



Goochland County Historical Society Newsletter

FOUNDED MAY 1, 1968

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THORNCLIFF EXHIBITION BEGINS!

Selling a house, especially a luxury home like Thorncliff, was more difficult in 1914 than in today's world of online real estate services. The advertisement (center) for the property appeared in *Country Life in America* (Vol. 25, March, 1914, page 14 and again in April 1914, page 16a). An album about the property was made available to prospective buyers. In fact, much of what is known about the house which burned in 1925, and its contents, comes from the album which was filled with photographs of both the inside and outside of the



Gentleman's Chair, c. 1870, Rosewood with high quality carving.

building. Shown here is the sitting room on the first floor. One of the small tables placed on either side of the fireplace, the Gothic style chair appearing on the right side of this photograph, and the Victorian chair in the front part of the photograph were furnishings in this room. They were donated to the Goochland County Historical Society and are currently on display at the Society as part of the exhibit "Saved from the

Ashes: Thorncliff in the Gilded Age."

Unfortunately neither the advertisements nor the album seemed to draw an interested buyer. When the house burned, it was still owned by its builder Joseph Reid Anderson, Jr. and was still for sale.

The Society has had reproductions made of the photographs from the album; they have been collected and placed in an album for the public to view. The exhibit "Saved from the Ashes: Thorncliff in the Gilded Age" is on display through the end of the year. *



Chair, c. 1850. On display at the Goochland History Center.

SOCIETY MESSAGE



Goochland County Historical Society

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Executive Director

Catherine Southworth
Office Administrator

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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,

Summer has arrived and with it a tornado that touched down in the Goochland Courthouse community. Luckily the historical society building was not harmed, although a nearby tree that fell, took down the electric lines to the facility. It was sad to see the many old trees destroyed by the storm and the damage done around the county. Fortunately, it did not appear that any of the county's historic properties were damaged.

Summer usually brings more visitors our way and this year is no exception. It never ceases to amaze how far flung are the descendants of Goochland's early settlers. And they often return to the place of their origin, looking for information on their ancestors or just wanting to see where their early relative lived. Of course, researching these early settlers can get complicated. Goochland which started out as a large county created from Henrico Shire in 1727/1728, was then carved up into several other counties, including Albemarle, 1744 and Cumberland, 1749. Therefore, research may involve resources and records, not just for Goochland, but also for these counties as well.

In addition to responding to visitor queries, we have been and are quite busy with activities, as evidenced by the articles in this newsletter. Local groups have been requesting programs on the history of the county. We now have developed several offerings, thanks to volunteer Richard Toler. There is everything from a single 30-minute program to two 40-minute programs on the county's general history. Also, there are programs that cover special topics, such as the James River and Kanawha Canal, Revolutionary War, and economic development in the 18th and 19th centuries. If your group is interested in a presentation, please contact the Society.

Attendance at our regular lectures also has perked up this year—more evidence that folks are getting back into the swing of things. If you are new to the Society and attend one of these events, please introduce yourself. However, not all contact with our community is face-to-face, much of it is online through our website, Facebook page, and blog. In fact, most people, especially those from outside the county, find us through our online presence, so maintaining and enhancing those communication links is increasingly important. The downside to online participation is that only a small percentage of virtual visitors, like those who "follow" us on Facebook, belong to the Society. While it sometimes seems like we sound like a broken record, it is worth noting once again that without members supporting the work of the Society, there is no Society. Maintaining a healthy membership is absolutely essential to our existence.

While we trust you will have a pleasant and restful summer, we also hope you will make time to participate in some of the Society's events or just drop by to say "hello" and see our exhibit "Saved from the Ashes: Thorncliff in the Gilded Age" which is on view through December.

Wishing you those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer,

President

Director



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Daniel Allen ♦ Jim Alexander ♦ Denise Carter
Adele Conti ♦ Rhonda & Dan Doody ♦ Dean Dunn
Liam Fauver ♦ Arthur Krueger ♦ William T. Norman
Tony Owens ♦ Susan & Jim Perkins ♦ Deborah Riggan
Judy Shelton ♦ Jeffrey Welch

SOCIETY NEWS

"BUSTLES, BLOOMERS & BIG SLEEVES"



Above: Colleen Callahan and Nancy Lowden with Sarah Eyre Blair Glover's tea gown, c. 1895. Right: Dress and jacket, c. 1885, possibly Sarah Glover's wedding suit. Both on loan from Fashion Archives and Museum of Shippensburg University.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to dress in historical costume, perhaps from the late 19th century? Then "Bustles, Bloomers &

Big Sleeves: Fashion in the Gilded Age" is for you! Colleen Callahan, museum consultant, retired textile curator at Richmond's Valentine Museum, board member at the Fashion Archives and Museum at Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania, and the woman who saved many outfits worn by such Virginians as James Monroe and Robert E. Lee, will talk about fashions of the late 19th century's Gilded Age. She will focus on the clothing in the Society's exhibit "Saved from the Ashes: Thorncliff in the Gilded Age," detail how such historical garments are conserved, how women of the period got dressed, and why a lady's maid was essential. Nancy Lowden, retired Manager of Historical Programs at the Maymont Foundation, will assist

UPCOMING PROGRAM

in demonstrating the dress of the period by showing what it meant to "get dressed" in that era. The program will be held on Saturday, July 9, at 2:00 pm at Grace Episcopal Church, Parish House, 2955 River Road West, Goochland Courthouse. It is cosponsored by the Southeastern Region of the Costume Society of America. Following the program will be an English tea, prepared by Margaret Lindner, a real English lady and a volunteer at the Society. ♦

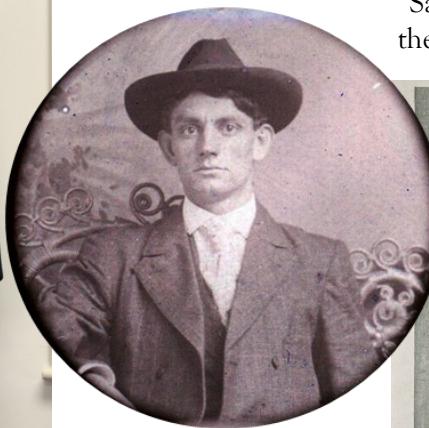


A WEDDING COAT PRESERVED

It is not uncommon for bridal gowns, veils, and even gloves and shoes to be saved by a family. It is more unusual for the groom's clothing to be kept. However, the morning coat of James Boswell Ferguson, V, has not only survived, it is in relatively good condition, considering its age. According to the label inside the coat pocket, it was made for Mr. Ferguson by Clarence Mayer & Co. in Cincinnati, Ohio. He wore the coat when he married Ida Louise Dunn in 1910. The wedding was held at the



bride's family home Rose Hill in western Goochland. The



couple lived at La Vallee, the ancestral home of the Ferguson family, also in western Goochland. Later they moved to the Blue Goose near Crozier

where they ran a supper club. The still stylish morning coat is now displayed as part of the Society's "Saved from the Ashes: Thorncliff in the Gilded Age" exhibit. ♦

ALL-WOOL TAILORING

The advertisement features a large title "ALL-WOOL TAILORING" at the top. Below it is a circular portrait of a man in a suit and hat. To the right of the portrait, there is a group of three people (two men and one woman) all dressed in formal suits and hats. The woman is wearing a large, ornate hat. The text below the portrait reads: "THE Mayer-Cincinnati idea is this: To make, strictly to individual measurements, hand-tailored garments of irreproachable fashion, fit and finish. To offer none but all-pure-wool fabrics, and the fancy materials in none but new and uncommon patterns and colorings. Then, to stand back of every garment with a guarantee of absolute satisfaction, a guarantee that really guarantees. Tailoring for the Young Man While our fashion-range includes all the more conservative styles, yet first and foremost we specialize in the more progressive and young ideas about their clothes. We make a great feature of styles especially designed for boys and others who fancy the more extreme effects. CLARENCE MAYER CO., DEPT. F, CINCINNATI, OHIO". On the right side, there is a column titled "Representatives Everywhere" which lists various cities where the company has branches. At the bottom, it says "MAYER-CINCINNATI" and "Ad from Cosmopolitan Magazine, 1910".

SOCIETY NEWS

The GCHS HAS BEEN OUT and ABOUT

While the Goochland County Historical Society has a library and museum at 2924 River Road West, we are not always there. We make presentations and exhibit at other venues, when requested. Recent activities include:



Richard Toler and Christina Dunn

COMMONWEALTH CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

In May, we exhibited at the Chapter's Garden Party and History Day program held at Tuckahoe. Despite a drizzle that morning, the event drew a full house of Chapter members from the Richmond area. The Society's exhibit featured Tuckahoe in the movies. The fact that Tuckahoe has appeared in several movies—the best known of which is Colonial Williamsburg's "Story of a Patriot"—came as a surprise to some. In addition to the program which included the rededication of the 1978 DAR marker and presentation of the DAR Preservation Award to the owners of Tuckahoe, everyone had a boxed lunch, as well as the opportunity to tour the grounds and house. The event took place at the height of peony season and Tuckahoe's gardens were in full bloom. (right)

Thanks to volunteers Scott Johnson, Richard Toler, and Catherine Southworth for helping to set up and man the exhibit.

GOOCHLAND DAY

May 7 was Goochland Day. Although it was chilly and wet, the event still drew a good crowd. Fortunately we had a brand new tent for protection from the rain. Society

members stopped by to say

"hello" and people who didn't know about the Society stopped by to find out more. We even had a few people with questions about Goochland history.

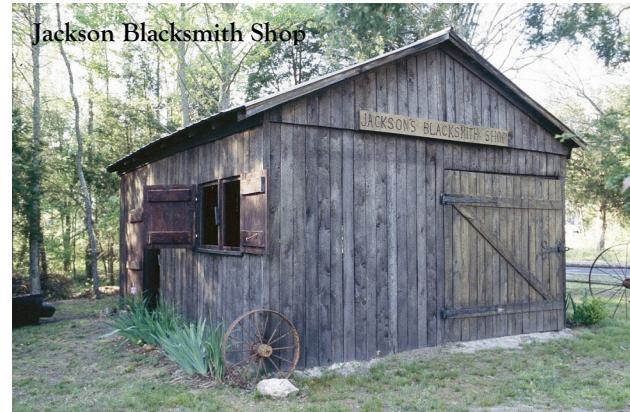
Thanks to Vern Fleming and Richard Toler for helping with the exhibit. Putting up and taking down the new tent for the first time was challenging.

BETHEL METHODIST CHURCH GROUP

On June 15, Richard Toler and Christina Dunn spoke to a group of retirees from Bethel Methodist Church at the home of Edith and Frank Carney. The presentation, titled "The History of Goochland in 30 Minutes (or Less)" covered Goochland's development from the



time of the Monacan Indians and early settlers to the beginning of the 20th century. Goochland's rich history includes everything from gold and coal, and packet boats and railroads to Cornwallis and Dalgren's raid.



JACKSON BLACKSMITH SHOP ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

On June 18, the Society exhibited at the Jackson Blacksmith Shop Annual Open House. The blacksmith shop, built by George Wilson Jackson, Jr. in 1832, is a Goochland historic building on the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places. This year's theme was "Baseball of Years Past." Activities included live music, photo exhibits of the Fauquier Training School and Central High School students from the '40s and '50s, a bake sale, farrier and blacksmithing demonstrations, and tours of the shop. The Society's exhibit focused on African Americans from Goochland who fought in the American Revolution. After all, the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution is right around the corner.

Thanks to volunteers Scott Johnson and Christina Dunn for helping to set up and man the exhibit. ☀

SOCIETY NEWS

IN CASE YOU MISSED OUR RECENT LECTURES

The Goochland County Historical Society has been hosting a series of lectures in concert with its “Saved from the Ashes: Thorncliff in the Gilded Age” exhibit. So far, two have taken place, with another to come in July. See **Upcoming Program** for further information. Also, thanks to Goochland publisher Wayne Dementi, the Society presented a well received program featuring the always popular Dr. Charles Bryan, Jr.



PRESENTATION by NANCY PARRISH

The last snow of winter on March 12, 2022 did not deter folks from coming out to hear Goochland's own Nancy Parrish. We had planned to showcase Dr. Parrish's book prior to the Covid pandemic shutdown in March 2020; it seemed only right that she should be our first speaker when we restarted public programming. More than forty people gathered at the Grace Church Parish House to hear Dr. Parrish talk about “Americans’ Fascination with English Country Houses and Their Inhabitants.” Her lecture was based on her recent book *The Downton Era: Great Houses, Churchills, and Mitfords*. If you are a *Downton Abbey* fan, it is a fascinating read, presenting aristocrats of the time and their often over the top lifestyles.

Following the lecture, the hearty souls who came out in the snow storm were treated to a real British tea, complete with shortbread, tarts

and scones, prepared by Society volunteer Margaret Lindner. Thanks not only to Margaret, but also to Ginny Olsen, Scott Johnson, Richard Toler, and Vern Fleming for assisting with everything from setting up chairs, serving tea, and escorting people back to their cars.

LECTURE by CALDER LOTH

On April 24, Calder Loth made his third presentation to the Goochland County Historical Society

at Byrd Church—he presented at its very first meeting in 1968, then at its 50th anniversary, and most recently as part of our lecture series

for the exhibit “Saved from the Ashes: Thorncliff in the Gilded Age.” Now retired, he served as Senior Architectural Historian at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and has written widely on Virginia historic landmarks and historic preservation. His

Dooley and his wife Sallie May, were highlighted.

Thanks to Ginny Olsen and Margaret Lindner for preparing the refreshments and members Knight Bowles, Vern Fleming, Scott Johnson, and Richard Toler for setting up the room. Also, a special thanks to Knight Bowles for arranging for the use of Byrd Church.

INTERVIEW with DR. CHARLES BRYAN, JR.

On May 15, the Society hosted a program at St. Mary’s Church, featuring Dr. Charles F. Bryan, Jr., discussing his new book *Imperfect Past, Volume II*. Ross MacKenzie, retired editor of the *Richmond Times Dispatch*, interviewed Dr. Bryan about the more than 80 essays, written between 2016 and mid-2021, that address the book’s theme “history in a new light.” Dr. Bryan spent most of his career in the museum field, including 20 years as president of the Virginia Historical Society. His essays for the *Richmond Times Dispatch*, started in the 1990s, have had an enthusiastic readership over the years.



presentation covered luxurious and opulent houses of the Gilded Age from New York and Rhode Island to Washington, DC and Virginia. Maymont in Richmond and Swannanoa in Afton, both homes of Richmond-born financier James

Thanks to volunteers Ginny Olsen and Margaret Lindner for refreshments and to Vern Fleming, Suzanne Keesler, Richard Toler, and Linda Weistroffer for serving as hosts for the event. ♦

SOCIETY NEWS

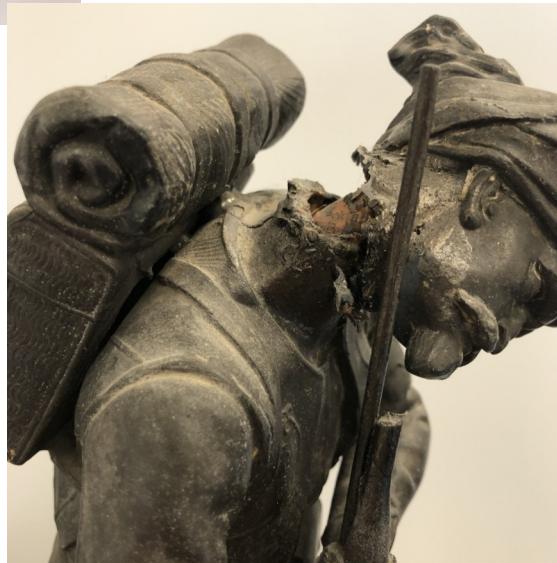
"HELP! I'M LOSING MY HEAD"



As part of the collection of items from Thorncliff is a 16 ½-inch zinc statue of a Zouave soldier that belonged to Joseph Reid Anderson, Jr., owner of Thorncliff. Originally Zouaves were a class of light infantry in the French military, having been organized as early as 1830, and were linked to service in North Africa. Zouave soldiers in other countries were modeled on the French forces. Their unique uniform includes a distinctive jacket, vest, sash, and baggy trousers, topped by a fez style of hat.

There were Zouave units in the armies of both the North and South during the Civil War; they were easily recognizable by their exotic uniforms. Hawkins' Zouaves, 9th New York Infantry, is credited with being the first official Zouave regiment in that conflict; it was mustered in 1861. While the South had only about 25 Zouave units, the North had more than 70 such units. It is interesting that the last recorded Union casualty of the war was a Zouave soldier, killed at Farmville, Virginia on the morning of April 9, 1865—the last day of fighting.

The Zouave soldier that once belonged to Joseph Reid Anderson, Jr., has taken on a real life existence—much like that of a favorite doll—for some volunteers at the Goochland County Historical Society (GCHS). When he is out of the box in which he is generally housed, volunteers have been seen talking to him and commiserating with his unfortunate situation. Recently we had taken him out of his box to discuss his repair with the Conservation Center in Chicago which is one of the few places in the country that can repair artifacts made of zinc. While funds are available to cover his repair, the



cost of shipping and insurance is fairly steep, over \$220.00 each way as he requires a special carrier. We were lamenting this fact when one of our volunteers who had been seen chatting with the Zouave on more than one occasion, suggested that we allow him to approach the membership to raise funds for shipping. Therefore, we are publishing his letter, as dictated to the volunteer who wishes to remain anonymous.

Dear Members of GCHS,

Thank you for taking the time to read my request. Over the years, I have had several accidents resulting in a severely broken neck and an almost severed arm. I, as well as my friends at the Society, believe I can be put to rights. The person who donated the many artifacts from Thorncliff now on exhibit, also donated me, as well as money to cover my repair. The problem arises due to the high cost of shipping. I am made of zinc which is a very brittle material, hence the partial cause of my condition, so I require extra special packing and boxing to be shipped to the Conservation Center in Chicago. The lab believes my injuries can be corrected if only I can get there; therefore, I am pleading my case with you. A total of \$440.00 is required to safely send me to Chicago and return me to the GCHS. Insurance is part of that cost, just in case.....

I trust you will consider my plight and respond accordingly.

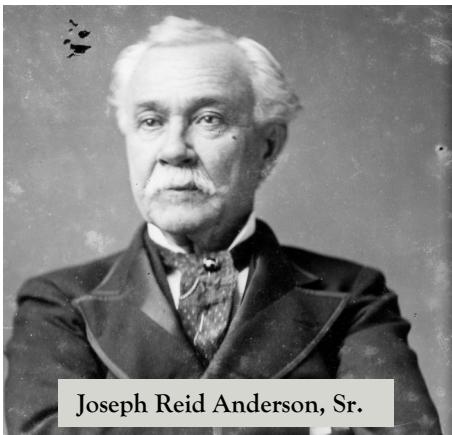
Yours truly,

The Loyal Zouave ☺



SOCIETY NEWS

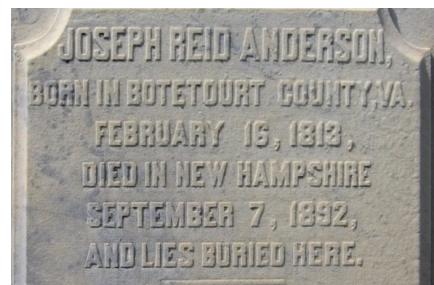
CEMETERY CORNER—JOSEPH REID



Joseph Reid Anderson, Sr.

Born in Botetourt County, Virginia in 1813 to William and Anne Thomas Anderson, Joseph Reid Anderson (1813–1892) attended the United States Military Academy at West Point. Upon graduation in 1836, he began his military career in the United States Army, but once married, he decided a military career wasn't for him. He promptly resigned his commission and in 1837, he became an assistant state engineer for the construction of the Valley Turnpike between Staunton and Winchester, Virginia. That, plus his activities in the Whig party, brought him to the attention of the owners of the Tredegar Iron

Company in Richmond. He joined Tredegar and rapidly rose from handling sales to becoming superintendent of the company. During the Civil War, he served briefly as a Brigadier General in the Confederate Army. However, by 1862, he had resigned his commission and returned to running Tredegar which produced significant amounts of munitions, cannon, and other ordnance for the Confederacy. In the 1870s, he served in the Virginia House of Delegates, as well as on the Richmond Chamber of Commerce and the Richmond City Council.



His third son, Joseph Reid Anderson, Jr. (1851–1930) attended Virginia Military Institute (VMI) (1870–1871) and the University of Virginia (1871–1872). He succeeded



Joseph Reid Anderson, Jr.

his father in running Tredegar Iron Works. Around 1883, he moved from Richmond to land his father had purchased in Goochland County. There he built "Thorncliff," where he farmed and raised cattle and horses. Despite the loss of his home to a fire in 1925, he continued his agricultural pursuits and lived on the premises until his death. His interest in VMI led him to serve as its historiographer. In 1921, his book *Record of Service in the World War of V.M.I. Alumni and Their Alma Mater* was published. Both Joseph Reid Anderson Senior and Junior are buried in the family plot in Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery. ☈

THE LOCK-KEEPER'S HOUSE at CEDAR POINT

The lock-keeper's house, pictured here, was built in 1836 on the James River and Kanawha Canal at Goochland's Cedar Point. The building housed the person responsible for operating and maintaining locks #7 and #8. Also, there was a warehouse at the site for housing wheat, tobacco, and other items being shipped up on the canal. The James River and Kanawha Canal served as a vital economic link that brought about rural development, as it allowed farmers to easily ship their crops to sell in Richmond and in other places. Cedar Point, the lock closest to Goochland Courthouse also served as a stop on the canal for passengers embarking or



disembarking from the many packet boats that plied its waters.

What's so special about the Cedar Point lock-keeper's house? It is the only extant lock-keeper's house remaining on the James River and Kanawha Canal.

The Goochland County Historical Society believes it is a unique treasure that should be made available to the public as a museum, as it represents an important era in Goochland's development. The *Clear Mount, Lucy, Nettie, Fannie, and Sam Miller* were packet boats that once frequented Cedar Point, delivering cargo and passengers. M.G. Anderson, J.P. Holland, Sam Golden, Joseph T. Spicer, D.R. Shelton, A.K. Bowles, and Francis A. Tyler were among the many Goochland farmers using Cedar Point to ship their crops. The boats and farmers using Cedar Point are long gone, only the lock-keeper's house remains. The building is currently for sale. ☈

Goochland County Historical Society by the Numbers in 2022

Facebook Followers 1,672

Facebook Likes 1,556

Blog Views 4,599

Books Cataloged 222

Photographs Cataloged 1,436

Objects Cataloged 476



July 9, 2022

Colleen
Callahan

2:00-4:00 pm

Bustles, Bloomers & Big Sleeves: Fashion in the Gilded Age

