
The Messenger

OF THE CHESTERFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

MISSION: TO COLLECT, PRESERVE, INTERPRET AND PROMOTE THE COUNTY'S PAST
FOR THE EDUCATION AND ENJOYMENT OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

Number 137

April 2021

1981-2021: 40 Years of Saving the Past for the Future

SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING

Sunday, APRIL 25, 2:00pm

Historic Trinity Church

Please join us for our Spring Quarterly Members Meeting on Sunday, April 25 in the Research Library at the Historic Trinity Church, 10111 Iron Bridge Road, Chesterfield, VA 23832.



Ware Bottom Church, c.1723

Our speaker will be John Pagano, historical interpretation supervisor at Henricus Historical Park, whose background includes author, actor and historical advisor and military consultant on 30 film and documentary productions. The topic of John's presentation will be "The History of Ware Bottom Church". One of the oldest

Anglican Church sites in Virginia and the second in Chesterfield, this 1723 chapel was named 'Jefferson's Church' because it is believed to have been built by Captain Thomas Jefferson, grandfather of President Thomas Jefferson. The historic structure was destroyed by fire during the Civil War.

In 1985, when the site was slated for development and in imminent danger of being bulldozed, the Chesterfield Historical Society conducted an emergency archaeological dig to retrieve and preserve artifacts and gravestones dating back to the late 1700s. Interestingly, the proposed development never occurred and the church and graveyard site has remained relatively undisturbed. In 2004, grants and donations ensured preservation of the historic site.

As our Society celebrates its 40th Anniversary in 2021, it is especially significant to note that the 1985 archaeological dig at the Ware Bottom Church site was the first of many digs to be undertaken by the Chesterfield Historical Society. Our Spring Meeting will start with a brief business update. Light refreshments will be served after the presentation.

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Letter	Pg 2
Out on a Limb	Pg 3
Revolutionary War	Pg 3,4
Donors	Pg 4
Library Acquisitions	Pg 4,5
Samuel Mann	Pg 6
New Members & Donors	Pg 7
Special Programs	Pg 7

Letter from the President

Fellow historians and friends,

I am happy to report that the Chesterfield Historical Society is starting to come back to life after a lengthy period of inactivity due to COVID-19. In fact, last September—with tremendous effort by our volunteers, for which I am sincerely grateful—we reopened Magnolia Grange Museum House on a limited basis. In that same month we were also able to reopen our research library at Trinity Church. In late January the Chesterfield County Museum and 1892 Jail reopened to the public. Of course, we are taking the necessary safety precautions and following the various guidelines at our sites.

Although it is exciting news that the Society has reopened its sites, the uncertainty of the pandemic and the various restrictions put in place by state and local officials continue to make it difficult to plan for large-scale events. Thus, it is with great reluctance that I announce that our Annual Antiques Evaluation—which typically takes place in March at the County Fairgrounds—will not be held this year. I understand that many of you look forward to this event with great excitement, but the planning, coordination, and logistics needed in order to make this event a success simply do not allow for us to postpone it such that we are in an indefinite holding pattern.

One smaller event that is still scheduled and is right around the corner is the Annual Craft, Plant, and Bake Sale at historic Castlewood. As many of you know, this annual event benefits Historic Point of Rocks, at which exciting progress is being made in terms of restoring the Strachan House. This year's event will be held on Saturday, May 1, 2021—rain or shine! I hope you are able to stop by to say hello, purchase a lovely craft or plant or delicious baked goods, all while supporting Historic Point of Rocks.

For those of you who may be unaware, Karen Sadler's final day as the Historical Society's executive manager was January 15. Although we were saddened to see her go, I am certain I speak for the Board of Directors and the general membership when I say we wish her all the best in her new endeavors. Karen brought a level of energy to the position that will be difficult to replace. At least until such time as CHSV is able to function at full capacity at its various sites without pandemic-related restrictions, the executive manager position is likely to remain vacant.

I am continually amazed by the dedication of the Society's volunteers. This past year likely would have been far worse than it was had it not been for the many people who so graciously stepped up to the plate and took on additional responsibilities. To each of you who contribute in your own ways in assisting CHSV in preserving history for current and future generations, please know that you have my eternal gratitude.

Warmest wishes,
Nicholas Carico

Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia

Historic Trinity Church
10111 Iron Bridge Road, P.O. Box 40,
Chesterfield, VA 23832 www.chesterfieldhistory.com
admin@chesterfieldhistory.com



President – Nicholas Carico
Vice-President – Jerry Netherland
Recording Secretary – Bernard Anderson
Treasurer – John Longnaker
Directors: Scott Williams, Henry Coalter, Pat Barron, Phillip Daffron Jr., Crystal Monroe, Renee Penland, David Limmer, Anne Moseley Brandon
Past President–George (Buddy) Cranford
Committee Chairs
Cemetery – Rachel Lipowicz
Finance John Longnaker
Library – Liess van der Linden-Brusse
Membership —Pat Barron
Military History – Scott Williams
Genealogy – Angie Wilderman
Governance–Jerry Netherland
Events – **position available!**
Collections – David Limmer
African-American History–Charlotte Wood
Archaeology – Bryan Truzzie
Museum – Gloria Thysell
Trinity Office & Library
Gina Love — Administrator
Hours: 10-4 Mon-Fri (804)796-7121
Magnolia Grange
Lorie Arnold – Historic Site Interpreter
Hours: 10-4 Tue, Thu & Fri & 10-2 Sat
(804)748-1498
The Museum
Pat Roble –Historic Site Interpreter
Hours: 10-4 Wed & 10-2 Sat
(804)768-7311
Historic Sites Manager:
Bryan Truzzie
(804)751-4946
Messenger Editor
Diane Hewett

Out on a Limb...

Angie Wilderman

My office was turned upside down when we installed new carpet. Well, what an opportunity to rediscover all the files that have been stuffed in every nook, cranny, and corner. One evening I found in the back of a file cabinet an accordion file three inches thick filled with genealogy - emails, notes, etc. I'll have to go through every sheet and see what I need to do with the materials. There is a certain value to original materials because mistakes can be made when transcribing records but just how much can you keep? Stuffed in a folder, how do you even know what you have?

Some of these notes were items found in books, online, or from emails. As I go through the file, I will copy the important information into my genealogy program and try to find citations for whatever and whomever the information pertains. Perhaps I will find some unexpected gem for my family tree. At the beginning of each year, many genealogists tackle a DoOver or GoOver project as suggested by prominent genealogy expert Thomas MacEntee. This year it is something I will have to tackle.

Revolutionary War Veterans and Sheriffs of Chesterfield County

Buddy Cranford and Russ Lescault

March of 1775 saw Patrick Henry recite his famous speech from St. John's Church in Richmond, VA. "Give me liberty or give me death" were the words heard around the world. Troublesome times were all around the Virginia Colony and many men answered the call to arms.

In Chesterfield County, the courthouse area became a training camp for the war. At the end of the war, in 1781, British General Phillips led a group of enemy soldiers into the camp and set numerous fires, forcing the camp to close. Later that year, Sheriff George Robertson was in office when the British surrendered at Yorktown.

The Colonial Army consisted of many militia units from the counties of Virginia. Chesterfield had

"minutemen" who would report to the courthouse when their draft numbers were called. These men and boys were notified by riders on horseback and they would respond as quickly as they could to their company leader. The Revolutionary War witnessed many Chesterfield residents taking up arms for the cause.

One such man was **Benjamin Branch**, an influential man of the colonial era, born in 1732 at Willow Hill, when it was still part of Henrico County (Chesterfield became a separate county in 1749). On August 1776, when the Declaration of Independence was read in Chesterfield County, Benjamin was one of the first eleven citizens to swear an oath of allegiance to the new United States.



In 1755 he married Anne Bass of Chesterfield County, VA. He was a gentleman farmer when he joined the Chesterfield County Militia. He was awarded 229 pounds, four shillings and two pence for his company of Militia for "pay, etc." Benjamin Branch was a member of the Chesterfield County Committee of Safety in 1774.

By then a widower, he married Elizabeth Eppes Osborne on December 1, 1780. He took the oath at the July Court in 1775 as a Militia officer and was appointed Captain in September 1777. In October 1777, other officers (Lieutenants and Ensigns) were assigned to his militia company. Branch resigned his commission in May 1780, hence serving as a Justice of the Peace for many years and as Sheriff of Chesterfield County in 1786. Benjamin Branch died in April 1827 at age 53 in a fall from his horse between his home and the Courthouse while collecting taxes. He was buried on his home place at Willow Hill. Branch is the first law enforcement officer to die in the line of duty in the United States.

Branch's name is inscribed on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Fourteen prominent Chesterfield County Revolutionary soldiers were appointed sheriffs.

- Captain **Robert Kennon**; Sheriff from 1760 to 1761
- Ensign **John Hylton**; Sheriff from 1767 to 1768
- Lieutenant **John Archer, Jr**; Sheriff from 1769 to 1771
- Major **Thomas Bolling**; Sheriff 1775
- Lieutenant **John Botte**; Sheriff from 1776 to 1777
- Colonel **Robert Goode**; Sheriff from 1778 to 1779
- Captain **George Robertson**; Sheriff from 1780 to 1782
- Captain **Benjamin Branch**; Sheriff from 1784 to 1786
- Colonel **Bernard Markham**; Sheriff from 1787 to 1788
- Captain **Francis Goode**; Sheriff 1789 and from 1790 to 1791
- Sergeant **George Woodson**; Sheriff from 1793 to 1794
- Captain **George Markham**; Sheriff from 1797 to 1799
- Lieutenant **Thomas Burfoot**; Sheriff from 1790 & 1801 to 1803
- Captain **Archibald Walthall**; Sheriff from 1807 to 1808

Over the years Chesterfield County sheriffs have attributed much to Chesterfield history. The growth of the county called for extraordinary men in leadership positions. Proud men from 1749 to present day have served the Chesterfield County citizens quite well. Changes in the county sheriff's office they made seemed to fit the times they served.

Thanks to our General Fund Donors:

Gifts up to \$100

Patrice Wingo, Nathaniel Bacon Chapter,
NSDAR, Annette Hensley

Gifts \$101-\$499

Robert & Therese Wagenknecht,
Clifford Robertson



Library Donations and Acquisitions

Liess van der Linden-Brusse

Old maps and historic photographs, family histories, manuscripts, diaries, yearbooks, magazine and newspaper articles, brochures, programs and flyers as well as research notes on Chesterfield families, places and events are always welcome additions to the Society research library in historic Trinity Church.

Yes! We are open Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm! Please keep us in mind as you continue to sort through your attics and basements. Thank you.

The following items were recently accessioned into our Library Collection:

Genealogy:

Some Descendants of Three Early Henrico (Chesterfield) County, VA, Settlers: James HILL (1655-1708), John PUCKETT (d.1677), & John FOWLER (c.1638-1687), by Jerome D. Traver, received from the estate of the late Pattie Grady

MOODY & EDWARDS Family Documents – Property Indentures & a Land Deed (mid-1800s) in the Winterpock area, discovered in CHSV Library Title Deed Abstracts file collection

WELLS family Bible records (1803-1867), fragments donated by Irene McDaniel (Manuscript Collection)

RAILEY Family – Copies of Wills & Deeds (1734-1818) in Chesterfield, Goochland & Cumberland counties, donated by Marilyn Railey (Manuscript Collection)

World War I, by Laura Murphy, National Genealogical Society special commemorative issue, Volume 43, No.2, April-June 2017, purchased
LESTER Family – It's All Relative, the Ancestors of Margaret Minor Lester (2020), donated by Susan & Jim Cheatham

Documents, chiefly unpublished, relating to the HUGUENOT Emigration to Virginia and to the settlement at Manakin-Town, edited by R. A. Brock (1886), donated by Liess van der Linden-Brusse (Rare Books Collection)

Manchester High School Past and Present: A Family Connection to its History, by Debbie Hylton, donated by Henry Coalter

Branch of Abingdon: A Revision (1981), by Peter Walne, genealogies of VA families A-Ch, from the VA Magazine of History & Biography, donated by W. Guy Smith (Manuscript Collection)

General Interest

Neighborhood Preservation in Chesterfield County, Strategies Now for Success in the Future, by the Chesterfield County Committee on the Future (1995) "Cottage Grove," Chesterfield County, VA – Copies of plats, patents & deeds compiled and donated by Mary Ellen Howe

Resolution Recognizing Contribution by the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors to the Successful Adoption of the 1987 Chesterfield County Charter, donated by Harry G. Daniel, former chairman of the Board of Supervisors (Manuscript Collection)

Elkhardt School, a PTA History 1920-1955, compiled by Manchester PTA Historical Committee (1956), donated by Henry Coalter (Manuscript Collection)

Chesterfield Historical Index, Waterways & Land Grants (Pages 1-81), by Richard L. Jones (c.1985)

Discover Richmond – Closer Look, 2019 Annual Guide, Richmond Times-Dispatch special issue

Discover Richmond – 2020 Pandemic, Protest, Perseverance, Richmond Times-Dispatch special issue

Discover Richmond – Marking Time, VA Roadway Signs, Richmond Times Dispatch special issue

Chesterfield County Supervisors: Conflicts of Interest 1970-1983, by George Cranford

Magnolia Grange Condition, Restoration and Work Proposals 1994-2005, compiled by CHS Library volunteers, discovered in upstairs office in Castlewood Charles City County, VA, *Court Orders 1687-1695*, by Benjamin B. Weisiger, received from the estate of the late Pattie Grady

Seay-Appomattox River Canoe Survey Report, Chesterfield County, VA (2020), compiled by Robert & Mary Hayes, Mid-Atlantic Logboat Registry (MALR), donated by the authors

Chester United Methodist Church, A Community in Christ, Memorabilia 1873-1927, donated by church historian Mary Musselwhite

American Time Capsule, Archeological Resources at PARK 500, Chesterfield County, VA, (2006), prepared for Gray & Pape Cultural Resources (DVD Collection)
The History of Chesterfield County, VA, (2007), a photo & PowerPoint presentation by Chesterfield County Public Schools Instructional Technology integrator Wendy Seger (DVD Collection)

Jamestown: the Truth Revealed, by lead archaeologist William M. Kelso (2017), donated by Liess van der Linden-Brusse

Holy Ground: Archaeology, Religion and First Founders of Jamestown, by Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation (2016), donated by Liess van der Linden-Brusse

The Clark House, Centralia, VA: Struggle to stop the Degrading of a Chesterfield County designated Historic House 2012-2016, compiled by CHSV Library volunteers

Maps

Survey of a part of Chesterfield County, VA, 1862-63, made under the direction of Col. J. F. Gilmer (Framed), donated by Mr. & Mrs. Hodgekins

Military History

The Assassins' Gate, America in Iraq, by George Packer, purchased at county library book sale

The Gamble, Gen. David Petraeus & the American Military Adventure in Iraq, 2006-2008, by Thomas E. Ricks, purchased at county library book sale

Operation Iraqi Freedom, by Marc Kusnetz, William M. Arkin & Gen. Montgomery Meigs, purchased at county library book sale

From Richmond to France, Images and Stories of Richmond & her World War I Soldiers, by Kitty Snow, anonymous donor

Historic Point of Rocks, Chesterfield County, VA – Preservation documents and supporting research compiled by the Chesterfield Historical Society of VA in preparation for the acquisition of the historic site by the County (2009)

Chesterfield County World War I Veterans 1917-1919, by George Cranford & CHSV Military History volunteers
In A Bottle Strongly Corked, by Robert Crewdon, Civil War Times Illustrated, December 1984, discovered in CHSV Genealogy Library

Samuel Mann, A Chesterfield County Civil War Veteran

Buddy Cranford

One Hundred and Fifty-Nine years ago and just shy of 20 years old, Samuel Ali Mann from Matoaca, Va., joined the Confederate Army. He enlisted at the Chesterfield County 1749 Courthouse and was hastily trained in Manchester. He was sent to Drewry's Bluff to help build a fort and protect Richmond from Union Gun Boats, one of 200 soldiers at the fort. Working day and night with a pick and shovel during a heavy rain, the fort was almost completed when Union ships were sighted coming up the James River. On May 15, 1862 the four-hour Battle of Drewry's Bluff began.

Samuel Mann, the first sergeant of his Company and a gun-pointer, manned his cannon. The Federal ships were the Monitor, the Iron-clad Galena, and three wooden gunboats. The Chesterfield battery had three huge Columbiad cannons; two of these were lost during the fight but the Union ships were repelled. As they were leaving, Sergeant Mann asked his lieutenant for permission to fire "one more time".

Samuel Mann ran to his point, aimed the gun and gave the order to fire. His shot ricocheted and bounced onto wooden ships, putting a hole from stem in that



wooden ship as big as a barrel. Samuel Mann was with Lee's army when it surrendered at Appomattox.

Returning home, he married 16-year-old Eliza Tucker. He and Eliza, in due course, had 18 children. At 28, he became the Matoaca Township Assessor and soon after, the Chesterfield County Assessor and Commissioner of the Revenue, a post he held for 44 years. Samuel Mann was a self-made person who taught himself surveying and civil engineering, farming from a book, and opened and taught at a night school for underprivileged boys, many of whom went on to become prominent businessmen. Samuel Mann died on October 17, 1914 in Chesterfield County, VA. He is buried in the Mann Cemetery in Chesterfield



Pictured above are Samuel and Eliza Mann and their family in 1891. Tombstone photo courtesy of Rachel Lipowicz, CHSV cemetery committee.

Welcome New Members!

“Welcome!” and “Thank You!” to the following new members who have joined since January:

**Thomas Banks, Cody Marks, Stephanie Bowen,
Ben Graydon, Elizabeth Gay Dwyer, Scott Peach,
Bob Wilson**

Thank you, continuing members, for renewing your membership for 2021. As we celebrate our 40th Anniversary, your continued support is very much appreciated.

*1981-2021: 40 Years of Saving the Past
for the Future*

Thanks to our \$40-4-40 Donors:

Leslie and Gloria Thysell, John & Jane Harmon, Gina Love (in memory of Shirley “Ley” Raines-Diller), Bernard & Charlotte La Roy, Linda J. Cole, Janet L. Deorio, Nancy G. Hill, Christopher Lonon, Michael & Marjorie Elliott, Nasir A. Abdur-Rahim, Kathy Emmel, Rebecca G. Phillips, Lilian B. Mullane, Roland & Judith Davis, Dr. Kent & Barbara Yandle, Beverley C. Berry, Robert & Therese Wagenknecht, Jan C. McGee, Herbert & Emma Townes (in memory of Leon H. Townes & Mary Harris Townes), Sara Gibson, Anthony & Donna Grebas, Larry & Lois Buchanan, John & Susan Hilliard, Larry Parker (in memory of Dr. William Parker “Parker’s Battery” and Joseph A. Parker, McNeals, Partison Rangers), Patricia Y. Frazee, Bill Lipsett, Mary C. Andersen, Robert Pratt, Owen and Betty Waltman, Lloyd & Susan Poe, Bryan & Angela Truzzie, Catherine OBrion, James & Betty Schiele, Charles & Sharon Sipos, Rachel M. Holmes, Thomas & Janice Robertson, Robert “Peppy” Jones, Ron & Judy Baber

April-June 2021 CHSV/Parks & Rec Special Events

Falling Creek Ironworks Spring Fling Event

Experience America’s first iron furnace, the 1619-22 ironworks at Falling Creek. Enjoy a guided archaeology tour and learn about the importance of this industrial first. **Experience an iron smelting display, enjoy a classic car display, music by Alibi Band, dancing demonstration. Explore the latest site improvements, view the newly restored interior of the Moore’s brick cottage, overlook, and new paved trails. Concessions available.**

Falling Creek Ironworks Park, 6907 Jeff Davis Highway

Saturday, April 24, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free

Details: Bryan Truzzie, 804-751-4946 or www.chesterfield.gov/parks

Chesterfield Historical Society Fundraiser

The proceeds from this craft, bake and plant sale will benefit the restoration of Historic Point of Rocks Park. **Enjoy various vendors providing period crafts, baked goods and horticulture items.**

Castlewood, 10201 Iron Bridge Road

Saturday, May 1, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Vendor booth: \$25; contact Ruth Snead at ruthsnead@aol.com

Details: www.chesterfieldhistory.com

Veteran’s Day Ceremony

Rescheduled from last year, this program will honor our county’s veterans at this annual ceremony on the historic Courthouse Green. This program will include a keynote speaker, musical performances, presentation of banners and wreaths and honoring our veterans.

1917 Courthouse, 10011 Iron Bridge Road

Monday, May 31 2 p.m.

Details: Call 796-7131 or visit www.chesterfieldhistory.com

Did you know you can donate to the Chesterfield Historical Society simply by shopping at Kroger or Amazon? You can tie your Kroger Rewards card to the society and Kroger donates a percentage of the purchase. Amazon's program is similar, except instead of going to Amazon.com, go to Smile.Amazon.com. It works the same as the usual Amazon site except Amazon will return 0.5% of your purchase total to us once you select CHSV as your charity. Start donating today?

<https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>

<https://smile.amazon.com/>



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

