

# Chester Gap: A history of thriving in Rappahannock

Settled in the early 1700's, Chester Gap, is located at the northern end of Rappahannock County. Farming and logging, and, later, apple orchards provided work. A section of the community was known as Williamsburg, named after members of the Williams family who arrived in the 1850's.

A strategic pass into the Shenandoah Valley during the Civil War, it was traversed by both Union and Confederate troops. By the mid 20th century, the village grew to include a well-supplied general store, post office, fire department and Baptist church. Development of the Skyverge and Blue Ridge Mountain Estates subdivisions was the impetus for Rappahannock County's first zoning ordinances in the 1960s. Today, with over 800 residents, Chester Gap is the most densely populated village in the county.

