

*Making the past come alive*  
for future generations.



Greater Chuckatuck  
Historical Foundation

2009-2010  
Annual Report





*Loading a peanut picker*

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Chief Bass

# Message

In Southeastern Virginia lies a group of villages and crossroads whose contributions to the growth and prosperity of Virginia and our nation are vast and varied. History books contain many tales of this area—filled with adventure and discovery, struggle and triumph, ingenuity and invention, love, mystery, deception, war, religion and politics. Many stories of the the Greater Chuckatuck area have gone unwritten, however, and are at risk of being lost forever. We at the Greater Chuckatuck Historical Foundation (GCHF) hope to change that. Founded in 2009, the GCHF has as its primary purpose the preservation of this history for generations to come. We begin our annual report with this excerpt, giving you just a taste of the rich history of Chuckatuck.

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, and the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*” — Genesis 1:1-2

*“And God said let the waters under the heavens be gathered together unto one place and let the dry land appear; and it was so.”* — Genesis 1:9

*As the seas of the Atlantic receded some 15 million years ago, the land to be known as Greater Chuckatuck (Chuckatuck, Everets, Reid’s Ferry, Longview, Cherry Grove, and Sandy Bottom) was revealed. The sea waters left behind rich fossil deposits of the*

*skeletal remains of dinosaurs, whales, and other species of marine life.*

*Millions of years of earth’s processes transformed these fossils into “marl,” a material that has been used in the production of cement. Recognizing the fine quality of “Chuckatuck’s “marl,” the Lone Star Cement Company purchased large tracts of land during the early to mid 1900’s for the purpose of mining large veins of this material. Hundreds of thousands of tons were removed from the ground and shipped to Norfolk, leaving numerous “Marl Holes,” presently known as Suffolk’s Lone Star Lakes.*



15 million year old whale bone found in Chuckatuck marl pit.

## New History Book Planned

The Greater Chuckatuck Historical Foundation was formed to capture as much local knowledge as possible for preservation and distribution. Much of our earlier history was unfortunately lost in four Nansemond County Courthouse fires (years 1734, 1779, 1837 and 1866).

This work is not only historical in nature, but is also a compilation of oral interviews, audio tapes, and personal recollections/records of many people. A great many citizens, both past and present, will be responsible for supplying the information that will be compiled for you in a new history book about the Greater Chuckatuck area. Their stories will be intertwined with historical records when appropriate. Some of the material may not be “politically correct”, and oral stories sometimes differ, as they come from a diverse group of individuals comprised of many ages, races and cultures. However, as we strive to be true to all of those participating, we will tell “their story in their words”.

The GCHF recorded history as we know it starts with the native Nansemond Indians, members of the great Powhatan chiefdom, who inhabited this land long before Captain John Smith and the colonists sailed into these waters in 1607. Times earlier than this date will be referred to as geological events covering in limited detail those prior millions of years. External records from many sources make reference to the Greater Chuckatuck area and will be included for continuity and historical reference.

Thus begins our journey recording the history of the Greater Chuckatuck area. We hope you will be inspired to join us in gathering materials and information to compile this history before it is lost forever. And remember, we are “*Making the Past Come Alive for Future Generations.*” ♡

*Lynn K. Rose*

Lynn K. Rose  
Chairperson

*Conrad E. Haas*

Conrad E. Haas  
Co-Chairperson

# Background

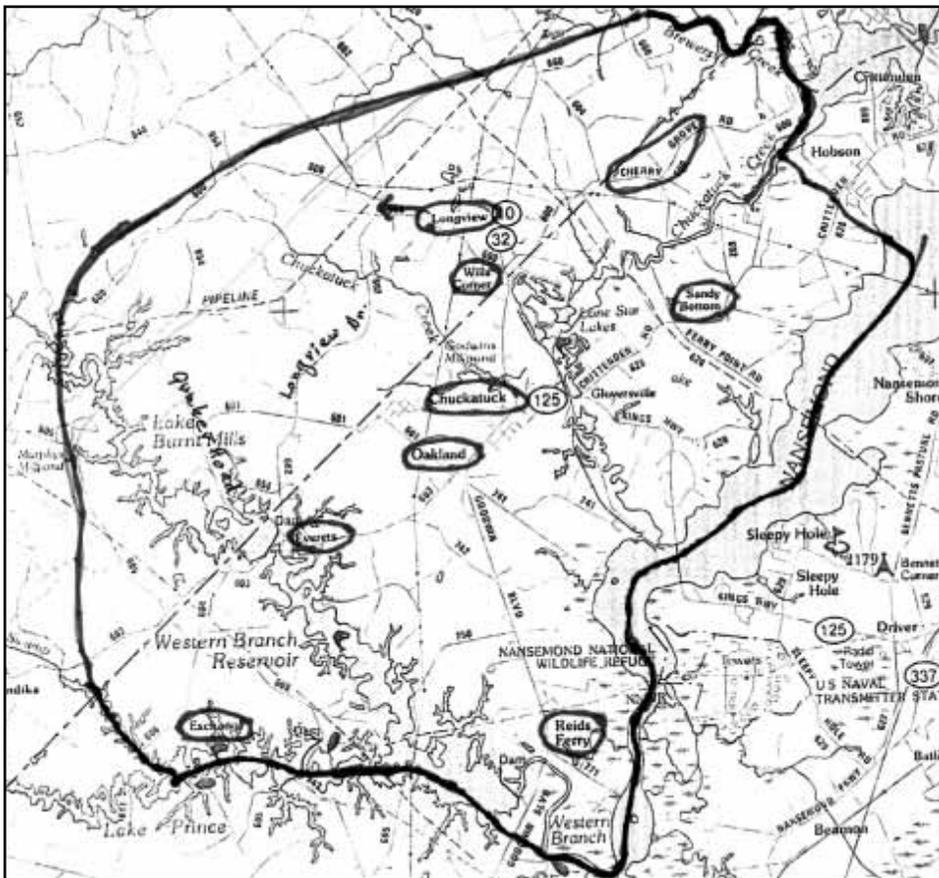
## Our Vision

The Greater Chuckatuck Historical Foundation began this history book project by breaking it down into six phases: organizing, collecting information, creating, publishing, distributing, and archiving. Our aim is to meet the foundation's mission and goals and to obtain needed financial support.

To achieve the mission and goals, we created committees and work groups by locality, topics of interest and tasks. We learned that work and support for various tasks sometimes overlap from phase to phase as new

information and needs are addressed.

The scope of the project includes the village of Chuckatuck, Cherry Grove Road/Longview, Everets, Oakland, Reid's Ferry and Sandy Bottom (see map below). The influence and impact of the American Indians and African Americans, as well as the many different nationalities and religious affiliations of the wider Chuckatuck community will be described in the book. The culture and activities involving schools, churches, businesses, farming, and organizations of the community at large will also be a part of this publication. ♣



*This map of the area shows the different areas included in Greater Chuckatuck.*



*As we developed the logo for the Greater Chuckatuck Historical Foundation, we included symbols representing the unique heritage of our area.*



**CENTER** – The colonial script used in the center is reminiscent of a 17th century English settlement.

**TOP** – The oar represents the “water connection” to the outside world between the Chuckatuck Creek and the Nansmond River used by colonial traders and the Nansmond Indians.

**RIGHT** – The cornstalk represents agriculture, and signifies that corn was a major local farm crop.

**BOTTOM** – The hoe stands for four centuries of farming.

**LEFT** – The spear with a feather represents the connection with the Nansmond Indians, the forebears of the land.

# Progress

## Phase One. Organizing

*The Board of Directors* was elected April 28, 2009 and included Lynn K. Rose, Chairman, Conrad Haas, Co-Chairman, Nancy Pruden, Secretary, Frank Spady III, Treasurer, Drexel Bradshaw, Dwight Bradshaw, Alfonsa Cargill, Sammy Copeland, Roosevelt Jones, Ann G. Lovell, Roy Pope, Jackie Saunders and Ann H. Wuest.

Sixteen Board meetings were held. Minutes are available upon request.

Our mission statement, goals and objectives, business plan and project budget were set by May 30, 2009.

*Basic organization* of tasks and phases of the process were developed by June 15, 2009. These tasks included establishing committees

for historical research, interviews, writing and editing, public relations, photography, community research, fund raising, tech team/web site, scanning, logos, planning, and phoning.

The IRS 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation and bank account were both established on July 5, 2009. Initial activities such as renting space and obtaining equipment (computers, printers, recorders, etc.) and office supplies were completed.

*Publicity* activities included presenting a three-panel informational board at the Chuckatuck High School reunion, promotional booths at the Fire Department fish fries, presentations at organizations such as the

Chuckatuck Ruritan Club, etc., two television appearances by Lynn Rose, several newspaper articles and promotional materials including a brochure, poster, flyers and a DVD.

*Fourteen general community meetings* were held with approximately 20 people in attendance per meeting. Notable guest speakers included Karla Smith, leader of the Crittenden, Eclipse and Hobson Heritage Foundation, and Carolyn Keen, author. Both shared their knowledge and experience of publishing historical books.

Representatives attended events such as the annual Nansemond Indian's Pow Wow and the Chuckatuck Civic League meeting. ♡



Left: Beale family, 1957. Right: Elmoria M. Jones and Fletcher Lee Cowling, Sr. at home.

# Progress

## ***Phase Two in Progress*** **Collecting Information**

### ***Interviews***

Thirty nine audio recorded interviews (31.2%) of over 125 currently scheduled were completed with more expected as we learn of people to interview. They included personal views, individual and family recollections, narratives and oral histories of people and events. They are transcribed and edited for use in the creation and archiving phases.

### ***Documentation***

Community scanning sessions were completed at Oakland Christian Church, Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, Little Bethel Baptist Church, and Christian Home Baptist Church (see photo upper right).

Written correspondence (letters, post cards, notes, diaries, etc.), and treasured mementos (photos, maps, drawings, artifacts, scrapbooks, etc.) are being collected. A tracking system matches scanned photos with written descriptions for later use by the writers and editors in the creating and archiving phases.

### ***Research***

Individual research and writing is in progress for the following topics: archaeological findings, Nansemond Indians, early religions, Revolutionary War, Civil War, commerce, and life in the villages.

We hope you will be inspired to share your memorabilia as you enjoy all the photos in this report, including

the photo on the bottom of this page. Findings from historical research about the area all become tangible evidence of the area's history. We

need everyone to share in this important effort to bring our past alive for the generations who follow us. ♣



*The committee scanning photos at Little Bethel Baptist Church, June 2010.*



*The 1940-42 Chuckatuck High School girls basketball team.*

# Future

## **Phase One Completed Ongoing/Future Phases**

### **Phase Two. Collecting Information**

This phase will continue in 2010 - 2011 as we gather documents and conduct further interviews for the Creating phase.

### **Phase Three. Creating**

The Creating phase primarily involves reviewing, formatting, and editing information collected from personal interviews, written materials and various mementos. This phase is expected to extend well into 2011.

### **Phase Four. Publishing**

The Publishing phase involves the services of a commercial printer and a computer media specialist to produce the history book and the DVD. Emphasis will be placed on using photos, graphics and verbal content to enhance and blend past and present images of the Chuckatuck area. Publishing is planned for 2012.

### **Phase Five. Distributing**

The Distributing phase consists of the delivery of books/DVDs to individuals who kindly gave interviews and to our contributors for whom we continue to be very grateful. The books will also be made available to local churches, public and school libraries in Suffolk and surrounding communities in the Hampton Roads area, governmental and business offices and to the public at large for a modest cost.

Marketing for the book/DVD

will focus on identifying and creating demand and facilitating distribution through a variety of channels. Preliminary marketing strategies will be identified in 2012.

### **Phase Six. Archiving**

The Archiving phase entails preservation and storage of treasured documents (photos, newspaper stories, maps, etc.) and other tangible items. Some of the information and materials obtained will not be suitable or appropriate for inclusion in the book or the DVD. Those items will be stored in the archives, made acces-

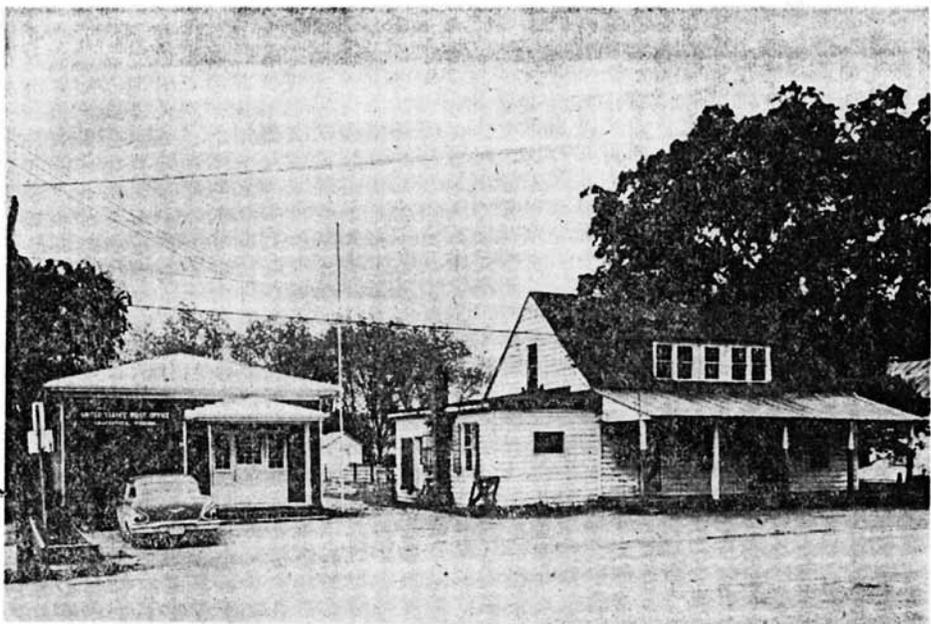
sible for all interested parties and preserved for future generations. Actual archiving is slated to begin in 2013. ♡

*Please help us tell your family's history through recollections and photos like those in this report. Would you donate or lend us pictures, letters, or diaries to be scanned and returned to you?*

Virginian-Pilot  
and  
The Portsmouth Star

SUFFOLK and

SECTION H Sunday, M



Virginian-Pilot Photo by Page

**Post Offices, New and Old**

A new Chuckatuck Post Office building (left) stands next to the 100-year-old building occupied by the present post office. The office will change from old to new following an open house, probably early in June. Razing of the old structure, once a store, will provide for more parking.

*New and old Chuckatuck post offices, 1961.*

# Summary

## *How Can You Help Us?*

The GCHF closes a successful first year of planning as we work to preserve the history of the Chuckatuck area for future generations.

Our vision for the planned history book/DVD is that it will address such questions as, “What really is the history of Chuckatuck, Virginia?” “How did it start?” “Who lived there?” “What did they do?” “When did certain events happen?” “Where can you

find information about all of this?”

The Chuckatuck history book/DVD will offer the reader and viewer many answers and a fresh awareness of this active community. It will provide insight about the local people and how they lived. We see this as a first step to a fleeting chance to capture a way of life that is slowly but surely passing on largely unrecorded.

Will you join us on this educational venture? Will you share family

recollections, photos, and memorabilia? Will you give of your time, your talents, and/or financial assistance to help with the creation of this long-awaited book and DVD?

Remember, we are

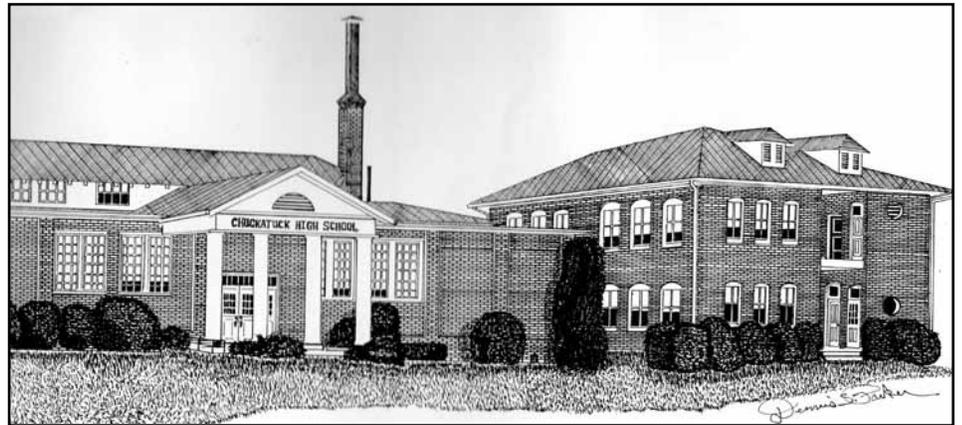
*Making the Past  
Come Alive for  
Future Generations.*



*Ray Gilliam's store.*



*Clockwise from top left: Mills Godwin and friends; Lone Star Mud Barge; Chuckatuck High and Elementary Schools drawn by Dennis S. Parker; Peanut picking time, circa 1951; and Christian Home bus trip, circa 1976.*



# Financials

## Expectations Exceeded

Contributions received by GCHF in from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 totaled \$26,795. That exceeded the \$20,000 we had hoped to receive in our first year. The \$26,795 received came from three sources: corporate and foundation contributors— \$16,780; gifts in kind—\$825; and individual contributions—\$9,190.

The statement of assets and

fund balance shows a net worth of \$20,778, with all assets in a checking account and no liabilities. The statement of revenues and expenses shows a net income of \$20,778.

Expenses were moderate with \$6,017 spent. Facilities and equipment accounted for \$3,498 (equipment purchases were \$2,080 and rent, parking, utilities and maintenance were \$1,418). Operations expenses were \$2,519 (IRS Application Fee—\$750; printing and copy-

ing—\$1,030 and supplies—\$739). Looking ahead, we anticipate incurring \$45,770 of expenses over the next 18 months to bring us to the actual publication of the book and DVD.

Publishing costs for a fundraising brochure and a promotional poster were kept at minimum because of the generous donations of time and talent by printer Billy Hannah of MultiPrint and Jinks Babey, graphic designer. ♡

**Greater Chuckatuck Historical Foundation  
Statements of Assets and Fund Balance and of Revenues and Expenses  
July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010**

**ASSETS**

Operating Cash..... \$20,778

**FUND BALANCE**

Operating Fund Balance..... \$20,778

**REVENUES**

Contributions Received..... \$26,795

**EXPENSES**

Facility and Equipment Costs..... \$3,498

Other Operating Costs..... \$2,519

Total Expenses ..... \$6,017

**NET INCOME ..... \$20,778**



*Locomotive Operator Arthur Joyner*

Greater Chuckatuck Historical Foundation  
Post Office Box 2384  
Suffolk, Virginia 23432  
757-255-4663