



# The Virginia Genealogical Society

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. VIII, No. 5

Post Office Box 7469, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Sep.-Oct., 1982

### THE VIRGINIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, 1982-83

Having just celebrated the twenty-first year of our founding, our Society can congratulate itself on its survival and growth. As the Commonwealth's premier family research organization, the Virginia Genealogical Society has evolved from a local study group into a national association, and in the light of this evolution, your current administrative officers find that changes in the schedule of meetings and programs are in order. I want to take a moment here to discuss what these changes are, as well as something about the reason behind their adoption.

Your Program Committee has elected to schedule three major events as the program offerings for the 1982-83 session of the Society. The first of these will be our traditional banquet meeting, and you will find full details for this gathering, along with a registration slip, on p. 3 of this Newsletter. Detach and return the latter soon to let us know that you'll be joining us!

The two succeeding events for the season ahead will be a Winter and a Spring meeting, to take place about 1 March and 1 June 1983, respectively. Both will be on Saturdays and will provide concentrated offerings of out-standing speakers, of exhibits, and of social events, with ample occasion for renewing old friendships as well as for enlarging your acquaintance with other Virginia researchers. As there will be little or no duplication of subject matter in these two programs, members will want to mark their calendars for both occasions. Whereas the Winter meeting will be given over to domestic aspects of Virginia research, the Spring meeting will concentrate wholly on British and other European connections in the background of our Virginia immigrant ancestors. Full details concerning place, time, programing, and registration for both events will appear in subsequent issues of the Newsletter.

The decision to adopt the format described above was based essentially on two important considerations. The first concerns the present size to which the Society has grown. From a small nucleus of twenty-eight dedicated visionaries who met together on 7 October 1960 and brought forth this Society, we've developed into an organization with a membership that spans a continent. With this growth has come the problem of how to provide adequate service to a large and widely-scattered constituency. So far as program offerings are concerned, we have clearly reached the point where past practice will no longer suffice: a schedule of offerings which once satisfied several dozen local residents cannot fulfill obligations to the present membership, over half of whom reside outside not only the city of Richmond, but of the state of Virginia as well. In other words, an emphasis on monthly Richmond gatherings no longer serves the general membership fairly, for the reason that our out-of-Richmond subscribers do not find it feasible to travel here with any regularity for short evening presentations.

On the other hand, programs which last a full day or more do much to make our offerings more equitable for out-of-town members. Anyone doubting this has only to examine the large list of registrants for our two day conference in April of this year. Among the attendees were people from every part of Virginia, as well as from the states of Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Tennessee. This one meeting alone thus drew a larger representational sample of our membership than did the other seven meetings of the year combined.

The second reason behind the adoption of the new format concerns finances. All the aspects of arranging a meeting-- renting suitable quarters, scheduling speakers, advertising, arranging social events, printing and mailing announcements, programs, etc., require expenditures of time and money.





