



2017: A YEAR OF CHANGES

Greetings and Happy New Year!

First, I want to recognize those who are leaving their positions with the Society. After 16 years as Executive Director, Phyllis Silber retired at the end of December. I wish to extend thanks and recognition to her for all her many accomplishments and years of dedicated service. She led the Society to unprecedented growth in both



Phyllis Silber with Rossie Fisher

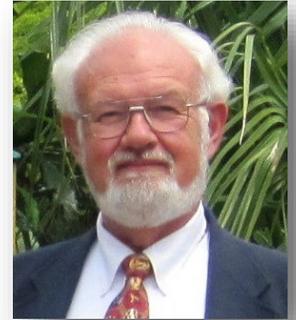
membership and scope of activities. In 2016 alone, the Old Stone Jail restoration was completed, with the ribbon cutting in the fall. However, the Courthouse Green Project continues with work on the Old Clerk's Office. Also, 2016 saw the publication of Phyllis's book *UNDER EVERY TREE: A Guide to Finding Your Roots in Virginia* which has been well received by the genealogy community. While we will certainly miss Phyllis, we wish her the very best in her retirement.

Bonnie Stamm left her part-time position as Office Manager in November for a full-time position at another non-profit in the Richmond area. While we will miss Bonnie's friendly attitude and excellent technology skills, we wish her the greatest success in her new employment.

A search for a new Executive Director and Office Manager will get underway shortly. In the meantime, Christina Dunn has agreed to serve as Interim Executive Director and Ginny Olsen as Office Manager; both are members of the Board and current volunteers. With extra hours of assistance by our dedicated volunteers, the Society's office hours will remain the same and all services, publications, and member activities and events will continue as usual.

We welcome the two newest members of the Board of

Directors: Alan Crouch, Assistant Dean of the School of Business at Reynold's Community College and William Quarles, former Chairman of the Goochland County Board of Supervisors. Thank you to those who have agreed to continue to serve on the Board of Directors, on our various committees, and as volunteers.



As an organization, we have been highly dependent on member support for our successes over the years. As a result we have had an impressive record of accomplishing ambitious projects and doing so in a timely and professional manner. The Courthouse Green Project is the latest of these. Plans for 2017 include turning the Old Clerk's Office into a small museum and visitor center; and installing another section of the commemorative pavers on the central walk, as well as interpretive signs in strategic locations on the Green. Bruce Venter, First Vice President, is arranging for speakers of the highest quality for our membership meetings, lectures and book signings; the Publications Committee is already working on the 2017 magazine and the 2018 calendar; and I am working with the YMCA to plan new History Walks.

These accomplishments are made possible through the collegial efforts of the Society's officers, Board of Directors, committee members, volunteers, and staff, but, most importantly, it is you, the members, who are the heart of the organization. I strongly encourage you to continue your interest, keep informed of and participate in the Society's activities, and make your recommendations and suggestions known to the officers, Board, and staff. We want to hear from you and we **need** to hear from you. While we have a strong organization, there is always room for improvement and new direction. We believe 2017 will be an exciting year for the Society.

Warm regards,

DECEMBER SOCIETY MEETING

The Society's December 4th meeting was held at Poor House Farm, also known as Dunleavy, located west of Goochland Courthouse. We thank Molly Lennarz for opening her home and allowing us to tour the property.

The house, believed to have been built in 1835, is a



Horace Lee Herndon

two-story brick building of Flemish bond. The front and back entrances are arched with porches added later. The Poor

House closed in 1929 and the superintendent's house was later purchased by the Coffey family, who

made it their home. In 1980 Anthony Pirozollo and his wife bought the property and transformed it into a modern, lovely home. Horace Lee Herndon, the grandson of the last superintendent, displayed a ledger of the facility used during his grandparents' time there.



Vernon Fleming

With about 40 people in attendance, Vernon Fleming announced the two

new board members, Alan Crouch and William Quarles. Also present was Patti Rosner who displayed her 26"x30" original painting of Maidens, the latest addition to the Goochland Villages Art Series. It was auctioned to the highest bidder, Ginger Garrison, at the meeting, with partial proceeds going to the So-



Cheryl Jackson

cety. Our speaker for the afternoon was Cheryl Jackson, Executive Director of the Virginia World War I and II Commemoration Commission. She explained how the Commission, created by the General Assembly, planned, developed, and will carry out programs and activities to commemorate the 100th anniversary of World War I and the 75th anniversary of World War II. It also honors the sacrifices of the soldiers and the citizens who

supported their efforts back home. Ms. Jackson previously served the Commonwealth as Executive Director of Virginia's highly successful Civil War 150th Sesquicentennial Commemoration Commission. She was kind enough to donate a series of books from the Virginia Civil War Organization.

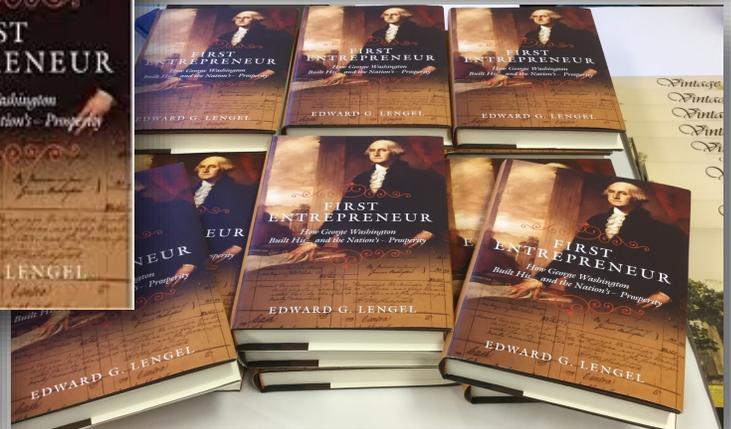
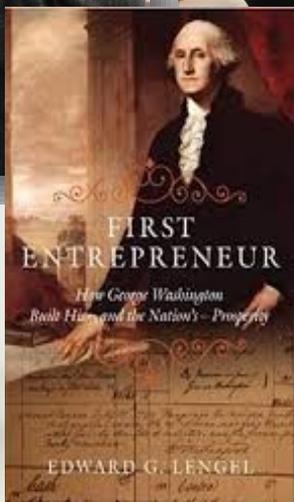
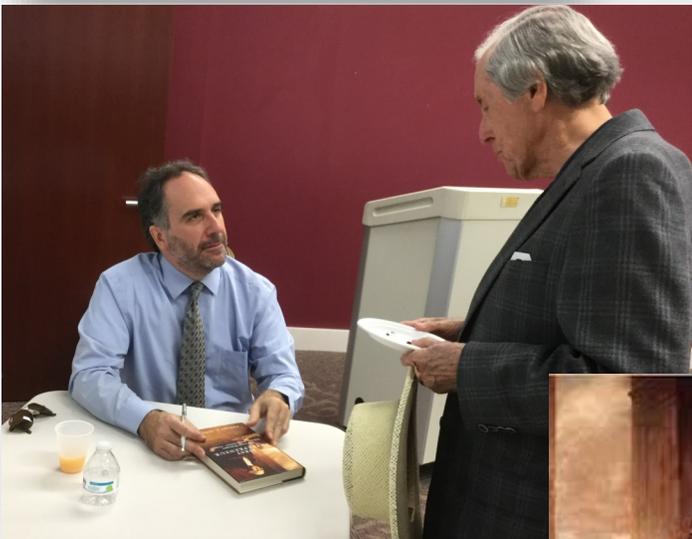


Ginger Garrison and Patti Rosner

FALL SOCIETY MEETING



The Fall Society meeting was held on October 23 at the Goochland Public Library. The featured speaker, introduced by Bruce Venter, was Dr. Edward Lengel, chief historian for The White House Historical Association. The discussion focused on his book, *General George Washington: A Military Life and First Entrepreneur: How George Washington Built His and the Nation's Prosperity*. After twenty years editing and directing the George Washington Papers, Dr. Lengel is now an independent scholar, writing and speaking on topics ranging from the Revolutionary War to World War I. He is the author of several books, including his latest book, the award winning *Thunder and Flames: Americans in the Crucible of Combat, 1917-1918*. He is currently working on books about World War I's Lost Battalion and a biography of "Light-Horse Harry" Lee.





Joseph Linwood Cosby

CALL FOR WWI PICTURES, LETTERS HOME AND OTHER MEMORABILIA

To commemorate the anniversary of WWI, we are featuring Goochland soldiers in the next issue of the Society magazine. If you have any pictures or letters of Goochland County WWI service men or women, we would love to have copies of them or access to the originals to scan. For more information, please email goochlandhistory@comcast.net or call 804-556-3966.



Earlie Austin Rigsby

For example, one of those who served in WWI from Goochland County was Bland Hobson (Goddin). In 1918 when she enlisted and sailed out of New York Harbor. She found it exciting and dangerous at the same time, but she arrived in Toul, France, tired and “very woe-be-gone looking.” She served until February 1919, then she was relieved of duty and returned home. She wrote many letters home to her parents giving them a glimpse of what it was like in Europe at that time. Some of these letters will be included in our next edition of the magazine. To learn more about Bland, see “A World War I Memoir,” Goochland Historical Society Magazine, Vol. 22, p. 61-64.

DID YOU KNOW? WE HAVE SATURDAY HOURS

We are now open on the **second Saturday of each month** from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This has become a very popular addition to our schedule as it allows visitors who work during the week a time to come in and do research or purchase items from our gift shop. We hope to see you soon!

ONLY A FEW MORE MONTHS TO GET YOUR COMMEMORATIVE PAVER

Orders for the commemorative brick pavers will be taken until April 1, 2017. They will be laid in the Central Walk on the Courthouse Green. To purchase and celebrate that special family member, friend or Goochland institution, please visit our website at: www.goochlandhistory.org. You can also obtain ordering information by calling the Society office at 804-556-3966.

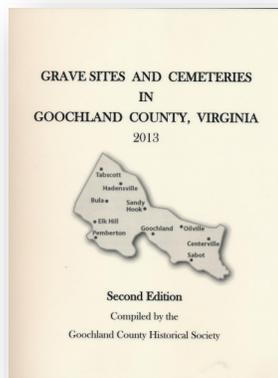
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you have some extra time and would like to give back to your community, while meeting new people from across the U. S., the Goochland County Historical Society has just the opportunity for you. We are looking for volunteers to assist visitors in the Cabell Research library; help with inventory and transcribing; and work on special projects. We also need volunteers for building and grounds, fundraising, and parking attendants for special events. Now that we have Saturday hours, we are looking for additional volunteers. For more information, please email the Volunteer Chair Cheryl Childress at cpc1996@gmail.com.



Volunteers James Richmond and Laura Mausolf

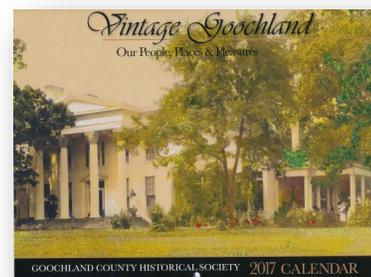
CEMETERY BOOK UPDATE



We need your help! The Goochland County Historical Society is now updating its Cemetery Book. First published in 1990 by Ann K. Hamner, it was updated in 2013 by the Cemetery Committee. Another update of the graves and cemeteries in the county is currently in progress. The Cemetery Committee is visiting both family and church cemeteries and photographing those stones that appear to be starting to degrade from the effects of weather. If you know of cemeteries or grave sites in the county which are not listed in **Grave Sites and Cemeteries in Goochland County, Virginia (2013 edition)**, please contact Richard Toler via email at denver875@toast.net, or by phone at 804-457-3103. If you get the answering machine, please leave a message with name and phone number for a return call. Thanks for your help!

STILL TIME TO GET YOUR 2017 VINTAGE GOOCHLAND CALENDARS

The 2017 Vintage calendar featuring historic houses is now available at the Society Gift Shop for only \$10 each.



SUPPORT THE SOCIETY WITH YOUR PURCHASES



You can support the Goochland County Historical Society every time you make a purchase on Amazon! It's called Amazon Smile and a small percentage of every purchase can be donated to the Society. All of your purchases will benefit the GCHS! For more information, please email goochlandhistory@comcast.net or call 804-556-3966.

DONATIONS TO OUR LIBRARY

- ◇ Old Richmond area newspapers, donated by Jan Fry.
- ◇ Signed copy of *The Story of Goochland* by Richard C. Wight, originally owned by Goochland County Central High School. It was purchased at a sale and donated by Ginger Garrison.
- ◇ *The Virginia Colonial Register (1607-1776)*. This is a list of Governors, Councilors and other higher officials, members of the House of Burgesses, the Revolutionary Conventions of the Colony of Virginia, compiled by William Glover and Mary Newton Standard (1902). Donated by Catherine Southworth.
- ◇ From the Virginia Civil War Organization, Cheryl Jackson presented copies of the following to the Society at the December 2016 meeting: *America on the Eve of the Civil War*, edited by Edward Ayers and Carolyn Martin; *Race, Slavery and the Civil War*, edited by James Horton and Amanda Kleintop; *Military Strategy in the American Civil War*, edited by James Robertson, Jr.; *Leadership and Generalship in the Civil War*, edited by John Knapp; *The American Civil War at Home*, edited by Scott Reynolds Nelson and Carol Sheriff; *The American Civil War in a Global Context*, edited by Peter N. Stearns; *Causes Won and Lost: The End of the Civil War*, edited by Gary Gallagher and Elizabeth Varon; *Civil War Echoes: Voices From Virginia, 1860-1891*, edited by James Robertson, Jr.

USING VIRGINIA CHANCERY RECORDS TO LEARN HOW A GOOCHLAND WIDOW STRUGGLED WITH DEBT

In the 1800s, it may have been a way of life to become indebted to others in order to obtain land or services. But when those debts weren't paid, a suit would have likely been brought before the local court. Virginia's chancery records often contain a wealth of information about a family and their business dealings, including birth and death dates, location of death, maiden names of wives, and names of children and slaves. Such is the case in the lawsuit against William and Cassandra Grady Southworth.

Thomas William Southworth was born on November 5, 1787, likely in Caroline County, Virginia. He married Sarah "Sally" Carter Jennings on January 15, 1812, in Louisa County, Virginia. After her death in 1851, William, aged about 62, married Cassandra Catherine Grady, aged about 22, in 1852. They had three children together. He died intestate on December 6, 1861, in Richmond, Virginia, at the age of 74. He "left a large landed estate in Goochland" and his heirs were all infants (under 21) at this time. There are many depositions included in this chancery case, too many to list; the earliest in 1839. In 1867 Drs. Martin Luther James and Marion L. Mayo, "a leading physician of the county (Goochland)," are suing "for themselves & all other creditors of Wm. Southworth, decd." Their suit continues to state that "Wm. Southworth was at the time of his death (1861) largely indebted to yr. orators & as they understand to many others." William apparently owed Dr. James and Dr. Mayo hundreds of dollars beginning in 1855 through 1865 for medical services and medicines provided to the family and slaves during this time.

Cassandra Southworth reports that she "has no funds in hand,,to pay the debts." The administrator of the estate, Franklin Matthews, states that "during the late war (Civil

War)" he did not think it "prudent to sell the (Goochland) property" and allowed the widow to remain there. By the time James's and Mayo's suit was brought forth, he felt it was too late to "distinguish the goods & chattels" of the estate from those later accumulated by the widow.

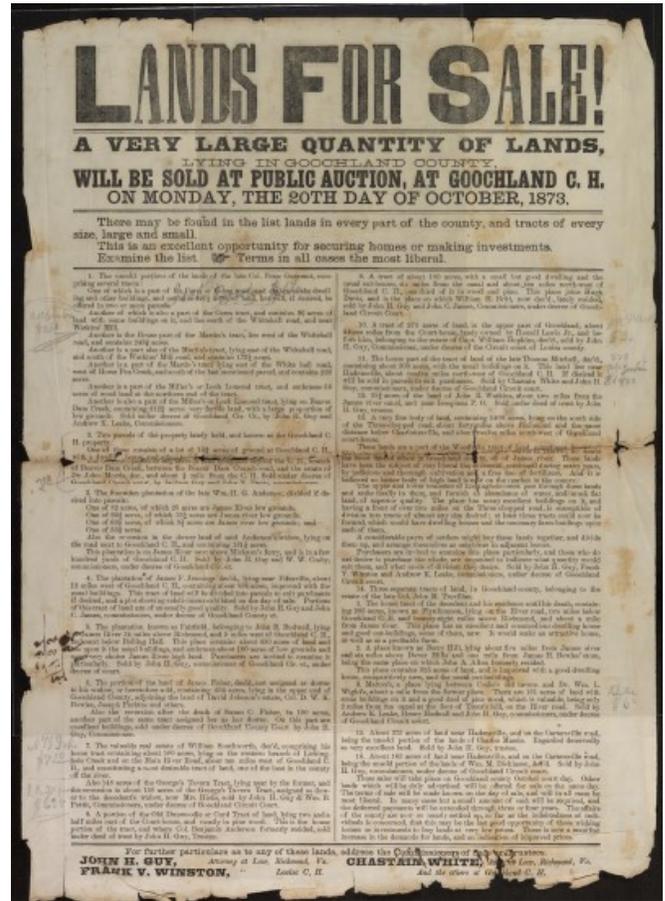
Cassandra Southworth gave her reply to the suit. She states that she has "devoted all her time and energy to endeavor to preserve the property, to free the estate from debt, & to maintain & educate her three children, the infant heirs of the deceased, that she cheerfully exerted herself to accomplish these ends..."

Apparently the administrator of the estate, Franklin Matthews, may not have acted in her best interest. She says "all she has ever received from the administrator consisted of \$1000 in Confederate States treas: (treasury) notes; and some articles of minor importance." When she received this money in June 1864, it was "greatly depreciated in value." She was willing to pay the debts and says that the defendants had agreed to her terms. She sold crops and cut valuable lumber to maintain the plantation and pay the debts. Further she states, in March of 1865, "when the forces of the U.S. were overrunning the country, the personal property which could have been removed from the said plantation to a place of safety, was allowed by the admin. (administrator) to remain; and in consequence thereof most of the stock & provisions—including all the horses and mules - were carried off and destroyed."

This did not satisfy Dr. Mayo. Shortly after the end of the war, he "brought his family to the (Goochland) residence of this defendant" and "after remaining for a considerable time," he "announced that he would there remain with his family until certain claims which he al-

leged he held against the estate were satisfied.” He took it upon himself to “take the best tobacco” and sell it. Cassandra reports that the tobacco was sold at a “comparatively trifling and insignificant price, although the tobacco was of the best quality.” In 1868, Cassandra married Joseph Charles Hicks in Goochland. They lived in Fife, Virginia, on her property, as shown in the 1870 census. The lawsuit then was extended to her husband. In 1872, Cassandra Hicks filed a claim with the Southern Claims Commission for reimbursement for property losses she sustained during the Civil War. It’s not known if she was able to collect. Sadly, by October 1873, the Southworth property was auctioned off. Cassandra and Joseph Hicks continued to live in Fife, as shown in the 1880 census. Joseph passed away in 1900 and Cassandra followed in 1906.

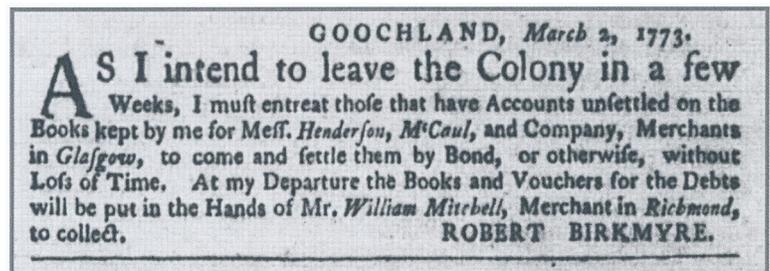
This Chancery record, all 402 pages of it, shows an amazing amount of personal facts about both the financial hardship of this family as well as much information valuable to genealogists—information that otherwise may not be available.



Source: Library of Virginia Chancery Index, Goochland, 1899-021; Family bible: U.S. Census records, U.S. Southern Claims Commission Index (Ancestry.com).

FACEBOOK COLONIAL STYLE

Before there was Facebook, there were newspapers, filled with all sorts of interesting information. Not only did they include general news, but they also were a way of informing the public about property for sale, marriages and deaths. They printed personal information, such as a husband declaring he would no longer support his wayward wife. This example shows Robert Birkmyre, of Goochland, saying he is leaving the “Colony” and wants to ensure his accounts will be taken care of while he is away.



Source: <http://www.newspapers.com/image/40481570>, The Virginia Gazette, Williamsburg, Virginia, Thursday Mary 18, 1773, p. 3. Accessed 10 December, 2016)

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)

Office hours are:

Wednesday–Friday, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
2nd Saturday of the month, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Note: Those travelling long distances should call the society to confirm it will be open that day at (804) 556-3966.

Email the Society:
goochlandhistory@comcast.net

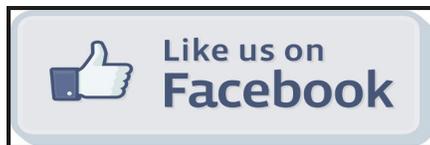
Visit us online:

www.goochlandhistory.org
www.goochlandhistory.wordpress.com
www.twitter.com/GoochlandCHS
Like us on facebook.com

Copyright 2017 by the Goochland County Historical Society. All rights reserved.

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

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Goochland, VA
Permit No. 19



Goochland County Historical Society

Christina J Dunn, *Interim Director*
Ginny Olsen, *Interim Office Manager*

Board of Directors 2017

Scott Johnson, President
Bruce Venter, 1st Vice President
Christina J Dunn, 2nd Vice President
Louise Thompson, Secretary
Gerald Hagen, Treasurer
James Richmond, Archivist
Louise Chapman
Cheryl Childress
Alan Crouch
Andy Donnelly
Vernon Fleming
Laura Meadows Mausolf
Ginny Olsen
Preston Perrin
William Quarles
Derek Stamey
J Richard Toler

Be sure to Renew your membership!

**Look for the membership
renewal letter in the mail.**

Save the Date

**Next Meeting—Sunday March 12th
Watch for a news blast for an
announcement for the
place and speaker**