
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 148

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Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site, leading battlefield tours around Richmond and presenting programs on Revolutionary War in the city and the Civil War as well as Civil Rights history. He is the published author of the historic fiction work "Autumnfield" and recently co-authored "All That Can Be Expected", a history of the 1780 Revolutionary War battle of Camden, South Carolina. Mark is also a living historian of the colonial era who has provided educational programs for many public historic sites in Virginia. He is a member of the Richmond Chapter of the Revolutionary War Roundtable and a contributing author for the Emerging Revolutionary War Era book series.

Save the date: 1/28/24

Winter Quarterly Membership Meeting Sunday, January 28, 2024, at 2pm Henricus Historical Park

Our next Quarterly Membership Meeting will take place at 2:00 pm on January 28th at Henricus Historical Park, 251 Henricus Park Road, Chester, VA. Our speaker, Mark Wilcox, will explore the topic of the 1780 Battle of Camden and the Revolutionary War in the South.

Mark Wilcox is an historian who currently works as a ranger at Richmond National Battlefield Park and the

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Letter from the President

By the time you receive this newsletter, I hope that you have visited our website and seen the latest updates. Along with a newer look, we have made a big improvement to our events calendar. I want to thank CHSV Board Members Dianne L Mallory and Buddy Cranford for the work they put into getting project. Just go to www.Chesterfieldhistory.com, click the blue bars under Site Menu and then click on Events Calendar. There you will find a comprehensive, month-to-month calendar of events sponsored by the Society. We will also provide information for events sponsored by other organizations such as Falling Creek Iron Works, Eppington and Midlothian Mines Foundations. Now our site can be your one-stop shop when you are looking for history themed events in Chesterfield.

As I look back on the past 3 months, I am impressed by how much programming our volunteers and County staff members provide for the citizens of Chesterfield. In October we promoted events for archaeology, geocaching, astronomy, and tours of historic sites. At Magnolia Grange we held a writer's seminar and hosted talks on the Civilian Conservation Corps and its role in the development of the Virginia State Park system. At the county Fairgrounds we handed out 5,000 pieces of candy at the Chesterfield County Trunk-or-Treat event. The Museum opened a new exhibit on farming and rural life in Chesterfield. The Museum and African American History Committees held a ceremony for a new permanent exhibit honoring the life and works of Cornelius Mimms, the first African American to serve on the Board of Supervisors. October held our Quarterly Membership meeting at Buckhead Springs, which drew over 60 people to hear a fascinating talk on the history of the home and got to tour one of the oldest structures in Chesterfield.

In November the Museum hosted talks on 19th Century Childrens Games, Parlor Games, and Jigsaw puzzles. On November 11th the Society sponsored another successful Veterans Day program that featured a keynote address by Brigadier General Patricia Wallace, the First Female Commanding General of the 80th Training Command.

In December we hosted another sold out Christmas Tea, and the annual Christmas Open House at Magnolia Grange. We also helped promote 4 Scout Merit Badge workshops.

From October through December, we sponsored or took part in 18 events for the benefit of the public. This could not be done without the hard work of our Historical Society volunteers and the Parks and Recreation staff members who work so closely with us. Looking forward in 2024 we have expanded our Winter Lecture Series to 6 speakers. A complete schedule of those lectures is included in this newsletter. As we move into 2024, please go to our website and check the Events Calendar often. We look forward to a year full of history themed events in Chesterfield County and hope to see you there.

Scott Williams

Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia

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****we welcome submissions describing an area of your interest or current research. Please submit no later than February 20 to Gina at StithG@Chesterfield.gov**

Out on a Limb...

Angie Wilderman

This is being written long before the New Year. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and Christmas. Did you have family reunions? Did you share family stories? It's never too late to share with the family.

Are you using all the resources which are becoming available almost daily? It's hard to keep up. Photo dating apps, maps and newspapers are some of the opportunities to explore. Judy Russell, the Legal Genealogist, posted information about DavidRumsey.com. If you want to check out this map database to find out if you have a placename on a map named after an ancestor, try it. AI anyone? I recently sat in on a discussion about ChatGPT/AI and how to use it in genealogy.

MyHeritage.com, a subscription site, introduced an app to colorize photos. They added a component to date photographs. Creative people out there are adding apps to help with genealogy. FamilySearch.org has an activity called "Compare a Face". This site is free; just register, sign in and explore.

About photographs, are you sorting through all your photos and identifying everyone in them? It can be a daunting process. Use the "pile" method: definitely keep, definitely out (duplicates, blurry, etc.), give to others, not quite sure. Many people like to create scrapbooks using plastic sleeves but there are some companies that create digital books and other companies who will create printed books for you.

Are you interested in taking a beginning genealogy class? Let me know if you would like to take a beginning class. Stay tuned for more information.

We are continuing to add books to our Genealogy Library. If your family history is in another state, come in and see if we have some reference books that would be helpful in your research. The current list is on our website, on the genealogy page.

4th Quarter Donors:

\$1-\$99

Sam & Martha Jacobs, Beverley C. Berry, The Kroger Co.,
Tommy & Debbie Harris, Henry Coalter, Carla Ewing

\$100-\$499

Mr. & Mrs. Thysell, Doug & Linda Blake, Liess Van Der Linden-Brusse

\$500 or more

Angie Wilderman

Library Donations & Acquisitions

Liess van der Linden-Brusse

In the research library, we always welcome additions to our collection of books, maps, manuscripts, family histories, yearbooks, CD/DVDs, photos, newspaper clippings, brochures, flyers and programs on people, places and events in Chesterfield County. Please keep us in mind when you clear out your attics and basements! Thank you. The following items were recently added to our collection:

Genealogy

Pocahontas' Descendants, 4th & 5th Corrections and Additions, by Stuart E. Brown, Jr., & Lorraine F. Myers, anonymous donor

The Wooldridge Family, Volumes I & II, by William C. Wooldridge, signed by the author, gift of Peppy Jones
1815 Directory of Virginia Landowners – Chesterfield County, extracted from original Land Tax Records in the Library of VA by Roger G. Ward, purchased

General Interest

Chesterfield County Bank - Minutes of Board Meetings (June 1906-April 1920), gift of Jerry Duffey (Rare Books Collection)

Jails, Chesterfield County, VA, Notices published in the Virginia Gazette (1755-1779), copies, donated by Pat Roble (Manuscript Collection)

History of Second Branch Baptist Church from 1700s to 1900s, by Corine Wilson, gift of Sharon Condrey & Cecile Taylor, Second Branch Baptist Historical Committee

Maps

Original illustrated map entitled, *Chester, VA – From the Mid-18th Century until 1925*, drawn by L.L. Perdue in 1982, donated by Joseph C. Hillier, DDS, Chester, VA

Illustrated map entitled, *Chester the First Hundred Years*, by Carol Mathews Rash, limited edition #60/500, donated by Joseph C. Hillier, DDS, Chester, VA

Military History

Tarleton's Southside Raid and Peter Francisco's Famous Fight, by Colonel Gregg Eanes, gift of Gerry Germond

The Invasion of Virginia 1781, by Michael Cecere, gift of Gerry Germond

WWII U.S. Navy service documents, notes and photos of Luther Page McGee (March 1944-December 1945), photocopies, gift of his daughter Martha Atkinson (Manuscript Collection)

Photographs

COX Family – George (1851-1933); Joseph Franklin (1892-1963); Berkeley Cosby (1891-1979); Countis Louise (1915-2003), donated by Kathryn Atkins

GOODWYN Family – Charles (1871-1955); Alfred James (1894-1978), donated by Nancy Goodwyn Hill

KELLEY Family – Formonia Beasley (c.1870), donated by Kathryn Atkins

BELONA ARSENAL – Gun & gun mold found in James River in 1978, discovered in *Castlewood* office

BELLONA ARSENAL - Wall with four cannons (1984), discovered in *Castlewood* office

CHURCHES – Ware Bottom (drawing), discovered in *Castlewood* office

FALLING CREEK IRONWORKS historic highway marker (1982), discovered in *Castlewood* office

FALLING CREEK IRONWORKS Iron Ore (1976), discovered in *Castlewood* office

1917 COURTHOUSE, Chesterfield, VA, interior & exterior views (1998), discovered in *Castlewood* office

STORES – N. B. Goodwyn & Sons (c.1950s), donated by Nancy Goodwyn Hill

School days in Chesterfield County

Bill Lipsett

Not too long ago, both Magnolia Grange and the County Museum had a small group from a local day-care center come to visit and hopefully take some piece of history, along with some coloring books about the county, home with them to see what life was like in the olden days.

This inspired me to dig into how education evolved in Chesterfield. My source of information is primarily “Early Architecture and Historic Sites” by Jeffrey M. O’Dell, which was published in 1983. No, there won’t be a quiz later, so, you’re safe for now!

Surprisingly, there are few records of other public educational ventures in the county in the seventeenth century, or, for that matter, in the eighteenth. Except for a privileged few, education during this period generally took place in the home; those parents, or relatives who could read and write taught the children of their household as best they could.

Christians were expected to read the Bible; the Scriptures therefore took the place of grammar and reading books in the homes of those who could not afford formal schooling. Anglican ministers, moreover, frequently supplemented their incomes by holding classes at the glebe.

Between 1796 and 1869 the Virginia Assembly passed several measures designed to create a stronger and more progressive educational system in the state. During this period, less than a dozen localities made use of the liberal provisions of the legislature; Chesterfield was not one of them.

An important development leading to expanded educational opportunities for Virginia’s school-age population was the institution of the Literary Fund in 1810. Established by an act of the Assembly, this formed the nucleus for the support of free schooling in Virginia over the next half-century.

By 1840, there were 30 elementary schools in the county, serving a total of 555 students, 191 of whom attended through the benefits of the Literary Fund. It has been estimated that in 1860 seventy-eight percent of the adult white population of Virginia (including women) could read and write to at least a minimal degree. Slaves, who comprised about half of Chesterfield’s population, had relatively little opportunity to acquire even the simplest education.

Since public education in the county only extended through the primary grades from 1905 to 1915, a number of private secondary schools operated in the county during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The county’s public schools made rapid strides in the first new decade largely due to the new state Constitution of 1902 and the founding of the state’s Co-operative Educational Association in 1904. The first full-fledged public high school in the county was established in Chester in 1908. Shortly thereafter, some smaller high schools were built; pupils traveled up to ten miles in wagons pulled by horse teams.

It wasn’t until the 1950s, 60s and 70s that the county’s public school system expanded tremendously as the northeastern third of the county became a bedroom community for Richmond. With 43 school buildings and over 32,000 students, the county’s school system was considered to be among the best in the state. In 1967, Chester became the site of John Tyler Community College, one of the

statewide system of community colleges, and in 1979, the county's only full four-year college, Virginia State, achieved university status.

As of August 2023, there are 64,000 students enrolled in the county in 67 schools. With just under a \$1 billion budget, each year school buses travel 8 million miles. There are also 7.9 million meals served in the schools and more educational facilities are being built to keep up with population growth, and the explosive technological advances in today's education. The county continually has the best educators and that is reflected by numerous educational achievement awards won, unmatched in other school systems throughout the nation. We have come a long way from a slate board and a grinding walk just to get to school. I wish I could tell that to those 5 or 6-year-olds I talked to not too long ago! The sky is the ceiling, right? With that said, I just heard the bell ring indicating it's time for recess.

Portrait of young Martha 'Pank' Frances Walke

By Lilian Mullane

There is a formal portrait of a 12-year-old girl named Martha Frances Walke on display in the upstairs hall of *Magnolia Grange*. Painted in 1838, the 30"x 36" portrait was a generous bequest of Professor James



Dabney 'Dan' Burfoot, Jr., and his wife Marion Burfoot of Ithaca, NY. The portrait's family connection to its donors and to Chesterfield was interesting to explore. Known in the family as 'Pank,' Martha Frances Walke (1827-1847) was the sixth child born to Martha Branch and Dr John

Robertson Walke at their *Physic Hill* plantation which he built circa 1815 shortly after their marriage. A well-known physician in Winterpock, Dr. Walke served as a surgeon in the War of 1812.¹

As a young bride of 14, Pank married Thomas Matthew Burfoot, Sr (1814-1869), a 27-year-old widower and wealthy owner of a tobacco farm, *Earnscliff*. They had one son, Thomas Matthew Burfoot, Jr (1844-1891) before Pank died at age 19. Though *Physic Hill* descended initially through Walke descendants, the

painting eventually descended through the Burfoot lineage. When it left *Physic Hill* is unknown. We do know, however, that Pank's widowed husband married her younger sister Olivia (1830-1884) who raised Pank's son.

Two generations later, Pank's great-grandson, James Dabney Burfoot, Jr., was born in 1896.⁵ By 1925, as an adult, he preferred to be known as 'Daniel' Burfoot; we know him as the last descendant to have custody of Pank's portrait.

Born in Henrico, Dan Burfoot graduated from Petersburg High School in 1917, and attended both the University of Virginia (B.S. and M.S.) and Cornell University (Ph.D). In 1924, he married Marion Elizabeth Wiant (1905-1989) of Charlottesville, VA, whom he had met at Cornell University. By 1929, the couple were back in Ithaca, NY, where Dan became an esteemed geology professor at Cornell University until his retirement in 1964.² He died in 1966. The couple had no children.

The painting of Pank was in sad shape when Dan and Marion received it in Ithaca circa 1948. Searching for a restoration expert, Marion turned to Albert W. Force (1897-1970), a well-known Ithaca-based illustrator, antiquarian, antique collector and dealer whom Marion had met in 1929 and with whom she enjoyed a long friendship. After restoring the painting, Albert noted on the back of the item this statement: "*This painting was done by an itinerant artist in Chesterfield County when Pank was 12 years old – 1850.*" Albert also had a sense of humor. On August 23, 1950, he wrote a sweet thank-you note for a recent dinner with Dan and Marion Burfoot but, instead of addressing it to them, he directed his sentiments to the restored portrait of "Miss Pank":

"I wonder where you are, dear Miss Pank of Physick Hill, in the dining room or in the drawing room where you belong, or up in Dan's room? Wherever you are, please accept my very best wishes, and my congratulations for living in such beautiful and harmonious surroundings with such a happy pair."³

Marion noted that "the letter written to the lady in the portrait in my house reflects better than my words the charming nature of the man." Marion was paralyzed by a stroke around 1976 and died in Ithaca

in 1989. In her will, she indicated that she wished to send their family portrait of Martha Pank Frances Walke "home" to the Chesterfield Historical Society.³ It came to Magnolia Grange in June 1990.

Sources:

¹ Burfoot Family File @ CHSV

² Cornell professors' obituary of James Dabney Burfoot, Jr – "Dan" – 1966

³ Wells, Elizabeth Baker (1974), *Albert Force 1897-1970*, Ithaca, NY: The Albert Force Memorial Fund.

⁴ Richmond Times Dispatch

⁵ Taylor, Urple C and Pattie M Grady (1987), CHSV Manuscript: *Dr John Robertson Walke of "Physic Hill," Chesterfield County, VA: His Ancestors and Descendants.*

The following is another excerpt from the writings of William A. Day, a private serving in Company I of the 49th North Carolina Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. Private Day and the 49th returned to Chesterfield County in May of 1864.

SECOND ASSAULT MAY 14TH AND 15TH.

On the morning of the 14th, hungry, weary, and drenched to the skin, we were ordered to move into an inner line of works nearer the turnpike. The yankees soon followed, giving us no time to gather wood to dry our clothes, and formed their lines in the woods about two hundred yards in front of the works which zigzagged across the field, giving them an enfilading fire in some places. The yankees filled the woods with sharpshooters and artillery, and during the two days we lay in the works kept up a continual and harassing fire with both small arms and artillery. Sometimes raking off the top of the works with grape shot. The Washington artillery from New Orleans held a position in some redoubts on the left of the 49th, but the yankee sharpshooters picked them off so fast they could not work their guns. Volunteers from the infantry went down to protect them, but did no good. Whenever a man showed himself he was promptly shot down. All we could do was to lie close to the works and let them shoot, as our fire had no effect on them. In passing over the ground afterwards, great piles of shells were found behind every tree, and having a cross fire in some places, a great number of our men were killed and wounded. Gen. Matt Ransom was wounded so badly that day that he was unable for service till late in the fall. Oh how we did miss our old general in the battles which came on afterward.

It rained nearly all day, and the old red breastworks were ankle deep in mud and water. Our clothes were soaked with rain and covered with mud, and lying close in the works without fire or shelter made us shiver with cold. The yankees ceased firing at night, except an occasional shot. This gave us a chance to get rations, which we badly needed. We lay quietly in the works all night with a strong picket line a few paces in front to guard against surprise. It was still cloudy and very dark, and a night attack was expected at any moment. Capt. Connor gave us a talk that night. He said: "Boys if they charge and get to our works, let us meet them on the top and give them the very best we've got, which meant the bayonet." We told him we'd be there, but the yankees did not charge. They were simply holding us to our lines while they were making efforts to advance their lines from our outer works which had been given up to them at other places and they could concentrate their forces on both sides of the turnpike so as to have a direct drive to Richmond, provided they could break our lines. They frequently attacked our lines on the left, but Gen. Bob Ransom commanded down there and drove them back in every assault they made.

At daylight on the morning of the 15th, the yankee sharpshooters, aided by their artillery, opened on us again, and kept up their fusillade all day. We were unable to reply. Our orders were to lie close in the works as it would be useless to expose ourselves unless they charged. Nothing tries a soldier's nerves more than to lie under an enemy's fire and see his comrades mangled and carried out of the way and no chance to send a shot in return. Towards the middle of the evening the sharpshooters had become so annoying it was determined if possible to dislodge them, and a call for volunteers was made. Julius Sigman and Pink Setzer went out from Company I. Capt. J. P. Ardrey of Company F, volunteered to lead them. Capt. Ardrey deployed his volunteers along the works, sprang up on top, waved his sword and ordered them forward. Brave Captain Ardrey! It was the last command he ever gave. When his clear, ringing: "Forward boys! follow me!" rang down the line, his volunteers dashed over the works and started with him in a charge through a tempest of lead before which nothing could live. They had simply undertaken an impossibility. It was one man to ten. From the very moment they crossed the works they were in full view of

the yankees, and were met by such a storm of grape shot, canister and bullets that their thin line soon melted away. Capt. Ardrey and a number of his men were shot down, and their bodies lay on the field till next day before they were recovered. The survivors ran back to the shelter of the works. Late in the evening Gen. Beauregard passed down the line on foot, and just as he reached Company I, a charge of grape shot knocked off the top of the breast works and almost buried the general. He shook off the dirt and, shaking his fist in the direction of the yankees, said: "All I want you to do, is to stay right where you are till tomorrow morning." The general got his wish. They stayed there all night, but remained quiet, as they did the night before.

MAY 16TH THE GREAT BATTLE

Just before day on the morning of the 16th, we moved quietly from the works, down to Kingsland Creek, halted just below the bridge where the turnpike crosses and awaited orders. A dense fog rising off the river came up the creek and ravines, and hid the movements of both armies. It was the thickest fog I ever saw. It was almost dark, but we managed to form lines of battle. General Beauregard was in chief command. Gen. Hoke commanded on the right, and Gen. Bob Ransom on the left. Our lines were formed facing towards Petersburg. Gen. Whiting was to move out from Petersburg, cut Butler off from his base at Bermuda Hundred, and then we would capture Butler and his whole army. The plan was generally known and talked about among the soldiers. Capt. Branch in riding over the field in the dense fog, some distance from his battery, rode into the yankee lines and asked what command they belonged to. They told him he was in the yankee lines, and must surrender. There being no chance of escape, he had to comply with their request. General Beauregard, in whom the soldiers had the utmost confidence, had his small army in battle array and only awaited the lifting of the fog to open the battle. We fully expected to capture Butler and his whole army that day. President Davis came down from Richmond, and was at headquarters during the battle. A little before 8 o'clock the fog lifted and the battle commenced. Gen. Bob Ransom commanding the left wing, moved his troops rapidly forward, struck the enemy's right, carried their works, turned their flank, and drove everything before him. Whiting was to form a junction with

him wherever they should meet, thus throwing a line of victorious troops between Butler and his base. Whiting, for some cause, did not carry out his orders, and withdrew his troops, thus leaving a wide gap for Butler's retreat to his base. The battle soon became general and raged furiously along the lines. The Southern troops were fighting that day. They charged Butler's army from one end to the other. They rained their blows thick and fast, confident of success, and by the middle of the afternoon had Butler's well equipped army of 30,000 men completely routed, and but for Gen. Whiting's disgraceful withdrawal, instead of joining Gen. Ransom, it would have been a complete victory.

President Davis was on the ground and witnessed the battle. Soon after the battle opened down on the left, the 24th and 49th regiments were sent some distance on the turnpike towards Petersburg, then moved to the right and formed line of battle in a large new ground which had been chopped off and the brush left scattered on the ground which made it difficult to march over. Our left lay near the turnpike. Gen. Bushrod Johnson's Tennesseans were heavily engaged when we formed and were holding the lines up to the turnpike and the smoke was rising in great clouds above them. We had not long to watch our Tennessee comrades fight. We were soon ordered forward, moved double quick right oblique a little distance, then forward toward a piece of thick woods that lay between us and the yankee works. The oblique movement throwing our left farther from Johnson's right, a few stray balls fell in our line as we moved in, but did no damage farther than the wounding of a few men.

TO BE CONTINUED



General P. G. T. Beauregard
National Archives

Cornelius Mimms – A Chesterfield County Legacy

The Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia and Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Department unveiled a permanent museum exhibit board honoring the late Cornelius Mimms, a pioneer in his own right (October 28, 2023).

The unveiling ceremony was attended by several of Cornelius Mimms’ descendants, along with many community members and county officials. The beautiful day matched the prevailing sentiments expressed by participants and attendees at this historic ceremony!

After being appointed Chesterfield’s County administrator in July 2016, Dr. Joe Casey, a history buff, was curious and wanted to learn more about the person behind the Mimms name. There wasn't much information available about him online. In a serendipitous bit of timing, however, the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia’s African American History Committee opened a temporary exhibit on Mimms that fall at the Chesterfield County Museum, bringing to light the full scope of the man’s life, accomplishments, and contributions to his community: “Cornelius Mimms – A Legend and Legacy.”

Born in Goochland County in 1857, Mimms attended Richmond Theological Seminary and Richmond Institute, a forerunner to Virginia Union University. In the years that followed Virginia’s 1870 adoption of the Underwood Constitution, which required the General Assembly to create a statewide system of free public schools for all children and enshrined voting rights for African American men in the commonwealth, he received a teaching license. At age 20, he was a member of the First Baptist Church of Midlothian’s Board of Trustees that voted to donate church property to Chesterfield County as the site of its first elementary school for African Americans. After graduating from Howard University in 1885, Mimms was one of the first African Americans to obtain a law license. He went on to become a prominent attorney in the area, operating a law office on Hull Street Road in Chesterfield for 46 years and becoming dean of the Richmond Bar Association. Mimms served as clerk of First Baptist Church Midlothian for 55 years and superintendent of its Sunday School for 50 years. In

addition to two terms on the Board of Supervisors, he served as the county’s Supervisor of Roads and Supervisor for the Poor.

Mimms also helped his son, Edward Mimms Sr., establish a funeral home in Richmond in 1925. Today, Cornelius Mimms’ great-granddaughter, Mia Mimms, owns and operates Mimms Funeral Home on Hull Street. “Just like attorney Giles B. Jackson and banker Maggie L. Walker in Richmond, Mr. Mimms pushed economic growth as the best way to solve many of the problems facing the African American community,” said Scott Williams, President of the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia. “What an honor this is” remarked Charlotte Wood, chair of the African American History Committee. “We hope you are enlightened today at this meaningful event and enjoy the efforts of all who participated in making it happen.” In closing remarks, another great-granddaughter, Sharon Carter-Gunter, who spoke on behalf of the family stated, “I would like to say how honored and grateful we are for this recognition of the contributions of our ancestor to Chesterfield County.” She recalled the inscription on her great-grandfather’s tombstone: We must follow the right path to arrive at the right place. She added, “Today, I can truly say we are at the right place because of the path that was taken by Cornelius Mimms.”

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Chesterfield County Constituent Media Services*



Attending the
unveiling of the
exhibit:

TOP: Members
of the Chester-
field County
Board of
Supervisors

BOTTOM:
Members of Cor-
nelius Mimms’
family

Magnolia Grange Programs, January–March

January

Saturday, January 6, 12:00 p.m., “War Letters”

&rew Carroll has edited & compiled letters written by soldiers from the Civil War to the conflict in Bosnia in his book “*War Letters*”. These poignant & sometimes humorous letters are meant to be shared. Martha Atkinson will present this PowerPoint lecture & will highlight stories featured in Carroll’s book.

Saturday, January 20, 12:00 p.m., “Medicine through the Ages: From Early Man to the Renaissance”

For many thousands of years, man has practiced the science & art of treating & preventing disease & injury sometimes with great success or epic failure. Join Louisa Michie for a PowerPoint program to learn about early medicinal practices. Find out which of these ancient curatives became common practice or perhaps malpractice.

February

Saturday, February 3, 12:00 p.m., “Ersatz in the Confederacy”

Ersatz is defined as “a substitute, usually inferior” & due to many shortages of common household items during the Civil War, this word was used to define the practice of substitutions. What were some common substitutions for coffee, toothpowder, ink & paper? The answers may surprise you. Join presenter Sherry Graves for a look at life on the home front.

Saturday, February 17, 12:00 p.m., “The Life & Legacy of Enslaved Virginian Emily Winfree”

Theresa Gee, local storyteller & actor will portray Emily Winfree, a woman who after the Civil War was left destitute by the death of David Winfree, her former master & father of her children. She weathered many difficult hardships & worked menial jobs in order to keep her family together. Emily’s perseverance & personal sacrifices enabled many successes for her future descendants.

Wednesday, February 21, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., “George Washington’s Birthday Celebration Tea”

Join us for an afternoon tea of celebration of the birth of a famous son of Virginia & the father of our country, George Washington. Interesting facts about our first president will be shared. Culinary treats will be prepared by the Bakery & Pastry Arts students at the Career & Technical Center. Fee: \$30

March

Saturday, March 2, 12:00 pm., “Cemetery Iron Works”

Have you ever noticed beautiful iron gates at an entrance or ornate iron fencing around a family plot in an old cemetery? There were 19th century companies that designed & manufactured ornamental iron work specifically for cemeteries. Join local expert Sergei Troubetskoy for an interesting PowerPoint program which will feature historic iron works from Hollywood & Blandford Cemeteries.

Saturday, March 16, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., “Aspiring Writer’s Seminar”

Calling all aspiring writers, young & old. Would you like to write a short story or novel but do not know how to get started? Libby McNamee, award-winning author of “Susanna’s Midnight Ride: The Girl Who Won the Revolutionary War” & “Dolley Madison & the War of 1812” wants to inspire you to achieve your goal. She will walk you through the writing process, teach you how to research & create vivid characters, give you tips for dealing with roadblocks along the way & explain your publishing options. Fee: \$25

County Museum Programs, January–March

Located at 6813 Mimms Loop. All programs are free. Reservations are required at least one week in advance. Space is limited. For details or to register call the County Museum, 804-768-7311.

Historical Lectures and Events--Saturdays, 11 a.m.

Jan. 13 – Historic Trees of Chesterfield: Silent Witnesses to our Past

This presentation will explore the history of Chesterfield’s most notable trees. Learn about the Nunnally oak tree that has been standing for over two centuries at the old courthouse, the Osage orange tree that once stood at Magnolia Grange and other old local trees.

Feb. 24 – Slave Trading and the Early African American Presence in Bermuda Hundred

Rev. Herbert Townes will share the untold story of African American slave trading that took place at Bermuda Hundred in Chesterfield County.

March 30 – A Garden of Dyes: The Art and Technique of Using Natural Dyes

Join Mike Grant, a dyed-in-the-wood spinner, to learn about the types of dyes that were used to color textiles in the past. Equipment, techniques, and some of the many plant sources of dye, such as indigo and woad, will be discussed.

Parks & Rec Programs, January-March

Historical Tours

To register call 804-748-1623 and request the specific Course number. Register for all programs at least one week in advance. Details: Bryan Truzzie, 804-751-4946 \$8 per person

Civil War Along the Appomattox Van Tour

Parks Maintenance Parking Lot 9201 Public Works Road

Saturday, Jan. 27, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. **Course 43813**

Historic Route 1 Van Tour

Bensley Recreation Center, 2900 Drewry's Bluff Road

Friday, Feb. 9 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. **Course 43789**

Giants of Industry Van Tour

Castlewood, 10201 Iron Bridge Road

Saturday, Feb. 17, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. **Course 43788**

Historic Victorian Bon Air Van Tour

Bon Air Baptist Church, 2531 Buford Road

Saturday, Mar. 16, 10 a.m. - noon **Course 43789**

Industry along the Appomattox Tour

Radcliffe Conservation Area, 21300 Chesdin Road

Wednesday, Mar. 20 10 am - noon **Course 43791**

History of Gregory's Mill

Rockwood Park, 3401 Courthouse Road

Wednesday, Mar. 27, 10 a.m. – noon **Course 43752**

Highlights of Midlothian Van Tour

Midlothian Mines Park, 13286 North Woolridge Road

Saturday, Mar. 30 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. **Course 43749**

Lunchtime Lecture Series

Bring your lunch and explore a variety of presentations that will showcase historical topics and significant achievements in Chesterfield. To register call 804-748-1623 and request the specific Course number. Register for all programs at least one week in advance.

Castlewood, 10201 Iron Bridge Road

Tuesday, Noon – 1 p.m. \$5

Architecture of Courthouse Green

Feb. 6 **Course 43800**

Archaeology of Courthouse Green

Feb. 20 **Course 43803**

History of Moore's Lake

Mar. 5 **Course 43801**

Historic Courthouse Green

Mar. 19 **Course 43805**

History of Falling Creek Ironworks

Mar. 30 **Course 43806**

Chesterfield County 275th Anniversary Celebration

Did you know that in 2024, Chesterfield County will reach a milestone, celebrating its 275th anniversary? The county was officially created on May 25, 1749, carved from the county of Henrico. In 1790, the population was 14,000 compared to 380,000 residents in 2023.

In 1999, the County celebrated its 250th anniversary with numerous special events and now, 25 years later, a special celebration is being planned with activities throughout the year to honor our past and focus on the bright future we anticipate.

A full year of programs is being planned to honor the county's long history, beginning in January and leading up to a keystone event celebrating the 1749 creation of the county. Throughout the year there will be living history programming, presentations, concerts, special events and much more.

Planning for the anniversary started early in 2023 and a special committee was formed comprised of county staff, representatives from Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia, libraries, schools, private foundations, and regional partners. The committee has created its own marketing logo to promote functions for next year and will be continuously updating the county webpage with future events as they are finalized.



This anniversary is a celebration of Chesterfield County history and its citizens. To that end, our goal will be community involvement and programming that will be engaging for the public while celebrating the diversity of the population and commemorating the accomplishments of the past 275 years.

2024

Winter Lecture Series

presented by the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia

All lectures will take place at 7:00pm
Beulah Methodist Church 6930 Hopkins Road N. Chesterfield, VA 23234
Admission is free for Historical Society members and \$5 for non-members.
For more information call 804-796-7121

January 12

Saga of the 1749 Commission of the Peace – Chesterfield’s ‘Birth Certificate’

Liess van der Linden-Brusse & Buddy Cranford, CHSV Volunteers



January 26

Sudbury’s Farm May 23, 1781: The Illusive Battleground of the Revolution in Chesterfield

John Pagano, Military Historian & Site Manager, Henricus Historical Park



February 9

Through the Eyes of Coretta Scott King

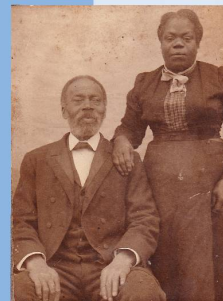
Theresa G, First Person Historic Interpreter



February 23

A Living Bon Air Legacy: The Story of the Mt. Nebo African-American Community

Dianne Mallory CHSV Board Member



March 8

80th Anniversary of D-Day: 1944-2024

James Triesler, Director of Education, VA Dept. of Veterans Services



March 22

Chesterfield County 275th Anniversary

Bryan Truzzie, Historic Site Specialist, Dept. of Parks & Recreation, Chesterfield County



Visit www.chesterfieldhistory.com
 www.facebook.com/Chesterfieldhistory

CHSV Welcomes New Members:

Linda Crowley, Sarah Ferguson, Martha and Sam Jacobs, Tommy and Debbie Harris, Del and Elizabeth Shelburne, Linda Terrell, and Tracy Tingley.

Thank you to all our members for your continued support. You will find your Membership renewal form and return envelope inside this newsletter.

It's not too late to gift memberships in the Society to friends and family. Please consider adding a gift membership when you submit your dues. Prefer to renew on-line? It's easy and safe to do; visit www.chesterfieldhistory.com/membership

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

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