



# Goochland County Historical Society Newsletter

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## GOOCHLAND COUNTY HISTORY CENTER OFFICIALLY OPENS

On Wednesday, November 4, 2020, at 1:00 pm, the Goochland Board of Supervisors held the official ribbon cutting to open the Goochland County Historical Society's new facility. The gathering was small due to the coronavirus. It included only the Board of Supervisors, County Administration and Parks and Recreation staff; and GCHS staff, volunteers and Board. Derek Stamey, Deputy County Administrator for Operations, spoke about the county's collaboration with the GCHS and its expectations for the tourism services the GCHS will be providing through its Welcome Center. Christina Dunn, President, GCHS also spoke. She emphasized the importance of the new facility, especially the museum space and improved storage, to future development, as well as the GCHS's



Left to right: Ken Peterson, Vernon Fleming, Susan Lascolette, Richard Toler, Christina Dunn, John Lumpkins, Jr, Don Shape, Scott Johnson, and Neil Spoonhower

new role as Welcome Center. The GCHS will be working with the county's Department of Parks and Recreation to fulfill this new mission.

The three volunteers—Richard Toler, Scott Johnson, and Vern Fleming—responsible for moving the

largest of the furnishings from the old building were invited to cut the ribbon, using a giant pair of scissors. To save money, volunteers moved all furnishings and collections from the old building to the new. Moving in a pandemic and during Virginia's typical hot and humid summer wasn't easy; those who volunteered deserve our sincere thanks.

The GCHS is once again open to the public from Wednesday through Friday and the second Saturday of the month from 10 am to 3 pm. For the duration of the pandemic, face coverings are required and social distancing observed. Hand sanitizer and face coverings are available on site. Drop by and see the new facility, as well as our first museum exhibit "Goochland Goes to War", commemorating Goochlanders who served in World War II. ❀

## SOCIETY NABS ARTIFACTS FROM

Staff and volunteers check eBay on a regular basis, looking for artifacts that pertain to Goochland County. A few months ago, we struck gold, so to speak, when we found a stock certificate for the Bertha & Edith Coal Mine (pictured right) issued in 1878. The mine operated on Big Byrd Creek, not far from Columbia. Other recent finds



include Goochland performers from the Old Dominion Barn Dance, a

popular radio show out of Richmond; these include a photo of the Puffenbarger Kids and the Wiltshires, a brother and sister duo. A member recently donated two U.S. Army uniforms, with overcoats, from the Korean War; another member donated a unique leather World War II airman's jacket and other World War II items. The Ginger Garrison estate donated an original painting of Maidens by local artist Patti Rosner. ❀

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



## Goochland County Historical Society

**James Richmond**

*Executive Director*

**Catherine Southworth**

*Office Administrator*

### Board of Directors 2020

Christina Dunn, President

Bruce Venter, 1st Vice President

Vernon Fleming, 2nd Vice President

Virginia Olsen, Secretary

Kathleen Kimmel, Treasurer

Scott Johnson, Immediate Past President

Cheryl Childress, Laura Meadows,

William Quarles, Richard Toler,

Linda Weistroffer, Erin Yearout-Patton

## Visit the Goochland Historical Society

The Society's History Center is located one half

mile east of the Goochland Courthouse at

2924 River Road West (Route 6)

### Office hours:

Wednesday–Friday, 10:00–3:00

2nd Saturday of the month, 10:00–3:00

Note: Those travelling long distances should call the society to confirm it will be open the date of your visit. Phone (804) 556-3966.

### Email the Society:

[goochlandhistory@comcast.net](mailto:goochlandhistory@comcast.net)

### Visit us online:

[www.goochlandhistory.org](http://www.goochlandhistory.org)

[www.goochlandhistory.wordpress.com](http://www.goochlandhistory.wordpress.com)

[www.twitter.com/GoochlandCHS](https://www.twitter.com/GoochlandCHS)

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Dear Historical Society Members,

When we at the Goochland County Historical Society (GCHS) think back over 2020, a well known quote from *A Tale of Two Cities* by British author Charles Dickens comes to mind:

*It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.*

Reading this passage allows each of us to review, as well as view, the year 2020 in our own way. For most, probably the first thing that comes to mind is the coronavirus pandemic and the number of our fellow Americans who have died—more than 300,000, according to Johns Hopkins University, as we near the end of the calendar year.

The pandemic has had far-reaching impacts and that includes its effect on museums and historical organizations, like the GCHS. Generally speaking, membership is down; organizations have had to close or restrict the number of visitors; and for the most part, in-person programming has become a thing of the past. For some, the loss of income has resulted in reductions in staff, worry about the future of the organization and its ability to stay afloat, and many sleepless nights for those who are trying to stretch the dollars available to go as far as possible. There have been several newspaper and magazine interviews with museum and historical society leaders, indicating that up to one-third of such organizations could fail. This certainly is a dire prediction.

The GCHS is in better shape than some, although we face a budget shortfall for the upcoming year, unless we tighten our belt a little more than usual. We have lost some members, but that is to be expected considering the current economic situation. Other organizations in our geographic area are experiencing a similar situation. We have reopened, following the move to our new building, and are doing a brisk business providing research services to local history buffs and those working on their family tree; our calendar, our major fund-raising activity for a number of years, is almost sold out; and our online Christmas catalog and annual Snowflake Sale have proved popular. We have not yet embraced virtual programming or meetings, but, like other organizations, we are moving in that direction, if funding allows. And speaking of funding, we need to explore new ways of generating income, whether it is through an annual fund drive or by other means. If you have suggestions, please contact us.

On another note from the year 2020, we learned just how dedicated our volunteers really are. Those who stepped up to the plate to help pack, move, and unpack the collections and furnishings that came from our old building and into our new building, will long be remembered with respect and wonder. They came back day after day in the heat and humidity that only a Goochland summer can offer, to load and unload trucks, as well as assemble shelving; and organize and account for numerous artifacts. They muscled file cabinets into place, lifted hundreds of boxes, and handled numerous dusty items, all the time maintaining a sense of humor and “can do” attitude. With one exception, all of the volunteers were retirees. Our hats are off to all who pitched in to help. If you are a retiree looking for something to do, you couldn't do better than to volunteer at the GCHS. You would be joining an outstanding group of people.

Looking forward to 2021 and the spring of hope,

Sincerely,

President

Executive Director

## NEW VOLUNTEERS COME ONBOARD



Richard Toler, Margaret Lindner, and Cheryl Copper.

We are always singing the praises of our volunteers and rightfully so. Simply put, without them, we would not be able to operate. Those who work on-site are involved in all aspects of the Historical Society's work, from cataloging artifacts and books to responding to information requests, shelving books, transcribing documents, scanning photographs, greeting guests, operating the gift shop, and helping visitors to the county find their way around. During the last few months, we have welcomed three new volunteers: Cheryl Copper, Margaret Lindner, and Jordan McIntosh.

Cheryl Copper originally visited the GCHS looking for information on the Woodson family. She had recently completed an article on the

Woodsons for the *Hanover County Historical Society Bulletin*. She has completed one family history, so she has firsthand experience that will help others. Cheryl has a master's degree in history, has conducted tours of Cedar Grove Cemetery in Norfolk, and has been active in archeology clubs, including participation in underwater archeological research. She is interested in engaging young people in local history.

Margaret Lindner and her husband moved to Goochland from Long Island, New York in 2018, following retirement, in order to be close to family living in the Richmond area. She was previously involved in her local historical society in Northport, New York. She found her way to the GCHS through the recommendation of a neighbor. A former art teacher in a Quaker school, Margaret enjoys meeting and greeting people. She is an experienced beekeeper and basket weaver, plus she is an excellent baker. She has been spoiling staff, volunteers and visitors alike with her utterly divine cookies.

Jordan McIntosh is a student at



Jordan McIntosh

Virginia Commonwealth University. As a volunteer at the GCHS, she is following in the footsteps of her grandfather Frank Dunn, Jr. who served as a volunteer until his death in 2019. Jordan has helped to pack, move, and shelve almost the entire book collection of over 2,500 items, as well as pack, move and store numerous photo and other files. The old photographs appeal to her as she is an avid photographer.

Like Margaret and Cheryl, volunteers can work a regular schedule (usually one or two days per month) or like Jordan undertake special assignments. If you are interested in joining our team of volunteers, please contact the Society at [goochlandhistory.org](http://goochlandhistory.org) or at 804-556-3966. We have a job for you! ❁

## YOUR SUPPORT COUNTS

Thank you for supporting our request for funds (see Newsletter, September 2020, "Double Your Money") to purchase archival boxes for two dolls and military uniforms. Your generous donations, matched by an anonymous member of the Society, allowed for the purchase of the requested boxes, plus a couple of additional large archival boxes which will come in handy to house the Korean War uniforms and leather airman's jacket recently donated. In case you wonder why we ask for donations for boxes, it is because

archival quality boxes are expensive—one suitable for a uniform costs over \$40.00. We use these high quality boxes to preserve photograph albums, textiles, fragile documents, and other artifacts. They are acid- and lignin-free and are constructed to be sturdy and secure, protecting from light, dust and dirt which can harm or even destroy most materials over a period of time. ❁



Robert Rollo Richmond's WWII jacket. Robert's story was featured in the Society's 2019 *Magazine*.

## NEW MAP ADDED TO THE GCHS COLLECTION

Last year's November newsletter included an article about a circa 1825 map of "Tuckahoe Creek, North of James River Canal, Goochland, Virginia" that was being restored and digitized. The work on the map owned by the Library of Virginia was supported by an anonymous donor on behalf of the GCHS Board. The

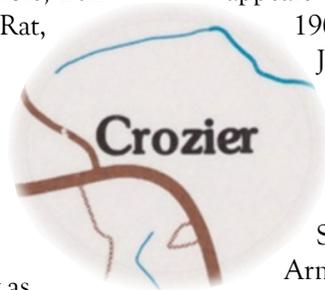
restoration and digitization have been completed and the Library has made a digital copy available to the GCHS. A copy of the map will soon be on display at the History Center. ❁



## WHERE DID CROZIER GET ITS NAME?

Many locations in Goochland have odd names: Lickinghole, Bull Ring, Dog Town, Tarred Rat, Rockets. For some of these, we may never be able to identify the source of the name. Luckily, Crozier does not fall into this category.

The area known today as Crozier was originally called Issequena, a Choctaw word meaning



"deer creek". The name Issequena appears on maps prior to 1903. In 1907, when new postmaster John Abbott took his oath, the name of the town changed to Crozier. According to a newspaper clipping in the Society's collection, "U.S. Army Sgt. John Abbott gave the village of Crozier its name. Upon his appointment as

postmaster, Abbott proposed to name the post office for one of his former commanding officers." John Abbott was born in Switzerland in 1852. After immigrating to America, he served in the U.S. Army, Company D, 7th Regiment, an infantry unit from Sandy Hook, New Jersey. In 1904, Abbott married Goochland resident Roxanna Richmond and moved to the County. ❁

## THE CEMETERY CORNER



Born in Louisa County in 1843 to Richard Woolfolk Cowherd and Eliza Ann George Cowherd, George Payne Cowherd had moved to Goochland County by 1860, the family having first lived in Fluvanna County. After the Civil War broke

out, in 1864 at the age of 17 and having attended Virginia Military Institute, George enlisted in the Confederate army and served until the end of the war in 1865. He came back to Goochland after the war ended and took up farming. In 1880, he married Sallie Winston Perkins; they had at least three children. She died on August 3, 1900 and George married Sallie's sister, Cynthia. Shortly before Sallie's death, George had become tired of farming and decided to make a change. He ran for and was elected Treasurer of Goochland County in November 1899 and began serving his term in January 1900. Being Treasurer must have suited him, as he ran for the office and was reelected five more times. He was just 2 ½ months into his last term when he became ill,

dying at age 76 in Richmond Memorial Hospital on March 16, 1920. George was buried beside his two wives in the James Cemetery (1) on Community House Road. Following his death, the court appointed Louis K. Leake to fill the rest of George's term as Treasurer. Leake went on to serve almost 36 years in that position, an even more impressive length of time than George Cowherd served. Between 1900 and 1955, there were only two County Treasurers, with George P. Cowherd serving 20 years and Louis K. Leake serving 36 years.

Note: The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Society's *Gravesites and Cemeteries in Goochland County, Virginia* is available from the Society for \$25.00. ❁

## AMAZONSMILE PURCHASES WILL BENEFIT the SOCIETY



Do your holiday shopping  
at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)



Did you know your purchases can make a difference? AmazonSmile donates to Goochland County Historical Society when you do your holiday shopping at [smile.amazon.com/ch/54-6074541](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-6074541). AmazonSmile is supporting many charitable organizations this holiday season. When you do your shopping through the above link, Amazon.com will donate a small percentage of the price of each eligible purchase. This is a simple and automatic way to support charitable organizations at no cost to the customer. Prices and selections are the same as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the Goochland County Historical Society. ❄️

### SNOWFLAKE SALE



Sir Archie Puzzle—  
\$12.00



### GRAVESITES AND CEMETERIES in Goochland County, Virginia



Third Edition  
2019  
Goochland County Historical Society



Hand-made Goochland clocks by a local artisan—\$30.00

Gravesites and Cemeteries of Goochland County,  
Virginia—\$25.00

### TIME to RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP for 2021



Memberships expire at the end of the calendar year. We value your continuing support and look forward to you remaining a members. If you have not already done so, renew for the 2021 year by sending your check to PO Box 602, Goochland, VA 23063.

You can renew online at our website using Paypal. Paypal accepts most credit cards and you don't need a Paypal account in order to pay your membership dues. ❄️

## Upcoming Events

### Events Update

Due to the uncertain situation caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the GCHS has no lectures or workshops scheduled. When the situation improves to where we can continue regular programming, we will do so and notify you as soon as possible.

The new History Center includes space for small exhibits. Our first exhibit "Goochland Goes to War", features Goochlanders in World War II, with photographs, memorabilia and uniforms. The exhibit will show through February 26, 2021. Drop by, check it out, and see our new facility. ❁



IT'S NOT TOO  
SOON to RENEW!



MEMBERSHIPS RUN  
JANUARY 1st through  
DECEMBER 31st

Remember, it's your dues that keep  
the Society open.

"We don't want you to become history!"



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Despite the coronavirus, the GCHS has continued to attract new members.

We welcome the following:

Karrie Amos ❁ Jessica, Josh, and Drew Bennett ❁ Jess Cartwright

Phyllis Codling ❁ Cheryl Copper ❁ Melinda Gammon

Amanda Kowalski ❁ Rachel Jacobsen Raymond Miller ❁ Julia Murphy

Robert Wilfong ❁ Jamie Hogue

**NOVEMBER 4, 2020—FEBRUARY 26, 2021**  
**AT THE GOOCHLAND COUNTY HISTORY CENTER**

