
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 130

July 2019

**Annual Members Meeting
& Ice Cream Social
Sunday, July 28, 2:00pm at
"Violet Bank"**

303 Virginia Avenue, Colonial Heights, Virginia 23834

Please join us for our Annual Members Meeting and Ice cream Social on Sunday July 28, 2019. This meeting will be held at **historic Violet Bank** in Colonial Heights.

Starting at 2:00 in the conference room at Violet Bank, the meeting will include a members' vote on the slate of officers and directors nominated to serve on the 2019-2020 Chesterfield Historical Society of VA (CHSV) Board of Directors. Following the meeting, members will be able to tour the museum.

Historic Violet Bank was the first recorded settlement in Colonial Heights and was built by Thomas Shore in 1775. Shore purchased 144 acres of land along the northern bank of the Appomattox River across from Petersburg and built his mansion which he called "Violet Bank". While the original main building was burned, the remaining structure, built in 1815, is registered as a Historic Landmark. Today, Violet Bank is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a registered Virginia Historic Landmark. In 1864, during the Civil War, Violet Bank became the headquarters for Confederate General Robert E. Lee from June to September of 1864 during the siege of Petersburg.

Today, the home is a superb example of Federal design and American interior decorative arts. The museum interprets the period from 1815 to 1873 and displays a wide array of Civil War era artifacts: guns, furniture, glass,

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ceramics, textiles, accoutrements, books, swords and others. It boasts some of the most sophisticated and beautiful Adam-style ceiling moldings in the country.

The **Cucumber Tree** is located on the property of Violet Bank Museum. This tree is one of the largest in the world and is truly rare east of the Blue Ridge Mountains.



Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

As of this July, I will have been your president for one year. We have made some good progress together and that would have been impossible without your support. Thank you! Our March Antiques Evaluation fundraiser was one of the best achievements in the 12-year history of this event. I cannot thank the volunteers enough who made this event so successful. March also saw the end of this year's Winter Lecture Series, planned and directed by Louise King. Along with great speakers we picked up a number of new members and also sold many books. These Chesterfield history publications make excellent gifts and are available at our library.

A top priority for me was getting Magnolia Grange House Museum back up and running. It took a few months to get the restoration completed, but the "Grange" is now open for visitors again. On May 18th, with the help of our volunteers, we had a nice Planters Day event at Magnolia Grange coupled with a Bake Sale fundraiser across the road at Castlewood to benefit Point of Rocks Park.

Historic Point of Rocks Park will continue to be a priority of the CHSV. The park's historic Strachan House structure needs stabilization before it falls to the ground. Until that is done, we cannot solicit donations to do anything on that site. Donors see nothing happening at the park. POR is replete with historic significance. Abraham Lincoln sat in his "thinking pose" on the bluff looking out at Petersburg, and envisioned a way to end a bloody 4-year-old war. Nurse Clara Barton, founder of the Red Cross, treated both Union and Confederate soldiers in a hospital which, at the time, was the largest hospital in the world. It sat on top of the Point of Rocks bluff. The Crimean stoves that once heated the tents and wooden buildings still exist in the ground. Point of Rocks needs to become a viable park in our county. Imagine the tourists that would come here for our history, not just for sports. This is what I stressed at the Chesterfield Board of Supervisors public hearing on the FY2020 budget in March when I asked for funding to make the park viable. This November, new representatives will be elected to the Board of Supervisors, each of whom will need to familiarize themselves with our needs. Please ask your new candidates if they support our county history and historic sites. Your support for Point of Rocks Park could be like mine: unwavering! Meanwhile, please consider helping on the POR Committee to ensure the park becomes viable.

Membership continues to be a priority. Pat Barron, our Membership Chair, is doing a tremendous job welcoming former members back in the fold. You can help her inviting your friends to join CHSV.

The Society needs volunteers and we are all good at something, no matter how small. A new opportunity in the library is for folks who can read 17th & 18th century cursive. Please volunteer an hour or two; soon cursive will be a lost skill. **Volunteers will always be our lifeline.** Please call our executive manager Karen Sadler at (804)796-7156 and join the cadre of volunteers who give their time to keep our Society doing what we do best: promoting and preserving Chesterfield County history. It is a personal pleasure to watch our volunteers work their magic. You can be a part of that. Let's strive to make our Society the best known in the Metro Area.

Starting my second year as your president, I hope to see you all at our Quarterly Members Meetings and supporting our upcoming events. Thank you.

Buddy Cranford

Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia

Historic Trinity Church
10111 Iron Bridge Road, P.O. Box 40,
Chesterfield, VA 23832
www.chesterfieldhistory.com
admin@chesterfieldhistory.com



President – George (Buddy) Cranford
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Trinity Office & Library
Karen Sadler -Executive Manager
(804) 796-7156
Gina Love — Administrator
Hours: 10-4 Mon-Fri (804)796-7121
Magnolia Grange
Lorie Arnold – Historic Site Interpreter
Hours: 10-4 Tue-Fri & 10-2 Sat
(804)748-1498
The Museum
Pat Roble –Historic Site Interpreter
Hours: 10-4 Tue-Fri & 10-2 Sat
(804)768-7311
Historic Sites Manager:
Bryan Truzzie
(804)751-4946
Messenger Editor
Diane Hewett

Donations to the Society

\$500 or more

\$100-\$499

Chesterfield Chapter #851 UDC, Ruth Snead, Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, JR Smith Companies, Elliott Grays UDC #1877, Appomattox Commandery No. 6 Knights Templar of VA, Demolay International, Petersburg Chapter Up to \$99

Renee Penland, Andrew W. Danwin, William & Sandra Thomas, Chesterfield Courthouse NSDAR, Mr. & Mrs. McPhie, Ruth D. Snead, Bettie W. Brandt, Chester Masonic Lodge #94, Bobby & Susan Linkous

IN MEMORIUM

Liess van der Linden-Brusse

During the last half year, our Society has said farewell to three remarkable individuals whose passion for Chesterfield County history and culture is unequalled. Their dedication to the Chesterfield Historical Society of VA (CHSV) may be difficult to put into words but we wish to recognize their contribution as best we can.

Phyllis BASS, 84, passed away in Chester on April 19, 2019. A native of Sault St. Marie, Michigan, Phyllis was a graduate of Randolph-Macon Women's College. She was a Chesterfield school teacher for 37 years. Phyllis served on the CHSV Board of Directors from 1999 thru 2011. As our Recording Secretary, Phyllis served from 1999 thru 2005, and again from 2009 to 2011. In between, she served on our Board as Corresponding Secretary from 2005 thru 2009. Any researcher who looks into the records of the CHSV Board Meeting Minutes will recognize Phyllis' meticulously detailed handwritten and personally typed notes of our Society meetings.

Elizabeth 'Betty' MATTHEWS, 91, died on December 28, 2018 in Chester. Betty was born in Owatonna, Minnesota. She graduated from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. She held numerous positions, speaking and lecturing on the need for special education and non-discrimination/affirmative action for persons with disabilities. While employed by the VA Department of Rehabilitation Services, Betty became involved in numerous local community activities and organizations. She was the driving force behind the creation of the Chesterfield Center for the Arts in Chester, now named the Baxter Perkinson Arts Center. Betty

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served on the CHSV Board of Directors from 1999 thru 2002, and was a member of our Society from the early 1980s until the day of her death. A quick look thru our CHSV Scrapbook collection in the library will reveal photos of Betty at virtually every historical society event during the past three and half decades.

Bryan H. WALKER, 87, died on April 2, 2019, in Bensley. Bryan's family roots run deep in Chesterfield – his parents and grandparents were founding members of the Sherbourne United Methodist Church in Bensley. His passion for history is reflected in his 30 years of service on the Chesterfield County Preservation Committee, representing our historical society. During that time, Bryan was instrumental in preserving and ensuring the National Historic Site designation of Falling Creek Ironworks, the first industrial site in North America dating back to 1619. A member of CHSV since the mid-1980s, Bryan served on the CHSV Board of Directors from 1989 thru 1991 as second Vice-President. Newspaper articles on Bryan's untimely death underscored his dedication to history by calling him a "local preservation icon."



Welcome new and returning members!

Loretta Anderson, Lori Ando, Brenda Bartges, Lynne Bland, Cindy Beeson, Constance Brecht, Paul Brose, Jennifer Cheatham, Kenneth Chandler, Linda Cole, Sharon Condrey, Phillip Daffron Jr., Cherrie Dantzler, James Dean, Denis DiNeen, Kenneth Dotson, Matthew Egeland, Gabrielle Elliot, Kathy Emmel, Marilyn Finn, Lori Fuller, Jimmy Gilmore, Tray Granger, Barbara Grillo, Marsha Hall, Patricia Harper, Jennifer Hayek, Susan Hilliard, Jennifer Hockett, Judith Hopkins, Cheri Inverso, Cindy Jackson, Allison King, Chris Knaggs, Bill Lipsett, Vicky Longwill, Dennis Madison, Melanie McClaskie, Jan Meck, Chauley Mohnney, Mary Moneman, Leslie Morris, Kathy Myers, Jane Nuttal, Lori Purcell, Ann Pinchbeck, Stanley Prince, Virginia Refo, Nasir Rahim, Stephanie Sadler, Martha Sample, Carelyn Sheppard, Florence Smith, Sandra Stokesberry, Laurie Surles, Anthony Townsend, Linda Tucker, Royal Tucker, Pamela Tuggle, Judith Villorreal, Carla Waldron, Cornell Ward, Robert Warren, Larry Weaver, Jamie Westbay, Kathy Williams, James Wilson

Ways to give to help CHSV grow:

Give onsite -Stop in and visit us at Trinity Library.

Give your time - Volunteer weekly, monthly or for special events.

Give a gift - Memberships are a unique gift with an exceptional value.

Give online - monthly or a one-time donation at chesterfieldhistory.com

Give an artifact - Items donated can be appreciated for generations to come.

Give through a family foundation - A family that gives together grows together.

Give through employee match programs_- Call to see if your company participates.

For any questions or help on ways to give, please call Karen Sadler, 796-7156.

Library Donations & Acquisitions

Liess van der Linden-Brusse, Library Committee Chair

Please keep our research library in mind as you clear out your attics and basements! Manuscripts, old books, magazine and newspaper clippings, photos, programs, yearbooks, flyers and brochures, diaries and research notes on Chesterfield families, places and events are always welcome additions to our society library located in historic Trinity Church. Thank You! And please remember that we always need volunteers to help visitors at the Library, Monday thru Friday from 10:00am-4:00pm. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Liess at (804)937-0737.

Recent additions to the Library Collection include the following items:

CDs & DVDs

Four Score and More: Oral Histories of African-American Octogenarians in Chesterfield County, compiled by the CHSV African-American History Committee (AAHC), copy made by AAHC chair Rev. Herbert Townes

Fiction

Susanna's Midnight Right, The Girl who won the Revolutionary War, by Libby Carty McNamee, a speaker during the 2019 CHSV Winter Lecture Series, purchased copy

Genealogy

MORRISSETTE Family – 'Second Premium' Ribbon awarded to Gwendolyn Morrisette at 1937 Chesterfield County Fair for her essay on 'How to spend your leisure time'; also, a Certificate of Promotion, Branches Baptist Church, awarded to Gwendolyn Morrisette in 1936; and, Safe Driver Award presented by Continental Oil Co to Lynton Morrisette in 1938. Originals donated by Henry Coalter.

General Interest

Magnolia Grange Parlor Opening Repair : A report on the 1998 wall repairs at *Magnolia Grange* by architect Joseph Dye Lahendro, copy discovered in the office at *Castlewood*

Mount Hope and Mattie's Memories: Personal account of life on the farm in Chesterfield, by Mattie Gregory O'Brien and Lucille E. Gregory, donated by Richard Jackson

Osborne School, Chester, 1906 Souvenir Program of School Officers and Pupils, presented by teacher Mrs. R. W. Thompson, original donated by Florence Hatcher

Kingsland School, Chesterfield, VA, Teachers Monthly Reports (1929), anonymous donor

Gill Grove Baptist Church Invitation to 100th Anniversary on October 31, 1943, purchased online, donated by Angie Wilderman

The Home & Farm Manual Classic 1884 Edition: A Pictorial Encyclopedia for the Farm, Garden and Household (1984 Reprint), donated by George Reynolds

Railway Passenger Travel 1825-1880, by Scribner's, donated by George Reynolds

Dog Town Days, The Manchester Gang 50th Reunion Issue (2005), gift of Henry Coalter

Military History

Diary of Dr. A. E. Linn carried during the Civil War Years 1864-1865, compiled by Dr. and Mrs. A. J. Linn

Surviving War and the Underground: Richmond Free Blacks and Criminal Networks during the Civil War, by Carey H. Latimore, VA Magazine of History & Biography, donated by George Reynolds

The Civil War, by the national Geographic Society, donated by George Reynolds

The Revolutionary War: America's Fight for Freedom, by the National Geographic Society, donated by George Reynolds

Abductions in the American Revolution: Attempts to kidnap George Washington, Benedict Arnold and oth-

er Military and Civilian Leaders, by Christian McBurney, a speaker during the 2019 CHSV Winter Lecture Series, purchased copy

Scrapbooks

Chesterfield Historical Society of VA - 2019, Scrapbook No.16, compiled by CHSV library volunteers

Bon Air Artists Association (BAAA) Scrapbooks 2006-2010 (#17-#20), donated by BAAA

Bon Air Artists Association (BAAA) History of Speakers & Programs 1974-1998, and Newsletters 2006-2015, donated by BAAA

The Chesterfield County Jails, Series 1

Buddy Cranford

This article is the first of a series regarding the jails of Chesterfield County. The story starts with the inception of a new county in 1749. Today, we are grateful that the English gave us a county charter of our own. This new charter was granted by the Lieutenant Governor of the Colony of Virginia, Sir William Gooch in his "Proclamation of the Peace". This document has a history by itself. The Charter is also known as the 1749 "**Proclamation of Peace**" issued by William Gooch. It was signed by "his Majesty's Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of the Colony and Dominion of Virginia" Sir William Gooch, Baronet. This document, dated May 12, 1749 named

the justices of the court which governed the county and a sheriff who needed a jail.

The British army would have burned the charter in 1781 had it

not been hidden from the British Regulars by a thoughtful citizen. Fast forward to 1865: the Union Army came through Chesterfield and the document was removed from the courthouse. It remained lost until 1954 when it was purchased in a book store in New York and returned to the County. It had been taken by a Union soldier named Edward B. Jeffers, Company C, 103rd New York Calvary when Richmond was being evacuated. It somehow made its way to New York and eventually wound up in a rare book store. For ninety years it remained lost to Chesterfield County. It was last seen in 1954 in the office of the now deceased Judge William Old. He thought he should have been the guardian of it. A big ceremony



took place in the County commemorating the return of this important piece of history.

The document belongs to the people of Chesterfield and to no one person. Its historical significance to our history is the main priority. After the death of Judge Olds, the original charter was again lost for many years and a diligent search on the part of the CHSV was started in 2010. It was found in 2018 and returned to the Clerk of the Court for safe keeping. It is now secured in a locked vault at the Chesterfield County Courthouse in the Clerk of the County's possession. Meanwhile, there are only copies to show that it exists. This rare document, among other things, called for a courthouse and jail to be built and outlined the duties of the first Chesterfield County sheriff. Besides being a peace keeper and a jailer, he was a tax collector.

So, turning our attention back to the jail - why was there a need for a jail to be built so quickly? Was lawlessness so rampant throughout this area? Hardly so, but Virginia was one of the most populous colonies in America where most of the people lived in rural areas. In 1749 English law still prevailed. The threat of being put in locks, strapped to whipping posts or the ducking stools and even jail was a way to control the populace at large. Imagine being secured to wooden locks, your head shaved, and exposed to all the vile things thrown at you. It was the "game of the week" and you could be the target. So, to keep order, these tools of the trade and a jail were used. The newly appointed judges saw the necessity for a jail and that was the first order of the day in May 1749 - a jail and courthouse was to be constructed. John Booker, along with Howard Booker, James Robertson, and John Waylos came to the courthouse to be bonded to build the jail and pillory convenient to the Spring at Cold Water Run. They were paid 500 pounds to build this new courthouse the same dimensions as the one in Henrico County and the new jail.

The prison and pillory were to be made of wood and were to be completed by last day of October 1750. Here, in a court order (Chesterfield County Court Order Book 1, page 6, paragraph 5), was the first recording of a jail and it was made of wood. Chesterfield had two jails built; one for debtors alone. Since its inception, Chesterfield County in the early days, had a pillory, a device formerly used for

publicly punishing offenders. It was made of a wooden frame with holes in which the head and hands can be locked at the jail. In old England, it was customary to shave the heads wholly or partially and the beards of men, and to cut off the hair and even in extreme cases to shave the heads of female culprits. It is not certain that this practice evolved here in the colonies. The English used them as well. A reproduction of a pillory is available today at the 1892 Jail for the amusement of visitors, especially the young who step back in time with their small arms and heads protruding out the blocks. Our county jails tell another side of the County history and there is so much to tell, from the construction, the destruction and the need to rebuild. Inmates tell other stories. The history is fascinating; we should tell the complete story.

Women of Chesterfield: Lilla Spivey and Camp Baker, a Summer Camp in Chesterfield County

Camp Baker has been serving the special needs of the citizens in Chesterfield County for about 92 years. It was named for Captain W. W. Baker (1844-1927) of Hallsboro, Chesterfield County. Baker was a member of the House of Delegates and a leader in establishing the system of Tuberculosis Sanatoria in the state. He worked through the general assembly to establish what is now the State Department of Health for Virginia. However, Lilla Spivey (1890-1969) was the primary founder of the camp.

Lilla Spivey, the first public health nurse for the county was the driving force for the establishment of a camp for needy and undernourished children in the county. The planning for the camp began in June of 1926 at a meeting of the Chesterfield branch of the Virginia Tuberculosis Association held at Midlothian High School. Twenty-eight county women attended expressing a need for the county to organize its own camp for needy and undernourished children separate from the tri-county camp that was being held in Hanover. Those Chesterfield Women agreed to work toward the goal of opening a camp for the following summer.

These women were successful in collecting food, linens, kitchen equipment as well as money needed to open the first session of a preventive nutritional camp for the most severely malnourished county

children. It was held during July and August of 1927 on property near the courthouse and loaned to them by the Y.W.C.A.

On February 5, 1929 twenty-two acres of land was purchased at a sum of \$1000 and a permanent camp was built on a hard-surfaced road near the courthouse. Funds for the project were raised through selling Brunswick stew at the county fair, rummage sales, membership drives, card parties and plays. Local businessmen donated lumber and other building materials. It should be noted that this was during the Depression era. There were many poverty-stricken children in the county and the citizens who responded most generously probably could ill afford to do so. Dedication day was July 14, 1929 and the new facility opened July 23 with 21 children attending.

Each district in the county had a Chairman that was responsible for providing food for two weeks of the camp. The women of each district collected fruits, vegetables, chickens, ham, and other necessary groceries. Doctors and dentists provide free medical services. The citizens of the county provided hours of volunteer work that made Camp W. W. Baker, as it was called then, a success. The camp, having been well-established and debt free, was given to the county and accepted by the Board of Supervisors on October 5, 1936.

Spivey's camp met for two sessions each summer for girls and boy ranging in ages from 4 to 13. There was an attempt to address every physical problem each child might have during the session. Tonsils and adenoids were removed. Eyes and teeth were checked as well. It was a goal for each child to gain around 7 pounds and to return to school in September healthier. The children received health foods, glasses of milk, nap time each afternoon, recreational play time and though not considered so healthy now, prescribed sunbaths.

This was early in Lilla Spivey's career with the county when she was virtually a one-woman health department as well as social services department. She played the leadership role at the camp, living there during each session while still fulfilling her duties as public health nurse. As a part of those duties, she was in the schools during the school year serving the role of school nurse. This enabled her to identify the children of the county who most needed the

summer camp. Spivey visited the homes of those children before they attended the camp talking and explaining the benefits of the summer camp to the parents. Throughout the year she was aware of county citizens who contracted tuberculosis and even transported them to and from sanitoriums. Children from those homes were able to spend the summer in the healthy environment of the camp.

As the public health nurse, she also saw the need for a central health clinic building. With funds donated by the Jeffress family in his honor, the Thomas F. Jeffress Memorial Clinic was built on the grounds of Camp Baker. In the 1940s, it was one of the few county health clinic buildings in the country.

By the late 1940s, the need for such a summer camp diminished. Then the health clinic building served as an examining center for men in Chesterfield who were drafted into service in World War II. In the early 1950s, the county public school system housed special education classes in the camp's large log cabin, the first building built at the camp and called "The Lodge".

In 1954, the county contracted with the Richmond Area Association for Mentally Retarded Children, ARC for short. Camp Baker became a refuge for children with mental and physical disabilities. In operation under ARC for over 60 years now, Camp Baker has received many improvements and upgrades. Today the camp is a full-service, handicap-equipped retreat on the same rustic twenty-two acres.

ARC's name has recently changed to SOAR365, an uplifting name that reflects the organization's purpose to serve its clients 365 days a year. SOAR365 serves children from age 6 to adulthood with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This program can also provide support for an individual who is/has co-occurring diagnosis, limited mobility, a brain injury or autistic spectrum disorders. Camp Baker also provides respite for caregivers. It offers adult day support and after school services. Family of children with developmental disabilities receive much needed support.

This Camp Baker that serves the citizen in the Richmond area today is here because of the vision of Lila Spivey, Chesterfield County's first public health nurse and other women of the county who worked with her. Her idea of a summer camp to serve the special needs of the county's citizens was unique and

innovative in the 1920s. The camp run by SOAR 365 in 2019 is just as unique and innovative.

Lilla Spivey would be pleased to know that the camp she established in the 1920s has been in operation for almost 92 years and is still serving the special needs of county citizens and residents in the surrounding Richmond area.

This article highlights one contribution of Lilla Spivey to Chesterfield County. Her complete biography will be published in the CHSV Library project: Women of Chesterfield.

Women of Chesterfield is an ongoing project. We welcome suggestions of women who merit recognition. Please contact us by phone at the Library: 804-796-7215 or Email Pat Barron at Forpbarron@gmail.com or Terry Wells at thnx2gd@comcast.net

Out on a Limb

Angie Wilderman

My husband and I have been traveling this spring. If you thought for a moment that I was on an ancestral hunt for ancestors you would be wrong. We were on a cruise; away from everything including the Internet. One highlight of the day, aside from playing Trivia, was Learn at Sea. Guest speaker, Dr. Gary Koverman provided six lectures on DNA and Crime solving. We see advertisements for DNA daily but, lately in the news, we have read or heard about how police are solving cold cases crimes using DNA. Often we wonder should we have our DNA tested. As a genealogist I want to connect with relatives. DNA results are not often easy to figure out and the long list of connections can be intimidating. Some testers are only interested in ethnicity results. Some are new to genealogy and perhaps have trees that do not have enough information or no tree at all to give us clues as to how we are related. Some have one name we recognize and we are able to connect with a new cousin. But DNA is only one tool. Genealogists still need to put together their family tree in a systematic way proving each generation with documentation. There are online records, books, original documents like diaries, letters, Bibles, and photos. A genealogist needs to investigate and dig for information. It's not always easy but it can be fun. Do you need assistance getting started? Let us know how we can help.

(Genealogy Roundtable 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 1-3 p.m. at Trinity.)

Volunteers – “Our Lifeblood”

Buddy Cranford

As any group with a great mission, the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia depends on its volunteers to make things happen and for its operations to flow smoothly. Since our very beginning in 1981, we have had many dedicated volunteers pitch in but never enough to quite get all the tasks accomplished, especially when it involves our events. It takes many hands to do what we need done. Often the burden falls on a faithful few. We are always pleading for help and many do step forward to keep our library open, help with an exhibit, plan our financial strategy, keep membership records or just to be at the sites when asked. You are truly the lifeblood we need.

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people while offering vital help to people in need of specific information. But the benefits can be even greater for the volunteer. Helping others can reduce stress, combat depression, keep one mentally stimulated and provide a sense of purpose. While it's true that the more you volunteer, the more benefits you'll experience, volunteering doesn't have to involve a long-term commitment or take a huge amount of your time. Giving in even simple ways can help those in need and improve your health and happiness. Age isn't a factor to stop you from being a volunteer. We all have something to offer the CHSV.

In considering the value we place on our volunteers, one such “young volunteer” has decided to cut back her activities in the CHSV library. She has been a faithful member for more than 18 years. I first met Ley Diller while waiting to photograph the *God-speed* ship rounding a bend in the James River at Bermuda Hundred. While I was knee deep in the river, there was our friend Ley on the bank. She was telling me all about the *Mayflower* and the people who came to this New World. She is a living history book and it's a delight to listen to her. I had never thought much about the *Mayflower* until our conversation. Such is the effect that Ley has on everyone.

While her work in the library has helped countless visitors, Ley is also a unique researcher; one we have all come to depend on to make our library a success. Whether it's Huguenot settlers, or the original landowners in what is today Pocahontas State Park, or the descendants of Irish or Scottish

immigrants, I am sure all the people she has assisted over the years will tell you the same: Ley has been an invaluable asset to our library. She has endless patience and a deep love for research. When Ley is volunteering, we can be assured our library visitors will always get the best information to take with them.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ley for the thousands of volunteer hours she has contributed to collect, preserve and promote the history of Chesterfield County. Thank you, Ley, for helping us understand the true meaning of commitment. You are an inspiration to us all!

July Membership Committee Report

The focus of the Membership Committee for 2019 is to increase our membership through membership drives throughout the year. We would like to thank all those who have renewed your membership for 2019. Our membership now sits at about 270 members. Welcome to our first-time members.

Chesterfield County has many events throughout the year where organizations set up a display table to advertise their organization and seek membership. The Membership Committee needs volunteers to help throughout the year with those events.

If you have never attended a Member's Quarterly Meeting, think about attending the next one. It is part of the job of the Membership Committee to plan those meetings; the speaker and the site. We welcome your suggestions, advice and ideas for programs, lectures or possible sites for our Quarterly Meetings.

Pat Barron: Forpbarron@gmail.com or 804-796-7215

Volunteer Opportunities!

The Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia has new volunteer openings at both Magnolia Grange and Trinity. Our need at Magnolia Grange is most crucial in filling paid staffing gaps so that visitors are provided a satisfying experience and so that the facility can be kept open for regular, dependable hours. Opportunities also exist to fit your desired schedule in the library at Trinity, helping patrons locate the resources they need while working on any personal project you may have interest in. We need your help and volunteers are our lifeline, especially at MG. Email Buddy Cranford (pastwalker@comcast.net)

CHSV librarian Liess (liess@comcast.net) or Executive Manager, Karen Sadler (ksadlerchsv@gmail.com) for more specifics.

Come as you are and as you will!

2019-2020 Board of Directors

Governance Committee

The 2019-2020 Board of Directors will comprise the following members:

Current Executive Board:

- George 'Buddy' Cranford - President
- Scott Williams – Vice President
- Crystal Monroe – Recording Secretary
- Doug Blake - Treasurer
- Claude Baker – Past President

Current Directors-at-Large:

- Bernard Anderson
- Pat Barron
- James Dean
- Joel Hughes
- Joan Jackson
- Jerry Netherland

At the July 28th Quarterly Meeting, members will be asked to vote into office the following Nominees for Director-at-Large (2019-2022):

- Russ Lescault – former Board member & volunteer on the Museum & Collections committees
- David Limmer – volunteer on the Collections & Museum committees

There is one vacancy for Director-at-Large (2019-2022). Please let us know if you have a candidate in mind by calling our Executive Manager Karen at (804) 796-7156, or email ksadlerchsv@gmail.com

Popular 'Antiques Evaluation' Event a Successful Fundraiser

On March 16th, our 11th annual *Antiques Evaluation* event attracted more than 150 people to the Chesterfield County Fairgrounds where each visitor looked forward to discovering the value of the unique items they brought in. The big question was: Were these items "trash or treasure?"

During the five-hour event, hundreds of items were evaluated by professional appraisers who volunteered their expertise in many different fields, from antique toys to fine arts, from coins and stamps to minerals, rocks and geodes, from clocks and watches to jewelry, from glass bottles to books, documents and old posters, from military items to international curiosities, and much more.

One extremely unusual item caused quite a stir: a piece of paper dated 1939, it was a share certificate for Walt Disney Productions in Burbank, CA, one of the first share certificates issued in its initial public offering!

In addition to rediscovering many historical artifacts, our Antiques Evaluation event is an important annual fundraiser that benefits our Society. This year the event raised over \$2,400.

Thanks and deep appreciation for all their hard work goes to the appraisers and our great team of volunteers (below).



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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Chesterfield, VA 23832



2019 Summer Camps

'Diggin' in History Archaeology Camp

Historic Trinity Church, 10111 Iron Bridge Road

Monday- Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. \$100

~~Session 1 July 8-12~~ (session full)

Session 2 August 5-9

For children ages 8-14. Space is limited.

To register visit chesterfieldhistory.com.

Heritage Crafts and Games Summer Camp

Castlewood, 10201 Iron Bridge Road

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. \$100

Session 1 July 22-26

Session 2 Aug. 12-16

To register visit www.chesterfieldhistory.com.

Grandparent/ Grandchild Summer Day Camp

For children ages 7-12 and grandparent.

Space is limited.

Castlewood, 10201 Iron Bridge Road

Tuesday- Thursday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. \$100

July 16-18

Details: Bill Doerken, 804-445-6655

or bdoerken@gmail.com.

To register visit chesterfieldhistory.com.