

# The Messenger

OF THE CHESTERFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

Number 106

July 2013

## IN THIS ISSUE

President's Letter	2
Proposed Bylaws	3-4
Election Slate	4
Unique Accounts of the Civil War	5
Castlewood Ghost	5-6
African-American Oral Histories	6
Arnolda Homeplace	7
Chesterfield Prehistory	7
Newspaper Stories	7
Events	8

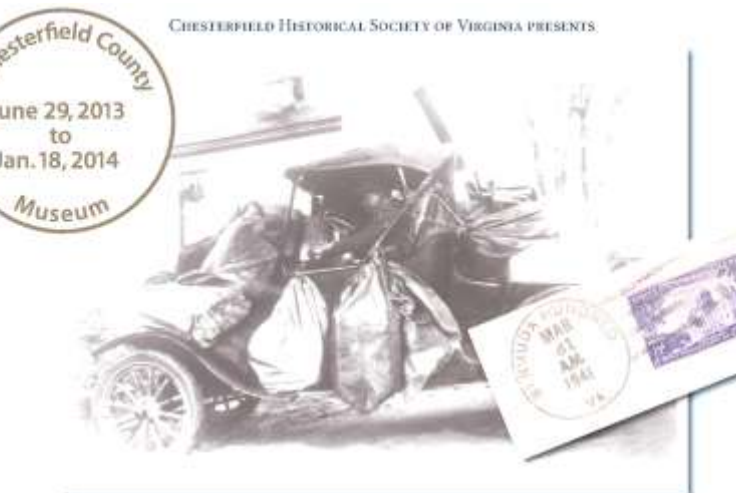
## July Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup> 2 pm

### Beach Community Grange 11401 Bundle Rd

Please join us for our quarterly meeting. There will be elections of Officers and Directors, and new Bylaws will be voted on, too. The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry was called "The Farmer's Best Friend" back at the turn of the twentieth Century. City dwellers had mail delivered to their homes by the Post Office. Farmers had to go into town to get mail but had to pay the same postage as those in the cities. The National Grange was at the forefront of starting Rural Free Delivery. Our speaker will be Bruce

Moseley, who will tell us about rural Chesterfield and will bring some small tools for a time of "show and tell." Beach Grange can be reached from the Courthouse area. Turn South on Beach Road and keep going past the main entrance to Pocahontas State Park. When you reach the newly restored Beach Station on the right, turn left on Bundle Road. The Grange is just past a grove of trees on the left. If you come to Woodpecker Road you have just passed it. To learn more about Rural Free Delivery and old post offices in Chesterfield, be sure to visit the Chesterfield Post Office Exhibit at the Chesterfield County Museum.



## Post Offices of Chesterfield County: Connecting the Community Since 1794

*From Amphitill to Zour,* discover the dozens of local post offices that served Chesterfield County. Step back into a time when the post office was the heart of the community.

See a display of postal artifacts, photographs, maps and postmarks from Chesterfield County's forgotten community post offices.



## Mission Statement

*The Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia serves as the center for Chesterfield County history. Its purposes are to collect, preserve, interpret and promote the county's unique past for the education of present and future generations*

## From the President -

It is fitting that Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia has moved to Historic Trinity Church for the next eighteen to twenty-four months while restoration at Castlewood takes place. Castlewood and Historic Trinity Church are linked by history. Historic Trinity came into existence as Ware Bottom Anglican Church before the American Revolution. The Ware Bottom site is just east of the intersection of I95 and Route 10. After the Revolution, Ware Bottom Church reopened as a Methodist Church. In 1855 the congregation made the newly built Central Church at the Courthouse its home. At that time Castlewood was purchased by the Methodist Church and became the residence of the travelling minister who served on a circuit of several Methodist Churches including Trinity. Castlewood continued as the circuit's parsonage between 1873 when Central Church was closed and the congregation moved to Chester, until 1889 when the Trinity Church we are using was opened. Castlewood was then sold and has since been a private home and more recently a bank until it became the property of Chesterfield County, as did Historic Trinity. Trinity United Methodist Church moved east on Route 10 and is still near the Courthouse complex.

Chesterfield County staff has made it possible for CHSV to move into this lovely historic building. It is insufficient just to say "thank you" to the County. What County staff has done is nothing short of miraculous. Come by and see your temporary home. To get to Historic Trinity turn from Route 10 onto Krause Road, as you did to come to Castlewood, but make the first left and keep to the left again. You will see the back of the building and the parking lot directly in front of you. The CHSV parking lot is behind the building. There is a path to the west of the church which leads to the front entrance. If you cannot walk to the front, there is a doorbell which will let us know you are at the back. Give someone time to come to the door. This rear entrance is for absolute necessity only. Please come to the front to enter if you can. There is no parking available at the front of the building and the parking lot to the west is private property and therefore unavailable to us.

I am pleased to be able to serve the end of my two-year term as President of CHSV at the offices and library in Historic Trinity. Much has happened over these two years. If I start naming occurrences and the wonderful people who made all these things happen, I know I will forget something or someone. My thanks go to all volunteers, staff, friends, and to all of you. Please join us for the annual meeting at Beach Grange on July 28, where your new Board will take charge. Further information on this very important July membership meeting will be found elsewhere in this issue of *The Messenger*.

Thank you again.

Tra Wagenknecht

### Bibliography:

Myers, Ann Frith. Trinity United Methodist Church: 1889-1976. [The Church, ca. 1976].  
Phillips, Marcia. "History Uncovered: Ware Bottom Church" in The Messenger of the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia, No.7, April, 1985.

**From the Messenger editor** – please e-mail by September 10 any submissions you would like to see in *The Messenger* to [lipowicz1@verizon.net](mailto:lipowicz1@verizon.net). Your stories, research, and photos are all welcome. If your submission is handwritten or typed, please provide to Diane Dallmeyer.

## Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia

Historic Castlewood  
10201 Iron Bridge Road, P.O. Box 40,  
Chesterfield, VA 23832  
[www.chesterfieldhistory.com](http://www.chesterfieldhistory.com)  
[admin@chesterfieldhistory.com](mailto:admin@chesterfieldhistory.com)



### Officers

President – Therese Wagenknecht  
1st Vice-President – Jim Evans  
Recording Secretary – Diane Dallmeyer  
Treasurer – Dr. Peter Lipowicz

### Directors

George Cranford W. Guy Smith Michelle  
Collins-Robinson Scott Williams Angie  
Wilderman Jean Welch Don Gardner  
Louise King

**Past President** – Liess van der Linden-Brusse

### Committee Chairs

Cemetery – Rachel Lipowicz 804-739-7225  
Finance – Dr. Peter Lipowicz  
Library – Liess van der Linden-Brusse  
Membership – Diane Dallmeyer  
Military History – Scott Williams  
Genealogy – Angie Wilderman  
Governance – Pattie Watts  
Events - Liess van der Linden-Brusse  
Collections- George Cranford  
African-American – Cornelia Owens Goode  
Archaeology – Bryan Truzzie  
Museum – Sarah Gurnick  
Gift Shop – Tamara Evans

### Castlewood Office & Library

Diane Dallmeyer – Administrator  
Hours: 10-4 Mon-Fri  
(804)796-7121

### Magnolia Grange & Gift Shop

Tamara Evans – Curator  
Hours: 10-4 Tue-Fri & 10-2 Sat  
(804)796-1479

### The Museum

Pat Roble - Curator  
Hours: 10-4 Tue-Fri & 10-2 Sat  
(804)768-7311

### Historic Sites Specialist:

Bryan Truzzie  
(804)751-4946

### Messenger Editor

Peter Lipowicz

## Bylaws Review for July 28 Vote

The bylaws have been revised and will be voted on at the July quarterly meeting. They are presented here for your review.

### BYLAWS OF THE CHESTERFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

#### ARTICLE I: NAME

Section 1: The name of the organization shall be the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia (hereinafter referred to as the CHSV).

#### ARTICLE II: MISSION

Section 1a: The mission of the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia is to research and celebrate Chesterfield County's history.

Section 1b: The CHSV accomplishes the mission by collecting, preserving, interpreting and promoting the county's past for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations.

#### ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Any person who tenders the necessary dues shall become a member.

Section 2: Membership categories shall include:

- a. Student
- b. Senior
- c. Household
- d. Individual
- e. Senior couple
- f. Individual life
- g. Benefactor
- h. Corporate

Section 3: Annual membership dues are effective 1 January to 31 December. Individual life memberships shall be effective upon receipt of payment.

Section 4: The Board of Directors (hereinafter referred to as the Board) shall inform membership of any changes to the dues structure at the July Membership Meeting (hereinafter referred to as the Annual Meeting).

#### ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

Section 1: Board Meetings:

a: Board meetings shall occur every other month or at the call of the President.

b: Seven members constitute a quorum.

c: Board meetings shall be open to the membership.

Section 2: Membership Meetings:

a: Membership Meetings shall be held on the fourth Sunday in January and July, unless otherwise authorized by the Board.

b: Notice of Membership Meetings shall be published in the Quarterly Newsletter.

Section 3: Rules of Order: Board and Membership Meetings shall be held according to Robert's Rules of Order.

#### ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS - NOMINATIONS AND DUTIES

Section 1: The Board shall have the responsibility for the business and affairs of the CHSV.

Section 2: The Board shall consist of the Directors-at-Large and the Officers.

Section 3: All Board Members must be a member of the CHSV.

Section 4: Nominations

a: Nominations from the Governance Committee and from the membership shall be presented to the Board at the Board Meeting prior to the Annual Meeting.

b: All nominations require the prior consent of the person being nominated.

c: The Board members of the CHSV shall be elected by the general membership at the Annual Meeting of the Society.

d: Should a vacancy occur on the Board prior to the completion of a Board Member's term, the Board may appoint a replacement subject to confirmation at the next Membership Meeting.

e: Any Board Member who fills a vacancy may take a consecutive term in his/her own right.

f: If a Board Member fails to attend three consecutive Board Meetings without just cause, he/she may be subject to removal at the next Board meeting.

#### ARTICLE VI: DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Section 1: There shall be at least six and not more than ten, Directors-at-Large, one of whom shall be the immediate Past President.

Section 2: One-third of the Directors-at-Large, excluding the immediate Past President, shall be elected at each Annual Meeting and shall serve for a three-year term.

Section 3: A Director-at-Large cannot serve consecutive terms.

Section 4: Terms of the Directors-at-Large shall be effective upon election.

#### ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS

Section 1: The Officers of the CHSV shall be the following: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary.

Section 2: President: The President shall have the following duties:

- a: Preside at all meetings of the CHSV and of the Board
- b: Be an ex-officio member of all committees
- c: Appoint chairpersons of all standing and special committees
- d: May appoint each Board Member to serve as a liaison with one or more standing or special interest committees
- e: May appoint a Parliamentarian whose duty it is to attend all meetings of the CHSV and the Board to ensure orderly meetings
- f: Sign all legal documents

Section 3: Vice-President: The Vice-President shall have the following duties:

- a: Act for the President when required
- b: Perform other duties as assigned by the President

Section 4: Treasurer: The Treasurer shall have the following duties:

- a: Oversee the financial process of the CHSV
- b: Monitor and ensure the proper handling and recording of all funds received and disbursed
- c: Prepare the interim and annual financial reports
- d: File all federal and state tax forms in a timely manner
- e: Facilitate audits by internal committees or third parties
- f: Resolve questions or problems within the accounting function of the CHSV

Section 5: Recording Secretary: The Recording Secretary shall have the following duties:

- a: Keep a record of the meetings of the CHSV and the Board, and of attendance at meetings
- b: Send a record of all meetings to the Board members at least two weeks prior to the next Board Meeting
- c: Perform other duties as assigned by the President

Section 6: Officers shall be elected for a term of two years.

Section 7: Terms of Officers are effective upon election.

Section 8: Only the Treasurer and Recording Secretary may be elected for consecutive terms.

Section 9: Two signatories are required on cheques issued by the CHSV. Signatories shall be the President of the CHSV, and/or any member in good standing as appointed by the Board or any Director-at-Large or Officer of the CHSV (except the Treasurer).

#### ARTICLE VIII: COMMITTEES

Section 1: There shall be the following 'standing committees':

- a: Finance: Responsible for assisting the Treasurer with his/her duties, as well as planning and submitting the annual budget to Board Members one week prior to the November meeting
- b: Governance: Responsible for identifying and nominating potential candidates for the Board, evaluating and updating the by-laws as needed, and considering ways to evaluate and enhance Board and staff performance
- c: Membership: Responsible for maintaining, monitoring, and increasing CHSV memberships

Section 2: There shall be 'special interests committees' which may include but are not limited to the following:

- a: African-American History: Responsible for encouraging the research and appreciation of all aspects of African-American history in Chesterfield County
- b: Archeology: Responsible for locating, excavating, and interpreting prehistoric and historic sites within Chesterfield County
- c: Cemetery: Responsible for locating, identifying, and documenting cemeteries in Chesterfield County

d: Collections: Responsible for accessioning, preserving, and displaying artifacts and other items relevant to the history of Chesterfield County  
 e: Fundraising: Responsible for planning, coordinating, and implementing all fundraising activities in support of the CHSV  
 f: Genealogy: Responsible for fostering interest in genealogical research through workshops and projects  
 g: Library: Responsible for accessioning and preserving books, pamphlets, periodicals, photographs, and other materials that are used for the historical research of Chesterfield County  
 h: Merchandise: Responsible for marketing and selling merchandise of the CHSV to the public at programs, events, and historic sites  
 i: Museum: Responsible for planning and oversight of exhibits in the Museum as well as the museum itself  
 j: Military History: Responsible for researching military history within Chesterfield County  
 k: Programs and Events: Responsible for maintaining annual programs of the CHSV as well as coordinating new events that are of historical interest to the community  
 l: Publications: Responsible for issuing the Quarterly Newsletter and other publications of the CHSV

#### ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

Section 1: The bylaws may be amended at any Membership Meeting by two-thirds vote of those present and voting, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been distributed two weeks prior to the vote.  
 Section 2: Amendments shall be effective upon adjournment of the meeting at which they were adopted.

### Election Slate

This slate of candidates is presented by the Governance Committee for election at the July quarterly meeting. The bios of new prospective board members are provided for your review.

#### Officers

President - Patricia Watts, Vice President - Patricia Genco  
 Recording Secretary - Diane Dallmeyer,  
 Treasurer - Peter Lipowicz

#### Directors

Bernard Anderson, Annette Schanz, Charles Dane, Joan Jackson

#### **Patricia E. Genco**

I had a diverse career, first working for Hertz Corporation as an Executive Secretary to the New Car Purchasing Manager of Fleet Leasing on Madison Ave. in NYC. Then, I was an Office Manager for a Plumbing and Heating Company in NY handling payroll, contracts, accounts receivable and payable. Next, I worked for a Real Estate Management Firm as a Building Manager calculating and writing leases, account receivable and payable, repairs and painting of apartment, and when necessary legal work. I calculated MBRs and fuel pass-along for rent controlled apartments along with managing the stabilized apartments. During my career, my husband and I raised two children and helped with my grandchildren. I retired in 2003 and shortly thereafter moved to Virginia where I became a volunteer for the Chesterfield Historical Society helping out where needed on a variety of tasks, I worked two years on Deck Your Halls Christmas Sale making crafts and arrangements to raise money for the Society. I also worked as a volunteer on CHSV's Heirloom Seed Exchange. In addition, I've been active in my neighborhood as Co-Chair of the Highland's Nifty Fifties Garden Club where we annually assisted in the Christmas decorating for Magnolia Grange, volunteered on the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Lucy Corr, Golf Tournament and Game Night Club.

#### **Bernard R. Anderson**

Bernard was born in Chesterfield County and attended the public schools. He graduated from Carver High School. He is a Viet Nam era veteran of the U. S. Army who served in the Republic of South Korea with the Fourth Missile Command. Bernard is a graduate of Virginia State University, Virginia Commonwealth University and George Washington University. He is a retired

Federal Employee after 35 years service with the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) where he was a Senior Management and Information Systems Analyst. Bernard has been a member of the CHSVA for 5 years. He is especially interested in the history of African-American life in Chesterfield County. He is married to Charlene Malone Anderson, also a native of Chesterfield County and a CHSV member.

#### **Annette Schanz**

A native of Telford, Pennsylvania, Annette and her family moved to Chesterfield 18 years ago. She holds a degree in Computer Science and has worked for three Fortune 500 Hundred companies in her field as well as in management. Genealogy is Annette's favorite hobby and she has helped many friends and family fill holes in their family trees. She has also transcribed historical records to enable online searches for other enthusiasts. In Chesterfield, Annette has served as a Service Unit Director for Girl Scouts of America, a Board member and Vice President for Midlothian Youth Soccer League and served two terms as the Matoaca representative on the Chesterfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, PRAC and representative on the Sports Tourism Advisory Committee.

#### **Charles E. Dane**

Charles E. Dane is currently the Deputy Director of General Services for Chesterfield County. His role includes oversight and management of the County facilities Capital Improvement Fund Program funds as they relate to historic properties, libraries, and general county buildings. He has been involved in facilities management for most of his career in local government which has included positions in the City of Hopewell, the City of Petersburg, and now Chesterfield County. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from Liberty University. Mr. Dane is very interested in the history of, as well as the preservation of, historic facilities both public and private. He lives in a 1933 built Sears home called "The Maplewood" in the Crescent Hills Area of Hopewell. He was heavily involved in establishing a recurring "Historic Properties Fund" in the Chesterfield County Capital Improvement Budget over the past several years. While in Hopewell he was responsible for the renovation of the Municipal Building Lobby to include the commissioning of an artist (Mr. Jay Bohanon) to paint a WPA era historic timeline mural of the City of Hopewell's history. He and his wife Janet desire to one day acquire an old farmhouse with a few acres of land down on the middle or upper peninsulas of Virginia and renovate the facility as a weekend/vacation getaway.

#### **Joan Jackson**

My husband and I retired to Chesterfield from Pennsylvania in September 2004. I worked for Wyeth Pharmaceuticals for thirty-three years as a Research Chemist. My last area of concentration was Infant Nutrition where I headed an International Study on human breast milk collected from women in nine countries including the United States. An observation of my research was a variant protein of alpha lactalbumin found predominately in Asian Women. This observation led to the publication of five papers. My community involvement includes or included many volunteer situations, such as my church, Massey Cancer Center, Chesterfield Historical Society as well as my neighborhood. I am a certified flower show judge and instructor for the American Hemerocallis Society and chaired the 2000 American Hemerocallis Society National Meeting held in Philadelphia, which was attended by over 600 registrants. I've served on numerous committees in PA such as The Strategic Planning Committee for Great Valley School District and The Environmental Commission for East Whiteland Township. In addition, I've held leadership positions in The Delaware Valley Watergarden Society, Delaware Valley Daylily Society, the Presbyterian Church as well as professional committees. I am a member of the Chesterfield Historical Society where I serve on the Genealogy and Cemetery Committees doing research. My hobbies include gardening, golf, travel, history and volunteering.

## **A Collection of Unique Accounts From The War Between the States, (Part 1)**

Veterans Data Base, Sesquicentennial Series  
D. Michael Thomas

In my research on Chesterfield's Confederate soldiers I saw the military service records of nearly 2,000 men from the county who served in the War Between The States. Some were sparse while others were full. The contents were mostly short, dry, emotionless descriptive statements of fact pertaining to a man's status at bi-monthly musters, his promotions, hospital reports and prisoner of war records. The varied experiences of these men and their individual stories have been largely overlooked since the war ended in 1865. Some of them, however, are so notable by their uniqueness that I set them aside. This submission is a portion of that collection along with certain related observations. The contents were chosen to provide the widest range possible in presenting the vast array of challenges these men encountered and to provide glimpses of army life not often addressed.

**Friendly Fire-** The first Chesterfieldian to die in the war was Pvt. Warren S. Furcron. A recruit so new that he had not yet received a uniform, he died in a friendly fire incident the night of 12 June 1861 almost six weeks before the war's first battle. At least four other Chesterfield men died in the course of the war in similar incidents.

**Timex Men-** The famous advertising slogan "Timex takes a licking and keeps on ticking" might well apply to the men of Chesterfield. Numerous men, in post war accounts or pension applications, claimed to have been wounded as many as eight times over the course of the war. While their service records do not support most of these claims, they cannot be dismissed as exaggerations or falsehoods. Only those instances requiring hospitalization were recorded by the Confederate army. A soldier hit by shrapnel splinters, grazed by a bullet or bruised by a spent bullet was considered a "walking wounded", treated and returned to his command. For one man, there can be no dispute that he was wounded multiple times. Sergeant Edward F. Patram was hospitalized four different times for battlefield wounds, more than any other soldier of the county. He was hit during the battles of Malvern Hill (July 1862), Gettysburg (July 1863), Drewry's Bluff (May 1864) and Five Forks (April 1865).

**Timing Is Everything-** The worst timing for enlistment was that of Private John S. Lear who enlisted in the Richmond Howitzers 8 May 1864. Just two days later he was captured at Spotsylvania and held as a POW at Fort Delaware 4 June 1865. He certainly never received a paycheck and likely was awaiting a uniform when he was captured.

**Discipline Matters-** The Confederate soldier is seen by historians as being resentful of camp discipline and generally lax in such matters. On the march or in combat, however, he was all business carrying out his duties and fulfilling his responsibilities. Mahone's Brigade, with five companies of Chesterfieldians, probably was the most disciplined of all similar commands within the Army of Northern Virginia. For example, unlike most units, nearly every man in Mahone's Brigade had a serviceable bayonet because he fined those without one. The most common infraction in the army was of men leaving camp without authorization. Most such occurrences were for one or two weeks and usually resolved with a fine or extra duty. If a man stayed longer he was liable to be court-martialed and punished more severely. As one would expect, most of these AWOL cases involved privates. Occasionally, one finds corporals or sergeants leaving camp without authorization and, upon return, reduced to the rank of private. The most severe case of punishment for a seemingly mild infraction of this nature involved Sergeant John A. Wood. Wood was a superb soldier but was reduced to private because he overstayed an authorized furlough by one day in May

1863. He died, as a private, in August 1864 from wounds received during the Bermuda Hundred Campaign.

**Where Are They?-** A major task of any command is keeping track of its men. The goal is have them accounted for at all times. Overall, the Confederate army did a fine job in meeting this goal. However, there are a number of instances in which a man was erroneously reported as "absent with authorization" or even "deserter." These usually involved soldiers hospitalized for wounds or disease, then furloughed home for extended periods by the hospital for long term recuperation. Communication of the facts all too often just didn't reach the field command maintaining the muster reports.

In the case of Private James W. Summers the muster report erred greatly. It stated that he deserted 8 November 1863 and was subsequently dropped from the rolls the following August when nothing else from or about him was received. Union POW records present a different story, a tragic one. They show he was captured that date near Culpepper and taken to Old Capitol Prison in Washington, D. C. In that stage of the war, Old Capitol was more of an intermediate point for prisoners bound for Point Lookout or Fort Delaware. Summers, a 20 year old married native and resident of Chester with a fine record since enlisting in May 1861 never left there. His extended stay at Old Capitol raises the possibility he likely was physically unable to travel further. Perhaps this was because of wounds or injuries received when captured, but the incomplete Union records do not say. What they do add is that Summers was hospitalized 6 January 1864 with small pox and died nine days later. His name was never cleared in Confederate service records and his wife, family and friends probably never learned of his death or the circumstances.

**Outside influences-** Not all the men Chesterfield provided to the Confederate army were born in the county. At least a dozen of those who enlisted in 1861 were born in England, France, Ireland or Northern Ireland. One, Private Edward Moore served a year before he was discharged in the spring of 1862. Moore, a quarryman born in Kilkenny, Ireland, was 50 years old at time of discharge. Another foreign born soldier from Chesterfield was Private Charles H. Middleton who hailed from Yorkshire England. Born in 1832 he came to the county with his parents a few years later and died in action at Belmont in late 1862.

At the end of hostilities, Confederate soldiers still in the field received paroles allowing them to return home unmolested. Nearly a dozen men received permission from the Union army to travel to places other than their homes in Chesterfield. These destinations include Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Ohio, New York and Missouri. Presumably each had family there but none in Virginia.

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

### **A Castlewood Ghost**

Patricia Watts

It was a Saturday morning at Castlewood in 2012 and I was in the kitchen preparing to teach a class in conjunction with the heirloom seed exchange. Since it was too early for the students to arrive and I was alone, I locked the door behind me - the ever safety conscious person. Since our parking lot borders Iron Bridge Road and it was apparent to anyone who passed our building that my car was the only one present at Castlewood. I was afraid of who might arrive from outside but I was not afraid of anything inside. As I walked out of the kitchen heading for the ballroom, out of the corner of my eye I detected movement in the office. Since I knew I was alone, I did a quick double take. To say the least, I was a bit apprehensive. My mother had several encounters with voices and apparitions but I had decided long ago that I did not believe in ghosts and that I wanted nothing to do with them. When my father was shot down flying over Germany during the war, my mother said a voice came to her to let her know there was a problem but that he would be OK.



Mom received a telegram about a week later informing her that he had been shot down. When Dad was released from a prisoner-of-war camp almost a year later he came home in terrible health but back to the family that loved him. I was born a little over a year after his release. Mom was able to endure the uncertainty about Dad's health or life because of that voice. Mom had other incidents that I a child thought very uncanny. We had returned home to relax after one of my cousin's wedding. We were relaxing watching TV for the evening and an loud knock came from the side window under which my brother and I sat. We immediately jumped to look out the window and Mom said no one was there – it was a bad sign. Indeed there was no one there. Actually the window was too high off the ground for anyone's to reach and knock on it. A few hours later we received news my cousin and his new bride had left for their honeymoon trip to the beach and a cement truck crested a hill and hit them head on. His Bride was spared, by Butch was killed instantly. I didn't want to be involved in anything like this. That was my legacy but I rejected it.

But here I was at Castlewood alone when I saw the movement in the office a ghost was the last thought in my mind. But there she was – only her head. There was no body. She was a gossamer apparition as if her face was superimposed onto a thin piece of chiffon. As quickly as I saw her, she was gone. I never met her but knew her face very well – as her portrait hangs at Castlewood. As I prepared for class, I stopped in the library to again look at the ghost's image and her hair style was similar to the portrait but a bit longer.

I always thought if I saw a ghost I would be fearful but I knew that she was not there to hurt me so I had no fear. She was just there looking over the legacy of what she had started.

The next Saturday when I was again preparing for another class I talked to her but she never came back to see me. So for the rest of my life I will not fear ghosts but will still be concerned with dangers from outside.

### An Opportunity to Recapture the Oral Histories of Our African-American Elders

Audrey M. Ross

These biographies are from the 2012 oral history exhibit at our museum entitled *FourScore and More II: Capturing Memories of aged 80 and Older African-Americans in Chesterfield County and their Struggles and Successes Experienced*. The exhibit was prepared by the African-American History Committee's (AAHC) for Black History Month.

#### Alma Edna Brown Rowlett



**Born November 25, 1927**

Alma was the youngest child of 5 born to Major Spotswood Brown, Sr. and Agnes Tyler Brown, in New Kent, Virginia. At age 8 months the family moved from New Kent to Chesterfield County. Alma had two brothers. Her paternal grandparents were Noah D. Brown and Mamie Brown. She remembers playing in the yard of their family home as a child. Her father would play ball with them. Her home was on a hill near the James River and Fort Darling. Although she was black she lived in a community that was segregated – whites only. She recalls watching the boats go up the James River to Richmond and back towards

Hopewell, VA. During her early childhood, chores at home included washing dishes and dusting the furniture.

Her older brother drove the family car and took them to school. Alma attended **Hickory Hill Elementary and High Schools** n

in Chesterfield County. Her teachers were Pauline Graham, for Foreign Languages (Latin and French), English, and piano lessons, Mrs. Williams for Library Studies, and Mrs. Barnes for Home Economics. For Alma, school was boring until she got to college.

Alma attended Sunday school and church at **First Baptist Church, Centralia, VA**. She became a teacher and fulfilled her desire. Alma's mother died when she was 15 years old but had prepared her to attend college. Alma attended Virginia State College and received a BS degree in Education. She attended Virginia Commonwealth University and Virginia State University for a Masters in Library Science. After college she had a job as a teacher of Civics and then a librarian at Carver High School. Alma taught and was librarian for 15 years at Watkins Elementary. In 1990, she retired from Chesterfield County School System after 43 years of service. Alma married Stewart Rowlett and they had one son, Rodney Rowlett, deceased. From Rodney's union with Margie Thompson, Alma's grandson, Jerrod Rowlett, was born.

#### Ever Mae Gooden Cox

**Born April 21, 1931**

Ever Mae was born to John A. Gooden and Addie Mae Haskins in Winterpock, Chesterfield County, VA. She has one sister, Lottie E. Briggs Neal, and one brother, George S. Briggs. Ever Mae's father worked at the saw mill and her mother was a homemaker. Her maternal grandparents were Richard Haskins and Ann B. Haskins. Her paternal grandmother, Mrs. Callie Gooden, was a homemaker.



Ever Mae lived in a large 9 room, two-story white house on a hill. As a child she played games like Annie over, hop scotch, dodge ball, and baseball. She remembers life as a teenager was a happy one. When teenagers went somewhere they had to be back on time. They had a 10 o'clock curfew.

Ever Mae attended **Winterpock Elementary School**. She walked to school. Her school was a 2-room building, seats with backs and desks for the books. Her teachers were Indiana Rudd and Gertrude

Finn. She took reading, writing and arithmetic. She went by school bus to **Hickory Hill High School**. Her bus driver was George Owens. School did not close for snow. In high school, she took English, French, math, geometry, science, and home economics. Ever Mae remembers studying hard to make good grades, attending her prom, and graduation. There were 27 students in her senior class.

Ever Mae remembers the community of Winterpock was great and children always listened to their elders when they were talking to them. She walked to Sunday School and church. No one had a car at this time. Neighbors would walk to church and others would join until all reached the church. She joined **Tabernacle Baptist Church** on Coalboro Road. Ever Mae started singing in the church choir at 5 years old and stills sings today. She is also a member of the Missionary Society.

Ever Mae worked as a nurse assistant at Old Grace Hospital and retired as a nurse from Chippenham Hospital. Ever Mae married Edwin Cox in 1952 and was married for 54 years before his death. They have one daughter, Helen, two grandchildren and one great-grandson.

## Where is the Arnolda Homeplace?

Researcher Pattie Grady is trying to locate an old homeplace called Arnolda. It was listed for sale by Ruffin & Sloan of Richmond in 1930. The 150 year old home was described as having 10 rooms, mahogany doors and wainscoting, old brass locks and 2 tenant houses all situated on 242 acres of land and fronting on an unnamed river. Anyone with information about this home is encouraged to contact Pattie at [N2RSRCH@aol.com](mailto:N2RSRCH@aol.com).



## Chesterfield's 'Lost' Prehistory: At Home and At Large

Sarah Gurnick

There are some artifacts in the CHS collection whose full history we don't know and may never know. But there are others that, with a little patience and a little digging, will open up and give us a glimpse. For instance: some time last year, I pulled a big orange rock out of a box in the basement. The rock turned out to be not just a rock, but a fossil, imprinted with the shape of a fern. A little paper label stuck to it read "Mertensides Bullatus Winterpock, VA" but also, unexpectedly, "Geological Center North Wales, PA." I found out that North Wales, PA is known fossil hunting territory, as there are many outcrops of what is known as the Newark strata or Newark Supergroup in the area. The Newark Supergroup is a distribution of sedimentary rock



from the Triassic and Jurassic periods, which extends along the east coast from North Carolina to Massachusetts.

North Wales was also the home of an engineer-turned-paleontologist named Wilhelm Bock. Bock began working for the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia after WWII, but then broke with the

scientific establishment and struck out on his own, opening up a 'Geological Research Foundation' in his house (reportedly taking up the entire building, including the front porch). His collection of Newark Supergroup fossils was one of the biggest in the world, built at a time when the strata was thought to be a paleontological dead zone.

Unfortunately, when he left the Academy, he took most of his idiosyncratically cataloged collection with him, and after his death in 1972, much of it seems to have been lost (though

some of the specimens have turned up unlabeled in the Academy's collection). The collection was left to Bock's grandson, but the family relocated to Florida and it is not known how they disposed of the fossils. Our orange rock (and one or two other pieces in the basement) may be missing specimens from this collection. The museum catalog lists them as having been donated by Bock himself, but does not describe how this came about.

Wilhelm Bock came to Chesterfield around 1949; he explored the coal mines and their spoils in search of Triassic fossils. He describes in an article one instance where he discovered a pile of rocks near a bridge with "a dozen different species of plant fossils, including a coniferous cone. The original source was traced, with the help of a local boy, to a coal mine dump at Clover Hill, Chesterfield County, where highway department trucks were in the process of spreading the Triassic deposits over many other formations." This site no longer exists, having been turned into a subdivision.

### Sources:

Bock, W. 1954. *Primaraucaria*, A new araucarian genus from the Virginia Triassic. *Journal of Paleontology*, 28(1).

Lendemer, James C. 2002. Rediscovery of "lost" Triassic fossil plant types: Components of the Wilhelm Bock Collection in The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and in the Yale Peabody Museum. *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, 152, 205-214.

Spamer, E.E. 1995. The surviving component of the Wilhelm Bock collection of fossils (invertebrates, vertebrates, and plants) held at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. *Notulae Naturae*, no. 473, 16 pp.

## Chesterfield Fireworks Factory Explosion

Peter and Rachel Lipowicz

### From The Washington Post April 4, 1902

The Romaine and Hinton fireworks factory was located across the river from Petersburg in Chesterfield County. At 10:30 am on April 3, it blew up. The building was destroyed and the explosion cast the roof into the river. Unfortunately, there was one man inside. He was mixing powder at the time. Joseph Miles had only been working at the job for four weeks when the explosion occurred. He had recently been a butcher. He was survived by a widow and seven children. This is the extent of the information in the newspaper article. Census records provide more about the Miles family. Joseph Miles was born in January, 1850. He married his wife Malisie about 1874. She was a fireworks packer. The names of five of their children were: Mary, Joseph, Daisy, Maggie, John, William and Annie. Mary was a fireworks roller. They lived on 345 Taylor St. in Petersburg.

## Hickory - The Ghost Dog

Peter Lipowicz

### From the Washington Post March 15, 1896

The headline of this article reads "Startling Tale Told by a Truthful Virginian About His Dog That Returned in Ghost Form to Haunt His Master Because the Latter Had Bought a New Bow-wow - A Chesterfield County Man Who Was Also the Owner of Ghost Dog." The story is told firsthand and is difficult to decipher as it written in dialect. Hickory was the first ghost dog in the headline. He was from Petersburg. He was replaced by a dog either named Humpy or Stumpy, and was jealous. So he returned as a ghost. His ghost showed up one night, eyes blazing like two black coals. His tail stood straight up as if it were made of iron. The Chesterfield dog's name was Splinter - named because he was so stuck on himself. His ghost dog was presumed to have spooked the farmer's horse.

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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #28  
Chesterfield, VA 23832

Current Occupant or:

### CHS Events Calendar

- June 29<sup>th</sup>**, Sat, 11am **Opening of NEW Exhibit (County Museum)** "Post Offices of Chesterfield County: Connecting the Community since 1794" (804)768-7311
- July**
- 8-12, Mon-Fri, 9-1 "Diggin' in History" Beginner Archeology Camp (ages 8-12) (*Magnolia Grange*), \$95, pre-paid registration required thru PayPal, (804)751-4946
- 13<sup>th</sup>, Sat, 10am-2pm Civil War 150<sup>th</sup> Event – Howlett Line Van Tour, \$15, (*Henricus Historical Park*) reservations online with PayPal
- 20<sup>th</sup>, Sat, 7-9pm Spirited History Workshop/Basic Technique 101, \$10 (*Magnolia Grange*) reservations online with PayPal
- 21<sup>st</sup>, Sun, 9:00am Civil War on the James 2-Hour Boat Tours, \$50/person, reservations required, & 11:30am call (804)938-2350
- 22-26, Mon-Fri, 9-1 **NEW!** "Historic Archeology" Camp (ages 10-15) (*Magnolia Grange*), \$95, pre-paid registration required thru PayPal (804)751-4946
- 28<sup>th</sup>, Sun, 2pm CHSV Members Annual Meeting (*Beach Community Grange*) Free
- August**
- 5-7, Mon-Wed, 9-1 "Heritage Crafts & Games" Summer Camp (ages 8-15) (*County Museum & Magnolia Grange*); \$65, pre-paid registration required thru PayPal (804)751-4946
- 18<sup>th</sup>, Sun, 8:00am Civil War on the James 2-Hour Boat Tours, \$50/person, reservations required: & 10:30am (804)938-2350
- 19-23, Mon-Fri, 9-1 "Diggin' in History" Beginner Archeology Camp (ages 8-12) (*Magnolia Grange*); \$95, pre-paid registration required thru PayPal (804)751-4946
- September**
- 21<sup>st</sup>, Sat, 10-11am *Eppington* Plantation Tour, \$8, to register: (804)748-1623
- 28<sup>th</sup>, Sat, 10am-2pm Civil War 150<sup>th</sup> Event: 1864 Bermuda Hundred Campaign Van Tour (*Henricus Park*), \$15, register online with PayPal
- 28<sup>th</sup>, Sat, 8-10pm Spirited History Paranormal Tour (*Magnolia Grange*), \$20, Online with PayPal
- 29<sup>th</sup>, Sun, 10-11am *Midlothian Mines Park* Tour, \$8, to register: (804)748-1623
- 29<sup>th</sup>, Sun, 2-4pm **NEW!** Civil War 150<sup>th</sup> Event: Historic Point of Rocks Tour (*R. Garland Dodd Park*), \$8, register online with PayPal