

# Chesterfield County Villages

## Midlothian

Date of Formation: 1800-1825

Reason for Being: Coal Mining

Interesting Facts:

- 1709: first commercially-mined coal in the United States
- 1807: Virginia's first paved road (Old Buckingham Road)
- 1831: Virginia's first railroad (2<sup>nd</sup> in U.S.), Chesterfield Railroad
- 1864: General August Kautz led a Federal raid through the village

## Ettrick

Date of Formation: 1810-1831

Reason for Being: Manufacturing: cotton, cottonseed oil, grain, baggage, dyeing

Interesting Facts:

- 1691: site last surviving Native American village
- 1810: site of first bridge across the Appomattox River (Campbell's Bridge)
- 1831: site of first cottonseed oil mill in U.S. (using cotton hulling machine)
- 1882: establishment of Virginia State University, Virginia's first state-supported college for African-Americans (one of 2 land grant schools)

## Matoaca

Date of Formation: 1833

Reason for Being: Manufacturing: cotton, paper, grain

Interesting Facts:

- Named after Chief Powhatan's daughter (Pocahontas)
- Established, owned and operated by the Matoaca Manufacturing Company

## Chester

Date of Formation: 1856-1857

Reason for Being: Railroad suburb

Interesting Facts:

- Established by the same founders of Ashland
- 1864: site of Battle of Chester Station, where Union army advance halted
- 1874: nearly became the county seat after move from Manchester
- 1903: first bank in county outside of Manchester
- 1905: first high school in the county
- 1966: first public library in county

## Bon Air

Date of Formation: 1880

Reason for Being: Railroad suburb

Interesting Facts:

- 1882: site of public resort and retreat (Bon Air Hotel)
- 1895: village contained a total of 3 railroad stops (unprecedented for its size)
- Home to many high-ranking ex-Confederate officers, and Richmond business leaders
- 1902: built its own library (Hazen Memorial Library)
- 1923: founding of the Bon Air Community House (now Bon Air Community Association)
- 1949: first shopping center in county