
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 149

April 2024



Spring Quarterly Meeting Sunday, April 28, 2024, 2:00pm Bon Air Christian Church

2071 Buford Road, Richmond, VA 23235

Please join us for our Spring Quarterly Membership Meeting at the Bon Air Christian Church on Buford Road at 2:00 pm on Sunday, April 28th.

Our speaker will be historian and author Elizabeth Guy Richardson who will present a lecture entitled, *Bon Air: From Victorian Resort to Commuter Village to Suburb*. A native Richmonder, Mrs. Richardson has lived in Bon Air for over 50 years. Her grandfather built a log house there in 1911 and she became familiar with the area when spending with her grandparents while growing up. She is a co-author of the widely acclaimed and beautifully illustrated book *Bon Air: A History* by Mary Anne Claflin and Elizabeth Guy Richardson.

Originally a Victorian resort, Bon Air was conceived in 1877 as a welcome summer refuge for city-weary

residents of Richmond. Whether for a day excursion or the whole summer, visitors reached the area via the Richmond and Danville Railroad. Soon, cottages were built and visitors became residents. Despite subdivisions and encroaching commercial development, Bon Air's village atmosphere remains, together with a touch of Victorian romance.

Bon Air Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was chartered in 1963 but the historic sanctuary was originally built in 1882 and served as the Bon Air Union Chapel in the Victorian community. The church website claims it is one of only two public buildings that remain from Bon Air's resort era. By 1890, the congregation added a bell tower and two wings. The bell was used to summon help in the event of fire and to call people to worship services. A fellowship hall was added in 1992.

Our Spring Quarterly Members Meeting will be held in the fellowship hall. Parking is available off Buford Road as well as in back of the church (follow signs).

A brief business meeting will be followed by refreshments.

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CHSV Names New Executive Director

I am excited to announce the hiring of Dianne L. Mallory as the new Executive Director for the Chesterfield Historical Society (CHSV), effective March 1, 2024.

Dianne was elected to the Society's Board last July and shortly thereafter volunteered to become our Events Coordinator. In her role on the Board, she has seen the dedication of our volunteers and employees as well as the potential we have as an organization.

Dianne brings to CHSV a wide breadth of experience in organizational and nonprofit management. In addition to careers in the private and public sectors, Dianne was a nonprofit trainer and consultant, as well as a facilitator with the Partnership for Nonprofit Excellence in Richmond. She began her nonprofit work as a volunteer with Big Brothers and Big Sisters and continues it today, having served on numerous nonprofit boards.

The Board vote was unanimous, and we are thrilled to welcome Dianne to the Society. With her experiences and passion for the preservation and protection of history, we are confident that Dianne will be instrumental in steering the CHSV towards achieving our mission and vision of being the leading historical resource for County residents - especially our youngest residents.

In her leadership role, Dianne will be responsible for overseeing day-to-day operations, membership growth, representing the Society in the community, strengthening and expanding partnerships, growing a digital presence, initiating collaborations with schools and complementary organizations, planning for future growth, and donor development and fundraising efforts.

In accepting the position, Dianne said, "I am honored to join CHSV and promote its critical mission of collecting, interpreting, preserving and promoting the county's extraordinary history to its current and future residents. I look forward to working with the dedicated staff, board, volunteers, schools, local officials, and community partners to build on the Society's successes and to help make Chesterfield County a "must visit" historic site locally, regionally and throughout the state and nation."

Please join me in welcoming Dianne as our new Executive Director. I believe her skills and experience will be invaluable as we seek to grow our membership and fulfill our mission to collect, preserve, interpret and promote the unique history of Chesterfield County.

Scott Williams, CHSV President



Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia

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The Museum
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(804)768-7311
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Diane Hewett

****we welcome submissions describing an area of your interest or current research. Please submit no later than May 20 to Gina**

Out on a Limb...

Angie Wilderman

Our Genealogy Library is growing! There are books on different states, counties & Revolutionary & Civil War soldiers. We have genealogical periodicals from various states also. Come check us out.

We have lineage charts and group sheets to help you get started tracing your family history, and we're here to give you a hand in exploring available records. Are you working on a lineage application? We'll help you work on that too. We have a round table discussion group, and we generally meet on the first Saturday from 1-3; check the calendar on our web page. Bring your questions, a pedigree chart, and share new ideas with us. We are also available by appointment.

Families we've worked on lately: Finny, Hill, Turner, Clarke, as well as how some of our roads were named.

1st QUARTER DONORS 2024

Donors/Donations, up to \$99

Lois R. Hunt, Bettie Brandt, Michael & Marjorie Elliott, Gerald & Sharon Condrey, Thomas & Deborah Herman, Larry Parker, Thomas & Janice Robertson, Thomas Page & Gail Wamsey, Owen & Betty Waltman, Jean B. Welch, Robert P. Cocco, Shirley A. Haas, Barbara T. Lester, Jan McGee, Kroger Company, Mary Andersen, Charles & Irene Andolino, John & Jane Harmon, Charlotte B. Wood, Richard Latture, Terry & Nancy Glass, Ann H. Rest, Christopher & Melea Lonon

Donors/Donations, \$100-\$499

Raymond James Charitable, Cheryl & Roger Engelking, Robert Hite, Rachel Holmes, Sandra V. Parker, Jim & Betty Schiele, William & Phillipa Smith, III, George & Judy Cranford, Robert & Jackie Talbot, Bernard & Charlene Anderson, Marvin Croker, Karen Luvaas & Peter Kucera, Catharine Moser, James E. Ballou, Randall Bass, Richard Cullor

Donors/Donations over \$500

Henry Coalter, John & Janet Cogbill, John & Rebecca Longnaker, Robert S. Ryland, Jennifer S. Winn, Robert M. Randolph Special, Army of Roanoke, Sica Family

A Crime on Robious Road

Buddy Cranford and Russ Lescault

Midlothian's Robious Road, a busy hub intersecting Huguenot Road and named for the man who owned the large Bel(l)grade plantation, now home to a large shopping center, businesses and residences that hide the stories of murders that occurred there, including that of the plantation owner, Anthony T. Robiou.

There was another murder, not as famous as that of Robiou, the trial for which gathered national attention. But it was an event every bit as tragic.

Suzanne Selph was born on 25 Feb 1889, in Chesterfield County. She first married Boyd Woodson Flippo (1889-1947). The couple had two sons, Walter Boyd Flippo who died at age 13 and Kenneth, who grew up to serve in the U.S. Navy in World War II, and two daughters, Dorothy and Lillian. After Boyd died, Suzanne married Robert H. Meador; she divorced him in 1966. At age 71, she married a third time to Warren Jentry Mart, whom she divorced in 1972. Suzanne converted her home's front room into a general store and sold gasoline from pumps located in the front. Patronage increased with the new nearby Salisbury subdivision and the Briarwood Swim and Raquet Club. Many of her customers were construction workers and suppliers delivering to the new subdivision.

Suzanne's gruesome demise came on 16 February 1973. Early in the morning, a person she apparently knew entered the store and struck Mrs. Mart with a soft drink bottle as pieces of glass were found in a pool of blood on the floor behind the counter. She was also stabbed in the stomach and shoulder. The knife was never found. A customer discovered Mrs. Mart around 11:00 a.m. She died on the way to Chippenham Hospital. The assailant apparently entered her home and tried to steal a television set but got scared away. Mrs. Mart never kept money on the premises for fear of a robbery. She was quite popular and known in the neighborhood and many of the civic associations offered a reward for the capture of her assailant.

Soon Chesterfield Police had a suspect in custody. Arrested was a 30-year Bon Air housewife, Mrs. Evelyn Bell. She was arrested by Chesterfield Police detectives L.M. Parrish and B.C. Furman. Suzanne and her first husband, Boyd Woodson Flippo, are buried in the Forest Lawn cemetery and Mausoleum in Henrico County, VA.

Enslaved Graveyard in Winterpock— Preservation Efforts and Search for Descendants

Elizabeth Logan Harris & Lilian Mullane

PART I

In Winterpock on a thickly wooded plot of land lies a burial ground where enslaved and formerly enslaved people were interred from the early 1850s to at least the 1930s. The land once belonged to James Henry Cox (1810-1877) of Clover Hill. While Cox family members were buried in a well-marked cemetery adjacent to their former home, some of the people they enslaved—and other African Americans enslaved in Winterpock—were laid to rest in unmarked graves in this burial ground. A few large rocks remain near the graves, suggesting that each burial site was once marked with natural stones. If names or dates were scratched on these stones or other markers, they are long gone.

The graves, organized in two lines, lie close to the boundary of land owned today by Vulcan Materials Corps. Since 2022, efforts to preserve this cemetery have been underway, led by the African American History Committee of the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia, Cox descendant Elizabeth Logan Harris, members of the descendant community, and local mining historian Ken Shiflett who first located the cemetery over a decade ago. The preservation plan includes a transfer of this cemetery plot from Vulcan to Tabernacle Baptist Church, which has historical ties to Winterpock's enslaved community. Tabernacle, currently under the direction of Pastor Justin House, will be the steward of the cemetery in perpetuity once the transfer is complete.

During a 2023 site visit, archaeologist Joanna Green with the VA Dept. of Historic Resources authenticated the burial ground and estimated as many as thirty graves there. The hope is that ground-penetrating imagery will be conducted to determine the exact number of burials.

So far, two burials have been identified with a high degree of certainty. Edward "Ned" Patterson (c.1830-1937) and his wife Martha Jane "Jennie" Haskins Patterson (1842-1938), both formerly enslaved, were laid to rest here in 1937 and 1938 respectively. The Patterson family appears on every Winterpock Federal Census from 1870 to 1930.

The Pattersons had sixteen children, seven of whom died before the age of three. Some of these infants may be interred with them as well as at least one grandchild who died in infancy. Given this history, we refer to this unmarked graveyard as the Patterson-Haskins Cemetery.

Patterson-Haskins Cemetery Location

Shiflett first identified the cemetery on the property purchased by James H. Cox in 1853 from neighbor John Hill. Consulting the posthumously-published memoir (*My Confederate Girlhood*, 1932) of Clover Hill resident Kate Cox (1840-1915), daughter of James H. Cox, Shiflett noted that Kate's description of the burial ground for the enslaved corresponded with the gravesites encountered in the woods.

Cox Family & Clover Hill Mining Company

Coal, discovered on the Cox farm "Clover Hill" in the 1830s, represented the primary source of income for the Cox family in the antebellum period. Most of the African Americans enslaved by the Cox family worked in mines operated by the Clover Hill Mining Company; others worked on the farm and in the Cox household. Many enslaved people who labored as miners at Winterpock were "hired out" by other enslavers who received payment for their enslaveds' work. Mining for the bituminous coal in the Virginia coalfield was dangerous work due to the high risk of explosion as well as the long-term health damage. It was common for enslavers to take out life insurance policies on the miners they enslaved. Working in the Cox pits alongside the enslaved were free African Americans as well as white colliers brought by the Cox family to Winterpock from British coal mining regions.

Patterson-Haskins Family History

Born enslaved about 1835 in Chesterfield County, **Edward "Ned" Patterson** died on the first of January 1937, according to his death certificate. His burial place is listed as "Winterpock." Ned's father, Daniel Patterson, Jr (c.1810-c.1870) was the son of Daniel Patterson, Sr. (c.1790 -1853). Ned's mother's first name was Rebecca (also written Rebekah). The 1900 Federal Census shows Rebecca Branch, age 90, a widow and mother of 14 children, living next door to the Pattersons in Winterpock.

Martha Jane "Jennie" Haskins was born about 1846. Her 1938 death certificate names Jennie's mother as Maria Haskins and gives her father as "not known." The informant was the Pattersons' daughter

Maria Patterson Hilton (1882-1956), buried at Tabernacle Baptist Church. Jennie's mother, listed as "Maria," was possibly Maria Murray/ Murry. Her father, unnamed on death certificate, may have been a member of the Robert Haskins family (neighbor and friend of the Leonards), or enslaved by them.

CHSV volunteers, led by Lilian Mullane, are tracing the Patterson-Haskins family history, their enslavement, and their connection to the African American community in and around Clover Hill-Winterpock. We hope their research will identify more people buried in the cemetery and link living descendants to this historic site. An in-depth look at the Patterson-Haskins history as well as information about their descendants will be featured in the next issue of the Messenger.

"Chalkley's Cem"

In 1924, Horace Chalkley bought Clover Hill from Cox descendants. The location of Jennie's burial given on her death certificate as "Chalkley's Cem" indicates burial on designated property belonging to the Chalkleys. There are only two known cemeteries at Clover Hill, the Cox family graveyard and the burial ground for the enslaved described by Kate Cox Logan. It seems clear, therefore, that Jenny and Ned would both be buried in the graveyard designated by the Cox family for the enslaved.

Graveyard Preservation

We welcome information that helps identify more people interred in the cemetery or sheds light on enslavement in Winterpock. Identifying Patterson-Haskins descendants is also an ongoing project, and we welcome your assistance. Please contact CHSV if you find within your own family's history something that can enrich this cemetery's history. Email Elizabeth Logan Harris at eloganharris@gmail.com--put "Winterpock" in the subject heading.

The preservation project aims to pay homage to the souls who were laid to rest here, people whose names may remain unknown, but whose contribution to the history and prosperity of Chesterfield County is fundamental.

Last Shot Fired of His War

Buddy Cranford

William Franklin Cheatham was born in Powhatan, VA on May 2, 1844, to Matthew and Octavia Graves Cheatham, natives of Chesterfield County, VA. William

Cheatham was a Confederate soldier and a longtime farmer in Chesterfield. He died at the age of 94 on February 2, 1939. (Snead Road is now found in Richmond, a short distance from Chippenham Parkway) Married to Elizabeth Anna (Lizzie) Kershaw, and later to Elizabeth Martin, he passed away on February 8, 1939, and is buried in Maury Cemetery in Richmond.

William served in the Staunton Hill Artillery in Captain Andrew B. Pace's Company. At age 17, in 1861, William and his father, Matthew, joined the Confederate Army together in Charlotte County, VA in the Charlotte Light Artillery unit. The Charlotte Light Artillery Battery Virginia was formed on 23 April 1861 and last fought on 20 Mar 1865 at Bentonville, NC. Both father and son served in the same company during the entire war and William was promoted to Corporal and placed in charge of a gun crew.

At the age of 18, in command of a gun crew at the Battle of Bentonville, NC, he ordered his men to load the cannon. Soon after, the order to cease fire was given. There was no way to empty the cannon of its ball as it was well into the gun. His company had been ordered to move and he could not move a loaded cannon. It was April 13, 1865. Having no way to clear the gun, he gave the order to fire. He was the last in this unit to fire a cannon in the war. General Lee had surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia and the Artillery unit travelled to Greensboro to surrender. Both William and his father were on the rolls as of October 31, 1864, and on April 29, 1865, both were paroled at Greensboro, NC. and soon returned home. Their war was over.

William became a lumberman and farmer in Chesterfield, raising five children.

In Maury Cemetery, interment records show that Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Anne Kershaw Cheatham, William's second wife, is buried in grave 191. This section of Division 63 of Maury cemetery holds 8 graves and has been maintained by the Elliott Greys Chapter (Richmond) of United Daughters of the Confederacy. Within its boundaries sits a large granite rock beside which stands a flagpole flying a Confederate battle flag. These markers honor William Franklin Cheatham, who has been credited with firing the last cannon at the battle of Bentonville, NC. (Marker shows Appomattox) There is only 1 tombstone within the plot, and it is for Mr. Cheatham. Standing at the flagpole and looking at a map of Division 63, his tombstone sits

on grave 194. It is not known who is buried in the remaining 6 graves. One may be his wife.

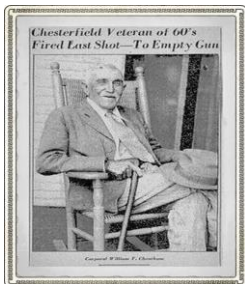


Photo credit: Richmond Times Dispatch, 1936

250th Anniversary of Patrick Henry's "Liberty or Death!" Speech Chesterfield County Represented at St. John's Church

As tensions grew between the colonies and Great Britain in the 1770s, Virginia held a series of meetings to organize its protests against the mother country. In March of 1775, the Second Virginia Convention was held at what was then called Henrico Parish Church, now Historic St. John's Church, in Richmond. Patrick Henry was among the 120 delegates to the convention and on March 23, 1775 he embodied the spirit of the Revolution with his famous words, "Give me liberty or give me death!"

The National Constitution Center, in an article from 2017 ranked Patrick Henry's speech as one of the ten greatest speeches in American history, along with Abraham Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address," Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream!" and JFK's first inaugural address. On March 23, 2025, Henry's speech will celebrate its 250th anniversary, and the St. John's Church Foundation, the nonprofit organization that operates the historic site where Henry delivered his speech, in partnership with the VA250 Commission, is planning a series of celebrations to commemorate the speech that will make Chesterfield County, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and our nation proud.

In thinking about the importance of Patrick Henry's speech and its impact on the American Revolution, it's important to consider the events that led to March 23, 1775. Following the Boston Tea Party of December 1773 which resulted in 342 chests of tea being thrown into the Boston Harbor, Great Britain passed the Coercive Acts, often referred to as the Intolerable Acts in the colonies. The laws aimed to punish Massachusetts colonists for their defiance in the Tea Party protest

and included The Boston Port Act, passed by Parliament on March 31, 1774.

In May 1774, after Parliament closed Boston Harbor, the Virginia House of Burgesses, the legislative body of the Colony of Virginia, adopted resolutions in support of the Boston colonists. Virginia's royal governor then retaliated against the burgesses by dissolving the assembly. The burgesses then reassembled on their own in a series of Virginia Conventions, with the first held in Williamsburg in August 1774.

Historic St. John's Church was chosen as site of the Second Virginia Convention because Richmond provided fifty miles of distance from Williamsburg and Virginia's royal governor, Lord Dunmore. It was also one of the few buildings large enough to accommodate the 120 delegates who attended the convention, and the rector of the church, Reverend Miles Selden, was sympathetic to the delegates' cause.

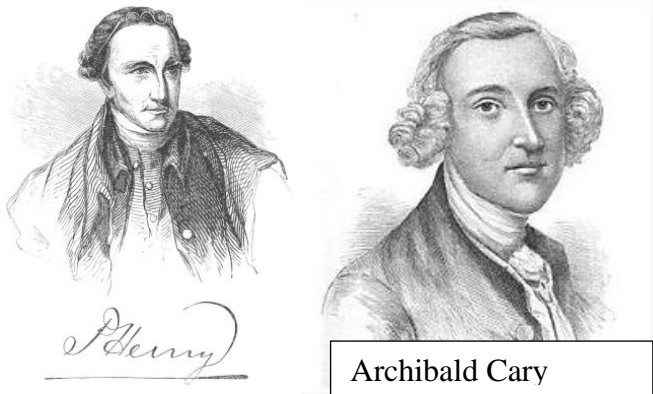
Attendance at the Second Virginia Convention was high due to the critical state of relations with the mother country. The delegates came and went over the course of the convention, which lasted from March 20-27, 1775.

Delegates to the convention included George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Nelson, Benjamin Harrison, Edmund Pendleton, Robert Carter Nicholas, Richard Bland, and of course a young country lawyer, Patrick Henry, who represented Hanover County. Peyton Randolph was named the President of the convention. Representing Chesterfield County were Archibald Cary, a twenty year member of the House of Burgesses and a member of the committee of correspondence, and Benjamin Watkins, a member of the House of Burgesses for four years, beginning in 1772.

On the fourth day of the convention, on March 23, Patrick Henry introduced three resolutions. The first stated "that a well regulated Militia composed of Gentlemen and Yeomen is the natural Strength and only Security of a free Government: that such a Militia in this Colony would forever render it unnecessary for the Mother Country to keep among us for the purpose of our Defense any standing Army of mercenary Forces, always subversive of the Quiet, and dangerous to the Liberties of the People; and would obviate the Pretext of taxing us for their Support." Henry's third resolution was the most daring. "Resolved therefore that this Colony be immediately put into a posture of

defence. That a Committee be appointed to prepare a plan for embodying, arming, and disciplining such a number of men as may be sufficient for that purpose.”

Patrick Henry’s third resolution touched off a debate concerning whether it would be seen as a “prophesy of war.” After arguments were made, both for and against Henry’s resolution,



Henry rose and delivered his “Give me liberty or give me death!” speech, outlining the interactions between the British ministry and the colonials. Henry began by urging the delegates to examine the past behavior of the ministry and not to cloud their judgment with false hope. He argued that the colonials had spent ten years petitioning and pleading with the ministry and Parliament to recognize their rights as Englishmen. Henry pleaded with the delegates to recognize that the presence of armies and navies was an act of hostility, not of reconciliation. He warned them that the time for action had arrived, that no matter how weak they perceived themselves to be, they would be even more vulnerable if disarmed and in the presence of the British army. Henry closed dramatically. “Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!” Henry’s speech was powerful and persuasive. A vote was taken, and Henry’s resolutions passed by a narrow margin. The convention journal does not record how each delegate voted, so we can only speculate how Chesterfield County’s delegates, Cary and Watkins, may have voted. We do know that at the Fifth Virginia Convention in May 1776, Cary served as the chairman of the committee that adopted the celebrated resolution of independence. During the Revolutionary War, Cary was placed in charge of

recruitment and supplies in central Virginia. He was also asked by Thomas Jefferson to loan the colony of Virginia funds to underwrite the cost of the Virginia militia, though he was never repaid. Cary’s nickname was “Old Iron.” He operated Chesterfield Forge, which fabricated iron until 1781 when it was burned by General Benedict Arnold.



SJCF actor Chris Dunn portrays Patrick Henry during a reenactment at St. John’s Church (summer 2023).

Since March 23, 1775, Chesterfield County has been connected to Patrick Henry’s “Give me liberty or give me death!” speech through Archibald Cary’s and Benjamin Watkins’s attendance as delegates at the Second Virginia Convention. As we approach the 250th anniversary of the speech, we look forward to celebrating with Chesterfield County the importance of the speech and the impact that it had on the American Revolution and beyond.

Stephen Wilson

Executive Director, St. John’s Church Foundation

Source: Archibald Cary

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archibald_Cary

Source Benjamin Watkins

<https://history.house.virginia.gov/members/3324>

The mission of the St. John’s Church Foundation, a 501©(3) non-profit organization, is to spark a global appreciation for understanding the role that Patrick Henry’s “Give me liberty or give me death!” speech had in setting American on its path to liberty for all, and to ignite the public’s commitment for preserving the historic site where it happened. The foundation is a proud partner of the Southampton County Historical Society and the VA250 Commission. It produces live theater historical reenactments of Patrick Henry’s speech throughout the year, featuring nine professional actors in 1700’s costumes. For information and ticketing, visit www.historicstjohnschurch.org.

Privates John and Anna Marie Lane – Revolutionary War Heros

Buddy Cranford

There were many Chesterfield soldiers who, along with other Virginians, played a pivotal role in the struggle for American independence, 1775–1783. Virginia troops fought from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River and many Virginians provided some form of military or public service. Some were heroes; (though they are not born but come to us at various stages of life.) others were patriots. Such is the story of two Chesterfield County residents.

John Lane was born circa 1723 in Manchester, Chesterfield County, VA. He became a patriot around age 43 when he joined the Continental Army, enlisting in 1776 under the command of General Putnam's Brigade. He was awarded a pension on Dec 10, 1819, of \$96 per month for his military service in the Continental Army. He survived the war and died at the age of 96 on 14 Jul 1823 in Chesterfield.

John Lane was in many battles of the Revolution, viz. at White Plains [October 28, 1776], at German Town [Germantown, October 4, 1777], at Prince Town [Princeton, January 3, 1777], at Trenton (December 26, 1776), at Savannah and in the Battles of White Plains. At Savannah he was severely wounded and taken prisoner. After being exchanged, he rejoined the Continental Army under Calvary Major Nelson and continued in service until the end of the war when he was honorably discharged at Hampton, VA by Major Nelson.

Anna (Ann) Marie Anderson was also a Continental soldier! Anna Marie Lane was the wife of John Lane. She may be the first documented female soldier from Virginia to fight with the Continental Army in the American Revolutionary War. She dressed as a man and accompanied her husband on the battlefield and was later awarded a pension for her courage in the Battle of Germantown. (Germantown, October 4, 1777). Washington's Army lost 700 men killed and wounded. Another 400 Americans were captured. The British suffered more than 500 casualties of their own. Despite the British victory, many Europeans, especially the French, were impressed by the continued

determination of the Continental Army of which she was a part.

Anna Lane did not become of interest to historians until the editor of Richmond Magazine discovered her pension records and wrote an article about her in the 1920s. In 1997, the Virginia Sons of the American Revolution honored Anna Marie Lane by sponsoring an historical marker in Richmond, VA near the Bell Tower in Capitol Square, erected by the Department of Historic Resources. She died on 18 June 1810 and her burial location is unknown. Her husband John is buried in Shockoe Cemetery in Richmond.

Both Anna and John also served in the Public Guard after the war. On 22 January 1801, in the wake of Gabriel's Insurrection, the General Assembly passed an act to establish a guard in the City of Richmond. The act decreed that the governor and Council enlist a company of sixty-eight men, including three commissioned officers, to function as a guard for the protection of public property in Richmond. Then-elderly soldiers Anna and John once again answered the call.

Springtime Battles in Historic Chesterfield

Bill Lipsett

So, what do you think about this time of the year... more precisely thinking about the historical aspect of living in this area, where the Union Army was tightening the noose on the Rebels, which would lead to the bloody final days of the Civil War? We are certainly blessed with many battle sites right here, and our very own Historical Society helps maintain and interpret what went on in the Spring of 1864. However, long before Gen. Butler's Union Army was bottled up in Bermuda Hundred in May of that year, The Revolutionary War was right at the County's doorstep almost 80 years before in April of 1791.

The British forces under Generals William Phillips and Benedict Arnold engaged the Virginia Militia, under the command of Generals John Muhlenberg and Baron von Steuben at Blanford Church in Petersburg. Being outnumbered by three to one, and after burning the bridges going over the Appomattox River, the Continental forces reformed near the Midlothian coal mines. Two days later, on April 26 Gen. Phillips attacked Chesterfield Courthouse, Brander's Bridge, Goodes Bridge, and Bevils Bridge; the barracks, jail,

and Courthouse were all destroyed along with 300 barrels of flour and several homes in the vicinity. On April 29, Marquis de Lafayette arrives in Richmond to help stem the advance of the British.

In mid-May, Lord Cornwallis arrives in Virginia and assumes command. He is joined by the bloody Col. Banestre Tarleton. May 23rd is described as Chesterfield's bloodiest day of the war with 60 casualties at Sudbury's Farm. Col. Tarleton again raids the County Courthouse and captures Militia troops during a rain-storm. Six are killed and 40 Virginians are taken as prisoners. This action marks the end of the Revolutionary War in the County.

Even with all these negative results, it is interesting that in only five months, General George Washington, along with French re-enforcements commanded by Cmt. de Rochambeau, the allied forces combined to encircle Lord Cornwallis, and surrendered the Crown's armies in the Moore House in Yorktown on October 19, 1781.

Now that I have gotten your interest in a few historical dates in this county, I wonder if you could do yourself a favor and go onto the County website (chesterfield.gov) and click on History. Chesterfield County will be celebrating its 275th anniversary this year. Ring the bell and celebrate with us beginning in February, special activities about our fascinating past. Connect with the fine people who helped put together this event and share in our celebration!

April 2024 New Members Report

Welcome to our new members for this quarter:

Cheryl and Roger Engelking, Robert Gregory Hite, Jessica O'Brien, Robert Rogers, Keith Saari, Micheal Smith, Patricia Sullivan, and Jennifer Winn

MAGNOLIA GRANGE PROGRAMS

APRIL-JUNE 2024

All programs begin at noon. Call 748-1498 for info.

April

Saturday, April 6 "The Revolutionary War Battle of Blandford"

Public support for the war, about to enter its' sixth year, was waning and militia troops were becoming

mutinous over pay and living conditions. Join us for a PowerPoint program by local historian H. Edward "Chip" Mann for an in-depth look into the April 25, 1781 battle that took place in Petersburg, Va., and parts of Chesterfield County. Learn about what led to the confrontation and what resulted from the battle. (next)

Saturday, April 20 "Mourning is Women's Work"

Queen Victoria was so devastated after the death of her husband Prince Albert, she mourned him for the rest of her life which was 40 years. Throughout history, women have been tasked to be principal mourners. During the Victorian Era, many mourning rituals were established that seem a bit strange to us today. For example, locks of hair would be collected from the deceased and made into hair jewelry which would be worn by loved ones. Join Kathy Maitland, local historian, for this program. She will share examples of and the meaning behind the rituals of this interesting aspect of history.

MAY

Saturday, May 4 19th Century Children's Games

Step back into the past for some outside fun by exploring 19th century games and activities. Test your luck and skill at Battledore and Shuttlecock, Hoop and Stick, Graces and Jacob's Ladder, for example. Children of all ages are welcome to participate.

Saturday, May 18 Historic Women of Central Virginia

In celebration of women, a power-point lecture will be presented featuring the captivating stories of historic women such as Jane Minor, Mary Marshall Tabb Bolling and Elizabeth Keckley. These intelligent and brave women were able to garner their freedom and break social norms in order to be successful in their endeavors at a time when women were often seen, but not heard.

JUNE

Saturday, June 1 Music on the Lawn – "Goats on a Leash" Concert

The Goats are back - do you enjoy listening to live music while relaxing in a lawn chair on a late spring afternoon? "Goats on a Leash" will be performing enjoyable American-Roots music in the backyard of Magnolia Grange. Bring your favorite lawn chair and your listening ears for an afternoon of musical fun.

Saturday, June 15 The History of the American Flag

Flag Day is celebrated on July 14, and yet how many Americans know the evolutionary story of the present-day representation of the flag? This power-point presentation will fill in some of the history and participants will be given the opportunity to design and create a flag of their own.

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY MUSEUM PROGRAMS, APRIL-JUNE 2024

Located at 6813 Mimms Loop. All programs are free. Reservations are required. Register at chesterfield.gov/parks. For details call the County Museum, 804-768-7311.

Saturday, April 27, 11 a.m.-noon. Courthouse Green Tour

During an outdoor walking tour of Chesterfield's Historic Courthouse Green, learn about the historic buildings and monuments as well as the 210-year-old Nunnally Oak Tree. After the tour, participants are welcome to further explore the history of Chesterfield County at the Museum and Old Jail.

Saturday, May 25, 11 a.m. -3 p.m. Chesterfield County's 275 th Celebration on the Historic Courthouse Green (10011 Iron Bridge Rd.)

In honor of the county's milestone anniversary, there will be a formal dedication ceremony and a variety of activities including music, living history, African American storytelling, crafts and children's activities. The County Museum will be open during this event. (Reservations not required for this event.)

Saturday, June 8, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Toys and Games of the Past

Both young and old are invited to step back in time and have fun discovering traditional children's playthings such as Jacob's ladder and quoits. Test your skill with the cup and ball and attempt to knock over all nine pins in a game of "skittles." No batteries!

PARKS & REC PROGRAMS, APRIL-JUNE 2024

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

Falling Creek Ironworks Tour

Falling Creek Ironworks Park, 6407 Route 1, N. Chesterfield

Wednesday, April 10, 10 a.m. – noon/Course 43741

Midlothian Mines Tour

Midlothian Mines Park, 13286 North Woolridge Road
Saturday, April 13, 10 am – noon/Course 43755

Midlothian Mines Geocaching

Midlothian Mines Park, 13286 North Woolridge Road
Saturday, April 13, 12 - 2 p.m. /Course 43757

Historic Architecture Tour

Chesterfield County Museum, 6813 Mimms Loop
Wednesday, April 24, 10 am – noon/Course 43790

Historic Point of Rocks Tour

R. Garland Dodd Park, 201 Enon Church Road
Thursday, May 9, 10 am – noon/Course 44517

Ware Bottom Battlefield Tour

Ware Bottom Battlefield Park, 1600 Old Bermuda Hundred Road

Thursday, May 30, 10 am – noon/Course 44562

Historic Court House Green Tour

Chesterfield County Museum, 6813 Mimms Loop
Thursday, June 6, 10 am – noon/Course 44516

Drewry's Bluff Tour

Drewry's Bluff, 7600 Fort Darling Road
Thursday, June 14, 10 am – noon/Course 44564

Industry along the Appomattox Tour

Radcliffe Conservation Area, 21300 Chesdin Road
Thursday, June 20, 10 am – noon/Course 44518

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

Chesterfield 275th Anniversary Celebration

May 14/Course 44556

Historic Architecture of Courthouse Green

May 28/Course 44519

80th Anniversary of Operation Overlord

June 4/Course 44520

Archaeology of Court House Green

June 18/Course 44557

Details: www.chesterfieldhistory.com

Eppington Spring Festival

Enjoy colonial activities, period music, storytelling, period vendors and crafters, historic trades, and living history, military demonstrations, musket, and artillery, carriage rides and more at this 1768 plantation built by Francis Eppes VI. Tour the house and learn its story. Parking and admission are free. Concessions and craft beer available.

Eppington Plantation, 14602 Eppes Falls Road
Saturday, May 4, 10 am – 5 pm FREE
Details: 751-4946 or visit www.eppington.org
Course 43898



Chesterfield County 275th Anniversary Celebration

Did you know that in 2024, Chesterfield County will reach a milestone, celebrating the 275th anniversary? The county was officially created on May 25, 1749, formed from the county of Henrico. This year, a special yearlong celebration is being planned to honor the county’s history, starting with celebrating the 1749 creation of the county and including living history programming, presentations, concerts, special events and much more. Planning for the anniversary started in 2023 when a special events committee was formed with county staff and community and regional partners. The committee has created a promotional marketing logo and will be continuously updating the newly created webpage with events as they are finalized.

This anniversary is a celebration of our history and citizens. To that end, our goal will be community involvement with engaging programming, celebrating the diversity of our population and cherishing our accomplishments over the past 275 years.

Dedication Ceremony

A formal dedication ceremony will be held on the steps of the 1917 Courthouse featuring period music, living history, period children’s activities, crafters, vendors, arts & crafts activities and food trucks.

Historic Courthouse Green, 10011 Iron Bridge Road

Saturday, May 25, 11 am – 3 pm FREE Details: 751-4946 or visit www.chesterfield.gov/Cfield275 Course 44553

Chesterfield County 275th Evening Celebration

The anniversary celebration continues into the evening with fireworks, patriotic music, carriage rides, children’s activities, bounce house and food trucks. Chesterfield County Fairgrounds, 10300 Courthouse Road , May 25, 6 – 9 pm FREE Details: 751-4946 or visit www.chesterfield.gov/Cfield275 Course 44554

Memorial Day Ceremony

The weekend anniversary celebration will conclude on Sunday with the annual Memorial Day program at the Chesterfield County Fairgrounds. This program will honor those military personnel who died in service our country, with presentation of wreaths, color guard, guest speaker, musical performances and vendors.

Chesterfield County Fairgrounds, 10300 Courthouse Road Sunday, May 26, 2 pm FREE

Details: 751-4946 or visit www.chesterfield.gov/Cfield275 Course 44555

Visit Chesterfield County’s new 275th Celebration webpage at www.chesterfield.gov/Cfield275 for up-to-date information on programming for this milestone year of commemorations.



Revolutionary War Reenactors



New addition to the county museum's Revolutionary War exhibit.

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In upcoming years, Chesterfield County will be commemorating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. This multi-year effort will highlight Chesterfield's participation in several actions, including the capture of the Virginia navy by Benedict Arnold.

Chesterfield Courthouse was the home of the Chesterfield Training Depot, which was a training and recruitment center for the Continental Army during the war, and one of the largest in Virginia. These events will be highlighted in future issues of the Messenger.

The Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia
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