audio visual Chesterfield County history presentation is being developed based on our 1976 program that many of you will remember. More than three hundred new photographs and two hundred slides are being reviewed and the selections will be "updated" to digital images. While being true to the old program, this a/v presentation will be offered at the museum as an introduction to our wonderful heritage story and taken to off site talks, much as the "76" slide program has done so often in the past. Plans for a grant request later this year will allow copies to be provided to all the County schools and libraries as well as possible use on our second new Society website, [www.chesterfieldhistory.com](http://www.chesterfieldhistory.com).

Also we would like to take the time to offer a special thank you to the many scouts and parents of Boy Scout Troop 826. These fine scouts have been clearing brush, improving trails and cutting up falling logs on the Howlett Line, Civil War site as part of an Eagle Scout project. On June 2, 2001 a "Court of Honor" was held at the Howlett Line for Adam Kit Willis, who has obtained the rank of "Eagle", the highest level of scouting. The Society would also like to thank Mr. George Fickett Jr. long time chair of our Civil War Sites Committee as well as Mr. Mike Steen, Mr. Bruce Dove, of Chesterfield Parks and Recreation and also a vital thanks to the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Chester Station Camp for the very hard work that they have provided to maintain and improve these sites, all part of the Bermuda Hundred Campaign of 1864.

We have had a number of new artifacts donated to the Society, including letters, plans, notebooks and information on the Salisbury coalmines and its production of coal from the late 1920's to 1942. This was a donation by Rev. Ernest J. Boyd of his father, Ernest Bradley Boyd's papers. Also this spring, Mr. Bob Moates donated a special edition Chesterfield County Commemorative sporting rifle, serial number 1. Its receiver group is engraved with images of our past and gold plated. It is both a working weapon as well as, an art form.

Dr. Irby B. Brown came in with a number of mementos from Mr. Irby H. Brown who has passed on. Mr. Brown was one of the committee founders of the County Museum as well as the Historical Society. The donation includes many plaques and awards as well as such items as World War Two gas ration cards and booklets. We will be displaying many of these items as part of our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary exhibits in the summer and fall.

Remember that it is your donation of these wonderful artifacts that allows us to preserve, educate and enjoy Chesterfield County. If you have old photos, maps, clothing or other items, we want to add them to our collection. One note, however, we can not add too many large items unless they are documented and linked to our County. When we accept these vital links to the past we must try to perserve and protect them for as long as we possibly can. Please contact Jim Holloman at 796-1479 or myself at 777-9663 if you have any possible donations.

Have a grand summer one and all!

\* \* \* \* \*

**Out On A Limb .....**

Submitted by Angela Wilderman

The Marriages of Chesterfield County Abstracted from Microfilm, 1771-1854, is at the printers and should be ready for distribution shortly. This book differs from the abstracts from the register published by Knorr and Weisiger in that the Marriages of Chesterfield County Abstracted from Microfilm, 1771-1854 were abstracted from consent letters, bonds, and ministers' returns microfilmed by the State Library. The register kept by the clerk was an abstract of these original records. Copies of the book are still available for a cost of \$36.58 plus \$4.00 postage and handling.

**Some Genealogy and History....**

Chesterfield County, VA, Court Order Book 8  
(Continued) page 178

At a Court held for Chesterfield County on \_\_\_\_\_ the fourteenth Day of November one thousand seven hundred and eighty eight. Present George Robertson, David Pattison, Creed Haskins and Edward Moseley Gentlemen Justices

\* John Crumple Plaintiff vs. William Worsham Defendt - Dismissed no Presentation

John and Dougald Fergusson Pltfs. Vs. Christopher Branch Defendant - The Defendant failing to appear ordered that the conditional Judgment obtained in this Cause in September last be confirmed and that the Plaintiffs recover against the said Defendant one hundred and sixty-four Pounds thirteen Shillings and four Pence Specie together with their costs in this behalf expended and the said Defendant in Money etc. But this Judgement, Costs excepted, is to be discharged by the payment of eighty seven Pounds twelve Shillings of the above like Money with legal Interest thereon from the twenty eighth Day of April Anno Dom. one thousand seven hundred and eighty seven till paid.

Page 179, Chesterfield County November Court 1788

Daniel Mann Pltf. Vs. John Walthall, John Archer and Robert Williamson Defts - Motion on RBd Judgement confessed by the Defendant John Archer for the Sum of twenty-four Pounds fifteen Shillings and eleven Pence current Money of Virginia together with the Costs of this Motion. But this Judgement Costs excepted is to be discharged by the Payment of twelve pounds seven Shillings and eleven Pence half Penny with legal Interest thereon from Novr. The 8<sup>th</sup> 1787 till paid.

Cont'd, Page 7

Country, cont'd

The Arrohateck are first recorded as visited by Captain Christopher Newport's second trip up the James River from May 21 to May 27. As the English asked directly, what lay to the west of each village, and what the region had to offer, the Powhatans began to wonder if the English really were just "visitors" as they claimed to be. On May 22, 1607, Gabriel Archer named "Turkey Isle"<sup>8</sup>, our present Turkey Island and with Percy, John Smith, Newport and twenty other Englishmen, stopped at "Poor Cottage"<sup>9</sup> and met Arahatec, *weroance* of the Arrohateck, whom as noted before, showed more "feare" when demonstrated an English musket. However he also showed great friendship and provided his brother-in-law, Naurans as a guide for the next few days.

While at the falls of the James, at the town of Powhatan, the Europeans were told that one and a half days farther west, were the Monacans. This was provided by Parahunt, *weroance* of Powhatan and son of the paramount chief, Powhatan<sup>10</sup>. As Parahunt stated these people were his enemy, and the English party quickly agreed that the Monacans were enemy to themselves as well! The Monacans lived in small towns along the James River from what are now Midlothian and Robious, through Powhatan County to the Blue Ridge Mountains. A fierce warrior people, skilled with bow, they preferred hunting and fishing, rather than planting of crops.

After Newport had returned from England, with the second supply, he began a proposed joint Powhatan-English military expedition against the Monacans. The *mamanatowick*, Powhatan was opposed to this and some 120 English moved without native allies. Heavy-handed dealings including the taken of a petty king as a hostage, failed to gain either victory or corn. Returning to Jamestown, the only real good to come of this event was to allow a long-term truce between the Tsenacommacah and Monacans effectively ended the hostile relationship by 1611.

As European settlement placed greater social and economic pressure on the Appamattuck and the Arrohateck, conflict quickly came to what is now Chesterfield County. As early as May 24, 1607, an attack on Jamestown, which was driven off with two killed and ten wounded, had Appamattucks warriors in the assault. In 1610, a party of English under Captain John Ratcliffe was sent to Appamattuck, Opussunoquonske's town to trade for corn. By a ruse, Ratcliffe's men were separated from both weapons and their vessel, and ambushed. Only two escaped, and the bodies all had their mouths stuffed with "bread"<sup>11</sup>

In the summer of 1611, Sir Thomas Dale led 350 Englishmen to establish the "Citie of Henricus"<sup>12</sup>. Arrohateck warriors under "Jack-of-the-feathers", or Nemattanew, one of the Powhatans finest warriors and commanders offered many skirmishes to dispute these invaders.<sup>13</sup> By late December, Dale's "Hammours" or well-armored soldiers had destroyed Opussunoquonske's town as both reprisal for Ratcliffe's ambush and to gain the productive farmlands which were renamed Bermuda Hundred. The Appamattucks regrouped and remained for many years at the Swift Creek site, now Point of Rocks Park.<sup>14</sup>

Hard times beset the Native Americans over the next century, as pressure by the Europeans for croplands drove both the Powhatans, as well as other groups, from long established home grounds west or south into other territories. In some cases such as the Appamattuck, they managed to hold on even after Opechacacough's coup of 1644.<sup>15</sup> Indeed, it was likely some unlucky Appamattuck, who first fell prey to Nathaniel Bacon, in his zeal to end the "Indian threat" which was one of the causes of the Bacon Rebellion.

While the Powhatan village drifted west along the James River to become the "Powwhite" and other Siouan people, the Richahecrians<sup>16</sup> entered and for a little time lived in western Chesterfield, by 1710 only seven families of the Appamattuck could be found, and a once mighty people would need almost two hundred years to recover.

<sup>1</sup> George Percy, 1580-1632. Born September 4, 1580, eighth son of Henry, eighth Earl of Northumberland, and Catherine Neville. A soldier in the Netherlands before coming to Virginia, he was likely removing himself from suspicion of a link in the "Gunpowder Plot", in which his elder brother, the ninth Earl was imprisoned at the Tower from 1605 to 1621. George served as governor from September 1609 to May 1610, "The infamous "staving time". He returned to England in March 1612 and died unmarried in 1632.

<sup>2</sup> Or roughly, governor

<sup>3</sup> Rountree, Helen C. *Pocahontas's People*, (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, c1990); p. 10-33.

<sup>4</sup> Slash and burn is and was done by removing the bark from an area around a tree, killing it in a season. Then a forest fire set the next year removes the woods and provides cleared land for planting. This is an age-old method still employed in "Third World" counties today.

Country, cont'd

<sup>5</sup> *Weroance*, a male chief or commander, *weroansqua*, female chief. Powhatan was *mamanatowick*, or paramount chief.

<sup>6</sup> Haile, Edward Wright. Jamestown Narratives (Champlain, VA: RoundHouse, c1998), p. 137.

<sup>7</sup> Rountree. p. 33

<sup>8</sup> Gabriel Archer, (c. 1575 to the winter of 1609/10), an Essex man, trained to the law, he was recorder to the New England voyage of 1602. He wrote four early accounts of Virginia before his death in the "staving time". Archer's Hope in Prince George County is named after him.

<sup>9</sup> Percy called it, "Port Cottage", just west of Dutch Gap Conservation Area off of Old Stage Road.

<sup>10</sup> Powhatan was a town, and chiefdom as well as the name that Wahunsonacock took when he was *mamanatowick*, or paramount chief. Parahunt was one of his sons.

<sup>11</sup> Really corn, as an act of contempt by the Appamattuck towards the unwelcome English.

<sup>12</sup> Located at the Dutch Gap Conservation Area, the Henricus Historical Park is a living history site were you can come and look at reconstructed Arrohatock and English houses and view demonstrations by interpreters.

<sup>13</sup> Nemattanew wore a garish feathered mantle into battle. The Europeans quickly came up with "Jack-of-the-feathers". It may have been his death that launched the Powhatans in their March 22, 1622 coup against the settlers (often called the "great Massacre" with more then 350 English killed out of some 1270 in Virginia).

<sup>14</sup> Thanks to Mr. Bruce Dove, of Chesterfield Parks and Recreation for my introduction to the Point of Rocks site.

<sup>15</sup> Third and last *mamanatowick*, or paramount chief. Powhatan's younger brother, Opitchapam was the second *mamanatowick*.

<sup>16</sup> The Mannahoacs and Nahyssans, some six to seven hundreds settled along the falls of the James in 1656.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Gift Shop

From the charming  
to  
the elegant,  
our Gift Shop has it all!  
And  
remember,  
CHS membership  
entitles you  
to a 10% discount.

## 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.



Limb, cont'd

James Fergusson and his wife Pltfs. Vs. Thomas Mann Randolph Exor of Robert P???? deceased Dft. - By Consent of the Powers by their Attornies this Cause is referred to James Lyle, Bernard Markham, George Markham, David Mason and Matthew Cheatham or any three of them, their award to be the final Decree of this Court and it is further agreed on by the Parties that the Referees shall make their Report to next March Court.

Daniel Gordon Pltf vs ??? ??? Defts. In Debt - By Consent of the Parties ordered that this Suit be dismissed and that the Defendant pay unto the Plaintiff his Costs in this behalf expended.

Ordered that Jacob Charlton pay Auchelas Austin 300 lbs. Of Tobacco for thrice Days Attendance as a Witness for the said Charlton agt Peter Field Gent and travelling seventy five Miles once.

Ordered that Solomon Gordon's Exor pay Daniel Gordon 50 lbs of Tobacco for two Days Attendance as a Witness for the said Exors ads Robert Gordon .

Ordered that Solomon Gordon's Exor pay Francis Smith 50 lbs of Tobo for thrice Days Attendance as a Witness for the said Exors ads Robert Gordon.

Ordered that Francis Smith pay John Sumptor twenty five Pounds of Tobo for one Days attendance as a Witness for the said Smith agt Thomas Badgett.

Ordered that Charles Clark's Exors pay William Powell 205 lbs. Of Tobo for attending this Court one Day as a Witness for the said Exors ags Richard Randolph's Exors and travelling 60 Miles once.

\* The notations found in the margin were not transcribed for this publication.

From the Richmond Enquirer, March 5, 1835, page 3

Hatchersville for Rent. -To be rented for one or more years, that valuable and well known Tavern, the Halfway-house, on the Turnpike road, between Manchester and Petersburg, and if required, as much land thereto adjoining as will be sufficient to employ three or four labourers. The situation is high and uncommonly healthy—the buildings which are sufficient for all the purposes of a Tavern, are in good repair, with a large and fertile garden. The advantages attached to this stand are numerous—there is a Post Office at the place, and the stages stop there every day to deliver and receive the mail—In short, it is the only house between Manchester and Petersburg suited for public accommodation, and if well kept, will no doubt receive considerable public patronage. For terms, apply to Richard A. Gregory, who is authorized to rent the same. Sally Hatcher

February 17.

*Inquiry* from Charlie L. Moore, 8810 Karen Lane, Terrell, Texas 75160-7725, Phone 972-524-8986, E-Mail: chrleonm@airmail.net

I am researching the Robertson Family of Virginia. My great-great grandfather married Mary Forrest. Mary Forrest was the daughter of John Forrest of Rockingham County, North Carolina. John Forrest married Frances Robertson, daughter of William Robertson (Will 7 April 1797, in Chesterfield County, Virginia). His will named his children, but not his wife. I have researched cemetery records and census records. Any information about his wife will be greatly appreciated.

**CHESTERFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA**  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: daytime: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ evening: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Names of others included at the Household Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership:  New  Renewal  2 years  
 Student\* -\$10.  Individual - \$20.  Benefactor -\$ 500.  
 Senior\*\* -\$15.  Household - \$30.  Corporate - \$1,000.

I wish to volunteer. I am interested in the following committees:  
 African-American  Financial Fund Raising  Membership  Site Docent  
 Archeology  Genealogy  Newsletter  (Magnolia Grange,  
 Batteaux  Gift Shop  (Messenger, Journal)  Museum, 1917  
 Cemetery  Historic Sites  Office  Courthouse)  
 Civil War Sites  Library  Program/Hospitality  War Memorial

Membership year is January 1-- December 31 (pro-rated membership not available). Please make checks payable to: Chesterfield Historical Society.

\* Please include photo copy of student ID. Return to: *Chesterfield Historical Society*  
\*\* 65 + years. *P0 Box 40*  
*Chesterfield, VA 23832*  
*Attn: Membership*

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