

Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia

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



The Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia held its first meeting on September 23, 1981, at the Central Library with 258 charter members. A private, non-profit 501(c)3 organization funded with membership dues and tax deductible donations, the Society mission is to collect, preserve, interpret and promote Chesterfield County's unique past for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Historic Trinity Church (1887), located at 10111 Iron Bridge Road, serves as the organization headquarters and research library. In addition, the Society maintains collections in the County Museum and 1892 Old Jail on the historic 1917 Courthouse Green, as well as in *Magnolia Grange* (1822), a house museum on Iron Bridge Road. The Society also helps maintain eight battlefields. Our events and programs calendar includes lectures, genealogy workshops, rotating exhibits, battlefield tours, themed fundraisers, public speaking engagements, and programs for educational outreach, home schools and scouting. For more information, Please visit our website www.chesterfieldhistory.com or call (804)796-7121.

The following time line of historic highlights is presented in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia (CHSV).

Then until now....

1981

The Chesterfield Historical Society of VA is formed to meet a growing demand for genealogical and historical research.

1982

County Board of Supervisors designates the 1892 Old Jail part of the Museum complex, and grants CHSV use of the building as its first office.

1983

Cells on the second floor of the 1892 Old Jail are opened for public viewing.



1984

CHSV support results in the acquisition of historic *Magnolia Grange* by Chesterfield County; the Society becomes its custodian.

1985

CHSV conducts its first archaeological dig at Ware Bottom Church, discovering early

American Indian artifacts, stone implements and a Brewerton projectile point circa 2,000 B.C.

1986

Magnolia Grange opened by VA first lady Jeannie Baliles. Historic Richmond Foundation honors the County & CHSV with a "Preservation Citation for Restoration" for the preservation & restoration of *Magnolia Grange*.

1987

The Society wins 'National Certificate of Commendation' from the American Association for State & Local History for its rapid development of local history programs.

Three Tobacco Inspector Licenses, signed by Gov. Thomas Jefferson, added to Museum collection.

CHSV publishes its first cookbook, *In the Chesterfield Manor*.

1988

During excavations for a parking lot at *Magnolia Grange*, rare Delft punch bowl shards are discovered; these are considered the finest single collection of tavern Delft ware artifacts documented in North America.

1989

Archaeology committee excavates house site at Osbornes village

(c.1750), and assists VCU excavation on *Magnolia Grange* grounds to locate outbuildings & landscape features.

1990

Society sponsors third printing of *Chesterfield, an Old Virginia County, 1607-1954*, by Francis Earl Lutz.

1917 County Courthouse named part of Museum complex; CHSV becomes its custodian.

1991

Historic 1917 Courthouse & Green listed on VA Landmarks Register & National Register of Historic Places. The Society moves into the historic 1917 Courthouse

1992

CHSV publishes *Chesterfield, an Old Virginia County, 1955-1989, Volume II*, by Dorothy Silvers. Preserve *Battery Danzler*, a Bermuda Hundred Campaign site.

1993

Society publishes *A Time to Remember, a Pictorial History of Chesterfield County, VA, 1860-1960*.

1994

CHSV publishes *The 1917 Courthouse of the Circuit Court of Chesterfield County, VA: Its History and Portraits*.

1995

“Pocahontas” exhibit featured in the Museum.

Museum Gift Shop opens in the historic 1917 Courthouse.

1996

Reproductions of three Delft ware bowls, based on shards excavated at *Magnolia Grange* in 1988, featured in the Museum Gift Shop.

1997

The first re-enactment of the 1876 DuVal-Robertson wedding takes place at *Magnolia Grange*.

1998

CHSV moves to *Castlewood* (c.1817) purchased by Chesterfield County in 1980.

Cemetery committee publishes *Gone But Not Forgotten*, edited by Rachel Lipowicz.

1999

The Society co-chairs Chesterfield County’s 250th Anniversary. VA Commonwealth University starts archaeology dig at *Castlewood*.

2000

War Memorial Wall, facing the historic 1917 Courthouse, is dedicated on Veterans Day.

2001

CHSV publishes *Marriages of Chesterfield County, VA, Abstracted from Microfilm 1771-1854*, compiled by the Genealogy committee.

2002

The Museum Gift Shop moves from *Castlewood* to *Magnolia Grange*.

First evening lecture series presented at *Castlewood*.

2003

“Four Hundred Years of Fashion” presented during Lunchtime Lecture Series.

2004

Lucille Cheatham Moseley, co-founder of CHSV & its first

executive director, passed away, age 80.

2005

CHSV Cemetery committee collection of digital photos of grave markers surpasses 5,000.

2006

The Society celebrates its 25th Anniversary.

Bermuda Hundred village designated a Virginia Historical Landmark.

2007

Grand Re-opening of County Museum after renovation. ‘*Diggin’ in History*’ archeology summer camp for Kids.

2008

First *Winter Lecture Series* presented, January-March. CHSV receives Resolution from the Board of Supervisors for our dedication to preserve county history.

2009

Reconstructed Old Country Store exhibit opens in the Museum. CHSV hosts *Revisit: Our History* Author & Speaker Symposium at John Tyler Community College.

2010

CHSV publishes *Bermuda Hundred Campaign Tour Guide*. *First Contact* exhibit opens in Community Development Building.

Cemetery committee publishes *Chesterfield Churchyards, Gravestone Inscriptions & Burials*.

2011

First ‘Colonial Market Day’ held at *Castlewood*.

CHSV African American History Committee presents ‘*Four Score and More*’ oral history exhibit.

2012

Preserve historic *Point of Rocks* as a new County park; title transfers to the County in 2013.

2013

CHSV office and library relocate to historic Trinity Church (1887).

2014

First open house held at historic *Pleasant View* African American School.

Police Department Centennial exhibit presented in the Museum.

2015

Bermuda Hundred Campaign featured at conclusion of the Civil War 150th commemoration.

2016

Preserve historic *Summerseat* (c.1860) in Ettrick.

Preserve County’s historic listing for the *Clark House* in Centralia.

2017

Celebrate the Centennial of the 1917 Courthouse and place the 1749 Courthouse Bell on permanent display in the Museum.

CHSV presents original 1749 *Commission of the Peace*, the County Charter, to Clerk of the Court Wendy Hughes.

2018

Centennial of ‘Armistice Day,’ the end of World War I, is commemorated on Veterans Day.

2019

CHSV Veterans Database surpasses 8,000 names. CHSV Photo Collection contributes to *Richmond Memories II*, by the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*.

2020

Covid 19 pandemic closes all historic sites; phased re-opening starts in the fall.

2021

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www.chesterfieldhistory.com

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