

The Messenger

OF THE CHESTERFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

MISSION : RESEARCH AND CELEBRATE CHESTERFIELD COUNTY'S HISTORY

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Design Award for Work on Castlewood

The American Institute of Architects has given an Award of Merit in Historic Resources to Davis Buckley Architects & Planners for the design work on Castlewood. That is a cause for celebration and also a time to reflect on the extensive work needed to restore Castlewood. The following is a description of that work from Mr. Buckley.

One of Chesterfield County's finest Federal period homes, Castlewood was built between 1817 and 1819. The central two-story block and the southern wing were built on site, while the northern wing was likely constructed elsewhere and moved into place, influencing the unusual five-part composition of the structure, related to contemporary concerns with Palladian massing and Georgian symmetry. Functioning as a residence until the mid-twentieth century, when a bank conversion resulted in minor, sympathetic alterations. Now housing the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia, the nearly two-hundred year old building required an expansive exterior rehabilitation to ensure its survival for another generation. An important early example of Tidewater vernacular architecture, Castlewood received a federal Save Americas Treasures' grant to restore its exterior envelope. Most significantly, chronic paint failure exposed the rare, old-growth long leaf yellow pine siding, trim and windows to the elements. Photos of the building from the 1930's show the house nearly devoid of paint, but testing in 2010 found more than eight coats, suggesting a long-term adhesion problem. Spectrographic analysis revealed mold blooms and bonding failure between the second and third layers, where the binder switched from water to oil. More than simply presenting a continual maintenance issue, paint failure also meant the presence of loose lead-based paint chips in the air and soil around this public building. Working with the county's hazardous materials professionals, the architects decided to remove all the paint from the exterior of the building; a permanent solution to a persistent problem.

Paint removal, however necessary, can exert a toll on the surface of historic material. Taking the protection of the exterior wood as the primary concern, in the design phase the architects worked with manufacturers, testing a variety of paint removal methods, eventually concluding that chemical strippers posed the least danger. The architects also called for multiple mock-ups at the beginning of the paint removal process, working with the abatement subcontractor to develop processes to remove paint from the siding, but also from the historic windows, and other exterior wood elements. Once stripped of paint, carpenters performed wood epoxy and Dutchman repairs, prior to repainting. During this process, termite damage to heavy timber

framing and rotted sills were discovered, requiring substantial repair and replacement. In addition to wood repair, experienced masons cleaned and repointed the high brick foundation and brick swale gutters, and repointed and rebuilt chimneys at Castlewood. The architects directed the gentlest means of mortar removal possible, a decision validated when initial work found the historic brick particularly



soft, with many cracked units. A fading, early twentieth century oxide stain on the brick made mortar and brick color matching a particular challenge. The wood front porch, dating from the mid-twentieth century, was extensively repaired, with new wood columns, curving metal handrails and a guardrail detail inspired by Tidewater houses of the Federal period. The architect detailed new dentil cornices and second floor decorative balustrades, replicated from the earliest photos of the building. The delicacy of the cornice moldings directed their production in sturdy mahogany, while carpenters built other replacement elements from heart pine. The windows required particular care and detailing. In the later, southern portions of the house, the removal and restoration of the familiar single-hung wood sash posed few unknowns, but the delicacy of their construction demanded care. The older windows in the northern portion of the building, however, required collaboration between the architect and contractor to ensure the stability of the wall and the integrity of the interior woodwork. Held open by props attached to the window frames, rather than internal weights, the interior trim of these windows also served as the window stop, and sash removal needed to avoid impacting the elaborate vernacular interior woodwork. Basement casement windows, adapted from old single-hung sash, were restored to communicate their particular history. New shutters, replicated from two historic wood shutters found on the building, were installed to improve occupants' ability to shade and ventilate their spaces. Paint analysis indicated a cream and green color scheme that was replicated with exactitude. At the rear of the house, a carefully detailed awning roof eliminated ongoing water infiltration in the basement. Added in the location of a former first floor door, the new roof minimized impact on historic siding, but required reinforcement of the wall while protecting the large historic framing timbers. Davis Buckley Architects has enjoyed working with Chesterfield County and the Chesterfield Historical Society and is very pleased that two of our projects with Chesterfield, the Chesterfield Historic Court House and Castlewood, have won American Institute Design Awards, in 2013 and 2014.

Letter from the President

My name is Joan Jackson, your new President of Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia. Born and raised in Richmond, Virginia, I moved to Pennsylvania after marriage in 1970. Upon retiring as a Chemist for Wyeth in Collegeville, PA, my husband and I decided to move to Virginia in 2004 to be near my widowed father and a climate more suitable for his golf game. As parents of three sons and grandparents to five grandchildren, we spend our spare time visiting them in Pennsylvania and New York and travelling. My maternal roots go back to the 1850s in Chesterfield County. As a youngster, I spent many hours listening to my grandmother and other relatives relate information about long gone family members. So, living in Chesterfield gives me access to my ancestor's history, especially the courthouse. I am a member of the Genealogy and the Cemetery Committees, both of which have become real passions. I enjoy working with all of my committee members learning more and more about Chesterfield and its history. Volunteerism has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. Currently, I serve on the Landscape Committee in my community and as a Flower Show Judge for The American Hemerocallis Society.

It is my plan to work hard for CHSV continuing the work of those who filled the position before me. Much remains to be done and many new challenges exist. But with hard work and cooperation we can do it together.

News From the Executive Director

The Lifelong Learning Institute of Chesterfield will be offering three more CHSV classes this fall.

1. "Chesterfield County Coal Mines," November 13th, Robert "Peppy" Jones
2. "Chesterfield County: A Historical Perspective," Nov 20th Bryan Truzzie
3. "African-American Schools During the Segregated Era," December 3rd, by: Rev. Herbert Townes, Bernard Anderson, & Audrey Ross.

Members of the African-American History Committee and I attended Lynne Bland's "Lunch-n-Learn" at Meadowbrook High School August 26th. The AAHC gave two presentations on "African-American Schools in Chesterfield County During the Segregated Era" to Chesterfield County middle and high school teachers. Our presentations were very well received with much interest expressed by all teachers. Our intention is to create a working partnership with the schools and become more of a presence in the classroom. CHSV has created a partnership with GRIVA, Genealogy Research Institute of Virginia. Betty Kot & Pat Dickens, members of GRIVA and the Society, will be assisting our Genealogy Committee, to create additional programs on genealogy for the community to be held at Historic Trinity Church. I hope you all have seen the new "Finding Your Family Story through Genealogy: A Chesterfield Perspective" exhibit at the County Museum. Please check out the new weekly meeting: "Genealogy Roundtable: a Joint Venture with GRIVA" beginning September 20th at 1:00 at Historic Trinity Church. I have been in communication with Virginia Voice, a nonprofit audio reading and information broadcasting service dedicated to those unable to read for themselves because of vision impairment or other disability. Virginia Voice would like CHSV to provide their listeners with Chesterfield County history through interviews on their program "Discovering Virginia" hosted by Lou Dean. Peppy Jones will be interviewed about the Midlothian mines and railroads by Mr. Dean as the first of many interviews to be done on Chesterfield County history. The Center for Communications at Varina High School will be coming to the Chesterfield Historic Complex to do a short travel segment on CHSV historic sites as part of their "Acquired Taste Segment." Chesterfield County Public Library has included our "Firefighting in Chesterfield County, The Original 13 Departments" exhibit in its Digital Collection. Check it out on the library's website, it's amazing!

Congratulations to George Fickett, who won the D. H. Hill Award from the North Carolina Civil War Roundtable. This award signifies George's many worthy contributions to Civil War scholarship and historic preservation as signified by his 25 year effort to save battlefields and historic properties in Chesterfield.

There are many events and projects going on here at CHSV, come and join the excitement! Your Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia is doing great things.

From the editor: Submit your story by email to Lipowicz1@verizon.net. Send it by Dec. 15th to get it into the January issue.

Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia

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Moonshining in Chesterfield County

George Cranford

Chesterfield County has not always been dotted with the variety of quiet subdivisions and strip malls that you see jutting out over the county landscape. It was once a forested, wooded land and full of farms that stretched farther than the eye could see. These farms hid some of the best moonshine stills and kept the Chesterfield Police busy looking for them. No one can estimate how many gallons of illegal alcohol had left Chesterfield County unnoticed over the years but a lot never made it out of the county. The good work of our county police - those men and women in green, often spoiled someone's day.

November 2014 will denote the Chesterfield Police Department celebration of 100 years of proud service to the people of Chesterfield County. They have an impressive history and part of that 100 years was expended chasing bootleggers. The department was formed in 1914 with Alonzo Thomas Traylor being appointed its first police chief. In 1919 the 18th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution was passed that established Prohibition. The manufacture, sale, and transportation of intoxicating liquors was outlawed. It was a time characterized by speakeasies, glamour, and gangsters and a period of time in which even the average citizen broke the law. Bootlegging was part of all that and it thrived until Prohibition was repealed.

It is no secret that moonshine had been made in this country long before Chesterfield became a county. It has often been a family operation with skills passed from one generation to the next. And so it may have been in our county. We know that wine was made, used and probably sold on the Francis Eppes farm in the early 1700s. So why not the ardent spirits as well? Chesterfield county citizens were certainly adept in their ways to stay one step ahead of the police or sheriff who would eventually find the stills and make an arrest. Captured bootleg was stored in the old historic jail and was later taken to the fairgrounds, to be poured out and burned. The fairgrounds at the time was located just behind the historic 1892 Jail. This area now is a large parking lot. After thieves broke through the wall of the old jail, a court order finally stopped the storage of moonshine. After that, it was taken to the fairgrounds for disposal.



In just one year (1928), an estimated 260 gallons of "white lightning" was produced and distributed within a 30 mile radius of Richmond, VA. In 1933 the 21st Amendment repealed prohibition. The pendulum had moved to the other side and booze became legal again as long as the taxes were paid. The National Recovery Act helped make moonshine an important cash crop in Chesterfield County. In June 1933 President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA), opening the way for cooperation between the federal government and businesses in order to stimulate the economy during the Great Depression. Antitrust laws were suspended, and companies in every industry agreed to a code of competition that governed prices, wages, and business practices. It also added an

extra federal tax to alcoholic beverages, making home-brewed whiskey a bargain for the locals.

Though Franklin County may have the distinction of being named the "Moonshine Capital of Virginia," it is not the only county that can claim a title. Chesterfield has a long list of legitimate historical firsts throughout its 265 year old history. And with those firsts, our very own Chesterfield County Police can claim a history of "chasing the elusive ardent spirits." Moonshiners hid out on the Chesterfield farms and produced the much sought after spirits. By the early 1930s, the Chesterfield County Police Department was issued new green uniforms and they used their colorful uniforms to clandestinely approach the backwoods stills. Their clothing blended in with the forests and that was an effective camouflage. It set a tradition that you see every day. Today, our police department still wears a traditional green uniform.

County police officers were involved in raids on moonshine operations as late as 1968. A raid on a still on a creek near Robious Road in 1953 netted a capture of nine 180 gallon barrels with five full of mash. On a hill above the creek, the officers found 20 cases of half-gallon fruit jars. They left everything intact and waited until the next day and made the arrest of two men. In 1954, near Midlothian, a large still was found and destroyed. It had over forty barrels each holding 180 gallons of mash. Part of the property seized was a mule and wagon which fetched a good price of \$86 for the mule. That almost paid for the food the mule consumed while waiting for court.

Moonshining still exists in the United States though it has been quiet in Chesterfield County. The woods are slowly disappearing, giving way to more homes and shopping centers. Not many places exist where moonshiners can hide. Technology is another tool used by the police to capture moonshiners. Better trained officers, the latest technology, good intelligence and input from the citizens have all made a difference. So let the moonshiners beware where they practice their illicit trade. If you happen to meet a Chesterfield Police officer, congratulate him or her on the department's upcoming 100th anniversary. The police have a series of exhibits on display at the main police station, the their training facility and one at their support facility on Hicks Road. Our police are proud of their heritage. Help them celebrate by visiting their exhibits and thanking them for a job well done over their 100 years of existence. Photo courtesy of Chesterfield Police Department.

Out On A Limb...

Angie Wilderman

The Genealogy Committee had a very successful workshop in September on "Organizing Your Family Papers" with twenty-five people in attendance. It is easy to accumulate documentation on all your families but can you find the documentation in your files when you need it? Bette Kot provided information on a great system for filing your papers. Did you watch WDYTIA this past summer? The show makes genealogy research look really easy. However, remember, the producers of that show have had researchers working for at least a year in advance to find records all around the country and the world for the star of each episode. Genealogy Roadshow is returning to PBS and Dr. Henry Louis Gates will be returning this fall also to help solve family history questions. The Committee is pleased to be opening the library at Historic Trinity Church on Saturday afternoons at 1pm. Bring in a "how-to" question or a question about breaking through your brick wall. This is a great opportunity to check out the reference library too and talk "all-things" genealogy.

Women of Chesterfield County - part 7 Women Could Not Own Land But Were Indentured For It

Patricia Watts

In 1609 Sir Thomas Gates, a patentee accompanied by his wife and two daughters (the wife is unnamed to history), sailed upon the 'Sea Venture' for the new land bringing with them provisions and more settlers. They shipwrecked on the Bermudas where Mrs. Gates died. We know the daughters survived because we see records of them marrying other settlers in the Country of the Apomatica. Gates took over as governor upon his arrival at Jamestown on 23rd May 1609.

The first European settlements in Virginia were an experiment by the Virginia Company of London, it was not "...an experiment in gold digging, in planting a missionary station, in locating a trading post, in placing a military outpost, nor in exploration for a northwest passage, but to establish a new colony and to make money."^[1] The first warning to the planters settling in Virginia was "... not to settle upon the low land upon the coast; for, as they were told, there an enemy might 'easily pull them out.' They were further advised to erect, at the mouth of a river on which higher up they would settle, a look-out station that would lodge several men equipped with a small boat with which they speedily could give the colony warning of the approach of enemy ships. They were cautioned also not to allow natives to live between their settlement and the coast lest they might 'guide and assist any nation that shall come to invade you."^[2] (There was great fear that the Spanish would repeat the annihilation of the colony as was done in the 1500s in Florida.) As we know, Jamestown and then Chesterfield County was a refuge for those escaping the feudal system in England, those escaping tyranny and trying to better themselves. The approximate amount of first settlers to arrive was placed at 7,100 of which only 1/7 or 1,232 survived to the Census of 1624-25.^[3]

Sir Thomas Dale, Governor of the Colony, brought 300 men, women and children to the Citie of Henricus leaving the unhealthy swampy environment of Jamestown to what appeared to be a safer, better location more defensible against the Spaniards and that which was more able to sustain the settlers. Here Native Americans, known as the Arrohatock, lived in six settlements as their predecessors, now called Paleo-Indians, lived. Many had never seen a "white" man or woman before nor had some of the whites ever seen an Indian (so erroneously called) before. After the devastation at Jamestown, Dale and the settlers established the Citie of Henricus (so named after Henry, Prince of Wales "...who became known as the patron or protector of Virginia."^[4]). With King James' blessing, Dale also established a system of patents for acreage ownership – the first known, as in England land was based on family ownership passed only from generation to generation through the male heirs. With this new colony system, after the first 7 years of arriving, a colonist was then allowed to petition for a patent, where the individual, if they had paid their own passage, was entitled to petition of 100 acres of land expecting that they live and farm there for three years hence. But some of those unlucky patentees lost their rights to the land because of failure to farm the new acreage – sometimes due to failing health, sicknesses, and resistance from unfriendly natives or other non-foreseeable circumstances.^[5] If an individual did not pay for their own passage and that of his wife and children but signed on as indentured servants and agreed to the terms of the payor, they

owned the land after the period of indenture – normally 7 years. The servitude was of the whole family performed by both men, women and children, but men were granted the land and the women were dependent or thought of in legal records as part of their husband's property.

A Collection of Unique Accounts From The War Between the States (Part 2)

Veterans Data Base, Sesquicentennial Series

D. Michael Thomas

Chesterfield's Generals- It is well known that four generals hailed from Chesterfield. Each had a superb record of service, possessed unquestioned courage and was wounded in battle at least once. Where were they at the war's end? Major General Henry Heth and Brigadier-Generals Young Moody and David Weiseger were with General Robert E. Lee at Appomattox and paroled following the army's surrender. Major-General Edward "Alleghany" Johnson, captured at Nashville in December 1864, was a Union POW held first at Louisville and then Boston. Later he was transferred to Old Capitol Prison in Washington, D.C. and closely held as the U.S. government unsuccessfully tried to implicate him and other Confederates in Lincoln's assassination. He was finally released under parole 22 June, 1865.

Slowed Down But Not Stopped- This was an apt description of many Confederates from Chesterfield. Their bodies ravaged by disease or recovering from crippling wounds received in combat, most soldiers were discharged from the army when it became apparent they could not handle field duty again in the foreseeable future, if ever. Some, though, remained in uniform providing needed services and supporting their new nation in other valuable capacities. They adjusted to roles as government clerks, assistants to enrolling officers, medical orderlies and other "light duty" positions.

Prominent among the various examples found within the records is the story of Private Samuel Nelson of Company B, 4th Virginia Cavalry. Little is known of Nelson from his enlistment in 1861 until he was detailed to Major-General J.E.B. Stuart in early 1863. He must have been known for courage, stamina and coolness under fire for his command to send him to Stuart. The records do not state what his role under Stuart called for, but he certainly must have satisfied that great general for he was still with him eight months later.

On October 11, 1863 Private Nelson received a facial wound causing him to lose an eye resulting in an extended recuperation period. The following February, he returned to duty as a "Nurse" at Jackson Hospital in Richmond, a well run facility capable of handling 2,500 patients and boasting a 40 acre vegetable garden. This was a position far different than what he was accustomed to but the ex-cavalryman adjusted quickly to his new responsibilities. His personal attributes, dedication and abilities must have been evident to his superiors early on for soon his role changed. In just a short while he was shown as a Sergeant serving as "Superintendent of Police" at the hospital, a position he was still holding when Richmond fell in April 1865.

Enlistment Oaths- Each of Chesterfield's soldiers signed an enlistment oath similar to today's oath of enlistment for military service. The enlistment document contained a declaration of the Examining Officer that the recruit was free of any disqualifying physical defects and mental infirmities. Additionally, the Enrolling Officer had to sign a statement that began with, "I certify, On Honor, that I have minutely inspected the recruit previously to his enlistment and that he was completely sober when he enlisted...."

Old Soldiers and Their Final Days- In 1884, Confederate veterans formed the Confederate Soldier's Home in Richmond as a refuge for their needy compatriots. Over the next several decades, several thousand men who had "worn the gray" resided

^[1] **Adventures of Purse and Person** – Virginia 1607-1624-5, Meyer & Dorman, Order of First Families in Virginia, 1987, p. 580.

^[2] **William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine**, Bryan & Swem, ed.; William & Mary College; Second series, Vol. 18, No. 4; October 1938; p. 456.

^[3] **Adventures of Purse and Person** – Virginia 1607-1624-5, Meyer & Dorman, Order of First Families in Virginia, 1987, p. xxiii.

^[4] **William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine**, Bryan & Swem, ed.; William & Mary College; Second series, Vol. 18, No. 4; October 1938; p. 460.

^[5] **Adventures of Purse and Person** – Virginia 1607-1624-5, Meyer & Dorman, Order of First Families in Virginia, 1987, p. xxiii.

there in fraternal bond with former comrades in arms. No less than 114 men from Chesterfield County lived out their final days in this manner. Five lived until the 1930's with the last known Chesterfield veteran not "crossing the river" until 1939. [See *The Messenger* #87 October 2008 for a complete listing of these men.]

The Last Recruits- In 1864 The Confederacy sought to recover the loss of so many men to death and disability by issuing its third and final Conscription Act. In it the age limits were widened to between 17 and 50. Those most affected were the older men who previously had been above the age of conscription. Additionally, the crisis of the time generated a large degree of patriotism from another source: many of those who had served previously and been discharged because of severe wounds or illness returned to the army. These two groups provided great service and stability to their commands over the last few months of the war. The following accounts, one from each group, fairly represent these men and their service.

Private Jefferson E. Condrey has no Confederate records of any sort testifying to his military service. Census records show that he was a Chesterfield farmer born about 1821. However, records as a Union prisoner of war clearly attest to his service in Company I, 14th Virginia Infantry. As best as can be determined, Condrey enlisted after October 1864 and probably was captured at Five Forks on 1 April 1865. The Union records, lacking date and place of capture, do show admission to the hospital at David's Island POW Camp in New York harbor on 1 July, 1865 suffering from chronic diarrhea. He died there a week later. Condrey, by the way, is the last known Chesterfieldian casualty of the war.

Private William A. Graves- Graves originally enlisted in Company C, 9th Virginia Infantry, as a private in September 1861. Wounded in a camp accident, he was discharged in January 1862 under a Surgeon's Certificate of Disability which stated he was incapable of performing duties of a soldier because of "a gunshot wound to left arm in which the bone is shattered badly." No later Confederate records for his service exist. However, it appears Graves returned to his old unit in late 1864 or early 1865 because Union records are found showing he was captured in action at Five Forks on 1 April 1865. From there he was sent to Point Lookout, Maryland and held as a POW until released on 12 June 1865.

There is no telling just how many men were added to the army in the last six months of the war. Had Privates Condrey and Graves not been captured, their late war service could not have been confirmed. A review of the Veterans Data Base suggests that a substantial number of men in Chesterfield answered the call to uniform in the final months rendering faithful and creditable service.

Primary Source: Veterans Data Base maintained by volunteers of the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia
DMT/ January 2013

New Virginia Law Will Help Preserve Graveyards

Peter Lipowicz

This new law was enacted earlier this year. It amends a previous law by adding many requirements for notification of by those who intend to move a cemetery, including notification of the local historical society.

"§ 57-38.1. Proceedings by landowner for removal of remains from abandoned family graveyard.

The owner of any land on which is located an abandoned family graveyard, and there has been no reservation of rights in such graveyard, or when the beneficiaries of any reservations of rights desire to waive such rights, and in which no body has been interred for twenty-five years may file a bill in equity in the circuit court of the county or in the circuit or corporation court wherein such land is located for the purpose of having the

remains interred in such graveyard removed to some more suitable repository.

To such bill all persons in interest, known or unknown, other than the plaintiffs shall be duly made defendants. If any of such parties be unknown,

the plaintiffs shall undertake active, good faith efforts to locate interested parties including, at a minimum, publication of at least one notice in a local newspaper of general circulation, notice posted at the site of the graveyard, and notice to and consultation with any historic preservation or other such commission, as well as area historical and genealogical societies. In addition, the plaintiff is encouraged to post such notice on the Internet, including appropriate websites and through the use of social media, and to consult with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Upon the case being properly matured for hearing, and proof being made of the propriety of the removal, the court may order the removal made and the remains properly deposited in another place, at the expense of the petitioner. Such removal and reinterment shall be done with due care and decency. In determining the question of removal the court shall consider the historical significance of such graveyard and shall consider as well the wishes of the parties concerned so far as they are brought to its knowledge, including the desire of any beneficiaries of any reservation of rights to waive such reservation of rights in favor of removal, and so considering shall exercise a sound discretion in granting or refusing the relief prayed for."

Donations

Peter Lipowicz and Diane Dallmeyer

Our donors have given over \$18,000 this year through July. More recent donations will be in the next issue. Thank you for your generosity.

Donations of \$500 or more Blue & Gray Education Society, Crystal & Joe Monroe, Lee Sherrill, Beverley Berry, Walter & Marian Beam, Verizon Foundation, Friends of the Library, Kendra Warren, John & Janet Cogbill, Mary Cogbill, Betty Mann, Charles Foster, Altria Matching Gifts

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Houses and Churches from the Recent Winterpock Tour

These descriptions are reproduced from the tour brochure - ed.

Winterpock History

The exact origin of the name Winterpock is not known, but it may have derived from "Win-to-poa-ke," the Native American name for a nearby creek that flowed to the Appomattox River. A 1703 land grant consisting of 4,000 acres was described as "below the mouth of the Wintopock creek." Later the name Winterpock became associated with the mining community that sprang up almost overnight – a "boom town" – when a slave on the Clover Hill Plantation, a parcel of the 1703 land grant, found coal in 1837. That chance discovery led to the identification of significant coal seams of immense value, and an industry, although short lived, was born. Before then, minor seams were known and coal was sold for local use as early as 1822. As coal production expanded, so did the methods of transporting it to market. At first, coal was hauled overland in carts to the Appomattox where it was ferried by barges. By the mid 1840's, the Clover Hill Railroad (later, Bright Hope Railroad) was built to transport coal to Chester Station; from there, coal was transported by another line to Manchester where it was loaded onto steamships bound for distant cities. Around 1884, a railroad was built to take coal to Bermuda Hundred. The Winterpock (Clover Hill) coal pits – Brighthope, Raccoon, Cox, Hill, Vaden, and others – were for several decades the richest in the South; they and the Midlothian mines were the main coal suppliers to the Tredegar Iron Works for the manufacture of Confederate ordnance during the Civil War. At its height in the 1850's and 1860's, the population of Winterpock, soared to about a thousand. The community included several general stores, a railroad, bars, hotel, housing for miners' families, and a post office. The difficulties of excavation and numerous deaths from gas explosions led to the mines' abandonment. The last mine in operation, owned by the Rudd brothers, closed in the 1920's. When coal mining ended, the vast majority of the homes and people vanished. Today the area is primarily rural, dotted with old and contemporary homes, churches, and a country store. Containing much timberland and bounded on two sides by the Appomattox, Winterpock retains a pleasant country atmosphere difficult to find in other areas of rapidly developing Chesterfield County.



Adventure Hill
Chesterfield County Historic Landmark

Although according to Chesterfield County tax records the Huguenot style cottage dates to 1847, the original T-plan structure that included two front rooms and one rear room was

probably built in the 1830's. Nothing is known about the original owners. The house is one of the earliest houses in Chesterfield built as an original T plan with three end chimneys. Court records indicate that in 1887 Adventure Hill was owned by William Pinchbeck, one of the few Winterpock landowners who did not sell coal rights to mining companies. During the 1930's with a team of mules and a scraper, beneath the house was dug a basement to be used as a kitchen, utility room, bath, and family room. Through an opening in a wall of the sitting room, the original construction can be seen. The lovingly restored wide-planked pine floors in some of the rooms are original as are the fireplaces in the T- section of the house. Surrounding the home are gardens filled with boxwoods, azaleas, and dogwoods. Also located on the 63 acres are a log house converted into a guesthouse, stables with a tack room with fireplace, barns, sheds, lean-tos, smoke houses, and well houses. Adventure Hill functioned as a horseback riding school in the 1950's and 60's. Adventure Hill is the home of Pamela Howell.



Bethia United Methodist Church

Bethia United Methodist Church traces its roots to Bethia Methodist Protestant Church, organized in 1886. In 1892 for \$75 the church purchased one-half acre of land on the south west corner of the intersection of Beach and Winterpock Roads. Upon that corner stood the Bethia Baptist Church building that had been used as a school, a sheep barn, and a shelter for travelers and their horses. Over the next fifty years the building was renovated several times. This original church building is now known as the Reformed Baptist Church of Richmond. In 1979 the congregation of Bethia United Methodist Church began meeting in the current brick church on the north west corner of the intersection of Beach and Winterpock Roads. New stained-glass windows were added in the narthex in 2003. In 2010 the church completed an addition that includes a brand new social hall, gymnasium, state of the art kitchen, and two floors of classrooms and meeting space. From the original church building were removed the cornerstone now displayed in the narthex and the memorial windows now hanging in the sanctuary.



Buzzard's Roost

Buzzard's Roost has been in the same family for seven generations. According to family stories, the construction of this

house was begun in 1870 by a Mr. Smith for his bride-to-be, Betty; she jilted him and married Judge Cox instead. George and Martha Rudd Bartlam, the great grandparents of the present owner, bought the house from Mr. Smith and finished building it. George had immigrated from England to work at the Winterpock coal mines. He was appointed as a justice of the Chesterfield Court in 1869. The original section of the house is a typical post-bellum "I" plan with 2 full stories and exterior end chimneys. The chimneys and mantles are original. The shallow fireboxes, now boarded-up were designed to burn coal which was readily available. Around 1943, electricity was added. Before then, the present owner studied at the dining table by the light of the kerosene lamp, both of which are still in the dining room. The original detached kitchen was replaced by an attached "L" containing a kitchen, utility room, and bedroom in the 1950's. Buzzard's Roost, so named by the present owner for the creatures that frequently circle overhead, is situated on 45 acres. The estimated age of the massive red oak in the front yard is at least 150. Buzzard's Roost is the home of JA and Marian Winckler.



Centenary United Methodist Church

The earliest congregation of this church met in what became known as Walkes' Chapel which was built at Physic Hill on ½ acre of land deeded in 1833 from Dr. John R. and Martha Walke to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1873 the congregation moved from Physic Hill to the rapidly growing coal mining community of Winterpock where they built a small frame church on a parcel of land donated by Judge James H. Cox near the site of the present church. In 1880 they built somewhat larger church. In 1916 construction began on the present building that was not completed until 1918 since work was suspended during World War I. The church was either named Clover Hill Chapel or was referred to by that name. It is not known when the name Centenary United Methodist Church came into use. The church, the fourth structure built by the congregation, has been basically unaltered since it was built. Furniture within the sanctuary was made by inmates of the State Penitentiary. The altar rail is the same one used in the old church. Behind the church is a well-maintained cemetery. Some of the tombstones date back to 1880.

Clover Hill Plantation *Chesterfield County Historic Landmark*

The 75 acres of Clover Hill Plantation were originally part of a 4,000 acre land grant obtained by Martha Stratton and 8 others in 1703. Martha willed her tract to her grandson Henry Cox who lived at Sappony, a plantation five miles west of Clover Hill. Clover Hill Plantation was originally known as Winterpock. Henry gave the property to his youngest son James Henry Cox in 1834. After James moved to Winterpock, his wife Martha Reid renamed the farm Clover Hill after a field of clover surrounding the house. According to legend, coal was discovered on the property by a slave in 1837. This chance discovery led to the Winterpock coal mining "boom-town," more about which can be found in

"Winterpock History" on page 6. Kate Cox Logan, daughter of James, wrote about Gen. Robert E. Lee's visit at Clover Hill on April 2, 1865 as he retreated with troops to Appomattox. The L-plan house was built in three sections. At least one if not both of the



story sections with dormer were erected about the time of James' 1834 move. These sections had two rooms on each of the lower and upper levels and were linked by a breezeway that, in the late 1800's, was enclosed with a second floor addition. About the time of the Civil War, the largest section, 2 stories, was added. Members of the Cox family owned the property until the 1920's. Throughout the years the house has been renovated multiple times. The fireplaces and most of the wood floors are original. On the property are the Cox family's cemetery, a mid 1800's smokehouse, and other dependencies. The grounds include gardens featuring boxwoods, magnolias, and a pond. Clover Hill is the home of Lloyd and Susan Poe.



Giff's Store

In 1929 with blocks believed to have been made by Willie's brother-in-law, a cinder-block craftsman, Willie Giff, the grandfather of the current owner, built the original cinder block section of Giff's Store that is located on the very edge of Beaver Bridge Road beside Winterpock Creek at the Coalboro Road intersection. The Winterpock "boom years" were history; the coal mines were closed, and gone were the train tracks that carried coal through the Beaver Bridge and Coalboro intersection. Winterpock was settling into quiet, country life. On Fridays Willie drove to Richmond to purchase goods from his supplier W.A. Page and Co. With his wife Lillie, and later his daughter Estelle Giff Smith, Willie Giff operated this general merchandise store. Later gasoline pumps were added. Gasoline was pumped by hand into a calibrated cylinder and then fed by gravity into the customer's tank. In the late 1930's and early 1940's added to the rear of the store were two sections that Charles used for his general auto and tractor repair business. After the Giff family ceased operations, the store was rented several times. One of the renters put up the "Winterpock Grocery" signs. On the building, painted Coke signs are still visible. The last business using this location closed in the 1990's. Giff's Store is owned by Charles Smith.

The Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia
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Chesterfield, VA 23832

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Current Occupant or:

CHSV Events Calendar

Current Exhibit (County Museum) "Finding your Family Story through Genealogy:

A Chesterfield Perspective" - \$2 Suggested Donation

Current Exhibit (1892 Old Jail) thru mid-October, "Firefighting in Chesterfield County, The Original 13 Departments," Tours begin at the *County Museum* - \$1 Suggested Donation

NEW Exhibit Opens (1892 Old Jail) on November 8th,
"Centennial of the Chesterfield County Police Department"

OCTOBER 2014 EVENTS

Saturday, 4th, 11am-4pm, Eppington Heritage Day (*Eppington Plantation*), Free

Monday, 6th, noon-6pm, Annual Golf Classic fundraiser (*Highlands Country Club*), \$85/player

Saturday, 11th, 10am-noon, Civil War 150th: Historic Point of Rocks Tour (*Starts at R. Garland Dodd Park*), \$8, Register online

Saturday, 18th, 11am-3pm, Mid-Lothian Mines Day (*Mid-Lothian Mines Park*), Free

Friday, 24th, 7-10pm, Haunted Courthouse Green tours on the hour (*Historic Trinity Church*) \$5/Adult, \$2/Child (8+), Register online

NOVEMBER 2014 EVENTS

Saturday, 1st, 10am-2pm, Civil War 150th: 1864 Bermuda Hundred Campaign Van Tour (*Starts at Henricus Historical Park*) \$15,
Register online www.chesterfieldhistory.com

Saturday 1st 7-9pm, Paranormal Investigation EVP Workshop (*Magnolia Grange*), \$10, Register online www.chesterfieldhistory.com

Tuesday, 11th, 2pm, Annual Veterans Day Ceremony (*1917 Courthouse Green*), Free

DECEMBER 2014 EVENTS

Saturday, 6th, 1-4pm, Holiday Open House: "Christmas at Downton Abbey" (*Magnolia Grange*), Free

Saturday, 6th, 8-10pm, Paranormal Investigation (*Historic Trinity Church*), \$20/person,
Register online www.chesterfieldhistory.com

Wednesday, 10th, 1pm, Holiday Tea: "Christmas at Downton Abbey" (*Magnolia Grange*),
\$25/person, Reservations required: (804)796-1479

Wednesday, 17th, 1pm, Holiday Tea: "Christmas at Downton Abbey" (*Magnolia Grange*),
\$25/person, Reservations required: (804)796-1479