



GOOCHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Volume 23 Number 1

P.O. Box 602 2875 River Road West, Goochland, Virginia 23063

May, 2002

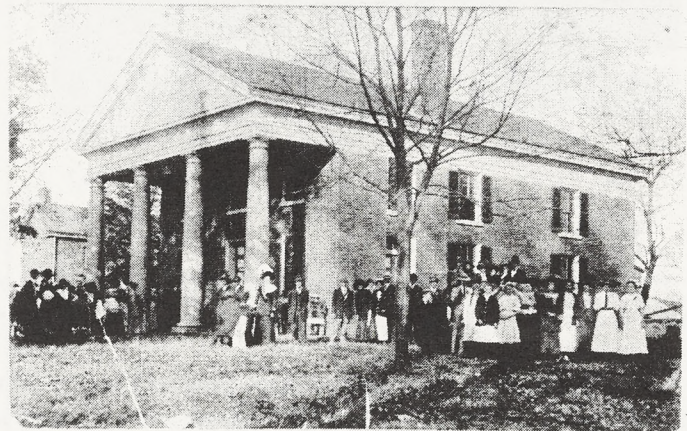
PRESERVE & PROTECT

Paige Weiss, an architectural historian for the Virginia Department of Historical Resources, will be the guest speaker at the May meeting of the Historical Society.

Ms. Weiss will discuss the importance of identifying the historic resources in Goochland County and how, with the help of the Department of Historic Resources, that can be accomplished. Goochland is the only county in the greater Richmond area that has not had a survey done. She will discuss procedures, funding, and will have examples of publications that are the result of surveys done in other counties.

In addition to her responsibilities as an architectural historian, she coordinates Virginia's Cost Share Program and the Certified Local Government Program, with 25 participating communities. Ms Weiss will answer questions regarding tax benefits for historic preservation and how the economy of the county as a whole can profit from recognizing its historic heritage.

Prior to her employment with the Department of Historic Resources, she was a senior planner for the City of Norfolk and coordinated their local architectural review board and historic preservation activities. Paige has direct experience in designing and conducting architectural surveys, preparing National Register nominations, developing local architectural guidelines and working with grassroots preservation organizations in Virginia. She has worked as the local government contact on several recently completed register nominations.



Goochland County Courthouse built by Dabney Cosby and Valentine Parrish in 1827. Photograph late 1800's.

MAY MEETING

Sunday, May 19 at 3 o'clock

At

**The Goochland County Courthouse
River Road West
Goochland, Virginia**

The May meeting of the Historical Society will be held on Sunday, May 19 at 3:00 PM at the Goochland County Courthouse. The entrance faces the Courthouse Green. Parking is available on both the east and west sides of the building.

The program for this meeting will consist of a presentation by Paige Weiss from the Virginia Department for Historic Resources.



Elgin before renovation



Elgin after renovation

Perhaps it was the isolated splendor of the stately old house that first caught the eye of James Gottwald. Perhaps it was just that he was ready for a new project. Whatever the reasons, "Elgin" and Goochland County are fortunate indeed.

In recent years Elgin had been used as a hunter's lodge. With no electricity or indoor plumbing, with windows broken and doors left open, the house was subjected to the wear and tear of the elements. Elgin was built prior to 1861 by Jesse H. Heath. The first known house on the property was built c1803 by James Carter. The Vestry Book of St. James Parrish shows James Carter appointed as vestryman and Church Warden in 1803. There is no mention of him in the book prior to this date. James called his house "Obscurity". Elgin has also been called the Hammer Place for a Dr. Hammer who lived there more recently.

Mr. Gottwald oversaw the renovations made on the two-story brick structure. There were no architectural changes made to the house. The crew restored and repaired floors, ceilings, and woodwork. An exciting discovery was the original wood grain finish on the doors. Done by artisans of the time, the doors were painted to resemble the grain of a more expensive wood. "It is so unusual to restore a house that didn't require stripping 20 coats of paint and layers of wall paper. Much of the original paint and plaster was still in place." One can hear the smile on his face as Gottwald speaks into the phone. "But then", he hesitated, "there's the grave out in the yard. We know nothing of the circumstances of her death except that her name was Julia Logan Carter and she was 13 years old when she died."

Researchers at the Goochland County Historical Society have uncovered some clues. It seems that James Carter was the guardian of a Julia Logan. Julia was the daughter of Charles and Mary Logan of Powhatan who built Belle Meade Plantation. Charles died in 1794. His wife, Mary, married Robert Cary Pleasants in 1795 and then she died four years later. Julia Logan married Neil McCoull of Richmond in 1806. James Parrish is given as her guardian. Further research indicates that James may have been a relative but that has yet to be established. It does appear that his daughter who died so young was named for Julia Logan. And so perhaps it was the presence of this small grave that attracted Mr. Gottwald to Elgin.

There are other places and other stories in Goochland. It is vital that an effort be made to identify and record these treasures from the past. The Historical Society is willing and anxious to help make that possible.

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources is the State Historic Preservation Office. Their mission is to foster, encourage, and support the stewardship of Virginia's significant historic, architectural, archaeological, and cultural resources. Contact the Department for information about sites currently on the Historic Register, to request forms for a preliminary evaluation of an historic site not yet registered, or to inquire about tax credits for renovation projects. The web site has additional information such as FAQ's (frequently asked questions), how to order publications, and information about incentives and grants. Contact the Department of Historic Resources to find the office nearest you.

DHR Central Office
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221
804.367.2323

or on the web at:
<http://state.vip.org/dhr/home>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Goochland County Historical Society began the new season with a meeting in February of our Long Range Planning Committee. Chaired by Shirley Sydnor, the Committee discussed and endorsed plans for identifying historic sites in Goochland, approved new items for sale in the Museum shop, and made plans for developing educational programs about Goochland History.

During the first three months of the year the Historical Center was open three days a week. During those months, even with the shortened hours, 66 individuals and/or families registered as visitors. Three groups toured the exhibit in the Old Stone Jail. Ruby Martin, Ruth Quarles, and Gilda Jones served as a hostess for each tour. The number of research requests continues to increase. We are especially pleased with the number of requests for research from our web page. Almost one-third of the total requests were from this site.

The summer schedule of 4 days per week, Tuesdays - Fridays, began on April 2. We have several new volunteers but we need more interested individuals. We will provide research training in the use of the library.

Our house is no different than most in needing repairs. The flat roof on the rear of the building has been replaced and much needed painting on the exterior has been completed. We are so grateful to Dr. George Pritchard for all the time and effort he has given us as chair of the Building Committee.

Eight of our members attended the Piedmont Conference of Historical Societies, April 6, in Lovingson (Nelson County), VA. Our group included: Carol East, Margaret Franklin, Marty MacMillan, Ruby Martin, Roselle Scales, Phyllis Silber, Shirley Sydnor, and Pete Williams. One of the highlights of this annual conference is to hear what other historical societies are doing. We found that the Goochland County Historical Society, in comparison with other societies in the Piedmont, is very fortunate to have our own center and library that is open for research. We are performing many valuable services that help maintain our history and educate the general public.

In looking ahead, we are planning an event in June to celebrate the fifth anniversary in our new home. Program meetings are planned as usual for May, September and December. We are also planning something special for October in place of our House Tour. For the first time we will sponsor an Appraisal Day at the Historical Center. Information on this exciting event will be available later in the summer.

Come and see us when you are the neighborhood. We love to have visitors!

Marty MacMillan

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the new members who have joined the Society since November, 2001:

.....

Rev. Rhonda Baker	Goochland
Nancy T. Bowles	Kents Store
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Cobb	Manakin
Thomas & Judy Cobbs	Crozier
Janet B. McEachern	Alexandria
C. Barbeur Parrish	Gum Spring
Jeff & Richard Primmer	Powhatan
Susan Shadis	Fairfax
E. Lee Shepard	Richmond
Thomas H. Walton	Gum Spring

AT THE CENTER

The Society will offer evening classes this summer to train volunteers in the art of recording oral histories; how to begin researching your family tree; and/or doing historical research in the Society's library as well as at the courthouse.

Please contact Phyllis Silber at the Center if you have an interest in any of these classes.

.....

ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

A year ago, more or less, I assumed the position of Administrator of the Historical Society. My theme song during those first few months was "Staying Alive..." But as I got to know the wonderful people who are our members, and especially those who volunteer as Board Members and at the Center, my tune began to change. "We've only just begun" seems much more appropriate. I look forward to working with you to fulfill our mission to preserve and protect. Thank you for the opportunity.

Phyllis Silber Administrator

SOCIETY COOK BOOK

*Favorite Recipes of
Goochland County*
1776-1976

Reprinted 2001
\$15.00

CONTACT US!

Telephone: 804.556.3966

Visit our web site:
www.goochlandhistory.org

Visit the Center:
2875 River Road West

Let us know how we can be of help to you.

PLAN TO ATTEND THE SPRING MEETING

SUNDAY, MAY 19 at 3 O'CLOCK

at the

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE
Goochland, Virginia**

TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT...



**GOOCHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 602
GOOCHLAND, VA 23063**

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Goochland, VA
Permit No. 19

Dr. & Mrs. Richard R. Reynolds
2121 River Road West
Maidens, VA 23102-2704

