



### SAVE THE DATE – SUNDAY MAY 21

#### DEDICATION OF THE OLD CLERK'S OFFICE and COURTHOUSE GREEN

If you haven't stopped by the Goochland Courthouse lately, you will be surprised at all the work being done there. Sidewalks are being constructed; engraved brick memorial pavers are being placed; the Old Clerk's Office is being renovated; and the Old Jail renovation has been completed. Signs depicting what you see when walking along the sidewalks are being erected. Check out some of these pictures of the progress.

Come join us on Sunday, May 21, at 3pm, at the Courthouse for the Courthouse Green Dedication. There will be speakers and refreshments. The Old Jail will be open and the new Old Clerk's Office will be open with a new exhibit.



Signage of the Courthouse Green and a view inside of the Old Clerks Office!

## SPRING SOCIETY MEETING with JEFFREY NICKOLS

### Poplar Forest—Jefferson's Retreat

On March 11, Society President, Scott Johnson opened the Spring meeting held at the Fellowship Hall of Grace Episcopal Church in Goochland, Virginia. He then introduced Christina Dunn, Interim Director, who announced that the date of the Courthouse Green ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, May 21st. She also reminded the group of the annual Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 29. And lastly, before introducing the guest speaker, Christina encouraged everyone to purchase a raffle ticket to win a Goochland landmark afghan. This was offered in an effort to fund the purchase of archival boxes, for which the society has a need.

Bruce Ventor then introduced speaker, Jeffrey Nickols, President and CEO of Poplar Forest. He spoke to the Society about the Bedford County plantation that Jefferson used as a retreat from the hubbub of Monticello. Apparently Jefferson needed a place to go because Monticello had become a "destination for tourists."

At this time, the goal is to create a meticulous restoration, doing it right, not to any particular timetable. Jefferson managed this 4,918 acre plantation that provided him with significant income, from afar

during his early years. In 1781, Jefferson and his family took refuge there for two months evading capture by the British.



While living in the overseer's house at Poplar Forest, Jefferson conceived his only book *Notes on the State of Virginia*. In later years, Jefferson designed the house and traveled from Washington in 1806 to oversee the laying of its foundation.

As with his other building projects, Poplar Forest, contended Nichols, was so suited to Jefferson's tastes and needs that subsequent owners found it necessary to alter it to fit their needs. Nichols presented photographs to illustrate what Poplar Forest looked like before restoration began and as progress is made. The geometry used to create the octagonal house enabled creation of unique spaces within. An interior room



whose dimensions form a perfect twenty-foot cube, illuminated by a sixteen foot skylight, is the central point for the entire estate. Jefferson disliked staircases and believed they were wasted space. Those which were built to access the lower level ended up in a bed chamber.

Jefferson sculpted the site of the house observing classical design traditions. Set into a hillside, the front of Poplar Forest appears to be a single story, but at the

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## GOOCHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECOGNIZES VOLUNTEERS



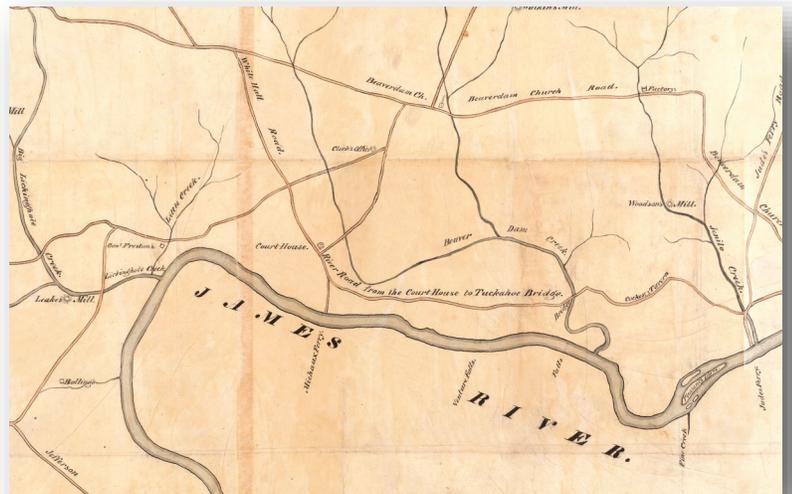
Scott Johnson and Cheryl Childress, Volunteer Coordinator

To celebrate National Volunteer Week, April 23-29, Scott Johnson, President of the Society, presents a token of appreciation to Cheryl Childress, Coordinator of Volunteers. The Society's regular volunteers, most of whom assist with day-to-day operations, were similarly recognized. If you would like to serve as a volunteer, please call (804-556-3966) or email ([goochlandhistory@comcast.net](mailto:goochlandhistory@comcast.net)); we will also be offering an orientation in the fall for anyone who might be interested. There are always opportunities available, ranging from regular monthly assignments to helping with special exhibits. Our volunteers are invaluable, without them most of our services would not be possible.

## SPECIAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AND DONATION

**FRED SORRELL** donated a 22 inch Dell Monitor to the library better suited for using Deedmapper. He has also worked many hours updating this application for us. This application is used to research land records in Goochland and many of the other older counties in Virginia. If you are interested in locating your family's land patents, grants, and deeds, stop by and get one of our volunteers to help you.

We also want to recognize **RICHARD TOLER**. Every week he continues to find new cemeteries in Goochland County! He is photographing the gravesites and the gravestones in each cemetery and is working on a comprehensive database of all the work he has done.



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## 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](mailto:cpc1996@gmail.com).

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## WWI EXHIBIT AT REYNOLDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Please visit the new World War I exhibit at Reynolds Community College (Goochland campus). It includes original uniforms and photos of some of the Goochland soldiers and civil servants.

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## UPCOMING EXHIBITS AND EVENTS

The Goochland County Historical Society will be exhibiting at the following events:

- Memorial Day Celebration on the Green, May 29, at Goochland Courthouse Green. Please check American Legion Post 215 Website for time.
  - Rassawek Spring Jubilee, June 3, 10 am-6 pm and June 4, 11 am-5-pm, Rassawek Vineyard, 6276 River Road West, Columbia, Virginia
  - Field Day of the Past-25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, September 15, 16, and 17, 8 am-6pm daily. Show grounds are located at the intersection of Route 623 (Ashland Road) and Route 622, Goochland County, Virginia.
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## REMEMBERING OUR MEMBERS

We are sad to inform the membership of a loss of two of our members. Shirley Knibb Strong, who died on December 4, 2016, was a resident of Fairfax County and volunteered with many organizations. Walter David Marshall, of Matthews, NC, died February 13, 2017. He authored the book *A History of Some Central Virginia Families*.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### WE HAVE SATURDAY HOURS

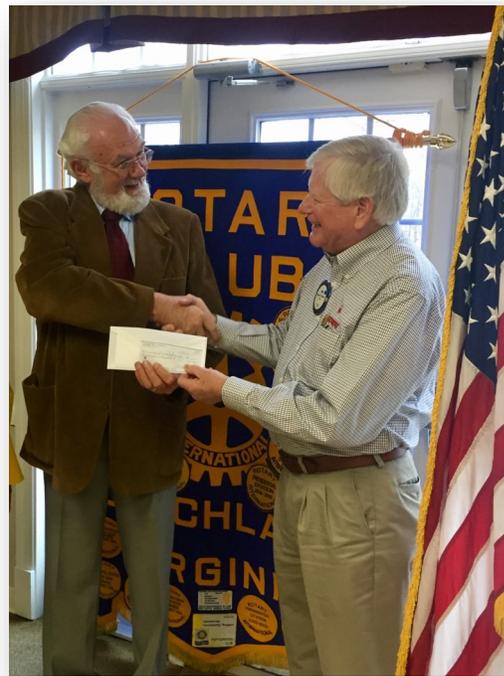
We are now open on the **second Saturday** of **each month** from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This has become a very popular addition to our schedule as it allows visitors who work during the week a time to come in and do research or purchase items from our gift shop. We hope to see you soon!

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## THE GCHS COLLABORATES WITH GOOCHLAND ROTARY CLUB

The Goochland Rotary Club received a \$1,000.00 grant from Rotary International to provide a local history orientation for the county's public fourth and seventh grade school teachers. These are the grades where Virginia history is taught. The Goochland County Historical Society serves as the Rotary's primary partner on this project which provides both resources and instruction. Scott Johnson, President of the Society, was recognized at a recent Rotary meeting.

Scott Johnson and Larry Frank



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## FLAG DONATES ARCHIVES TO SOCIETY

After 30 years of finding shelter for abused and abandoned animals, For the Love of Animals in Goochland, or FLAG, closed its door at the end of December 2016. On March 8, 2017, Georgetta Griffin, who was associated with FLAG for 24 years, and her dog, Blue, donated the organization's archives. She was also the Treasurer and Kennel Manager. They have donated their records and artifacts to the Society.

Scott Johnson, Christina Dunn, and Georgetta Griffin. Also pictured is Georgetta's dog, Blue.



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## OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR RETAINED

The Goochland County Historical Society is pleased to report that it recently employed Catherine Southworth as its administrator. Catherine, a graduate of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, is a longtime member and volunteer of the Society. She is experienced in genealogical research, photography, graphic design, and a number of software programs used by the Society.

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## RECENT DONATIONS TO OUR LIBRARY

The Society has recently received several books, original documents, and photographs (for scanning) to our library.

Richard and Dee Hanes of Manakin, Virginia, donated several original historic documents to the Society from the early 1700s. He also presented us with a 1935 edition of *The Story of Goochland*, by Richard C. Wight. Among the documents are: Summons—Cabell vs. Dowrie, September 22, 1731; Summons—Ward and Logan vs. Wm. Crosley, November 16, 1743; Warrant—Harding vs. Johnson—June 17, 1755; License to run an Ordinary, John Cox –July, 1741; and Goochland Bar Endorsement, A. X. Monteiro, December 8, 1897.

Jonni A. Farish donated a “Cyphering Book” owned by Thomas Johnson. This cloth bound book has entries ranging from 1808 to 1870. Names mentioned are Mary Hughson, John Hughson, Mr. W. Gathright, Fleming Johnson, and Mrs. Nuckols. She donated this book in memory of James E. and Jerry V. Proffitt.

*The Trices of Virginia*, by Robert H. Trice, Jr., John A. Childrey, Jr., and Richard A. Trice, Jr., Third Edition, December 2016, donated by Robert H. Trice.

Two copies of *The History of Henrico County, 400th Anniversary Edition*, one of which is a “Presentation Edition,” by Louis H. Manarin and Charles H. Peple.

*The Army Wife*, by Nancy Shea, donor unknown.

Patricia Ann Smith Pratt allowed the Society to scan old photos of her and her family, including Grace Martin Smith, Joseph Martin, Grace Martin Long, and Henry Long.

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Spring Meeting—Continued from Page 2.



Dave Southworth and Christina Dunn

rear is two stories. Jefferson’s grandson Francis Eppes inherited Poplar Forest and sold it a few years after his grandfather’s 1826 death. Over the years, the property changed hands and was modified by new owners to suit their needs.

In 1984, the property was sold to the non-profit corporation for Jefferson’s Poplar Forest and opened to the public two years later. Restoration of the property replicates the construction methods and craftsmanship used in the original construction. Details and materials are being reproduced in the Jeffersonian way, training restoration craftsmen in lost techniques. Ongoing archeological research continually discovers evidence not only of the people who lived and worked at Poplar Forest, but of architectural details and landscaping of the grounds.

Please visit [www.poplarforest.org](http://www.poplarforest.org) for more information about Poplar Forest and its restoration.

Following Mr. Nickols’ talk, Scott congratulated one of our longtime members, Lynn Bayliss, upon recently having published a book, *The Dooleys of Richmond*. After the drawing for the afghan was held and won by member, Dave Southworth, the group was treated to Louise Thompson’s delicious selection of snacks.

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## CEMETERY BOOK UPDATE

If you know of any cemeteries not listed in our *Grave Sites and Cemeteries in Goochland County, Virginia*



(2013 edition), please contact the Society or Richard Toler via email at [denver875@toast.net](mailto: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!

You can also call the Goochland County Historical Society at 804-556-3966 or email at [goochlandhistory@comcast.net](mailto:goochlandhistory@comcast.net).

## SUPPORT THE SOCIETY WITH YOUR PURCHASES

It's not just for Holiday shopping! 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](mailto:goochlandhistory@comcast.net) or call 804-556-3966.



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## RECENT VISITORS TO THE SOCIETY

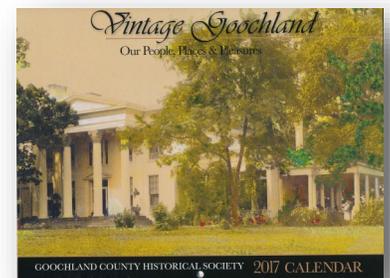
We have had many visitors to the Society already this year to do research. This includes 13 from Virginia, two each from Washington (state) and Missouri, and one from each of these states: North Carolina, New York, Indiana, and Maryland.

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## 2017 VINTAGE GOOCHLAND CALENDARS

NOW ONLY \$5.00 EACH

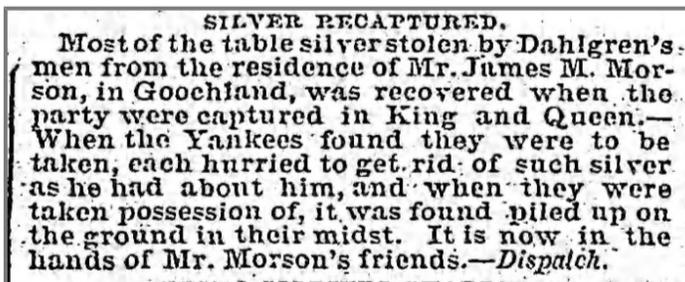
The 2017 Vintage calendar featuring historic houses are still available at the Society Gift Shop for only \$5 each.



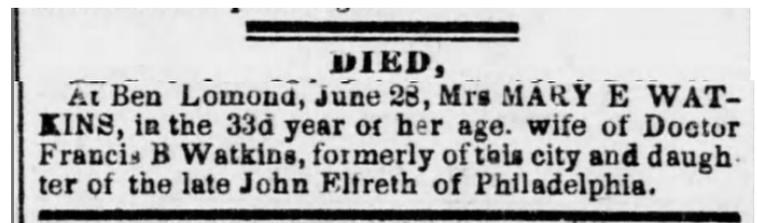
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## BEFORE THERE WAS FACEBOOK

Here is another edition of our "Before there was Facebook" column. These newspapers were 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.



The Baltimore Sun (Baltimore, Maryland) · Fri, Mar 11, 1864 · Page 1



Richmond Dispatch (Richmond, Virginia) · Mon, Aug 1, 1853 · Page 2

**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](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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**If you haven't already renewed your membership, be sure to get that in the mail soon. You don't want to miss our upcoming speakers, newsletters and magazine.**



**Goochland County Historical Society**

**Christina J Dunn, Interim Director**

**Catherine Southworth, Office Administrator**

**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

Vernon Fleming

Laura Meadows Mausolf

Ginny Olsen

Preston Perrin

William Quarles

Derek Stamey

J Richard Toler