

# The Messenger

OF THE CHESTERFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

MISSION : RESEARCH AND CELEBRATE CHESTERFIELD COUNTY'S HISTORY

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## Call Out for Memorabilia of Early African-American Schools

The African-American History Committee (AAHC) is seeking materials which will help in creating a museum exhibit featuring early African-American schools in Chesterfield County. The search includes items such as photos, programs, rosters, school books and teacher materials, yearbooks, and school props, etc. Photos with persons who are identified are of particular interest and such items will be accepted on a loan basis for scanning and returned to the original owners. To lend items to AAHC, please call Reverend Herbert Townes at (804) 379-3929 to coordinate a mutually convenient date, time and place to review any items you may have. Items must be submitted prior to October 31, 2013.

## Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia & Community

Veterans Day Ceremony  
Chesterfield County Historic 1917  
Courthouse

10011 Iron Bridge Road  
Chesterfield, VA 23832

**November 11th, 2013**

**2:00 p.m.**

**Speaker:** Colonel Thomas (Tom) Rivard  
Commander, 59<sup>th</sup> Ordnance Brigade  
Fort Lee, VA

## Featuring Musical Selections by

The Lloyd C. Bird High  
School Chorus and the  
Thomas Dale High  
School Band

# Honoring Our VETERANS

Sponsored by

**Chesterfield Historical Society**  
For more information, call 796-7131  
[www.chesterfieldhistory.com](http://www.chesterfieldhistory.com)

DMV Veterans ID cards will be issued at no charge, courtesy of The Jeffrey A. Reed Memorial Fund. Requirements are: be a Virginia resident, hold an unexpired Virginia License/Learner's Permit or Identification Card and a copy of DD Form 214, DD Form 256 or a WD AGO form



**You don't have to be a veteran to celebrate Veteran's Day—  
Come join us to honor those who have served us.**

## From the President -

Thank you for electing me at our July Quarterly Meeting. As I said during the installation of officers, as your new President, I will do my best to look out for and promote the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia to the best of my abilities. I welcome your suggestions and comments and whole heartedly welcome your support in any way possible, whether in the form of volunteer service, monetary contributions or suggestions. I value them all. (email [m\\_mpeanut@comcast.net](mailto:m_mpeanut@comcast.net) or 804-356-6081)

My goals for my two year term are to increase membership thus leading to increased volunteerism, employ technology where it will save us work, honor and recognize our volunteers without whom we couldn't function, and update Magnolia Grange, our beloved museum home. It has been neglected too long! It needs more furniture to change our displays to encourage continued attendance; it needs repairs upstairs to the walls, paint and wallpaper where a previously repaired roof has caused considerable damage; it needs new carpet in the foyer and up the stairs to replace our current threadbare carpet; some of the furniture needs to be reupholstered (we were able to reupholster several side chair seats in-house but our skills stop there) the windows need repaired to close leaks and the cracks in the plaster crown molding cracks sustained from old water damage need repairs. I could go on and on but you get the picture; therefore, you will be seeing a request to you, our faithful members, for donations to help Magnolia Grange to become the grand home she once was, PLEASE HELP - Any donation, large or small will be appreciated and is so very needed.

Check out our calendar of events – we have some new and some old favorites for your enjoyment.

Regards,  
Patty Watts



**From the Messenger editor** – please e-mail by December 10th 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 it to Diane Dallmeyer.

## Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia

Historic Trinity Chapel  
10111 Iron Bridge Road, P.O. Box 40,  
Chesterfield, VA 23832  
[www.chesterfieldhistory.com](http://www.chesterfieldhistory.com)  
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Bryan Truzzie  
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### Messenger Editor

Peter Lipowicz

## A Chesterfield Soldier and the Immortal 600

Veterans Data Base, Sesquicentennial Series

D. Michael Thomas

The story of 2nd Lt. Gideon P. Chalkley reflects perhaps the most sordid episode of the entire war involving prisoners of war. Chalkley was a fine soldier. Enlisting at Chesterfield Court House in April 1861, he rose through the ranks to Lieutenant. At Gettysburg in July 1863, however, he was among the many wounded from Pickett's Charge who were captured. Union surgeons amputated his mangled right leg and he began a long, slow recovery. Chalkley remained in a Gettysburg hospital until March 1864 when transferred to Fort McHenry in Baltimore. In June, almost a year after Gettysburg, he was sent to the POW facility at Fort Delaware. Two months later, Chalkley was among a group of 600 Confederate officers (known today as The Immortal 600) sent from Fort Delaware to South Carolina to be placed on the beaches of Morris Island, off Charleston harbor, in front of Union positions as human shields against Confederate gunfire from Fort Sumter and other positions. This was in retaliation for about 600 Yankee prisoners being temporarily held in the Charleston area while Union guns were shelling the city proper. The group was first sent by ship to a base on Hilton Head Island and there, Union surgeons intervened. To their everlasting credit, these men of medicine removed Chalkley and 39 others deemed too weak or ill to continue and sent them directly to the Union hospital in nearby Beaufort. Ten of this number were missing a limb, one man an eye, many suffered from unhealed battle wounds and others were fighting disease. Most of the others, 558 in all, were sent on and endured 45 agonizing days on Morris Island in an open stockade under fire in conditions making Fort Delaware almost seem pleasant. Chalkley, exchanged with most of his 39 compatriots at Charleston in December, returned home to Chesterfield in February 1865.

### The Chesterfield Militia Companies

**Assigned to the Virginia Militia Brigade Commanded by Brigadier General Edward Stevens During the 1780 Campaign in the Carolinas**  
Colonel (retired) William Schneck

Authorized by "An act to embody militia for the relief of South Carolina, and for other purposes" passed by the Virginia Legislature on 1 May 1780 with "two thousand five hundred infantry [about 62 per company]... called into service, in legal rotation... to serve three months from the time of their joining the army in South Carolina... so soon as the said quotas shall be completed, they shall be marched without delay to Hillsborough in North Carolina, as the place of general rendezvous; there to be formed into four regiments, each of which shall be commanded by a colonel, a lieutenant colonel, a major, ten captains, twenty lieutenants, ten ensigns, and the usual number of non-commissioned officers... the whole to be under the command of a brigadier general..." The brigadier general and the field grade officers were elected by the Virginia legislature on 1 June 1780. Virginia Governor Thomas Jefferson states that 1619 out of the actual quota of 2506 men were raised. On 14 August 1780 (two days before the battle of Camden), General Stevens wrote to Major General Gates: "The troops are much fatigued, and are dropping sick in great numbers every day. I left the 200, as you directed, at Masque's Ferry on peadee [River] with all the Sick I then had. This, with great desertions, &c, has reduced my numbers very low." In addition, it appears that some 150 to 200 of the better Virginia militia (including 50 men under Captain George Pegram) had been detached to Lieutenant Colonel Charles Porterfield's Virginia State Garrison Regiment as light infantry about this time. Thus, on 16 August 1780 (the day of the battle of Camden) the Virginia militia brigade had been reduced to a strength of approximately 700 on-hand. After the Battle of Camden, the Virginia Militia Brigade was reduced to four companies that were placed under the overall command of Colonel Ralph Faulkner, who appears to have been assisted by

majors Nathaniel G. Morris and Henry Conway. The companies appear to have been commanded by Captains Robert Daniels (Orange), Parke Goodall (Hanover), John Price (Hanover), and Archibald Walthall (Chesterfield). On 25 September 1780, Colonel Ralph Faulkner reported to Major General Gates a strength of "4 Cpts. 6 Lieuts., 2. Enss. and 506 privates" and on 29 September: "All those men who deserted and went home, and have since returned, are, by a Resolution of the Governour and Council of our State, directed to be sent back to be equipped for ye eight months, service. I shall, therefore, agreeable to the orders I have received, march them under ye Command of proper Officers over the River Dan, and there dismiss them. The rest of ye men, about 200 in number, who were left under my Command by General Stevens, are to serve out their time, that is to the last of October, when I am to discharge them."

1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Militia Regiment: Colonel Holt Richardson, Lieutenant Colonel John Glenn, Major William Boyce

County	Quota	Actually Raised	Captains
Amelia	154	133	William Craddock
			Gabriel Fowlkes
			John Goodall
Caroline	128	101	James Johnson
			Edmund Pendleton
Halifax	141	110	Moses Fountaine
			Paul Wattington
Hanover	135	112	Parke Goodall
			John Price
Lunenburg	83	53	Sylvanus Walker

2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Militia Regiment: Colonel George Stubblefield  
Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Spencer  
Major William Mosby

County	Quota	Actually Raised	Captains
Bedford	202	65	Thomas Leftwich
Cumberland	61	61	Charles Ballow
Louisa	94	57	John Byers
Orange	80	49	Robert Daniels
Spotsylvania	92	83	Robert Minor, later John Holliday

3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Militia Regiment: Colonel Ralph Faulkner, Lieutenant Colonel John Nicholas, Major Henry Conway

County	Quota	Actually Raised	Captains
Chesterfield	114	97	Booker
			Archibald Walthall
Dinwiddie	100	61	George Pegram
Henry	108	54	George Waller
Powhatan	47	47	William Mayo
Pittsylvania	97	52	Isaac Clement

4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Militia Regiment: Colonel James Lucas, Lieutenant Colonel Rawleigh Downman, Major Nathaniel G. Morris

County	Quota	Actually Raised	Captains
Amherst	135	51	Azariah Martin
Brunswick	161	43	Binns Jones
Charlotte	89	59	Thomas Williams
Goochland	75	53	Thomas Curd
Mecklenburg	128	83	Richard Swepson
Prince Edward	75	56	Jesse Owen

County Quotas Assigned to Other Companies at the Rendezvous at Hillsborough

County	Quota	Actually Raised	Captains
Buckingham	84	47	Peter Guerant
Fluvanna	40	23	Joseph Haden
Henrico	83	69	Reuben Whitlock
			Sharp

Note: the following companies also appear to have been broken up and the men reassigned to other companies: Captain William Sneed (Chesterfield), Captain Hudson (Amelia), Captain James Pamplin (Amherst), Captain John Marr (Henry), Captain Benjamin Ferrill (Mecklenburg), Captain Richard Leadbetter (Mecklenburg) and Captain Thomas Roberts (Pittsylvania). The status of the Bedford company, commanded by Captain Nathaniel Tate, could not be determined.

## The Women of Chesterfield County

Patricia Watts

This is an ongoing series of chronological account of some of the women of Chesterfield County and how they influenced, ensured and enhanced our history.

"The world is full of books that narrate the deeds and utter the praises of men. The lives of eminent men of our own times are made familiar to us in newspapers and magazines, in individual sketches and autobiographies, as well as in histories, dictionaries

of biography, cyclopedias (sic) and other works of greater or less range of subject and extent of information. But while many things have been written both by and for women, and much information has been published in one form and another in respect to eminent women of courage... the elevation of woman, her duties, and the portion which she is fitted to occupy, seem to call for some authentic and attractive record of the lives and achievements of those women of our time who have distinguished themselves in their various occupations and conditions in life."

The above eloquent quote is taken from the preface of Eminent Women of the Ages published by S.M. Betts & Company in 1860. While written some 140 years ago, it is still pertinent today and therefore is the reason for the writing of these articles on the Women of Chesterfield County. (Author's Note: Most of the books and articles footnoted and mentioned herein can be found at Historic Trinity Chapel, Headquarters for the Chesterfield County Historical Society of Virginia. Come in to view these one of a kind volumes and files or genealogical records.)

The women of Chesterfield County, whose early lives were very hard and difficult, many dying young in childbirth, followed their husbands to this new and strange land on a borrowed dream as indentured servants and settlers hoping for a better life through land ownership. These strong women helped to support their families and raised their children so the generations to come would endure. It is of this pioneering stock from which the women of Chesterfield County come. And it is for those Chesterfield women who have made this county and the country that it is today. It is set forth as a long-awaited example of the type of women who help found, nurtured and challenged us to aspire to a better life, community and country. These women, though varied – some known locally and some nationally – are joined with those not so famous, as well as infamous, who have nonetheless made an impact on our history. It is to these women and all women of our County to whom we dedicate this pamphlet.

## Part 1 - The Women's Lives

There were many 'firsts' that happened in Chesterfield County – first tobacco cultivated, first and largest uncut diamond found (until recent years, first "artificial paved road, birthplace of Father's Day, first incorporated town, first hospital in the U.S., first school for deaf-mutes in U.S., first state tramway and railroad, first railroad to pay an earned dividend in the U.S, first lead to be discovered in the U.S. at Falling Creek, first recorded English husband of an Indian Princess (John Rolfe and Pocahontas), first American gunpowder to be produced [1], and first coal discovered in U.S. Many of these 'firsts' were the discovery of men; but much of these works could not have happened without the unheralded background work of the women of Chesterfield County.

Herein you will see the chronological evolution of women's rights and women's influence on the County. Sometimes, something as simple as a well-placed remark, the recording of some of their efforts, hard work and struggles against the establishment, went to ensure their rights, acceptance and place in history. While not much was recorded by name about the stalwart women who first settled the county, much can be learned about their slow, patient or sometimes impatient efforts toward present day autonomy. Some vestiges of past discrimination still remain but our present day finds the women of Chesterfield County far more blessed and free than those of their predecessors because of their ancestors strides toward leadership and their zeal for the common good.

## Part 2 Before 1607

Before 1607 and the arrival of European settlers, the continent was covered mainly by forest and inhabited by wild species such as deer, moose, elk, bear, squirrels, rabbits and birds that roamed free. Fish were in the streams and food was in the forests, available to all of the original settlers whom we now call American Indians. They were skilled at using what God had given



them. The Native American women, gathered chestnuts, berries, grapes, walnuts, crabapples, whortle berries\* and strawberries therein and clearing of the land was neither done or nor required. But they did cultivate beans corn, peas, pompions\*\*, melons, potatoes and a few other vegetables with crude hand-hewn tools. Since both sexes were fond of it, tobacco was also cultivated long before the English arrived. "The labor of squaws, who alone cultivated the soil, secured a yield per acre equal to, if not greater than that produced by our practical farmers with aid of modern machinery." [1] These were their responsibilities.

The Algonquin Nation which was divided into tribes – the Powhatan, Pamunkey, Mattaponi, and others along with the Manakin of the Tuscarora tribe – were the first Native Americans who met the European settlers. The women of the tribes were the fabric that kept the family together and along maternal ancestry lines is where the Algonquin base their family lineage – distinguishing differing families with a coats-of-arms. These first Americas had never before seen "white" men and women, but welcomed them.

The tribal environment was of mutual care and when harm was done to one, it was done to all. Theirs was not a land of ownership as the English were accustomed. The land belonged to the tribes for the use of all. The boundaries of these lands were normally marked by natural borders such as creeks or mountains. Life was simpler and more straightforward for the American Indians where roles in the tribe were clearly defined by sex. And it took all the tribal people – both male, female and children to care for one another in sustaining their lives. As you might expect, the land and the rivers were very important to the Native Americans livelihood, as too it would become to the English settlers.

Columbus is credited with discovering the 'new world' (not to say that the Vikings had not discovered it earlier) but this is only speaking for the English perspective. By 1505, Spain was colonizing the West Indies and by 1522, Cortez was appointed Governor of New Spain which included parts of the Continental US. And in 1585, the English now better equipped with ships, geographical knowledge, and money sent settlers under Sir Walter Raleigh to colonize Roanoke Island. One year later that colonization effort proved a disaster having lost all colonists – leaving a mystery behind as well as some lessons learned. With all of these experiences learned, the Virginia Company of London's founders had aspirations of their own – wealth – seeking a charter to settle the new world. Jamestown was the first settlement in the new world but it too was unsuccessful settling. Swamps were the environment and diseases were not hospitable to the English. They were warned but did not heed the advice. The next settlement moving upstream, which was the first successful English settlement, was in Chesterfield a much better environment in which to live. On April 10, 1606, King James I granted that charter to Thomas Gates, et.al., of London, George Pophan, et.al., of Bristol, Exeter and Plymouth, England to settle first between the 34° – 41° N. latitudes (Jamestown) then secondly between the 38° – 45° N. latitudes (Citie of Henricus). [2] The second of these latitudes contained what is now known as Chesterfield County, originally Henrico County later divided into Chesterfield, Goochland and Henrico Counties. [3] No women were mentioned in the original charter. It was indeed a man's world in this English culture.

History is written by the victors and I've read many accounts of Native Americans and particularly Pocahontas in the research for this article. It is a fact that the Spanish, then the English, over time became the victors for the new land now called America. The one book I read about Pocahontas that held the greatest interest for me – *The True Story of Pocahontas – The Other Side of the Story* by Dr. Linwood "Little Bear" Custalow and Angela L. Daniel – Silver Star" of Pocahontas' tribe which told me more about the Native Americans, their lifestyle, their morality, and of Pocahontas than any of the histories written by others. As I researched, I found a dichotomy of events, things that I had been taught in public school were only one side of the story – that of the victor's. So I set out with an open mind to read the

"Other Side". Who could better describe their lives, culture and environment than the descendants of Pocahontas' tribe. Herein lays some insight to the first known women in Chesterfield County – the Mattaponi women.

The Mattaponi cherish and revere their history greatly so that it has been very carefully passed down as an oral tradition, not a story, but true history for over 400 years by a designated member of each tribe whose sole responsibility to carefully keep and teach the tribe's history. (Author's note: This is the first book I found written on the Mattaponi by the Mattaponi. While researching in the victor's tomes, I found many a contradiction when attempting to establish Pocahontas' age, location, family and deeds – things just didn't fit, but when I read *The True Story of Pocahontas* coupled with my knowledge of what motivates people, things were falling into place. And it is with these tools I am able to write about role of Native American's in our country's beginnings.)

Native American women were some of the first settlers of whom we are aware. The Powhatan Nation's history, knowledge, religion and secular culture was entrusted to the hands of a few select ones down through the ages; who were known as Quiakros (key-krows) – or priest, advisor, spiritual leader, assistant Chief and elder and they were all men. There was a least one in each tribe whose entire and very important job was to keep the sacred history verbally entrusted to them. That would ensure that each tribe would know who they were by their ancestry and history.

1) **A Brief of Brandermill's Historical Background Report**; Ken W. Ayscue.

2) **A History of Colonial Virginia**, William B. Cridlin, Williams Printing Co, Richmond, VA, 1923, pps.6-7.

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

4) **Adventures of Purse and Person** – Virginia 1607-1624-5, Meyer & Dorman, Order of First Families in Virginia, 1987, p.xix.

\* Whortle berries were a berry-like fruit either grown on land or in bogs that are edible liked unto any other berry.

\*\* Pompions were flavorless gourds with orange flesh used by the Indians to contain food and water.

## 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.

### Hattie Mae Trent Carter

**Born February 9, 1924**

Hattie was one of 15 children born to Guy S. Trent, Sr. and Serena Goode Trent in Chester, VA at her grandmother's house on Ironbridge Road. Her parents had 8 girls and 7 boys. Her parents were farmers until their home burned in 1940. They gave up farming and her father went to work for Richmond Dairy and later opened a store at Centralia named G. S. Trent Country Store. He had a cab service to carry people from the bus stops. Her maternal grandparents were the former Susan Claiborne and George Eddie Goode. She attended Sunday



School faithfully and was baptized at age 11 at the Historic First Baptist Church, Centralia. Rev. W. B. Ball was the pastor. Life growing up on the farm was busy. They cared for cows, chickens, pigs, etc. They played with the neighborhood children, listened to the radio and worked on 4-H club projects. Hattie walked 3.5 miles to Centralia Elementary School, a two room white board school. She also went to Drewry's Bluff Elementary. Elaine Friend (grades 1-3) and Pauline Graham (grades 4-7) were her teachers. At the Black County Fair, her father had a stand that sold hot dogs, hamburgers, garden vegetables and canned goods. At age 13, she made a dress out of a white feed bag, and won first prize. She graduated from Hickory Hill High School. Cuti Preston was the school bus driver to Hickory Hill. This school was a brick building with large rooms. Mr. Spencer was the principal. Hattie was married to Matthew H. Carter (deceased) for 49 years. Hattie worked at American Tobacco Company and Summer Hill Nursing Home. During World War II, she worked at Russell and Wise Car Parts. She was also a licensed beautician. She retired from the Macke Vending Company, Washington, DC. Hattie shares her philosophy, "What I say I am going to do I do it. My word is my bond. What I start I finish. I put the Lord first to show me the way."

#### Rachel Thomas Redd Briggs



#### Born August 23, 1922

Rachel Thomas Redd Briggs was born to the late Matt and Lucille Pegram in Chesterfield County, VA. She was one of 12 children. Her siblings were Berthel, Gertrude, Ethel, Mary, Mathew, Paul, Silas, James, Henry, Elick, and Woodley. She vividly remembers her mother tirelessly working as a domestic worker to help support the family. Both parents worked in Chester. Her mother worked for the Bruce's and her father was a logger and businessman.

She also fondly remembers her grandmother for whom she was named. Her grandmother showed her much kindness, and this trait was instilled in her throughout her entire life. Rachel attended Piney Branch School. She recalled that the school was not fancy like the schools today. It was a very small wood-framed building that was kept very neat. She loved arithmetic and reading books. She graduated from Hickory High School. Calvin Preston was the bus driver. Her teachers were Pauline Graham, Louise Barnes, Ms. Reed. Mr. Spencer was the principal. She accepted Christ at an early age and became a member of Zion Chester A.M.E. Rachel married Eugene Williams Briggs and from that union they had 9 children. Her children are Eugene (deceased), Martha, Williams, Shirl, Jacquelyn, Ronald, Carrol, Gwenette, and Warren (deceased). Rachel with her kind, loving spirit was a mother that managed to treat all of her children, extended family and grandchildren as if they were unique and special. During her lifetime, she had been employed as a domestic worker for very prominent Caucasian families in Chester. She became a lead teacher for twenty years at Town and Country Day Care Center. While there she nurtured and mentored children who have become prominent citizens. She was a mentor for Chesterfield County at Harrowgate Elementary for the "Hip Program." She is now a member of Bethesda Baptist Church in Walthall. Rachel makes sacrifices for her friends and family. She is a quintessential role model for showing how to live a Christian life and care for one another.

#### Rebecca Surley Branch

#### Born February 11, 1923

Rebecca was born to Irvin Watson Surley and Mehetta Bell Knott Surley, in Chesterfield, Virginia. The family home-place was on Exter Mill Road off of River Road. Nine children were born to this union and Rebecca is one of two surviving siblings. Her sibling is Bernice Surley Trent. Her father was a native of Chesterfield County and her mother was a native of Chase City, Virginia. Mr. Surley was affectionately known as "IW Smiles" and "Cousin Irvin." He was a bus driver for Chesterfield County Schools for several years. Mr. Surley transitioned at the age of 97 and Mrs. Surley transitioned at the age of 86. As a common practice for "colored" students, Rebecca initially walked to Union Branch Elementary School until neighbors provided transportation. She attended D. Webster Davis High School where she was transported primarily by car pooling until a bus was provided by the

Chesterfield County for "colored" students. Rebecca graduated from D. Webster Davis High School. She continued her education at Virginia State College, now Virginia State University, where she received a Bachelor of Science and Masters Degrees.

She began her teaching career at Dupuy Elementary School (later named Ettrick annex), and she also taught at Union Grove and Winterpock Elementary Schools. Rebecca returned to Dupuy serving as a teacher/principal and later was appointed Principal. She was a pioneer in starting several programs such as the Pilot Head Start Program and Departmentalization of core classes in English, Math, and Social Studies. She was appointed Principal of Ettrick Elementary where she retired after 22 years of service. Rebecca received her spiritual nurturing at Union Branch Baptist Church at an early age. She served in many capacities to include choir member and Diaconate ministry where she continues to be active. Rebecca was married to the late Melvin Branch. From this union, one son, Ronald, was born. She has two granddaughters and two great granddaughters. She continues to reside in Chesterfield County.



#### Fundraising

Peter Lipowicz and Diane Dallmeyer

I am pleased to thank our donors who have collectively given over \$3300 these past two quarters, and over \$5400 for the year. Thank you for your generosity.

**Donations of \$500 or more** Altria, Knights of Columbus Council 6189, Verizon Foundation, Branch's Bluff Development Co

**Donations of \$100 - \$499** Stephen Kaufman, Tom & Donna Sokol, David & Patsy Brown in honor of Bryan Truzzie

**Donations up to \$99** Sandra Wiggins, Karen Crostic Suter in memory of Mildred Crostic, Marie Stella, Reed Hudgins, Gwen Davis

**Pro-Bono Professional Services** Thank you to David Brown CPA for providing accounting services, and Troutman-Sanders for providing legal services.

#### Membership

Diane Dallmeyer

Please welcome our new members to the Society: Ms. R. Lindy Green, Ms. Mary Carr, Ms. Marie Stella, Ms. Jerie Williams, Mr. Kenneth Montero, Mr. & Mrs. Mike Archie, Mr. & Mrs. John Flournoy, and Mr. & Mrs. Peter Dalleo.



## Card Party at Circle Oaks

Peter Lipowicz

**Washington Post July 14, 1907**

This card party was reported in the "Society" section. Circle Oaks is a historic home in Centralia. It was on a past house tour organized by the Society. Miss Amy Sloan of New York was the guest of honor at this party. Circle Oaks was described as the summer home of Major Clay Drewry of Chesterfield. The party was hosted by his daughter Mrs. Charles Conway Bowe. The color scheme was pink and white and prizes were won by several attendees. Also attending the party were Miss Agness Drewry of "Mineola," Clay Drewry Jr., Emile Baughman, Edmund Benson, and Angus Drewry.



## The History of Morrissett Funeral Home

contributed by Morrissett Funeral Home

In 1870, shortly after the end of the Civil War, Beverly H. Morrissett, a Southside cabinet maker, established B.H. Morrissett Funeral Home at No. 17 W. 7th Street in Manchester, Virginia, now South Richmond. His sons, William J. Morrissett and Jefferson T. Morrissett, joined the business in 1893 and 1894 respectively and, with this addition the name was changed to B. H. Morrissett and



Sons. The funeral home operated on 7th Street until 1914 when it was relocated to 19th and Hull Streets.

After B. H. Morrissett's death in 1915 the funeral home was run by his sons. In 1920 William's son, Stanley B. Morrissett, became the third Street location until 1938 when a new facility was built at 318 Cowardin Avenue. According to news accounts of this era,

Morrissett Funeral Home was the oldest continuously operated business in South Richmond. With Jeff's passing in 1940 and Willie's death in 1960, Stanley was left to continue his family's traditions. Robert G. Danielson was hired in 1962 to manage the company. Upon Stanley's death in 1966, his sister, Esther B. Morrissett became the owner, with Mr. Danielson continuing as manager. In 1969, Bob and his partner Walter E. Mittelstadter, Jr.



purchased the company and in 1974 built a new facility at 6500 Iron Bridge Road. Long time employees, Richard M. Booker and Laurence F. Spiaggi, purchased Walter's interest in the funeral home in 1989 and upon Mr. Danielson's retirement in 1997, they were able to purchase the entire business. Dick and Larry, along with a dedicated staff, continue to offer our community the care and service that has been expected of us since 1870.

Photo 1 is 7th & Bainbridge (circa 1870)

Photo 2 is 19th & Hull St. (circa 1912)

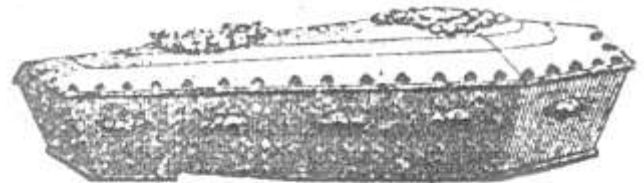
Photo 3 is 318 Cowardin Ave (circa 1938)

## Iron Coffin for Sale

Rachel Lipowicz

This fine iron coffin was offered for sale in an ad that ran in the Petersburg newspaper in 1877. These coffins are extremely strong and heavy. Occasionally one turns up when a cemetery is being moved and it they can be difficult to remove.

**UNDEPTAKING.**  
**FURNITURE CHEAP FOR CASH.**  
**QUICK SALES AND SMALL PROFIT.**  
Having added some nice CHAMBER SETTS and CHEAP FURNITURE to my present stock, I am prepared to accommodate my former patrons in the furniture line again.



I shall also continue to keep all kinds of METALLIC CASES, COFFINS and CASKETS, IMITATION ROSEWOOD and WALNUT COFFINS and CASKETS, SHROUDS, and etc.

**JAMES T. MORRISSETT,**  
No. 2 South Mycamere street.

RESIDENCE,  
No 229 Harrison street.

a3

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

Non-Profit Org.  
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Current Occupant or:

### **CHS Events Calendar**

**October 5th - Grand Opening – NEW! Year-long Exhibit** – “Firefighting in Chesterfield County: The Original Thirteen Departments”  
**Thru mid-January 2014 – NEW! Exhibit** “Post Offices of Chesterfield County: Connecting the Community since 1794.”

#### **Events - October 2013**

**5<sup>th</sup>, Saturday**, 11am-4pm - Eppington Heritage Day (Eppington Plantation), Free

**7<sup>th</sup> Monday**, noon - CHSV Golf Classic (Highland's Country Club) pre-registration required (804) 796-7121

**19<sup>th</sup>, Saturday**, 11am-3pm - Historic Tours of Mid-Lothian Mines, Free

**25<sup>th</sup>, Friday**, 7-10pm - Haunted Lantern Tours (Magnolia Grange) \$5/adult, \$2+), pre-registration required online via PayPal

**26<sup>th</sup>, Saturday**, 10am-2pm - **NEW!** Civil War 150<sup>th</sup> Event: Howlett Line Van Tour (*Henricus Park*), \$15, register online via PayPal

#### **Events - November 2013**

**2<sup>nd</sup>, Saturday**, 10am-4pm - **NEW!** Historic Point of Rocks Living History Day (*Historic Point of Rocks*), Free

**9<sup>th</sup>, Saturday**, 10-11am - Mid-Lothian Mines Park Tour, \$8, to register: (804)748-1623

**9<sup>th</sup>, Saturday**, 7-9pm - Spirited History Paranormal Investigation Workshop (*Magnolia Grange*), \$10, Register online via Paypal.

**11<sup>th</sup>, Monday**, 2pm - **Annual Veterans Day Ceremony** (*1917 Courthouse*), Free - Museum & Jail free

**23<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday**, 10-11am - Eppington Plantation Tour, \$8, to register: (804)748-1623

#### **Events - December 2013**

**7<sup>th</sup>, Saturday**, 1-4pm - Christmas Open House (*Magnolia Grange*) Free

**7<sup>th</sup>, Saturday**, 8-10pm - Spirited History Paranormal Tour (*1917 Court House Green*), \$20, register via PayPal

**11<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday**, 1pm – Christmas Tea (Magnolia Grange), \$25, Reservations: (804)796-1479

**14<sup>th</sup>, Saturday**, **7:30 pm** Christmas Homecoming Concert at Old Trinity Chapel by Trinity United Methodist Choir and Bell Choir

**18<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday**, 1pm - Christmas Tea (Magnolia Grange), \$25, Reservations: (804)796-1479

#### **Events - January 2014**

**10<sup>th</sup>, Friday**, 7pm - Winter Lecture Series: Historian/Impersonator William Young to portray “Douglas MacArthur during WWII” (*Community Room - Lucy Corr Village*) \$5, free to CHSV members

**24<sup>th</sup>, Friday**, 7pm - Winter Lecture Series: Local author Kitty Snow “Old Trolley Cars of Richmond” (*Community Room - Lucy Corr Village*) \$5, free to CHSV members

**26<sup>th</sup>, Sunday**, 1pm – CHSV Membership Meeting/Lunch - Watch for details in the Messenger. Reservations required (804) 796-7121