



Goochland County Historical Society Newsletter

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Right: The portrait of the Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834) by an unknown painter, circa 1800s. (Courtesy of the Maryland Center for History and Culture, 1901.2.2.)





GOOCHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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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:

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Visit us online:

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

History certainly happened in Goochland on July 18th with the formal ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Goochland Elementary School (GES) on Bulldog Way, just northwest of the High and Middle Schools.

The old GES had served county students for the past 57 years. According to former Principal Wilbert Ware, when it was built, GES consolidated the smaller Fife, Sandy Hook and Cardwell Elementary Schools. Those schools had, in their time, consolidated many of the one and two-room schoolhouses, including Backbone, Jackson Memorial, Manakin, Sims, Old Office, Horseshoe, Tabscott, Hebron, First Union, Second Union, Shallow Well, Othma, Providence, Miller, Westview, Caledonia, Chapel Hill, Watkinsville, Little Byrd, Hadensville, Paces, Oris, Sandy Hook, Oilville and Fauquier.

How times have changed.

The new GES is a stunning celebration of Goochland citizens' commitment to education of the highest standards. At a total cost of \$54 million, it was funded by a Bond Issue that was approved by 85% of county voters in 2021.

On 19 acres, of which almost two and a half acres are play areas, the new building occupies more than 104,000 square feet. Its 44 classrooms were designed with an eye to the future. With 504 students enrolled this fall, it serves a little over two thirds of the design capacity of 700. The latest innovations and technologies even extend to charging stations for the new electric buses that will be transporting some of our youngest scholars.

For those who worry that bricks and mortar, computer tablets, and Internet access are not a guarantee to a superior education, you may take heart: the excitement among the parents and students who showed up for the ribbon-cutting was palpable. When the formal ceremony was over and the doors opened, parents and children flowed into the new classroom spaces like water spilling from a sluice over a millwheel.

In the center of the first-floor classroom block is a collection of open shelves stocked with books aimed at young readers and placed at their eye-level. This innovative presentation of a learning center at the heart of the school prompted one young scholar – maybe 5 years old? –to cry out with joy to his parents: "A library! A library! Come see. They aren't just 'looking books.' They're reading books!"

This is Goochland's future, speaking to its present and boding well for its history. The Goochland County Historical Society looks forward to working with students and teachers of the new GES to help bring Goochland County's history to life.

Sincerely,

Robin Lind, President

GES ribbon cutting July 18, 2024



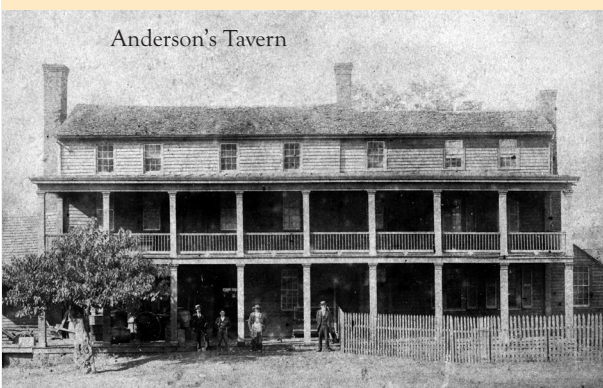
A GRAND CELEBRATION OF LAFAYETTE'S RETURN VISIT

This year marks the 200th anniversary of General LaFayette's return visit to the United States, at the invitation of President James Monroe. As the last surviving Major General of the Continental Army in the American Revolution, LaFayette was esteemed by the American people. As he traveled across America, localities rolled out the red carpet. On November 2, 1824, the Henrico Militia escorted General Lafayette to Powell's Tavern in Goochland, beginning his trip through the county. Join the Goochland 250 Commission and the Goochland County Historical Society (GCHS) to experience that visit. The General will be on hand to address attendees who will enjoy a brunch featuring some of his favorite foods, view the grounds of Historic Tuckahoe, and raise a glass to toast the famous man. The event will be very much like that which took place at nearby Powell's Tavern 200 years ago, so mark your calendar for November 2, 2024 and plan to step back in history.

If you are interested in history, join us on November 2, 2024, 10:00 am to noon at Historic Tuckahoe, 12601 River Road, Richmond, VA 23238. The event is \$40.00 per person. For further information, contact the Goochland County Historical Society at Goochlandhistory@comcast.net or 804-556-3966.



LAFAYETTE MARKER DEDICATION



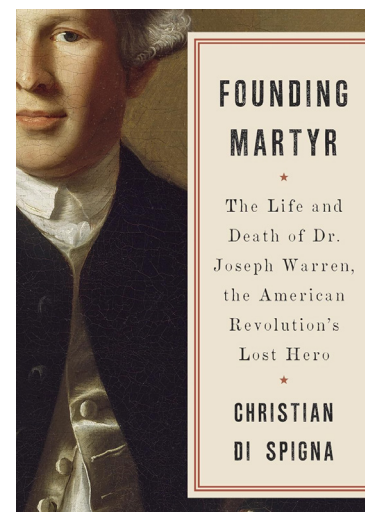
At 1:00 pm on November 2, 2024, the GCHS, in conjunction with the LaFayette Trail and the Goochland 250 Commission, will dedicate a marker commemorating General LaFayette's visit to Goochland Courthouse on November 2, 1824. The marker will be unveiled across from the History Center near the location of Anderson's Tavern where LaFayette was feted that afternoon 200 years ago. Julien Icher of the Lafayette Trail will unveil the marker and local dignitaries will accept it on behalf of the county's citizens. The LaFayette Trail is a nonprofit organization dedicated to mapping and marking the General's travels during his Farewell Tour of America, 1824-1825.

Following the unveiling, please join us at Courthouse Creek Cidery which has made a special drink in celebration of the event. Food will be available for purchase.

FALL MEETING: OCTOBER 20, 2024

Please join us on Sunday, October 20, 2024 at Goochland Baptist Church for our Fall meeting. Our speaker will be Christian Di Spigna, a well-known writer based in New York and Virginia. A volunteer at Colonial Williamsburg, Di Spigna is recognized as an expert on the history of the American Revolutionary era, a dedicated researcher of early American history, and a detailed storyteller, capable of bringing his topics to life in a memorable way. His presentation will introduce us to Revolutionary War patriot Dr. Joseph Warren. His book *Founding Martyr: The Life and Death of Dr. Joseph Warren, the American Revolution's Lost Hero* is an illuminating biography of the patriot physician and Major General who fermented rebellion and died heroically at the battle of Bunker Hill in 1775. Until Di Spigna's book, little was known about this influential Boston architect of the rebellion. With the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, Christian Di Spigna is much in demand, the GCHS is pleased to have him present at our Fall meeting.

The program begins at 3:00 pm, with refreshments following. The church is located at 2454 Manakin Road, Manakin-Sabot, 23103.



IF BRICKS COULD SPEAK



First Baptist Church

September 1, 2024 marks the 300th anniversary of the completion of Dover Anglican Church—the westernmost Anglican Church in

Henrico County in the newly formed St. James Parish, which was soon to become Goochland County. It was created to serve the fast-growing population of settlers moving up the James River towards the Blue Ridge. When construction started in 1720 there were 326 “tithables” in the new parish; when construction was completed, the number of “tithables” had almost doubled to 635. Within 10 years a second church was established 20 miles west on Lickinghole Creek and a decade later a third was built on Beaverdam Creek near the current Goochland Court House village.

We know these stories because of a remarkable church register kept by the Rev. William Douglas, Rector of Saint James Parrish from 1750 to 1777. An immigrant from Scotland, he was a preacher and a schoolteacher who taught both future presidents James Monroe and Thomas Jefferson. He also served the French-speaking Protestant congregation of Huguenots who had settled across the James in 1700 in what is now Powhatan County.

With the disestablishment of the Anglican Church in Virginia in 1789, all three churches fell into decline. Dover may have been derelict as early as 1778, Lickinghole by 1833, Beaverdam by 1860 — their congregations evidently voting with their feet as local Baptist congregations swelled in number. Dover Baptist Church, founded in 1773, jumped from about 50 to more than 200 members when Dover Anglican Church dismissed its rector in 1777.

Over the decades local memory faded. Locations of the Anglican churches were forgotten. The frame churches, Lickinghole and Beaverdam, were dismantled for their lumber. Remnant Episcopal congregations built new churches: St. Paul’s at Three Square, Trinity

at Hadensville, Grace at Goochland Courthouse, All Saints at Sabot and, of course, St. Mary’s on River Road.

Dover, which had been a substantial 24’ x 50’ brick structure (similar to the 1738 Merchants Hope Church which survives in Prince George County) was apparently repurposed by local coal mine operators and, in the late 19th century, once again fell derelict as coal mining ceased. However, this was not the end of the story for Dover Church.

Almost a century after the Anglican congregation had left the brick colonial Dover Church, most of the Black members of Dover Baptist Church separated after the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation and formed the first Black Baptist congregation in the county. Initially worshipping in the open near an old ice pond, they were given the use of “an old building that had been used as a tool house” and named it Dover Mines Baptist Church. In 1921, after a series of relocations, the congregation arranged to buy the old bricks of their first building and over a period of months carried them in mule carts up the hill to the new location where they built a brick church at the intersection of Manakin and River Roads. Renamed First Baptist Church, Manakin, the structure remains today with an active congregation.

According to tradition, the 18th century bricks used in the construction came from the ruins of Dover Anglican Church, the “tool house” where early church members had once met. The new building is a close replica of the early Anglican churches built in Virginia, including Goochland’s first Anglican Church built in 1724.

If those bricks could talk, they would speak of the communities of the faithful—the children of God, white and Black, rich and poor, thriving and surviving, ministering to each other—who have worshiped within their walls. While the original Dover Church was almost lost, it lives on through the reuse of its bricks to shelter another congregation, First Baptist Church, Manakin.

—By Robin Lind

Merchants Hope Church (<https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/historic-registers/074-0009/>)



REED MARSH REDUX

Goochland County was once dotted with historic homes. However, as more people move into the county, these relics of Goochland's past are disappearing at an alarming rate due to development. One house that almost made the "lost" list is the Courthouse area's Reed Marsh.

Reed Marsh was built in the early part of the nineteenth century for the Miller family, Clerks of the Court for five generations. Margaret Miller was the last member of her family to serve as Clerk and to live in the family home. When she passed away at age 79 in 1959, the house passed out of the Miller family. In 2022, Reed Marsh hit the market and a developer purchased it and planned a subdivision for the acreage conveniently located within the Courthouse area. Usually this leads to the demise of the home for which the subdivision is named. Thankfully the house found saviors who stepped in to rescue it. With the Historical Society taking the lead, the community came together to encourage the developer to save the house.

Barbra and Terry McLaughlin were looking for a new project. They had previously restored a house in Richmond and were living in the Northern Neck which they felt was a little too remote. They had begun a search for something closer to "civilization" and seeing Reed Marsh in an online ad, they knew they had found the home they wanted. Barbra said the house spoke to her when she viewed it and she was ready to do whatever it took to bring the home back.

The house had not been lived in for decades and needed restoration. While some work is fairly simple like replacing a few window panes, the couple is now working on removing all of the shutters and rebuilding them. According to Barbra, "You can't be afraid to fail...It's worth it."

The couple found a civil war button between floor boards that came from a New York soldier's coat, perhaps left behind during the skirmish that was fought near the Courthouse in 1863. The original hatch marks can still be seen under the floor boards where centuries ago, carpenters leveled the floor by hand. In the attic, marriage marks, used in timber frame construction as reference points, can be seen where long ago builders made sure

everything went together in the correct order. Attention to detail worked; the house is still standing and with good care should last another two hundred years.

One thing the couple decided to do was to add a more comfortable main bedroom, kitchen, and garage, something houses of the early 1800s did not have. These additions do not take anything away from the historic look of the house. The McLaughlins have been very careful to make them seem like they were always in place.

Barbra McLaughlin estimates that it will take another 6-8 months to complete the work to bring the house back to what it once was. As she said, "you have to be patient, you have to care." She also hopes to get the house listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register to ensure that the house gets its best chance at survival.

Even such steps at historic preservation cannot guarantee that historic places do not disappear. It takes great effort and funds to save them, but they should and must be saved. We cannot lose the past, once it is gone, it cannot be brought back. The massive beams and heart pine flooring that make up the bones of Reed Marsh simply cannot be purchased today, old growth trees have been decimated. But Reed Marsh is a testament to what can happen. The Goochland County Historical Society would like to thank the McLaughlins for the effort and perseverance they have put forward to save this important Goochland landmark. We wish them Godspeed and are eagerly awaiting the debut of the restored Reed Marsh.



~By James Richmond

FAMILY FOLKLORE: THEY LIVED WHERE!?

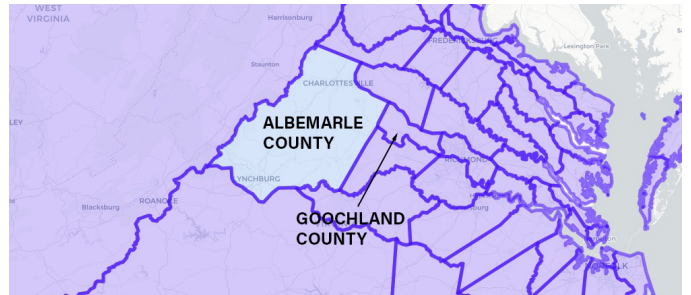
The roots of the paternal side of my family lie deep within Western Pennsylvania and I grew up a proud Pennsylvanian. Delving into the early history of that part of the state, I discovered that prior to 1780, my ancestors were Virginians. I even located a 1778 court record for them in Yohogania County, Virginia. Did they migrate to Pennsylvania from Virginia? No, they had lived in that same place since the 1770's. What changed was the boundary between Virginia and Pennsylvania and at that time, Yohogania County, VA became part of Westmoreland County, PA. With subsequent divisions, the area in which my ancestors lived became part of Washington County, PA and then part of Allegheny County, PA.

This illustrates that searching for information about early ancestors in county records may not be as easy as it first appears. This is certainly true when it comes to Goochland County. As populations grew on what was then the frontier, inhabitants needed access to county government closer to home, resulting in the division of large counties into smaller ones placing county seats closer to population centers. When county boundaries change or new counties are formed, the county court records usually remain in the county in which they were originally filed; they are not transferred. Although your ancestors may have lived in the same place for many years, they may have court records such as court orders, deeds, wills, etc. in several counties. Because of this, determining where to look for an early ancestor's court records can be complicated. Knowing when a county boundary changed or a new county was formed and the county or counties from which it was created is crucial to locating information about early ancestors. A useful resource for determining changes in county and state boundaries is the *Atlas of Historical County Boundaries* from The Newberry Library, available online at <https://digital.newberry.org/ahcb/index.html>.



Goochland County at the time of its formation in 1728.

When Goochland County was created from Henrico in 1728, it included land on both sides of the James River from Tuckahoe Creek to the Blue Ridge Mountains. The area in light blue on this map from the *Atlas of Historical County Boundaries* shows the vast amount of land encompassed by Goochland County in 1728.



In 1744 Albemarle County was carved out of a large portion of western Goochland and in 1749, Cumberland County took off the southern part of the county.

In subsequent years, Albemarle County was divided into the counties of Buckingham, Fluvanna, Amherst, and Nelson. Cumberland and Powhatan counties were formed from the part of Goochland County south of the James River. The original area of Goochland County also encompassed parts of what would become Bedford, Appomattox, and Campbell Counties. This table shows when the counties whose area came entirely from Goochland County, were formed.

Goochland County has many court records back to its formation in 1728. If your ancestor was an early settler the Historical Society may be able to help you locate those early records.

~ By Linda Toler

Current County Name	Formation Date	Location of Residents County Records
Goochland	1728	Henrico up to 1728
Powhatan	1777	Goochland up to 1749 Cumberland 1749=1777
Cumberland	1749	Goochland up to 1749
Albemarle	1744	Goochland up to 1744
Fluvanna	1777	Albemarle 1744=1777 Goochland prior to 1744
Buckingham	1761	Albemarle 1744-1761 Goochland prior to 1744
Amherst	1761	Albemarle 1744=1761 Goochland prior to 1744
Nelson	1807	Amherst 1761 -1807 Albemarle 1744-1761 Goochland prior to 1744

CEMETERY CORNER: THE SNEAD-HOWELL CEMETERY

The Snead-Howell Cemetery, also known as the Evergreen Cemetery, includes 41 known graves, with the first burial in 1913, with the death of Percy Howell and the last added in 1976 for Sydney Snead. There are 9 graves with the Snead surname and 13 with the Howell surname. The other graves bear other surnames, including Alexander (1), Atkins (1), Bibbs (1), Bowman (1), Clark (1), Clarke (1), Copeland (1), Henley (1), Johnson (5), Overton (1), Robinson (1), Spindle (2), Tyler (1), and Winston (1). While there are a few graves from 1913 to 1939 (8), most date from the 1940s (7), 1950s (8), 1960s (11), and 1970s (7).

Most of the surnames appearing on gravestones can be linked to the Snead and/or Howell families by blood or by marriage. For example, Velma Marie Snead married an Overton and Bessie H. (Howell) married Wellington Spindle who also is buried here. However, it is unclear if



others buried in the cemetery are related, for example, Elam C. Alexander, Garvin J. Copeland, and Lemuel Henley. As it is sometimes referenced as the Evergreen Cemetery, perhaps it was used for burial of those associated with nearby Evergreen Baptist Church. Possibly that connection could account for some of those buried in the Snead-Howell Cemetery.

The cemetery is located on Hockett Road (Route 623), about halfway between the northern junction of Snead Road and Hockett Road and the southern junction of the same two roads on the east side of the road. The first cemetery book published by the Goochland County Historical Society in 1990, listed the Snead-Howell Cemetery. However, its exact location went unidentified for almost 10 years. While it is close to the road, it is in the woods and not visible from the road.

~ By Richard Toler

RUN TO THE REVOLUTION A BIG SUCCESS

In the run up to the Revolution 250 years ago, many of the gatherings of Patriots and Tories were family affairs with a good deal of friendly competition. So it was on September 14, 2024 at the first annual "5K Run to the Revolution" where 60 adults and 15 children competed in the race held at Elk Hill Academy in western Goochland.

Andrew Meiller of Columbia took first place with a time of 24 minutes and 59 seconds closely followed by Andrew Cooper of Mineral at 25:50. Third place went to Goochland District Five Supervisor Jonathan Lyle who proved he can run well in any part of the county. Former GCHS president Wayne Dementi came in first for runners over 75.

The race was organized by the Goochland County 250 Commission, which was formed to commemorate the events leading up to celebrate the 250th anniversary of American independence and commemorate Goochland's and

Virginia's role in the Revolution. Among other participants in the race was Cheryl Wilson, Executive Director of the statewide 250 Commission, who finished third in her age group and 15th overall, one step ahead of Dementi.

Goochland 250 Commission Chair Manny Alvarez expressed his great appreciation to the volunteers who helped, including those from County Parks and Recreation staff, Second Union Rosenwald School, Goochland County Historical Society, and the Goochland 250 Commission. A special thank you goes out to the staff and administration

of Elk Hill Academy for a successful start to what is expected to be an annual event. He noted that the race was held at Elk Hill to commemorate the fact that the British General Lord Cornwallis established his westernmost headquarters here in 1781 before he turned east and marched to what he believed would be the safety of Yorktown.

~By Robin Lind





Goochland County Historical Society

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Goochland County Historical Society by the Numbers 2024

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x.com/GoochlandCHS

Welcome New Memebers

James Bowles • Mark Bowles • Patricia Claytor • Jodie Cowardin
Taylor Cowardin • Melissa Dunn • Steven Dunn • Emily Felix
Erica Gilliam • Robert Gilliam • Lee Halvorsen • Patricia Roughton
Peter Roughton • Sara Wilson