

*Historical Society of  
West Point*

**MEMBERSHIP  
APPLICATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Would you like to be a volunteer on  
HSWP Committees?**

- YES  
 NO

**Quarterly Membership Meetings:**

The Society holds membership meetings at 3:00PM on the third Sunday of January, April, July & October.

**HSWPV Meeting Location:**

WP Downtown Business Center  
621 Main St., West Point, VA 23181  
(This is the old *Legget* building)

**Choose Membership Level & Mail Dues to:**

Historical Society of West Point  
P.O. Box 1556  
West Point, VA 23181

**HSWP Dues & Sponsorships**

**Individual Members**

**Yearly**

Individual	\$25.00
Family	\$35.00
Student <21 yrs.	\$10.00

**Lifetime**

Individual	\$300.00
Couple	\$375.00

**Sponsorships**

**Individual/Business/Civic Levels**

Bronze	(1 year)	<\$300
Silver	(2 years)	\$300-\$599
Gold	(3 years)	\$600-\$1000
Platinum	(5 years)	>\$1000.00

**Corporate Levels**

Bronze	(1 year)	<\$500
Silver	(2 years)	\$500-\$1999
Gold	(3 years)	\$2000-\$5000
Platinum	(5 years)	>\$5000

Sponsors may make payments over the number of years indicated; and will be gratefully recognized in our biannual newsletter.

Choose a Membership Level & Mail to:

Historical Society of West Point  
P.O. Box 1556, West Point, VA 23181



Visit us online at:

[www.hswpva.org](http://www.hswpva.org)

*Historical  
Society of  
West Point*



*Historical Society of  
West Point, Virginia*

*P.O. Box 1556*

*West Point, VA 23181*

# A Remarkable Timeline

To the outside world, West Point is often referred to as a “mill town” or a “pass through town”. Despite the limited view, West Point has a remarkable history that is only occasionally revealed and almost forgotten. Even new residents joining this community to raise families and create life long memories could someday leave without ever knowing the true history of West Point. Today, boats gather around the base of an old lighthouse for fishing without their occupants knowing that the structure was built in 1821 to guide large amounts of water traffic into a bustling port. Many ponder why the town has never built a hotel, yet fail to realize that the Terminal Hotel once existed providing not only lodging, but entertainment such as skating, dancing and beach swimming. Many of today’s citizens believe the town has always been economically supported by the mill, but are never told about the railway terminal that moved to a new location in 1895, leaving the town in a state of economic collapse. Names such as Crosby Thompson, Beverly Allen, Jr. and Elis Olsson are seldom mentioned, but represent the very foundation of this community. From its roots as a Pamunkey village to the soaring new bridges that one day will be considered part of West Point’s history, this community’s timeline can be traced with fascination from past to present, carrying its history forward to lay a foundation for a bright and secure future.

*Left:* This handsome balloon - stacked wood - burner (owned apparently by the Atlanta and Charlotte Air-Line Railway ) pulled one of the first trains into West Point, VA after rail service was restored to the area in 1868. The original photograph belongs to Mrs. Sue T. Martin of West Point.



*Left:* Elis Olsson  
1880-1949  
Founder and Chairman  
Chesapeake Corporation  
West Point, VA

1918: The Chesapeake Corporation is chartered on October 25, and less than a month later, Elis Olsson arrives in West Point, Virginia, after developing the first kraft process mill in Canada. Olsson partners with majority shareholder and financier Christoffer Hannevig and five other shareholders to lease the struggling four- year-old West Point kraft pulp mill.

As manager of manufacturing, Olsson leads the mill toward profitability.

1930: The company expands its product line by adding a paper mill and installing the largest kraft paper machine in the world at the time. Elis Olsson is named President of The Chesapeake Corporation.



*Below:* Citizen’s & Farmers Bank,  
Established 1927



*Left:* Section of Chesapeake Pulp & Paper Co.  
West Point, VA  
Charles W. Smith. ca. 1930.



*Right:* The Terminal Hotel, built in 1887, was enclosed by a boardwalk, providing lodging and entertainment. In the 1800’s West Point was one of the few tourist towns located on the East Coast of Virginia.



# Our Mission Statement

**It is the mission of the Historical Society of West Point, Virginia Inc. to preserve, promote and interpret West Point’s political, military, social, artistic, commercial and cultural history.**

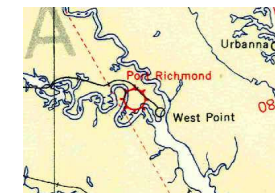
**It fulfills this mission:**

- By maintaining historic properties
- By collecting, exhibiting and conserving artifacts and archival materials made in, used in or associated with West Point
- By making available to researchers library collections
- By initiating and working with special interest groups within the Society in order to further specific collections, properties and interests
- By advocating the conservation and preservation of West Point’s natural and manmade environment
- By presenting educational programs
- And by other means as may, from time to time, become appropriate



*Left:* A December 10, 1928 photo of Thompson Field depicting what appeared to be several Army twin-engine biplane bombers along with a smaller single-engine biplane.

*Right:* An undated (but presumably 1928) photo of Thompson Field, of a Army single-engine biplane. This short-lived small airport was located along the banks of the Pamunkey River.



In 1926, Port Richmond became Incorporated. With Crosby Thompson as the Mayor, the town began to seek political order. On May 7, 1963 the annexation of Port Richmond to West Point passed voter approval. On January 1, 1964 Port Richmond officially became part of West Point.