

JOHN CHETTLE SPEAKS OF PRESIDENTIAL READING HABITS AT SOCIETY MAY MEMBERS' MEETING

by ANDREW J. DONNELLY, 1st Vice President & Programs Chairman

The spring membership meeting of the Goochland County Historical Society took place on May 17 at historic Soldier's Lodge circa 1833, the home of Louise and Earl Thompson. The event was moved indoors due to inclement weather, but the spacious and comfortable Thompson home was more than adequate for the meeting. Approximately 50 people relocated to the family room and heard the featured speaker, Mr. John Chettle, deliver an enthusiastic discussion of United States presidents. Society President Peter Rippe welcomed members and guests.



Louise Thompson delivered an interesting talk on the history of Soldier's Lodge, which, while completely renovated, has much of the original flooring still in tact and contains timbers which were salvaged from the 18th century second Goochland County Courthouse when the third courthouse was constructed.

Chettle, a native of South Africa, Rhodes Scholar, attorney, lecturer, and author, is currently completing a book entitled *What Do Presidents Read: And Why It Matters*. In his book, he deals briefly with three early presidents, George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson, and in greater detail, Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower, Harry Truman, Ronald Reagan, and George W. Bush. At the request of his editor, he is also adding a chapter on President Barack Obama. Time permitted a discussion of Presidents Washington, FDR, Eisenhower, Bush and Obama. Chettle maintains

that an analysis of presidential reading habits can often explain why presidents take certain courses of actions.

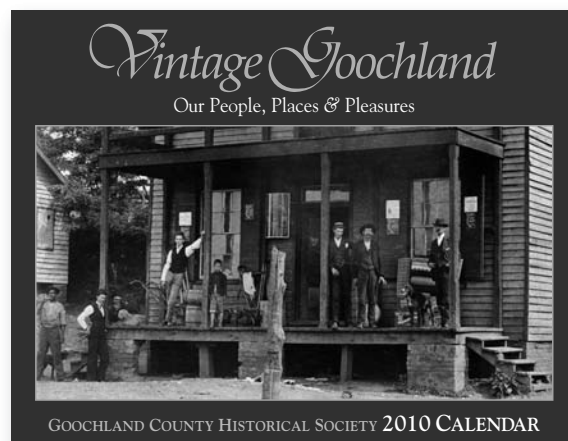
George Washington, for instance, during his early years, read much of the history of ancient Rome. Franklin Roosevelt, was an avid reader of naval histories, which compelled him to periodically override his strategists with very favorable results. Eisenhower, who was an excellent student and well read, was advised by no less than six of his civilian and military advisors to launch nuclear warfare against communist China during the Korean conflict. He rejected this advice which would have altered the history of the world with unknown consequences. The press was critical of George W. Bush's reading of cowboy books, which he did for relaxation. However, Bush frequently read books of a historical and military nature. Obama indicated that he wants to be a "great president." He was a student of Saul Alinsky, Chicago-born writer and community organizer. Much of Alinsky's writing and teachings influenced President Obama's early political career.

Also in attendance was 95-year-old Helen Best Heinzen, who lived at Breezehill as a child and often visited Soldier's Lodge. Helen has generously provided the Society with Best family photographs and recollections from her childhood in Goochland.

Chettle's book is expected to be available late this year. Refreshments were served by Claire Donnelly.

Our 2010
Vintage Goochland
Calendars arrive
in September.

SEE PAGE 7.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The long hot summer is upon us, but the work of the Goochland County Historical Society continues.

The Society's First Vice President, Andrew Donnelly continues his excellent service to the Board through his work in planning upcoming membership meetings. The next membership meeting will be held Sunday, October 4th at the old Goochland Courthouse building. Historian John Maass will speak on the "British invasion" of Goochland in 1781 by Lt. Gen. Charles, Lord Cornwallis. Maass will trace the route of the "Red Coats" across the county.

Additionally, with eleven new members since February of this year, the Society's membership continues to grow and remains a central part of the organization's vitality.

In April, the publications committee, Doug Price, Louisa Preston and Jeff Mabry met to choose the photographs for the 2010 "Vintage Goochland" calendar. Doug has worked diligently to complete calendar of antique photographs. I know that all our members are awaiting their chance to buy this little bit of old Goochland County.

Before closing this report, I especially want to thank and



wish a fond farewell to Sara Bonovitch, the Society's research assistant. Sara is leaving our employment on August 14th to attend graduate school at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. She has been an asset to the Society and, we hope, that her work experience here has been both pleasant and fruitful. We will miss her and we wish her well. Thank you, Sara.

Although the summer might be hot and the economy might falter, it's reassuring to know that the Goochland Historical Society continues to represent its members and accomplish its particular brand of work... teaching, preserving, and interpreting Goochland's past for visitors from far and near. Our Society seems to draw all of its members and friends into a web of history that is bound up, firstly, in the past and present geographic boundaries of our county and, secondly, by the amazing mystical borders of the old Virginia County we call Goochland as it stretches across the country and around the world.

Sincerely,
Peter Rippe

RECENT GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY

Robert and Linda Bailey – Callam Bailey Family History

C. Champion Bowles (photo right) – WWI Uniform, Early Militia Sword, Cannon Ball

V. Knight Bowles – The History of Appomattox County Schools 1870-1991

Thadeus L. Hartman, president of the Society of the War of 1812 – Book: *Encounters with the British in Virginia During the War of 1812*;

Book: *War of 1812 Veteran Burials at St. John's Episcopal Church Graveyard, Richmond, Virginia*;

CD-ROM: *2900 War of 1812 Veteran Burials in Virginia*

Lois Henley – 1932 Manakin School Roll Book

Carl Pace – Johnson Family Information

Sarah Powers – Bolling Hall Artifacts

Maria Wornom Rippe – Book: *The Tinsley Family of Totomoi*

Margaret Henley Walker – WWII Artifacts



Photograph by Doug Price

FRED SORRELL IS SOCIETY'S VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

by PHYLLIS SILBER



Fred Sorrell represents the very best of what volunteering means to an organization. Fred's "job" at the Goochland County Historical Society is to serve as treasurer to the Society and as such he also oversees all disbursements, acquisitions, and investments. But Fred is much more than that. He is our computer guru and maintains the Society's web site. We often receive compliments for the appearance and informative nature of the Site. Fred is our resident handyman. Before we call a repairman we call Fred and he usually guides us through the mishap that has occurred on that day. And then there is Fred the researcher. He was responsible for the publication of an Index to "The Douglas Register" an important church record to genealogists across the country. He serves as our representative to a newly formed consortium interested in posting county records on the web. Our Society has thrived due in part to having Fred on our leadership team. We are pleased to nominate Fred Sorrell as volunteer of the year for the Goochland County Historical Society.

Goochland County Chamber of Commerce Volunteer Luncheon held at the Hermitage Country Club

ABOVE: Paula and Fred Sorrell. RIGHT: Standing (l-r): Jeff Mabry; Doug Price, Peter Rippe, Craig Bright, and Andrew Donnelly. Seated (l-r): Temple Bayliss, Phyllis Silber, Paula Sorrell, Fred Sorrell, and Sara Bonovitch



GOOCHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Your support is important to us. Consider giving special friends a Gift Membership.

Membership Levels

JAMES RIVER	\$500 and up
BYRD CREEK	\$250 - \$499
GOLD MINE	\$100 - \$249
COURTHOUSE	\$50 - \$99
BUSINESS	\$50
TUCKAHOE CREEK	\$25 - \$49

Membership in the Goochland County Historical Society is open to all persons who have an interest in history and preservation. You are cordially invited to join us in this exciting and fulfilling endeavor. Memberships are annual. Contributions to the Society above \$15.00 are tax deductible.

*Volunteer Opportunities.
You Can Do It.*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

(Since February 2009)

L. Kirk Clark	Indiana	Cynthia L. Phillips	Staunton
Frank M. Dunn, Jr.	Henrico	Joseph E. Reed, Jr.	Manakin Sabot
Timothy Fogarty	Rockville	Terry Smith-Cole	Manakin Sabot
Nancy R. Johnson	Glen Allen	Peter Schuyler Thompson, Jr.	Florida
W. Justin Lacy	Manakin Sabot	Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Sheppard	Roanoke
Leslie & Ellen Little	Goochland	Dennis Topper	Richmond

NEW MEMBER SHARES CONFEDERATE LETTERS

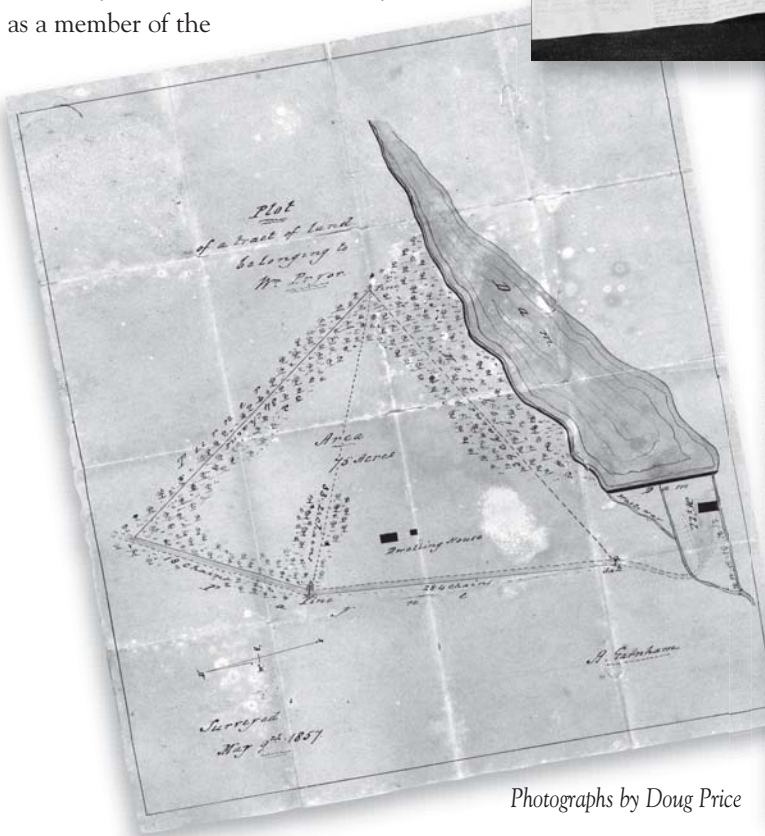
BY SARA R. BONOVTCH, Research Assistant

Thomas E. Daniels, a 35-year resident of Goochland County and Vietnam War veteran, is a new member and volunteer at the Society. After working for DuPont for 35 years, Tom has dedicated his time to historical research. His interests lie in cemetery research and the documentation of military graves. Tom worked closely with Ann Hamner in researching Goochland gravesites for the 1990 first edition of *Grave Sites and Cemeteries in Goochland County*. Tom also studies military cemeteries from the Colonial Militias to the Philippine War in 1902.

During a recent visit to the Society, Tom brought a series of five letters written during the Civil War. The letters were written by Goochland native William A. Pryor to his wife Elizabeth T. Payne between 1862 and 1863. Pryor served the Confederacy as a member of the



March 9th 1863
Camp near Fredericksburg Va
My dear wife!
I received your letter dated 4th inst. and was very glad to hear that all were well at home. I am very sorry to hear of poor Mill's death, it makes me very uneasy thinking that perhaps I may have some trouble in getting a right to our place. You must write and inform me who the executors are, so that I may see about it at once. I was glad to hear that you had bought me fodder. Let me know whether



Camp near Fredericksburg Va Jan 7th 1863
My Dear Wife
Your letter came to hand a few days since & I was very glad to hear from you & the children but sorry to hear that the children had the whooping cough. You must write us soon as you get this in order to let me know how they have gotten on. You must be careful with the children do not let them be exposed any more than can be possibly helped. The money I sent you. You need not write that you have not spent any of it. I don't think you can do any thing that you may need to buy take it & use it. I came very near going home Christmas but did not leave. but should have gone. I don't have been treated quite badly when I come back as men who have

Photographs by Doug Price

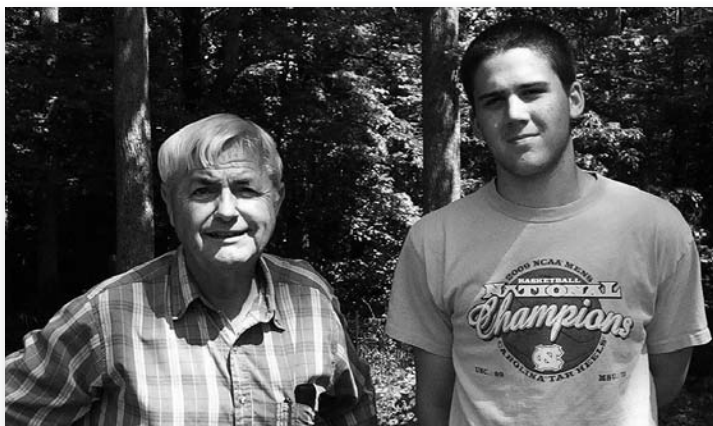
Goochland Turner and Light Artillery and King William Artillery. He was wounded on May 3, 1863 in Chancellorsville, and later died in a Richmond hospital. With the letters, Tom found Pryor's land survey from Goochland in 1858, as well.

The letters and survey were loaned to the Society by Tom's

mother-in-law, Thelma Cutright Small, and have been scanned and digitized. The Society would like to thank Tom and Mrs. Small for their generosity, and hopes these letters will encourage others to bring forth their historic documents and records.

—continued on next page

As a volunteer, Tom has also agreed to assist the Society with cemetery research and restoration. Just recently, he worked with local Eagle Scout, Dan Crowley, to clean and repair the Payne family cemetery located off of Payne Road in Tabscott.



Tom Daniels (left) met with Eagle Scout Dan Crowley to assess the Payne family cemetery in Tabscott. Photograph by Jeanene Crowley



Before Clearing. The Payne family cemetery under ground cover and a broken fence. Cemetery photographs by Tom Daniels



Eagle Scout Dan Crowley begins work around headstones.



Volunteers begin clearing cemetery.



Volunteers take a break after a day of clearing the cemetery.



After. The Payne family cemetery after a day of clearing and repair.

ELLISVILLE BRIDGE HISTORICAL MARKER

by SHARON PERDUE

The Goochland Historical Society with support from the Goochland Board of Supervisors has installed its first county marker. This program was initiated to commemorate those sites that do not qualify for Virginia state marker status. The marker reads:

The Ellisville Bridge divides 49 acres purchased by Levi and Martha Jane Ellis between 1880 and 1909. On this site stands the original Ellis home. Family legend is that Levi Ellis was a freed black slave from Tuckahoe Plantation. He was a farmer and also a founder of the St. James Baptist Church, serving as a deacon and superintendent of the Sunday School. This church, located on Blair Road, was one of the earliest black churches in Goochland County and also served as a school. Levi Ellis died in 1914. Both he and Martha are buried in St. James cemetery. After the death of Martha Ellis, their property was deeded to their children. This 1940 deed states that "the land shall be known and designated as ELLISVILLE in memoriam to our faithful and sainted parents." Ellisville still remains on the Goochland County tax records. This first Goochland County Historical Marker was placed through the efforts of the Ellis family, Louise Martin, Sharon Perdue, Ed Wilson, Goochland County Board of Supervisors, and the Goochland County Historical Society. Erected by the Goochland County Historical Society Nov. 2008 HM1



GCHS marker committee members, Sharon Perdue and Ed Wilson

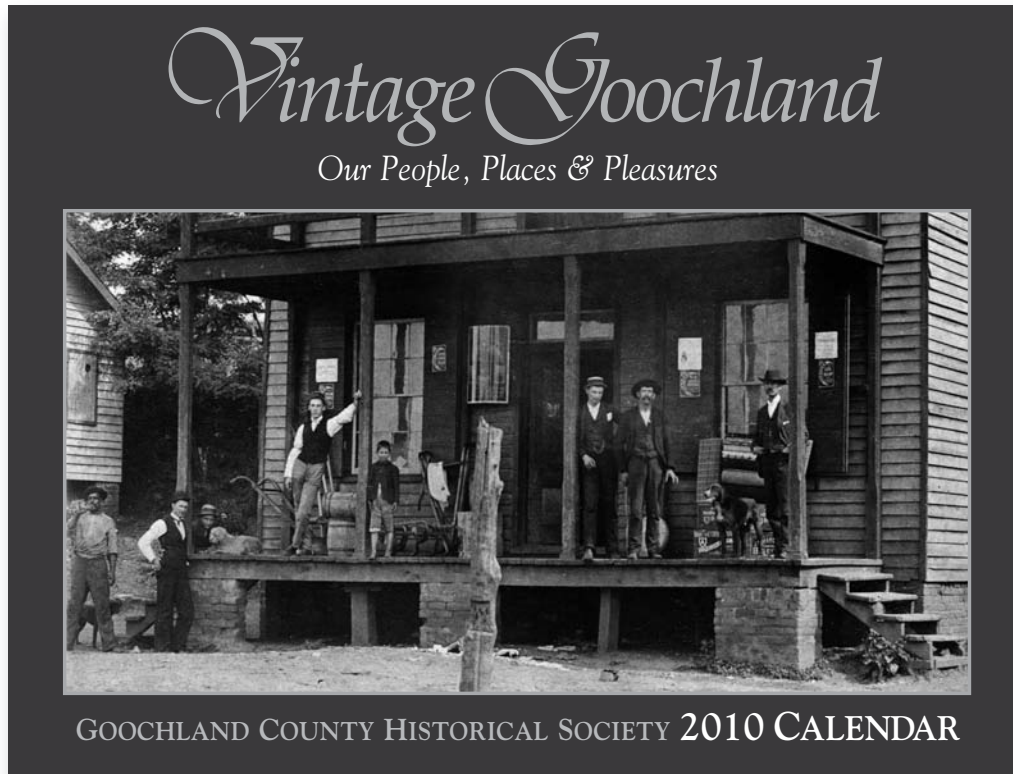


The Ellis family.

THE 2010 VINTAGE GOOCHLAND CALENDAR

The Perfect Gift!

\$8 each /
5 for \$35



Calendars measure 11" x 17" hanging and feature national holidays & observances, Goochland County schools' holidays and Board of Supervisors' meetings.

O.B. TAYLOR'S STORE, SABOT

Our 2010 Calendars will be available at Field Day of the Past and these locations in September:

- Goochland County Historical Society • Goochland County Administration Building • Brookview Farm Store
 - Dameron's Market • The Edible Garden • JavaJodi's Coffee Café • White Hawk Music Café
- All proceeds from calendar sales supports the Society.

ROCKETT'S VOTING BUILDING TO HOUSE EXHIBIT AT FIELD DAY OF THE PAST



A small white building which served as a voting precinct for many years will be the new home of the Society during Field Day of the Past. The building was moved from the back yard of the Brookings family on White Hall Road. The building originally sat at the intersection of Appleman Road and White Hall Road. It was used as a voting precinct as early as 1896. A copy of the register for the precinct will be available to view as a part of the exhibit. Rocketts was used to identify the same area in Goochland County Deed Books as early as 1835 when a building called Rockett's Store stood there. The Society has a ledger from the store which was owned by a Mr. Crutchfield. The ledger will also be on exhibit. Francis Ragland, County Registrar, has offered an early voting machine to be put on display. Other parts of the exhibit will include early photographs from the Vintage Calendars and early ballots from presidential elections.

Research failed to reveal the exact origin of the name Rockett's for that small area near the intersection. A branch from Lickinghole Creek was called Rockett's Creek but the actual origin of the name remains elusive.

Please stop by to visit us in our new building during Field Day. Our volunteers and Board members will be there and we will have items from the gift shop to sell. The Society is very grateful to the Field Day of the Past team for making this possible.

Visit the Goochland Historical Society
The Society's headquarters are located a half mile east of the Goochland Courthouse at 2875 River Road West (Route 6).

Winter hours (October - March) are:
Wednesday - Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., or by appointment.

Summer hours (April - September) are:
Tuesday - Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., or by appointment.

Those traveling long distances should call the Society to confirm it will be open that day. (804) 556-3966

E-mail the Society
goochlandhistory@verizon.net

Visit the Society's Website
www.goochlandhistory.org

Society Phone & Fax
(804) 556-3966

Phyllis Silber, *Editor*
Douglas Price, *Designer*

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Goochland County Historical Society
P. O. Box 602
Goochland, Virginia 23063

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The Goochland County Historical Society is a non-profit organization founded and operated for the perpetuation and preservation of Goochland County heritage and tradition.



Goochland County Historical Society
Phyllis Silber, *Executive Director*

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Meeting
OCTOBER 4th at 3:00 PM
in the historic Goochland Courthouse
Speaker: Dr. John Maass

"THE GREATEST TERROR IMAGINABLE"

Maass will discuss the British invasion of Goochland in June of 1781 by Lt. Gen. Charles, Lord Cornwallis and trace the routes of the "Red Coats" across the county. John Maass is a historian at the U.S. Army Center of Military History.



Lt. Gen. Charles, Lord Cornwallis

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Annual Members' Meeting
DECEMBER 6th at 3:00 PM
at "CHASTAIN"
the Sabot home of Helen Scott Reed