

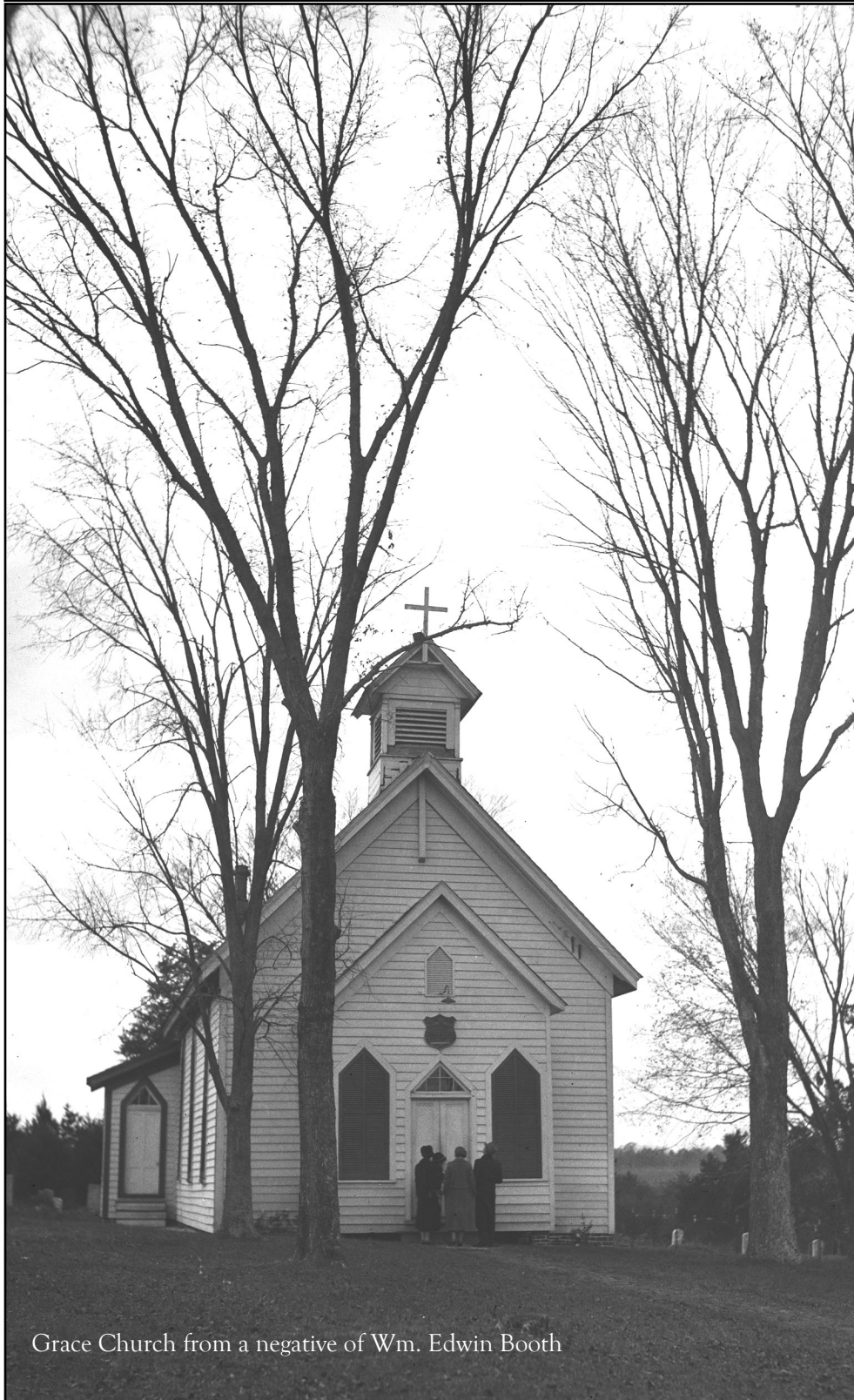


Goochland County Historical Society

# Newsletter

FOUNDED MAY 1, 1968

VOLUME 47 • NUMBER 3 • SEPTEMBER 2023



Grace Church from a negative of Wm. Edwin Booth

## WM. EDWIN BOOTH EXHIBITION

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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  
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Gerald Hagen, Robin Hillman,  
Laura Meadows, Michael Parrish,  
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](mailto: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://twitter.com/GoochlandCHS)  
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sixty years ago, on August 28, 1963, more than a quarter of a million people participated in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

They gathered in front of the Lincoln Memorial to hear a series of speakers who had been recruited by labor leader A. Phillip Randolph, NAACP Executive Secretary Roy Wilkins and four other prominent civil rights groups.

Towards the end of the day, a black preacher spoke slowly and clearly – with the cadences of the King James Bible – and the whole world awakened to the majesty of the “I have a Dream” speech.

*"I have a dream that one day ... the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood."*

– Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

A year later, in 1964, the Civil Rights Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Followed in 1965 by the National Voting Rights Act.

In Goochland County, schools were still segregated by race despite the 1954 Supreme Court decision, outlawing segregated schools. In June, 1965 the School Board adopted a policy of “Freedom of Choice” allowing students to choose which school to attend. At that time there were three black and two white elementary schools; one black high school and one white high school.

That fall, 62 black students courageously transferred to white schools and as a result, there were black students in every grade of every school with the exception of the sixth grade at Goochland Elementary School.

This fall, the Goochland County Historical Society (GCHS) will install a historic marker at the County Administration Building at 1800 Sandy Hook Road—the old high school—to commemorate the endurance, grace and commitment of the 14 black students who desegregated the white high school. Some of those students will be present to be recognized at this historic occasion. We hope you will join us.

Another historic date that is fast approaching is the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 – a commemoration that is being organized on the state level by the VA250 Commission. At the direction of the Goochland County Board of Supervisors, and with the support of the Goochland County Historical Society, a local commission has been established to commemorate the events that led us from the Declaration of Independence in 1776 to Lord Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown in October, 1781.

Former County Supervisor Manny Alavarez has graciously accepted the chairmanship of the Goochland 250 Commission. You will be hearing more about the work of the Commission in the near future.

We will be exploring Goochland's relationship to the struggle for independence. We expect to unearth new stories and new understandings as we continue our mission to preserve, protect and present Goochland's history.

Sincerely,

Robin Randolph Lind, President

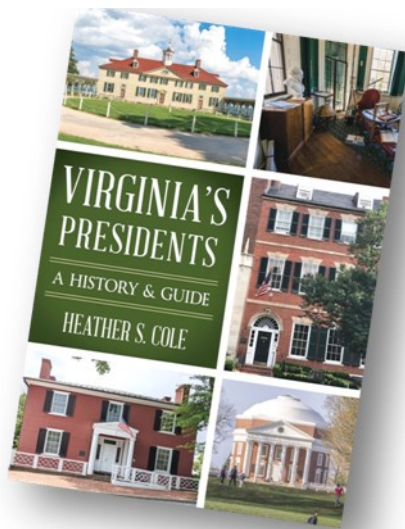


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## OCTOBER MEETING—U.S. PRESIDENTS from VIRGINIA

More U.S. presidents were born in Virginia than in any other state. **Join us at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 28, 2023, at the Goochland Public Library** to hear author Heather S. Cole talk about her new book *Virginia's Presidents: A History and Guide*.

The book tells the stories of the eight Virginia-born presidents and the historic sites that interpret their lives. Profiles of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, Zachary Taylor, and Woodrow Wilson are provided, as



well as descriptions of museums, historic sites, and presidential homes in Virginia and elsewhere that are associated with each.

Heather S. Cole is a writer, archivist, and public historian living in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. She served as an interpreter at the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum in Staunton, Virginia.

The program is offered jointly by the Friends of Goochland Library and the GCHS. A book signing and refreshments will follow. The Goochland Public Library is located at 3075 River Road West, Goochland, VA 23063. ❀

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## HISTORY WALK at BYRD CHURCH



**Join us on Saturday, October 21, at 10:00 a.m.** for a seasonal walk and history talk through the sanctuary and cemetery of historic **Byrd Church, located at 2229 Dogtown Road, Goochland.**

We will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary for a brief history of the building which is on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register. We will then proceed outside for a pleasant walk through the cemetery, with stops at several of the markers to hear interesting stories about

those interred. Afterwards, there will be refreshments. The walk is suitable for all ages, so join us for this leisurely morning stroll.

For further information or to sign up for the walk, please contact the GCHS by phone at 804-556-3966 or by email at [goochlandhistory@comcast.net](mailto:goochlandhistory@comcast.net). Participants will need to sign a waiver form.

Since part of this History Walk will be inside the church, it may not be especially suitable for accompanying pets. ❀

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## NEW to the COLLECTION

Gene Poore Williams donated a wealth of artifacts pertaining to her brother Albert Franklin Poore (pictured right) who was a casualty of World War II. The ship on which he was serving, the USS Indianapolis, had just completed a top secret run to deliver uranium and other components for "Little Boy," the first nuclear weapon to be used in combat, and was heading for the Philippines when it was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine on July 30, 1945.



Included in her gift are three framed portraits, a Purple Heart box, newspaper clippings and letters pertaining to her brother. She also donated a picture of her father Frank Crittenden Poore who served from Goochland in World War I.

Scott Johnson donated another treasure trove—photographs featuring members of the Johnson, Ragland, and Wiltshire families. Included in the collection is a photograph of Randolph Wiltshire that shows him in his World War I uniform. The

Society is developing a strong collection of artifacts of World War I and II soldiers. If you have photographs of soldiers from any war, the Society would be interested in them.

Catherine Waldrop donated two scrapbooks, together with several pieces of jewelry and a lady's hat that had belonged to Helene Barret Agee, a founding member of the GCHS and author of the beloved history of the county *Facets of Goochland*. The hat will have a special place in our collection, with its very own hat box to protect it. Visitors will be seeing it on display in the near future. ❀

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# NATIONAL HISTORY DAY AWARD GOES to GOOCHLANDER



Goochland County Historical Society volunteer and contributor Michael Trowsell (pictured above and right) participated in the National History Day contest with his documentary film “The Frontier of Richmond: Battleground for Segregation,” which examines how Richmond neighborhoods such as the Northside emerged as the frontier for housing segregation during the early twentieth century. In the 1880s, tobacco magnate and philanthropist Lewis Ginter embarked on an endeavor to create a suburban retreat for affluent citizens. Following his death in 1897, real estate agents and developers ensured the community would be occupied by white residents only, barring African Americans from purchasing homes in the district. Simultaneously, the Richmond City Council adopted a series of residential segregation ordinances that were eventually

deemed unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court. Upon the formation of the Home Owners Loan Corporation (HOLC) in 1933, legalized implementation of housing segregation became a reality. The HOLC redlined African American communities surrounding the affluent, white neighborhoods of

Sherwood Park, Ginter Park, and Bellevue. In crafting his film, Trowsell believed that Richmond’s Northside would provide an excellent case study of the drastic measures taken by real estate agents, developers, state legislatures, and the federal government to create a landscape of inequity and disparity.

After completing his research, Trowsell produced the film in less than a week and entered it into the Senior Individual Documentary category in the Virginia History Day contest. After accepting first place at the district competition at Brightpoint Community College in February 2023, he participated in the Virginia History Day state contest at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture in April, where he was awarded first place and was the recipient of the Bobby Chandler Senior Project Award presented by the Kip Kephart Foundation.



Advancing to the National History Day competition at the University of Maryland in College Park, he participated in the contest from June 11 to 15 on the campus, competing against over 2,600 students from across the country and further afield. Selected for the Student Documentary Showcase at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., his film was screened in the Oprah Winfrey Theatre on June 14.

“The Frontier of Richmond: Battleground for Segregation” and other videos by Michael Trowsell are available on YouTube. ❀

*Article contributed by Michael Trowsell*

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## 2024 CALENDAR AVAILABLE for PREORDER

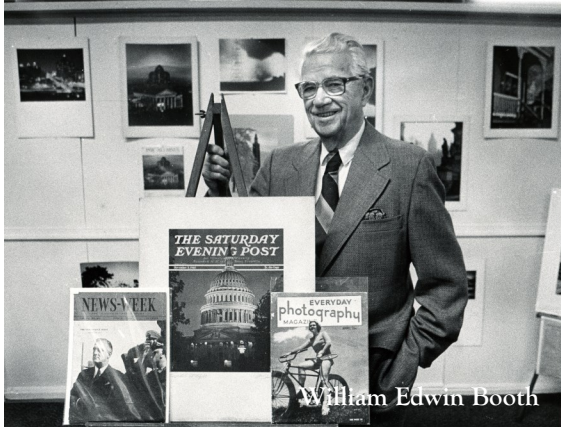


In 2006, the Goochland County Historical Society started offering its *Vintage Goochland* calendars, featuring old photographs of people, places, and events in and around the county. Since then, the calendar has served as an annual fund raiser for the Society. The 2024 calendar is now on sale for \$15.00 each for up to 7 copies, 8-19 copies are \$12 each, 20+ copies are \$8 each. They usually sell out, so support the Society and reserve your copy now by calling (804-556-3966), ordering online ([www.goochlandhistory.org](http://www.goochlandhistory.org)) or emailing the Society ([goochlandhistory@comcast.net](mailto:goochlandhistory@comcast.net)). ❀



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# W. EDWIN BOOTH PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION



This fall, the Goochland County Historical Society will be exhibiting one of its more unusual and important collections. “Goochland through the Lens of William Edwin Booth” will feature photographs taken by Booth in the 1930s in and around the county. Twenty-three images, many unseen for more than 50 years, will be on exhibit at the Society’s History Center (2924 River Road West, Goochland Courthouse) until early January 2024.

These photos show a way of life that is much different from what we are used to today. On display will be a photograph of the interior of Gathright’s Store which stood on River Road West and served the Courthouse community and the old Blacksmith’s Shop that provided essential services to Crozier and the surrounding area. Goochland’s people and places of the period come to life in Booth’s black and white photographs.

William Edwin Booth was born in 1907 in Washington, D.C. His family moved to Richmond when Booth was seven years old. He attended John Marshall High School, but did not complete his last year; however, he took art classes and illustrated the school newspaper which helped him land his first job with Metropolitan Engraving Company while he was still in school. In 1928, just prior to the stock market crash, he married Vallie Layne of Goochland County. During

the Depression, art sales slumped, so he took up photography, teaching himself to use a camera by reading books and magazines on the subject.

He began working as a freelance photographer for the Miller & Rhoads Department Store and the *Richmond News Leader*, becoming the newspaper’s first staff photographer. He was the first photographer whose work appeared on the editorial pages on a continuing basis. In addition, for 27 years he wrote a camera column for the *Richmond Times Dispatch*, the *News Leader*’s sister paper.

Booth’s photographs appeared on the covers of the *Saturday Evening Post*, *Newsweek*, and *Everyday Photography*. He won both national and local awards for his photographs. A member of the Photographic Society of America since the early 1940s, he captured the organization’s first Photojournalist of the Year trophy in 1972. In 1940, *The Saturday Evening Post* enlarged one of his 1 inch x 1 inch Kodachrome slides, making it one of the first national magazines to use a color transparency as a cover design. In 1932, he was a co-founder of the Amateur Photographers Club which became the Camera Club of Richmond. Membership in the Club and association with other enthusiasts must have influenced Booth’s work. In 1991, he donated 10,000 photographic images to the Virginia Historical Society. Before Booth passed away in 1998, he donated his Goochland location prints and

negatives to the Goochland County Historical Society. The images on display are taken from his negatives and show an un-retouched rural time that was slowly fading away. Also, on display will be some of his work where the image has been heavily edited to create a photograph that is more painterly.

Many of Booth’s Goochland photographs feature a local woman who served as his muse. Sarah Ann Carroll (pictured here) was born into slavery in



1841. Following the Civil War, she moved to Goochland, purchasing property in Issaquena, now Crozier. While she was married twice, she devoted herself to helping others and is said to have been a midwife, nurse, and helper to local physician Dr. William Miller Holman in the late 1800s and early 1900s. She posed

for at least five photographs taken by Booth. These photographs include “Dying Embers” which won an award in the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Competition of American Photography and “Storytime” which won a number of local awards. Both will be on display. Sarah Ann Carroll passed away in 1945—she is believed to have been at least 104 years old—and is buried at First Baptist Church on Cardwell Road in Crozier. ❀

Article Contributed by James  
Richmond

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## THERE'S ALWAYS MORE to the STORY

"The Randolph Family in Goochland," an article in the last newsletter (June 2023), stated that Thomas Randolph

*had settled at Tuckahoe around 1714..... He was most likely one of the landowners instrumental in establishing Goochland County and once established, he immediately became involved in county politics and the local parish, providing money—almost 55,000 pounds of tobacco—to build Dover, the first Anglican Church in the county.*

However, the Rev. William Douglas, minister of St. James-Northam Parish from 1750 through November 1777, gives a different account that is recorded in *The Douglas Register* as "A Brief Account of Dover Church."

From Douglas, we learn that Thomas Randolph of Tuckahoe (pictured) was hired by the vestry of Dover Church in 1720 to build the

church at a cost was 54,990 pounds of tobacco. In 1722, the vestry approved an amendment to the contract with Randolph for an additional 17,000 pounds of tobacco, finally accepting the completed building on September 1, 1724. To ready the church for services, there was yet another payment to Thomas Randolph of 7,329 pounds of tobacco "for church ornaments." Thomas Randolph did not pay for the Dover Church building; instead, he received payment for constructing the building and for procuring "church ornaments." Although written 30 years after the hiring of Randolph to construct Dover Church, Douglas's account still was written in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and Douglas was certainly familiar with the church, as he



preached there. He very likely may have had access to Dover Church's original records and certainly he had access to people who were

knowledgeable about the building of the church. Therefore, Douglas's account seems to be the most dependable source of information.

In ending this examination, it

seems only fitting to quote Goochlander and a one-time member of Dover Church: Thomas Jefferson. His comments about the University of Virginia in 1820, certainly pertain to our situation as a historical society. "Here we are not afraid to follow truth, wherever it may lead, nor to tolerate error, as long as reason is left free to combat it." ❀

*Article contributed by Robin Lind*

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## A GCHS PRIORITY: OUTREACH to SENIORS



Over the last few years, the Goochland County Historical Society has beefed up its efforts to reach out to the county's seniors. It all started by offering programs to church groups and community

organizations, but now includes outreach to the retirement communities that have moved into the county.

According to Richard Toler (pictured here speaking to a group at Avery Point), working

with seniors is a rewarding experience. He added, "After all, I am a senior and I enjoy meeting other seniors!" Presentations last about 30 minutes, with time for questions. A popular program is

"Goochland in 30 Minutes or Less" which provides an overview of county history from 1727 forward; however, other topics and programs, including gentle "history walks," are available. Tours of the Courthouse Green have proved popular, especially with groups from outside the county. Senior groups of up to 24 can be accommodated at the Society's History Center; for larger groups, we will need to come to your location.

For additional information or to book a presentation, contact the Society by phone at 804-556-3966 or email at [goochlandhistory@comcast.net](mailto:goochlandhistory@comcast.net). By the way, our programs and presentations are free. ❀



# TRANSCRIBING from HAND-WRITTEN to DIGITAL

GEORGE the Second by the Grace of God of Great Britain France & Ireland  
King Defender of the Faith &c. To the Sheriff of Goochland County Greeting.  
We Command you to Summon Benjamin Watkins ————— to appear  
before the Justices of Our said County Court at the Court house of the said  
County on the third Tuesday in September ————— to testify  
the truth to say on behalf of Robert Rogers —————  
in a certain matter of Controversy in Our said Court before Our said Justice  
Depending & undetermined between Abraham Childers Pl<sup>t</sup> and the  
said Robert Rogers Defendant —————  
And this he shall in no wise omit under the penalty of £ 100.  
Witness Henry Wood Clerk of Our said Court the fourteenth  
day of September ————— in the eighth year of Our Reign.

Henry Wood.

his deputy trying to deliver a summons would note on the back of the document that he could not locate the person, suggesting the individual may have moved away. Of course, the person may just have been hiding from the Sheriff or his deputy to avoid receiving the summons.

While we have the court summons, unfortunately we do not have records showing the

The Goochland County Historical Society has a diverse collection of documents; some are neatly typed, while others are hand-written from as early as 1734 to as late as 1935. Because they are hand-written, the originals are one-of-a-kind, existing nowhere else in the world. Such documents may be a letter home from a Civil War soldier, a court summons, promissory note, minutes of a meeting, manuscript of a novel, journal, diary, receipt, records kept by an agent hunting for folks violating Prohibition, or even a grocery list. To make the information in these documents more accessible, volunteers working with libraries around the world, are busy transcribing them. In Virginia, the Library of Virginia has hundreds of volunteers; the Goochland County Historical Society has many fewer. Nonetheless, our volunteers are making progress, tackling the many boxes of documents we have in our collection. The work can be slow, as translating hand-written documents into searchable text, accessible by computer, is an exacting, albeit

rewarding, process.

One of the most common and useful hand-written records comes from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries; they are court summons. The Clerk of the Court filled in the summons with the name of the person being summoned; the reason for the summons, for example, non-payment of debt, trespassing, assault; and the date the hearing was scheduled. A common cause for a summons was non-payment of debt. If this was the case, then the name of the person owed and amount of debt would be included. Once the summons was prepared, the Clerk of the Court gave it to the Sheriff who was charged with serving the notice on the person summoned.

While we may not want to think of our forefathers as failing to pay their bills or committing other crimes, the information on these summons records is a goldmine for anyone searching for their ancestors in Goochland, as usually one or both parties whose names appear on the summons resided in the county. However, in some cases the Sheriff or

disposition of the cases. Whether our forefathers made good on their debts or whether they were fined or jailed for other crimes, we may never know. While transcribing these documents is on-going, to date the index to the collection identifies 900 names of one-time county residents. In many instances, the individuals named are not mentioned in other records of the county, making these records the only evidence that the person ever lived in Goochland.

If you would like to help transcribe documents in our collection, please contact the Goochland County Historical Society by phone at 804-556-3966 or by email at [goochlandhistory@comcast.net](mailto:goochlandhistory@comcast.net).

As we like to say, MAKE HISTORY, TRANSCRIBE!

To learn more about the Library of Virginia's transcription program and volunteer opportunities visit their website at [www.lva.virginia.gov](http://www.lva.virginia.gov). ☼

Article Contributed by Richard Toler

## Goochland County Historical Society by the Numbers 2023

Facebook Followers 1,800 Books Cataloged 1,340 Photographs Cataloged 6,041

Follow us on



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Frankie Abralind ✿ Wanda Alderman ✿ Joseph Aquilina ✿ William V. Arnold  
Doris Brooking ✿ Ann & Kenny Bryant ✿ Shirley Burton ✿ James Carroll  
George Evans ✿ Margaret Anne Fohl ✿ Julia Gallier ✿ Sally Graham  
Douglas Johnson ✿ Teresa Luckert ✿ Rebecca Moran ✿ Marilyn Park ✿ Meta Potts  
Nick Proffitt ✿ Liz & Al Rider ✿ Dot & Lou Ruqus ✿ Patricia Smith  
Maria Tribble ✿ James Valentour ✿ Robert E. Walker ✿ Victoria Woo