

Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia

"1981-2026: 45 Years of Saving the Past for the Future"



The Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia held its first meeting on September 23, 1981, at the Central Library with 258 charter members. A private, non-profit 501(c)3 organization funded with membership dues and tax-deductible donations, the Society mission is to collect, preserve, interpret and promote Chesterfield County's unique past for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Historic Trinity Church (1887), located at 10111 Iron Bridge Road, serves as the organization headquarters and research library. In addition, the Society maintains collections in the County Museum and 1892 Old Jail on the historic 1917 Courthouse Green, as well as in Magnolia Grange (1822), a house museum on Iron Bridge Road. The Society also helps maintain eight Civil War battlefields. For more information, please visit our website www.chesterfieldhistory.com or call (804)796-7121

The following timeline of historic highlights is presented in celebration of the 45th Anniversary of the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia (CHSV).

Then until now....

1981

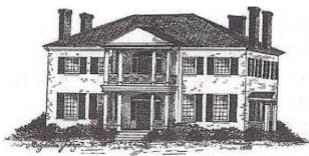
The Chesterfield Historical Society of VA is formed to meet a growing demand for genealogical and historical research.

1982

County Board of Supervisors designates the 1892 Old Jail part of the Museum complex, and grants CHSV use of the building as its first office.

1983

Cells on the second floor of the 1892 Old Jail are opened for public viewing.



1984

CHSV support results in the acquisition of historic Magnolia Grange by Chesterfield County; the Society becomes its custodian.

1985

CHSV Conducts its first archaeological dig at Ware Bottom Church, discovering early American Indian artifacts, stone implements and a Brewerton projectile point.

1986

Magnolia Grange opened by VA first lady Jeannie Baliles. Historic Richmond Foundation honors the County & CHSV with a "Preservation Citation for Restoration."

1987

The Society wins 'National Certificate of Commendation' from the American Association for State & Local History for its rapid development of local history programs. Three Tobacco Inspector Licenses, signed by Gov. Thomas Jefferson, added to the Museum collection.

1988

During excavations at Magnolia Grange, rare Delft punch bowl shards are discovered; these are considered the finest single collection of tavern Delftware artifacts documented in North America.

1989

Archaeology committee excavates house site at Osbornes village (c.1750) and assists VCU excavation on Magnolia Grange grounds to locate outbuildings & landscape features.

1990

Society sponsors 3rd printing of *Chesterfield, an Old Virginia County, 1607-1954*, by Francis Earl Lutz. 1917 County Courthouse named part of Museum complex; CHSV becomes its custodian.

1991

Historic 1917 Courthouse & Green listed on VA Landmarks Register & National Register of Historic Places. The Society moves into the historic 1917 Courthouse.

1992

CHSV publishes *Chesterfield, an Old Virginia County, 1955-1989, Volume II*, by Dorothy Silvers.

Preserve Battery Danzler, a Bermuda Hundred Campaign site.

1993

Publishes *A Time to Remember, a Pictorial History of Chesterfield County, VA, 1860-1960*.

1994

CHSV publishes *The 1917 Courthouse of the Circuit Court of Chesterfield County, VA: Its History and Portraits*.

1995

"Pocahontas" exhibit featured in the Museum. Museum Gift Shop

opens in the historic 1917 Courthouse.

1996

Reproductions of three Delftware bowls, based on shards excavated at Magnolia Grange in 1988, for sale in the Museum Gift Shop.

1997

First re-enactment of the 1876 DuVal-Robertson wedding takes place at Magnolia Grange.

1998

CHSV moves into Castlewood (c.1817). Cemetery committee publishes *Gone But Not Forgotten*, edited by Rachel Lipowicz.

1999

Co-chairs Chesterfield County's 250th Anniversary. VCU starts archaeology dig at Castlewood.

2000

War Memorial Wall, facing the historic 1917 Courthouse, is dedicated on Veterans Day.

2001

CHSV publishes *Marriages of Chesterfield County, VA, 1771-1854*, abstracted by the Genealogy committee, edited by Angie Wilderman.

2002

Museum Gift Shop moves from Castlewood to Magnolia Grange.

2003

"*Four Hundred Years of Fashion*" presented during Lunchtime Lecture Series.

2004

Lucille Cheatham Moseley, cofounder of CHSV & first executive director, passes away at age 80.

2005

CHSV Cemetery committee digital collection of grave markers surpasses 5,000.

2006

CHSV 25th Anniversary. Bermuda Hundred village designated a Virginia Historical Landmark.

2007

Grand Re-opening of County Museum after renovation. First 'Diggin' in History' archeology summer camp for Kids.

2008

First Winter Lecture Series. Board of Supervisors award CHSV a Resolution for our dedication to preserve county history.

2009

Rebuilt *Old Country Store* exhibit opens in the Museum.

2010

Publication of *Bermuda Hundred Campaign Tour Guide*. "First Contact" exhibit opens in Community Development Building

2011

First 'Colonial Market Day' at Castlewood. CHSV African American History Committee presents 'Four Score and More' oral history exhibit.

2012

CHSV support results in historic Point of Rocks as a new County Park; title transfers to the County in 2013.

2013

CHSV office and library relocate to historic Trinity Church (c.1887).

2014

1st Open House at historic Pleasant View African American School. *Police Department Centennial* exhibit presented in the Museum.

2015

Bermuda Hundred Campaign featured at conclusion of the Civil War 150th commemoration.

2016

Historic Summerseat (c.1860) in Ettrick preserved. County's historic listing for the Clark House in Centralia preserved.

2017

Celebrate the *Centennial of the 1917 Courthouse*; place the 1749

Courthouse Bell on permanent display in the Museum.

CHSV presents original 1749 *Commission of the Peace* County Charter to Clerk of the Court.

2018

Centennial of 'Armistice Day/End of WWI' commemorated on Veterans Day.

2019

CHSV Veterans Database surpasses 8,000 names. CHSV Photo Collection contributes to *Richmond Memories II*, published by the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*.

2020

Covid 19 pandemic closes all historic sites; phased re-opening starts in the Fall.

2021

Society celebrates its 40th Anniversary: "40 Years Saving the Past for the Future"

2022

Celebrate *Magnolia Grange 200th*, bicentennial of our historic house museum.

2023

CHSV creates permanent exhibit *The Old Jails of Chesterfield County* in the 1892 Old Jail.

2024

CHSV honors Cornelius Mimms, first African American to serve on the Board of Supervisors, with an exhibit panel in the Museum.

2025

"*Shot Heard Around the World*" event marks prelude to 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution.

2026

Society celebrates its 45th Anniversary: "**45 Years Saving the Past for the Future.**"

www.chesterfieldhistory.com

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