



Goochland County Historical Society Newsletter

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WELCOME TO 2022
TIME TO RENEW!
MEMBERSHIPS RUN
JANUARY 1 THROUGH

TRANSCRIBE, TRANSCRIBE, TRANSCRIBE

Local historical societies are eagerly getting on the transcription bandwagon, following the groundbreaking efforts of scholarly libraries, museums, and archives. In Virginia, the Library of Virginia which includes the state archives; University of Virginia and other public and private colleges and universities; and the Virginia Historical Society have taken the lead. Initial federal and state funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, National Endowment for the Humanities, and Virginia Humanities got the ball rolling by making transcribing a priority and supporting projects by these institutions. There are several reasons for the big push: The technologies that support transcription, digitization, and access have come a long way, allowing for faster and better production. The concept of crowdsourcing—enlisting the help of a large number of people to accomplish a task, in this case transcription—has been applied. The onetime movement to stop teaching cursive handwriting in schools caused concern that future generations may not have the skills needed to read and transcribe handwritten

documents from the past. However, this worry does not seem to be as concerning now as it once was, as many states, including Virginia, have returned cursive handwriting to the curriculum.

What Is Transcription? Simply put, it is transforming existing data, such as a handwritten letter, journal entry, receipt, telegram, article from an old newspaper, or even a page from a census document, into a machine-readable format that can automatically be read and processed by a computer.

Why transcribe? The primary goal of transcription is to preserve documents and improve the readability, searchability, and accessibility to them. Preservation is accomplished through digitization, computer storage, and software that provides points of access. Transcription is the hard part, as it is labor intensive which means if an institution had to pay people to transcribe, the work most likely wouldn't get done. The cost would be prohibitive, hence the need for volunteers.

Who Transcribes? Anyone who

can read, especially handwritten documents; operate a computer; is patient; is curious; and either enjoys history or mysteries or both; or just wants to contribute to the greater good, can transcribe. Once a transcription of a letter, journal, or other document has been completed, it also is checked for accuracy and completeness, often by volunteers, but sometimes by staff. The review process ensures that transcribed documents are complete and accurate.

How Can You Help? Become a transcriber! There are already volunteers at work, but more are needed. The beauty of volunteering is, once you receive a brief orientation, you can work from home, at any hour of the day or night, at your own pace, and do as little or as much as you chose. Contact the Society by phone or email to give transcribing a try. If you don't like it, that's okay; you can stop at any time.

See the article on page 3 about one of our transcribers. Page 4 of our September 2021 newsletter gives an example of how transcribed documents are used. ❁

SOCIETY MESSAGE



Goochland County Historical Society

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Executive Director

Catherine Southworth

Office Administrator

Board of Directors 2022

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Visit the Goochland Historical Society

The Society's History Center is located next to the Goochland Courthouse Green 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

Visit us online:

www.goochlandhistory.org

www.goochlandhistory.wordpress.com

www.twitter.com/GoochlandCHS

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Dear Members,

Happy New Year! May 2022 be better than 2021 and 2020. The pandemic has impacted our public health, economy, supply chains, careers, education, travel, mental health, and just about everything else in our personal lives. We may not have expected it to touch a local historical society, but it has. You might ask: How did it impact the Goochland County Historical Society (GCHS)?

First of all, the pandemic brought all of our programming to a standstill for two years, with one exception. Our only program occurred November 2021 at Tanglewood between the decline in the Delta variant and the rise of the Omicron variant. We held our annual meeting which included a musical program on the "Gilded Age," business meeting, and fried chicken luncheon. At the meeting, we asked the membership to extend the existing board for one additional year. Due to the pandemic, a number of other organizations have done the same. Membership generously supported the request.

Secondly, at the start of the pandemic the GCHS began the move of its headquarters to 2924 River Road West, next to the Courthouse Green; then in 2021, we sold our old building. Under normal circumstances, moving would have been quite disruptive, but due to the upheaval caused by the pandemic, the disruption caused by our move was barely noticeable. For the most part, we remained open to the public and assisted customers, while providing masks and hand sanitizer. Meeting the early cleaning requirements for public buildings was somewhat of a challenge, but we muddled through. Our new location has brought us new visibility. Our walk-in traffic has increased and despite the fact that the GCHS has been around for over 50 years, people who didn't know we existed, have discovered us. Needless to say, we are delighted that they did.

Thirdly, the pandemic caused many organizations to lose membership and the GCHS was no exception; we saw a slight drop in membership in 2020. However, in 2021, membership started to rebound, bringing new members, as well as renewing members. We are grateful for each and every member.

Finally we have been reminded that the relationship between an organization and the community it serves must be constantly addressed. Performance and purpose drive that relationship; when one suffers, so does the other. We exist to keep Goochland's history alive. Our performance must reflect that purpose and we strive to stay centered, as a great deal is at stake. History is fragile; it is easily lost; and when lost, it is often lost forever. We appreciate that you chose to join the GCHS and keep Goochland's history alive. Thank you.

Wishing you the best in 2022,

President

Director



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Fred & Cheryl Baynes ✿ Robert Carle

Charles Cheek ✿ James Cochrane ✿ Luann Fortenberry

Ruth Gooch ✿ Thomas Gress ✿ Susan Herring

John Lewis ✿ Gordon Lohr

John & Mary Anne Miller ✿ Liliane B. Mullane

Rebecca Kline ✿ Nancy Schawarock ✿ George Smith

Hank Thompson ✿ Soule Wellons

A NEW EXHIBIT for BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Faces & Places in Goochland is a photographic exhibit, celebrating the county's African American heritage. The photographs featured cover the mid-nineteenth century to the present; each includes a description

of the person or place shown. The Jackson Blacksmith Shop, Second Union Rosenwald School, Emmaus Baptist Church, and First Baptist Church represent selected places. Portraits include those of Sarah Ann Carroll (left), Dr. Arthur Gilbert Blakey, Dr. James Harold Bowles, Lelia Lesett Williams Bankett, Josephine Turpin Washington, Henry Turpin, William P. Moseley, and World War II servicemen Matt Archer Allen and William Edward Fleming.

Recent issues of GCHS's

Magazine have carried articles on the Jackson Blacksmith Shop (2018 issue), Lelia Lesett Williams Bankett (2019 issue), and Josephine Turpin Washington (2020 issue).

The Society would like to build its collection of photographs representing the county's African American community. If you have photos of family, school, church, or other community organizations, we will copy them into digital format and return the originals to you.

The *Faces & Places in Goochland* exhibit runs through the month of February at the Society's headquarters. ❁



COMING MARCH 2022
 SAVED from the ASHES:
 THORNCLIFF in the GILDED AGE



The GCHS is readying our newest exhibition, *Saved from the Ashes: Thorncliff in the Gilded Age* for a March debut. Thorncliff was built for Joseph Reed Anderson, Jr., son of Joseph Reed Anderson who owned Tredegar Ironworks. The house, completed in 1883, burned in 1922. The exhibition will feature furniture and decorative items donated to the Society by a member of the Anderson family. More than twenty items will be on display accompanied by pictures of the Gilded Age home that once stood on a hill overlooking the James River near the State Farm.



A rosewood table with black Egyptian marble top and a fantastic gothic chair, century old oriental rugs, three-part mahogany dining table, sterling silver serving pieces and a cast iron dog (above) that has

become our unofficial History Center mascot, will be on display for the entirety of the exhibition. Accompanying the furniture will be photographs from the 1914 sale book for the house that featured interior scenes in which some of the furniture exhibited can be clearly seen.

We have several lectures planned to coincide with the exhibition on topics including: architecture of the Gilded Age, clothing from the period and furniture the Victorians loved so much. The start date for the exhibition is March 2022 so mark your calendars now! ❁

GEORGE'S TAVERN



George's Tavern being dismantled c. 1900. (GCHS)

Taverns and ordinaries were welcome places for rest and refreshment for both man and beast along stage roads

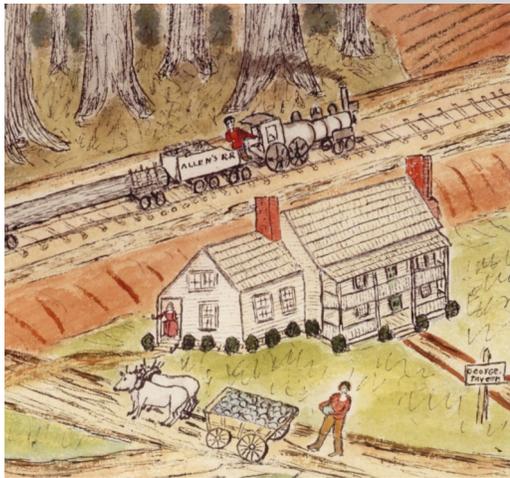
and were usually located about 10 to 12 miles apart. According to the historical highway marker (SA-51) installed by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in 1999, George's Tavern is named for William George (1760-1827). George

was a veteran of the Revolutionary War. In 1792, he established an ordinary on the road between Richmond, by way of Goochland Courthouse, and Columbia in Fluvanna County (now Route 6) where it intersects with the road from Cartersville in Cumberland County (now Route 45). The latter was a major stage road, sometimes called the Upper Road, transporting both passengers and mail between Fredericksburg and Macon, Georgia, Being on two major roadways certainly would have helped

assure George of a fairly steady business.

While George's Tavern may have been a welcome stop for stage passengers, evidently it was not a place where mail could be picked up or delivered. On January 24, 1810, Thomas Jefferson wrote from

Monticello to Postmaster General Gideon Granger about making George's Tavern a post office. The suggestion follows a problem he was experiencing in trying to mail a letter.



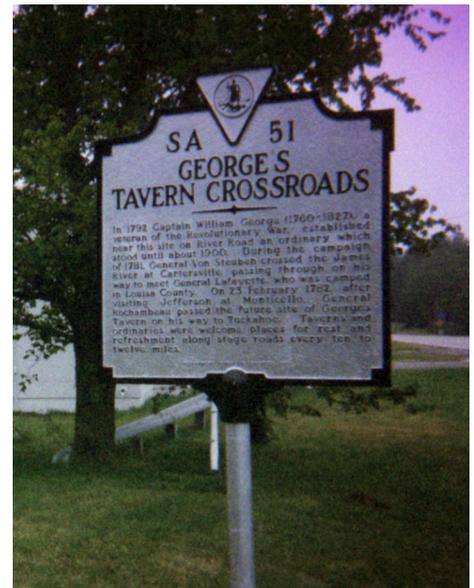
George's Tavern, drawing, front view. c. 1880 (GCHS)

must still go down to Richmond & Manchester & come up to the crossing of the same route on the S.[outh] side of the river at Cartersville, having passed 110 miles, & waited at two offices for the post days to bring it within 5 miles of the crossing on the N.[orth] side, at George's tavern which it had before past. the making George's tavern a post office would 1. accomodate the whole line of country from thence to Charlottesville & Staunton with the Athens route. 2. it would give to the same line of country an

....., but if you must be harrassed by the affairs of your office, let me trouble you with one. it was suggested by my wishing lately to send a letter to N. [ew] Orleans by the Athens route. I found that altho it would cross that route at George's tavern on the North side of James river, it

equally improved communication with Cartersville, with which we have considerable connection as being on the river. and 3. it would accomodate a rich and populous neighborhood on the N. [orth] side of James river round about George's who now have to send to Cartersville for their letters & papers across a ferry which doubles & triples the postage. the inclosed sketch will give you an idea of it without further explanation. I will therefore only add that George, the owner & keeper of the tavern, is a man of entire worth, & perfectly to be trusted as postmaster.

We don't know if Jefferson got his wish. By 1827, there was a post office at Fife which is only a little over a mile from George's Tavern, but whether it could have been located at the tavern prior to that date is unknown at this time. According to the historical marker, George's Tavern stood until about 1900. It appears on Goochland maps from 1820, 1863, and 1893. Virginia Highway Historical Marker SA-51 is located at the intersection of River Road West and Hadensville-Fife Road. ❁



George's Tavern marker, courtesy of Sebastian Volker (GCHS)

PEARL RANDOLPH REMEMBERED



Leo J. Kevitt, President of Wayne Corp. and Pearl Randolph in the Lifeguard bus. (*Goochland Gazette*)

Pearl Randolph, a School Board member and the mother of 11 children, will always be remembered as the woman who won a new school bus for Goochland County. In 1972, the Wayne Corporation, a major supplier of school buses, held a

nationwide contest seeking suggestions to improve the safety of its buses. Ms. Randolph entered the contest, submitting a suggestion to incorporate noise reduction into the buses. From among 5,000 entries, hers was selected as the winner. As a result, Goochland County received a new, free school bus. She and her husband, Elwood, were flown to Richmond, Indiana, headquarters of the Wayne Corporation, where they were treated to an awards dinner and a tour of the bus-building plant. Shortly afterwards, a shiny 66-passenger Lifeguard bus arrived in the county where it served for many years.

At the time of the award, Mrs. Randolph had been a School Board member for only two years. In addition, she was a member of the Board of Directors for Citizen Development, Goochland Board of Community Action; and was actively involved in the Parent-

Teacher Association and the Goochland Assembly and Recreation Center. While she contributed in many ways to improving life in Goochland County, she will always be remembered for her innovative suggestion that won the county a school bus.



Pearl Randolph hold the plaque she received after winning the contest. She is standing beside a bus similar to one Goochland received. (*Goochland Gazette*)

Mrs. Randolph lived to be 86, passing away on 22 February 2011. She is buried in the Parrish (1) Cemetery on Chapel Hill Road (Rt. 615) beside her husband Elwood. ❀

MEET the INTERN—ANTHONY OLEY



Meet our newest intern, Goochland County High School senior, Anthony Oley. Anthony has lived most of his life in Goochland. He is a senior at Goochland High School in the ACA (Advanced College Academy) there. This is an accelerated course program that allows him to graduate with an Associate Degree. He has applied to several large Virginia universities and is now in the process of making the decision about where to attend. His plan is to major in Computer Science. Since joining us, he has been hard at work transcribing Blair Bolling's journal of his travels

through Virginia, as well as his visit to New York in 1822. Almost daily he traveled from his home in Powhatan to Goochland, Richmond or Chesterfield. In addition to local citizens, he mentions Thomas Jefferson, Lafayette and other notables of his day. We hope to make a transcription of the journal available to the public. ❀



Blair Bolling (<https://dcp.virginia.gov/timeline>)

HIGHLIGHTING HISTORIC PROPERTIES—AIRY POINT



property in 1819. The original house was built by Woodson Payne around 1800, but that house burned. Then Turner sold the property to his son George W. Turner who built the current house which was completed in 1840. A family cemetery is located nearby.

Shelton and second to Caroline Pleasants Anderson. According to descendant Anne Walton, Caroline changed the name of the estate. After a terrible wind storm took down several of the trees on the property, she supposedly said “Y’all can call this “Arrow Point,” but I’m going to call it “Airy Point”. Airy Point remained in the Turner family until the death of Thomas Shelton Turner in 1962. ❁

The pictures accompanying this article were taken in the 1960s by local photographer Jane Quinn Saunders. She and her friends would take trips to local historic houses and photograph them for posterity. In some cases they are the only documentation of homes that have long since ceased to stand. Airy Point is one of the lucky ones in that it still exists.

George Turner purchased the

According to family history, the original name of the property was Arrow Point due to a rock on the grounds that was thought to have been used by the Monacan Indian Nation to make arrow heads. George W. Turner married twice, first to Cecelia Dabney



RECENT DONATIONS



Volunteers Ginny Olsen and Richard Toler (shown above) accept four books donated by the Commonwealth Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The books donated to our library are: *Southam Parish Land Processioning 1747-1784, Henrico County Virginia Wills & Deeds 1714-1718, Henrico County Virginia Deeds 1750-1774, and Cumberland Parish Lunenburg County Virginia 1749-1816 and Vestry Book 1746-1816.* We would like to thank

the Commonwealth Chapter for its generous donation. These titles will help researchers who come to Goochland seeking long ago ancestors.



The developer of the Reed Marsh subdivision allowed the Director and Administrative Assistant to go into the historic house to look for any photographs that might have been left behind. One closet contained

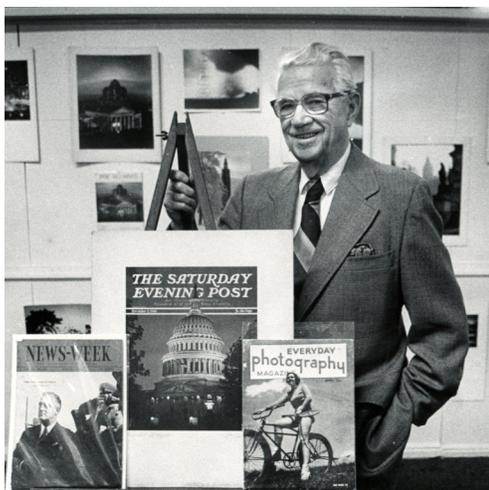
several pictures from Reed Marsh. The photo at left shows Leroy Holland at the long gone home named Belmont. It has been added to our collection.

Carol Salmon Coe also donated a large collection of digital images from her extensive family photograph collection (below). These invaluable images will help future researchers find pictures of family members and a few may even turn up in Society publications! ❁



GENERAL STORE PHOTO RECALLS SLOWER TIME

By William Edwin Booth



William Edwin Booth with some of his magazine covers. (GCHS)

The following article was first published in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* on Sunday, March 27, 1983 by William Edwin Booth (1908-1995). He was an important Richmond photographer who gained national recognition, publishing photos in magazines such as the *Saturday Evening Post* and *Life* magazine. He also helped found the Richmond Camera Club.

A regular contributor to Richmond newspapers, Booth captured several iconic images in the 1930s, from his many trips to Goochland to visit family, where he soon began photographing the landscape and the people. Unlike many of his contemporaries who worked during the Depression photographing America's rural poor, Booth's images focus on the subject and their character.

The once-popular pastime of sitting around the potbellied stove in the village store was recalled recently when a half-century-old photograph was brought to light by Lewis K. Gathright, son of C.A. Gathright,

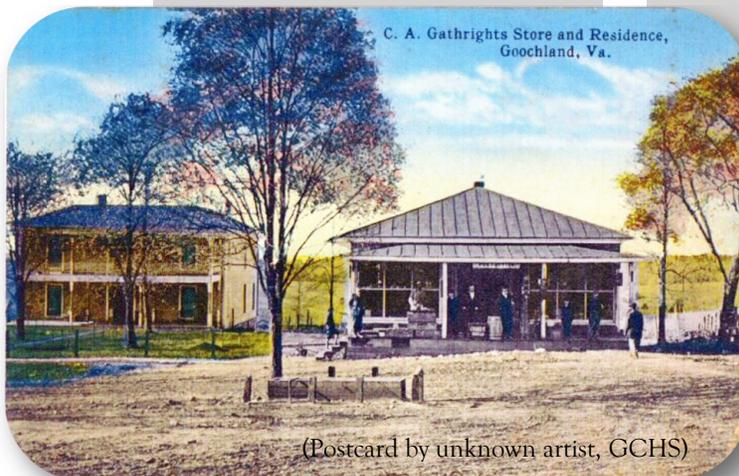
who at one time owned a well-stocked general merchandise store in Goochland.

The store, built in 1912, stood just across state Route 6 from the courthouse. It served also as a post office and general communications center until 1955, when it was remodeled and modernized to serve as a post office and office building.

Saturday evening was the most popular time of the week for neighbors to gather there and swap stories about hunting and fishing or to exchange views about planting and harvesting crops or to tell the news about goings-on in the vicinity. At certain times of the year they would bring turkeys in for weighing to see whose was the largest.



A typical wintertime Saturday evening at the C.A. Gathright General Merchandise store in Goochland in 1933. Photo by W. Edwin Booth



(Postcard by unknown artist, GCHS)

Others would bring baskets of eggs to trade for groceries.

In the 1933 photograph, the late Ruben Blake is shown in the right foreground by a stone crock churn with no dasher, petting Leo, a pointer. Lewis Gathright, partially obscured at the far left, is warming

his hands by the stove. Next to Gathright is the late Howard Marks.

The three men in front of the counter are, from left, R. Parrett Nixon; "Capt." P.R. Nixon, C&O section foreman at Irwin; and the late "Capt." R.L. Stinnette, C&O section foreman at Maidens.

Behind the counter are, from left, the late Forest Guarrant; the late M.G. Anderson (partially obscured by shadow); the late John Guarrant; Mrs. W.J. Allen; the late C.A. Gathright, the store's owner; an un-identified woman; Estelle Stinnette; and Mrs. Bessie Hope Berguin, an employee in the store. ❁

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Join us during February for *Faces and Places in Goochland*,
a month-long celebration of Black History.

TIME to RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP for 2022



Memberships expire at the end of the calendar year. We value your continuing support and look forward to you remaining a member. If you have not already done so, renew for the 2022 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.



Also, give the gift of Goochland history – a membership to the Goochland County Historical Society. ✨