



Goochland County Historical Society

Newsletter

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Goochland County Historical Society

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Executive Director

Catherine Southworth
Office Administrator

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Eddie 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

Visit us online:

www.goochlandhistory.org

www.goochlandhistory.wordpress.com

[www.twitter.com/GoochlandCHS](https://twitter.com/GoochlandCHS)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

E-Mail or V-Mail?

Eighty years ago, the odds were very high that some U.S. soldiers and sailors stationed worldwide were receiving "V-Mail" letters from friends and family back home. V-Mail or Victory Mail was a postal system put in place by the U.S. Post Office and the War and Navy departments as part of a patriotic effort to win World War II. It was introduced on June 1, 1942 and lasted through November of 1945; over its period of operation, it processed more than one billion pieces of V-Mail.

To bring mail service to personnel in so many international locations, the military postal system required a global network and innovative practice. The V-Mail program drastically reduced the space needed to transport mail, thereby freeing up room to ship other much needed supplies. According to a War Department pamphlet, it was "an expeditious mail program which provided for quick mail service to and from soldiers overseas. A special form was used which permitted the letter to be photographed in microfilm. The small film was then transported, reproduced, and delivered. Use of V-mail was urged because it greatly furthered the war effort by saving shipping and airplane space."

"The Post Office, War and Navy departments realize fully that frequent and rapid communication with parents, associates and other loved ones strengthens fortitude, enlivens patriotism, makes loneliness endurable and inspires to even greater devotion the men and women who are carrying on our fight far from home and from friends."

A collection of V-Mails was recently donated to the Society with the hope that others may be found in old desks, cramped attics, or bulging shoeboxes as families continue to sort through the artifacts of the "Greatest Generation." These bits and pieces of ephemera are the building blocks of history, the original source documents historians will rely on to tell our story.

As you prepare to renew your membership in the Goochland County Historical Society this year, we hope you will consider several important questions:

- First, when you are renewing your own membership, can you renew at a higher level? Our membership dues are the major source of our revenue – *you* are the sustaining lifeblood of our operations.
- Second, do you have old friends or new neighbors to whom you might give an introductory membership to encourage their participation in the on-going history of Goochland?
- Third, in addition to your membership dues, do you have important or valuable historical artifacts or documents you might consider donating to the Society to be preserved for future generations?

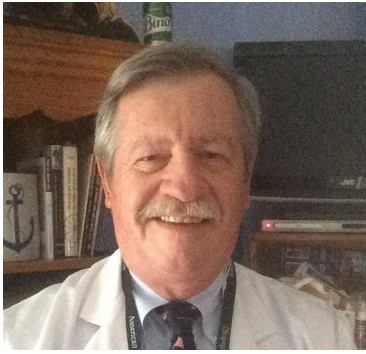
We are about to embark on a remarkable series of anniversaries: this year marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of Dover Baptist Church. Next year marks the 300th anniversary of the building of Dover Anglican Church. The following year will mark the 250th Anniversary of the beginning of the American Revolution, George Washington's appointment as Commander in Chief; and during the ensuing five years of Revolutionary War commemorations we will also observe the 300th Anniversary of the creation of Goochland County, and the relatively young 60th Anniversary of the founding of this Society.

Your membership helps us preserve, protect and present Goochland history so we may educate and inspire history-makers of the future. Thank you for your strong support of GCHS.

Sincerely,

Robin Randolph Lind, President

JUNE MEETING—DR. T. DONALD MARSH



The Goochland County Historical Society held its summer meeting at Smyrna Baptist Church on Sunday, June 11, 2023. Dr. T. Donald Marsh, a clinical pharmacist who has taught clinical pharmacology at the University of North Carolina, was our guest speaker, presenting “18th and 19th Century Medicine—What Healthcare Was Like for Our Ancestors.” His richly illustrated talk featured everything from major diseases like typhoid and smallpox to the discovery of vaccines and antibiotics; and even the use

of maggots and leeches to successfully fight off infection. Dr. Marsh emphasized how the lack of sanitation and the lack of knowledge about cleanliness and germs has impacted healthcare over the years, resulting in many unnecessary deaths. His presentation was highly informative, interesting, and entertaining. Thanks to volunteer Edie Salmon for arranging for the meeting location and providing the reception. ❁

HISTORY WALK at WEST VIEW a BIG



The Goochland County Historical Society held its first History Walk of the year at West View on the James, an outdoor summer camp run by the United Methodist Church. The March 4th walk brought out over 40 history-minded people, plus one enthusiastic dog, on a bright, crisp day to see the remaining culverts from the James River and Kanawha Canal. While the walk was not long—about 30 minutes each way, it did cover some rough, hilly terrain. Once

the group arrived at the culvert, GCHS Vice President Richard Toler offered a brief history of the James River and Kanawha Canal and its role in Goochland’s history and economic development. Everyone seemed to enjoy the walk, the history lesson, and the perfect weather. The GCHS would like to thank West View on the James for hosting us and GCHS volunteer Erich Krause for making the walk a reality. ❁

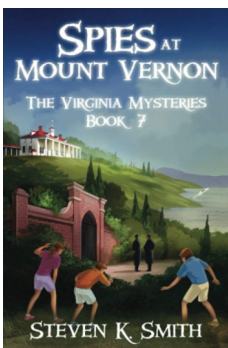
GCHS on the ROAD!

GCHS staff Catherine Southworth and James Richmond (pictured right) traveled to Lake Gaston, Virginia for a program presented by the Lake Gaston Women’s Club on the famous horse Sir Archie who was born in Goochland. The program, held at Tanglewood Country Club at Lake Gaston, was part of the organization’s Kentucky Derby party, a fundraiser for two charities, the Joel Lane House Museum and a retired race horse living in the area. Ms. Southworth

arranged for the day’s speaker James Beckwith who delivered an illustrated lecture about Sir Archie, similar to the program he had delivered for the GCHS years earlier. Sir Archie is well known as one of the foundation sires of the American Thoroughbred. GCHS staff provided an exhibit about the horse that supported the presentation. The GCHS takes advantage of every opportunity to promote Goochland’s connection to its native son Sir Archie. ❁



SPIES at MOUNT VERNON: BOOK REVIEW by Liam Fauver



The book, *Spies at Mount Vernon*, is an action-packed 32-chapter 190-page book. This book, which is historical fiction, is part of a series called Virginia Mysteries. There are eleven books in this series, including this one. Its reading level is 3rd grade-7th grade however, I am in 9th grade and enjoyed this book. The characters, Sam, Derek, and Caitlin, love playing spies, but something weird happens when two strange voices in Washington, DC, intercept their walkie-talkies. Their fun game turns into a life-or-death situation.

I would give this book a 3 on a 1-5 rating scale. The book was an entertaining way to learn about history. I have read most of the books in this book series and highly recommend this book/series to all. The author, Steven K. Smith, captures the reader’s imagination and offers a fun insight into Virginia history. If your child needs help with Virginia History, I recommend this series I have enjoyed this book. I hope you read it as well. ❁

MAPS and GENEALOGY by Cheryl Copper



Many history and genealogy buffs have struck gold while scouring maps for place names, touching on the saying “geography is destiny.” For example, locating Three Square, a once thriving James River community, on a 19th century map of Goochland County, not only shows where an early family home once stood, but it allows the genealogist the opportunity to connect the family to

documents for them, working for them, or attending church with them. Knowing the geographic location of a person or event can result in any number of leads. Since Three Square is quite near Col. William Bolling’s large property, the genealogist might decide to take a look at Col. Bolling’s diaries or the history of a nearby early congregation, like Smyrna Baptist Church, to see if ancestors were

others in the area. The researcher might follow up to see if family members may have known other landowners, perhaps selling property to them, marrying into the family, witnessing legal

mentioned. Maps are especially useful when paired with census and cemetery records, family Bible inscriptions, wills, inventories, military and church records, and local histories.

The GCHS has four county maps available in its collection. All identify roads, while Wood’s shows mills and taverns; Gilmer’s names large landowners; and George’s shows the distribution of mineral resources. All can be used on site or purchased.

- Goochland County, 1820 map (pictured) by John Wood, \$15.00
- Goochland County, 1863 Civil War Map by Jeremy F. Gilmer, \$20.00
- Goochland County, 1883 map by James George, \$25.00
- Goochland County Highway Map, most recent issue by Virginia Department of Transportation, \$2.00. 🌟

THE RETURN of the ZOUAVE by James Richmond

May 23, 2023 was “Welcome Home Day” for our Zouave statue. He returned from the Conservation Center in Chicago, where he was cleaned, repaired, polished, and reset on his wooden base.

This statue, along with other items from the Anderson estate known as Thorncliff, was donated to the Goochland County Historical Society in 2017 by Elaine Anderson Mathews. The Zouave, made of paginated zinc atop a wooden base, was manufactured by Cornelius & Baker of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1857. It represents the battalions of French Zouaves who served in Algeria from the 1830s through the 1850s. The battalions inspired American military groups to imitate their style of dress and fighting. The Zouave was collected by Joseph Reid Anderson, Jr. and was featured on his entryway mantle at his home. After Thorncliff was destroyed by fire, the statue moved with Anderson to another house on the estate and remained with him until his death. It passed to other family members until it was donated to

the GCHS.

Over the years, the Zouave has suffered some damage; his neck and arm were broken, his gun barrel lost, and his base became loose. His head was held in place by a mere pencil. The GCHS searched for a reliable service that could repair him. There are only a few places in the country that restore art and even fewer that are capable of repairing zinc



statues. After much research, the Conservation Center in Chicago was selected. The repair was covered by a gift from Mrs. Mathews and cost of transportation covered by generous donors. In previous newsletters, the Zouave addressed the GCHS membership directly. He has asked to do so again; his letter follows.



Dear Members of the Goochland County Historical Society,

I want you to know that I greatly appreciate your support over the last couple of years. I especially want to thank those kind people whose generous donations allowed me to travel to the Conservation Center in Chicago; otherwise, I would not be fully restored. As you can see by the photo of me on the front of this newsletter, once again I am a handsome fellow; I no longer look battle-scarred. I can truly say that the Conservation Center literally saved my neck! While the restoration process was no fun and I was lonely being so far away from those who care about me, I am ever so thankful for the innovative techniques and sure hands there. I am proud to say that I am currently on display at the GCHS. Please stop by and visit me; I would be happy to make your acquaintance.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. As ever, I am, yours truly, The Loyal Zouave 🌟



Isham Randolph

One of the most powerful and prolific families to settle in early Goochland County went by the surname of Randolph. William Randolph the immigrant (1650-1711) established himself in Virginia between 1669 and 1674, making his home at Turkey Island on the James River, east of Richmond in Henrico County. Trained as a lawyer, he was active in colonial politics, serving as a justice, clerk of the court, and representing Henrico County in the House of Burgesses. All the while, he was acquiring property by purchase, headright, marriage, and land grant. Around 1700, he received land grants totaling almost 10,000 acres near Richmond. Of these, one was a 3,256-acre tract at Tuckahoe and another was a 5,142-acre parcel at Westham, just east of the first tract.

William was father to nine children, seven of whom were sons. By the time of his death, he had established each son on his own estate. Thomas was given Tuckahoe and Isham, Dungeness. At the time, the estates were in Henrico County. However, both Tuckahoe and Dungeness became part of Goochland County when it was established in 1727/1728. Most of the sons added to their original property by purchase and land grants, making them influential landowners in the localities in which they lived. Thomas contributed to the early development of Goochland County. When Isham finally retired from being a sea captain, he returned to his property which a friend described as being

“30 or 40 miles above the falls of the James river in Goochland and above the other settlements.”

Thomas had settled at Tuckahoe around 1714, having purchased additional land from his brother John who had settled at Tazewell Hall in Williamsburg. 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. Thomas’s son William Randolph built the house that stands at Tuckahoe today. A widower with young children and nearing death, he requested his good friend Peter Jefferson, his wife, Jane (daughter of his uncle Isham Randolph of Dungeness), and his family to move to Tuckahoe, care for his children, and manage his estate. When his father complied, Thomas Jefferson was only two years old. William had been prominent in establishing Albemarle County which was formed from Goochland County in 1744; Peter Jefferson what been one of his friends there.

Isham Randolph (1648-1742) had started his career as a ship’s captain and merchant, living for a time in London and marrying there. When he returned to Virginia to put down roots and become a planter, he began to accumulate land and become involved in colonial government. He was elected to the House of Burgesses, became adjutant general of the colony, and served as a justice. In 1736, he received a land grant of 3,000 acres on the north side of the James River at Rock Castle Point.

His son William, who inherited the property, left Dungeness for England at the time of the Revolution. It was his son Thomas Eston Randolph who returned to Virginia, marrying his cousin Jane Cary Randolph of Tuckahoe in 1795. Thomas sold his cousin Archibald Cary Randolph part of the property at Dungeness which Archibald then named Ben Lomond. It was there in 1805 that Sir Archie, the famous racehorse and one of the foundation sires of the American Thoroughbred, was foaled. Not long

after his birth, Randolph was forced to sell Ben Lomond to cover debts. He and his family left Goochland to live with his wife’s parents at Carter Hall in Clarke County, Virginia, but not before he sent Sir Archie to his partner Col. John Tayloe III of Mt. Airy in Richmond County, to be trained because he believed he was unable do the horse justice. Tayloe changed the horse’s name from Robert Burns to Sir Archie in honor of his friend and business partner.



Silhouette of Archibald Cary Randolph

The seven sons and two daughters of William the immigrant produced 42 offspring. Early on they left their mark on Virginia society; over the years, as the family increased in size, its influence continued and expanded, despite financial and other misfortunes. Like William the immigrant, members of the family have been willing to step up and assume leadership roles and because of that, they represent a lasting legacy of the Randolph name. Thomas Jefferson, John Marshall, Robert E. Lee, Thomas Mann Randolph, Jr., Martha Jefferson Randolph, Archibald Cary Randolph, and others have all left their mark on our history in one way or another.

H. J. Eckenrode, *The Randolphs: The Story of a Virginia Family*.

Wassell Randolph, *William Randolph I of Turkey Island (Henrico County) Virginia and his Immediate Descendants*. 1949

Cavaliers and Pioneers 

CEMETERY CORNER—ELISHA LEAKE by Richard Toler



Elisha Leake was born in Goochland County on February 25, 1739 to Walter Leake and Judith Mask on the family farm known as Rocky Springs. At the time of his birth, his parents were 44 and 41 years old respectively. Elisha grew up working in his father's grist mill on Lickinghole Creek where Leake's Mill Park is today. Later in life, he moved to Woodlawn which tradition says was built by his brother Josiah, although some believe Elisha may have built the house. On this large tract of land of more

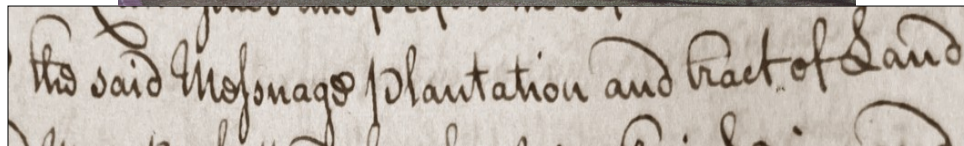
than 600 acres, he operated two grist mills on the upper reaches of Tuckahoe Creek.

During the Revolutionary War, Elisha was active in the Goochland Militia where he served as Captain. He died on October 19, 1806 at the age of 67. He was buried in Woodlawn's graveyard which is behind the brick house which still stands today between Centerville and Oilville at the junction of U.S. 250 and Old Three Chopt Road. Woodlawn was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and on the Virginia Landmarks Register in 1971. ❁

A PLACE CALLED MESSUAGE by James Richmond

Over the years, the Goochland County Historical Society has received several requests for the location of Sylvester Proffitt's "Message Plantation." The use of the word message appears in at least two Goochland County deed books (Deed Book 3, page 194 and Deed Book 4, page 314); both entries were recorded for Proffitt. In the first, he is selling land and in the second, he is buying a different piece of land. Both are referred to as being a message plantation. According to the Merriam-Webster

Dictionary, message is a Middle-English word meaning "a dwelling house with the adjacent buildings and curtilage and other adjoining lands used in connection with the household." Proffitt was from



Scotland, so the term message may have been in common usage in the community from which he came. The term plantation, as defined by the same dictionary, is "an agricultural estate

worked by laborers." Its first usage appeared in the 15th century and in 18th century colonial Virginia, the term was commonly used. While Proffitt refers to "the said message plantation and tract of land," he probably did not mean the name of his property was Message Plantation. He was simply describing his real estate holdings. In fact, the term message plantation could have been applied to many real estate holdings in Goochland County in the 18th century such as Roysters pictured

above. However, some have come to believe that it was the name of Proffitt's property which is why people today are looking for the location of Message Plantation. ❁

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The GCHS is always on the lookout for a few good volunteers to assist at the society at least one day per month from 10 am to 3 pm, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Responsibilities include answering the phone, welcoming visitors, assisting with gift shop purchases, and retrieving resources for researchers.

Summer is our busiest time of the year, with people traveling and

vacationing in the area. Goochland was important in the migration westward, so many people from Georgia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, and other Midwestern states can trace their early ancestry to Virginia and Goochland County in particular. Serving as a volunteer is an opportunity to meet folks from many parts of the United States and it can be very fulfilling when

people find that elusive ancestor from Goochland. No knowledge of genealogy is necessary, although it may be helpful; however, a friendly smile is essential. If interested, please call 804-556-3966 or email us at goochlandhistory@comcast.net. Come join us! ❁

VOLUNTEER OUTING

The Goochland County Historical Society celebrated its volunteers on June 6th, with a visit to Howard Mayo's collection of tobacco trade memorabilia and a luncheon back at the society prepared by volunteers Linda and Richard Toler. Richard is the GCHS volunteer coordinator and his wife Linda is obviously the chief cook, as the buffet she prepared was delicious.

Howard Mayo became interested in all things tobacco many years ago and has been collecting since; he selected several of his favorites from the collection and introduced them to the volunteers. Many



of the items were developed for advertising purposes, marketing specific brands of tobacco products to the public,

in the days when tobacco was king. Does anyone remember "the Marlboro Man," "Winston tastes good like a cigarette should" or "You can take Salem out of the country, but you can't take the country out of Salem"?

Many thanks to Howard Mayo for opening his amazing collection to our volunteers, also, many thanks to Richard Toler for arranging the event and to Linda Toler for the luncheon. It was truly a special occasion to celebrate a very special group of people. We couldn't keep our doors open without them. ❁

MEMBER OBITUARIES

The Goochland County Historical Society regrets to report the loss of former board member **RAYMOND ALFRED MILLER** who grew up in the Hadensville area of Goochland County. He attended Second Union School, now on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Miller, age 79, a longtime businessman in the county, passed away on May 10, 2023. His businessman's perspective was a valuable asset to the GCHS board. He is survived by his wife

of 55 years Eunicetine Ware Miller, daughter Crystal Miller-Johnson, her husband Thomas, and two grandchildren, as well as two sisters and other relatives.

Charter member **WILLIAM "BILLY" BAGBY BURTON** of Goochland County, passed away on April 10, 2023 at the age of 91. He operated both Hilltop Market and Centerville Grocery in the county. He is survived by his wife of 67 years Vernell Mills Burton, daughter Pamela, son

Randall, his wife Linda, granddaughter Allison, two great-grandsons, and other family members.

Charter and lifetime member **PAGE ROGERS GORDON** of Goochland passed away on April 30, 2023. With his background in audio-visual management, he ran live sound production for many local events, including Goochland Day. He is survived by his wife Peggy, one son Scott, his wife Carter, two grandchildren, and other relatives. ❁

GOOCHLAND DAY 2023



GCHS President Robin Randolph Lind traveled in style in a trap provided by Dot Ruqus, president of the James River Driving Association; it was pulled by her horse Kipper and driven by her husband Louie Ruqus. The carriage was accompanied by Dot Ruqus and Cheryl Childress who serves on the board of both the GCHS and the JRDA.






Goochland Day was celebrated on May 20, 2023 with a large parade down River Road West that included the Goochland High School band and seniors, floats, antique cars and, of course, the Goochland County Historical Society. The GCHS arranged for the 1923 Ford Model-T Speedster to carry the parade marshall; the car was generously provided by The Car Guys, located in Crozier. The



To further celebrate the day, the GCHS opened the Old Clerk's Office and the Old Stone Jail on the Courthouse Green to the community, as well as hosted Goochland Elementary School 4th graders who displayed their school projects on the Green. In addition, the GCHS exhibited, along with other county not-for-profit organizations. The GCHS greatly appreciates everyone's generous help in making Goochland Day a big success. ❁

Goochland County Historical Society by the Numbers 2023

Facebook Followers 1,800 Books Cataloged 975
Photographs    Cataloged 5,478



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Kevin Alvis ❖ Frances & Bill Beatley ❖ Michael Brooking ❖ James G. Carter
Oneva Clifton ❖ Michele Colson ❖ Melissa Ann Conner ❖ Breck & Robin Daughtrey
Rachel Hubley ❖ William H. Keeling ❖ Patsy & Al Martin ❖ Jeanette McKittrick
Nancy Morton ❖ Steven Norris ❖ Juanita & Russell Pryor ❖ Pope Reed
Sue Reichel ❖ Gwen Rose ❖ Bryan Tomlinson ❖ Louis Volchansky
Emily Wallace ❖ Matthew Whitford ❖ Diana Wilberg ❖ Joyce Yates