



Goochland County Historical Society Newsletter

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VOLUNTEERS ON THE MOVE



The coronavirus required everyone to wear a mask and social distance and since the move was delayed several months due to the virus, the lovely heat and humidity of Goochland’s summer settled in to dog the move. The following photos show the wonderful people who stepped up to help. We couldn’t have done it without them.



At the Goochland County Historical Society (GCHS), volunteers make all things possible, including our move to the new facility by finding boxes; packing boxes; hauling boxes; unpacking boxes; reviewing files; taking inventories; moving shelving, chairs, tables, and computers; cleaning the Keurig coffee maker that was gifted to us; and even searching for a new 24-inch refrigerator—our volunteers have done it all. While they may have wondered if the steady stream of tasks would ever end, they stuck with it and under rather trying circumstances.



Virginia Olsen



Scott Johnson and
Richard Toler



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

Visit us online:

www.goochlandhistory.org

www.goochlandhistory.wordpress.com

www.twitter.com/GoochlandCHS

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Dear Historical Society Members,

The year 2020 is turning out to be one for the history books. Who knew we would be living through a pandemic. That said, this is not the first pandemic Goochland has faced. In response to a research question received in June, we discovered there was a cholera epidemic, part of a larger pandemic, raging in Goochland from 1857-1859. Then, there was the influenza pandemic of 1918-1919, taking place toward the end of World War I. Of the ten soldiers from Goochland who lost their lives in the Great War, two died at Camp Lee, apparently from influenza.

In 2018, we considered mounting an exhibit on the influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 at the Goochland County Public Library, but decided not to; our reasoning was the topic was just too depressing. History isn't selective and we should not have been either. Seeing Virginians wearing masks 100 years ago might have encouraged today's citizens to more willingly accept them.

In response to the pandemic, the GCHS, like most organizations and businesses, closed in March. While we have not reopened to the public, we have not been idle. In fact, we have been on the move. By the end of June staff had returned. With their help and that of several dedicated volunteers—Kay Higgins, Scott Johnson, Ginny Olsen, and Richard Toler, we began the move from our old building to the new. At this point, we have moved most of our collection but have not moved the library books because we do not yet have shelving to house them. Shelving has been ordered, but we have been told that delivery will be slow due to work disruptions from the coronavirus.

To make all of the many resources we have moved easily accessible, we are establishing a new Cataloging Committee, headed by volunteer Cheryl Childress. The new web-based collection management system that we will be using not only allows for easier and faster searching and location of what we own, it also will provide inventory control which is essential for insurance purposes. While this is a long-term project, preparing for our first museum exhibit will take considerably less time, but is equally important. In our old building, exhibits weren't possible, so the opportunity to have exhibits is exciting.

Although we are still officially closed, we are responding to customer requests; however, we look forward to actually having on-site visitors. Keeping the facility safe and meeting cleaning standards for the coronavirus won't be a piece of cake, but it is doable. We have been studying guidelines, procuring supplies, and participating in online training sessions to learn what to do to maintain a safe environment for visitors, volunteers, and staff. Further, we look forward to our new role, serving as the county's welcome center. Several other historical societies that we know of, have taken on this role for the communities they serve, so while not unique, it will be something new and different for us.

We have no lectures planned for the rest of this year, as we must use facilities belonging to other organizations to hold them and due to the pandemic that isn't possible. However, we look forward to seeing you in our new facility. Please plan to visit once we reopen. We trust you will like the "Goochland History Center" as much as we do.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Christina Dunn, President.

President

Handwritten signature of James Richmond, Executive Director.

Executive Director

TAKING CARE OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Not long ago, we posted a “Go Fund Me” request and raised \$315.00 to buy two flatbed scanners, so we could create and access digital images of photographs from our collection, without touching the originals. Since photographs are printed on paper, they are fragile, plus fingerprints can leave lasting damage. Slides are equally fragile. While the GCHS is now using archival quality products designed to provide long-term protection, you might want to take stock of how you are housing your family’s photographs and other memorabilia. As the saying goes, “You get what you pay for,” so if you are storing family photos, Bibles, scrapbooks, albums, or even textiles in free boxes from the grocery store or Amazon, don’t, those boxes will only destroy your precious memories. Shipping boxes have a high acid content and plastic bins are another no-no because of the chemicals they off-gas.

Learn how to take care of your family history. For example, it is best to store photographs and slides sepa-

rately from other items; you even might consider having them digitized for easy access. Don’t forget to identify who appears in the photo and when and where it was taken, future generations will thank you. For photos, you can write this information on the back in pencil; for slides, consider numbering the slides and then creating an accompanying list with identifying information. You may find it best to store photos upright, as they are easier to handle. Archival quality storage is expensive, although it is certainly recommended. If you don’t want to purchase this type of storage, local craft or office supply stores may have appropriate containers. At least place items in a file cabinet drawer or in a sturdy box with a close fitting lid to keep out dust and dirt. Don’t store items in an attic, garage, or basement; they should be stored in areas where heat and humidity can be controlled.

These are only a few tips. A number of very useful websites are available, including the Library of Congress (www.digitalpreservation.gov),



Junius Jefferson, 1942 GCHS Collection

Smithsonian Institution (www.si.edu) and National Archives and Records Administration (www.archives.gov) have additional information. Search “how to store” photos, old textiles, or any other type of memorabilia.

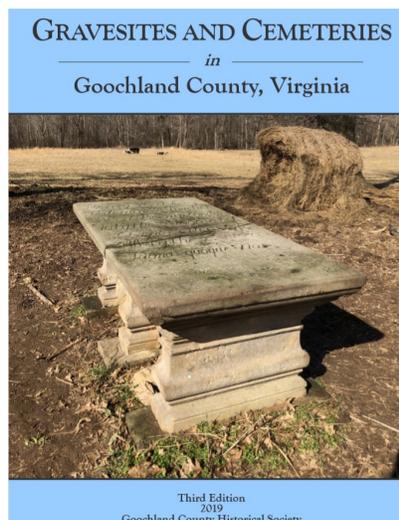
If you have photographs pertaining to Goochland County that you wish to share, the GCHS would like to add them to our collection. We will digitize them and return the originals to you. We are especially interested in photographs of Central High School events, family reunions, and church homecomings.



THE CEMETERY CORNER

If you have purchased a copy of the most recent (3rd) edition of the Society’s *Gravesites and Cemeteries in Goochland County, Virginia*, you have no doubt seen this photograph of the tomb of Henry Wood. It appears on the cover of that publication. Wood was born in London on July 8, 1696; as a young man, he emigrated to the Virginia Colony sometime in the early 1700s and lived in Henrico County where he served as Clerk of the Court. Receiving a land grant of several thousand acres in what would become Goochland County, he moved westward around the time the county was formed from Henrico in 1728. He built a house, known as Woodville, in the area now called East Leake and became the county’s first Clerk of the Court. Since the

county was so new and without suitable government buildings, Wood often conducted the County Clerk’s business from home. Henry Wood died on May 2, 1757 at almost 61



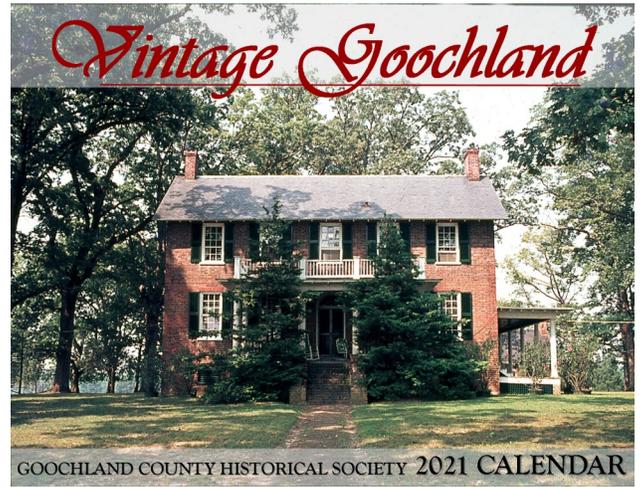
years of age, having served for 25 years (1728 - 1753) as Goochland’s Clerk of the Court; he was buried at his beloved Woodville. His tombstone, pictured, was typical of tombstones of the period; however, few people actually had marked graves. His, which was made and engraved in London, included a stone table with three curved stone legs; its elegance attests to his position and wealth. It is recognized as the oldest grave, and one of only a few above ground tombs, in the county today.

Note: The 3rd edition of the Society’s *Gravesites and Cemeteries in Goochland County, Virginia* is available from the Society for \$25.00.



RESERVE YOUR 2021 CALENDAR

Our 2021 calendar should be available by October 1, 2020 at the GCHS. This year early and more modern photos feature a combination of people and places from around the county. For the last few years, our calendars have sold out. We suggest that you reserve your 2021 calendar now, so you won't be disappointed. Single calendars are \$10.00 or order 3 for \$25.00 or 25 for \$125.00. Reserve by leaving a message with your name, phone number and the number of calendars desired at 804-556-3966 or send an email to goochlandhistory@comcast.net with the same information.



AND SPEAKING OF VOLUNTEERS

Perhaps you know of someone who volunteers at the GCHS who has pricked your interest in volunteering or you are a history buff looking for other history buffs or you have talents you would like to put to use for a good cause or you are just looking for something to do once you can get back out into the real world, whatever your reason, consider joining our volunteer community. Not only will you be helping the GCHS carry out its mission, but you will be joining an outstanding group of very special people. Whether you like to meet and greet visitors to the county; tran-



scribe old documents; visit classrooms to talk about people, places and events in Goochland history; help someone find their Goochland ancestors; or slog through the mud to find a cemetery, we would like to hear from you. Volunteers can work a regular schedule (usually one or two days per month or more if you would like), special events, or undertake only certain types of jobs, like baking cookies or providing a flower arrangement for an event. If you are interested, please contact GCHS at 804-556-3966 or email at goochlandhistory@comcast.net.



DOUBLE THE MONEY

A GCHS member who wishes to remain anonymous has generously offered to match up to \$500.00 in contributions which means a benefit of up to \$1,000.00. That amounts to quite a tidy sum, as we, like most local historical societies, operate on a shoestring. Our move has brought to the forefront a number of needs, such as storage containers for the dolls in our collection. A storage unit for original art and prints when they are not on display, would improve the safety of those objects. We have a strong photography collection, with many dating from the 19th century. Although Mylar sleeves are recommended for photographs,

currently less than 60 percent of our collection is stored that way. Storage boxes for military uniforms from World War I and II are also needed. In our old building, because we had to house collections on three floors, items were often out of sight and, therefore, out of mind. Taking better care of our collections is a top priority now that we are in our new facility.

If you wish to participate by donating matching funds—any amount is appreciated, you may do so by check or through our website, using PayPal.



Volunteer Kay Higgins with a doll donated by Virginia Nuckols.

SAVING A NINETEENTH CENTURY DINING TABLE



As reported in the November 2019 newsletter, the GCHS was donated a large collection of home furnishings that belonged to the family of Joseph R. Anderson, a wealthy industrialist who once owned Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond and a tract of land in Goochland upon which his son Joseph R. Anderson, Jr. built the estate known as Thorncliff in the early 1880s. GCHS is conserving furnishings and will display a collection of the furniture in the near future.

To prepare the furniture for display, some degree of conservation was required. One of the first items to be conserved, was also the largest, a three-piece dining table that when put together is a whopping 14.5 feet in length.

According to Jay Gates of Gates Antiques, the table was probably made in Baltimore, Maryland in the early part of the 1800s. The construction dates for the table pre-date the building of Thorncliff, making this piece one of the earlier items donated by the Anderson family. It could possibly have been in the Richmond home of Joseph Reid Anderson, Sr. that once stood where the Jefferson Hotel stands today.

The two demi-lune end pieces, each more than 4 feet long, and shown together in the photo at the beginning of this article. are mahogany with “plum pudding” ve-

One of the demi-lunes had apparently been in front of a window as its finish had faded to a very light tan. The demi-lune portions of the table also needed repair as the wood had become unstable and could no longer support the drop-leaves which had become detached. The center drop-leaf table was in better condition but had a large discoloration on the top. It also was sun bleached with some warping to the wood.

The work on the three pieces was done by Gates Antiques. They repaired the wood where necessary and the finish was hand-rubbed back to a rich mahogany color.

The table in its restored condition (below) is one of the pieces from the Anderson Collection that will be displayed at the Society when we debut “The Anderson Collection: Pieces from the Past.” Sometime in 2021. The gift of the furnishings also included funds for the restoration.



neer on the apron (above) and fluted legs with brass casters.

The center drop-leaf table is also made from mahogany with a veneer apron but features plain legs and no casters. This was not uncommon since the center piece would not be as noticeable as the table ends, and may have been purchased at a later date to extend the demi-lunes.



MYSTERY OBJECT

As we have been unpacking boxes at the new building, we are coming across items that haven't seen the light of day in years, because there was no space in our old building for display. We have discovered a few objects that have either



lost their identification tag or perhaps never had one. Pictured is one

“Standard” written across it, along with holes spaced an equal distance apart; and is a about 15 inches long.

Does anyone know what it is?

of those mystery objects. It appears to be made of cast iron; has the word



Upcoming Events

Due to the uncertain situation caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the GCHS has no meetings or workshops scheduled for the next several months. If the situation improves to where we can continue regular programming, we will do so and you will be notified as soon as possible.



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:

Lester & Patsy Bartell ❁ Margie Barton

Robbie & Claudia Bridges ❁ Anne Hallerman ❁ Elizabeth Layne

Margaret Linder ❁ Sharon Llewellyn ❁ Michael Newman

Selden Richardson ❁ Charles Shannon

Chesterfield County Historical Society