



Goochland County Historical Society

Newsletter

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Goochland County Historical Society

James Richmond
Executive Director

Catherine Southworth
Office Administrator

Board of Directors 2023

Robin Lind, President
Richard Toler, 1st Vice President
Scott Johnson, 2nd Vice President
Suzanne Keesler, Secretary
Kathleen Kimmel, Treasurer
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Carol Salmon Coe, Melinda Gammon,
Gerald Hagen, Robin Hillman,
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Nancy Parrish, Virginia Olsen,
Edie Salmon

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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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The time: World War II, four years bloody into it

The place: London, England.

The weather: damp by damp, a steady drizzle of rain broken by the occasional enthusiasm of a brief shower

The temperature: miserable – bone-chilling mid 30s

The traffic: all military vehicles, stop-n-go, army drab interrupted by the occasional, red, double-decker bus

Dramatis Personae: Two Goochland neighbors separated for nearly five years.

A U.S. Army Air Corps Captain crosses Regent Street west of Piccadilly Circus, looking cautiously (in the wrong direction)

A British Army Major, alert to potential disaster, seeking to preserve the Anglo-American detente

The script: [In a loud voice] "I smell a fox!"

No sign of recognition from the American officer, now looking down at his wet shoes, his feet soaked by the wake of a passing lorry

The cry is repeated: a loud "I SMELL A FOX!"

The American officer, straightens with a jolt, snaps his head to his right, spies the British officer with his finger to the side of his nose, and a broad, cheery grin on his face. "I SMELL A FOX!" is now a bellowing roar

"Murray!" the American cries out.

"Hullo, Elie. What brings you here?"

And thus two Goochland neighbors, future founder and first president of the Goochland County Historical Society Elie Weeks, and Major W.M.F. Bayliss, future MFH of the Deep Run Hunt, (and father of future President of GCHS Temple Bayliss) reunite in the British Capitol and repair to the warmth of a nearby Club – was it the "In and Out?" – to catch up on the latest news from home... This may not be precisely accurate, but it is the way I recall Elie telling me the story over 40 years ago. As distinguished historian, and longtime friend of the GCHS, Calder Loth says, "It may not be exactly so, but it is too good a story to omit."

The mission of the GCHS is to "preserve, present and interpret the history of Goochland County." That history is not simply structures, maps, deed books, documents, furnishings and oddments of clothing from the past. It is also the stories of the people who called this place home. It is the stories that breathe life into the community, and into the Society. We want to gather more of those stories.

After an absence from the board of more than 30 years, I was surprised, and humbled, and delighted to be asked to be your president. There is so much that has been accomplished by the past members, directors and presidents of the society that I confess I am awed by the challenge.

This year we will

- launch Goochland's 250VA Commission which was created by the Board of Supervisors to coordinate our efforts with statewide programs to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the 1776 Declaration of Independence.
- lay the foundations for the observation of the 300th anniversary in 2024 of the completion of Dover Anglican Church in western Henrico – now eastern Goochland
- begin planning for the 300th Anniversary of the formation of Goochland County in 1727
- see the installation of a permanent Freedom of Choice marker to commemorate the integration of Goochland's racially segregated High Schools in 1965
- commence the digitization of Society publications, including the *Magazine* and Newsletters, thanks to the generosity of the Goochland Rotary Club grant.
- celebrate the second anniversary of our move to the Goochland History Center adjacent to the Court House Green

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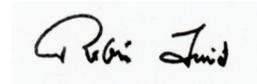
And we also celebrate this year the service of outgoing directors who have worked so faithfully and diligently to promote the Society's goals over the past years, and especially in the difficult time of Covid. When you see them, please thank outgoing President Christina Dunn, and Bruce Venter, Vern Fleming, Cheryl Childress, Rachel Jacobson, Raymond Miller, Linda Weistroffer and Erin Yearout-Patton.

We also recognize new directors: Knight Bowles, Cheryl Childress, Carol Salmon Coe, Gerald Hagen, Robin Hillman, Michael Parish, Nancy Parish, Ginny Olsen, and Edie Salmon; and the continuing service of 1st Vice President,

Richard Toler; 2nd Vice President, Scott Johnson; Secretary, Suzanne Keesler; and Treasurer, Kitty Kimmel.

The population of the county has doubled in the past 40 years. We expect it to double again in the next eight. When you see fellow Goochland neighbors on the street, in the fields, in town or village, don't be shy about greeting. You needn't cry out "I smell a fox!" but you might ask them if they are members of the Society. If not, do ask them to join: we want their stories too.

Sincerely,
Robin Lind, President



BEGINNING GENEALOGY 2023

Have you ever tried to discover the history of your family, but didn't know how or where to begin? The Goochland County Historical Society is here to help by sponsoring **Beginning Genealogy**, a course of four lectures, to help you get started.

The course begins in January 2023, with one lecture offered each month thereafter, through April. Topics include: what a group sheet is, how to search for genealogical information using a personal computer, why the U.S. Census is a valuable resource, other sources of free information available to you, and how to judge the accuracy of the information you find.

Schedule:

Lecture 1: Saturday, **January 21**, 10:00 am to noon, meeting room, Goochland Branch Library, 3075



River Road West. This introductory session provided the basics.

Lecture 2: Saturday, **February 11**, 10:00 am to noon, meeting room, Goochland Branch Library, 3075 River Road West. This lecture will feature five people from the Louisa County Historical Society who have years of experience conducting genealogical research; they will speak about African-American genealogy, including how to track ancestors back into the period before emancipation.

Lecture 3: Saturday, **March 18**, 10:00 am to noon, meeting room, Goochland Branch Library, 3075 River Road West.
Lecture 4: Date and location to be announced.

To sign up or find out more about the course or individual lectures, please contact the Goochland County Historical Society by phone at 804-556-3966, by email at goochlandhistory@comcast.net, or drop by the society at 2924 River Road West.

The society is located next to Goochland Courthouse; hours are 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Wednesday through Friday and the second Saturday of the month.

Preregistration is required to ensure sufficient seating. RT☼



HISTORY WALK!

Join us on March 4, 2023, 10:00 am at West View on the James, 1231 West View Rd. Goochland, VA 23063, for our first History Walk of the year! The walk will take us to one of the surviving culverts that was built to support the James River and Kanawha Canal in the early 1800s. GCHS Vice-President Richard Toler will talk about the Canal history and volunteer Erich Krause will lead the group. Rain date will be March 18, 2023.

Please contact the Society at goochlandhistory@comcast.net or 804-556-3966 if you would like to participate. ☼

NEW EXHIBIT: OUR FAVORITE THINGS



Miller Desk, portrait and trunk

On January 16, the GCHS's newest exhibit "Our Favorite Things" made its debut at the History Center. It features items from our collection that don't often get displayed. However, they are some of the favorite pieces of the staff and we thought they deserved a chance to shine and tell their own story.

At the heart of the display is a desk that belonged to William Miller. It was made in the late 1790s for Miller, Clerk of the Court in Goochland County from 1791 until his death in 1846. Five generations of the Miller family served as Goochland's Clerk of the Court between 1791 and 1955 (except from 1900 to 1912). For many years the Clerk's office was maintained and all records kept at the Miller family residence that used to stand on what is now Fairground Road and then at Reed Marsh when the family moved there in the early 1800s.

Underneath the desktop is room for storage of papers and other items. The original labels written by William Miller are still visible on the built-in wooden

slots that hold documents.

The desk remained in the Miller family until the death of Margaret Miller in 1955, the last of the family to serve as Clerk. It was acquired by the Goochland County Historical Society in 1999 when it was discovered to be among the several items sent to Richmond for auction. The desk has been out of the public eye for years, except on rare occasions when the Old Clerk's Office on the Courthouse Green has been opened for special events.

Also on display is the portrait of Narcissus Miller. He was the son of William Miller and served as the fourth Clerk of the Court for Goochland from 1846 until

1868. The painting was commissioned in the 1920s by a descendant and was done by Richmond artist Isabel Mayo from a daguerreotype, ambrotype, or carte-de-visite that had passed down through the Miller family.

The painting was donated to the Society by George Stuckey in honor of his wife Ann Miller (Millie) Anderson Stuckey, a fourth generation descendant of Narcissus Miller. The painting hung in a place of honor, over the fireplace, in the Society's former headquarters. It has been off display since the move into the History Center. With this exhibition, it has returned to public view.

One more member of the Miller family has an item on display in the current exhibition. A "Jenny Lind" trunk was donated to the Society in 2003 by long-time member Margaret Henley, herself a former Deputy Clerk of the Court. The name "William Miller" is stenciled on the

side of the trunk. This type of trunk became popular in the 1850s and is called a "Jenny Lind" trunk due to the popularity of the "Swedish Nightingale" singer Jenny Lind who used this type of trunk and was known for her hourglass shape which this trunk resembles. The trunk was probably used by William Miller, Jr., fifth Clerk of the Court who served from 1868 until 1900. The shape of the trunk made it very useful for attaching to carriages. Miller would have used it to transport records to and from his home, Reed Marsh. Miller was working in the Clerk's Office alongside his father Narcissus before 1868. Narcissus and William are credited as saving Goochland's records during Civil War by hiding them in the woods near the current Correctional Center for Women. Perhaps some of those records traveled in this trunk, saving them for future generations.

On display for the first time in years is the Randolph teaspoon. The silver teaspoon was used by the Randolph family at their home named Tuckahoe in the late 18th to



early 19th century. The spoon, which has the initial “R” engraved on the handle, was given to a member of the Knibb family in the mid 1900s by a member of the Randolph family. It was donated to the GCHS in 1991.



There are two small houses on display for the first time. One is a dollhouse that belonged to Rebecca Parker Davis who once lived where the Swann’s Inn subdivision is now located. The six-room dollhouse was made by the Rich Manufacturing Company, circa 1947. These dollhouses were shipped flat and then had to be assembled, using simple instructions.

The second house on display is a scale model of Little Genito, the Knibb family home still standing off of Shallow Well Road. It was made by



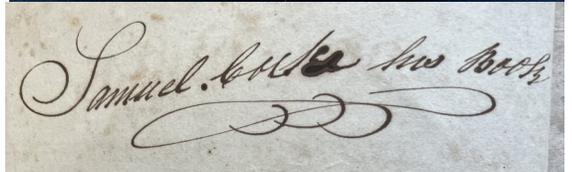
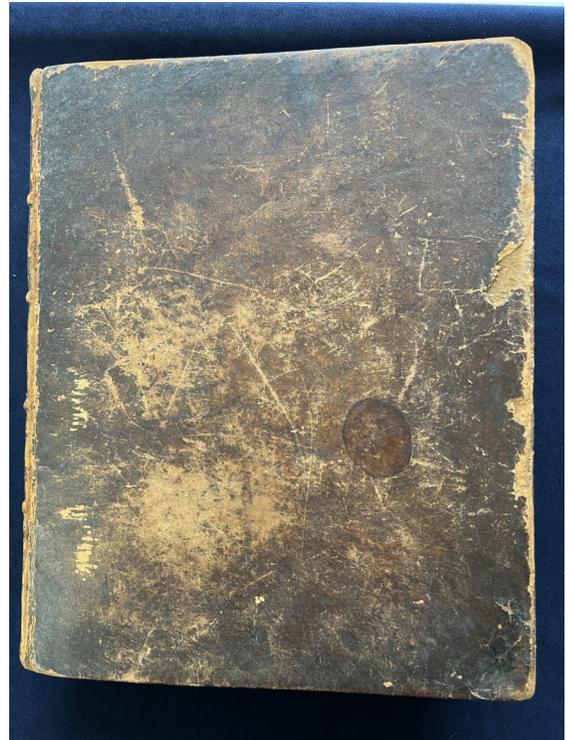
GCHS member Edwin Dooley, husband of Lu Knibb whose father was Goochland Commonwealth’s Attorney Clopton Knibb. This amazing little house was donated just this

past year, so this is its first public appearance.

There are also a bible and photograph album that belonged to the Cocke family who once lived in the Crozier area. This family Bible with Apocrypha was

published by Riley and Seaman of New York in 1824. It belonged to Samuel Cocke (1771-1844) whose large signature can be found on an inside page. In the middle of the Bible are several pages of birth, death, and marriage information that is of the utmost importance to genealogical researchers. Before birth and death certificates became commonplace, family bibles were often the only records of these events.

The photograph album was a gift from James Rufus Cocke to his brother



and sister-in-law, Charles Cocke and Honoria Hopkins, possibly to honor their 1866 wedding. Thirty pictures of the Cocke family and relatives are still inside. Most are identified which is rare in photograph albums of this age. The fact that they are identified makes this an important family and research object as well.

The front and rear covers are wrapped in gilded leather with dimensional design. It has a very detailed landscape scene painted by hand on an oval panel mounted to the front and back covers. Both covers are embellished with milk glass appliques that double as feet to support the album when it is set on a flat surface. It features dual bronze hinged clasps. JR ❁



HISTORIC PROPERTIES—FRIENDSHIP REST

Friendship Rest, pictured here, was built prior to the War of 1812 by William George who later fought in that war. In 1820, the property was deeded to William George, Jr. who had newly wed Susan Holman. William (Jr.) died in 1836, shortly before his seventh daughter was born. His widow raised her family and managed her farm single-handedly. She died in 1886, having outlived several of her children.

According to architectural historian Gibson Worsham's *A Survey of Historic Architecture in Goochland County, Virginia* (2003, page 47), the house, located on Route 623 at Hylas, is a one and one-

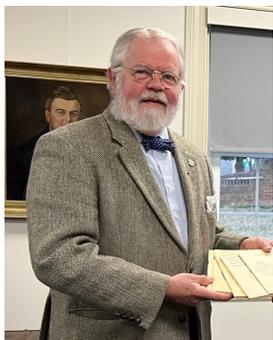


half story frame building, with dormer windows and a one story porch on the front. He describes the interior as consisting of six large rooms, with chair railings and plain mantels. The stairway is a closed string winding type; the doors are four-panel; and the floors are of original wide pine. There is a cellar under the entire house which

was used by the family as a living space. The roof is gabled and made of standing-seam metal. He notes that the two shed dormers on the front were probably added in the mid-nineteenth century. A one-story wing appears to have been added to the south end of the house in 1880, while a similar wing was added to the north end about 1950. Huge oak trees were recorded as surrounding the house.

In 1937, the Works Progress Administration of Virginia, in the historical inventory of the county, described the property as “very attractive, with well kept grounds and house.” The house still stands in its original location. CBS ❀

GCHS ANNUAL MEETING and ELECTION of BOARD



President Robin Lind December 17th. Needless to say, everyone ate well; the fried chicken and biscuits were as delicious as ever. It was very good of Anne and Jim Hardwick, the owners of Tanglewood Ordinary, to host the meeting.

Christina Jordan Dunn, president of the GCHS, presented the slate of officers and board members for 2023 - 2024, proposed by the Nominating Committee which was chaired by Immediate Past President Scott Johnson. As is customary, additional nominations were requested from the

Members of the GCHS met at Tanglewood Ordinary for the society's annual meeting and luncheon on Saturday,

floor, but hearing none, the slate, as presented, was unanimously voted into office.

Ms. Dunn, outgoing president, introduced the new president Robin Lind who is a longtime member of the society and a member of its board from 1985–1988. He has had a career as an author, editor and publisher, having been a former general manager of the *Goochland Gazette* and founder of the *Goochland Free Press*. Schooled in Canada and England, Mr. Lind graduated from the University of Virginia and is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, Scotland. He and his wife Kitty Williams, who is a Master Gardner and member of the Goochland Garden Club, live at Hope Springs in Manakin-Sabot. It can only be said that Mr. Lind is very generous with his time for the public good, having served as a member of the Goochland County School Board from 1984–1987 and as

a court-appointed member of the Goochland County Electoral Board for 22 years (2000–2022). He has experience leading non-profit organizations, having served as president of the Virginia Electoral Board Association from 2016–2018 and as president of the Gloucester County Historical Society from 1977-1978.

Following the introduction, the new president briefly addressed the membership. Then Bruce Venter, outgoing 1st Vice President, presented a gift from the board to Ms. Dunn who has served as president for the last five years. She thanked all outgoing officers, board members, and staff and welcomed all incoming officers and board members, thanking them for agreeing to serve.

For the names of outgoing and incoming officers and board members, see President's Message. CD ❀

CEMETERY CORNER—A CENOTAPH FOR JIMMY



James “Jimmy” Lynwood Cobbs grew up in Goochland County near Crozier. His father Hamilton Cobbs was stationmaster at Maidens and his mother Dell Turpin Cobbs, was a school teacher at Cardwell. Jimmy graduated from Goochland High School in 1948 and then entered Virginia Polytechnic Institute. After two years of study, he joined the United States Air Force. He rose through the ranks, reaching the level of corporal within a short time. With the Korean War underway at the

time, and Jimmy was given orders to go to Korea to join the 1706 Air Transport Wing.

About the 19th or 20th of July, 1951, he started his trip which would take him first to Tokyo, Japan, and then from there to Korea. For the first leg of the journey, he was on board Canadian Pacific Air Lines Flight 3505 (a four-engined DC-4) from Vancouver, British Columbia to Anchorage, Alaska. On Saturday, July 21, shortly after midnight, the plane was reported as missing. At the time, weather conditions were recorded as “very heavy rain and icing with visibility of no more than 500 feet.” By the next day, there were 16 search



planes in the air along with three Coast Guard cutters on the water. The search continued until October 31, 1951, but found no traces of the missing plane. On board were 26 American servicemen—23 from the Air Force and 3 from the Army, along with 3 civilians, and 6 crew members

and stewardesses. No trace of the missing plane has ever been located.

Today, Jimmy has a marker in the Grace Episcopal Church Cemetery, adjacent to his parents’ headstone. However, his stone is a cenotaph, a monument erected to honor a person who is buried elsewhere or missing. RT ❁

RECENT DONATIONS



The GCHS would like to thank our donors for their generous gifts of historical items to our collection. We would not have a collection if it were not for the generosity of the such individuals.

Recent donations include: a rocking butter press from Louisa Preston. The press was formerly located in the basement of Bendover.

When the family sold the house, Ms. Preston kept the press and has donated it to the Society. It has undergone a cleaning and is on display now at the Society.

Documents and photographs were donated by Mrs. Sam Smith, widow of long time Society member Sam Smith (who recently passed away). Included are two pictures of the Smith Auto Court later,

known as Alley’s Motel. This landmark was located along Broad Street Road in Centerville until recently.

An archive on the life of

James (Jimmy) Lynwood Cobbs. Jimmy’s brother Richard donated 46 pictures and many documents detailing Jimmy’s life and untimely death. It was very generous of Mr. Cobbs for entrusting these precious family documents to the GCHS.

A like-new laptop and color printer donated by Charlie Shannon and Sam Piazza. The society is pleased to receive this equipment, especially the color printer as it did not have one. GCHS ❁



Goochland County Historical Society by the Numbers 2023

Facebook Followers 1,787 Books Cataloged 411 Photographs Cataloged 4,460

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UPCOMING EVENTS

February 11—10:00 am—noon—Beginning Genealogy II—Goochland Library

March 4—10:00 am—History Walk at West View on the James

March 18—10:30 am—noon—Beginning Genealogy III—Goochland Library

April 1—9:30 am—Spring Meeting with guest Brent Tarter. (Refreshments at 9:30, lecture at 10 AM)

OUR FAVORITE THINGS!

A NEW EXHIBITION
JANUARY—MARCH 2023