



GOOCHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 24 Number 1

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

May, 2003



U of R Professor Robert Kenzer will speak at the May Meeting about his new book, a biography of a Civil War wife.

Dr. Robert C. Kenzer is the William Binford Vest Professor of History at the University of Richmond where he has taught for ten years. His teaching and research interest is the Civil War Era, particularly the American South. He is the author of three books, the most recent being *Enemies of the Country: New Perspectives on Southern Unionism*. A native of Illinois, Dr. Kenzer grew up in southern California and received his B.A. degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara. He then earned his M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University. Dr. Kenzer, his wife Carol (a middle school history teacher) and their 11-year-old son Benjamin live in western Henrico County.

On May 18th Dr. Kenzer will talk about the biography he is writing on Elizabeth Louisa Harris, the wife of Colonel David Bullock Harris. Colonel Harris was one of the leading engineers in the Confederacy before his death in October of 1864. In 1849, Elizabeth, a native of England, met and married David Bullock Harris, then a major Virginia tobacco exporter, while he was visiting Britain. The couple lived initially in Louisa and then later in Goochland County.

After the Civil War, Elizabeth did a number of interesting things: at age 46 she married the 27-year-old live-in tutor of her sons; based on her claim that she had always been a British subject, she sued the United States government for destroying and confiscating her family's property near the end of the war; and she became a book seller for the publishing house of Harper and Brothers.

MAY MEETING

Sunday, May, 18th at 3:00 PM

At the Home of

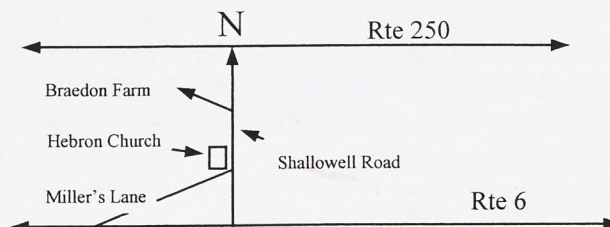
Sallie and Bill Tunner

**1240 Shallowell Road
Goochland, Virginia**

The May meeting of the Historical Society will be held on Sunday, May 18, at 3:00 PM at Braedon Farm, the home of Sallie & Bill Tunner. Due to inclement weather, the December meeting could not be held at Braedon. We are very grateful to the Tunner's for again providing our members an opportunity to visit their beautiful farm.

Directions to the Tunner's

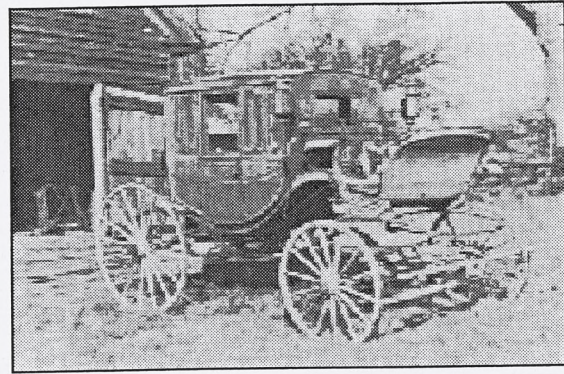
From Route 6 follow Route 644 (Miller's Lane) to Shallowell Road (Rte. 641). Turn north onto Shallowell at Hebron Church. The driveway is 1 mile north on the west side of the road. It will be marked with green balloons. Follow the drive all the way up to the house.



WOODVILLE



Woodville, Home of Brigadier General David Bullock Harris, CSA. This is the second house built at



This the Woodville carriage. It met General P.G.T. Beauregard at Irwin station. David Harris was Gen-

The Harris family, the subject of Professor's Kenzer's new book, lived at Woodville Plantation off of Three Chopt Road. Henry Wood, clerk of the court for Goochland County from 1728 – 1753, had the house built. Henry's son, Valentine, who succeeded his father as Clerk of the Court, also lived at Woodville. "David Bullock Harris, son of Fred Harris and Catherine S. Nelson Harris, was born in 1814, at Frederickshall, Virginia. Upon graduating from West Point Military Academy in 1833, he was first assigned with the Creek Nation, which station he held for a year. He then served as assistant engineer to the James River and Kanawha Canal Company for a period of two years. He removed to Kentucky, but returned to Virginia in 1853 and established himself at Woodville, the old Valentine Wood home on the edge of Goochland." *Facts of Goochland by Helene Barret Agee.*

Springtime Greetings!

Bright sunny days after a gloomy, cold winter have energized all of us at the Historical Center. Our summer schedule is in effect with the Center now open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Summer always brings lots of visitors, which we look forward to. We are making plans for our fall House Tour that will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2003. Five houses in the Manakin-Sabot area will be open. Work has also begun on the County survey and this should be completed in about six months.

We invite you to visit us at the Historical Center. If you have never seen our library or our shop with interesting Goochland related gifts, you owe it to yourself to stop by and discover us.

Marty MacMillan, President

HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY

Gibson Worsham, Architect, has been selected to act as a consultant for the historic resources survey for Goochland County. Gibson and his wife, Charlotte, have broad experience in cultural resources management, including many surveys in Virginia. Survey and National Register listing projects done by the firm include the Chestnut Hill/Plateau Historic District and the Highland Park Plaza Historic District., both in Richmond.

Mr. Worsham has begun a preliminary study of historic sites in Goochland. He has been ably assisted in this first look at the County by Historical Society board member, Joe Scales. A county-wide meeting in which the firm will present their design of the project, as well as a time line will be held in May.

10 ATTEND PIEDMONT CONFERENCE IN PALMYRA, VIRGINIA



Roselle Scales & Frances Truett



Marty MacMillan & Pete Williams



Sophia Pryor & Ruby Martin

The annual conference of the Piedmont District of Historical Societies was held April 5, 2003, in Palmyra, Fluvanna County, Virginia. Ten people represented the Goochland County Historical Society. Those not pictured are: Ruth Quarles, Kathleen Cabell, Shirley Sydnor, and Phyllis Silber. Some topics presented at workshops during the meeting were: Researching African American ancestry, preserving and protecting manuscripts and artifacts, and designing and maintaining a web site.

THE LIBRARY IS GROWING

Due to the efforts of the Archival Team: Carol East and Doug Price, many items of interest to those doing research have been accessioned and put on the shelves for use by our visitors. The committee designed a form for accessioning that follows the guidelines from the Library of Virginia. The form is compatible with the cataloguing software the Society purchased in 2002 through a grant from the Caroline T. and Richard Gwathmey Foundation. It is now possible to search for a name, book, or location and create a list of all the items in our library that match the search criteria. We are very grateful to Carol and Doug for their hard work.

OUR APOLOGIES

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the 2002 Goochland County Historical Society Magazine has not yet been published. We truly regret the delay and apologize for any inconvenience.

Hours at the Center

The Center will be open Tuesday through Friday 10:00—3:00 April through November.

HOUSE TOUR SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER

The Historical Society will sponsor a house tour on October 18, 2003. Betty Eads is Chair of the Tour Committee. Selected for the 2003 tour are the homes of:

Mr. & Mrs. Roy B. Amason

Mr. & Mrs. Ed Mugford

Mrs. William T. Reed

Margaret Henley Walker

Mr. & Mrs. Charles White

Shopping

The Historical Center is an excellent place to buy a special gift. We have specialty items that reflect our County's rich history. Choose a print of an historic site, a pictorial history book of Goochland, or a sun catcher ornament to hang on a stand or in a window.

Contact Us:
Telephone: 804.556.3966

Visit our web site:
www.goochlandhistory.org

Visit the Center:
2875 River Road West

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



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

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**Goochland County Historical Society
Spring Meeting**

3 o'clock Sunday, May 18, 2003

at
**Braedon Farm
1240 Shallowell Road
Goochland, Virginia**