
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 143

October 2022

Fall Quarterly Meeting
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23rd
2:00 pm Rockwood Park
(Former Historic Gregory Family Estate)
3401 Courthouse Road
North Chesterfield, VA 23236



Please join us for our Fall Quarterly Members Meeting at 2:00 pm on Sunday October 23rd at Rockwood Park. Our meeting will be held in the Nature Center. The grounds of the park were once a part of Rockwood Plantation, which began with a 1000- acre farm owned by Thomas Gregory in the 1770's and was then referred to as the Crossroads Property. It was the third generation, James Gregory, a Baptist minister, who built the farmhouse, operated Gregory's Grist Mill, and named the property Rockwood. The two-story house, no longer standing, had a wide veranda with double front doors. Most unique was the lattice work decorating the fences and the porch. The

mill was in operation into the 1950's. The property remained in the Gregory family until 1898 when it sold to Alpheus J. Horner.

The county, having planned for a county owned park since 1971, purchased the land in 1973 from Horner's descendants. Therefore, Rockwood Park became the first county-owned park, celebrating its 50th anniversary next year.

Kimberly Sasser, retired Chesterfield County school teacher and longtime member of our historical society, will be our speaker for the afternoon. She has been a volunteer with Rockwood since 2012 and has been enthusiastically delving into the history of Rockwood Plantation.

Our Quarterly Members Meeting will begin with a short business meeting. Refreshments will be served after the presentation. Kimberly will lead a hike to Gregory's Pond after the meeting so come prepared to walk the trail if you desire.

Please save the date: Sunday, October 23rd!

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Letter from the President

As I begin my term as President, I would like to thank Nicholas Carico for his service to the Chesterfield Historical Society. Nick had barely joined our group when he was recruited to be President. He stepped into that role with great enthusiasm and was highly visible and effective since day one of holding office. Nick took the helm during the height of the COVID shutdown. The Historical Society faced many issues as buildings were closed, staff was furloughed, programs were cancelled, and the budget tightened. The Historical Society will forever be grateful for Nick's steady leadership during that time. I am thankful that I can count on his council as he continues to serve the Chesterfield Historical Society as Past President.

It was fitting that Nick's last role as President was to chair the membership meeting at Magnolia Grange. The restoration of that building was a big accomplishment for the Society considering the challenges of the last few years. At our July membership meeting we were able to see the house open again, freshly painted with the intricate plaster designs beautifully restored. We extend our thanks to those who did research on the house and those who provided the expertise to get the restoration done. We are thankful for the relationships with county departments that enabled the completion of this project.

Pleasant View School is another building that links current generations to the past. The school played a huge role in the lives of the students who were educated there from 1931 to 1947. It served as a community gathering place from 1947 to 1998. As part of the open house for 2022, the African American History Committee created an interpretive sign that recognizes the role the school played in the community. That sign is to be dedicated on Oct. 1 and underscores the importance of not only preserving the wood and bricks of a building, but the story of the people it served as well.

Finally, I would like to say what an honor it is for me to serve as President for the next 2 years. I want to thank all our past and current Board members who have given their time to help lead the Historical Society. I have been a member of the Chesterfield Historical Society for many years, and I believe I have seen at least 8 presidents during that time. All my predecessors were faced with challenges, and I remember how they got us through many tough times. Whenever something has dropped in our path, Historical Society members have stepped up and pulled us through. Over the next two years I am sure challenges and opportunities will come our way. I know that the support and dedication of our members and Board will continue us on our mission of protecting and preserving our shared past for the benefit of future generations.

Scott Williams

Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia

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President-Scott Williams
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Finance – John Longnaker
Library – Liess van der Linden-Brusse
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Military History – Scott Williams
Genealogy – Angie Wilderman
Governance – Jerry Netherland
Events – To Be Filled
Collections – David Limmer
African-American History– Charlotte Wood
Archaeology – Bryan Truzzie
Museum – Gloria Thysell
Trinity Office & Library
Gina Stith — Administrator
Hours: 10-4 Mon-Fri (804)796-7121
Magnolia Grange
Martha Atkinson-Curator
Hours: 10-4 Tue-Fri & 10-2 Sat
(804)748-1498
The Museum
Pat Roble – Curator
Hours: 10-4 Tue-Fri & 10-2 Sat
(804)768-7311
Historic Sites Specialist:
Bryan Truzzie
(804)751-4946
Messenger Editor
Diane Hewett

****we welcome submissions describing an area of your interest or current research. Please submit by November 1, to Gina at LoveG@Chesterfield.gov**

Out on a Limb...

Angie Wilderman

Are you working on your photo collection? We just returned from a vacation in the Canadian Rockies. I probably took 700 photos. I'll eliminate a lot of them but it made me think about all the photos we have taken and saved.

Do you sort through your photos periodically and cull some of them because they are duplicates or just scenery that gives no indication about who it is or where it was taken?

I recently scanned some old photographs that were given to me when I was a teen. These relatives and people I had never met but fortunately, they were labeled. I posted them on a family album in Pinterest and made sure that they were captioned with name and place, if I knew the place. A DNA cousin and I figured out our relationship and it turned out that one of the photos was her grandfather. She never met him and had no photo of him. Eventually I will donate that series of photos to the local historical society in my mother's hometown.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Diane Andrews, Martha Mann Atkinson, Herb and Judy Brynildsen, John and Shelia Callear, Carolyn Cobbs, Elizabeth Harris, Lucinda Harrison, Brenda Weir, Liz Wilkes

Library Donations & Acquisitions

Liess van der Linden-Brusse

The research library in historic Trinity Church welcomes donations of old books and photos, maps and manuscripts, magazine and newspaper clippings, yearbooks, event programs and flyers, diaries, journals, and research notes on Chesterfield families, places and events. Please keep our library in mind as you clear out your attics and basements. Thank you! The following items have recently been added to our Library Collection:

Genealogy

Descendants of Henry TURPIN (1770-1843) and Elizabeth Robertson Turpin (1768-1824), by William H. Bryson, gift of the author

GREGORY Family (1857-1889) Holy Bible, gift of Richard W. Gregory (Rare Books Collection)
Shockoe Hill Cemetery, Richmond, VA, Internments April 10, 1822–December 31, 1850, edited by Bohmer A. Rudd, gift of CHSV Genealogical Committee

General Interest

WRVA's Public Service Broadcasting from 1925 through World War II, by Julianne Roman-Daffron, gift of Philip V. Daffron, Jr.
Historical Collections of Virginia; a Collection of the most interesting Facts, etc., relating to its History & Antiquities (1847), by Henry Howe, gift of Angie Wilderman (Rare Books Collection)
Handbook of North American Indians – Northeast, Volume 15, by Bruce G. Trigger, Smithsonian Institution, anonymous donor

Maps

Chesterfield County, VA (2021), wall map and street index compiled by Chesterfield County Department of Information Services Technology GIS, provided by GIS

Military History

The Bayonet Remembrance Book of Camp Lee, VA (1918), gift of Scott Tongas (Rare Books Collection)

Photographs

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Museum & Historic Marker, Pocahontas State Park, collection of photos taken in 2008, discovered in Castlewood office
COGBILL, Four Siblings (2002) – Joseph Vestal Cogbill, Mary Alice Cogbill Hornsby, William Richard Cogbill & Raymond Royal Cogbill, gift of Mary Alice Cogbill Hornsby

Oil Well Derrick on Hatcher estate at Goyne Farm in Chester (c.1917), gift of Richard W. Jackson
HATCHER Family Photographs donated by Richard W. Jackson:

Thomas Charles Hatcher (1830-1891) & wife Maria Thomas Friend (1838-1921)
Richelieu Hatcher (1871-1953)
Henry Cox Hatcher (1868-1873)
Harvey Dudley Hatcher (1874-1914) & wife Minnie Frances Glazebrook (1879-1943)
William Charles Hatcher (1857-1927) & wife Mary Elmore Hatcher (1860-1951), daughter Annie Mae Hatcher Fowlkes (1888-1968) & husband Edward Louis Fowlkes (1889-1967), and granddaughter Margaret Elmore Fowlkes (1918-2017)
FOWLKES Family Photographs donated by Richard W. Jackson:

Edward Jasper Fowlkes (1864-1913)

Paul Fowlkes (1892-1933)

JACKSON Family Photographs donated by Richard W. Jackson:

Benjamin Luther Jackson (1910-1972) & wife Margaret Elmore Fowlkes (1918-2017)

Motels/Diners/Tourist Camps – G. D. Morrison’s on Hull Street Road (c.1925), source Jean Morrison Winfree, discovered in the papers of the late Peter Lipowicz

Baptist Preacher John Weatherford in Jail in 1774 (from painting by Sydney King), gift of Liess van der Linden-Brusse

Point of Rocks ‘Strachan House’ (2018), exterior views, gift of Scott Williams

Railroads – Atlantic Coastline Chester Station (1980), pen & ink drawing by C. M. Rash, gift of Dennis J. Sullivan

Hotels – Chester Hotel in 1853, pen & ink drawing by C. M. Rash, gift of Dennis J. Sullivan

Donations to the Society

0-\$99

General Don Gardner, Beverly Berry, Amazon, Chesterfield UDC, Kroger

\$100-\$499

Midlothian Ruritan, Catherine G. O’Brion, Therese and Robert Wagenknecht

Magnolia Grange 200th

“Artifact-of-the-Month”

The Cockermouth Longcase Clock

Lilian Mullane

A “grandfather” clock sits majestically on the stair landing between the first and second floors of historic Magnolia Grange. Seen from below, this English longcase clock makes an impressive statement to visitors. Crafted in England sometime between 1815 and 1830, the clock was purchased for Magnolia Grange in 1988 from Gates Antiques, Ltd., Midlothian, who acquired it from the 1970 estate of a prominent South Richmond physician of the early 20th century. Freestanding weight-driven pendulum clocks, known as longcase or grandfather clocks, were traditionally made with two types of

movement: eight-day and 30-hour (the Magnolia Grange clock has an eight-day movement and a one bell strike on the hour). About seven feet high, typical 17th-19th century eight-day movement clocks run on two weights suspended on a cable and pulley – one to drive the hands and the other the striking mechanism. It requires keys placed into two dial keyholes for winding. The need to protect the movement inside a high case that houses both the heavy drive weights as well as a long pendulum that beats once every second led to this style of clock remaining popular for more than two centuries.¹

The best longcase cabinets were made of the richest of woods; our clock has an original finish made of mahogany with a satin wood inlay. A graceful lace-carved pediment, topped with two brass corner finials and a crowning ball finial [all three were replaced at some time], stand above the arched wood and glass door which encloses the painted clock dial (also known as a *japanned* or *white dial*). At the top of the dial face, two grape clusters frame a circular painting of a young woman in classical dress picking grapes. Four gold-painted flowery spandrels (dial corners) enclose the Roman numerals. The two filigreed clock hands are made of blued steel. Next to the clock hands is a rolling lunar cycle insert; beneath the hands are two brass keyholes for winding. Above the central spindle is the scripted signature and location of the clockmaker – *B. Mitchell and Cockermouth*.

In the 18th-19th centuries, clockmaking in Cockermouth, Cumbria, England was dominated by just a few families, notably the highly skilled Barwise and Mitchell families. Lott Barwise (1727-1799) was the progenitor of his great dynasty of English chronologists. In 1780, Lott’s children, John and Mary, were independently established chronologists. In 1756, John Barwise (1756-1820) opened the London firm of *Barwise and Sons* [John’s sons: Weston and John, Jr.], which received royal contracts and specialized in elegant pocket watches.⁵ After Lott’s death, Mary Barwise Mitchell (1750-1817) continued to manufacture long case clocks in Cockermouth with her son Barwise Mitchell (1777-c1844). He continued the business after Mary died.² Hence, the B. Mitchell signature is clearly that of Barwise Mitchell of Cockermouth.

By 1800, the name on the front dial of a clock was known as the maker of the movement, most of whom would then acquire its fashionable painted dial from a small craft workshop.⁴ The painted dial maker's name would be stamped on the reverse of the dial or cast into the dial-fixing plate he provided which "marries" the painted dial to the clock mechanism.⁶



Thanks to a generous financial grant from the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors, the Magnolia Grange clock was professionally cleaned and repaired in October 2021 by local antique specialist Art Ritter³, but it remains unknown if our clock's essential dial and wood case components were outsourced or fully manufactured in-house by the chronologist B. Mitchell.

Sources:

¹ <https://www.antiquestradegazette.com/guides/collecting-guides/longcase-clocks/>

² https://www.antiqueclocksales.co.uk/clock_pages/clock-44.php

³ Chesterfield Historical Society Facebook page, October 2021.

⁴ <https://indexarticles.com/home-garden/magazine-antiques/roxbury-eight-day-movements-and-the-english-connection-1785-1825/>

⁵ Stewart, A.D. (March 2014). Barwise & sons: Watchmakers to the king. A brief history of family and firm. *Antiquarian Horology*, vol. 35 no. 1, pp.621-634.

⁶ [https://www.clockrepairrochdale.com/How-To-Date-Clock-Dials\(2623850\).html](https://www.clockrepairrochdale.com/How-To-Date-Clock-Dials(2623850).html)

Historical Interpreter – Magnolia Grange Update

We are pleased to introduce a new employee at Magnolia Grange House Museum. Martha Mann Atkinson was hired in July and is a native of Chesterfield County who grew up in the Fuqua Farms subdivision near the former Beulah Elementary School. She graduated from Radford University with a double major in Child Development and Psychology.

Working as a seasonal costumed interpreter at Petersburg National Battlefield, Martha discovered a passion for historic interpretation. In 1998, she began work at Pamplin Historical Park in Dinwiddie as an education specialist and costumed interpreter for almost three years.

In the summer of 2001, Martha was hired as the Site Manager for Historic Blandford Church and as Education Coordinator for the City of Petersburg Museums, where she remained until Petersburg closed the sites in the fall of 2016 due to lack of funding. Martha was then hired as a consultant for the Petersburg Preservation Task Force, an organization that had taken over management of the museum sites. She became the Director of Museums and worked with a group of volunteers to continue to keep the three historic sites open a few days a week and to continue programs and special events illuminating Petersburg's 400 year history. Martha "retired" from the Task Force in December 2021 and happily was hired as Historical Interpreter for Magnolia Grange House Museum in July 2022.

Martha has been married for 33 years to Thomas T. Atkinson III. They live in a circa 1850 worker's cottage in Old Towne Petersburg with their dog, Sage. In her spare time, Martha enjoys music of all kinds, nature trail walks, reading and visiting museums and historic sites. Her father, Horace "Pete" Mann was a past president of the Chesterfield Historical Society. and helped to instill in her a true appreciation of the past.



Historic Chesterfield House Moved to Charles City

Buddy Cranford

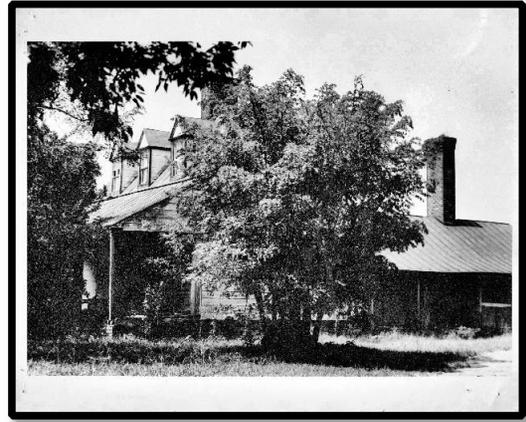
Chesterfield County lost another piece of its history in the 1990s when the Willis House at the intersection of Willis and Coach Roads was transported by barge to Charles City. A sound structure when Jeffrey O'Dell mentioned it in his architectural book, the house had been called "Richmond View" though it had no view of Richmond because it sat on a site on the James River flats eight miles south of the city. It was moved by barge to Charles City in the 1990s. Sadly, it would have succumbed to the bulldozer had not friend of CHSV, Jim Daniels, invested in keeping the historical house intact. For history's sake, Charles City County is the winner here.

Originally a part of an 18th century tract called "Kingsland", Christopher Branch held the first recorded notice on the house and later sold it to Dr. William Tazewell. When he died, his widow sold it to Richard Willis in 1851. The house belonged to the Willis family well into the 1870s and was renamed "River Dale". It was assessed at \$800.

During the War Between the States, the 9th New Jersey occupied River Dale as a forward picket post in the May 16 battle of Drewry's Bluff. First contact of the battle took place when the attacking Confederate force overran that position. It was here, also, that the 2nd Battle of Drewry's Bluff began. Just a few yards near today's Willis Rd intersection, Union General Charles Heckman was captured when he stumbled upon men of the 7th Virginia CSA. (Having been captured during the earlier battle, Heckman was sent to the Confederate stockade at Charleston, South Carolina. A prisoner exchanged in September 1864 sent him back into the Union forces in Virginia.)

In the course of the 20th century the house passed into many hands until both house and property were bought by a Swiss group call the Brown-Boveri Electric Corporation (now ABB) around 1983. The Brown-Boveri Electric Corporation has since merged and is now called ABB Alston Power located at 1801 Willis Rd.

For now, the historic Willis House is intact and resting peacefully in Charles City County. Its history may be told by others who will appreciate the part it played in Virginia history.



Little Known Civil War Veterans

Buddy Cranford

The William Baugh family were residents of Matoaca, Chesterfield County stretching back to Colonial Days. William (junior) was born in 1804, the son of William Smith Baugh and Onith R. Elliot. who had seven children: John, Sarah, Martha, Catherine, Mary, William and Edward. These are the stories of William's (jr) two sons who served in the Confederate Army, one in Virginia and the other in Tennessee.

John Betts Baugh served as a 2nd LT in Troop B, 4th Virginia Calvary, CSA. He married Mary Isabelle Moore after the war. When John was 53, his son Lloyd Phillip Baugh was born. Lloyd Phillip Baugh served in WWI. John Betts Baugh died of a heart disease in Chesterfield on 22 Dec 1902. Mary, 54 and widowed, applied for a Confederate pension after John's death. Both are buried in the Bethlehem Baptist Church Cemetery, North Chesterfield.

Edward Jefferson Bough, a lifelong resident of Chesterfield County died of old age on June 11, 1906 in the Soldier's Home in Richmond. Born circa 1842, Edward was a 25-year-old farmer living in Matoaca, 5' 10" tall, black hair and blue eyes when he joined the Confederate Army as a Private on 23 April 1861. He was mustered into the 4th Calvary, Company B and captured in May of 1862 at Hanover Court House, where he was imprisoned until May 5, 1862 and then sent to Fortress Monroe, VA. His confinement did not last long as he was exchanged at Aiken's Landing, VA. Edward Baugh was mustered out of service on January 7, 1863. He is buried in the Bethlehem Baptist Church Cemetery, North Chesterfield. A U.S. Veteran's headstone was placed at his gravesite in 1932.

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

Veterans Day

“A Musical Salute to Veterans”



NOVEMBER 11, 2022

2 P.M.



1917 Historic Courthouse Green
10011 Iron Bridge Rd. Chesterfield, VA. 23832

Sponsored by the Chesterfield Historical Society of VA



CHRISTMAS TEAS

Christmas Memories Teas-Join us for themed teas featuring traditional holiday tunes performed by Harken Back String Band (formerly Haversacks and Hardtack String Band). Various teas, finger sandwiches, and desserts will be served. Reservations required. To register visit www.chesterfieldhistory.com. Details 748-1498 Wednesdays, Dec. 7th & 14th , 1 -3 p.m. \$30



The beginning of the year is the right time to renew your membership in the Chesterfield Historical Society of VA. Look for membership renewal information in the January Messenger, or renew early at www.chesterfieldhistory.com



The Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia

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