

History of Chesterfield



Since 1749, Chesterfield has left lasting contributions to the history of the county. You may experience colonial history by visiting Eppington Plantation. Visit Magnolia Grange Museum and discover the charm of this early 19th-century home. Explore the Chesterfield County Museum and 1892 Jail to discover the diverse history of Chesterfield's past. Discover some of the "firsts" that the County has to offer from the first commercial coal mines at Midlothian Mines and the first iron furnace at Falling Creek Ironworks.

Public Speaking Requests

Enjoy an engaging and educational program for your organization's next social function. This is a wonderful opportunity for churches, civic organizations, garden clubs, and older adults to learn more about Chesterfield County's history. A wide range of speaking topics, presentations and craft workshops are available.
Free

For a complete list visit www.chesterfieldhistory.com or call Bryan Truzzie, 804-751-4946

HISTORY SPECIAL EVENTS

Valentine's Day Tea

Enjoy a selection of specialty teas, finger sandwiches, and sweets along with period entertainment.
\$30 per person. Reservations required. Register at www.chesterfieldhistory.com or by calling Martha Atkinson at 804-748-1498.
Wednesday, Feb. 8, 1-3 p.m.

Chesterfield Historical Society Fundraiser

The proceeds from this craft, bake and plant sale will benefit the restoration of the Strachan house at Historic Point of Rocks Park.
Castlewood, 10201 Iron Bridge Road
Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Vendor booth: \$25; contact Ruth Snead at ruthsnead@aol.com
Details: www.chesterfieldhistory.com

HISTORIC FACILITIES

Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation, in partnership with the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia, invites you to visit the Chesterfield County Museum, 1892 Historic Jail and Magnolia Grange located in the county government complex. Hours of operation are Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Chesterfield County Museum

The museum serves as a replica of the first colonial courthouse built in 1750. Museum exhibits include Powhatan Indian culture, artifacts from America's first iron furnace and coal mines, historic Civil War relics and artifacts from early Chesterfield colonial life. Explore a reproduction of an early 20th-century General Store and view the changing exhibit space. For details regarding Saturday monthly history programs call 804-768-7311. \$2/person suggested donation.



1892 Historic Jail

This historic jail replaced several earlier jails that once stood on the Courthouse Green. It has been restored and is open for individual and group tours, which start at the County Museum next door. \$1/person suggested donation.



Magnolia Grange

This Federal-style plantation house built in 1822 was named after the circle of Magnolia trees that once graced its front lawn. The house museum is noted for its distinctive architecture. Three families lived in the house, each making important contributions to life in Chesterfield County. Today, the house is furnished with artifacts that interpret life at a country plantation during the 19th century. For details regarding Saturday monthly history programs call 804-748-1498. Admission fees: Adults-\$5/ Seniors-\$4/Students ages 5-18- \$3/ children under age 5-free.



Historic Trinity Church

Historic Trinity Church originally built in 1855 and later replaced by another chapel in 1887, presently serves as the administrative office of the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia and its archival library with genealogical records, maps and photograph collections. Its mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and promote Chesterfield County's past for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations. The library is open to the public. Office and library hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For details on upcoming special events, visit www.chesterfieldhistory.com



CHESTERFIELD COUNTY MUSEUM, 6813 MIMMS LOOP

All programs are free. Reservations are required at least one week in advance. Space is limited. For details or to register for any program call Pat Roble, 804-768-7311.

HISTORICAL LECTURES AND CRAFT WORKSHOPS

Thursdays, 11 a.m.

The History and Art of Pressed Flowers

Explore the history of this Victorian art and learn how to press your own plants. After the presentation, participants will create four bookmarks or a picture from pressed flowers and leaves.

Jan. 12

Feb. 9

Historic Trees of Chesterfield: Silent Witnesses to our Past

This presentation will explore the history of Chesterfield's most notable trees. Learn about the Nunnally oak tree that has been standing for over two centuries at the old courthouse, the Osage orange tree that once stood at Magnolia Grange and other old local trees.

March 9

What's in a Name? The Origins of Plant Names

Hear the stories behind the origins of common plant names such as granny's bonnet, forget-me-not, pansy, and Queen Anne's lace. Also learn a little about the history of scientific names, which help us to make sense out of the sometimes confusing, but always interesting, world of plant names!

April 13

HISTORICAL LECTURES AND EVENTS

Saturdays, 11 a.m.

Civil War Surgery (Behind the Green Cloth)

Learn about Victorian era surgery, and medical equipment of that time period. Speaker Keith Southall has over 40 years' experience as a reenactor and will answer questions about medicine history and reenacting. For this event he will not be recreating a character but will be holding a casual question and answer session on these subjects.

Jan. 7

Black History Month Presentation "Life is History"

Speaker will be Dr. Lerla Joseph, one of the recipients of the Library of Virginia and Dominion Energy's prestigious 2021 Strong Men and Strong Women in Virginia Awards. The focus of the presentation will be how each person's life contributes to the oral or written archive of historical events during the course of their life, with particular focus on events in Dr. Joseph's life and history. She will discuss how her life has been enriched by the yearly medical mission trips that she has made to Haiti since 2005.

Feb. 11

County Museum Short Film Day

Four short films highlighting various aspects of Chesterfield history will be shown. These films are approximately 15 minutes in length and feature first-person oral histories.

March 4

11 a.m. - Chesterfield Remembers World War II. Memories of Six Chesterfield WWII Veterans

11:30 a.m. - Chesterfield County Police 100th Anniversary. Interview of Major Charles Richter

Noon - Firefighting in Chesterfield County. Memories of fire department volunteers

12:30 p.m. - African American Octogenarian Oral Histories

Antique Bottles of Petersburg, Ettrick, Colonial Heights and Hopewell

Anthony Townsend of the Richmond Bottle Club will discuss these antique Virginia bottles. This will include sodas, milks, beer bottles and drug store bottles. The public is welcome to bring in their own bottles to learn more about them.

April 1

MAGNOLIA GRANGE, 10020 IRON BRIDGE ROAD

Unless otherwise noted, all Magnolia Grange programs are free, but reservations are required at least one week in advance. Space is limited. For details call Martha Atkinson, 804-748-1498.

HISTORICAL LECTURES

Saturdays, noon

Parlor Games and Jigsaw Puzzles

How did every day Victorian families spend their evening leisure time without radios, televisions and computers? They often used their imagination and sense of humor to create their own fun. Participants will step back into the past to play some old-fashioned parlor games and to design and create their own jigsaw puzzles.

Jan. 21

Black History Month Presentation "The Life and Legacy of Enslaved Virginian Emily Winfree"

This fascinating account tells of the quiet courage of an African American woman who lived through enslavement, war, Reconstruction and Jim Crow in Central Virginia. Join us for a presentation by Dr. Jan Meck, local author of the book *The Life and Legacy of Enslaved Virginian Emily Winfree*.

Feb. 18

Historic Women of Central Virginia

In celebration of Women's History Month, a lecture will be presented featuring the captivating stories of local women such as Jane Minor, Lucy Winfree and Susannah Bolling. Join us for an opportunity to learn more about intelligent and brave women at a time when they were often seen but not heard.

March 18

Herb and Crop Gardens at Magnolia Grange

Spring has sprung and it is time to talk about gardens. A lecture and short walking tour of the garden area of the site will be presented and samples of medicinal and culinary herbs will be shared.

Participants will be encouraged to share gardening experience and tips.

April 22

HISTORY PROGRAMS — CHESTERFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPRING BREAK SCOUT WORKSHOPS

The merit badge workshops are conducted by a merit badge counselor certified with the Heart of Virginia Council. For details contact Bryan Truzzie at 804-751-4946 or truzzieb@chesterfield.gov. "Register at least one week in advance."

To register visit www.chesterfieldhistory.com.
Castlewood, 10201 Iron Bridge Road
\$8 per scout

Archaeology

This program is geared for scouts looking to obtain their merit badge for this special achievement. This day-long workshop will address all aspects of the archaeological process including site surveys, excavation and artifact repair. Bring lunch and drink.

Historic Trinity Church, 10111 Iron Bridge Road
Monday, April 3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Friday, April 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Geocaching

This workshop is designed for scouts looking to fulfill their merit badge requirements addressing GPS skills, navigation, concepts of wayfinding, demonstrating skills in utilizing hand held receivers, plotting a course, learning about caches and understanding various geocaching concepts. Bring lunch and drink.

Historic Trinity Church, 10111 Iron Bridge Road
Tuesday, April 4, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Citizenship in the Community

This workshop is for scouts looking to fulfill their merit badge requirements addressing rights, liberties and cultural heritage. For ages 11-17.

Thursday, April 6, 10 a.m.-noon

Citizenship in the Nation

This workshop helps scouts to understand their rights, liberties and freedoms as a citizen by discussing important historical documents, learning the branches of government and examining important historical speeches.

Thursday, April 6, 1-3 p.m.

LOOKING FOR MORE PROGRAMS IN CHESTERFIELD COUNTY?

Scan the QR code to see the Chesterfield County Public Library's monthly program guide.

CCPL
CHESTERFIELD
COUNTY PUBLIC
LIBRARY



HISTORICAL TOURS

To register call 804-748-1623 and request the specific course number. Register for all programs at least one week in advance.

Details: Bryan Truzzie, 804-751-4946

\$8 per person

Historic Route 1 Van Tour

This guided driving tour will highlight the history of many of the sites once popularized along the first and oldest highway system in the United States. Discover the Halfway House and learn about its history, learn about the electric trolley line that once existed, visit the first Wayside Park in Virginia and the oldest stone bridge, uncover the secrets of the Bellwood Plantation, visit Swift Creek Mill, documented as one of the oldest Mills in the country, explore the Violet Bank Museum, and visit one of the oldest Magnolia trees.

Bensley Recreation Center, 2900 Drewry's Bluff Road

Saturday, Feb. 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Course 41828

Mid-Lothian Mines Tour

Take a guided tour through the park and learn more about the early coal mining history in Midlothian, one of the first commercial coal mine operations in North America. Learn about one of the earliest railroads, the development of the earliest road system to transport coal, and the impact that coal mining had on the region. View a reproduction of the headstock and hear what life was like for coal miners. Program meets at amphitheater.

Mid-Lothian Mines Park, 13286 North Woolridge Road

Saturday, Feb. 25, 10 a.m.- noon

Course 41833

Highlights of Midlothian Van Tour

This guided van tour will allow you to experience many of the unique historical sites located within the village of Midlothian. This behind-the-scenes tour will focus on many of the fascinating places of interest that are part of the history of Midlothian. Visit sites that were part of the coal mining history, learn about the French Huguenots, visit historic churches, and discover the history behind the Chesterfield railroad. Parking and program meet in front of amphitheater next to lake.

Mid-Lothian Mines Park, 13286 North Woolridge Road

Saturday, Feb. 25, 1-5 p.m.

Course 41832

"Historic Bon Air" Driving Tour

This driving tour will focus on the unique history of Bon Air. Learn about how this town evolved as a resort retreat for residents from Richmond to escape the heat. View historically preserved Victorian homes and learn about the many activities that evolved at the resort to entertain visitors. Learn about the historic Bon Air Hotel, Hazen Library, the Bon Air train station, and many more attractions.

Bon Air Baptist Church, 2531 Buford Road

Saturday, March 11, 10 a.m.-noon

Course 41837

Historic Architecture Tour

Discover the unique architecture of the historic buildings on the Historic Chesterfield Museum Complex. Learn how important Greek Palladian and Italianate Classical design influenced the construction of various historic structures. Join us as we explore the story behind these remarkable structures. Visit Castlewood, Magnolia Grange, and 1917 Historic Courthouse among others.

Chesterfield County Museum, 6813 Mimms Loop

Saturday, March 25, 10 a.m.- noon

Course 41836

Register at www.chesterfield.gov/parks • 804-748-1623

Industrial Firsts of Chesterfield Van Tour

This guided van tour will focus on some of the unique industrial achievements attained throughout the county. Visit the site of the earliest iron furnace in the English World at Falling Creek Ironworks, tour the site of the earliest commercial coal mines in North America at Mid-Lothian Mines, discover the site of the oldest documented grist mill in the country at Swift Creek and uncover the secrets of Ettrick and Matoaca by exploring the history of textile mills.

Castlewood, 10201 Iron Bridge Road

Saturday, April 1, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Course 41835

Eppington Plantation

Eppington Plantation was a large tobacco plantation built in 1768 by Thomas Jefferson's brother-in-law, Francis Eppes VI. Experience what plantation life was like in the 1700s as you tour the house and grounds. The house features items on display from the Eppes and Hines-Cherry families, who were previous residents, in addition to agricultural displays.

Eppington Plantation, 14602 Eppes Falls Road

Saturday, April 15, 10-11 a.m.

Course 41831

Pleasant View School

Take a guided tour and learn about the early African American history of one of the last preserved schoolhouses in Chesterfield County. An excellent example of early 20th century construction, the school retains all the original architecture of similar patterns typical of Rosenwald school construction during that era. Learn the history of the structure and similar schools of the period.

Pleasant View School, 18431 River Road

Saturday, April 15, 1-2 p.m.

Course 41839

Stargazing

Join the Richmond Astronomical Society as they explore the night sky in search of star constellations, planets and other objects in the night sky. Explore the cosmos with telescopes. Programs last about an hour. Free, but register online at www.chesterfield.gov/parks

Eppington Plantation, 14602 Eppes Falls Road

Saturday, April 15, 8-9 p.m.

Course 41830

LUNCHTIME LECTURE SERIES

NEW

Bring your lunch and explore a variety of presentations that will showcase historical topics and significant achievements in Chesterfield. To register call 804-748-1623 and request the specific Course number. Register for all programs at least one week in advance.

Castlewood, 10201 Iron Bridge Road

Tuesday, noon-1 p.m.

Free

"My Life as a Sharecropper"

Local author James McKnight will recount the life of his grandfather's legacy of a sharecropper. The speaker will discuss the influential life of his grandfather William Holliday who was a sharecropper in South Carolina and lived 112 years. Through personal stories of relatives and documentation, Mr. McKnight will share the impact of his grandfather's life and legacy during this presentation.

Feb. 7

Course 41851

Black History Month Celebration: The Rosenwald Project

Learn about the history of the Rosenwald Schools that were constructed throughout the South as an effort to improve the educational experience of African American children. Discover the backstory behind this remarkable project initiated by Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington.

Feb. 21 **Course 41853**

Architecture of Courthouse Green

During this presentation discover the architecture of the historic structures on the Courthouse Green in Chesterfield. Uncover the details surrounding Classic Italianate, Greek Revival and Colonial Revival style. Ever wonder the difference between Flemish or American bond brick construction? Discover the details behind these magnificent structures.

March 7 **Course 41857**

Women’s History Month: Through the Ages with Women of Chesterfield

During this presentation Chesterfield Historical Society Board member Terri Wells will share an in depth look at some of the accomplished women of the County and their impact on the world around them.

March 21 **Course 41860**

History of Moore’s Lake

Learn about the history of one of the most popular recreational areas in Chesterfield County along Historic Route 1.

April 11 **Course 42008**

HIKING THROUGH HISTORY

These programs are designed to share the history of historical sites throughout the county. These are easy hikes that share the beauty of nature and history. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

Thursdays, 10 a.m.-noon **\$8 per person**

Historic Courthouse Complex

Take a leisurely stroll among the historic Courthouse Green and discover the early colonial history that abounds in the heart of Chesterfield. Learn about the Continental Army training depot, the Baptist preacher trials and some of the historic cases that were heard in the colonial courthouse. A great opportunity to visit numerous sites while experiencing history.

Historic Trinity Church, 10111 Iron Bridge Road
March 16 **Course 41840**

History of Point of Rocks

This tour will take visitors from the parking lot at the tennis courts along the trail down to Ashton Creek Marsh to view federal fortifications and remnants of a causeway that existed to deliver supplies during the 1800s, then return back to the parking area. Then discover the history of Historic Point of Rocks by touring the site and walking out to the bluff overlooking the Appomattox, learning about the hospital site in 1864.

R. Garland Dodd Park, 201 Enon Church Road
March 30 **Course 41841**

Industry Along the Appomattox

This tour will allow visitors to discover the natural beauty of this recreational area as we explore the history of the mill industry that once existed along the river during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Radcliffe Conservation Area, 21300 Chesdin Road
April 13 **Course 41829**

History of Gregory’s Mill



This tour will focus on the history of the property once owned by the Gregory family which is now part of present day Rockwood Park. Learn about the history of the Gregory home named “Rockwood”, the ice pond and the grist mill.

Rockwood Park, 3401 Courthouse Road
April 27 **Course 41842**

CRAFT WORKSHOPS

These workshops are engaging and focus on a different craft activity. To register call 804-748-1623 and request the specific Course number. Register for all programs at least one week in advance.

Castlewood, 10201 Iron Bridge Road
Fridays, 10-11 a.m. \$8 per person

Zoetrope Early Animation



During this engaging craft workshop, participants will have the opportunity to learn about the history of early animation cinema and make their own personal zoetrope.

Feb. 10 **Course 41843**

Weaving Loom Craft

During this workshop participants will be able to practice simple weaving techniques to make a potholder.

Feb. 24 **Course 41845**

St. Patrick Day Craft Workshop



During this workshop participants will transform a terracotta flower-pot to resemble a colorful holiday top hat.

March 10 **Course 41847**

Biscuit Butterfly Craft

During this workshop participants will use wooden craft biscuits and paint to design a butterfly.

March 24 **Course 41838**

Flip Book Animated Craft



Participants will have the chance to make their own animated cartoon by creating a flip book. A perfect item for those who enjoy drawing and animation.

March 31 **Course 41849**

Pressed Leaf Coaster and Flower Bookmark Activity

Participants will be able to make a pressed leaf coaster for their home by using several types of leaves in addition to a pressed flower bookmark.

April 14 **Course 41834**